



LAWS OF HAPPINESS

Marilyn Poitras is teaching a new class this year in the College of Law, one that explores how the profession of law affects the people who work in it and whether the words law and happiness can every be used in the same sentence without being oxymoronic. Read the story about the relationship between law and happiness on Page 5.

DAVID STOBBE

Looking ahead to 2014-15

Detailed operating budget in the works for next year

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

With the announcement March 19 that the provincial government will increase the University of Saskatchewan's operating grant for 2014-15 by the requested two per cent, to \$326 million, work now begins on figuring out exactly what that means for the coming year.

On budget day, the university received a letter from the Ministry of Advanced Education outlining the government's contributions to its operations in 2014-15, explained Jacquie Thomarat, acting director of budget strategy and planning in Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA). The next step "is to analyze what we got and what we didn't get, and all of that will be plugged into our detailed operating budget that's going to the Board of Governors for approval in late May."

On March 19, President Ilene Busch-Vishniac said in a media release the grant increase

was "a clear message that they (the provincial government) recognize the value of post-secondary education to the economic vitality of Saskatchewan." The grant increase is welcome news "but our work towards building a financially sustainable university remains," she said.

Thomarat noted the grant increase for the U of S was particularly welcome in light of a slight decrease in the province's overall spending for the coming year.

In addition to the base operating grant, the government committed continued support to various initiatives in the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing, to financial assistance for students, and to the operation of the Health Sciences Building and VIDO-InterVac.

Thomarat said many people will be involved in discussing the implications of the grant increase, including the president, provost and vice-president



Thomarat

finance and resources along with representatives from IPA and Financial Services Division. "We'll also be working closely with the ministry to understand the 2014-15 fiscal year's funding in detail," she added.

The base operating grant increase matches what the university asked for in its annual

operations forecast and is what the president described as a "pragmatic and rational expectation" when she discussed the budget with Council March 20.

The challenge in preparing the detailed budget, said Thomarat, "is that right now, we know our actual results for the third quarter of 2013-14, what we've projected for expenses for 2014-15 and our funding for the coming year from the provincial government." The rest involves making estimates about things like how much salaries and benefits will increase due to collective agreement settlements, what the electric bill will be and how much university investments will earn, all a year in advance.

But Thomarat pointed out that even with the two-per cent grant increase, the budget projection for 2014-15 included in the operations forecast showed a \$14.5-million deficit for the coming year. The reason

is projected cost increases are about four per cent overall but, as in the past, the deficit will be addressed "by managing our operations over the course of the year" through permanent and one-time adjustments, she said. It is an approach that has proved successful; "annually we've made concerted efforts to balance the budget and that's a good thing."

In addition to balancing the annual operating budget, the university remains committed to achieving \$44.5 million in permanent savings in its operations by 2015-16, she said. "That's the target approved by the Board of Governors to ensure we achieve ongoing financial sustainability."

More budget information will be provided to the campus community once the analysis is complete, said Thomarat, but budgeting is a never-ending exercise: "I'm already thinking about 2015-16." ■

Bookstore opens health sciences branch

The University Bookstore has opened its first branch outlet and set it up specifically to serve people involved with the health sciences.

The 400-sq-ft Health Sciences Bookstore opened its doors on the main floor of E Wing March 19 with shelves already stocked

with resources for students, staff and faculty visiting and working in the Health Sciences Building as well as those associated with Royal University Hospital (RUH). The outlet has been in the works almost since plans for the building were drawn up, said Martin Gonzalez De Souza, associate

director of Consumer Services.

"We're very excited to be in the new building," said De Souza. "Conversations started very early on in the building process and the Bookstore saw this as a fit for its operation. It's also a great opportunity to connect with health professionals who are part of RUH."

The outlet will stock texts and resources relating to health sciences, lab coats and some U of S-branded clothing, assorted school supplies as well as some grab-and-go food items.

De Souza said Bookstore representatives met with the Health Sciences Student Association and the staff and faculty from the colleges located in the building about what the store should stock. The selections will be refined based on continued feedback from store users. He added the store hours—currently 8 am-4:30 pm—may also be adjusted depending on the needs of the clientele.

And taking shape just down the hall from the Bookstore will be the newest university-owned Tim Hortons franchise. Expected to open this spring, the outlet will have a large seating area as well as full kitchen facilities. De Souza said the kitchen will prepare donuts, muffins and cookies for the Health Sciences outlet as well for other Tim Hortons stores across campus. The store will also have longer-than-usual hours to serve both the building and the hospital. ■



Martin Gonzalez De Souza, associate director of Consumer Services.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

NEW TO US



Christopher Eskiw

Can what we eat and how much we eat affect how long we live?

Yes, said Christopher Eskiw, assistant professor of food and bioproducts science. But why this is true is an extremely complex question, the answer to which is locked within our genes and how they are affected by environment and diet.

For example, research shows that caloric restriction—eating a nutritious diet with fewer calories—is good for you.

"There is a large accumulation of research showing that when you restrict calories, you increase not only life span but health span," Eskiw explained.

A native of Fort McMurray, Eskiw did a bachelor's degree at the University of Alberta before coming to the U of S to finish his master's. Doctoral studies took him to the University of Toronto. He did postdoctoral fellowships at England's Oxford and Cambridge Universities, then took up a position in London.

After 10 years away, Eskiw felt the pull of his home. Research funding opportunities were better in Canada, Saskatoon is his wife's hometown, and he had fond memories of the U of S from his graduate studies. He arrived at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources in July 2013.

"One of the things I remember about the U of S that has held true is they want you to succeed," Eskiw said. "They're really supportive and want you to do well."

Nutrigenomics, a field that examines the interplay among diet, genes and environment is Eskiw's specialty and his passion.

"It wakes me up in the morning and it keeps me awake at night," he said. "What I'm doing, I don't really consider this a job. This is what I love, and I'm very fortunate to be doing it."

It's an enthusiasm Eskiw hopes to impart to his students.

"I get really excited about what I'm doing. If I can pass on that kind of enthusiasm to the students, they'll get excited about it. And when you're excited and passionate about a subject, it's easy to learn." ■

NEW TO US highlights the work of new faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan. If you are new to campus, or know someone who is, please email ocn@usask.ca

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Innovation funding

Nine U of S research projects including the life science beamline for x-ray absorption spectroscopy (BioXAS) at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron will receive a total of \$2.1 million from the provincial government's Innovation and Science Fund.

It was announced March 18 that the BioXAS will receive \$1.3 million of the total to investigate the molecular form and microscopic location of metals in biological systems. This will enable researchers to study the role of metals in brain diseases like Alzheimer's, better understand how to treat deadly effects of toxic

elements such as mercury and develop new drugs to treat cancer.

In a media release, Karen Chad, vice-president of research, said the funding will not only continue to build the reputation of the CLS as a centre for life sciences research but will be used to address various challenges in agriculture, energy production and environmental research.

The Innovation and Science Fund supports research at Saskatchewan's universities, colleges and research institutes on projects receiving approval and matching funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. ■

In Memoriam

Gerald C. Zoerb, Engineering, Feb. 1

Morris E. Sebulsky, Agricultural Engineering, Feb. 4

Katherine A. (Kathy) Gerwing, College of Medicine, Feb. 24

Terrance Tollefson, Dept. of Soil Science, Feb. 24

Dr. Chaturbhuj Singh Sisodia, Veterinary Medicine, March 22

Tuition, TransformUS questions dominate public board session

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Members of the university's Board of Governors took the opportunity to describe their role in institutional governance, commit to listening to students and reiterate their accountability during their annual public session held March 18 in Convocation Hall.

In her opening remarks before a crowd of about 100 people, chair Susan Milburn stressed that in the university's tricameral governance system, the board does not manage day-to-day operations but does set the strategic and long-term financial direction of the institution. The focus, she said, is always on financial sustainability to ensure the U of S "will be around serving Saskatchewan for another 100 years."

Ongoing monitoring of the university's financial situation is a key role of the board, said Milburn, who added a lot of attention is paid to risk factors "that may prevent us from delivering on our strategic objectives." She said the top five risks for the U of S are increasing



Milburn

research success, student recruitment, funding for priorities, recruitment of faculty and staff, and the level of Aboriginal engagement. Board decisions are not always easy, she said, but "they are always in the best interests of the university."

Before allowing questions from the floor, various board members described the work of standing committees of the board, and Blaine Flavel spoke about the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre currently

“ Board decisions are not always easy, but “they are always in the best interests of the university.”

Susan Milburn

under construction. Describing the design by Douglas Cardinal, Flavel said the building will "be spoken of in the future with the same respect as the Thorvaldson Building. It will be one of the landmark buildings of this university."

A number of questions were raised about various aspects of TransformUS. Milburn said the board reviewed the plan for program prioritization, asked hard questions of senior administrators and determined it was "a reasonable way to get from point A to point B." The board continues to support TransformUS but Flavel admitted "irrespective of what model we deployed, not everybody would be happy."

Responding to questions about specifics in the Trans-

formUS task force reports, Vice-chair Greg Smith reminded the audience no decisions have yet been made and said the board, along with its "governance partners"—Council and Senate—will have the chance to critique the implementation plan.

Claire Card, a professor of large animal clinical science, asked "if there will be consequences" should TransformUS not turn out well, "if enrolment declines or if faculty flee." Smith replied he expects "full accountability, for ourselves and for our administration team."

There were a number of questions about the recently announced tuition increases for 2014-15. Jordan Sherbino, vice-president of academic affairs with the U of S Student's Union, said the expectation

deans will talk about tuition with their students "only happens in theory" and as a result, student perspectives are not being shared with decision-making bodies. He asked the board how it plans to rectify this in the future. David Dubé responded, saying only with all relevant information can there be "an open and honest debate at the board. We need every shred of information and we will ask administration to ensure those conversations with deans are happening."

President Ilene Busch-Vishniac added she will follow up on Sherbino's question to ensure student comments "are making it to the board."

There was also a question about the university apparently canceling plans to expand child-care services on campus. The president explained a lack of funding requires exploring new options. "We've pulled back from our commitment to a brand new building," she said, "not from our commitment to child care." (Please see story below) ■

Options explored for day-care spaces

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

While there is still strong commitment for providing additional child-care spaces on campus, university officials are back to the drawing board on just how to do it.

In early 2013, the U of S Board of Governors gave initial approval to develop a plan for a 90-space child-care centre in College Quarter but a lack of funding means other options must now be considered, said Greg Fowler, vice-president of finances and resources. The university has \$1.2 million from the province for new spaces and, with the agreement of the undergraduate and graduate student associations, plans for a \$5-per-student-per-year fee increase that would generate about \$100,000 annually for 10 years for the project.

The problem is that estimates on the cost of a new building exceed the available funding. "I can't get approval for the next step in construction without funding and we have a gap," said Fowler. He added the student fee increase to support child care on campus will not be implemented without a firm plan to proceed.

Speaking about the issue at Council March 20, President Ilene Busch-Vishniac said the



Fowler

university does not want "a repeat of what happened with the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre. We don't want to spend 20 years waiting while we raise the money."

Council member Lisa Kalynchuk asked if faculty and staff could be asked to contribute, possibly through a payroll deduction plan, just as student will contribute through additional fees, an idea the president said would be considered.

Another Council member wondered if a child-care centre could be made a priority in the university's upcoming capital campaign. Busch-Vishniac replied that in campaigns, institutional priorities do not

necessarily mesh with donor priorities, and initial meetings with donors about a child-care facility have garnered "zero interest to date."

One possibility other than a new building is renovating an existing space but Fowler said the regulations for child-care facilities are so strict it is hard to find anything that can be adapted with the funds available. "That's why a new build was preferable." He noted that neither of the existing facilities, in the Education Building and the Williams Building, can be expanded.

Another consideration is that demand for child care on campus has been pegged at 800 spaces and the maximum allowed in any one facility is 90. "Is a 10 per cent solution the strategy we want to go with so that we have to build seven more centres?" he asked. "We have to look at all the possible ways we can get closer to meeting the demand."

Various options will be presented to the board for its consideration in May. "We'll discuss them all, and the implications of all. We need to find a solution that's in the best interest of the university." ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Meet Dr. Jaques



PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES

A-10512

Louis Barker Jaques was born in Toronto on July 10, 1911. He attended the University of Toronto and earned three degrees: a BA in physiology and biochemistry (1933); MA (1935) and PhD (under the supervision of Dr. C.H. Best, 1941). In 1974, Jaques also earned a DSc from the University of Saskatchewan. He held academic positions at the University of Toronto before accepting an appointment as Professor and Head of Physiology at the U of S in 1946. He resigned the headship in 1971 and became the first W.S. Lindsay Professor in the College of Medicine. A scientist of international reputation, Jaques was among the first to demonstrate the usefulness of heparin in treating thrombosis, to demonstrate the effectiveness of dicumarol in thrombosis and originated the use of silicone in handling blood. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE

On the move

We're terribly excited here at *On Campus News* World Headquarters today because after more than five years, we are abandoning our digs at Innovation Place and moving back to campus.

Yes, we will once again be publishing *On Campus News* from, well, on campus, from the third floor of the Thorvaldson Building to be exact. I haven't even seen our new office space but I can't wait to get back to hustle and bustle that makes the U of S such a terrific place to work.

Here are some thoughts about moving.

What I will miss: my view. My desk is positioned in the northwest corner of the fifth floor of 121 Research Drive with windows on two sides. My panoramic view stretches from Preston Avenue to the southeast all the way across campus, over the city's downtown core, out to the airport and beyond to Lawson Heights. I can almost see my house from here. I watch the moon set in the mornings. Geese fly past at eye level. Coyotes wander the fields just north of the building. I can plan my route home based on traffic flow on the Circle Drive Bridge. And there's no better place to be when the Snowbirds come to town.

What I won't miss: down five flights to the lobby, out to my car, drive to campus, find a place to park, walk to an interview or meeting, walk back to my car, drive back to Innovation Place, back up five floors to my desk. Repeat, sometimes two or three times a day.

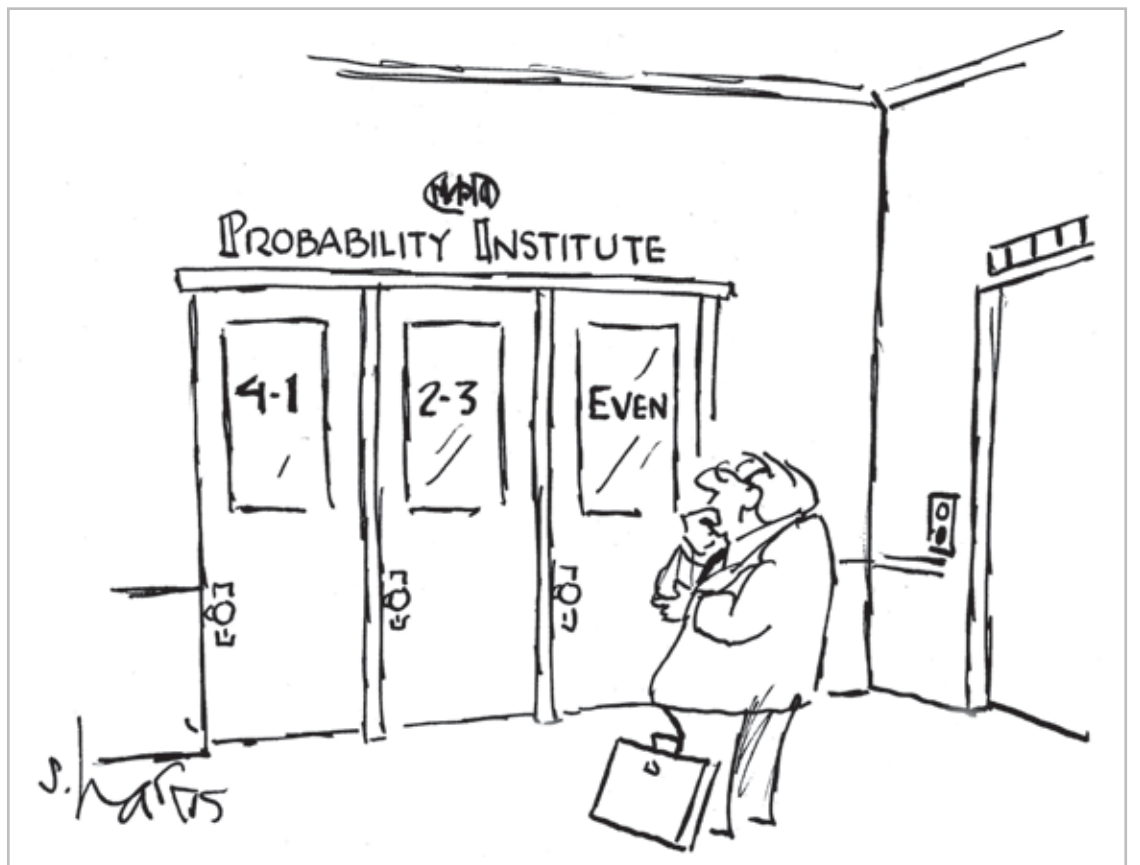
Packing: this is always an opportunity to de-clutter one shouldn't pass up. While pitching several recycle bins worth of old files and old newspapers, I've made some interesting finds - two extra computer mice (mouses?), a packet of peanut butter of indeterminate age and origin, some very funny old photographs that I'm holding onto for my farewell issue, two shoe horns (one for each foot I guess), an office voodoo kit and a garden gnome (don't ask).

First thing I'll do when I get moved in: stand on the steps of Thorvaldson grinning like a mad woman.

What I'm most looking forward to: reading bulletin boards for story ideas, bumping into people, walking everywhere I need to go, Tim Hortons and experiencing once again the energy of campus life. Did I mention walking instead of driving?

In the grand scheme of things, five years is not very long to be away unless you've been waiting that whole time to move back. ■

Ed.



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LETTER

Paying tribute to long-serving employee

In large organizations such as the U of S, it is extremely rare that the departure of a single person, albeit to a much-deserved retirement after 30 years of dedicated service, leaves a tremendous void and sense of loss in everyone, but that is what we're feeling in the College of Dentistry. So when it happens I believe it is worthy of note, so I would like to tell you about Janet Sklarchuk.

Janet has faithfully served the University of Saskatchewan for 30 years. She has been executive assistant to the dean of dentistry for the past 15 years and has literally been the heart, soul and face of the college, universally admired and appreciated. The dean's office is the nerve centre of our college and she is

the nerve centre of the office, always on time, always capable, always dedicated, always caring, always giving her best.

Janet always arrived for work arrives promptly at 7:30 am and worked tirelessly till the lights were turned off, usually by her. Everything from faculty appointments to scheduling to birthdays was on her agenda every hour of every day so if you wanted to know what is going on in dentistry, you just had to ask Janet. She can only be described as the gold standard in executive assistants.

Her abilities, skills and contributions to the college were above and beyond, so much so that we will unveil the Sklarchuk Above & Beyond Award for staff at a special

farewell reception we are holding in her honour in April.

Janet participated enthusiastically in all college functions, adding her special touch to each of them. She made friends and is respected across the campus but her most notable relationships were with "her" students. Many returned after graduation just to visit her; many refer to her as their 'second mom'; many invite her to their weddings. This extent of caring and respect is as rare as it is admirable.

People don't come more dedicated, accomplished or appreciated than her. Heartfelt and much deserved thanks, Janet, from all of us. To borrow your own line, "You are the best." ■

Ken Sutherland
Acting Dean, College of Dentistry

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On Campus News aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the U of S community.

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Michelle Prytula named dean of education



Prytula

Michelle Prytula, who is currently the associate dean of undergraduate programs, partnerships and research in the College of Education, will move into the office of the dean of that college on July 1.

Prytula, who earned a BComm, BEd, MEd and PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, is also a tenure-tract assistant professor in the Department of Educational Administration. When she takes over as dean, she will also move into

a tenured associate professor position.

Prior to becoming a faculty member, Prytula was a research assistant in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education. She also worked for 15 years as a teacher, vice-principal and principal in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division before her entry into academia. Prytula is an internationally recognized researcher in professional teacher learning. ■

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It's complicated: the relationship between law and happiness

✍ SARAH TREFAK

It was the last day of classes in the fall semester—a day that is usually highly stressful in any college on campus. But in the Stewart McKercher boardroom at 15 Campus Drive, the mood was quite different.

The eight or so students who gathered to complete their course evaluation for Law 498.3, otherwise known as Law and Happiness, seemed relaxed. As they finished putting down their thoughts about the class, one student commented, “This is definitely the first time I’ve run out of room in the comments section of a course evaluation.” Without hesitation, the rest of the students agreed.

Rewind to September when the College of Law began offering Law and Happiness, a seminar class born of Assistant Professor Marilyn Poitras’ research in human interest and motivation. The purpose of the class would be to explore how the law affects field workers, lawyers and judges while students offered their own theories about what a balanced life means and if law and happiness is, in fact, an oxymoron.

While the class itself was new to the college, the idea had been forming in Poitras’ mind for quite some time.

“I have been doing research on what makes people tick for most of my adult life. As a young adult, I worked in the criminal justice system and saw people at their lowest,” she said. She also worked closely with professionals who worked with first responders deal with the trauma they had seen. Such experiences, combined with her interest in positive psychology and alternative health, got her thinking about how criminal lawyers might deal with the horrific stories they are made privy to on a daily basis. Her research ballooned from there.

“I started looking into the stats and they weren’t good. Depression, suicide and divorce rates in the legal profession are high.” Her research showed that the upward slope in these rates begins in law school—and they don’t tend to go down.

“The average rate of depression in pre-law students is nine per cent. By Christmas time in the first year of law school, the rate of depression among law students is 30 per cent. By the end of first year it’s 40 per cent and that rate carries through to the legal profession.”

These staggering rates, along with the rates of women and minorities leaving the profession, motivated Poitras



Marilyn Poitras, assistant professor of law

DAVID STOBBE

“I started looking into the stats and they weren’t good. Depression, suicide and divorce rates in the legal profession are high.”

Marilyn Poitras

to dig deeper into the connection between the health of the justice system and the health of a lawyer. While interviewing a medical doctor at Royal University Hospital about the health of legal professionals, the term “lawyer’s liver” was one of the first words out of his mouth. Poitras was shocked. “It’s a real thing and we’re not talking about it, or at least not talking about it early enough.”

She said while the medical and other professions may have similar issues, there may be more outlets for people in those professions, such as medicine, to talk about the issues.

“Lawyers are trained to strip away everything but the legal issue at hand, which is great for the profession, but not so great when it comes to dealing with issues at home. There is evidence that when you numb yourself to emotions you deal with at work, you can’t selectively numb yourself to those feelings in other situations,” she explained.

As an upper-year elective, Law and Happiness is taught in seminar format. In its debut, 14 students enrolled. One of those students was Keith Pratt, a second-year law student with an interest in positive psychology. “To be honest, I took the class because I wanted to learn to

become a happier person,” he said. “I also wanted to take time to learn how to build strong mental fortitude to deal with the stress of being a law student and in the future, working in the legal profession.”

For Carly Romanow, a third-year student from Regina, the reason for taking the class was Professor Poitras herself. After taking classes with her in first and second year, Romanow didn’t think twice about enrolling in Law and Happiness.

“During one of her lectures in first year, I had that moment where I thought ‘this is what law school is all about.’ Her teaching techniques allow me to really think about the material and challenge us to view concepts from different perspectives.”

During the first month of the class, Poitras introduced the class to the research she had been doing on well-being and issues in students’ lives and legal professionals. While the students were a bit quiet in the first few classes, it didn’t take long before they were actively participating in discussions.

“By about the third class, students really started to open up about their experiences in law school.” Poitras suggested that while students come to law school with an idea of who they are and why they want a law degree, those feelings dissipate and switch to thoughts like, I hope I get a job. I hope I get an articling position. Should I be panicking?

Along with learning about the different types of tools that can be used to deal with

depression, alcoholism and family breakdowns, students were required to submit weekly journal entries. Each was also given a research assignment that needed to cover the topics of happiness, career choice and law. They then presented their research over a span of four classes, concluding with a 15-minute presentation that was recorded on video.

“Once the students started sharing their research, they lit up like Christmas trees,” said Poitras. “They began complimenting each other and cross-referencing each others’ research, saying things like ‘oh wow, I never looked at that issue like that before,’ and through it all, the students created an atmosphere of comfort and trust.”

In the future, Poitras would like the class to look more broadly at the psychological state of not only students and lawyers, but judges as well.

She would also like to invite more guest lecturers and would want students to hear from legal professionals who are dealing with, or have dealt with, wellbeing issues.

Furthermore, she would like to see the students in Law and Happiness work with the law school to develop services or programs that could be implemented to improve happiness while they are pursuing their law degree.

“Even the smallest initiatives can make a difference,” said Poitras, “including yoga or meditation classes, social options for students that don’t include alcohol, or just a place to openly talk about problems without feeling ashamed.” ■

Sarah Trefiak is communications and alumni officer in the College of Law. This article originally appeared in the winter 2014 issue of the college’s *Of NOTE* magazine.



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MAKE IT A PANCAKE”

—AARON JAMES DRAPLIN



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Making up our minds

Decision making can be quick, or correct

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

Should you go with your gut, or with your head?

For Valerie Thompson, professor of cognitive psychology, it depends: do you need a quick answer, or a correct answer?

“We have a limited capacity for thinking,” she said, explaining that the conscious mind exists at a bottleneck between the vast amount of information pouring in from the outside world and the enormous amount of data stored in long-term memory.

“You can hold more items of information and do less with them, or you can think a lot about one or two items,” she said. “So you trade off capacity versus power.”

People use quite a few short cuts to make up for this lack of processing power, some of which are well-known in the marketing world.

“Marketing specialists have been working for years to modify your behavior with regard to what you put in your shopping cart, and they’re very, very good at it,” Thompson said. “They appeal to all sorts of aspects of behavior that you probably don’t realize are being appealed to.”

One strategy is anchoring. Price an item at \$20 and it gathers dust. But price it at \$40 then mark it down to \$20 and it will often start flying off the shelves. The initial price sets the perceived value of the product, and the discount signals a bargain to be had.

Thompson explained these gut decisions are very common



Valerie Thompson, professor of cognitive psychology

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

in the grocery store, where myriad choices force people to use a variety of strategies to get the shopping done in a reasonable amount of time. Familiarity—buying what you’ve bought before or have seen in an advertisement—is one. Attractive packaging and words like natural, quality and organic also provide decision making short cuts.

“Cues like familiarity, or colour, position—next to the checkout—these are perhaps not the best cues to use,” Thompson said. “But they’re easy to use, so we are really used to employing them to simplify the decisions we make.”

Generally, the larger and more important the decision,

the more likely we are to slow down and give it the benefit of analytical thought. But not always.

“Think about a decision to buy a house. Now, this is the biggest investment somebody’s going to make. There’s nothing else that you will spend as much money on. But a lot of the thinking is rationalization after the fact—you just love the house.”

That said, just because it’s a snap decision doesn’t necessarily mean it’s unreliable. In fact, it’s a quick way to eliminate options that obviously won’t work. But before signing on the dotted line is the time Thompson counsels to engage analytical reasoning to answer questions such as proximity to

“ We can be well or poorly served by intuitive judgments. The trouble is we’re not very good at telling the two situations apart.”

Valerie Thompson

schools, commute times and other practical matters.

Also, it is possible to trust intuitive reasoning alone. You just need the experience to back it up.

“In many domains, experts have awesome intuitive decision-making skills,” Thompson said.

For example, the mind of a chess grandmaster, trained by thousands of games, can automatically weed out irrelevant or non-productive moves. This leaves only a few promising paths to pursue with close analytical thought.

But one mental short cut that can get us into trouble is prior belief. Thompson explained this causes people to give more weight to evidence or arguments that support their beliefs and pay more attention to information that is consistent with their views.

“People are actually very good at preserving belief systems,” she said. “They will go a long way to defend them, even in the face of contradictory evidence.”

Thompson cited the example of Queen Elizabeth I, who lived in a time when women were thought to be unsuitable or even unable to handle positions of power. Nevertheless, society accepted her.

“After demonstrating how capable and worthy she was to serve in that role, people didn’t just have a radical change of mind. She was marked out as an exception. So we preserve the belief system even though we’ve got this exception.”

Another pitfall is previous decisions.

“We’re not that good at knowing when the initial decision is unsound,” Thompson said. “Fortunately, for many decisions, the cost of making an error is small, which is why I suspect we rely on these sorts of short cuts so much.”

“For others, the cost of an error is huge, and we pay for it,” she said, citing the “egregious decision making” behind the 2008 banking crisis that rocked the world’s financial system to its foundations.

For Thompson, it comes down to being aware of our mental limits and short cuts and asking some questions when there is “a decision that deserves our rational thinking.” Are previous decisions, emotions or beliefs colouring our judgment? In the end, we’re left to make up our minds on our own.

“We can be well or poorly served by intuitive judgments. The trouble is we’re not very good at telling the two situations apart.” ■



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The psychology of cheating is never black and white

KRIS FOSTER

A recent report by CBC examined cheating at Canadian universities, and revealed that more than 7,000 students were disciplined for cheating in 2011-12. OCN decided to delve deeper into the issue of academic misconduct and spoke with Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning.

The coffee is cold and your eyes are tired and becoming red. It is past midnight and the paper, worth 40 per cent of the final grade, is only half done ... it's due first thing in the morning. The textbook for tomorrow afternoon's midterm has barely been cracked. There is a ping of anxiety and a nagging impulse to cheat.

The myriad factors leading to the decision between right and wrong, to cheat or not to cheat, are not black and white, explained Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning.

"There are a range of theories and opinions on the psychology behind cheating," said McDougall, who has a research background in developmental and educational psychology. "It is heavily situational and also governed by moral development issues within a person. It is almost always an interaction of who you are and the situation in which you find yourself."

In any situation where a moral decision needs to be made there are always two elements in play, she said. "One part is inhibiting, or refraining from doing something that you shouldn't do. The other is proactive; it's about choosing to do the right thing. It is like having an angel and the devil on your shoulders."

From a developmental perspective, she continued, as we age, we become less likely to cheat in any facet of life because thought processes change, emotions evolve and how we sanction ourselves becomes increasingly complex.

From a young age there are many external contributing factors—parental influence, code of conduct at home and, for some, religion—that shape the sense of right and wrong, the "moral compass that would preclude you from breaking rules. At a young age these are an external set of rules. But as we get older we've internalized a sense of right and wrong and operate on that basis as opposed to having to tap into external cues. That's why as we get older we are less likely to cheat."

The act of self-sanctioning and acting morally relies on the internalized moral compass, said McDougall, which in turn can be

affected by cognition, emotion and social influences.

"Generally speaking, each one of us functions to sanction ourselves so that we wouldn't actually engage in cheating behavior. But there are conditions in which we might disengage from that mechanism to self-sanction," the vice-provost explained.

This theory comes from Albert Bandura, a social psychologist who researched the conditions under which we would disengage that mechanism to self-sanction, for example, like what it takes for a good person to become a soldier who kills. "It's pretty extreme, but I think it can be applied to other moral actions like cheating."

There are numerous reasons and causes that lead students to disengage their moral compasses, said McDougall, noting among them pressure to do well, time pressures, and, in the case of plagiarism, simply not being aware of the proper way to do something like quoting or citing work.

"I think it often ends up being about time pressures. And I would say, time pressures plus lapses in judgment can easily result in cheating. So, you've got all kinds of things going on in life and it's the middle of the night, trying to cram it in, study, write a paper and you just don't quite get there so you take an easier way out."

In other cases, McDougall said students could make a moral justification: "I'm entitled to do well here, or I deserve a good grade or the professor or assignment is unfair," and that could be used as justification for behavior to cheat. Normally you wouldn't cheat, but because you're telling yourself you're justified in doing so, it disengages that self-sanction."

Advantageous comparison is another lever that could lead to cheating. This is essentially a student justifying the act of cheating if they perceive that everyone else is cheating and cheating to a greater extent.

In this scenario, McDougall explained, a student might say to themselves, "I just wrote a few key words on my hand but others



Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning.

KRIS FOSTER

are doing way worse than that.' You could see how those kinds of advantageous comparisons could affect a moral compass."

Another justification for cheating McDougall referenced is called displacing responsibility. "That would be the thinking that no one else is being hurt by your plagiarism or cheating on a test. Further yet a student might think 'It's not my fault that this is going on because if the assignment was fair or the professor was fair, I wouldn't be put in this situation.'"

The moral tug-of-war that accompanies the decision to cheat or not, is further swayed by a number of situational circumstances, like the use of smart devices and internet access in the classroom, invigilation and whether the professor leaves during an exam, and even lighting of the room—as the lights go down, the cheating goes up.

Another factor, not surprisingly, is how tired a student is. "An individual is more likely

“When people cheat and get away with it, and continue to cheat, it can make you feel powerful. But I would speculate that only a very small percentage of those cheating at university are pathological.”

Patti McDougall

to cheat when they are tired. When you're tired, self-control is depleted because you just want to be out of the situation, have the paper done and move on to the next thing. Your judgment is impaired and so is your mechanisms to self-sanction."

McDougall, who has served on numerous academic misconduct committees, said that in her experience "for the majority of students it was a lapse of judgment and it doesn't happen again. Once it is detected and intervention happened, it is not a

See *Preventing*, Page 11

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

General Academic Assembly (GAA)

The president's state of the university address

President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, chair of the GAA, invites you to attend the annual meeting of the GAA, where she will give her report on the state of the university. This event is open to all faculty, staff and students.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
NOON
CONVOCATION HALL**

Members of the GAA include the president as chair, members of faculty, elected students, deans, executive directors of schools, vice-presidents, the university secretary and the registrar.

For more information, visit usask.ca/secretariat



Interested in governance of the University of Saskatchewan? Consider offering to join a University Committee

Each year, the Nominations Committee of Council invites University of Saskatchewan faculty members and librarians to step forward and offer to serve on university committees. Our committees are the mechanism through which collegial university governance is achieved. Finding excellent people to serve on our committees is the job of the Nominations Committee. Our terms of reference direct us to find members who are broadly representative of the disciplines of the university. We select nominees for their experience, demonstrated commitment, and potential for a significant contribution to committee functions, and we strive for equity in representation.

Following are the committee vacancies which we are looking to fill for the 2014-15 academic year. We usually try to appoint people for three-year terms.

To volunteer or to nominate someone else:

- download a nominations form <http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/forms/index.php>
- email sandra.calver@usask.ca by **Monday, April 7, 2014.**

Committee	What does it do?	How often?	Information about expected vacancies
University Council Committees			
Academic Programs Committee	Reviews and approves curricular changes from all colleges, recommends major curricular changes to Council, oversees policies relating to students and academic programs.	twice a month	Four vacancies + sessional
Governance Committee	Reviews Council bylaws, including committee terms of reference; develops policies and guidelines relating to student academic appeals and conduct.	once a month	Two vacancies
International Activities Committee	Develops and reviews policies, programming, and strategic directions for international activities and programs.	once a month	Five vacancies
Nominations Committee	Nominates GAA and Council members for university committees and panels.	as required	Four vacancies
Planning & Priorities Committee	Reviews and advises Council and the university administration on planning, budgeting, and academic priorities.	twice a month	Five vacancies + sessional
Research, Scholarly & Artistic Work Committee	Reviews and advises Council on issues related to research, scholarly and artistic work, including research-related policies.	twice a month	Two vacancies, including an Associate Dean Research
Scholarships & Awards Committee	Grants awards, scholarships and bursaries open to students of more than one college or school; advises Council on scholarship and awards policies and issues.	as required	Three vacancies
Teaching, Learning & Academic Resources Committee	Reviews and advises on pedagogical issues, support services for teaching and learning and policy issues related to teaching, learning and academic resources.	once a month	Five vacancies + sessional
Vice-Chair of Council	The Vice-Chair is also a member of the Policy Oversight Committee.		Vacancy
Collective Agreement Committees			
University Review Committee	Reviews college recommendations for awards of tenure, renewals of probation, and promotions to professor.	frequently November to March (evenings)	Three vacancies
Renewals and Tenure Appeal Panel	The members of sabbatical appeal, promotion appeal, and tenure appeal committees, and the President's Review Committee are selected from this roster.	variable	16 vacancies (Tenured faculty with experience on a tenure committee)
Other Committees			
Student Academic Hearing and Appeals Panel	The members of student disciplinary and appeal boards are selected from this roster.	variable	Three or more vacancies for members of Council
Policy Oversight Committee	Reviews and provides advice on administrative and academic policies	quarterly	One vacancy for member of Council
Senate Roundtable on Outreach and Engagement	Supports the university's outreach and engagement initiative.	variable	One vacancy
Recreation and Athletics Advisory Council	Recommends on recreation and athletic fees charged to students and reviews reports on expenditures.	variable	One vacancy

For more information, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee of Council:

Nominations Committee of Council:		Phone		
Ed Krol	Pharmacy & Nutrition	2011	Michael MacGregor	Psychology 2525
Terry Wotherspoon	Sociology	6925	Curtis Pozniak	Plant Science 2361
Dwayne Brenna	Drama	5185	Michele Prytula	Educational Administration 6880
Signa Daum Shanks	Law	1049	Keith Walker	Public Policy/ Ed Admin 8465
Yen-Han Lin	Chem and Bio Engineering	4764	Sandra Calver	Secretary 2192

For more information, visit

usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/committees.php or call **306-966-2192**

Coming Events

■ Seminars/Lectures

In Search of Ety Hillesum

- April 4, 3:30 pm, Arts 217, Michael Trusler of the University of Regina, presents *In Search of Ety Hillesum*, a section from *The Adorono Elegies*, poetry and mini essays about painting, the natural world and the Holocaust in response to the work of Ety Hillesum, a Dutch Jewish woman who perished in Auschwitz in 1943. For more information contact lindsey.banco@usask.ca

Tales of Marketing

- April 3, 7 pm, Louis' Loft, graphic designer Aaron Draplin of Draplin Design Co, Portland whose client list includes Nike, Wired, Target, Ford, Obama and more, will tell some tall tales of the marketing world in a rather entertaining fashion. Draplin is presented as part of the Society of Graphic Designers' (GDC) Elevators Speaker Series. More information and tickets at picatic.com/draplin.

Law Speaker Series

- March 31, noon, Room 150 College of Law, the Guest Speakers Committee and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Club presents Constable Cinda Michael of the Vancouver Police Department. Michael has worked for 11 years as a crisis negotiator and teaches a crisis negotiation course at the police college in Ottawa.

Veterinary Microbiology Seminars

- Fridays at 12:30pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre
- March 28, Massroor Tipu, MSc graduate student, presents Improvement of vaccine against inclusion body hepatitis in chickens through development of a new in-ovo vaccine and Hong-su Park, PhD graduate student, presents Investigation of inflammasome-mediated interleukin-1 beta secretion in porcine alveolar macrophages infected with influenza A virus

Co-op Seminar

- March 31, 3:30-5 pm, Room 129 Diefenbaker Building, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives presents Mitch Diamantopoulos, associate professor and head, School of Journalism, U of R, and scholar at the centre, who will deliver a seminar entitled Regenerating the Co-operative Movement

Johnson-Shoyama Lecture

- April 9, Ramada Hotel, Regina, John Manley, president and CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief executives and former deputy prime minister, presents the 2014 Tansley Lecture entitled Public-Private Collaboration: The Key to Overcoming Some of our Toughest Challenges

■ Miscellany

CLS Tours

The Canadian Light Source is offering free public tours of the facility most Thursdays at 1:30 pm and at 7 pm on April 17. Reservations are required. An online form is available on the CLS website under the education tab, or email outreach@lightsource.ca, or call 306-657-3644.

Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics

The WCVN Veterinary Medical Centre will hold Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics from 8:30 am-4:30 pm April 5 and 19 for pet checkups or vaccinations. Call 306-966-7126 to book an appointment or for more details. The centre offers a 10 per cent discount for U of S students and staff.

■ The Arts

Chamber Music Concert

The Dept. of Music presents a Chamber Music Concert April 7 at 7:30 pm in Quance Theatre, Education Building. The program includes music for voice, flutes, clarinet, piano and cello by Bach, Mozart, Ravel and others. For information contact Kathleen Solose at 306-966-6179 or kathleen.solose@usask.ca

World Premier

The world premier of *Paper Airplanes*, a student-created feature-length drama exploring the struggle to survive, and thrive, in the unpredictable world of the University of Saskatchewan takes place April 1 at 7 pm at the Broadway Theatre. Admission is free.

Artist Talk

Derek Sandbeck, a printmaker, photographer and recent graduate of the U of S, will speak about his work April 3 at noon in the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery.

Something Old, Something New

The University of Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra presents its spring performance entitled *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue* April 4 at 7:30 pm at Elim Church. The program includes works by Schuman, Boysen and Mackey, and the world premiere of *Invisible Cities* by Dinuk Wijeratne featuring TorQ. For more information contact darrin.oeblerking@usask.ca or 306-966-1370

STM Gallery

Showing until April 25 in the St. Thomas More Gallery is *Collaboration: 9th Annual USCAD Instructors' and Certificate Students' Show*. The gallery is located on the second floor of the college, just outside the library.

French Fantasies

The Elixer Ensemble presents French Fantasies April 19 at 7:30 pm in Convocation Hall. The concert includes French chamber music from the late 19th and early 20th centuries plus a tango by award-winning Canadian composer Christos Hatzis. Details can be found at elixerensemble.com

The Big Swing

The U of S Jazz Ensemble concert The Big Swing will take place March 30 at 3 pm in Quance Theatre, Education Building. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information contact dean.mcneill@usask.ca or call 306-966-6169.

A Queen and Her Country

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre is hosting *A Queen and Her Country*, a travelling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of History, until June 8. The exhibition marks the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II using artifacts and images to recall her many visits to Canada and her connections to major events in the country's history.

Snelgrove Exhibitions

The Gordon Snelgrove Gallery is showing BFA exhibitions by Kayla Prive, Kendal Brandt and Raene Poisson March 31 to April 4. From April 7-11 are BFA shows by Edna Oleksyn, Jessica Sukut and Kaja Coleman. There will be receptions on the closing day of each group of exhibitions.

Kenderdine Art Gallery

Showing in the Kenderdine Art Gallery is *Rita McKeough: The Lion's Share*, an immersive experience that includes a visual array of materials and the sounds of a lion eating, all within the space of a faux restaurant. The artist describes the installation as a 3D version of a Looney Tunes restaurant in which things have gone terribly awry. The exhibition, curated by Josephine Mills, continues until April 26.

College Art Galleries

The group exhibition *Ecotopia*, circulated by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and on view in the College Art Galleries, explores environmental conservation, destruction and the cacophonous blend of architecture and decay in a technological age from the perspective of a number of artists. The show runs until May 7.

On Stage

Greystone Theatre will present *Our Country's Good* until March 29. Directed by Pamela Haig Bartley, the play, set in New South Wales, Australia in 1789, is a frequently funny exploration of the transformative potential of theatre and the civilizing power of the arts. Details and tickets available on the Dept. of Drama website.

■ Conferences

Academic Research Day

The Dept. of Psychiatry is holding a Psychiatry Update: Addictions and Mental Health event March 28 in the Rependa Theatre, Saskatoon City Hospital. Among the presenters are Dr. Robert Milin, head, Division of Addictions and Mental Health at the University of Ottawa; Dr. Tony George with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Division of Brain and Therapeutics at the University of Toronto; and Detective Inspector Jerome Engle and Sergeant Dean Hoover of the Saskatoon Police Service. More information and the registration form are available on the department website.

■ Courses/Workshops

Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness

For details visit usask.ca/gmcte/events or call 306-966-2231

- March 28, 10:30-noon, Community Organizations 101: An Introduction with Lisa Erickson, Station 20 West
- April 8, 1-4 pm, Shared Ground with Colleen Charles and Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum

Writing Winning Grants

- April 24, 9 am-4 pm, Room 103 Physics, a one-day hands-on workshop for all disciplines with practical, expert, advice from Natasha Waxman, director of publications and writing services, Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, and from U of S grant holders. For more information contact grants.workshop@usask.ca.

Continuing Education for Nurses

For more information visit usask.ca/nursing/cedn

- April 11-12, Optimizing Health for Older Adults conference; registration required

Biomarker Development Workshop

- April 10, 8 am-5 pm, Exeter Room, Marquis Hall, a day-long Biomarker Development Workshop will be held to promote information about newly developed techniques in the area of biomarker development with a focus on nuclear biomarkers, nanopores and infectious diseases. This free workshop features speakers from across North America. Open to all faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, undergraduate students and technicians.

Library Research and Reference

For more information, search by series name on the university homepage.

Library Researcher Series:

Learn some literature searching strategies and research productivity skills. All sessions will be held in the Collaborative Learning Lab, 1st Floor, Murray Library, from 1-2pm. Sessions are free and no registration is required.

- April 1 – Research Data Management

Managing Your References Series:

Learn how to get started with some popular citation management tools. Sessions are free and no registration is required.

- March 28 – EndNote – 1-2pm - Health Sciences Library Meeting Room

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca or call 306-966-5539

Business and Leadership Programs

- Developing Your Presentation Skills, April 7 and 14
- The 5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity, April 8-9
- Understanding Self and Others Using MBTI Step II, April 24
- Train the Trainer: A Short Course in Adult Learning, April 28-30
- Leading Innovation, Inspiring Creativity in the Workplace, May 1
- Introduction to Group Facilitation, May 9-10
- Technical Writing, June 24

Crucial Conversations for U of S Employees

- June 16 and 23, Room 224/225 Williams Building, fee \$490

Community Music Education

Parenting with Music and Suzuki Early Childhood Spring classes start May 3 and registration is open for summer music camps. For more information, call Nicole Wilton at 306-966-5625 or visit www.ccde.usask.ca/community-music

U of S Language Centre

Multilingual conversational language classes, April 7-June 2:

- French levels 1 to 6: \$205 (GST exempt)
- Italian level 1 and 2: \$215.25 (GST included)
- Spanish levels 1 to 5: \$215.25 (GST included)
- Portuguese level 1: \$215.25 (GST included)
- German level 1: \$215.25 (GST included)
- Japanese levels 1 to 3: \$215.25 (GST included)
- Japanese for the Traveller: \$236.25 (textbook and GST included)
- Cree level 1: \$225.75 (textbook and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra, except for Japanese for the Traveller and Cree 1. If you have not yet taken multilingual classes, call 306-966-4351 or email reception.uslc@usask.ca for a language assessment.

Part-Time English Classes: Placement testing and registration for the spring term is on now. Call 306-966-4351 or visit ccde.usask.ca/PTESL

- Pronunciation, Thursdays, April 3-June 5
- Spoken English, Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 8-May 29
- Writing and Grammar, Mondays and Wednesdays, April 7-June 2
- Graduate-Level Writing, Mondays and Wednesdays, April 7-June 2
- Reading Skills, Tuesdays, April 8-May 27
- Listening and Note taking Skills, Thursdays, April 10-May 29
- English for the Workplace, Saturdays, April 5-June 7

USCAD Classes

- Watercolour I/II, April 4-6/11-13
- Stained Glass: Focus on Foil work, April 25-27
- Visual Arts Survey I, May 15, 23, 25 and June 6-8
- 2D Design I, May 2-4 and 9-11
- Open Sculpture Studio, May 2-4 and 9-11
- Drawing I, May 30, June 1 and June 13-15
- Drawing II and III, May 23-25 and June 6-8
- Drawing and Painting the Portrait II, May 5-June 18
- Painting I, May 6-June 17
- Painting/Towards Abstraction II and III, May 2-4 and 9-11
- Creative Digital Photography I, May 5-June 18
- Advanced Photography II, May 6-June 17
- Photoshop III, May 5-June 18
- Pinhole Photography and Alternative Process I, June 7-8
- Expressive Landscape Painting I, May 30-June 1
- Off The Wall: Mixed Media Sculptural Wall Pieces I, June 13-15/ 20-22
- Welding in Sculpture II, June 5/14-15/21-22

Master Gardener Program

- Using Colour in the Garden, April 4, 7-9:30 pm, \$44.95 + GST

- Gardening 101: Spring, April 5, 9-noon, \$44.95 + GST
- Integrated Food Gardening, April 5, 1-4 pm, \$44.95 + GST
- The Allure of Blue Flowers, April 6, 9-noon, \$44.95 + GST
- Landscaping: Learning through Critique, April 6, 1-4 pm, \$44.95 + GST
- Perennials: The Basics, April 11, 7-9:30 pm, \$44.95 + GST
- Garden Fundamentals, April 12 and April 13, 9 am-4 pm, \$99.95 + \$10.50 materials fee
- Gardening Naturally: Reducing Pests without Chemical Products, April 12, 7-10 pm, beginner to advanced, \$44.95 + GST

U of S Covey Leadership Program

U of S employees in a supervisory or managing role interested in participating in a Covey Leadership Program in 2014-15 should email karen.hayward@usask.ca. A minimum of 22 participants is required to run the program. For information about the program, go to ccde.usask.ca/employees

ICT Training Services

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

- Adobe Illustrator – Intro, April 22 and 24, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe InDesign – Inter, April 15 and 17, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe InDesign – Intro, May 13 and 15, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Photoshop – Intro, May 20 and 22, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- ArcGIS - Intro, April 14 and 16, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$0 students, staff, faculty; \$185 others
- Blackboard / U of S Course Tools Instr. Workshop, March 28 OR April 7, 1:30-4 pm, \$0 staff and faculty
- Research Posters - Adobe Illustrator, May 29, 2:30-4 pm, \$0 students; \$50 staff or faculty; \$75 others
- Research Posters - MS PowerPoint, May 27, 2:30-4 pm, \$0 students, staff, faculty; \$75 others

Faculty Workshops: contact a training@usask.ca or 306-966-4866 for more information on workshops geared to faculty.

IT4U – Tech Help for Students: <http://it4u.usask.ca>

Enroll in many courses from off campus. Go to training.usask.ca for more information.

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

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

- April 2, Edwards Seminar Series: Relationships that
- April 2-4, What the Non-Financial Manager Needs to Know About Financial and Managerial Accounting - Regina
- April 7-9, The Business Analyst's Course - Regina
- April 29-May 1, Digital Marketing Program: Social Media and E-Marketing Certificate
- May 22-23, Process Mapping and Process Improvement Course - Regina
- May 26-27, Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (Lean Office) Course
- May 28-29, Process Metrics, Management and Controls Course
- May 30-June 6, The Effective Executive Leadership Program –Waskesiu

➤ SUBMIT
Coming Events

Next OCN: **Friday, April 11**
Deadline: **Thursday, April 3**

Email ocn@usask.ca



President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, right, with a group of students in a selfie at the ISC awards event.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students recognized for achievements

As part of Aboriginal Achievement Week at the U of S, the Indigenous Students' Council held a ceremony March 13 to celebrate the successes of students nominated within various disciplines. In front of a large audience and many special guests, the students were recognized for their often-inspirational stories and for serving as role models to the U of S community. This year's award recipients are listed below.

➤ **From the College of Arts and Science:**

Milo Cameron and Jacquelyne Nokusis

➤ **From Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies:**

Robin Parent

➤ **From Educational Psychology and Special Education:**

Heather Merasty

➤ **From Educational Foundations:**

Annie Battiste and Jennifer Altenberg

➤ **From Edward School of Business:**

Patricia Gardipie and Cherysse Mackechnie

➤ **From SUNTEP:**

Lisa Langan and Chantelle Gaudet

➤ **From ITEP:**

David Pratt and Tricia Albert

➤ **From Chemical and Biological Engineering:**

Alexandra Thomson

➤ **From the College of Law:**

Augustus 'Gus' Michelin and Danika Lightning

➤ **From Political Studies:**

Max FineDay

➤ **From the College of Medicine:**

Hannah St. Denis-Katz and Cora Mirasty

➤ **From the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics:**

Gaelene Lerat

➤ **From the Native Access Program to Nursing:**

Jeannette Wapass and Kendra McKay

➤ **From the Department of History:**

Omeasoo Butt and Claire Thomson

➤ **From St. Thomas More College:**

Garret Bird and Erica Lee

➤ **From the Department of Drama:**

Logan Martin-Arcand and Aren Okemaysim

➤ **From the Indigenous Peoples Resource Management Program:**

Vernon Friday and Carmen Little

➤ **From the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy:**

Danette Starblanket and Claire Gosseli

➤ **From the College of Graduate Studies and Research:**

Dana Carriere and Nicole Callihoo

➤ **From the Department of Native Studies:**

Robert Henry

➤ **From the Department of Curriculum Studies:**

Jennifer Hingley

➤ **From the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition:**

Danielle Shmyr and Britney Harper

➤ **From Aboriginal Justice and Criminology:**

Hilary Peterson and Rachelle McHenry

➤ **From the Master of Northern Governance and Development Program:**

Josephine McKay and Connie Cheecham

➤ **From the College of Dentistry:**

Jennifer Bozek

➤ **From the Aboriginal Students' Centre:**

Tanis Worme, Dwayne Dresher and Nolan Mcken

Preventing cheating a priority for university

From Page 8

repeated behaviour.”

In some cases, however, there is pathology to it.

“When people cheat and get away with it, and continue to cheat, it can make you feel powerful. I think there is some small proportion of students, if I had to guess I would say between one and five per cent, and I wouldn't go higher than that, for whom cheating is really more of a pathology. They are more likely to lie, cheat, steal and do that in every aspect of their lives. But I would speculate that only a very small percentage of those cheating at university are pathological.”

Cheating in school has become a topic in media recently, but McDougall does not see it as an issue in terms of increased frequency at the U of S. “When you look at our own internal data I wouldn't say there is any evidence that cheating is on the upswing.”

Regardless of the media attention cheating receives, the subject—including the work to prevent cheating and to educate students on what cheating encompasses—is always a top priority at the university. And to that end, the Academic Misconduct Policy covers every possible topic from a to z.

“It is also our responsibility, if we want to protect the quality of the degree, to make sure we do the proper front-end work so that nobody just falls into cheating or makes a mistake and didn't intend to cheat or thought they wouldn't get caught or be found guilty of cheating.”

Faculty and instructors play a key role, McDougall said, and that includes making sure course outlines set out expectations and include a statement of academic conduct “because that is a contract that sets the stage for normative behaviour in the class

environment.”

The final decision, McDougall said, ultimately lies with the student, and at that moment of truth, she encourages a moment of pause.

“Take that pause for a moment of self reflection. Ask if it is really worth compromising your internal code of honour as opposed to asking for an

extension on a paper and maybe taking a late penalty. That's my advice, because in so many cases the student says ‘I screwed up and a sequence of events led me to do this.’ I think if you just pressed pause, engaged your natural tendency towards self sanction and gave yourself a moment of reflection, there would be fewer instances.” ■

Cheating by the numbers: 2012-13 U of S statistics

Information from the Office of the University Secretary website

➤ **Number of academic misconduct cases heard by colleges:**

35 allegations involving 34 students
(previous year: 63 allegations involving 58 students)

➤ **Number of students found guilty:** 29

➤ **Breakdown of allegations:** plagiarism: 19
other types of cheating: 16

➤ **What Happens If a Student is Caught Cheating?**

When an instructor or invigilator believes a student has cheated, the University of Saskatchewan Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct now lists two procedures that can be followed:

1. Informal Procedures are followed when an instructor feels that a student has cheated inadvertently or without intending to do wrong. Many cases of alleged academic misconduct on the part of students result from misunderstanding or carelessness. When an infraction is suspected, the instructor or invigilator may, at his or her own discretion, speak informally with the student(s) to discuss the matter and to consider an appropriate remedy.
2. Formal Allegations of Academic Misconduct are the procedures followed when the allegation is serious enough to require a hearing, or for those situations in which the allegation has not been resolved at the informal level. A student, instructor, or staff member can initiate the formal procedures and request a hearing from the dean of the college offering the course, and is dealt with by a college hearing.

➤ **Penalties for cheating**

At present, these range between grades of zero to expulsion, depending on the college and the seriousness of the offense.

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Room with a View

This year's back-page feature explores the view of campus from various office windows, and the people who enjoy them. Do you have an interesting view? Let us know at ocn@usask.ca



KRIS FOSTER



The oasis

From her desk at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives in the Diefenbaker Building, Patty Scheidl looks out onto what might be the quietest corner of campus. There are no vehicles in sight, no sidewalks running past and just the tops of a couple of buildings are visible over the trees.

But that doesn't mean there's nothing to see. Scheidl, office manager for the centre, said it can get quite busy, what with the gophers, rabbits, prairie chickens, partridges, mink, foxes and raccoons that call the area home. Her colleague Nora Russell keeps the bird feeders outside Scheidl's window full and they draw chickadees, nuthatches, house finches, woodpeckers, flickers, blue jays, magpies, sparrows as well as the inevitable birds of prey in search of food.

"We also sometimes see the kids from the campus daycare out on little excursions and once in a while, a guy on a riding mower comes by," she said. And although she doesn't spend a lot of time watching the wildlife or the leaves change, "it is nice to be able to know what the weather's doing."

