



On Campus News

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Young thinkers

A pilot course on philosophy for children created a unique partnership between U of S students and Grade 5 and 6 students at Hugh Cairns V.C. School in Saskatoon over the past months. Everyone had a chance to bring the theory and practice of philosophy together, thanks to classroom teacher Brad Will, left, and course instructor Erin DeLathouwer, standing centre.

Read the story on Page 2.

RAISA PEZDERIC

Vision for the future

Draft statement a starting point for new strategic plan

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

“The University of Saskatchewan is recognized as among the eminent research-intensive universities of North America; we lead the world in education and research on themes of importance that have an impact on our region, our nation and our world.”

This brief draft statement Ilene Busch-Vishniac unveiled April 10 in her state-of-the-university address is the first step toward a new strategic plan for the University of Saskatchewan that the president hopes will galvanize the campus community and reflect its shared vision for the future.

Speaking about the genesis of the statement, Busch-Vishniac explained she has spent the first 10 months of her presidency

talking about the university’s challenges—the need to restructure the College of Medicine, sustainability, membership in the U15, Aboriginal initiatives—“but they don’t tie together without an overarching vision. It became clear that we needed to craft a vision that would help people connect to why we are saying these are major challenges we must address, and where we are trying to get to.”

She stressed the vision

statement is only a draft, “a starting point for people to consider,” and that it could be revised based on feedback.

Busch-Vishniac first took an initial version of the statement to the President’s Executive Committee where it was “tweaked to the point we could all feel comfortable with what it said.” Many issues were considered, she said, but there was no appetite to use a specific number, as in “the U of S will be nth in the

world in ...”, a statement that leaves open the question who will decide if that number is achieved, and by what metrics.

She pointed out the draft makes reference to North America rather than just Canada in terms of where the U of S intends to position itself. Already recognized for its research intensiveness in Canada, Busch-Vishniac said the time is right to “expand our vision to be recognized as among the best of that elite group in North America.”

Everyone should be sceptical of unrealistic goals “but to say we want to be recognized among the eminent research universities of North America is an achievable target.”

It has been more than 10 years since the U of S last



Busch-Vishniac

released an overarching vision; Strategic Directions came out in 2002 and was updated in 2010, “but we don’t look the same

See Extensive, Page 9

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Putting philosophy into practice

✦ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Children are natural-born philosophers, fearless when it comes to asking the big questions about truth, justice, values, even their own existence. Now, with the help of some U of S students, a group of Saskatoon school children have learned how to pursue their own inquiries through creative and critical discussions; in other words, how to put philosophy into practice.

The unique partner-

ship came about in a pilot 300-level course, Philosophy in Education: an introduction to philosophy for children, taught by Erin DeLathouwer, who is the learning communities program co-ordinator in the University Learning Centre. The course focused on both the theories and techniques involved in teaching philosophy to children. And for real-world experience, DeLathouwer took her

students into Brad Will's Grade 5/6 classroom at Hugh Cairns V.C. School. It was, she said, "a very enriching experience for everyone."

DeLathouwer explained the role of her students in the classroom was to help the children build skills – how to give and ask for reasons, how to articulate their ideas, how to listen to peers, how to evaluate the ideas of others. "These are tricky things to teach" but Saskatoon Public Schools' division-wide emphasis on inquiry-based learning made for an ideal connection with her class.

The U of S students worked with small groups of children and started off by asking, "what are the things you wonder about?" By then shaping the conversations, "we gave them (the school children) the tools to evaluate other people's ideas and to improve their ability to make

“We gave them the tools to evaluate other people's ideas and to improve their ability to make judgements

Erin DeLathouwer

judgements based on criteria," said DeLathouwer.

She added one interesting observation of the process was that the school kids were quick to recognize the university students were not teachers but rather students themselves. "I think the kids had a real liberated feeling, that they could say whatever was on their mind because they

weren't being marked. They were dealing with people they didn't see as authority figures.

"My students also observed that the kids developed a set of norms in their small groups, their own rules of conduct for their discussions, and they held each other to those rules. That's quite an impressive accomplishment in a short period of time."

DeLathouwer believes the school students came away from the experience knowing "that it's OK to think about the important questions in their lives," and with critical-thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their education. For the U of S students, "this was an opportunity for the theory and practice of philosophy to come together ... (and) for them to understand how philosophy can be practical in the entire system of education." ■

✦ In Memoriam

Elizabeth Brewster (English), Dec. 26

Ka-ia Fung (Geography), Jan. 22

John W. Gerrard (Pediatrics), March 3

Beverly Allen (Pharmacy), March 15

R. Neil Beck (Medicine), March 28

Robert Kerrich (Geology), April 17



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UNIVERSITY OF
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Prestigious

Blaine Favel becomes 14th chancellor

First Nations leader, businessman assumes office July 1

Blaine Favel offered a “heartfelt thank you” to University Senate members for their vote of confidence April 20 after being confirmed as the University of Saskatchewan’s new chancellor.

“I will represent the University of Saskatchewan with the dignity and honour it is worthy

of,” he said in a short acceptance speech. Favel begins his three-year term as chancellor July 1, replacing Vera Pezer who served in the position for two terms.

President and CEO of Calgary-based One Earth Oil and Gas Inc. and an influential First Nations leader and

businessman, Favel earned a bachelor of education degree from the U of S in 1987, then went on to receive a law degree from Queen’s University in 1990 and a master’s of business administration degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 2001. In 2012, the U of S awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Favel was Chief of the Poundmaker Cree Nation and served as Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations from 1994-98. During that time, he led the development of the First Nations Bank of Canada and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. He also served as a counselor on international Indigenous issues with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as a special advisor to the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine,



Chancellor Blaine Favel

PHOTO SUBMITTED

and was a panellist on the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As chancellor, he will preside at university convocation ceremonies, confer degrees, chair University Senate and take a seat as an ex officio member of the Board of Governors.

In a U of S news release, Favel said he looks forward “to sharing the story of the University of Saskatchewan everywhere I go.” The U of S can play a positive

role in shaping the province’s economic and social future, he said, and “as chancellor, I will have the opportunity to bring together the university and the various communities it serves in the spirit of common interest in order to deliver on the promise of growth and prosperity.”

Favel joins a group of esteemed individuals who have served the University of Saskatchewan over its history in the role of chancellor. ■

University of Saskatchewan Chancellor’s 1907-2013	
Edward L. Wetmore	1907-1917
Frederick Haultain	1917-1939
P.E. MacKenzie	1940-1946*
Donald Maclean	1946-1947*
F.H. Auld	1947-1965
E.M. Culliton	1965-1969
John D. Diefenbaker	1969-1979*
Emmett M. Hall	1980-1986
Sylvia Fedoruk	1986-1989
E.K. (Ted) Turner	1989-1995
M.L. (Peggy) McKercher	1995-2001
W. Thomas Molloy	2001-2007
Vera Pezer	2007-2013
*died in office	

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Morton’s history

by PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES



U of S Archives, A-6069

This issue’s image is of Chief Robert Bear and Arthur S. Morton taken at the John Smith (Muskoday) Reserve, August 1942. Dr. Morton, professor of history, University Librarian and Provincial Archivist, pioneered the study of Western Canadian history. An avid explorer of historic sites, Morton discovered the remains of many fur trading posts and battlefields in Saskatchewan.

In 1922, the Dominion of Canada created the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which frequently consulted Professor Morton regarding sites in Western Canada. In 1937, the University Act was amended creating the Saskatchewan Historic Sites Trust. The university was given the power to:

“... acquire by gift, purchase or in any other manner, and hold in trust for His Majesty, land having a historical interest, or buildings, monuments or other erections having a historical interest and the land on which the same are situated or so much thereof as is deemed advisable, and provide for the care, maintenance and preservation of property so acquired.”

Professor Morton encouraged the formation of local historical societies to support and assist in the maintenance of these sites. The trust in fact did little more than fund Morton’s summer field work. In 1945, the university’s duties regarding historic sites were transferred to the newly created Saskatchewan Archives Board. Morton’s research remains an important source about the historical landscape of Saskatchewan. ■

by LAURA HERMAN

The first progress report on the implementation plan toward A New Vision for the College of Medicine was presented to University Council on April 18 by Lou Qualtiere, acting dean of medicine, and Martin Phillipson, vice-provost, College of Medicine restructuring.

The vision document, which was approved by Council in December, is meant to address long-standing challenges in the college, specifically surrounding accreditation of the undergraduate medical education program, poor research performance and the provision of clinical service by university faculty.

“What was agreed upon on in December is a significant re-conceptualization of the college,” said Phillipson. “There will be changes that represent a radical departure from the status quo and the college will look very different in five years, because it must.”

Qualtiere reported on the continuing work of the Dean’s Advisory Committee (DAC), which is guiding and overseeing the restructuring and renewal process. Multiple working groups have already tabled written reports and the remaining documents will come together in the next month or so.

Qualtiere explained that the DAC will then be tasked with considering the recommendations put forward by each of the working groups and formulating a comprehensive implementa-

“What was agreed upon on in December is a significant re-conceptualization of the college.”

Martin Phillipson

tion plan. College of Medicine Faculty Council will consider key elements of the proposed plan at a special meeting on June 25.

“Lessons learned – there should be no surprises when this document hits Council in August,” said Phillipson. “My vision is that the implementation plan put forward by the DAC will be made up of chapters of smaller plans, and those will be shared widely within the college.”

One of those chapters will detail a faculty complement plan, Phillipson continued. “What does our faculty need to look like to deliver the results expected of the college?”

Research will be another significant area addressed through restructuring. Colum Smith, who was appointed interim vice-dean, research for the college, will put forward a detailed research plan to faculty. Following internal consultation, discussion and fine-tuning, the plan will be finalized and shared with University Council.

President Ilene Busch-Vishniac put the discussion in context by reiterating her comments from the April 10 General Academic Assembly. In that address, she pointed out



Phillipson

that among U15 universities, research funding obtained by colleges of medicine generally hovers between 40 and 50 per cent of the institution’s total whereas at the U of S, it is about eight per cent.

“I want to remind everybody that the College of Medicine affects each and every person on this campus,” she said. “As goes the College of Medicine, so goes University of Saskatchewan.”

University Council will receive the next update on various chapters at its June meeting. ■

Laura Herman is a communications officer in the College of Medicine.

Seeing is believing

An acquaintance of mine from Toronto was in town a couple of weeks ago. It was her first visit to Saskatoon and she let me know she wanted to see John Diefenbaker's grave, part of her quest to visit the final resting place of all of Canada's prime ministers.

Editor's Note

It was a cold evening when we parked outside the Diefenbaker Canada Centre and headed toward the river. My heart sank when I saw the size of snow drifts beside the path but I waded in, thinking I could clear away just enough snow to prove John and Olive rest in Saskatoon. We'd all but given up when, just metres ahead, we came upon what we were after, and the large grave marker was absolutely clear of snow. Thank you to whoever takes the time to tend this important national site all winter long.

Photo evidence collected, it was then time for one of my favourite activities – conducting a tour of the U of S campus. We circled around Campus Drive and I pointed out the sites – education, agriculture, vet med, engineering. A quick turn around had us travelling past the CLS and through Innovation Place. Out on Preston Ave., I drove my guest past the new dairy barn, the old dairy barn, cows, sheep and the expanse of fields where crops grow each summer.

Parking outside the Admin Building, we headed into the Bowl. On the front steps of the Peter MacKinnon Building, I filled her in on Collegiate Gothic architecture, Tyndale stone from along the South Saskatchewan River. And pointed out the cornerstone laid by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Inside, a nice custodian opened Convocation Hall for us. Apparently it's not nearly as big as Convo Hall at the U of T, but it's *our* Convo Hall.

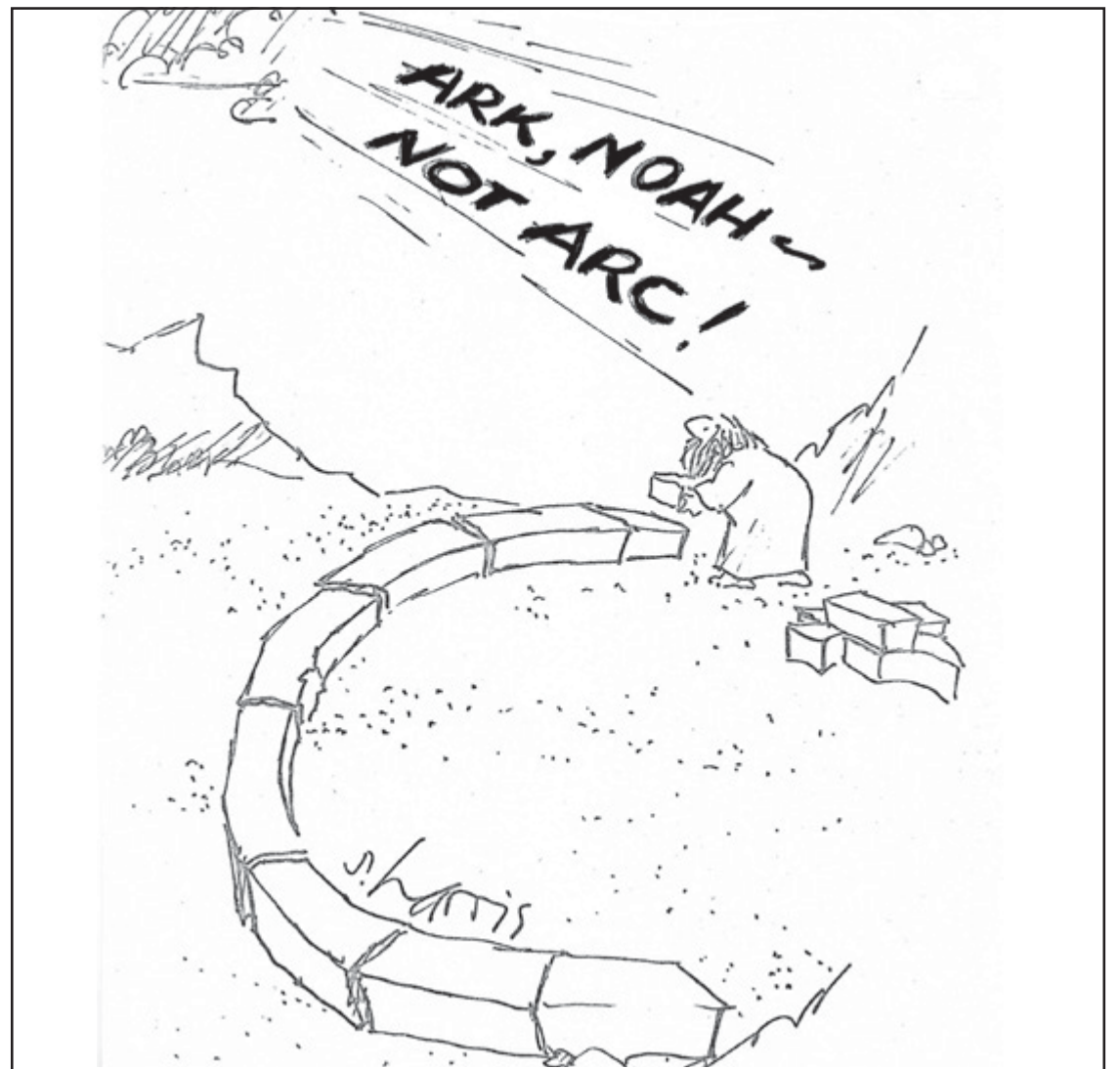
We toured the Geology Building and then it was back out to see Thorvaldson in all its glory. With a quick note about an unfortunate Brutalist building, and a glimpse of the sympathetic architecture of the Health Sciences building, we headed back toward the car as I prattled on and pointed out the magnificent details of this campus. I even shared my favourite campus myths, like the one that Thorbergur Thorvaldson is buried in the concrete cube outside the building that bears his name. Not the way we treat our esteemed faculty, I assured her.

Later, back at her hotel, my guest reacted as most people from away do when they see the University of Saskatchewan for the first time. "I had no idea," she said, no idea about the range of our academic endeavours, about how visibly connected we are to Saskatchewan's agricultural roots, about how absolutely beautiful is our campus.

My hope is that back in Toronto, she will tell two people, and they will tell two people ...

Sometimes, seeing really is believing.

Ed.



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Students impressive in mathematics competitions

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Prove that, for any two bounded functions $g_1, g_2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [1, \infty)$, there exist functions $h_1, h_2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that, for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\sup_{s \in \mathbb{R}} (g_1(s)^x g_2(s)) = \max_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (xh_1(t) + h_2(t)).$$

Take a moment to read through the mathematics problem above. It is one of 12 that undergraduate students from Canada and the U.S. tackled in the notoriously difficult William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition in December. And the most common score for competitors is zero.

But this year, the five-member University of Saskatchewan team, recruited and coached by Professor James Brooke in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, pulled off a very respectable 41st-place finish out of 402 teams comprised of 4,277 individual competitors from 578 institutions. "This year," said Brooke, "we had an abundance of riches." The gruelling Putnam competition, which requires students to work all 12 problems on a single day, took place in December but the results were just released in mid-April. It is an event that Brooke said "leaves the students drained by 5 pm" despite weeks of practice and problem review. And this year's result is the best team ranking for the U of S since 2000, and its third best since 1996.

The abundance of riches continued with the recent release

“Competitions are an external measure of their future potential.”

James Brooke



Brooke

of results from the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) 2013. In that team competition, students are given real-world problems that, over the course of 96 hours, must be formulated into mathematical terms, solved and then returned to the original context. This year, three of the four three-member U of S teams were awarded the meritorious designation. Brooke said achieving meritorious is significant because it goes to only 15 per cent of the competing 5,635 teams from around the world and placed the U of S well ahead of all other Canadian competitors.

Brooke, who shared MCM coaching and advising duties with his colleague Professor Alexey Shevyakov, said competitors chose one of two possible problems. The first, called The Ultimate Brownie Pan, required students to develop a model to

show heat distribution across the outer edges of different shaped pans to avoid what Brooke termed "the build up of over-hard crunchy bits along the edges and in the corners." The second problem – Water, Water Everywhere – required a mathematical model for determining an effective, feasible and cost-efficient water strategy to meet projected water needs in one of five countries.

The problems were released around the world late on Thursday, Jan. 31 and the students were required to submit their solution the following Monday, explained Brooke.

See Competition, Page 9

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ocn On Campus News

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Hold the salt, please

✎ MICHAEL ROBIN

Researchers in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences are taking aim at two of the biggest sources of salt in the Canadian diet: our daily bread and the processed meats that often go with it.

“Canadians are consuming way too much salt in their diet,” said Mike Nickerson, the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair who leads a team working with industry to reduce salt in bread and baked goods.

World Health Organization statistics show Canadians are among the highest consumers of salt in the world, and according to a 2010 report by Health Canada’s Sodium Working Group, bread and baked products are the single largest source of salt in the Canadian diet, at 14 per cent. Processed meats are second, at nine per cent.

Public health consequences such as high blood pressure, heart and kidney disease, and obesity have prompted a Health Canada decree to bring salt intake down by 2016, a deadline that has industry scrambling.

Nickerson explained salt is a huge challenge for organizations like Canada Bread, one of the country’s largest bakeries and one of the funders of his project. Bakers are looking to cut salt levels by nearly a third, but reducing it can make the dough a sticky, equipment-fouling mess, he said. Nickerson’s task is to shed light on how proteins and starches interact with water, yeast and salt to find out how sodium controls dough structure.

“Dough is a really complex system and trying to under-

stand that to solve these issues is extremely challenging.”

Meanwhile, wheat breeder Pierre Hucl at the Crop Development Centre is drawing on more than a century of Canadian wheat development to see what varieties perform well in low-salt bread recipes. What he finds could determine what varieties will be grown in the future to serve Canadian and international markets.

The other part of the salty sandwich – processed meats – is the target of associate professor and meat scientist Phyllis Shand. Together with colleague Professor Darren Korber and others, Shand is working on reducing the salt content in meats.

“The salt in processed meats has very important technological functions that make it very difficult to take sodium out,” she said. Salt helps preserve meat, she continued, a role less critical with modern refrigeration but still important because reducing it could encourage the growth of bacteria.

In the meat research lab in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Shand and her team prepare products such as bologna using equipment similar to that used in industrial practice. In this case, low-sodium low-fat bologna was run through a battery of tests and evaluated by trained human testers, whose thumbs up or thumbs down are essential.

Salt imparts much of the texture and “mouth feel” to products by interacting with proteins in the meat to provide structure and water holding, Shand explained. This is

“Canadians are consuming way too much salt”
Mike Nickerson

important because consumers will not buy processed meats with too much liquid in the packaging.

Swapping in alternative ingredients like potassium chloride (another salt), enzymes or even flax meal help stabilize the meat protein, but none provide the total answer as they can adversely affect taste and price. Shand is optimistic a combination of tweaking ingredients and procedures could work. For example, bologna could be made one day, refrigerated, then cooked the next day.

“We have to understand the functions of salt, and that it’s not an easy task to replace sodium in a product such as meat,” Shand said. ■



Phyllis Shand (right) and research technologist Marilyn Edrosolam test compression and springiness of low-sodium bologna samples.

MICHAEL ROBIN

Kalra returned to Council chair

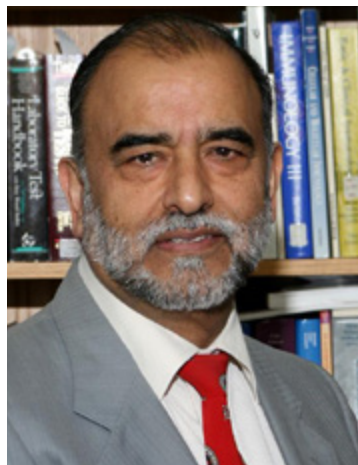
Dr. Jay Kalra has been returned by acclamation to the position of chair of University Council.

The professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will begin his second term as chair July

1. He was first elected to the post in May of 2011. Prior to that, Kalra served as head of Council’s Planning and Priorities Committee.

When he assumed the chair, Kalra said his goals included increasing student involvement in Council, encouraging more faculty engagement in governance, and enhancing communication between Council and the General Academic Assembly.

“While I believe we have moved forward in achieving some of these goals, we still face many challenges,” he said. Council plays a vital role in the university’s planning process, he continued, and must continue to be a forum “for the voices of the academy in informing and influencing the academic direction of the institution.” ■



Van Rees

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Taking the lead on Transfo

✦ KRIS FOSTER

On Campus News sat down with the four co-chairs of the TransformUS task forces—Beth Bilson and Lisa Kalynchuk on academic, and Kevin Schneider and Bob Tyler on support services—to talk about the past, present and future of program prioritization at the University of Saskatchewan.

■ **OCN: Why did you want to be on the TransformUS task forces?**

Bob Tyler (laughing): “Want” is a funny word. But I believe in the process and I think we need a comprehensive, systematic prioritization of what we do because the alternative is decision making the old fashioned way without transparency.

Lisa Kalynchuk: For me, I think this can make the university better. It’s a worthwhile endeavor so that we can emerge as a stronger institution that is more focused and more efficient in providing the kind of services

to the province that we ought to be providing.

Beth Bilson: We’re in really stressful circumstances. I mean, this has arisen out of financial concerns that the university has. I think that this does present an opportunity to look at the university as a whole and to talk again about what the top priorities for the university are and to see that our programs and services are aligned with those priorities.

Kevin Schneider: I think it is an important time for the university and it’s important to do this

process transparently, collegially, fairly and so to be part of a group of committed individuals looking at program prioritization is a worthwhile endeavor.

■ **OCN: Do you think the fact that this is driven by budget creates more fear?**

BT: I think it amps up the fear because it is absolutely crystal clear that something has to go. But the alternative is across-the-board cuts ... which we say we don’t want so this is the alternative and a very worthwhile undertaking. Generally, we look at prioritization and assessment and we don’t usually see any impact, but this time it is starkly clear that decisions have to be made. There will be casualties from the process and that worries people. Why wouldn’t it?

BB: And it (the projected deficit) is a big number and I think that creates anxiety. It really is significant.

KS: It is being driven by budget cuts, not necessarily budget. Certainly to look at the process and to do some prioritization around budget to try and look at priorities and see if programs are appropriately funded is an interesting thing to do. But having this notion that there are cuts at the end of it, that makes it real.

BT: The interesting thing is that the province hasn’t cut our funding; we are doing budget adjustments during a time when funding is still increasing from the province. It’s just the trajectory of our expenses and the trajectory of our revenues are different so that we have this gap even though we’re not being cut.

LK: Well, I think that shows we are being proactive; we are anticipating that there are going to be problems given the slopes of those lines, cost line versus revenue line.

KS: I know there have been some concerns, you know, will we have enough time to look at the sheer number of programs that may be identified, but I think the people who are on the task forces are very committed to making sure that they are dealing with things fairly.

BT: I’m hoping once we get rolling, campus will take comfort in the fact that there are 47 people, many of who have been on campus for a while, engaged in this process and it’s



TransformUS task force co-chairs, left to right, Kevin Schneider, Lisa Kalynchuk, Beth Bilson

not just a few people or just one person making these decisions. Once we get rolling and people understand the alternative, maybe that will be the case and that should give people comfort although it isn’t at the moment.

BB: And we’re representative of a wide range of academic disciplines and administrative services.

LK: And perspectives.

■ **OCN: Budget cuts have happened at the U of S before. What’s different this time?**

BT: As far back as 1990 and probably before, we were saying we can’t be all things to all people, we’re spread too thin, we’re doing too much and so we’ve had to somehow get what we do with our resources under control for a long time. So this isn’t a brand new situation. It has some special elements this time around, but we’re really doing the things we’ve talked about doing for a long time on this campus. We are spread like oil on water; we’re really, really thin. We have to make some decisions on who we are and what we are going to do.

We talk about aligning budget with planning. The reality is we have not done a great job of linking budget to integrated planning. We haven’t asked units to prioritize what they are going to do and the things they want to do to any great degree. So we need to connect budget to priorities and that’s what this process is all about.

LK: I think the difference from the previous ones, and I wasn’t here for the early ones, is they

were more across-the-board cuts. This is a different situation because we were actually making prioritization decisions about what we should be doing and what we shouldn’t be doing.

BT: The early 1990 cuts were very much across the board; the last time around there were some differential cuts.

BB: Yeah, there was that period when it was tied to things like enrolment. One of the things we keep saying to people is that this isn’t an academic review. The quality of programs is of course a relevant consideration, but we’re not expecting to find the university doing a lot of things that aren’t worthwhile. There may have been good reasons for particular programs when they were founded and they may be serving a purpose and they may be high quality programs, but the question is, if the university has to stop doing something, are these programs aligned with the highest priorities at the university? That I think is the question we are focused on.

■ **OCN: Have people been reacting differently to you since you were appointed to the task forces? Were you prepared to be seen as bearers of bad news?**

LK: Actually yes, some people have. I’ve noted coy smiles and certain looks since I’ve been on the task force.

KS: I think that is unfortunate if that’s the case. We’re only making recommendations. What we’re trying to do is make plain the process; have everyone put their best foot forward presenting the programs and,



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Wilson and Bob Tyler.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

have a real human element there, and there already have been human casualties in this budget adjustment exercise. There is no getting around that. That's unfortunate, but a reality when you have to reduce your expenditures and 75 per cent of your resources are in people.

■ **OCN: How do the committees ensure biases don't play a part in the process?**

LK: One of the reasons you have larger task forces is to try and eliminate individual biases as much as you can. Everyone has a voice, but if everybody else in the room doesn't share the bias, you aren't going to be able to influence the group.

BB: The other thing is we're planning to collect information in a really structured and consistent way. That makes it more difficult for people to react emotionally because we actually have to go through a number of specific factors and people have to decide on the basis of those factors.

BT: The criteria, weightings, categorization, as much as possible, represent a quantitative exercise based on the information provided by the program or functional area along with solid qualitative information. One person's bias won't have any significant impact.

BB: And their responses will be public so the campus community will be able to see the informational basis we are using.

BT: I think task force members are fully aware that there will be people on the task forces that could be significantly affected by the outcomes of this entire process.

■ **OCN: How do you see the process unfolding over the coming weeks?**

BB: We keep trying to communicate this process as fully as possible as we go along and create opportunities to ask questions and register comments on different things. We've invited input on criteria and weightings at this point and will be inviting comments on the templates we are going to be using. So there will be opportunities to connect with the process. If people think we are going to go away and spend the next six months in the dark, we're hoping that won't be the impression they have.

BT: That would be easier for us. It doesn't make our lives easier to be revealing where we're at and what we're doing because that generates commentary and criticism. But it is the only way to do it.

LK: It is a lot more work to go through all these processes and seek input and communicate broadly with the community, but again, we want to establish the credibility of the task forces

and create a level of trust. We want people to know that we are trying to do our absolute best and we all believe in this. We understand the seriousness of the exercise.

■ **OCN: How do you fit this big commitment into your already very full days?**

LK: To some extent they become fuller days. You get even more disciplined with your time. All four of us are committed to doing this and committed to doing it the best we can so you just do what you have to do. Not a very satisfying answer but it is really how it works.

BT: We meet in the afternoons, and there's a lot of homework in the evenings and on weekends. It adds to the usual stuff we do that way. I didn't sit down and say, I can find the time for this, this and this. I probably should have, though.

BB: The other thing is that, although it creates a hardship to have such a short time frame to

do this, it does help to know that in terms of your own commitment, you understand that there is a horizon but it is going to be pretty frantic between now and then.

KS: We're pretty motivated to be done by the deadline.

■ **OCN: What has been the most surprising thing in this process?**

BT: What surprised me most is how enthusiastic all task force members are to get rolling and down to work.

LK: You're right, I've never seen people so eager to do such a time-consuming task. I've never experienced that on a committee before.

BB: I've noticed that there's a high degree of common understanding of what the job is. Not that there aren't details to work out, but I think people very early on had a common understanding of what the mission of these task forces is and wanted to get moving. ■



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with the committee, make some decisions as to how they come out in the list of priorities.

BB: We would hope that if we're going to spend a lot of time on this that the information we provide is useful and that it actually will be the basis of some decision making but we're not making the decisions. Any decisions about ... elimination, merger or anything like that would go through the normal governance procedure.

There is certainly a high degree of awareness of this project on campus. I think people are apprehensive about it and I think they're certainly reacting to their colleagues who are on the task forces in a way that makes that clear.

BT: I hope at some point, and I hope it's not too far down the road, that people will say "I understand why this has to happen and that's a pretty decent group of people. It is unfortunate that we have to do this at all, but we do. Better than others I don't know."

LK: If you look at the longer-term view, it is ultimately going to help the university be stronger and be better. That's a positive. You can't shy away from making difficult decisions, and having a transparent process is better than just having arbitrary decisions made behind closed doors.

BT: Our *modus operandi* for many, many years has been shying away from making difficult priority decisions. I take some comfort in the fact that planning and priorities committee took this to Council and they endorsed it without a whole lot of negative

commentary. Council didn't say this is the perfect process, but Council did say we approve this in principle because we think it needs to be done.

LK: On the flip side, there will be programs identified for additional resources and that's exciting because we are going to identify some programs that are high priorities that might be able to expand or might be able to do more than what they are doing now.

BB: And I think we're also asked to look for opportunities for reconfiguration of existing programs which seems to me also offers some exciting possibilities.

KS: I think the key point is that these committees will have broad perspective on all the academic and non-academic programs, on the budget characteristics of these programs. That is something that has never been done on this campus before.

BT: We have 25 members on one task force and 22 on the other and if we are going to get 75 per cent approval of a motion it is going to take some discussion. That broad perspective is going to be incredibly useful and valuable.

LK: It's human nature to view change as scary and frightening or threatening or intimidating but change can also be exciting. As much as people might be afraid of outcomes, they should also be excited about what the U of S is going to look like after we get through this process.

BT: The difficult thing is that cuts



LIAM RICHARDS

Safety with saws

Dwayne Neustaeter, who got his start in the tree industry at the U of S nursery in 1987 while a student, led a chainsaw safety course on campus in mid-April. Sponsored by Arboriculture Canada, the course covered maintenance, use and handling of a chainsaw along with technical tree cutting, and the risks and hazards of trimming and felling trees for participants from across the province. Darren Crilly, grounds manager at the U of S, said the course participants worked on willows on Cumberland Ave. that were identified as structurally unsound and slated for removal.

Next deadline is May 2



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Going mobile

by JENNIFER WEBBER FORREST

The world is going mobile, and the University of Saskatchewan is going mobile with it. In fact, a quick survey of the country's leading research universities suggests the U of S may be leading the pack when it comes to the mobile accessibility of its homepage, course catalogue, library, events calendar and more.

Part of the reason for that success is a small team in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) that is encouraged to respond to changing demands.

"We're paying attention to the emerging needs of students," said Todd Trann, manager of ICT web applications and leader of the team behind the university's improved mobile accessibility. The team monitors usage carefully, he said, and actively solicits feedback through features like a prominent feedback tool in the iUsask smartphone application.

As of April, the main U of S homepage at www.usask.ca, as



The ICT mobile team includes, from L-R, Godswill Adeoye, Colin Skrapek, Todd Trann and Kyla Hoffman. 

well as most of the first-level pages accessible from there are fully functional on mobile devices like smartphones and tablets, said Trann. More U of S sites will soon follow; a new mobile website template that ICT makes available free to any U of S department makes the transition much easier. The PAWS portal will also be more mobile friendly by July, with all channel content expected to be mobile accessible by 2014.

But mobile websites are not the only way to go mobile, he said. Smartphone applications or "apps" are another option but one that involves a lot less "pinch and zoom, pinch and zoom" when it comes to finding content online.

Use of the iUsask smartphone app, which was the first of its kind at a Canadian university, has exploded; at the start of the term in January 2013, the iUsask app was being opened some 14,500 times a day, almost double September's usage.

Trann expects that upward trend to continue.

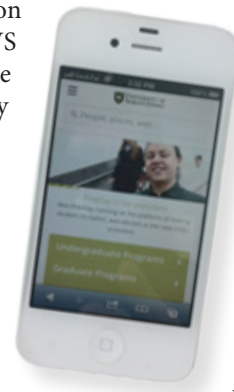
So, should the university focus its mobile efforts on websites or apps? Trann said that is not his team's call to make but he wants to see better choices for users. "Right now, we're trying to offer people the best possible experience through both mobile-accessible pages and apps," Trann said, adding that the group now needs to analyze where people go online.

It all comes down to asking, "how do people want to interact with the university?"

But the answer to that question can change quickly, especially since the field of mobile technology is still so new.

"Mobile is like the web was 10 years ago," said Kyla Hoffman, who leads the work on the university's Web Content Management System. "It's the wild west." ■

Jennifer Webber Forrest is communications specialist in ICT.



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Family Service Saskatoon: 653-3327



Extensive consultation process will help shape strategic plan

From Page 1

at all," said Busch-Vishniac. "We've changed dramatically in the last decade so I think this is the beginning of crafting a new high-level strategic plan." She added the proposed vision complements rather than conflicts with the university's well-established integrated plans and processes.

"Articulating an overarching vision starting with a statement like this ... really helps us inform not only the current integrated plan but plans that will succeed that."

The president said she plans to do some writing over the summer that will contextualize the vision, "and no, I don't have a name for it." An extensive consultation process is being planned for the fall. She imagines using focus groups, town halls, small-group meetings and an electronic comment forum to gauge reaction. "Our aim will be to get as much comment as possible so

“Our aim will be to get as much comment as possible so we get a sense of where we have struck a cord .

Ilene Busch-Vishniac

we get a sense of where we have struck a cord and where have we totally sounded something off key.”

Busch-Vishniac said feedback on the draft vision should consider a number of questions, including “what do we want to be when we grow up, and I'm talking about something 10-20 years from now? Where would we like to find ourselves? What do you think are the major challenges that keep us from getting there, and what are our major strengths on which we should build?”

It is important that external stakeholders be given an opportunity to comment too, she said, “but we cannot be everything to

everyone, and we are an autonomous institution that must chart out its own future. What our stakeholders say is important; what our internal community says is more important.”

Asked when she would like to see a new strategic vision for the university adopted, Busch-Vishniac replied, “the answer is always yesterday.” The best-case scenario would see a new visionary document completed by the end of the calendar year “but we have an integrated plan, we know what we're doing. This is not a huge departure from where we've clearly been heading so taking as much time as we need to have this conversation is appropriate.” ■

Competition is a young person's game

From Page 4

They can consult any print or online resources they choose but cannot speak to anyone. For Brooke and Shevyakov, it is 96 hours of fretting and worrying, “and frankly, these kids spend as much time on this as they would in an entire three-credit course.”

This year's results build on the university's already impressive record in mathematics competitions. The Putnam contest in particular “really calls upon what I would term an unusual interest and talent,” said Brooke. Some students compete in both the Putnam and MCM but because the MCM problems are not phrased mathematically, “it appeals to a different type of thinking.”

Whatever the competition, Brooke admits it is “a young person's game. It takes a fresh mind” but he also sees many advantages to competing, not the least of which is a maturation process for students. “They certainly understand themselves better in terms of their own limitations, and they understand what real competition is about. It's often a wake-up call; they may be on top of the local heap but they discover that it's a big world out there.

“We want our students to not be sheltered,” he continued. “If they're not aware of where they stand in the field of mathematics, when they graduate they won't be competitive. Competitions are an external measure of their future potential.” ■

Putnam team:

Jin Seong Bae, Daniel Gomez, John Hynes, Ivan Vendrov and Omar Zarifi

MCM teams:

David Fairbairn, Daniel Gomez, Omar Zarifi

Seth Dueck, Victoria Martinez, Angel Misevski

Charanjot Brar, Evan Smith, Paul Smith

Jin Seong Bae, Tanner Bohn, John Hynes

Around the Bowl

Jens Mueller has been named the new Thorvaldson Professor for the Department of Chemistry. The appointment lasts for five years, beginning July 1, and recognizes outstanding contributions made by a chemistry faculty member to teaching, research, graduate student supervision and administration at the U of S.



Mueller



Nerdahl

Trevor Nerdahl is the College of Arts and Science's inaugural co-ordinator of transfer credit and articulation. He will work to promote and develop partnerships between the college and other Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions regarding transfer credit and articulation agreements.

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President

Academic has announced the following appointments:

• **Scott Walsworth** as head of the Dept. of Human Resources and Organizational Behaviour in the Edwards School of Business effective July 1.



Neufeld

• **Lois Berry** to the position of acting dean in the College of Nursing for one year starting July 1.

• **Doug Surtees** to the position of associate dean academic in the College of Law for the period July 1 to June 30, 2016.



Walsworth



Surtees

Tonya Wirchenko has been appointed executive assistant to the Vice-President Research starting May 6. Wirchenko has worked at the U of S for



Wirchenko

over 12 years, most recently as an analyst for the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) and for the Advisory Committee (PCIP-AC) in the office of Institutional Planning and Assessment.

John Cornwell has taken up the position of financial compliance officer in

the Financial Services Division. He was with Audit Services for almost 10 years, most recently as associate university auditor.



Cornwell

Only two more issues of OCN before summer

Issue: Friday, May 10
Deadline: Thursday, May 2

Issue: Friday, May 24
Deadline: Thursday, May 16

Suites available at 830 and 840 Idylwyld Dr

- Unfurnished suites available at Phoenix Hills apartments
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- **2 BD:** \$1095
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- **Extra storage:** \$20 per month
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Improving Travel and Expense Processes

The University of Saskatchewan has selected UNIGLOBE as its preferred travel provider, as recently communicated to our faculty and staff by PAWS email and announcement. As well, we are in the early stages of implementing an online travel and expense tool with Concur Technologies Inc. aligned with UNIGLOBE's travel management services.

Employees can begin using UNIGLOBE for their travel arrangements now, while still following current travel procedures. With UNIGLOBE, you will benefit from a preferred travel agency fee of \$29 compared to an average \$60-70 charge for booking through other travel providers.

For UNIGLOBE travel reservations, call:
(306) 500-7525 (Saskatoon)
1-855-515-6746 (toll-free)

You can, of course, continue to make your bookings directly with service providers (airlines, hotels, etc.) yourself with no travel agent fee, and once the online travel and expense tool is available, no fee will be charged when you book online. Our existing travel guidelines and policies will continue to apply with the new online tool, maintaining current travel options while making access to preferred suppliers and associated cost savings easier.

Immediate savings with the preferred travel agency fee that UNIGLOBE is offering, as well as savings realized when the online process is implemented (improved rates on airfare, hotels, reduced paper waste) will directly benefit associated department, unit and research budgets.

Pilot testing of the online travel and expense tool will begin this June. Starting next fall, we will gradually roll out the new process—with training—to colleges, schools and administrative units across campus. Once available, you will access the online tool simply by logging in to PAWS. We hope to have the roll out completed by April 2014.

For more information, contact:
Payment Services | 966-8323
payment_inquiries@usask.ca

BACKGROUND

FSD's customers identified travel claims as an area for improvement in the December 2012 FSD Customer Survey, echoing results from the Service and Process Enhancement Project (SPEP). Efforts to develop a more automated process for the university's travel and expense management needs have been underway for some time, with a request for proposal process last spring and board approval this past December. The project is now part of the Maximizing the Value of University Spend category in the 2012-16 Operating Budget Adjustments initiative.

usask.ca/fsd

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Coming Events

■ Seminars/Lectures

Library Dean's Research Lecture

• May 24, 9:30-11 am, Centre Ballroom, Sheraton Cavalier, the 2013 Library Dean's Research Lecture, held this year in conjunction with the Canadian Health Libraries Association annual conference, features Dr. Anita Palepu, an internal medicine specialist at UBC who was actively involved in the launch of, and is co-editor of, an independent, open-access general medicine journal. Her address is entitled *Open Medicine: Challenges at the Frontlines of Medical Publishing*.

Anatomy and Cell Biology Special Lecture

• April 30, 10-11 am, Room B6 Health Sciences Building, James Davie, Canada Research Chair in Chromatin Dynamics, professor of biochemistry and medical genetics at the University of Manitoba and senior scientist at the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology, presents *Dynamic histone acetylation and pre-mRNA splicing*

■ Courses/Workshops

Course Design Institute – May 6th to 9th

• May 6-9, the Gwenna Moss Centre will be offering a Course Design Institute (CDI). For more information, visit, call 966-5905, email Barb.Schindelka@usask.ca or visit usask.ca/gmcte/events/coursedesign

Introduction to Teaching Online

• Beginning May 13 and continuing for six weeks, the Gwenna Moss Centre is offering an Introduction to Teaching Online short course. The course, facilitated by Heather Ross and Ryan Banow from the GMCTE, is completed entirely online and is free to any U of S faculty, instructor, staff or graduate student. To register, visit the course page at usask.ca/gmcte/courses/teaching_online

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca or call 966-5539

Business and Leadership Programs

• International Certification of Mentoring – Level 1, May 14
• Business Writing and Grammar Workout, June 5-6
• Leadership Development Program, Tuesdays, Oct. 29-Nov. 26

USCAD Spring Classes

• Visual Arts Survey I, May 16, 24-26 and June 7-9
• 2D Design I, May 3-5 and 10-12
• Open Sculpture Studio, May 3-5 and 10-12
• Drawing I, May 31-June 2 and June 14-16
• Drawing II and III, May 24-26 and June 7-9
• Drawing and Painting the Portrait II, April 29 – June 12
• Painting I, April 30 – June 11
• Painting/Towards Abstraction II and III, May 3-5 and 10-12
• Creative Digital Photography I, April 29 – June 12
• Advanced Photography II, April 30 – June 11
• Photoshop III, April 30 – June 11
• Pinhole Photography and Alternative Process I, June 8-9
• Advanced Printmaking, April 30-June 11

Master Gardeners

• Garden Fundamentals (MGCC), April 27 and April 28, 9 am-4 pm; \$84.00 + GST

Community Music Education Program

Spring parenting with music and Suzuki early childhood classes are open for registration. Summer music camps are also open for registration. For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca/community-music

Crucial Conversations for U of S Employees

• A two-day course will be offered June 7 and 14 in the Williams Building. Fee is \$490. Register online or call 966-5539.

U of S Language Centre Programs

• Multilingual Conversational Language Classes
• French levels 1 to 6: \$195 (GST exempt)
• Italian Level 1 & 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
• Spanish Levels 1 to 5: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
• German Levels 1 & 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
• Japanese Levels 1 & 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
• Textbooks and workbooks are extra. Register at ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages or call 306-966-4351.

Educational Travel

For more information see ccde.usask.ca/edtours

• Athabasca Sand Dunes Wilderness Ecology Camp July 7-12 with tour guides Greg Fenty and Melanie Elliott. Cost: \$2050. Three spots left
• Churchill Manitoba Polar Bear Ecology Family Tour with Susan Blum Nov. 7-14. Cost: \$2495 adult, \$2195 child under 12 years (includes GST). Information nights will be held May 1 and June 6, 7-8:30 pm in the Williams Building.

WSEP Safety Training Courses

Register at usask.ca/wsep/web_course

• Biosafety: classes available online
• Fire Safety: May 28, 1:30-3:30 pm
• Standard First Aid with CPR A: June 5 and 6, 8 am-4:30 pm
• Laboratory Safety: May 22, May 27, 8:30 am-4 pm
• Laboratory Safety for undergrad students: May 2, May 10, May 13, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
• Radiation Safety: June 10, 8:30 am-4 pm
• Safety Orientation for Employees: May 9, 8:30-11:30 am; May 14, 1-4 pm
• Safety Orientation for Supervisors: June 17, 1-4 pm
• Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Receiver): June 17, 11-noon

Continuing Education and Development for Nurses

For more information, go to www.usask.ca/nursing/cedn

• May 3 – 4, Breastfeeding: Nature's Way Conference, Saskatoon, registration required
• May 9 – 10, Introduction to 12-Lead ECG, Saskatoon, registration required
• June 13 – 14, Tuberculosis Symposium, Saskatoon, registration required

Edwards School of Business Executive Education

For information call 966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed

• May 31 – June 7, The Effective Executive Leadership Program, Waskesiu
• June 24-26, The Project Management Course, Regina

ICT Training Services

For information or to register, email training@usask.ca or visit training.usask.ca

• Adobe Illustrator - Intermediate, May 28 and 30, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
• Adobe Indesign – Introduction, April 23 and 25, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
• Adobe Indesign – Intermediate, May 21 and 23, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

• Adobe Photoshop - Introduction, May 1 and 8, 1:30-4:30 pm, OR May 6 and 13, 6-9 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

• Adobe Photoshop - Intermediate, May 21 and 23, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

• iPad Tips and Tricks (iOS 6), May 9, 2-3:30 pm, \$0 students; \$50 staff and faculty; \$75 others

• Make the Most of Your Mac - Introduction, May 14, 1:30-3 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; \$75 others

• MS Excel Fundamentals, May 13 and 15, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

• MS Excel Fundamentals Plus, May 28 and 30, 9-noon, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

• MS Outlook - Fundamentals Plus, May 16, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$75 students; \$100 staff and faculty; \$125 others

• MS PowerPoint Fundamentals, May 7, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; \$125 others

• Research Posters Using Adobe Illustrator, May 15, 3-4:30 pm, \$0 students; \$50 staff and faculty; \$75 others

• Security: Network Penetration Testing and Countermeasures, July 22-26, 9 am-4:30 pm, \$2250 students, staff and faculty; \$3800 others

• Security: Secure Programming Designing and Developing Defensible Web Applications, May 13-17, 9 am-4:30 pm, \$1950 students, staff and faculty; \$3250 others

• Faculty Workshops: contact training@usask.ca or 966-4866 for more information on these workshops geared to faculty.

• Online Training Library: free videos from Lynda.com now available. Check the PD and Training Tab, Online Training Library Channel in PAWWS for details.

• IT4U – Computer Training and Support for Students, contact <http://it4u.usask.ca>

Many courses are available to off-campus users. Visit training.usask.ca for more information.

■ Miscellany

Supplier Trade Show

Purchasing Services presents the U of S Supplier Trade Show May 7 from 9:30 am - 3 pm in the College of Kinesiology-PAC main gymnasium. The trade show includes new products, free samples and the opportunity to talk to suppliers of scientific lab supplies and equipment, safety equipment, office supplies and furniture, printers, customs brokerage services and more. For more information contact Purchasing Services at 966-6704 or visit purchasing.services@usask.ca

Financial Town Hall #5

The U of S will host the fifth in its series of financial town hall meetings June 13 from 12:30-1:30 pm in Convocation Hall. Information about university finances can be found at usask.ca/finances

Joint Convocation

The Saskatoon Theological Union will be holding its 12th joint convocation May 10 at Zion Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be 16 students graduating this year – four from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, nine students from Lutheran Theological Seminary and three from St. Andrew's College. Emmanuel and St. Chad will be conferring two honorary degrees: a Doctor of Divinity degree to The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett and a Doctor of Canon Law to Vanessa Charles. St. Andrew's will be conferring two Doctor of Divinity degrees, to The Rev. Bernice Saulteaux and The Rev. Patricia Wotton.

Science Rendezvous 2013

Science Rendezvous, a non-profit organization that partners with Canada's top research institutions to bring people and science together, will host a public festival May 11 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm in the Thorvaldson and Agriculture Buildings on the U of S campus. The day includes hundreds of events and interactive demonstration as well as exhibits from across Canada. Events include: SpectaCOLOUR Chemistry, hands-on activities and demonstrations on colour reactions; Glow Room, fun with fluorescence and phosphorescence; BOOM-bastic Science, activities that create popping sounds; and more. For more information, visit www.sciencerenzvous.ca

St. Andrew's Gala Banquet

St. Andrew's College Annual Gala Banquet will be held May 1 at the Western Development Museum. The banquet will be followed by an evening of entertainment by Kids of Note. Tickets are \$100 (with a portion in tax-credit receipt) and are available by calling Melanie at the college at 966-8970. Deadline for tickets is April 24.

Breakfast with the President

Ilene Busch-Vishniac is hosting President's Breakfasts at the University Club starting at 7:30 am on the following dates in May: May 10, May 17 and May 31. Call 966-7775 to make a reservation.

■ The Arts

Flute Fantasy

The Amati Quartet, with guest Randi Nelson on flute, will perform *Flute Fantasy* April 27 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at Third Avenue United Church. The concert includes works by Mozetich, Foote, Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven. Tickets are available online at www.amatiquartet.usask.ca or in person at the Remai Arts Centre.

Ducks on the Moon

Ducks on the Moon, a play by Kelley Jo Burke, will be staged May 9 at 7:30 pm in Quance Theatre, Education Building. The play is about Burke's experience making the transition from motherhood expectations to the realities of life with an autistic child. Tickets are \$10 at the door or call 306-220-4635.

Snelgrove Exhibitions

The Gordon Snelgrove Gallery presents two exhibitions – *Words* by Becky Peters and *A Recollection* by Jireh Wong – until May 3. A reception will be held April 26 from 7-10 pm in the gallery.

Kenderdine Exhibition

Continuing until April 27 in the Kenderdine Art Gallery in the Agriculture Building is *Souvenir Involontaire*, work by Melanie Rocan.

College Art Galleries

On view until May 4 in the College Art Galleries in the Peter MacKinnon Building is *Janet Werner: Another Perfect Day*. Curated by Kent Archer, the exhibition highlights Werner's fictionalization of time, place and memory as her subjects are invented, adapted, distorted and localized in new contexts and the drama of her paintings.

■ Conferences

The 3rd Annual SoTL Symposium

Hosted by the U of S Centre for Discovery in Learning and the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, the third annual Symposium for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) takes place April 29-30. The symposium title is Celebrating the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. For full program information and to register, visit the website at usask.ca/cdl/events/sotlsymposium

The Power of Technology

The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness presents the Teaching and Learning with the Power of Technology Conference (TLT 2013) May 1 and 2. For full program information and to register, visit the conference website at usask.ca/gmcte/ltt2013

Digitized

Digitized is a one-day conference for upper-year high school students to promote innovation, career opportunities and higher studies in information technology (IT) taking place May 9 from 9 am-3 pm. Students will hear a range of speakers from the industry and participate in hands-on workshops. The event is open to the public, and is organized by the Dept. of Computer Science in collaboration with the Saskatoon and District Industry-Education Council. For more information, visit digitized.tumblr.com/

Challenges and Opportunities

Disability Services for Students is hosting Autism Spectrum Disorder in Adults: Challenges and Opportunities May 9 from 10 am-3:30 pm in Arts 134. The event includes free public presentations and a panel discussion about Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorder. Visit the website students.usask.ca/current/disability/asd.php

Summer Institute

The Dept. of Curriculum Studies' Educational Technology And Design Summer Institute will take place July 3, 4 and 5. The institute is a research-focused gathering with all participants staying at St. Peter's College in Muenster. There will be scheduled sessions, unstructured collaborative time and opportunities to generate research ideas. For more information, visit usask.ca/education/ecur/etad/ETADstudio/

Expanding Horizons

The Canadian Association for Music Therapy (CAMT) 39th conference entitled Expanding Horizons takes place May 9-11 in the Dept. of Music, Education Building. Keynote speakers include Jennifer Buchanan, Heidi Ahonen and Kim Barthel. For more information or to register, go to www.mtas.wildapricot.org/

Undergraduate Chemistry Conference

The 27th annual Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference will be held May 9-11 at the U of S with research presentations in the areas of chemistry, biochemistry and educational chemistry by students from across Western Canada. Details can be found at www.usask.ca/wcucc

Leadership Conference 2013

Leadership Conference 2013: Leverage Your Leadership Edge takes place May 8 and 9 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Keynote speakers include Ken Blanchard, Jeremy Gutsche and Rick Mercer. For more information, go to www.leadershipconference.usask.ca

Submit Coming Events

Information for Coming Events will be accepted until 5 pm on deadline day.

Next OCN: Friday, May 10, 2013
Deadline: Thursday, May 2, 2013
ocn@usask.ca, fax 966-6815
or use web submission form at www.usask.ca/ocn

Becoming part of the solution

Lana Garcelon tackles Aboriginal justice at home and abroad

by Kirk Sibbald

After spending the past seven months counselling criminals in Vancouver and mediating land claims in New Zealand, Lana Garcelon is ready to apply her passion for Aboriginal justice closer to home.

Garcelon spent the past academic year in the Aboriginal Justice and Criminology (ABJAC) program, housed in the sociology department in the College of Arts and Science. The program—open only to students of Aboriginal descent—was established in 1991 and remains unique in North America, helping prepare students for justice-related careers through

two 12-week practicums.

A member of the English River First Nation, Garcelon is one of more than 260 students who have completed the ABJAC program. While many opt to compete their practicum placements with organizations in Saskatchewan, Garcelon took it upon herself to line up internships in considerably more foreign locales.

From September to December 2012, she worked with the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association (NCCA) of British Columbia. Stationed predominantly in Vancouver's east side, Garcelon

helped Aboriginal clients navigate the criminal justice system. Working one-on-one with clients was exhausting but rewarding work, Garcelon said.

"The clients were always so thankful to have our support. We tried to get to as many people as we could. We'd be in hallways and lobbies (at court houses) looking for any Aboriginal people, seeing if they needed our assistance in any way."

In January, Garcelon travelled to New Zealand for a three-month internship with the Maori Land Court. The organization oversees land-related matters for the Maori, an Indig-



Garcelon

enous Polynesian population in that country.

Working the land court's

front desk and travelling the country to meet with clients, Garcelon said she was struck by the mutual respect different cultures have for one another.

"What I really liked was the widespread acceptance and understanding towards Indigenous people. The respect for their culture was amazing," she said. "It's inspirational, because you come back (to Canada) and think it's possible that those kinds of attitudes can become more common here as well."

Garcelon is graduating with a three-year BA in sociology along with an ABJAC certificate, and she plans to pursue a law degree after taking a year or two off to gain some work experience.

"I've always had a passion for Aboriginal justice and any kind of Aboriginal issues. Being a First Nations person, I've grown up seeing the results of the injustices done to Aboriginal people in Canada. My mom is a residential school survivor, so it's something I've witnessed and I want to be a part of the solution." ■

Kirk Sibbald is communications officer in the College of Arts and Science

VIDO-InterVac receives certification

Research and development on vaccines to fight existing and emerging diseases can now proceed with receipt of final certification of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization's International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) at the University of Saskatchewan.

A U of S news release issued April 23 announced the facility had been approved

for operation, having met the stringent requirements of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for handling animal and human pathogens.

InterVac, a \$144-million expansion to VIDO, is one of the world's most advanced containment level-three vaccine research centres. Its advanced facilities will allow scientists

to safely conduct research into level-three diseases like tuberculosis, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and avian influenza as well as prion diseases like mad cow disease and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer.

"This project is a collaborative effort among many partners, who all deserve our heartfelt thanks," said VIDO-InterVac Director Andy Potter in the

release. Karen Chad, U of S vice-president of research, added the facility "greatly enhances our capacity to develop new tools, technologies and policies to help prevent disease and save lives."

Funding for InterVac came from the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the City of Saskatoon with support from the U of S. ■



Unleash Your Potential

Robert and Brenda Gordon Business Catalyst MBA Awards

Five annual awards valued at \$10,000 each will be awarded to full-time Edwards MBA students who demonstrate a keen interest in transforming their good ideas into great businesses. Recipients will have non-business academic backgrounds and the desire to use the MBA to accelerate their progress towards participating in a strong and sustainable provincial and national economy.

In order to be eligible, students must:

- not have obtained a previous business discipline degree.
- provide a two-page statement outlining how they will parlay their prior training (e.g. engineering, medicine, arts, etc.) in tandem with an MBA into a transformative venture or innovative career path that benefits the province and nation. The statement should discuss the student's motivation for the MBA, leadership ability, and the type of positive outcome that could be expected from the combination of a good idea with sound business training.

Selection will be made on the basis of the overall merits of the MBA admission package as well as the submitted statement, as determined by the Award Committee.



www.edwardsmba.ca

Sneak peek

This year, *On Campus News* is using the back page to explore places on campus that are off the beaten path—often behind locked doors—and to introduce you to the people who work in them. Suggestions for this feature are always welcome; email ocn@usask.ca



Chapel chat

The busier the chapel is at St. Andrew's College, the happier it makes college Principal Lorne Calvert.

Opened in 1961 as an addition to the original college building, the wood-paneled chapel hosts three services a week for college students and faculty, explained Calvert. It has also become the site of services held by both the university's Ecumenical Chaplaincy and the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, "but our idea is the chapel ought to be available to the entire community of campus," he said.

Located in what was once a prominent campus location, the college and its chapel are now relatively isolated by new buildings like Health Sciences, but there is some appeal in being removed from the hustle and bustle. With its stained glass, star blanket and soaring ceiling, it holds a lot of appeal for quiet contemplation or intimate gatherings.

Calvert said the unique configuration of the sanctuary – communion table in the middle with pews ranged in a surrounding oval – speaks to "the changing sense of the theology of worship and is reflective of a small community."

Anyone can visit the chapel when the building is open, but be careful not to park too close. Calvert said the steep roof tends to shed ice and snow with such velocity that it's been known to break the windows of cars parked beneath.



Lorne Calvert, principal of St. Andrew's College.

KRIS FOSTER



Lorne Calvert will provide a video tour of the St. Andrew's chapel in the May 3rd issue of *On Campus Now*.