



PRESENTING THE PRESIDENT

Peter Stoicheff was announced as the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan on July 9. The former dean of the College of Arts and Science will be officially installed at fall convocation on October 24. Read more on our next president on Page 5.



MATT SMITH

Progress made on sexual assault policies

New campus-wide procedures edging closer to completion

KRIS FOSTER

In fall 2014, universities across Canada and the U.S. were in the spotlight for a rising number of sexual assault cases and the handling of those cases. The U of S is now close to finalizing a campus-wide response to the issue.

“Since last January we have been working on policy and procedures for addressing sexual assault; not just for students, it will cover the entire university, all members,” said Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning. “Expanding it to the entire campus gives it more scope. It puts all of us on the same page, sharing the same principles, commitments and goals.”

The draft policy and procedures—which were informed by a sexual assault policy discussion this past March—will be reviewed internally by those most closely involved, including Protective Services, Human Resources, student affairs and supports, and students and

faculty who have been weighing in on the subject.

“We will post these documents the week of September 21 to line up with Sexual Assault Awareness week on campus. We hope the campus community will provide input,” the vice-provost said, adding that the timing will create extra awareness.

Following comments from the public, the next step will be to get approval from the Board of Governors at its December meeting.

Previous to the new policy and procedures, sexual assault has been included as a prohibited behavior in the university’s non-academic misconduct regulations. However univer-



Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning

“This policy is our line in the sand; it signals that the safety of our students and staff is paramount...”

Patti McDougall

sity officials realized that more needed to be done in this area.

“It is now a distinct policy that will outline the purpose, what the university is committed to doing and responsibilities as well,” said McDougall. “The procedure document will map out the protocol and what happens when there is a report of sexual assault.”

The documents will also cover definitions—what constitutes sexual assault, sexual misconduct, sexual violence, coercion and stalking—something previously missing at

the university.

“Another important value in these documents is that they will help build awareness around these issues and lead us to the next step of offering more education and training,” said McDougall. “This will also help us determine if the breadth of the supports in place meets the needs.”

Over the past six years there have been 11 reports of sexual assault at the U of S, a figure McDougall thinks is low due to under reporting.

“Even a single case in a year is one too many. I believe the

number of cases reported officially underestimates what is actually taking place, we know that from looking at Canadian data. We need to figure out the best way to encourage reporting because we believe we can provide help and support,” she said.

“Last fall we knew as a university we weren’t as far as we needed to be. This policy is our line in the sand; it signals that the safety of our students and staff is paramount and that when people are on our campus we will do whatever we can so they succeed and feel safe.” ■

Taking on the challenge of feeding the world



Maurice Moloney, GIFS executive director

DAVID STOBBE

University of Saskatchewan researchers are working to find innovative solutions to feed an ever-growing global population.

The U of S was recently awarded \$37.2 million in funding over seven years from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund—the single largest federal grant ever received by the university—to support research and technology designed to transform crop breeding and provide solutions to national and global food security.

The U of S was one of only five universities in Canada selected by an international board to receive funding under the new federal program. A

total of 36 Canadian post-secondary institutions competed for up to \$350 million in research funding.

“We are thrilled to be chosen for this major investment that will build on our university’s renowned strengths in crop development, imaging technology and high-performance computing to transform Canada’s capacity to produce food and help feed a growing world,” said Karen Chad, vice-president research.

Well-positioned as one of the world’s major hubs of food-related researchers, the U of S is partnering with four other Canadian universities, three international schools and more than 15 public and private

organizations, including the National Research Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The research will involve experts in a variety of disciplines and facilities across campus, headed by the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), a research centre created by a public-private partnership that the U of S has with PotashCorp and the Government of Saskatchewan.

With global population expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, GIFS Executive Director Maurice Moloney said that over the next 50 years farmers will need to produce more food than has cumulatively been grown since humankind emerged.

“This investment will provide us with a tremendous opportunity to create transformative techniques for crop development that will position Canada and the Global Institute for Food Security as world leaders in crop research for food security,” Moloney said.

The U of S Global Institute for Water Security, Canada’s only synchrotron at the Canadian Light Source, and the cyclotron at the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation will also be involved, as well as researchers from the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Engineering, Pharmacy and Nutrition, Veterinary Medicine, and Arts and Science. ■

NEW TO US



Melissa Arcand

Melissa Arcand works in the frontier beneath our feet, one critical to producing food for everyone on Earth.

“There is a major knowledge gap in terms of being able to predict what’s happening in the soil,” said Arcand, who joined the College of Agriculture and Bioresources as assistant professor in August. “People often refer to soil, and especially its microbial diversity, as kind of ‘the black box.’”

Prizing out the secrets of this black box could, for example, help farmers use fertilizers and inputs more efficiently, reducing costs, reducing impact on water resources and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Specifically, Arcand and her colleagues are looking at the effects of how agriculture and the crops that are grown affect communities of microorganisms that live in the soil. These bacteria, fungi and other life forms perform vital functions in the ecosystem such as breaking down carbon-rich material from plants and transforming nutrients in the process.

Arcand, who grew up on a farm on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation about an hour north of Saskatoon, studied for a year at the U of S before following her passion for chemistry and environmental sciences to the University of Guelph. A summer job with a soil scientist sparked her interest in the area.

“That’s where I really made the connection between biochemistry, the physical sciences and environmental science, and how that is applied in an agricultural context,” she said.

After completing her master’s degree in Guelph, Arcand returned to the U of S to complete her PhD. Now on faculty, she has been assigned as academic lead for the Indigenous People’s Resource Management program, which is aimed at training First Nations people to manage reserve lands. It is currently being refreshed and renamed: Kanawayihetaytan Askiy, which, roughly translated, means “let us take care of the land.”

“People and the land, there really is a reciprocal relationship between those two things,” she said. “What we do to the land affects how the land can support us. Part of my job is really to open students’ eyes to what the land is really telling us from a scientific perspective.” ■

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

Welcome aboard

Daphne Arnason, a graduate of the U of S and former senior executive with PotashCorp, joined the university’s Board of Governors July 1, 2015 as the elected representative of Senate. Arnason was selected by Senate members to be their board representative April 25. She recently retired from the position of vice-president of global risk management with PotashCorp, the culmination of a 27-year career with the company that included positions directing the tax department and serving as vice-president of internal audit. In addition to holding a bachelor of commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Arnason is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) of the



Arnason

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan. She has served on several FCA committees, was on the board of the Saskatoon Airport Authority from 2005 to 2014, and is on the board of the United Way of Saskatoon and Area. ■



VIDO-INTERVAC COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY
www.intervac.ca

VIDO-InterVac
COMMUNITY LIAISON
PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15, 2015

7:00 PM

McNally Robinson Bookstore

REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

You are invited to a public meeting sponsored by the VIDO-InterVac Community Liaison Committee (CLC). InterVac is a bio-containment Level 3 (CL3) facility where scientists focus on research and testing of vaccines for diseases that impact both animals and humans. The term “CL3” describes the safety measures and equipment within the facility that ensure the safety of employees and the community.

The CLC, chaired by Susan Lamb, is a diverse group of Saskatoon citizens including experts in emergency measures as well as citizens at large. The CLC is an independent committee established by the University of Saskatchewan to ensure that communication on safety issues related to InterVac is open and transparent. The CLC continuously monitors issues related to safety and any incidents of potential public interest. It continuously seeks related information on activities of community concern

Guest speakers will be internationally recognized researchers and leaders Dr. Lorne Babiuk and Dr. Andrew Potter. Dr. Babiuk is the VIDO-InterVac visionary who worked to establish the InterVac facility; Dr. Potter is the current CEO /Director of VIDO-InterVac. Together they will present the story of how InterVac came into being as well as highlight current research taking place at the facility and beyond.

QUESTIONS AND REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.



NEXT DEADLINE:
Thursday, September 3, 2015

ocn@usask.ca



WELCOME (BACK) TO THE U of S FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whether you're new to campus, or it has been home for some time, I want to welcome you to the U of S for the start of a new school year. I hope you find that being part of this passionate, engaged community is an amazing journey.

The passion of our campus community will be on full display for Green and White day on Friday, Sept. 4, so I invite all students, faculty and staff to

wear green and white and show your school pride.

Let's support each other

You will find passion and pride at the U of S, and you will also find a lot of support. Our staff, faculty and students are all part of an incredible network of support and I encourage you to take advantage of the many services available that are designed to help you succeed.

I remember the first time I set foot on the U of S campus as an undergraduate coming from the small Saskatchewan town of Saltcoats. Frankly, I was scared. I thought university was going to be absolutely impossible. But that didn't stop me because what I found at the U of S was a community that supported me from the moment I arrived on campus to the moment I received my degree.

Know every short cut and tunnel?

Speaking of support, if you know your way around campus, I hope you will consider carrying a campus map and wearing an "ask me" name tag during the first few weeks of classes, to direct people new to campus. I'm even going to give it a try.

You can pick up a map and a name tag (on a beautiful

university-green lanyard) at Student Central, Protective Services, the front desk of the Murray Library, or the ICT Service Desk (room 70, Arts Building).

Welcome activities

There are many welcome activities happening throughout September and I hope you can attend some of them.

On Friday, Sept. 4, I'll be attending the free Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast (8-10 am in the Bowl) and the Alumni and Friends Homecoming Football Game—gates and the new rally alley open at 5 pm, with kickoff at 7 pm. Both events are brought to us by the U of S Alumni Association.

Admission to the homecoming game is free for students with valid student ID. Non-students can purchase tickets at the gate, online (huskies.usask.ca/tickets/buytickets), or by calling 306-966-1111.

For a complete list of activities, visit usask.ca/events.

Have a great year!

Gordon Barnhart
Interim president
and vice-chancellor
University of Saskatchewan

Huskies kick off 2015-16 season

U of S athletics add value on and off campus

 JAMES SHEWAGA

Just as the University of Saskatchewan has garnered national acclaim for groundbreaking research, the Huskies have also earned a reputation for success on the fields, courts, tracks, mats and ice.

Under the direction of U of S Athletic Director Basil Hughton, the Huskies have a track record of achievement that rivals any school in the country, becoming a source of pride for students, staff and alumni, and producing priceless publicity and national profile for the university.

"I think our Huskie brand is certainly well known across the country, and the success of our teams speaks for itself," Hughton said. "We hosted 16 playoff games here last year, which I'm not sure too many of our counterparts across the country could boast. Obviously we see ourselves as a top-echelon university athletic program and I think that in itself leads to a whole bunch of positive marketing and public relations opportunities for our university."

Hughton said he continually asks what is the value of a strong vibrant athletic program to the culture of a Canadian university. And he knows the answer.

"I believe it is enormous in terms of public relations, branding, and the amount of generally positive media that we get. If our university had to

go buy those column inches in advertising, that expense would be unaffordable. It wouldn't happen."

But what has happened is the U of S basking in the spotlight as current and former players and coaches represent the university on the national and international stage. This summer alone, former Huskies women's soccer player Kaylyn Kyle brought exposure to the program while playing for the national team in the Women's World Cup, while dozens of former Huskie football players are suiting up in the CFL. Earlier this month, the Huskie name was also front and centre as U of S women's basketball coach Lisa Thomaidis guided the national team to a gold medal in the Pan-Am Games and a berth in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

"For her to be the coach of the national team and to represent our nation at the Olympics as the head coach in Rio in 2016, is incredible for her," Hughton said. "And we're extremely proud of her and extremely blessed to have her in terms of the success that she has had, not only with the national team but the success that our own program has had with her, going to nationals eight of the last nine years."

With a new season upon us, Huskie student-athletes—more than 400 on 15 teams in

eight sports—are gearing up for another shot at nationals. For Hughton, watching the student-athletes begin training camps is always his favourite time of the year.

"Once the athletes are fully engaged and back, that's when the excitement truly begins and in all honesty it's why I do what I do," he said. "It's all about the young people and trying to provide the best possible experience that we can for them here at the university and to give them the best possible environment so that they can succeed, both as students and as athletes."

Building on last year's successes, Hughton is confident a number of Huskies teams will also be contenders again this season, including football, the always-competitive soccer squads and women's basketball.

"I start the year always believing that all of our teams have an opportunity to get to the national stage," Hughton said. "We certainly hope for that. I have completed seven seasons here as the athletic director and I have been to 15 national championships with our teams, and that doesn't include wrestling, track and field, and cross-country, where we go every year."

The Huskie football team—a perennial national contender under head coach Brian Towriss—kicks off the

season battling the Manitoba Bisons in the annual Homecoming Game on Sept. 4 at the 6,000-seat Griffiths Stadium. With 15 starters returning and a strong recruiting class, the fireworks on the field are sure to match the fantastic fan-friendly pyrotechnic displays at the end of each game, courtesy of long-time donors David Dubé—a Huskie alumnus—and his wife Heather Ryan.

"At Huskie football home games, we are in the entertainment business and we try to entertain," Hughton said, noting the club will also again honour the Canadian Armed Forces on Sept. 18 in a game against the University of Regina Rams. "Our goal is every client, every customer, every fan leaves with a smile on their face." ■

James Shewaga is a media relations specialist at the U of S.



HUSKIES AT HOME

FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 4 vs. Manitoba, 7 pm

Friday, Sept. 18 vs. Regina, 7 pm

MEN'S SOCCER

Friday, Sept. 11 vs. MacEwan, 12:30 pm

Sunday, Sept. 13 vs. Alberta, 2:15 pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Saturday, Sept. 12 vs. Manitoba, 12 noon

Sunday, Sept. 13 vs. Winnipeg, 12 noon

Saturday, Sept. 26 vs. Mount Royal, 12 noon

Sunday, Sept. 27 vs. MacEwan, 12 noon

More Huskie news, features and profiles at huskies.usask.ca

At the centre of a new era

JORDAN SHERBINO AND MEGHAN SIRED



EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi, I'm Kris.

If we haven't already met, here's a little bit about me.

I'm curious. I ask lots of questions. I'm a good listener, I'm pretty observant and I am a little cynical. I enjoy telling stories and I really like the University of Saskatchewan.

Good thing, too, because I'm now the university's news editor.

My job is to help share stories about the U of S and all the people who are part of our university. I've been telling the university's stories for a few years now and I know first-hand there is no shortage of tales to tell. I also know that there is no shortage of ways to share the stories, whether in the pages of *On Campus News* and other university publications, online at news.usask.ca, or through our social media channels.

So that's enough about me, why don't you tell me a bit about yourself? Send me your stories at kris.foster@usask.ca, or give me a call at 306-966-1806.

Kris Foster, News Editor



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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The Gordon Oakes Redbear Student Centre is not open yet, but it is well on its way, said Graeme Joseph, team leader of First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success.

"There is a lot being done to ensure a successful transition to the space. A transition committee, the Aboriginal Students' Centre and student leaders are working together to make sure this happens," said Joseph, who will manage the centre.

The centre will house the Aboriginal Students' Centre, offices for Indigenous undergraduate and graduate student leadership, and bookable space for ceremonies, lectures and meetings.

"There are so many more opportunities for students in this new building," Joseph explained. "We will be able to expand our existing programming and make our services available to larger numbers of students, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. It will truly be an inclusive, all-nations gathering place that will be central to the university meeting its Aboriginal engagement goals."

Feather Pewapisconias, president of the Indigenous Students' Council, is excited that the new centre will have

dedicated space for Indigenous student leadership as she believes it will help create a stronger feeling of community.

Pewapisconias said that the centre is a "good step for the university in showing the importance and respect for the Indigenous people and culture of this campus."

Echoing Pewapisconias, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, director of Aboriginal Initiatives, sees tremendous potential in the centre.

"We know that we'll be able to hold bigger events in a more culturally appropriate place and we know that we'll be able to serve a greater number of students than before," said Wasacase-Lafferty. "But our vision for the centre goes beyond just numbers. We want this place to become a hub of student activity and a place that all people can use. We want this place to mean something to the students that enter its doors."

Before the formal opening of the centre, the U of S is working with the family of Gordon Oakes for the cultural preparation of the space. As part of this process, the building will be blessed and the university will host a horse dance at Wanuskewin on September 18 to which the whole campus community is invited.

The horse dance is a ceremony to ask for good fortunes, in this case for the students, faculty and staff of the U of S, as well as the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities around campus. The horse also holds a special place in one of the more prominent teachings of Gordon Oakes Redbear: balancing and progressing both culture and education is like a team of two horses—one representing Aboriginal people and the other representing non-Aboriginal people—pulling a cart forward together.

Joseph said that a number of opening celebrations will take place as a way to include the many stakeholders from on and off campus involved in Aboriginal student success and intercultural learning.

"This building is all about community," said Joseph. "The campus community collectively came together to fund this building and to make this long-overdue vision into reality, and the opening celebrations will honour that." ■

Jordan Sherbino is a special projects officer in the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

Meghan Sired is a communication co-ordinator in Student and Enrolment Services Division.

ABOUT THE GORDON OAKES REDBEAR STUDENT CENTRE

- The building was funded by almost \$4.5 million in private donations, with the remaining \$17 million coming from the university's capital budget.
- The total size of the building—designed by Douglas Cardinal, a renowned architect of Métis and Blackfoot heritage—is 1,884 square metres.
- Tyndall stone wraps around the building, creating a symbolic blanket to protect the building's centre from Saskatchewan's harsh northern winter winds.
- Two rows of inlaid tile encircle the building, representing the wampum belt and one of the first treaties between Natives and newcomers on the land that would later become Canada. At each of the four cardinal directions, the colour of the beads changes to represent the four seasons.
- The tribute wall to Gordon Oakes Redbear incorporates the wood from trees that were cut down to make room for the building.
- For ceremonial purposes, the gathering area rests atop a cylinder of original earth from the area.
- The ceiling is decorated as a medicine wheel, using the traditional colours of the Oakes family. The feature skylight of the building at the centre of the medicine wheel is in the shape of a star blanket.

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The university's next president

Peter Stoicheff takes office October 24

KRIS FOSTER



Peter Stoicheff, incoming U of S president, addresses a full crowd at the July 9 announcement.

MATT SMITH

The moment Peter Stoicheff stepped on stage as the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, a sustained clamour of claps and cheers filled Convocation Hall.

"I am excited and humbled and privileged to be named as the 11th president," said Stoicheff to the capacity crowd at the July 9 announcement. "I'm excited now, but was as excited when I came here as a new faculty member in 1986."

Stoicheff started his career at the U of S in the English department and steadily rose through the ranks in the College of Arts and Science, becoming vice-dean humanities and fine arts from 2005-2010, and then dean of the college in 2011. He will begin his five-year term on Oct. 24, 2015 when he is installed as president and vice-chancellor at the university's fall convocation.

"I was excited before I even got here in 1986 because of the U of S's reputation ... I knew that I wanted to be part of that university," explained the incoming president, who holds an undergrad degree from Queen's University, and Master's of Arts and PhD degrees in English literature from the University of Toronto.

A highly regarded scholar for his work in modern American literature and on the history and future of the book, Stoicheff has

seen first-hand the university's potential during a U of S career spanning almost 30 years.

"We are already, we know this, we are already among the top 15 universities in this country," he said. "We know that we have the missions of research and scholarly and artistic work, teaching and community outreach in the context of our sense of place in this city, in this province, in this country and, in select signature areas, the world."

Referencing strength in globally significant areas such as food and water security, infectious disease, and the environment, Stoicheff said the most significant measure of greatness for a university is that it always strives to be an agent of positive change.

"We must recognize the role we play as the most important catalyst for our scientific and artistic culture; to preserve it, build it ... to give students the experience of it so that they can go out and create it themselves, to see ourselves as a cultural institution that will bring together the immeasurable forces of science, the arts, the humanities, technology, the professions, as a dedicated servant to a democratic society, and a responsible critic of it."

His address finished with a clear statement of what a top priority for his tenure as president would be.

"We cannot deem our role in the fostering of a civil society a success unless we become demonstrably, and with commitment, the best place we can possibly be for the Aboriginal people of this province and this country. None of the rest of it matters at this point in our nation's history if we do not achieve this," said Stoicheff.

"I think of it this way: if not us as a university leading the way, then who; and if not now in the wake of the recent TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission)

recommendations, then when?" he asked. "This is a university whose future rests on its great potential to inquire, to inform, to innovate and to indigenize. And I'm very thankful, I'm humbled, to be able to play a role in it."

Following Stoicheff's address, U of S Chancellor Blaine Favel congratulated the incoming president and presented him with an eagle feather as a gift from the Aboriginal community.

"Something that our people present as a sign of honour and respect, that you've accom-

plished something great and it's something that you carry with you," said Favel. "When you hold it you speak truth, you speak from the heart, you speak honestly and you speak for the future and hopefully with vision. I think we have that today with our new president."

An honour song followed the eagle feather presentation, and then the 11th president received one more item: a Huskie jersey with the number 11 on it. ■

See *Transition* Page 6WATCH THE ANNOUNCEMENT ONLINE AT USASK.CA/PRESIDENTIALTRANSITION

Annual Welcome Week
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8 - 10 am
Friday, September 4 in the Bowl
FREE for students, staff, faculty and alumni!
WIN an iPad by filling out a survey!
alumni.usask.ca



Blaine Favel, chancellor, presents Stoicheff with an eagle feather.

ARTIST'S WORK LINKS COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS

MICHAEL ROBIN

Jane McWhirter has discovered art has great power to change, to heal, to grow—and she is working to share that power.

“I was lost for so long,” McWhirter said. “To see where I was five years ago versus now, it’s completely different. I’ve grown so much. I’ve learned to believe in myself; I’ve learned to love myself.”

McWhirter works with the University of Saskatchewan community engagement team at Station 20 West. It is just another way that arts fills a busy schedule that includes teaching art with various community organizations, creating her own paintings and associated work, and pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the university.



CORY SCHEWAGA

“The position was community arts engagement,” she explained. “There wasn’t too much of a description because it didn’t really exist before.”

Drawing on her broad experience with other organizations—like Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) and Eagles Nest Youth Ranch—she reached out to community organizations looking for ways to share the power of art. For example, at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge she helped lead

a “photo voice” project where participants told their stories through photographs.

Engaging with youth is something McWhirter knows well. She has been involved with SCYAP both as a participant and an arts leader for the past several years. The organization offers art outreach and even employment to youth, particularly those from underprivileged and troubled backgrounds.

McWhirter was one of those troubled youth, plagued by low self-esteem and prone to

partying and skipping class in the three Saskatoon high schools she attended. She managed to graduate, albeit a year late and with bare-minimum marks.

“I just didn’t care about school,” she said, explaining that coming from a single-parent home of modest means made her a target for derision by more well-heeled kids. “The crowd that I did fit in with was kind of the rebels, and it was better to skip class, to just go outside and smoke, that kind of stuff.”

That changed when she

discovered the SCYAP Urban Canvas Project shortly after dealing with drinking and substance abuse.

“Basically the premise of the Urban Canvas Project is they take 12 people between the ages of 16 and 30 who’ve faced adversity in the past,” she said. “It could be adversity from drug abuse, it could be gang-related, it could be crime, anything like that. Low self-esteem, different types of abuse, sexual abuse, bad relationships, as long as they were ready to take their lives and turn them in a new direction.”

The program gave her the equivalent of a job. It was 40 paid hours per week for eight months, and taught her drawing, painting, colour theory, recreation and creating original works including full murals, with the capstone being an exhibition at the Mendel Art Gallery. At the same time, they worked on life skills such as setting healthy boundaries, dealing with addictions and overcoming abuse. Finally, participants would work

towards further education or employment.

“We had really great mentors,” McWhirter said, adding that Jordan Schwab, a graduate of the U of S master’s of fine arts program, was one of her mentors. “He really pushed me, in a way. If I asked him for help and advice he’d always be straightforward and tell me what was flawed. It was kind of harsh sometimes, but I think it’s what helped me.”

The program gave her “just the tiniest spark of self-confidence,” a spark that was nurtured by her mentors, who encouraged her to apply for university. With her age and poor high school marks, she was uncertain and almost gave up in the process of applying as a mature student.

“I was like, ‘oh I don’t have a credit card, so I can’t apply,’” she said. “He (Schwab) pulled out his credit card and said, ‘I’m putting this on here. Now go to the bank, take out money, pay me back. But we’re doing this.’”

Four years into her degree, McWhirter is “50 per cent done”—a bit slower than usual, she acknowledges, but understandable in light of her numerous commitments.

In addition to her work at Station 20 West, she remains very active with SCYAP, including managing the gallery, organizing exhibits, public speaking, mural painting, and working with at-risk youth such as those at Eagles Nest and Dream Brokers, among other programs that cater to disadvantaged youth. On top of this are her personal works, occasional commissions for murals, logos and other commercial art. She is an author-illustrator of a children’s book, an opportunity that grew out of interviews she did with recent immigrants and refugees to Saskatoon as part of a university project.

By sharing her own experiences, teaching and mentoring, McWhirter retains her passion to show others the power of art.

“If I can be a little tiny spark in someone else’s life, that’s all I want to be,” she said. “Just something to help them grow, to show them things. To let them know and realize that if they believe in themselves, a lot of things are possible.” ■

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Transition recognition

From Page 5

Applause filled Convocation Hall with the news of Peter Stoicheff being named the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan on July 9.

Interim President Gordon Barnhart was warmly greeted as well for all of his work since stepping into the interim role on May 22, 2014.

Other speakers at the announcement, including Karen Chad, vice-president research, Blaine Favel, chancellor, and

Greg Smith, chair of the Board of Governors, acknowledged Barnhart’s contribution to the university, but none more eloquently than Stoicheff.

“Gordon Barnhart, the way I like to put it is it took the university at least 10 long months to decide that it had the confidence to choose me as the next president,” said Stoicheff. “It took 10 minutes for them to know they had the confidence to choose you. Thank you ... for all that you have done and will continue to do in your role.”

Stoicheff will begin his five-year term on October 24. ■

Coming Events

■ Conferences

Assistive Technology and Disability 2015 Conference

Disability Services for Students is presenting the 2nd annual Assistive Technology and Disability conference at the U of S from Oct. 22-23 at the Graduate Students Common. Assistive technology specialists, service providers and service users will come together to learn about advances in assistive technologies from low to high tech solutions and their applications for education, work life and personal use. Sessions on the new provincial disability strategy and post-secondary practices will also be presented. This conference is free to attend and open to everyone, but registration is required. For session information and registration, visit <http://students.usask.ca/events/atc.php>

■ Seminars/Lectures

Philosophy in the Community

Sept. 11, 7 pm, the Refinery, this free lecture and discussion series, sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, continues with Ria Jenkins, philosophy professor, presenting *Knowledge, Power and Prisons*, an exploration of the connection between knowledge and power.

Assessing Treatment Change in Sexual Offenders

Sept. 17, 4-5pm, Arts 153, Mark Olver, director of Clinical Psychology Training, Department of Psychology, will give a talk entitled, "A Zebra Can Change its Stripes... Sometimes: Assessing Treatment Change in Sexual Offenders".

Members of the university community and the general public are welcome to attend this presentation, which is part of the Department of Psychology's monthly colloquium series.

■ Courses/Workshops

Edwards School of Business Executive Education

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

- Sept. 9 – 11, What the Non-financial Manager Needs to Know About Financial and Managerial Accounting – Saskatoon
- Sept. 15 – Dec. 8, Supply Management Training: Introduction to Procurement – Saskatoon
- Sept. 20 – 25, 2015, The Labour-Management Relationship Certificate Program – Saskatoon
- Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, The Business Analyst's Course – Saskatoon
- Oct. 1 – 2, 2015, Operational Excellence Certificate: Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (Lean Office) – Regina
- Oct. 5 – 6, Operational Excellence Certificate: Master Clinic on Solving Tough Problems – Saskatoon
- Oct. 5 – 7, Digital and Social Media Program: Strategy and Tactics - Saskatoon
- Oct. 7 – 8, Operational Excellence Certificate: Process Metrics, Management, and Controls - Saskatoon
- Oct. 8, Introduction to Digital and Social Media for Senior Managers - Saskatoon
- Oct. 14 – Feb 27, The Masters Certificate in Project Management – Regina

- Oct. 15 – Apr. 9, The Masters Certificate in Project Management – Saskatoon
- Dec. 7 – 11, Certified Coaching Training – Saskatoon

Beyond Borders: A Workshop on Transnationalism

Sept. 11, 1:30-2:30pm, Neatby-Timlin Theater, Donna Gabaccia, professor of history at the University of Toronto, will present keynote lecture *The Past in Motion: Reflections on Transnational Scholarship*. No registration required. All are welcome. For more information please contact Elizabeth Scott elizabeth.scott@usask.ca. This workshop is presented by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity and the Department of History.

Languages

For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4355 or 5539

- Multilingual Conversational Language Classes from Sept. 21 – Dec. 2:
- French levels 1 to 7: \$215 (GST exempt)
 - Spanish levels 1 to 7: \$225.75 (GST included)
 - Japanese levels 1 to 4: \$225.75 (GST included)
 - Japanese for the Traveller \$252 (manual and GST included)
 - German levels 1 to 3: \$225.75 (GST included)
 - Italian levels 1 & 2 \$225.75 (GST included)
 - Portuguese level 1 \$225.75 (GST included)
 - Cree level 1: \$236.25 (materials and GST included)
- Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated.
- Spanish Weekender Oct. 9 – 11; ideal for the traveller who has little or no Span-

ish-speaking skills, 20 hours over 2.5 days, cost: \$315.00 (manual, Saturday and Sunday lunch, and GST included).

Community Arts

Explore your creativity and develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, glass, jewelry making, fiber art, graphic design, art history and more. These courses help you gain confidence as you develop your portfolio. Classes are taught by professional artists. Take classes for general interest or work toward a certificate. For more information, visit ccde.usask.ca/art. Register online or call 306-966-5539

An information session will be held Sept. 1 at 7 pm in the Williams Building, room 118. Fall classes start the week of Sept. 12.

■ The Arts

A Call for Justice - Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress (1977-1988)

A Call for Justice tells a story of human rights and the enduring perseverance of the Japanese Canadian community who suffered so much from 1942-1949. In honour of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Redress Agreement with the Government of Canada in 1988, the Nikkei National Museum is presenting the first traveling exhibit celebrating the emotional struggle to achieve an apology and acknowledgement for these unjust treatments. This exhibit, on display at Diefenbaker Canada Centre until Oct. 12, will examine the 10-year fight using historic photographs, artifacts, poetry, personal statements, art and video.

swatch

Swatch, by Alexandra Thiesson, is on display Gordon Snelgrove Gallery from Aug. 31 – Sept. 11. A reception will be held on Sept. 11 from 7 – 10 pm. August 31 – September 11, 2015
Reception: Friday, September 11, 7 – 10pm

■ Miscellany

Campus Career Expo

The Campus Career Expo, Sept. 16 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Physical Activity Complex, is an excellent opportunity to enhance your networking skills, meet with professionals in a wide array of fields, and obtain invaluable information for your job search. Brought to you by the SECC, this event will help you learn more about the world of work and find potential areas of employment including future part-time, summer, full-time or internship positions. For more information visit students.usask.ca/events/fairs/campus-career-expo.php

➤ SUBMIT Coming Events

Next OCN: Friday, Sept. 11

Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 3

Email ocn@usask.ca

Welcome back students.

Shop the Main Campus Bookstore and get all the essentials for back to school.

usask.ca/bookstore



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USASK.CA/BOOKSTORE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SHRF's Achievement Award honours individuals in Saskatchewan's health research community who inspire us with their drive, leadership, ingenuity, and achievement.

Join us in celebrating Saskatchewan's leaders in health research. Nominate someone deserving today! Email Kathryn Thompson, Director of Communications and Outreach at kthompson@shrf.ca or visit www.shrf.ca for nomination details.

Nomination Deadline:
October 15, 2015

www.shrf.ca



Knowledge is beautiful.

The University of Saskatchewan deals in knowledge; it's in every lab, classroom, facility and office on campus. This year's back page feature is searching for that specialized knowledge that creates beautiful results and helps make the U of S a wonderful place to work and study.

Share your knowledge at ocn@usask.ca



The reach of science



Anyone who orders work supplies from a company called Skulls Unlimited must have an interesting job.

It is that quirkiness that Lana Elias embraces in her job as director of science outreach in the College of Arts and Science. Working with a team of science outreach instructors—the majority of who are graduate and senior undergraduate students—she develops and manages educational programs and science literacy initiatives for grade school students and teachers. This includes the award-winning Kamskénow program, which sees instructors travel to inner-city schools to organize activities and experiments in science and mathematics, as well as the new Museum of Natural Sciences Outreach Program, a campus field trip program offered in May and June. She also supports the Science Ambassador Program, where instructors visit remote communities for up to six weeks and lead hands-on activities in classrooms. The most popular demonstrations, she said, usually involve robotics or liquid nitrogen experiments. The hair-raising Van de Graaff generator is also a fan favourite.

While the over-arching goal is to get children interested in careers in science, she noted that keeping strong ties with the community is also vital. "There's so much discovery that's happening here," she said. "It's certainly rewarding to be part of a creative team that strengthens the university-community relationship."

A former science teacher, Elias has a thorough understanding of the K-12 education system and the curriculum. Additionally, she managed a science toy store for three years—meaning she has a great relationship with scientific toy suppliers (including the fine folks at Skulls Unlimited who provide replica skulls of everything from turkeys to turtles). Aside from her experience in and out of the classroom, it is a sense of loving learning, having fun and seeing potential in others that inspires the work that she does.

One of the best parts of her job, she said, is seeing children when they come to campus for the first time, wide-eyed and full of wonder. "It's something I feel spoiled to see on a regular basis."

