



WONDERFUL WORLD OF WEATHER

The Bowl was surrounded by puddles, grass was peaking through an ever-thinning layer of snow and it seemed spring arrived early...that was the middle of March. The second coming of winter arrived shortly after. Spring was erased from our memories, but we were reminded of just how beautiful our campus is at any time of the year.



DAVID STOBBE

U of S announces home lottery

The inaugural University Home Lottery fundraising campaign is set to launch on May 1, 2016, with a host of prizes up for grabs.

“Hospitals have been doing this type of initiative for decades,” said Jeff Dumba, associate vice-president, financial services. “They present an excellent way to engage with the campus community and the general public at large, while raising revenue for important initiatives.”

Those who buy tickets, sold for \$100 each or five for \$400, will be entered to win the grand prize: a loft located right at the heart of campus.

“We needed a big prize to get interest, so we renovated the top two floors of Sask Hall into a modern loft,” explained Dumba. “This is modern downtown living right on the U of S campus.”

Features of the Sask Hall loft include open concept design, newly installed skylights, two bedrooms, den, two bathrooms,

a sauna/Jacuzzi tub, shared laundry and access to all campus amenities.

“This is an incredible space. You have to see it to believe it,” said Dumba, adding that the concept of renovating current living space on campus opens lots of opportunities at the university.

“We’ve recently expanded our residence offerings with new buildings in College Quarter. This opened up avenues for use of the top floor of one of the university’s original residence halls for other purposes,” said Dumba. “We have this incredible real estate asset, and there’s no reason we can’t use it for more than one purpose.”

Quintin Zook, director of consumer services, admitted that it will take a special resident—one who will be tolerant of busy student life going on around



A two-storey loft in Sask Hall is the top prize in the 2016 U of S Home Lottery.



them.

“They’ll need to be okay with Orientation week fun and residence life in general,” said Zook. “We think there are enough former residents of Sask Hall who may have nostalgia for their years in res that they’ll see having undergraduate neighbours as a big plus. Maybe they’ll even join in a bit.”

Other prizes, Dumba continued, are an all-expenses-paid night on campus (including dinner for two at Marquis Hall and a room for the evening in Ogle Hall, which was

recently converted to researcher residences); passes to tour the Natural History Museum, the Museum of Antiquities, and the University Library; as well as a range of gift cards to Harvey’s, A&W, Le Crêpe Bistro and Mac’s Convenience Store.

Funds raised from the lottery will support a number of special initiatives at the U of S; top of the list is a fleet of snowmobiles for Protective Services to enable

access to all areas of campus, particularly research fields to the South and East of core campus.

The financial goal for the initial lottery, Dumba continued, has been set at a rather modest \$500,000. “This will be a good way for us to test the interest in such a campaign,” he said. “We think this estimate is on the low side and if that is the case, we may have tapped into a new revenue stream.” ■

Starting April 1, the campus community can purchase tickets at the home lottery website communications.usask.ca/homelottery where they will be greeted with a jolly April Fool’s Day message.



The seal team

MICHAEL ROBIN

It is high noon on the ice shelf off Ross Island—it is always high noon in February in Antarctica—and Rob McCorkell, Gregg Adams and Michelle Shero are clustered around the south end of a northbound Weddell seal, trying to determine if she is pregnant.

“For me the veterinary end of the animal is always the back end,” said McCorkell, who practiced as a vet for 14 years before taking up graduate studies with Adams at the U of S and then securing a faculty position at the University of Calgary.

“I’ve practiced on anything from fish to camels—you’d be surprised what you find in rural Alberta.”

Seals, however, are something new. A pregnancy

test on the three-metre, 400-kilogram marine mammals involves carefully inserting an ultrasound probe nearly a meter long through the rectum and up the lower digestive tract. Understandably, the seal in question is unlikely to hold still for such a procedure.

Fortunately, the “seal team,” as they are called by the other 800 or so scientists and support personnel at McMurdo Station, have come prepared. A hoop with a cone net and canvas hood at the end goes over the seal’s head, which quiets the animal long enough for a team member to administer a sedative to put it to sleep for the duration.

“This is not as easy as it sounds,” said Adams, a professor at the U of S Western College of Veterinary Medicine who

pioneered the use of ultrasound pregnancy testing in seals.

“They’d rather not have a hoop over their head and they weigh as much as a cow,” he explained—and the animals tend to spin and urinate as a defense. “We sometimes get swept off our feet in the process!”

Once the seal is safely unconscious, project leader Jennifer Burns, a seal specialist from the University of Alaska, moves in with her colleagues. Over the next two hours, they will collect data from time-depth recorder tags attached to the animal’s flippers, take blood and other samples, weigh the animal, and take other measurements such as blubber thickness and body heat radiation.

Then it is time for Adams, McCorkell and Shero to move in with their rectal probe.

“I’ve found the easiest way to get access is to dig a hole in the snow under the animal,” McCorkell explained. That permits examination of the animal in a normal position, and all the organs are where they are supposed to be.

The last hurdle is actually seeing the ultrasound display, which is no match for the brilliance of the Antarctic summer.

“The sun never sets and the reflection off the ice shelf can be blinding,” Adams explained. “Have you ever tried to watch TV outside?”

Their low-tech but effective solution is a blanket, arranged as an ultrasound tent. But a hole in the snow, in the dark, behind



Left: Northern fur seals at Alaska’s Pribilof Islands. Above: The seal team on site on the ice; McCorkell and Adams at McMurdo Station. Below: A Weddell seal in Antarctica. Photos courtesy the researchers.



a seal, is a challenging environment in which to work.

“Some animals have diarrhea,” McCorkell said. “But all is forgiven when we find a baby on the screen.”

Detecting those babies has been a missing piece in research on Weddell seals, Adams explained, despite their being the subject of study since 1969—“the longest continuous field study of a long-lived mammal in existence.”

“We know when they pup and roughly when they breed, but the rest is a black box,” he said.

Thanks to the Canadians, this box has been opened for the first time, filling in a significant gap for Burns. She is working to understand how Weddell seals manage energy demands in one of the most extreme environments on earth.

Summer on Ross Island is bright and stark, a bare, windy land devoid of vegetation contrasting with snow and ice and the smouldering cone of Mount Erebus, the southernmost active volcano on Earth, as

background. Temperatures average about -10C. Winter brings total darkness and average temperatures of -30C. The waters around the continent, however, offer rich hunting for the seals.

“The reason this is so important is the success of any species depends on energetics; that is, food and body condition, and reproduction,” Adams explained. “Because of the inability to diagnose pregnancy status, the all-important linkages between energetics and reproduction in these wild species could not be made.”

McCorkell explained reproduction is an energy-intensive process for any species, but particularly so for Weddell seals.

Females conceive around Christmas time, carry their pups for 10 months, give birth, and nurse them with milk that averages 60 per cent milk fat (compared to about 3.25 per cent for homogenized milk from the grocery store).

“It’s basically fat transfer,” McCorkell said. “They’re born

See *Ultrasound*, Page 11



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

General Academic Assembly (GAA)

The president’s state of the university address

President Peter Stoicheff, chair of the GAA, invites you to attend the annual GAA meeting, where he will give his report on the state of the university. This event is open to all faculty, staff and students.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
NOON
CONVOCATION HALL

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

For more information, visit usask.ca/secretariat

Connecting with Indigenous content

University to include Indigenous knowledge in curriculum

✍ KRIS FOSTER

With University Council's January endorsement to include Indigenous knowledge and experiences in all degree programs, the real work is set to begin.

"What we have now is support for a plan," said Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning. "There is agreement with the general direction and intent but approved actions are yet to come."

McDougall acknowledged that there is a sense on campus that "there is a great opportunity to do this and the timing is right. At a recent student forum meeting, comprised of undergrad and grad students, reflecting a good subsection of our student body, there was a lot of support for moving in this direction."

While the support of Council and students brings momentum to the issue, McDougall stressed the "need to balance doing this quickly with doing this right."

For the U of S, McDougall continued, doing it right does not mean "every single student taking one single, common course; that's not our model."

The first step to discovering the appropriate path for the U of S, McDougall said, is "opening up the university's Learning Charter and rewriting parts of the charter to reflect learning outcomes connected to Indigenous content and learning experiences grounded in Indigenous world views."

Stemming from there will be engagement with colleges, schools and departments—both at the undergrad and graduate levels—to find which approach fits best.

"Engagement will be imperative to getting to the next stage," the vice-provost said. "We need to get widespread endorsement on the learning outcomes and we need to go to the colleges to get that."

To ensure all faculty have input into this academic matter, the Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee



Wilson



McDougall

of Council (TLARC) will be heavily involved, said Jay Wilson, TLARC chair and head of the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education.

“This is a big move and presents big challenges. But no matter how you look at it, it is the right thing for the University of Saskatchewan.”

Patti McDougall

"We have such broad representation on TLARC that we can connect to colleges through our members," said Wilson. "But another key component we need on the committee is Aboriginal perspective."

Wilson said everyone involved in the process has the phrase "nothing about us without us" top of mind.

"It is really crucial we engage First Nation, Métis and Inuit faculty and students," said Wilson. "If we can help people understand the (learning) process is as important as the content, if we can address this as reconciliation, we can avoid this being seen as tokenism."

To that end, McDougall said it is necessary to find an appropriate fit for meaningful Indigenous content and then match that with the capacity to teach Indigenous content.

"I believe there is an important difference between who can and should teach Indigenous content. When you listen to some of our Indigenous colleagues you understand that in certain areas there is highly specialized knowledge and not everyone should be teaching such content," she said.

Following consultation and revisions to the Learning Charter, which need to be approved through University Council, McDougall said the next steps are to take stock of what is already happening on campus and then to mobilize support to help colleges as best as possible.

"Lots is already happening on campus and we need to take stock of all of that and figure out the best strategies and approaches," McDougall said, adding as examples that the Colleges of Arts and Science, Education and Law, and a number of health science disciplines already have very strong Indigenous content and programming or are moving actively in that direction.

Echoing McDougall, Wilson said the university has "pockets of success and models that work but each program will be different and will require different supports to fully integrate Indigenous content."

Graduate studies is one area that McDougall and Wilson both see as a challenge.

"This is a legitimate challenge and at this point I can't say how we will work through this," said McDougall. "It's not that grad students won't benefit from this, but it is more challenging to find a place for this as degrees become more specialized."

The initiative presents many challenges to be sure, but that will not deter McDougall and her team. "Of course we need to do this. We want to educate our students about historical and contemporary issues and we

need to ensure they are culturally aware and sensitive. We want to reduce prejudice and build relationships. And to do that, we have to have a shared understanding and awareness," she said.

"We aspire to create a model that can be used elsewhere,

but our model needs to be able to change and grow," Wilson added.

"This is a big move and presents big challenges," explained McDougall. "But no matter how you look at it, it is the right thing for the University of Saskatchewan." ■

Around the Bowl



Kalynchuk

Lisa Kalynchuk appointed interim associate dean, Interdisciplinary Health Research, Council of Health Science Deans.



Hill

Jill Gunn appointed to the position of acting vice-dean, academic in the College of Arts and Science until Aug. 31, 2016.

Janet Hill appointed as head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology for a four-year term effective Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2019.

Aaron Phoenix appointed to the position of associate dean, academic, College of Engineering for a five-year term effective Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2020.

Loleen Berdahl appointed as head of the Department of Political Studies effective Jan. 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020.

Don Bergstrom appointed to the position of interim dean, College of Engineering, for a period up to one year effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Colleen Dell has been awarded a Centennial Enhancement Chair in One Health and Wellness effective July 1, 2016 for a five-year term.



Bergstrom

James Bugg appointed to the position of interim associate dean, college operations, College of Engineering for an initial one-year term effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Regina Taylor-Gjevre appointed assistant dean, curriculum, College of Medicine, for a five-year term effective Nov. 1, 2015.

Dirk de Boer appointed as the acting head of the Department of Indigenous Studies until June 30, 2016.

David Palmer's appointment as head of the Department of Chemistry extended an additional six months, effective July 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2016.

Raj Srinivasan reappointed as head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for a three-year term effective Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2018.

Andrew Van Kessel reappointed as head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences for a three-year term effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

Dr. Paul Babyn reappointed as unified head of the Department of Medical Imaging for a one-year term effective Dec. 1, 2015 to Nov. 30, 2016.

Trent Bollinger appointed as the acting head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology for a six-month term, effective Jan. 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

Samuel Butler appointed as head of the Department of Geological Sciences for a four-and-a-half year term effective Jan. 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020.

Beth Bilson's term as dean, College of Law, extended to June 30, 2016.



Gunn



Berdahl



Dell



Palmer



Van Kessel

OCN Publishing Schedule

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
15	April 15, 2016	April 7, 2016
16	April 29, 2016	April 21, 2016
17	May 13, 2016	May 5, 2016

NEW TO US

Adelaine Leung

What does the shape of a molecule have to do with behaviour?

For Adelaine Leung, forming and pursuing this question has taken her on a winding path from Ontario to Alabama, Cambridge to Boston, and finally to the U of S, where she is an assistant professor in veterinary biomedical sciences.

"I'm interested in studying the molecular structure of protein complexes that are important in the development of neural circuits that govern behaviours," she said, adding she is actively recruiting graduate students to share in this quest.

Leung completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at McMaster University in Hamilton, where she specialized in crystallography—the study of how atoms are arranged into molecules, and how these shapes determine function. She is adept at using synchrotron light for this work, and the presence of the Canadian Light Source at the U of S was a major draw.

After completing her master's, Leung moved to Alabama to work as a crystallographer looking at molecules of pharmaceutical interest at the Southern Research Institute. It was there that she was introduced to the possibility of a career in academia, and sought a program to complete her PhD and perhaps travel in Europe.

She found it at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC LMB) at Cambridge in England—a place she had never heard of. It turned out to be one of the premier research institutes in the world, founded by crystallographer Max Perutz, one of 10 Nobel laureates from the institute.

"The first week there, I was making some stock solution and this old guy came by and asked, 'could I borrow some five molar sodium chloride?'—and that was Max Perutz!" she said. "I was, 'oh, yes, I have a whole litre, please take it!'"

It was at MRC LMB that she started hearing about the next big thing—neurobiology, the inner workings of the brain.

"I thought, I want to do neurobiology. I want to do behaviour. I want to see if—my background is in molecular structure—is there a way to tease out molecular interactions that give rise to behaviour?"

This brought her back across the Atlantic to Harvard Medical School for post-doctoral work in behavioural genetics, using fruit flies as a model system.

Leung explained that the winding path of her career has been inspired at crucial points by professors, supervisors and senior researchers, and she hopes to be that inspiration for her students. She also urges her students to look beyond the facts they're hearing in lectures and ask how this knowledge came to be, for example through sometimes fierce debate over competing theories.

"There's a lot of drama in scientific research," she said. "I think that in traditional lectures, students only learn the facts and they miss out on the excitement, the drama." ■

Law and business partner up

Joint JD-MBA offered fall 2016

LESLEY PORTER

There is a considerable amount of overlap and common knowledge at the intersection of business and law.

Starting in September, high-achieving, management-minded students can use those commonalities towards a combined juris doctor (JD) and master of business administration (MBA) program, offered collaboratively from the College of Law and the Edwards School of Business. Those who hunker down can finish both degrees in as little as three years.

There is currently a combined JD and bachelor of commerce (BComm) program, in which students can complete the majority of the business degree and finish it alongside their JD. However, the new JD/MBA addition is "a true partnership," explained Doug Surtees, the associate dean academic in the College of Law.

There are some business classes that relate very closely to law, and can be counted as credit units towards the JD. He listed Financial Management Analysis, an MBA course, as an example. "Obviously, that's very important to any lawyer practicing in business law," he said.

Conversely, there are law classes that may appeal to students in the business program, such as mediation, negotiation, and labour and employment law, and count as course credit towards the MBA. "Those relate very directly to people managing people," said Surtees.

With that overlap between law and business in mind, the dual degree is targeted towards those with a broad interest in management, said Surtees, because both the MBA and the law degree are great tools for management.



Doug Surtees, associate dean academic, College of Law.

SUBMITTED

"The kinds of students we think it will appeal to are those interested in managing their own legal firm, or people who

“The kinds of students we think it will appeal to are those interested in managing their own legal firm, or people that are interested in being a lawyer as in-house counsel for private corporations.

Doug Surtees

are interested in being a lawyer as in-house counsel for private corporations," he said. "Defi-

nately we'll have interest from people with a corporate law bend, and some of those people—though it may not be a goal at the start—might end up in their own businesses," said Surtees.

He named Edwards alumnus and namesake Murray Edwards (BComm'82) as a notable example of the law-business intersection.

"That might not be the initial goal of a student, but as they develop in their career, they might head down that direction." ■

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In Memoriam

- Kevin A. Wilson, Educational Administration, November 20
- Henry B. Nickel, Agriculture, November 21
- Caroline A. Britton, Bookstore, November 22
- Elmer T. Hackett, WCVM, December 5
- G. Iain Christison, Animal and Poultry Science, December 11
- Alan R. Kirby, Dept. of Rehabilitation, December 11
- Anthony J. Whitworth, Finance, December 13
- Spiro Yannacopoulos, Engineering, December 21
- Albert Van Huizen, December 22
- Terry B. Telford, VIDO, January 7
- Elizabeth H. Epp, Human Resources, January 11
- Ken S. Cooper, Exercise Physiology, January 15
- Francis L. Lengyel, FMD, January 16
- Erwin K. H. Hoehn, Math and Statistics, January 19

GSA president proud to pave new roads for organization

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

When Rajat Chakravarty took over as president of the U of S Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the organization was in the tail end of a crisis.

Last year, with a police investigation underway and legal fees piling up due to the alleged misuse of funds, things were looking grim. Today, only a year later, he is proud to say the organization is not only back on its feet with those issues behind

it—it is thriving.

"The GSA now is a force to be reckoned with on campus," said Chakravarty, a PhD student in mechanical engineering. "Whenever there are university consultations, the GSA is always being represented there—whether that's on sexual assault policies or mental health strategy or on any big initiative that the university's taking."

Chakravarty has been

involved with the GSA for three years now, serving two terms as vice-president student affairs before being voted in as president last April. This spring marks the end of his time with the executive, which he will be leaving behind to dive headfirst into his studies and finish his PhD.

When elected, Chakravarty's first task as president was to tackle transparency in governance in hopes of addressing concerns from GSA council members.

"Anything that happens in the GSA is now getting reported so members have a way to know. We're putting up everything on the website; we are very open about inviting people to come forward to council and participate," Chakravarty said, adding that governance documents have also been improved as a part of this overall push.

"We even plan events stra-



Rajat Chakravarty, GSA president.

SUBMITTED

telegically so that people can stick around and continue into these council meetings."

There are many accomplishments that Chakravarty is proud to have helped bring to the GSA during his time as president—bringing about new initiatives such as health clubs, which guide graduate students in both their mental and physical well-being, campus rec teams in curling, basketball, volleyball and even dodgeball, striving for greater co-operation with the U of S Students' Council, Aborig-

inal and Indigenous Graduate Student Council (AIGSC) and other organizations—but the connecting thread between many of them is one of external and internal collaboration.

"This year the GSA has not been working in isolation. It has deliberately been going out everywhere to look for these connections that we can make," he said.

Part of making this goal a reality meant forging stronger

See *Effort*, Page 10

Celebrating grad students

On March 5, the GSA celebrated the esteemed work being done among its members and their advisors as part of the fourth annual GSA Awards Gala. The following individuals were chosen as recipients of honour in their respective categories.

ADVISING EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Louise Humbert (College of Kinesiology)

Humbert is a community-based researcher with over 20 years of experience working in community settings.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

Kayla Madder (MSc candidate in animal science)

Madder's family, and specifically her grandmothers, set an example early in her childhood that has led to a passion for community service, including getting involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon, volunteering for the Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health and sitting on the planning committee for the inaugural AIDS Saskatoon Gala in 2015.

EXCELLENCE IN ABORIGINAL RESEARCH AWARD:

Ranjan Datta (PhD candidate in the School of Environment and Sustainability)

Datta is widely known as an international graduate student expert on Indigenous research and making positive impacts on the community. He has received numerous accolades for research excellence.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Farhad Fathieh (PhD student in mechanical engineering)

Farhad has been conducting comprehensive research on an energy recovery technology, which substantially reduces the energy consumption in ventilation systems.

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A platform for positive change

Jack Saddleback reflects on half a decade with the USSU

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

As far back as he can remember, Jack Saddleback has always had an itch to create positive change.

It is a desire that has been with him since his childhood, and one he credits to the influence of his mother.

“She was a social worker when I was growing up, so she would also encourage us to go and volunteer with the Calgary Friendship Centre. I truly feel that those days of my siblings and I volunteering laid many of the values I hold dear today,” said Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU).

In 2011, that desire to help led Saddleback to get involved with the USSU Pride Centre. This decision turned out to be only the first step toward five more years working with the USSU, during which time Saddleback would climb the ranks from volunteer to Pride Centre co-ordinator to USSU president in 2015.

As the first USSU president who is transgender and two-spirit—a contemporary term that acknowledges the historical acceptance of LGBTQ people in First Nations cultures—Saddle-

back is proud that the role gave him a greater opportunity to be both a role model for those who are all-too-often looked down on and as a source of guidance for those uninformed in areas of acceptance.

“People in these positions, leadership positions, can be themselves. You do not have to sacrifice your being as an individual when looking to create change for the greater good. The experiences I have gone through as a Cree two-spirit transgender gay man are no less and no more than the person I stand beside,” Saddleback said.

“We all deserve a voice on this campus, in this province, in this country and in this world.”

Saddleback, alongside the rest of the USSU executive and

“ We all deserve a voice on this campus, in this province, in this country and in this world.”

Jack Saddleback

co-ordinators, has had a year of defining successes, counting lobbying for a campus-wide sexual assault policy, bringing Indigenous content to all



Saddleback

degree programs and creating a commission on female leadership among their more prominent wins.

But looking forward, he said he hopes his time as president is defined not by specific changes in policy or governance but by an overall push toward equality.

“I hope the legacy I leave with the USSU is the awareness that we must fight for all students, especially those who

our greater society?”

Though he struggles to pinpoint a single point in his half a decade with the USSU that he is most appreciative of, Saddleback said that hindsight has left him grateful simply for having had the opportunity to create some of that positive change he has been itching for since childhood.

“The year has been absolutely humbling, from hearing stories from students to advocating on an administrative level to rallying folks on a national level. The U of S has so much going for it and it’s been an honour to serve our undergraduate student population over these past few—and short—months.”

Saddleback said his plans for next year are not yet final, but while he weighs his options he hopes to finish his sociology degree in the near future. ■

USSU ELECTION

Voting for the USSU executive took place on March 23-24. The elected executive members are:

Kehan Fu
PRESIDENT

Brooke Malinoski
VICE-PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Renata Huyghebaert (by acclamation)
VICE-PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Emmanuel Barker
VICE-PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCE



The Politics of Austerity and Academic Freedom: An Inevitable Collision?

USFA Academic Freedom Event
Neatby-Timlin Theatre (Arts 241)
April 7, 4:00–5:45 pm

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Root Gorelick, Carleton University

Academic Freedom in University Governance: Blogging and Gagging

Panelists

Dr. Len Findlay, Dr. Dianne Miller, and Dr. John Moraros

The austerity agenda means politicians and administrators alike have been embracing the private sector’s financial participation in university research and governance—and that has serious repercussions for academic freedom.

For the love of discovery

New vice-dean in medicine takes on research challenge

✍ KRIS FOSTER

From Poland to London to Spain to Alberta to Texas to Ireland, Dr. Marek Radomski has followed his curiosity around the world.

And that same curiosity, in combination with the lure of a challenge, has brought Radomski to the U of S College of Medicine as the vice-dean of research, a position he started March 14, 2016.

“My path has always been about taking on challenges, and I always believed you could be a top researcher no matter where you were,” said Radomski, who most recently was chair of pharmacology at Trinity College at the University of Dublin.

Radomski—while intrigued by the facilities, like the Canadian Light Source, VIDO-InterVac and the Health Sciences building, and impressed by the people at the U of S—said what piqued his interest most was the challenge presented by the position’s key responsibility: giving research productivity in the College of Medicine a shot in the arm.

“In CIHR funding, the college only had only two or three awards last year,” he said, adding that this ongoing under-performance has been a concern for a number of years.

“This is a very big challenge for reasons that are complex,” said Radomski. “Research productivity has been flat for a number of years while other medical schools have been growing. This has created a gap that is concerning for senior

administration.”

In addressing this issue, Radomski plans to approach the college’s research agenda like he would a patient: listen, review, diagnose and then prescribe.

“I’m in the discussion phase right now; meeting with everyone from faculty and researchers, to medical students and post-docs. I am trying to understand what they are doing and what challenges they face.”

The next step, he continued, will be to undertake an external review that will examine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. “We will get a report that will highlight where we are, where we need to go and what needs to be rectified.”

Radomski is clear that while he intends to stick to the “review, understand and prescribe” process, in certain cases he must “prescribe before diagnosis of symptoms.”

As an example, he said he intends to spearhead a research agenda focused on Aboriginal medicine, citing a demographic shift that may see 50 per cent of Saskatchewan’s population being



Marek Radomski, vice-dean of research at the U of S College of Medicine.

✍ KRIS FOSTER

“The College of Medicine needs to help as much as we can.

Whenever possible we should be of value as much as possible to the people in the province.

Marek Radomski

of Aboriginal ancestry by 2050.

“With every second citizen being of Aboriginal descent, the subject of Aboriginal well-being is important to everyone in the province. The College of Medicine needs to help as much as we can. Whenever possible we should be of value as much as possible to the people in the province.”

Another area in which he intends to prescribe before diagnosing is in supporting researchers who are early in their careers.

“A strong focus should go towards early career researchers and providing the mentorship

and support to help them succeed in funding competitions,” he explained. “In my experience, early career researchers can be very productive if mentored, but obstacles make it difficult to be productive. Success early in your career can turn into bigger research money later.”

Radomski, with more than 250 publications to his name in the pharmacology field, an h-index of 61, and a mentor to countless students, is no stranger to highly productive research and knows full well what it takes to set up a successful research program.

But with that knowledge,

he knew he could not divide his attention between being the vice-dean and being a successful researcher.

“I agonized over the decision but I knew my effort needs to be entirely devoted to administering, facilitating and spearheading research. But I understand what makes a successful researcher or research program and I can share that.

“Using my experience, expertise and enthusiasm, as much as I can, I really want to make a difference and I hope I can. I have a five-year mandate and that’s a good amount of time.” ■

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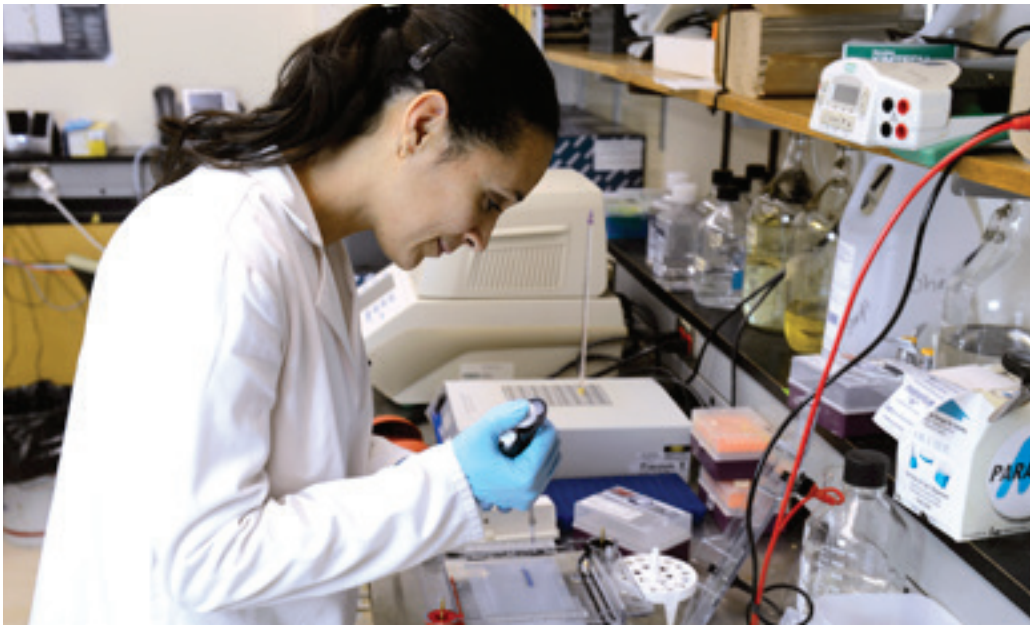
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Understanding hep C complexities



Yalena Amador Cañizares, post-doctoral fellow in the College of Medicine, is studying how the hepatitis C virus replicates, and is searching for novel targets for therapies against the chronic disease.

SHRF

As of 2011, it is estimated nearly a quarter million Canadians were living with chronic hepatitis C (HCV), a virus that attacks the liver. Just under half of these cases—108,000 people—were

unaware they had the disease since it usually has no symptoms until years or decades later.

“Saskatchewan has a high incidence of HCV infection relative to the Canadian

average,” said Yalena Amador Cañizares, post-doctoral fellow in the College of Medicine at the U of S. “These high rates make HCV infection a priority health issue that affects Saskatchewan residents.”

As a blood-borne virus, hepatitis C is typically spread through unsafe injection practices, but also through inadequate sterilization of medical equipment and the transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products.

The World Health Organization (WHO) cites hepatitis C as a global health concern, with up to 150 million people chronically infected. Many will develop HCV-related diseases such as liver cirrhosis or cancer and every year, about half a million people will die.

Since there is no vaccine for hepatitis C, an ongoing

goal of research is to identify novel targets for development of antiviral drugs.

Cañizares, born and raised in Cuba, completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Havana before starting her postdoctoral training under the supervision of Joyce Wilson at the U of S. In 2014, she received a Post-doctoral Fellowship Grant from Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) to explore the mechanism by which miR-122, a cellular molecule, promotes HCV replication, and to identify novel antiviral targets.

“In recent years, the standard of care has changed rapidly and promising new antiviral drugs are being developed to treat the most common strain of the virus,” Cañizares said. “However, the

ability of HCV to rapidly evolve in the setting of drug pressure and resistance is a possible threat to the success of these new therapies in the long term.”

The high cost of these therapies means they are not being provided to all infected patients, nor will they be soon. Alternative treatment options also need to be developed for patients with less common strains of the virus and patients with a condition or factor that could harm their health if given the current therapies.

Cañizares’ work will add to understanding of the complexities of HCV infection and provide needed insight to help develop new therapies to prevent and treat the disease. ■

A version of this story originally appeared in *Research for Health*, published by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

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Service design and delivery progresses

Ongoing work looks for efficiencies in administrative functions

LESLEY PORTER



Epp



Willoughby

A lot has changed in the two years since the service design and delivery work began to realign and consolidate administrative functions across seven campus units—advancement, facilities management, financial services, human resources, information technology, research services and student services.

What has not changed in that time, said Wade Epp, director of service design and delivery, is the underlying goal.

“We’re trying to enhance administrative services for the purpose of providing faculty with more time to be doing the research and teaching mission of the university, and not focus on doing administrative work,” said Epp. “We know that faculty do important administrative things, like make decisions and support collegial activities, but it’s the other work that they don’t need to be doing.”

Epp pointed to a couple pertinent examples of this, including recruitment. “A researcher might say they need a Canadian citizen with an undergraduate degree. You might get 300 applications, but only 15 per cent of those meet the minimum standard.” Rather than having an individual researcher scroll through those 300 applications, Epp proposes a front-end system to vet those applications before they make it to the researcher. “That’s where we see that benefit. We can do that work instead of a faculty member having to do it.”

Another process in a similar vein that could use refining, he continued, is electronic job submission and employee onboarding—that is, not only filling a vacant position, but

making sure the new employee has the appropriate tools and resources to succeed in their job from the get-go.

The current process, he explained, is very sequential so that when a person starts their first day of work, the process has not caught up with them, which

“This work creates capacity. It’s not to say we’ll be better researchers by it, but we hope to show that we’ve provided more opportunity for faculty to give time to what they’ve been hired to do.”

Wade Epp

is problematic. “So they show up, day one, and they don’t have access to their computer. They don’t have access to parking or the PAC or benefits. They may or may not be on payroll or make it for the cut-off for the payroll cycle.”

He added that it is important to understand, from a customer service perspective, the potential negative impact that may have on a new applicant or staff member at the university. By running those processes in parallel, he said, the university can look across those functional areas. “That’s the big takeaway.”

As the ongoing work is ultimately for their benefit, Epp has met extensively with faculty groups across campus. And while there remains some anxiety about loss of staff, he contends that any changes involve the workflow itself—not people—and “will only enhance the effectiveness of the people

within the department.

“We aren’t looking to move people out of departments,” he said. Rather, “we’re looking for inefficiencies in current services and determining how we can improve those services, so faculty aren’t spending more time on them than necessary.”

Among those providing input is Keith Willoughby, a faculty member with the Edwards School of Business. Though not part of the formal team, Willoughby—whose research interests include efficiency and operations management—understands the importance of efficient service.

“If you look within any real-world process—be it buying an airline ticket, booking a hotel, organizing a conference, or getting a taxi—there are a lot of different activities involved in that process,” he said.

Unfortunately, not all of them add value—so it is crucial to “take a hard look at a real process, identify all its activities, and see what you can do to, in essence, improve the delivery of value by eliminating those stumbling blocks.”

Currently, three administrative functions on campus—financial services, human resources and research services—are immersed in work that looks at ways to increase efficiencies within their respective departments and units.

While Epp is pleased with the implementation in the three functional areas thus far, he is exercising caution before rolling it out to include the other four areas.

“We really want to take stock and learn from that experience before we start adding on more services,” he said, adding that facilities management may be next on the list for implementation. “We want to make sure we get those impactful services before we start going too big.”

In terms of signs of success, he hopes to, in the coming months, produce some operational metrics that provide a baseline for the administrative services.

“This work creates capacity. We want to offer more opportunity for the important academic work our faculty are here to do.” ■

Around the Bowl



Sorensen

Charlene Sorensen, interim dean, University Library, beginning February 15, for a period initially set at up to one year.

Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins has been appointed to the position of associate dean, University Library, for a five-year term effective January 1, 2016.



Sarjeant-Jenkins

Ken Ladd appointed interim associate dean, University Library, beginning February 15, for a period up to one year.



Ladd

Suresh Tikoo appointed interim associate executive director, School of Public Health for the period Jan. 13, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

Janet McCabe appointed interim associate dean, College of Nursing, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Dr. Marek Radomski, vice-dean research, College of Medicine, March 14, 2016 to June 30, 2021.

Douglas Thorpe appointed head of the Department of Drama for a one-year term effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Kent Kowalski’s term extended as interim associate dean, College of Kinesiology, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Hope Bilinski has been re-appointed associate dean, Central Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Campus and Academic Health Sciences Affairs, College of Nursing.



Bilinski



Chung

Tony C. Y. Chung, SaskPower Chair in Power Systems Engineering and professor of electrical engineering, became a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his contributions to power system stability and control.

Adil Nazarali has been named Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Fellowship is awarded to members who have made an outstanding original contribution to the advancement of pharmaceutical knowledge or attained distinction in the science, practice, profession or history of pharmacy.



Nazarali

Dr. John Thiel appointed unified head of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science, effective March 1, 2016 for a five-year term.

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Coming events

■ Seminars/Lectures

Claybank Saskatchewan - A lecture by Sheri Benning

April 5, 4 pm, Room C280, Administration Building. Sheri and Heather Benning travel Saskatchewan's farmlands, contrasting memories of small-scale farming with current ecological devastation wrought by industrialized practices. The backdrop of the essay is Heather Benning's art installation, Claybank Saskatchewan, which repurposes the relics of a family farm to foreground rural abandonment. Sheri Benning's most recent collection of poetry is *The Season's Vagrant Light: New and Selected Poems*. Her work has also appeared in numerous British, Irish and Canadian literary journals and anthologies. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Yin Liu at yin.liu@usask.ca.

Veterinary Microbiology/Veterinary Pathology seminar series

April 6, 12:30 pm, Room 2115, WCVM

- Ruwini Gamage, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, presents: *Standardization of antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods of Brachyspira spp.*
- Ruwani Karunaratna, Department of Veterinary Pathology, presents: *Enterococcus associated yolk sac infections in neonatal broiler chickens.*

Dave De Brou Memorial History Lecture

April 12, 7 pm, Library Theatre at Frances Morrison Library. The University of Saskatchewan's History Department and the History Graduate Students Committee are proud to host the Dave De Brou Memorial History Lecture. This annual lecture is a tribute to the late Professor Dave De Brou, who was the head of the History Department, a dedicated teacher, and an inspiring academic. This year's lecture is *Sasquatch Soliloquy: What Would Bigfoot Say?* by Keith Thor Carlson, professor of history and research chair

in Indigenous and community-engaged history, U of S. All are welcome and admission is free.

2016 Tansley Lecture: Public Policy and the Art of Persuasion

April 14, 5-9 pm, Convention Hall, Conexus Arts Centre, Regina, SK. Join us for the 2016 Tansley Lecture when David Herle will discuss the relationship between public opinion and public policy, and the role that government can, but does not always, play in shaping public opinion. Herle will compare fiscal policy in the 1990's, when governments persuaded Canadians that deficits needed to be conquered, and now when public opinion is taking government finances in the opposite direction. Herle is one of Canada's most sought after public affairs and corporate strategists, having helped CEOs manage crises, union leaders shape their public appeals, and directing winning campaigns for both prime ministers and premiers. Tickets (corporate/group table: \$450, individual: \$55, student: \$30, plus GST) can be purchased until April 7 online schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca. Contact Karen Jaster-Laforge (306-585-5512 or email karen.jaster@uregina.ca).

Seven Days that Transformed the World

April 19, 6-8 pm, Hose and Hydrant Brewing Company, 612 11th Street E. Matthew Neufeld will present *The Day they cut off the King's Head*. The judicial killing of Charles I on January 30, 1649 was a turning point in the history of government, law and religion. Never before was a sitting monarch executed publicly by his own subjects. But the king's death would set the foundation for the restoration, and transformation, of a monarchy that reigns to this day. Neufeld studies early modern British and European history. His research aims to help us understand and explain some of the important cultural and social changes that stemmed from the experience of warfare and state formation after the Reformation. These days he is researching the transformation of naval health care in Britain and its imperium

during the 18th century. Everyone is welcome to attend.

■ Courses/Workshops

ESL Classes at the Language Centre

April 4-May 30, part-time program, spring term. Classes will cover writing and applied grammar, pronunciation, graduate-level writing, reading or listening skills, and spoken English. For more information or to register contact 306-966-4351 or visit ptesl.usask.ca.

Spring Session Multilingual Conversational Language Classes

Classes from April 18 to June 13, 2016:

- French levels 1 to 6: \$215 (GST exempt)
- Spanish levels 1 to 6: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Japanese levels 1 and 2: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Japanese for the Traveller: \$252.00 (manual and GST included)
- German levels 1, 2 and 4: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Italian levels 1, 2 and 4: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Cree level 1 (materials and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated.

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

Realist Methods and Realist Synthesis Training Workshop

June 13-17. This immersive five-day workshop will guide participants through advanced skills in realist methodologies led by Gill Westhorp, an internationally recognized specialist and trainer in realist methodologies. Each day of the workshop will have a different focus and will include provision of advanced skills

lectures/workshops; time for researchers or research teams to work on or develop their own projects; and sessions in which researchers present their work in progress, receive feedback and discuss issues and strategies in realist design and methodologies. University of Saskatchewan registrants: \$500. Students: \$250. External registrants: \$1,000. Team rates available at the rate of 10 per cent off for teams of three to five, and 25 per cent off for teams of six or more. Email yxe.realistworkshop@usask.ca for registration information.

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.

■ The Arts

U of S Concert Band in performance

April 1, 7:30 pm Quance Theater, Education Building. The University of Saskatchewan Concert Band presents *Music of Many Cultures: A Tribute to Dr. David Kaplan* directed by Glen Gillis. Admission by silver collection.

■ Miscellany

Movie premier "Not About Us" and "Being There"

April 6, 7 pm, Broadway Theatre. Join us for the world premiere of two University of Saskatchewan student-produced documentaries, *Being There* and *Not About Us*. *Not About Us* explores the lives of four young Saskatchewan women striving to overcome the trauma and stigma of sexual assault. The documentary is a thoughtful and emotionally intense look at these four individuals journey.

Being There is a meditative exploration of the philosophical views of University of Saskatchewan's Custodian Wayne Turner. The film looks at the life that guides the University of Saskatchewan in an off-beat, insightful and entertaining way.

The evening will end with an encore screening of the student produced feature length comedy-drama *Paper Airplanes*, about the lives of four groups of students struggling to cope with a wide range of personal issues while attending university as they struggle to balance the academic, emotional and social pressures that becoming an adult brings.

Images of Research Competition

April 7 is the last chance to enter the 2016 U of S Images of Research competition. All students, staff, faculty and alumni with an impressive visual depiction of their research are encouraged to enter the competition and share their work. Submissions can take many forms: photographs, products of advanced imaging equipment or even data charts. Many cash prizes are available, including a grand prize of \$500. Voting for the Viewer's Choice category opens on April 11. The winners of the public vote receive \$300 (1st) and \$200 (runner-up). All members of the public can vote for up to five of their favourite images of U of S research. Voting closes at 11:59 pm on April 20. For more information or to enter, visit: research.usask.ca/images-of-research.php.

Mental Health Training for Managers

April 6, 1-4 pm, Admin C280. If you lead or supervise U of S employees, this three-hour workshop will empower you to break down stigma and create a mentally healthy workplace. Wellness Resources, a division of Human Resources, has partnered with Sun Life Financial to provide this free training for managers. This session will prepare you to identify and address mental health issues in the workplace comfortably, confidentially and in a consistent manner. The session is powered by Solareh. To register, visit the Safety Resources training website: safetyresources.usask.ca/services/training/index.php.

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Coming events

Next OCN: Friday, April 15
Deadline: Thursday, April 7

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Effort pays off for GSA

From Page 5

connections with other campus groups, which Chakravarty said involved steps as simple as planning functions to take place at the AIGSC directly or mixing international selections into the music playlist at socials.

"We're getting more and more people who might otherwise choose to be disengaged and remain with their own communities to come out to general GSA events. I think the big thing we've done is make GSA events more friendly towards all communities,"

he said.

Though he reflects positively on the year behind him, Chakravarty said the GSA's recent successes are not as much his doing as they are the result of the diligent, supportive work from the organization's council and executive members.

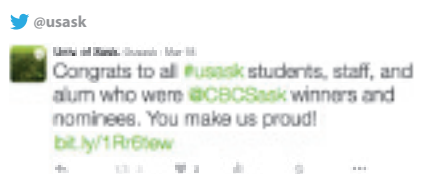
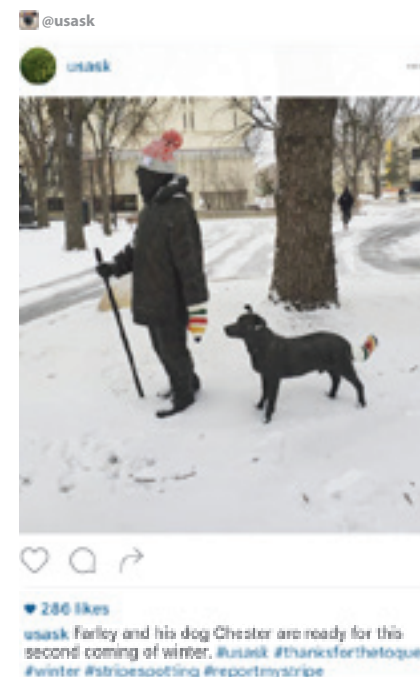
"All executives have put in their effort and have worked hard to function together as a team and pitch in for each other. Everybody was helping everybody else. We had a very good working relationship," Chakravarty said.

"We were working at 200 per cent." ■

NEXT DEADLINE
Thursday, April 7, 2016

GETTING SOCIAL WITH MEDIA

Some of the top tweets, posts and pics from the U of S



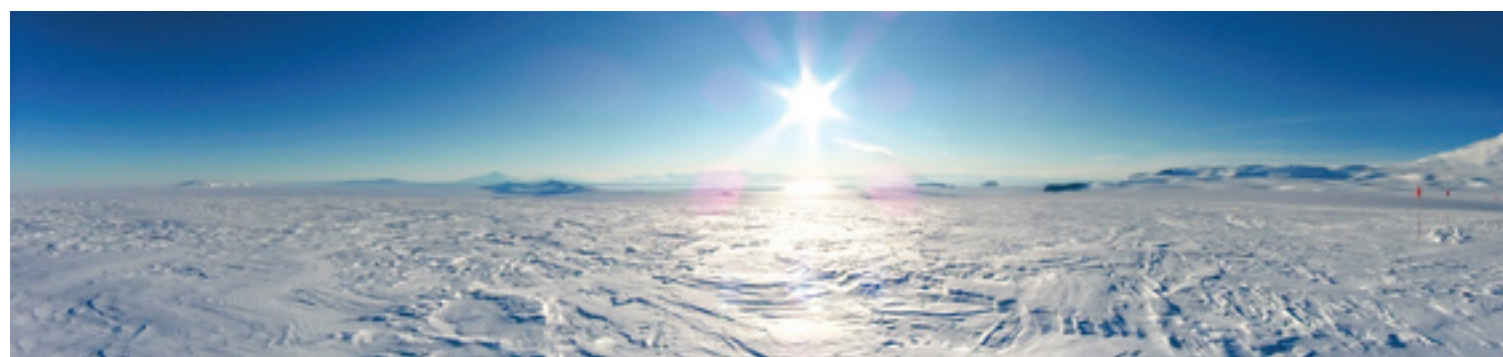
Ultrasound sheds light on seal reproduction

From Page 2

at 45 to 60 pounds and are only with their mothers for six weeks max. At the end of that they're 200 pounds, so they pile the weight on."

For Adams, who specializes in animal and human reproductive science, the road to Antarctica started 20 years ago through a successful collaboration with Ward Testa at the University of Alaska using ultrasound to look at moose. Further studies with Yukon and Alaska government agencies with caribou paved the way for an invitation to examine northern fur seals off the coast of Alaska's Pribilof Islands.

"It turns out the ultrasound procedure works well with wild pinnipeds (seals and their like) in the field—under conditions just as harsh as with the ungulates; that is, cold and snowy," Adams said. "It appears word is now out among Alaska biologists that this 'new' procedure is very accurate and informative for studies of population dynamics of wild



species and is non-invasive and safe."

The word spread to Burns, who was searching for a way to fill in a gap in her data.

"She asked if I would be a co-investigator on an NSF-funded project on Weddell seals in Antarctica," he said. "Sure!"

One challenge was the time required—about six weeks. This was more than Adams could fit in among his other research and teaching commitments, so he called McCorkell, his former PhD student and an experienced veterinarian.

The two visited Vancouver Aquarium to get McCorkell

some hands-on experience with pinnipeds before heading south—a 16-hour trip to Christchurch, New Zealand, followed by another eight hours via U.S. Air Force Hercules transport plane "salted around the cargo like garnish."

Adams and McCorkell now split up their Antarctic duties, with each taking a three-week shift. They have also trained Shero, a post-graduate fellow from the University of Alaska, to do the procedure.

While they have begun to fill in some blanks in Burns' data on energy use in Weddell seals, they have also discovered some intriguing quirks in the world's



southernmost mammal.

One concern is diapause, a poorly understood phenomenon where an animal will conceive, the embryo starts to develop, but then stops. It stays in this state of suspended animation for a while, then re-starts, ostensibly to time birthing at a time of the year

where they have better chance of survival.

"To date, it is thought that all seal species have embryonic diapause," Adams said. "However, our work in Weddell seals challenges that notion. If they have diapause at all, it is extremely short." ■

IMAGES OF RESEARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

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PHOTO CREDIT:

Matthew Lindsay, 2015 winning entry

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A career case

Terri Karpish is the link between law students and legal employers.

"In law school, there are lots of opportunities for students not only to study, but develop skills to help them be a lawyer," she said.

As the career services officer in the College of Law, she provides services and support for students and equips them with the essential information to ensure gainful legal careers after they graduate.

"Legal recruitment is so specified to that profession," said Karpish. "It's a technical process governed in each province differently, so I help them with that process."

To ensure students begin their legal careers on the right foot, Karpish holds a weekly workshop series during the academic year that covers pertinent topics, such as choosing a practice area, the recruitment and application process, mock interviews, dress code and etiquette, maintaining an online presence, and strategies to deal with potential job stress. The workshops proved so helpful they were built into the students' timetable, "so if they were to look at it they would think it was a class."

Karpish also facilitates several related events for the college, including career fairs and guest speakers—allowing students the opportunity to engage with the legal community before they have their degree in hand. This also includes travelling throughout the province to meet with firms in smaller towns and cities to experience practicing law in a smaller community. "They learn a little more about what it's like to practice outside of the city," she said.

Originally from Prince Albert, Karpish joined the college in 2005 after practicing law in her hometown for 13 years. She has maintained her legal license and keeps connected to the profession. "It's a small, tight-knit community."

An alumni of the college herself, Karpish enjoys working with students who, more often than never, she sees not long after they graduate.

"It's almost full-circle to see the students, then they become lawyers, then come back to recruit," she said.

