



A BETTER BOOKSTORE

Garry Drake, the new operations manager of the University Bookstore, has reorganized the space and is looking to expand the retail options, all in an effort to improve the experience of customers. Read about his plans on Page 3.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Joining forces

Reviewers urge combining SPH, community health unit

JENNIFER ROBERTSON

The external academic review of the School of Public Health (SPH) is done and the reviewers arrived at one overarching conclusion: although the mission and vision of the School of Public Health are appropriate, the school cannot successfully achieve its mission and vision with current resourcing.

In their written report, the reviewers urged the university to review the current practice of two public health units and “engage in a dialogue about how to integrate Community Health and Epidemiology and the School of Public Health.”

Four possible scenarios were offered by the review team to address resourcing concerns: move community health and epidemiology from the College of Medicine into SPH; merge SPH into the existing department; merge both under the Council of Health Science Deans;



Ernie Barber, interim provost and VP academic.

or invest significant funding in SPH that may result in a “natural and progressive realignment and rapprochement of CHE (community health and epidemiology) with the school, perhaps enabled by hard-money offers of joint appointments or even joint leadership.”

In addition to a structural review, the review team also

assessed teaching and research activity in the school and noted many accomplishments in its eight-year history, as well as areas for improvement. All recommendations are in a written report recently presented to Interim Provost Ernie Barber.

Faculty members in the school were given an opportunity to respond to the reviewer’s report,

“Teaching and research in public health remains critically important to the university and we need to reach a consensus around the action required to ensure success.”

Ernie Barber

and they indicated strong preference for integrating community health and epidemiology into the school. The response stated they “believe that amalgamating with other units with similar interests will be instrumental in ensuring that the original vision is fully realized and hopefully exceeded.”

“This review is a call to action and in order to take this action, we need a group of leaders to simultaneously review the recommendations and provide an action plan to move forward,” said Barber. A task group has been charged by Barber to develop a plan by Oct. 15, 2015.

“This group will include stakeholders both internal and external to the School of Public Health, including relevant university leaders, faculty and students,” said Barber. “Teaching and research in public health remains critically important to the university and we need to reach a consensus around the action required to ensure success.”

The reviewer’s report was made public on May 19. It and the response of SPH faculty members can be viewed at usask.ca/ipa

Jennifer Robertson is communications officer in Institutional Planning and Assessment.



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IN THE KITCHEN

High school students from across the province gathered in the Thorvaldson food lab May 14 for Cooking Up Saskatchewan, a competition to see who could up with the best unique recipe using chicken in an appetizer and a main course. The event, put on by Agriculture in the Classroom, also included a session entitled Exploring Food Science with hands-on activities and experiments for the classmates of the cooks.



COLLEEN MACPHERSON

THANK YOU to those who attended the Women in Technology: Trends, Opportunities, and Strategies for Success presentation by Dr. Kelly Lyons from the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto held on March 5, 2015.

The Department of Computer Science gratefully acknowledges the financial support for this event from the President's Diversity Enhancement Fund and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science through the Role Model Speaker Fund.

**NEXT
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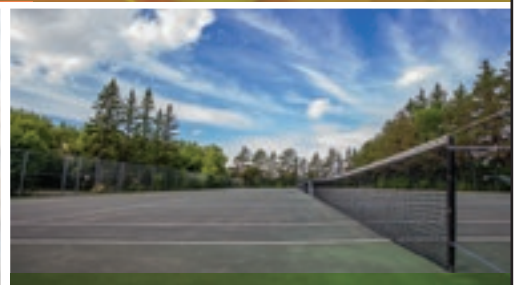
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Serving students

Bookstore improving options, offerings for customers

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Garry Drake has brought a fresh set of eyes to the operation of the University Bookstore, and what he sees are more opportunities to improve the student experience.

Drake took on the job of operations manager in the Bookstore last November “and I saw a unique opportunity to bring some outside retail ideas into the university environment. I know this store provides students with things they need, and that we’re the only game in town, but that doesn’t mean we can’t be a place they want to come.”

Job one for Drake is ensuring that what students need is on the shelves when they need it. “Research has shown

that students who have the right materials are more successful,” he said. This was the impetus for rolling out a new online textbook request form for faculty. Previously, instructors made their textbook requests in a variety of ways—email or printed form—but a standardized process “makes it really easy to order what they need and to get the orders in earlier.”

Drake, who holds both a BA and an MA in English from the U of S and has extensive retail experience, said earlier ordering of texts gives Bookstore staff a better chance of sourcing “lower-cost options for students.” These include used copies of texts, e-books and book rentals through a third-

party provider.

Increasing the number of buying options for students is a high priority for Drake who all too often hears the word ‘gouge’ in relation to the Bookstore.

“It’s a word I hear all the time but I don’t think it’s a fair way to categorize what we’re trying to do. We are bound by publisher pricing on textbooks but if we can get used copies of that book, that gets us around that issue.”

Drake is also looking to expand the Bookstore offering of materials that students previously had to go off campus to find. “One example is supplies for our fine arts students. We’re working with the department to promote our service and even bundle the materials students need. We want to facilitate that experience for students even though it might not involve a textbook.

“The questions I ask are, ‘What can a university bookstore offer that other stores can’t, and what should we offer because we are a university bookstore?’ The goal is to limit the number



Garry Drake, Bookstore operations manager.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

of times students have to come back and stand in line.”

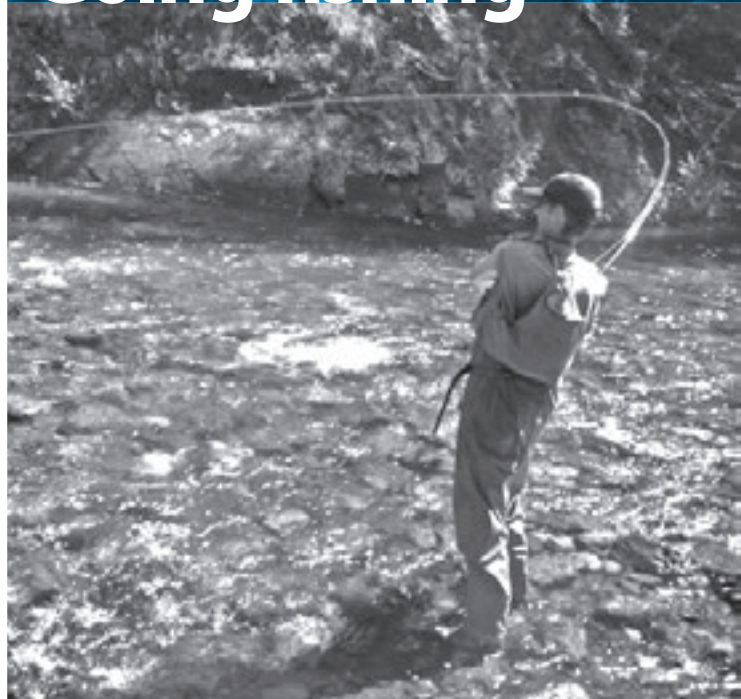
The operations manager has also overseen a physical reorganization of the space, concentrating non-book products near the entrance and creating additional space in the book section by reducing and refocusing the store’s general book selection. Drake said general selections relate to student learning, student living and health—“the

15-minute meal cookbooks and the like”—and on university authors and volumes of local interest “that reflect the campus community.”

The test of the changes and offerings will come in the fall, he said, “but I’m confident that with better access to our products here and online, and with a more welcoming environment we’ll see an improvement in the student experience.” ■

EDITOR’S NOTE

Going fishing



Dear Readers,

This issue of *On Campus News* marks the end of our 22nd year of publishing, and the end of my tenure as editor. After more than 14 years with this paper, I have decided it’s time to move on, to explore other opportunities out there in the wide world. So, on July 31 the shingle on my door will read, gone fishing.

To say it has been a privilege does not begin to cover it. I have met extraordinary people and seen extraordinary things but the best part is I have had the chance to write about them all.

There are a million more great stories out there; try to tell them all.

But before I go, some quick reminders:

1. Convocate is never a verb; students graduate.
2. If you can count it, use fewer; if you can measure it, use less.
3. Common nouns don’t require capitalization so use university, not University, but always write, with pride and with capitals, University of Saskatchewan.

Ed.

PS. I really am going fishing, in Montana, in August. Wish me luck. (That’s me in the photo above.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

One Day in May



PATRICK HAYES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A-1714

On May 9, 1958, the University of Saskatchewan awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law honoris causa to the Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker, front right. In 1957, Diefenbaker led the Tories to their first electoral victory in 27 years and would serve as Canada’s 13th Prime Minister for the following six years.

Diefenbaker earned three degrees from the University of Saskatchewan – BA 1915, MA 1916 and LLB 1919. He served as Chancellor from

1969-1979 and is buried on campus. Four other people received honorary degrees that day: Wilbur Roy Jackett, Q.C., B.A., M.A., LL.B., B.C.L (Discipline / contribution: public service; jurisprudence); Cornelius Packard Rhoads, A.B., M.D., D.Sc. (Discipline / contribution: medicine – oncology); Henry George Thode, M.B.E., M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.C. (Discipline / contribution: spectroscopy); and Nancy Adams (Discipline / contribution: community service). ■

VIEWPOINT

Options needed to avoid climate disaster

Steve Lawrence and David Geary each appear to make some apparently compelling arguments against nuclear power development, but when presented together their letters inadvertently demonstrate why we can no longer afford to be dogmatic about power generation.

Lawrence understands that we have to stop using fossil fuels to “avert catastrophic climate change.” I agree with him. But Geary bases his case against investment in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) on “plentiful low cost natural gas,” a fossil fuel that contributes to that catastrophe. Coal, like gas, is plentiful and cheaper than nuclear, which is why it is the technology of choice for developing countries (India is planning to build 500 new plants) but this is not mentioned because people already understand the problems with coal. Far from “having respect for future generations” anti-nuclear dogma may leave our children with a destabilized climate, vast tracts of productive land lost to the sea and oceans so acidic that shellfish cannot make shells.

No form of power generation is without some problems so we must take a rational look at all the pros and cons if we are to select our best options. Lawrence actually admits that he has not bothered to consider the harm windmills might do. If he had he would have found that it is not workers tripping that cause windmill fatalities but fires, falls, rotating equipment and the occasional collapse. Scientific studies show that in routine operation they kill thousands of birds and bats, some of which are endangered.

Just a little bit of research would also have revealed that wind power relies on neodymium magnets. Mining and production of neodymium in China has been featured in reports by *The Guardian*, BBC and PBS because of the extreme environmental damage it has caused. There is no disposal plan for these wastes and so windmills must, in Lawrence’s own words, be “morally wrong.” Solar has similar problems and presumably joins wind, nuclear, coal and gas in their moral wrongness. This black and white logic leaves us no acceptable future.

I applaud the development by Tesla of a battery for residential energy storage, but the “2 cents/kwh” Lawrence quotes is for the battery, a storage device, not the cost of power generation. The UK is investigating the 16 cents/kwh nuclear option because it has maxed out its cost-effective renewables and has no other options. Germany, in shuttering its nuclear fleet, has not really gone green because they rely extensively on coal and gas to supplement their intermittent renewables. The doubling of Germany’s electricity price suggests that renewables may not actually be as cheap as Lawrence suggests.

For every “SMRs will not be commercially successful” article that Geary quotes there is another that says they will. Geary might be right. Then again he might be wrong. China, Russia, France, the USA and many other countries all believe the experts Geary quoted are wrong. R&D is the way to find out and the economic reward if successful is enormous.

The fact is greenhouse gases are a huge problem and we need options if we are to avoid climate disaster. Improving the efficiency of power use, storage and distribution is important. Improving all our generation technologies so they are safer, cheaper, more deployable and have a minimum environmental impact is key. But we must take our blinders off and recognize the reality of our situation if we are to create a sustainable world. Power generation is not an issue on which we can afford to be driven by closed-mindedness. Instead we need to consider all the options and then make choices through evidence-based discussion. ■

Neil Alexander
Executive Director
Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre
for Nuclear Innovation



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VIEWPOINT

With SSO, we all do well

For thousands of years wetlands created by beaver ponds were a critical component in maintaining a diverse ecosystem for birds, mammals, fish, insects and plants. These same wetlands were also a critical component in the Earth’s natural water filtration system. This is why beavers are called a keystone species; when beavers were successful, many other things prospered. So even if you don’t care much for these large furry members of the rodent family, you should care about the role they played and indeed continue to play within our environment.

By way of analogy, professional symphony orchestras are a keystone organization in any metropolitan centre in our country from a variety of vantage points. These include the sustainability of the arts, culture, and the economy. When orchestras are prospering, so too are components of the arts and culture, critical economic drivers and the community’s brain trust.

Orchestras then can be thought of as our Canadian cities’ beavers.

If we set aside the intrinsic value and importance of the orchestral art form itself, there are many reasons why orchestras occupy a keystone role in the success of Canadian cities. One argues that the health of the local professional orchestra is a barometer that artists, companies and intellectuals consider when deciding whether or not to invest in a community.

The conversations often go something like this: Should our company or I set up an office here? Quick answer: What’s going on in the arts? Let’s look at the local symphony. Should I move to the city to accept—even apply for—an artistic opportunity or an intellectually based appointment in the local university, industry or government? Quick answer: What is there to do in the community? What’s the local orchestra up to?

And like the beaver, it’s the activity of the orchestra that helps create the required space in the city’s collective ethos for other activities in the arts and non-arts to flourish.

All this means we should all care about the health of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO) regardless of our individual affection for or aversion to—generically speaking—classical music.

The SSO has recently had a 22 per cent rise in season ticket subscriptions and a 33 per cent rise in concert attendance. There is a new creative and positive vibe within the organization that is resonating throughout the city, and a new dynamic leadership team including Executive Director Mark Turner and Conductor Eric Paetkau. The orchestra performances celebrate world-class talent, many of whom have strong connections to our city and province and it celebrates local classical and non-classical artists alike.

There is a new children’s

series, and a northern Saskatchewan chamber concert program is being developed. The SSO also supports local cognate fine arts organizations (I know because I’m involved in a few: the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, Saskatoon Brass Band, Ritor-nello Festival, Sask New Music Festival, Saskatoon Jazz Society, and, the U of S Dept. of Music).

In summation, the SSO is renewing, revitalizing, re-establishing and redefining itself in our community, but a long road still lies ahead before it reaches a point of reasonable stability and security. To help the SSO do its thing, donations made directly to SSO before May 31, 2015 will be matched by the Remi Foundation, turning one dollar into two.

You should care about how the SSO is doing even if you don’t care much for classical music (or beavers) because when the SSO is doing well, our university, city and province prospers sympathetically in important and meaningful ways.

In the interests of full disclosure, I have been an SSO member for the past 16 years. In writing this, I am not asking anyone to care about the orchestra as I do; I am asking our campus community to consider what our university, city and province would be like without the SSO in the same way one might consider the sustainability of our ecosystems without the activity of the beaver. ■

Dean McNeill
Professor of Music



On Campus News is published 18 times per year by University of Saskatchewan Marketing and Communications. It is distributed to all U of S faculty, staff, graduate students and members of governing bodies, as well as to others in the university community, related organizations, some Saskatchewan government officials and news media.

Subscriptions are available for \$22 per year. Story and photo ideas are welcome. Advertising rates are available online or on request.

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.

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of the U of S or *On Campus News*.

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ISSN: 1195-7654 PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40065156

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Inside Aboriginal gangs

Research may improve success of intervention

MICHAEL ROBIN



“The impulse to act honourably or take responsibility, shows one possible road out of gangs. It shows the desire to be thought of as a man, one worthy of respect.”

Robert Henry

Robert Henry did his PhD research on Aboriginal gangs.

MICHAEL ROBIN

They spotted him while he was out with his wife at a Regina mall. Five men from a rival gang started making trouble, chasing him outside and down a back alley. Steps ahead of his pursuers, he ducked into a car.

“So what did he do?” asked Robert (Bobby) Henry in discussing his research into men in Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal gangs. “I know what I would do; I’d be in the vehicle and I’d be gone,” Henry said. “They had knives; there’s five of them—I’m outta there. Not him. His reputation was on the line.”

Henry’s story continued: the pursued man grabbed a knife from the car, tied a leather jacket around his arm and turned to meet his pursuers. When it was over, the five attackers were on the ground and he, despite two stab wounds, was still standing, as was his reputation as one of the toughest knife fighters in the city.

Henry spent the past four and half years as a PhD candidate in the Department of Native Studies gaining insights about men in Aboriginal gangs—their culture, their behaviour, how they came to be in gangs, and how they got out. He hopes the knowledge can inform interventions to help Aboriginal youth leave gang life, or avoid it altogether.

Henry worked closely with STR8-UP, a Saskatoon organization created to support those

looking to exit the gang lifestyle. Although Henry is Métis, from Prince Albert, he said his was a middle-class upbringing and it took time to prove himself both to STR8-UP and to the men associated with it. At first, no one would open up to him, having had experience with researchers in the past who would ask their questions, poke into their lives, and vanish.

So Henry took a different approach, adopting a photo voice research method: the men would be given cameras and asked to capture images that mattered to them, images that said something about their lives. The photos, and the stories that went with them, would then go into a high-quality, printed book.

The proposal intrigued his prospective research subjects; it would make their stories real, something they could own and share. Still, they were suspicious, explained Henry. “They asked me, ‘so what are you getting out of all this?’ I told them, ‘I get to listen to your stories which will help me to get my PhD.’” Henry successfully defended his PhD earlier this year.

Now gathered into a book titled *Brighter Days Ahead*, the images and stories he collected offer a glimpse of a world rarely seen or understood by outsiders. It is a place of hypermasculinity, Henry said, of unre-

lenting violence, harsh codes of behaviour and punishment, but also of honour. Men spoke of the psychological toll of never showing weakness, of putting on the face to look dangerous, he continued.

Henry shared the words of a former gang member: “You hear the brothers at night, some of them, you hear them crying in the cells, and when you do, you hear a lot of people saying, ‘Who’s that crying? Who’s that little girl?’ You know, that crying

stops. That’s what I mean by putting on the mask to wear, to belong, to be accepted.”

Gang life starts early, Henry explained. Former members spoke to him of abusive home lives and indoctrination into violence from the time they entered school; one took a photo of his former schoolyard to illustrate.

“Here’s where a lot of this started for (gang members),” Henry said. “Not at eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, but at four and five where they were learning how

to fight on the school ground because they were getting bullied. So they started to fight back, and that’s how they started to build their reputation.”

Success is possible in the gangs, he said, but it is success with limits unfamiliar to most people. A gang member might have tens of thousands of dollars from the drug trade or other criminal activity, but no easy way to spend it. One does not walk onto a car lot with \$50,000 in cash to buy a brand new vehicle but “you’ll see these guys driving a cheap older car that they bought with cash, then they trick it out with thousands of dollars of accessories.”

In some ways, men behave with honour and responsibility that would not be unfamiliar in broader society. Henry recounted how one gang member created his own \$300,000 insurance policy for his wife and child. Facing a jail term of several years, he directed his wife to caches of money in locations around the city, all of it set aside to tide over the family while he was incarcerated.

The impulse to act honourably or take responsibility, said Henry, shows one possible road out of gangs. It shows the desire to be thought of as a man, one worthy of respect.

“Prevention and intervention programs must focus on masculinity as a causal factor,” Henry concluded. “We have to understand masculinity is one of the main things motivating them. The performance that (gang members) are doing, it’s a specialized, localized performance but it’s something that we need to redevelop for community, or that communities must develop for themselves.” ■

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Filling the gaps for international health providers

LESLEY PORTER

For health care providers, many of whom spend their days talking with patients, being a good communicator is absolutely crucial.

It is such a valuable skill that the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC), a national body promoting interdisciplinary education and collaboration in health care, declared it one of six core competencies in its framework for successful interprofessional practice. Other competencies include patient-centered care, role clarification, team functioning, collaborative leadership and conflict resolution.

For Liz Harrison, that framework will be a guide for new research that will focus on building those competencies and filling any knowledge gaps in internationally educated health professionals looking to practice in Canada.

“What we’ve identified is that there is a gap, potentially in some, not all, individuals who come from other countries,” said Harrison, professor and associate dean in the U of S School of Physical Therapy, and a member of the Western Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (WCIHC), the group leading the research. “The nature of this grant, supported through the British



Harrison

Columbia Ministry of Health and the Western and Northern Health Human Resource Forum, includes working with key stakeholders in the western provinces to develop educational resources to fill in that gap.”

The first part of the project will involve an environmental scan to determine what educational resources and programs—“often called bridging programs,” she said—currently exist for internationally educated health-care professionals. Such programs their knowledge and skills to prepare them to work effectively in the Canadian health-care system. Harrison noted that competencies in areas like team communication, culture and conflict

management have been identified as potential problem areas.

“From there, it’s developing the resources—the appropriate resources—to help fill those gaps,” she said. In the case of this project, it will be a series of interactive courses and learning modules that will address the areas identified in the environmental scan. The modules may be delivered online; traditional class courses can be logistically challenging, she said, whereas online materials can be accessed at any time and from anywhere.

Internationally educated nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physical therapists and physicians will be targeted in the project. Harrison added that the end goal is improved health quality and a better patient experience, so as the project is developed, it is expected that other health providers will benefit from these resources.

“If you try to simplify it, it’s how to be a good team member,” she said. “We’re really excited about learning from the people who are coming into Canada. They can very well identify what some of the gaps are so that we can develop resources that maximize their effectiveness as members of healthcare teams for the Canadian context.” ■

McEown community garden expanded, funded

Spring has arrived and gardeners have started to ready their tools for a summer’s worth of hard work. For some University of Saskatchewan students staying in residence over the summer, the benefits of that work is fresh produce.

The McEown community garden is the latest addition to the university’s sustainability efforts on campus, explained Matt Wolsfeld, community engagement co-ordinator in the Office of Sustainability. The nearly 700 sq. m. garden space located next to the McEown Park residences is a joint effort between the Office of Sustainability and Consumer Services, and offers student residents their own garden plots. Wolsfeld said the garden operated informally in previous years but received

\$13,500 in university and corporate funding that included enough to hire a community garden co-ordinator in the sustainability office.

Gardens can play an important role in communities like the U of S, said Wolsfeld. “For residents of McEown Park, the gardens represent an opportunity to provide food for themselves or their families while expressing their own cultural traditions in an accepting community atmosphere.”

Ranjan Datta, co-ordinator of the McEown Park Community Garden Board, said this happens on a regular basis. “The garden brings all of us (from) 20 countries and cultures together. It builds responsibilities, provides an integrated learning space for us and our

children, and provides us the power to choose what type of food we need and share.”

The university funding, along with sponsorship by PotashCorp, has meant the garden could be doubled in size and that tools, a shed and signage could be purchased.

According to Genesis Hevia Orio, a regional and urban planning student who is working in the new position of garden co-ordinator, the resources committed to the project “from both on and off campus will result in endless fruitful outcomes.”

Wolsfeld said there is a strong interest in community gardens and local food security, and the Office of Sustainability hopes to see more garden development across campus for students, staff and faculty. ■



REDUCING WASTE at the U of S

It’s that time again! Outdoor events season is upon us at the university, and the Office of Sustainability is here to help keep our environmental footprint at a minimum. Keep an eye out for our waste stations at the upcoming Graduation Powwow and Employee Appreciation Picnic. The Office of Sustainability is always looking to help reduce waste at the university, so contact us today about how to keep your event clean and waste free!

Visit sustainability.usask.ca for more information.



2015 Spring Convocation

The word convocation arises from the Latin *con* meaning together and *vocare* meaning to call. The convocation ceremony is a calling together of new graduates.

The University of Saskatchewan's Spring Convocation will take place June 1-4. In addition to awarding thousands of degrees to students, a number of honorary degrees and awards will be presented to deserving individuals.



JAY WILSON
Master Teacher Award

Jay Wilson, department head of curriculum studies, is a leader and scholar, but above all else, he is a teacher. Students recognize that as they line up to get into his classes. He is innovative by nature and regularly invents fresh ways to do things and carries them out fearlessly. As a teacher-scholar, he has developed a nationally recognized program of research in authentic learning. But it is his investment in students—who have described him as inspiring and transformational, a teacher who will influence them for a lifetime—that sets the teaching standard on our campus.



RAE BOURNER
President's Service Award

Rae Bourner joined the university in 1976 as a secretary in the College of Dentistry moving into the role of manager of the undergraduate education program in the College of Medicine. Throughout her career she has displayed remarkable skill, tenacity and good humour that have not gone unnoticed by supervisors, colleagues and students. But it is her care and concern for students that generates the most admiration. By the most conservative estimate, Rae has been involved in the lives of more than 2,500 students and residents and is described as a true "mom" to all.



BRETT WILSON
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Brett Wilson, a U of S grad, proves that business success does not come at the cost of principles. He became a household name through the *Dragon's Den* TV show, and his work in business and philanthropy. He has raised and donated tens of millions of dollars for a range of charitable organizations, and is the founder of the W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the U of S. He has received many honours including being named Alberta Business Person of the Year, and a Nation Builder by The Canadian Youth Business Foundation.



CARL ZYLAK
Honorary Doctor of Science

Carl Zylak earned his BA and MD degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. Following 10 years practicing radiology in Winnipeg, he accepted the position of professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He was the founding director of the Ontario Breast Screening Program, and worked in Ohio, Michigan and Arizona. He has over 200 published articles, book chapters, scientific presentations and lectures to his credit. He and his wife, Edith Ann, have four children and ten grandchildren.



DEBORAH CHATSIS
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Deborah Chatsis, a member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation and a U of S grad, has had a long and varied career as a member of Canada's Foreign Service, serving around the world from Beijing and Bogotá, to Geneva and New York City. Her roles have included work with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and the Privy Council Office as senior adviser, Social Policy Development Secretariat. Chatsis received a Fulbright scholarship to attend Harvard University in 2006-2007.



SARA WILLIAMS
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Sara Williams became an extension specialist in horticulture at the U of S in 1989 and initiated programs for both home gardeners and the horticulture industry throughout Saskatchewan. Williams is the author and co-author of numerous books. In the decade following her retirement, she has raised funds for a hostel and garden for 80 girls attending secondary school Tanzania. These students are mostly from impoverished families in remote villages. The hostel provides a safe and supportive environment for their years of study and has become a model for other communities in Tanzania.



KAILASH PRASAD
Earned Doctor of Science

Kailash Prasad's research focuses on oxidative stress and how reactive oxygen species play a role in everything from heart failure to diabetes. His discoveries have led to eight patents and one copyright. He has published 239 refereed papers and 35 invited reviews and book chapters. Prasad has received numerous honours including, the Life-time Research Achievement Award from the University of Manitoba, the Centennial Medal from the Government of Saskatchewan, the Innovation Award from the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place, and the Research Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award from the International College of Angiology.



V. MOHAN MALHOTRA
Honorary Doctor of Science

V. Mohan Malhotra is well known for his contributions in the field of concrete technology. He has contributed to using industrial waste in the concrete industry, which has attracted global interest because of economic, energy and sustainability implications. He has published more than 100 papers in refereed journals and has authored or co-authored six books. He is member or fellow in numerous organizations including the American Concrete Institute and the Engineering Institute of Canada. He received the Government of Canada Commemoration Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.



ADAM BAXTER-JONES
Distinguished Researcher Award

One of the world's foremost experts in pediatric exercise science, Adam Baxter-Jones, professor in the College of Kinesiology and interim dean for the College of Graduate Studies and Research, is renowned for his international collaborations and approaches to longitudinal research of children's growth and development. His studies and leadership in this area have altered how the medical and other health professional communities view the role that exercise has on childhood growth and maturation. In 2012, he received the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's Achievement Award, the highest honour for lifetime achievement bestowed by this organization.



BRUCE SCHNELL
Honorary Doctor of Science

Bruce Schnell has many connections to the U of S, from receiving his pharmacy degree in 1960 to eventually becoming dean of the College of Pharmacy and vice-president academic. Schnell directed two national research projects that influenced hospital pharmacy standards and practice in Canada and abroad. He has served many pharmacy organizations locally, provincially and nationally, including the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, the Association of Deans of Pharmacy of Canada, and the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy. The Schnell family connection to the U of S is strong: 31 members have received 34 degrees.

Prairie sailor

Dalzell takes command of *HMCS Unicorn*

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

When Matthew Dalzell yells “all hands on deck,” he means it. Literally.

After 23 years of service and training, Dalzell will soon assume the post of commanding officer (CO) of *HMCS Unicorn*, Saskatoon’s reserve division of the Royal Canadian Navy. His “ship” is pretty much land locked—a stone frigate tied up across from City Hall on the corner of 24th Street and Fourth Avenue—but it, like its incoming CO, has a long and proud naval history.

Dalzell, who by day is the communications officer at the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, is a third-generation prairie sailor; his father was *Unicorn*’s 17th CO (Dalzell with be its 26th) and his maternal grandfather was a sea cadet officer during the Second World War. “It just seemed that’s what I would do.”

He joined up as an officer cadet in 1992, during his first year at the U of S. Not only was he following a family tradition “but my parents pointed out the navy would help me earn money for school.” The summer of that year was spent in basic training, what Dalzell described as the “the welcome-to-the-navy course: leadership training, tying knots, fighting fires and sailing out of Esquimalt on Vancouver Island.”

At the same time, he was working on the first of three degrees he earned at the U of S—a bachelor of education, a BSc in palaeobiology and an MSc in geology. He took 1993-94 off school to do marine surface

training with the navy, and did more in 1996 on the east coast “learning to drive a ship, which I was OK at.” He moved up through the ranks and today, described himself as “a sea-going fighting logistics officer.”

At the same time, Dalzell was pursuing a civilian career. In an interview in his office with a Geiger counter ticking away in the background—“I leave it on for guests, and the auditors. The one thing I am trying to prove is that radiation is everywhere and that it should be respected but not feared, like a bear, or fire.”—he recounted his time teaching in Mayfair, Sask. “where I was the high school science and English departments.” Back in Saskatoon, Dalzell started his master’s degree and worked as a substitute teacher for Saskatoon Public Schools.

That was followed by three years with *Unicorn* as its full-time training officer. Then, a volunteer opportunity with the Canada-Wide Science Fair organization gave him his first taste of communications work where “my science, English and teaching background helped me explain what was going on.” He joined the Canadian Light Source as its communications officer before the facility even opened, “and at that point, science communications became my thing.” In 2012, he moved to the Fedoruk Centre.

So what is the attraction to the navy for people from the prairies? “That’s a big question everybody asks and there are so many apocryphal answers



Matthew Dalzell aboard one of the *Unicorn*’s 24-foot rigid inflatable boats during a training exercise on Blackstrap Lake. PHOTO SUBMITTED

to it,” replied Dalzell. First, it is a different experience, he said, but “prairie people are used to hard work and staring out at big empty horizons. The final reason we make good sailors, I think, is because we don’t necessarily know what we’re getting into.”

What Dalzell will take command of in August is a reserve unit of about 60 sailors that carries the battle honours of all the ships named *Unicorn* that have gone before, from the one that sailed against the British armada in 1588 to the light aircraft carrier that supported the British Pacific Fleet operations at Okinawa in 1945. “And I’m the captain,” he said, adding

his role as CO “is akin to being a school principal in many ways.”

The four main roles of *HMCS Unicorn* are to recruit and train sailors for the regular reserve navy; to be available to augment the fleet; to “connect with Canadians, including answering the question of why there is a naval reserve in Saskatoon,” and to respond to domestic emergencies, particularly floods. “We have boats and we know how to use them.”

Dalzell, who carries the rank of lieutenant commander, will be the *Unicorn*’s CO for three years, and admitted, “there’s something special about being a ship’s captain. It will certainly

“For me, it’s about the idea of service, of contributing to an institution, and contributing to and serving one’s country.”

Matthew Dalzell

be a highlight of my career.” At the end of his term, there may be regional and national job opportunities for former captains “but ultimately, what happens to me is up to the navy based on the job I do.”

The naval reserves have given Dalzell myriad opportunities to travel, train and acquire leadership skills but the real appeal for this prairie sailor is closely linked with his patriotism. “For me, it’s about the idea of service, of contributing to an institution, and contributing to and serving one’s country. That idea resonates with everyone who wears the uniform, and it certainly does with me.” ■

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Around the Bowl

Creating a second home to welcome all students



Deutscher

Carlene Deutscher has joined the College of Engineering in the position of alumni relations and college event co-ordinator. A graduate of the Edwards School of Business, Deutscher has worked at Littelfuse in Saskatoon, owns her own photography business and has held positions at Mosaic Potash Colonsay, Yanke Group of Companies and the W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence.



Steelman

Toddi Steelman, executive director of the School of Environment and Sustainability, has been appointed chair for the Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors. Steelman joined the Meewasin Conservation Advisory Committee in November 2012 and was appointed to the board as the U of S representative in July 2014.

Merle Massie, research officer in the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and adjunct professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability, won the Luther College and University of Regina Arts Award for Scholarly Writing for her book *Forest Prairie Edge: Place History in Saskatchewan* in this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards.



Langrell

Kate Langrell has joined Corporate Administration in the position of copyright co-ordinator. In that role, Langrell will co-ordinate the provision of comprehensive copyright services to the university and administer compliance and education programs.

Sandra Ribeiro, communications and outreach manager at the Canadian Light Source, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting May 27. Ribeiro will serve a two-year term.



Ribeiro

The following appointments have been announced by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic:

• **Dirk de Boer** as the interim head of the Department of Native Studies until Sept. 30, 2015

• **Robert Regnier** as head of the Department of Educational Foundations in the College of Education for a three-year term from July 1 to June 30, 2018



Rayner

• **Jeremy Rayner** as director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, Saskatoon Campus, until June 30, 2020.

• **Dr. Gerry Uswak** to an extended term as dean of the College of Dentistry until June 30, 2019



Uswak

• **Dr. Jay Kalra** extended as interim assistant dean,

governance and faculty affairs in the College of Medicine for up to one year.

He stepped off a plane in Japan for a study abroad experience; he found himself in a strange place, not speaking a word of the language. What Devin Clemens also found was a place where everyone helped him find his way, every step of the way, even strangers.

"I found so much support and I wanted to take that philosophy here," said Clemens, a student assistant in the International Students and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC). "We are trying to create a space where international students feel they are welcome."

So when Clemens started at ISSAC in the summer of 2014, he set out to create the Global Connections Student Lounge within ISSAC's space in lower Place Riel as comfortable, helpful and safe as possible.

"Orientation and providing the supports to help international students get settled is one part of this," explained Clemens who is pursuing a master's degree in political science. "The other part is creating a space on campus that can be a second home. Many students are away from home and need a place that is welcoming, a place where they can study or meet their friends."

To that end, Clemens and ISSAC staff made some changes. They reconfigured furniture to create a lounge with seating for about 70, they relocated a meeting room to create a second kitchen, they set aside playing



KRIS FOSTER

Devin Clemens, student assistant in ISSAC.

cards and board games, and they also developed multiple resource centres that include magazines, journals, campus publications, and tourism and information guides for the City of Saskatoon.

They have also been profiling specialized events around international occasions, such as Chinese New Year or Holi, and this has brought a number of students to ISSAC. But few events have been more successful than international soccer matches played on a large screen TV every week.

"We've had a TV here for a while, but we recently started to show champions league football matches and that brings in a lot of people to watch," Clemens said, adding that in the long term they hope to host more culturally specific events and

have video game consoles so students can have game nights.

The space, however, is not exclusively for international students. In fact, Clemens said a lot of other students spend time in the centre as well. "Many come here because they are curious about going abroad and are able to meet students from those countries and get a feel for the culture."

That mix of domestic and international students is key for Clemens. "Part of our core mandate is interculturalization and creating a space that is welcoming and safe for all students. When this room is filled with a mosaic of domestic and international students co-existing with each other academically and socially, I know we have succeeded." ■



2015 - 2016

Publishing Schedule

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
1	Aug. 28	Aug. 20
2	Sept. 11	Sept. 3
3	Sept. 25	Sept. 17
4	Oct. 9	Oct. 1
5	Oct. 23	Oct. 15
6	Nov. 6	Oct. 29
7	Nov. 20	Nov. 12
8	Dec. 4	Nov. 26
9	Jan. 15, 2016	Jan. 7, 2016
10	Jan. 29	Jan. 21
11	Feb. 12	Feb. 4
12	March 4	Feb. 25
13	March 18	March 10
14	April 1	March 24
15	April 15	April 7
16	April 29	April 21
17	May 13	May 5
18	May 27	May 19

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Coming Events

■ Lecture

Empowering Creativity

June 3, 8-9 pm, E-Wing Atrium, Michiel van de Panne, Dept. of Computer Science at UBC, presents *Imagination Amplification: Empowering creativity with optimization algorithms in computer graphics*. The lecture is open to the public and part of the Canadian Discrete and Algorithmic Mathematics Conference.

■ Courses/Workshops

Food Environments

The Food Environments in Canada: Symposium and Workshop takes place May 22-23 at Station 20 West. The event begins with a free public talk at the Roxy Theatre by keynote speaker Dr. Steven Cummins, professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK. The symposium continues May 22 and 23 at Station 20 West with other speakers from across Canada and a methodological workshop. Online registration is available at www.foodenvironments2015.ca. For more information contact Tracy Ridalls at 306-966-2237.

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

For information call 306-966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed

- May 25-26, Operational Excellence Certificate: Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (Lean Office)
- May 29-June 5, The Effective Executive Leadership Program – Waskesiu
- June 3, Technical Writing
- June 15-17, The Project Management Course - Regina

Problem Solving

The Industrial Problem Solving Workshop, organized by PIMS and the U of S, takes place June 15-19. Faculty members and their students can work directly with

industry researchers on problems with an industrial mathematics or statistical focus. Registration and application deadline for funding is extended to May 25. Visit www.pims.math.ca/industrial-event/150615-pipsw

Combinatorics Summer School

Applied Combinatorics Graduate Summer School has two mini courses May 25-29 in Arts 263 on applications of combinatorics in the sciences, offering knowledge of combinatorial techniques and combinatorial problems in physics, chemistry and biology. For more information contact soterios@math.usask.ca and see math.usask.ca/appliedcomb/program.html

Languages and the Arts

For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4351

- Multilingual Conversational Language Classes June 7-Aug. 27:
- French levels 1 to 3: \$210 (GST exempt)
- Spanish levels 1 to 3: \$220.50 (GST included) textbooks and workbooks are extra.
- French Voyageur for Real Beginners Aug. 14-16; ideal for the traveller who has little or no French-speaking skill, 20 hours over 2.5 days, cost: \$280 (GST exempt) textbooks and workbooks are included.
- One-Week Intensive French Immersion Aug. 17-22; for those who wish to quickly advance their language skills, 35 hours over 5.5 days; cost: \$550 (GST exempt) materials and final luncheon provided.
- Four-Day Intensive Cree Immersion Aug. 17-21, for those who wish to quickly advance their language skills, 20 hours over 4 days; cost: \$400 (plus GST) course materials provided.

Community Arts, USCAD/AYAP

- Visual Arts Survey I, May 28, June 5- and 12-14
- Pinhole Photography and Alternative Process I, June 20 and 21
- Off the Wall: Mixed Media Sculptural Wall Pieces, June 5-7 and 12-14

Community Music Education

The Community Music Education Program offers classes in Music in Early Childhood, Suzuki Early Childhood and Parenting with Music along with private lessons in traditional guitar, Suzuki guitar, traditional piano, Suzuki piano and violin. Online registration for fall classes is now open, as is registration for Music Around the World Camps. For more information contact Nicole Wilton at 306-966-5625 or visit ccde.usask.ca/community-music

■ The Arts

College Art Galleries

Opening May 22 with an 8 pm reception and continuing until Aug. 1 is the Amalie Atkins exhibition *we live on the edge of a disaster and imagine we are in a musical*. The exhibition highlights the Saskatoon artist's expansion of her practice from film and video to installation. The exhibition tour is co-organized by the College Art Galleries, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

Kenderdine Art Gallery

Wundermärchen, work by Saskatoon artist Amalie Atkins, opens June 16 and continues until Aug. 7. Along with her shows in the Kenderdine Gallery and the College Art Galleries, Atkins will give a performance in Convocation Hall July 24 at 7 pm with a reception to follow.

Gordon Snelgrove Gallery

From May 25-29, the gallery is showing work by Inkslab and Kamloops Printmakers. From June 1-12, the Saskatoon Potters Guild and SaskTerra will be displaying work.

Bumper Crop VI

The U of S Jazz Ensemble will perform June 13 at 7 pm in Quance Theatre to launch its CD *Bumper Crop VI: Continuation*. The CD represents the performance activities of the ensemble over the four academic years and features a mix of classic arrangements, new music and Canadian guest artists.

1812 Exhibit

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre presents *1812 One War: Four Perspectives*, a travelling exhibition produced by the Canadian War Museum. The exhibition continues until June 21. Check the centre website for opening hours.

■ Miscellany

CLS Open House

The Canadian Light Source will open its doors to the public June 27 from 1-5 pm. There will be self-guided tours of the mezzanine, which overlooks the experimental floor. Guided tours of the experimental stations will also be available.

50th Anniversary

The U of S School of Physical Therapy celebrates its 50th anniversary Sept. 11-12 with a number of activities and events that celebrate education, professional scholarship and research. Register for events on the School of Physical Therapy website.

University Club

For information about upcoming events, visit usask.ca/uclub or call 306-966-7775

- May 30, Dinner and a show in collaboration with The Bassment featuring with Tommy Banks and PJ Perry
- June 12, Annual Seafood Extravaganza
- June 21, Father's Day and First Day of Summer BBQ
- June 28, Jazz Festival kick-off BBQ and patio party with live music by Styles Montreux and Shelley Ewing

Ongoing Events:

- June 3, June 17, 5-7 pm, Barbecuing on the Patio,
 - May 29, June 26, Aug. 28, Fiesta Fridays featuring Mexican lunch
- Note: The club will be closed July 20-Aug. 3, and will re-open Aug. 4.

Retirement Party

There will be gathering June 5 from 4-6 pm at the Graduate Student Commons to

mark the retirement of Dr. Bruce Reeder from the College of Medicine where he spent 28 years. For more information, contact kathy.evans@usask.ca or call 306-966-7945.

■ Conferences

Sallows Fry Conference

The 2015 Sallows Fry Conference entitled *A Canadian Crisis: Criminalization and Imprisonment of Indigenous Women and those with Disabling Mental Health Issues* takes place May 21-22 in the College of Law, hosted by Kim Pate. The two-day conference features a number of sessions and a panel discussion entitled *Dying from Improvement: Inquests and Inquiries into Indigenous Deaths in Custody*. For information, go to usask.ca/law

Highlights in Medicine Reunion Conference

The College of Medicine is holding its 30th annual Alumni Conference and Reunion June 24-27. The event includes 1.5 days of CME credited workshops, special keynote addresses about new trends in research and integrative medicine, a dean's welcome reception, a reunion banquet, tours of the university campus, and more. The event honours all classes that graduated before 1957 and the honoured class years of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010. There will be special class activities.

■ SUBMIT

Coming Events

Next OCN: **Friday, Aug. 28**
Deadline: **Thursday, Aug. 20**

Email ocn@usask.ca

Upgrades to restore aquatic research facility

✍️ MICHAEL ROBIN

To casual passersby, the fabric-covered building that is the R.J.F. Smith Centre for Aquatic Ecology at the U of S will not change much in appearance, but its function will be greatly enhanced by \$800,000 in upgrades.

The first thing a visitor sees when entering the building, located near the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and named for a biology professor, is two ranks of large plastic tanks. Typically used to store and handle water for agricultural purposes, the tanks have been adapted to raise fish for physiological, behavioural and ecosystem research. The building also houses labs with filled with smaller tanks for experiments. A dedicated water treatment system, lighting, heaters and pumps round out the facility's equipment.

Unfortunately, researchers have been unable to use the building since late 2013 when access was restricted due to safety concerns. According to project manager Doug Zolinski with TASC Project Management, the building, manufactured by the now-defunct Cover-All Systems,

was flagged as a potential problem after incidents in the United States.

"After one of their (Cover-All) buildings collapsed, all of their buildings were looked at and it was discovered there were issues with the support structures," Zolinski said. "Access to the building was limited as a precaution (and) no one is allowed entry during high winds or excessive snow."

Stephen McLeod, director of facilities for the College of Arts and Science, said the R.J.F. Smith Centre upgrades will address safety issues and ensure regulatory compliance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The work will include a concrete floor to replace the existing gravel pad, new purpose-built tanks for fish rearing and experiments, and improved water purification capabilities. An upgraded heating, cooling and ventilation system will better cope with the high-humidity environment.

Structural concerns will be addressed with heavier steel framework and new fabric covering.



Biology PhD student Adam Crane, left, and Doug Zolinski, manager of the R.J.F. Smith Centre refurbishment project, discuss fish handling tanks that could be used in the centre.

"It will look identical, just a little bit taller," McLeod said, adding the facility is scheduled to be ready by August in time to welcome two new PhD students and their supervisors.

For researchers, the access

restrictions meant effectively closing the facility because fish and experiments need daily attention.

Som Niyogi, associate professor in the Department of Biology, said the loss of capacity

meant some research, including work by PhD students, had to move to the basement of the Biology Building.

"(Graduate students) had to scale down the scope of experiments since the space is very limited in terms of what we can do there," he said. "These students are waiting for R.J.F. to be renovated and up and running again so they can do the full scope of their projects."

But Niyogi's dual appointment with the Toxicology Centre has minimized effects on his own work.

"I have access to other facilities, but there has been very direct impacts on research of Doug (Chivers) and Maud (Ferrari) as this facility (Smith centre) is essential for both of their research programs," he said. These have included delays in recruiting graduate students and a drain on research funds to pay to use other facilities. ■

Research opportunities open up for AgBio undergrads

BRITTANY STEVENS

The College of Agriculture and Bioresources is opening doors for its undergraduate students to pursue unique and exciting research opportunities.

One is the First Year Research Experience (FYRE) program designed to help students find answers to questions using advanced research methods. According to one professor, the initiative encourages students to think outside the box, and shift their way of thinking from what they have known in the past.

“Coming from high school, students often don’t have the research skills necessary for university level courses,” said Fran Walley, a soil science faculty member. “FYRE provides them with hands-on learning opportunities, and encourages them to look outside popular media outlets and textbooks to find answers to complex questions.”

“Programs like FYRE give students a chance to learn the process of science, rather than just memorize the information generated,” added Murray Drew, a professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science. “Our goal was to help students improve their writing and develop useful skills like Excel that will help them throughout their entire four years at university.”

Under the FYRE initiative, students in three mandatory first-year courses worked in groups to develop survey questions and data samples that aligned with course material. The results were

compiled into research posters that were evaluated by faculty, graduate students, and their peers. Winning posters were picked in two categories: judge’s choice and students’ choice based on a combination of creativity, clarity and visual appeal.

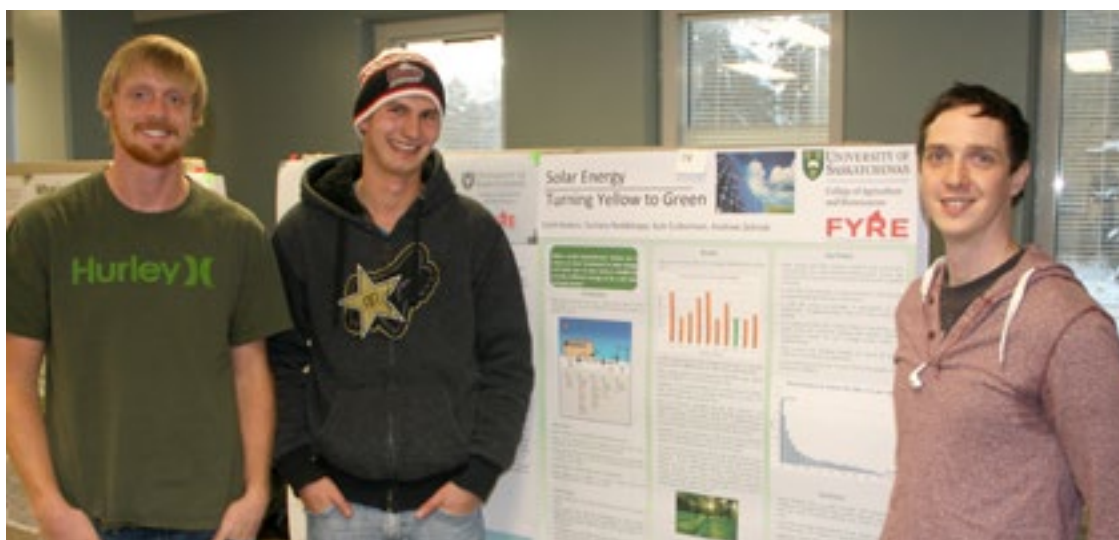
“FYRE encompasses so many valuable skills such as teamwork and collaboration, but also forces students to step back and evaluate their peers to see what worked and what didn’t,” said Kara Loy, co-ordinator of undergraduate research initiative in the Office of the Vice-President Research, which co-directs the program with the vice-provost of teaching and learning’s office.

Kyle Cuthbertson and his group members Andrew Zelinski and Zachary Reddekopp won best poster overall, and were impressed both with the freedom they had with FYRE, as well as the teamwork. “First-year classes can be a little bit generic,” said Zelinski. “It was great to change things up. It was so much easier to engage with material that we were actually interested in.”

The FYRE program is also underway in the Colleges of Kinesiology and Arts and Science, and it is expected to inspire more colleges to adopt first-year research programs.

Upper-year students in agriculture and bioresources are being offered opportunities to broaden their research scope as well.

During the summer of



Kyle Cuthbertson, Andrew Zelinski and Zachary Reddekopp at FYRE poster event.

2014, six students took part in a research-based employment program where they worked alongside a faculty member in the college on a specific project.

Shannon Palmer, a former animal bioscience major, worked with Greg Penner in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science examining zoonotic infectious diseases in cattle, an experience she described as intense. “We were looking at the age of weaning dairy calves and how it affects their gut and digestive system,” she said. “I wouldn’t say I had much of a summer holiday, but in hindsight, it was worth it.”

Now in her first year of veterinary medicine, Palmer is grateful to be able to draw on her experiences she prepares for a career in animal healthcare.

“I really love what I am doing,” she said. “The experience

with undergraduate research gave me independence in my studies, and confirmed that veterinary medicine is what I am supposed to be doing. The results of the research feel like the cherry on top of this whole experience.”

Nicole Marleau and Amanda Schurman agree.

Currently in her first year of graduate studies, Marleau credits her undergraduate research opportunity with helping her determine her future. “The project I worked on was really instrumental in determining my future in grad school, as my thesis will essentially pick up where we left off.”

For Schurman, the experience changed her view of

research. “Before this I had little patience for traditional research, but once I was able to experience field work, I was able to look at things from a different perspective.” This new outlook, she said, will help when she starts applying for her first post-graduation job.

“I didn’t think there would be so many options available to undergraduate students,” said Marleau. “My advice to other students is to build relationships with professors. If they know you, they will recommend you for opportunities they feel you will benefit from.” ■

Brittany Stevens is former communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

This is a shortened version of an article that appeared in the March 2015 issue of the college’s *Agknowldge* magazine.

Building affinity with students and alumni

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Michelle Prytula really wants students and graduates of the College of Education to be loud and proud both on campus and off.

The dean of education is leading a number of strategies to boost the level of engagement among students and those who are now teaching in classrooms across Saskatchewan and beyond. Asked about the current level of connection between the college and its graduates, Prytula said her own experience is reflected in today’s reality: “I completed three degrees here and I never really engaged with the college until I started working here.”

An internal focus on programs has meant “we’ve done little work on engagement and, as a result, many alumni have little interest in giving back or

becoming involved,” she said. As for students, “they feel more connected to the school where they interned than to the college where they trained.”

Much of the engagement data came to light in a survey. Prytula said while it required “my rhinoceros skin to read some of the comments,” she understands how a college can appear to undervalue alumni engagement: “teachers go off and teach, and we assume they’ll stay connected. That’s a mistake.”

The first step in building affinity was adding a direct admission option that will allow students to be enrolled in the College of Education throughout their four-year program, giving faculty and staff more opportunity to get to know them. “That,” said the dean, “is huge.”

There are also efforts underway to shift the culture within the college in a way that “allows us to illustrate to one another how valuable everyone’s work is within the college and beyond,” she said.

Prytula said an external consultant has been retained to work on enhancing the college’s identity, “to create constant reminders of who we are that will help students develop affinity and pride.”

One such reminder could be a celebration of the transition from education student to interning teacher. “Why aren’t we making that more significant?” Prytula equated it to white coat ceremonies in health care colleges, and recalled her own move from the college to the classroom: “I remember having



Prytula

to whelm myself because everything else was underwhelming. It’s an exciting and meaningful time, and we need to do a better job of honouring that.”

There are also plans to celebrate significant milestones and accomplished graduates

from the college’s 87-year history. Other ideas include an education alumni tent at the Oct. 23 Huskies football game, a banner going up on the river-facing side of the building, and the creation of alumni association chapters in Saskatoon and Calgary.

Prytula acknowledged building engagement internally and externally is a process of continuous improvement but what she wants to see are students and alumni who “say awesome things about the college. We want to see applications going up, our graduates coming back for events, and maybe even donations going up when they see we’re listening. It might happen a year from now, or two years from now but when it does, we’ll have a very different story to tell.” ■

discover US

This year's back-page feature explores the hidden treasures from University Library, University Archives and Special Collections, and the people who use them.

Archives in the news

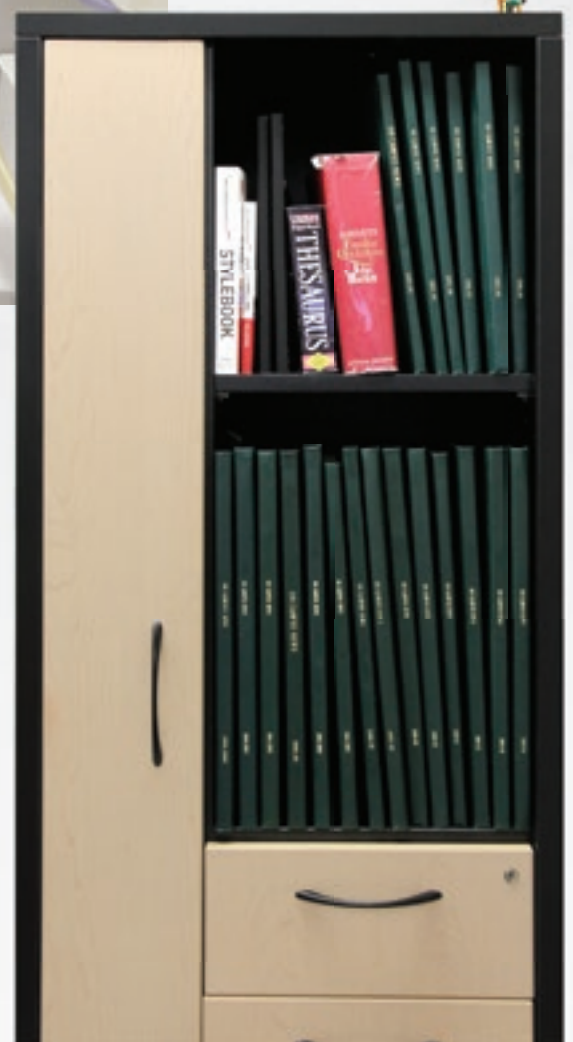
One regular and long-time user of the University Library, University Archives and Special Collections has been Colleen MacPherson, outgoing editor of *On Campus News*. It is not infrequent for the phone to ring early in the morning and for it to be MacPherson seeking some obscure piece of information, or a long-forgotten photograph, or confirmation of a fact related to the University of Saskatchewan.



Colleen MacPherson, editor of OCN, and Patrick Hayes, archives technician.

KRIS FOSTER

And it has been a two-way relationship. From the start of her tenure as editor, MacPherson has recognized the value of University Archives, and promoted it to the wider community. There was a great deal of collaboration with *On Campus News* during the university's centennial year, including the addition of a regular feature in the paper entitled 100 Years of Photos From the Archives. After the centennial, MacPherson continued to make room on Page 3 for From the Archives, featuring photos and stories from the past.



As the university's newspaper of record, *On Campus News* is a very useful asset in University Archives, as is its collection of photos that stretches back the start of publication in 1993. MacPherson talked about this recently: "Each year when we're done publishing, I get two sets of newspapers bound—one for my office and the other for the archives. Even after all of this time, I never fail to feel quite proud when I climb the stairs to the third floor in the Library, wander into the hushed archives offices and hand over a green-bound year of OCNs, just a small annual contribution to University of Saskatchewan history."



A spread comparing MacPherson's first issue of *On Campus News* from 2001 with last week's publication.