



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

The University of Saskatchewan held the annual Graduation Powwow on May 31, celebrating the achievements of Indigenous students from the U of S and Saskatchewan high schools. Many of the U of S participants went on to take part in spring convocation ceremonies on June 5-8. We showcase a few of this year's impressive graduates in this month's OCN.

SEE PAGES 8-9.



PRESTON CROSSING **3**

GIFS SCHOLARSHIP **7**

THE GREAT WAR **11**

On Campus News is published 12 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*.

We acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

NEWS EDITOR

James Shewaga

WRITERS

HenryTye Glazebrook
Chris Morin
Lesley Porter

DESIGNERS

Brian Kachur
Pierre Wilkinson

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Patrick Hayes
Fiona Haynes
Sandra Ribeiro
Sharon Scott
Stephen Urquhart
David York

ISSN: 1195-7654

PUBLICATIONS MAIL
AGREEMENT NO. 40065156

Return undeliverable addresses to:

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
G16 THORVALDSON BUILDING
110 SCIENCE PLACE
SASKATOON, SK S7N 5C9

Email: news@usask.ca

Root returns to lead Fedoruk Centre

A familiar face has returned to the University of Saskatchewan to lead the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation.

Following an extensive national search, John Root was appointed executive director of the Fedoruk Centre on May 1.

“John Root, who served as the Fedoruk Centre’s founding director and is director of the Canadian Neutron Beam Centre, is the right choice to lead the centre as Saskatchewan takes its place among global leaders in nuclear research, development and training through investment in partnerships with academia and industry,” said Engin Özberk, recently elected chair of the Fedoruk Centre’s board of directors.

Root, who heads the National Research Council’s Canadian Neutron Beam Centre at Chalk River, Ont., was the first director of the Fedoruk Centre from 2011 to 2014 and chaired the centre’s board of directors until 2016.

Located on the U of S campus,

“Under John’s highly regarded leadership, the Fedoruk Centre will continue advancing the province’s legacy of world-class nuclear-related research.”

Karen Chad

the Fedoruk Centre is a not-for-profit corporation that is wholly owned by the university and funded by the provincial government through Innovation Saskatchewan. While the Fedoruk Centre does not itself perform in-house research, it funds nuclear research and training projects in Saskatchewan and operates the university’s cyclotron-based facility that produces isotopes and radiopharmaceuticals for use in clinical diagnostics, and human, animal and plant research.

To date, the centre has contributed more than \$4 million to 28 research projects and invested \$8.3 million in building academic research programs in nuclear imaging for life sciences, policy development and decision-making

for nuclear science and technology.

Since 2016, the Fedoruk Centre has led the production of medical isotopes for the province. Proposals for Fedoruk Centre funding are invited from Saskatchewan institutions and are evaluated by subject-matter experts from outside the province to inform decisions on ranking and approval.

The appointment of the new executive director was approved by the U of S Board of Governors. Root succeeds Neil Alexander, executive director from 2014 until last fall. Kevin Schneider, interim associate vice-president research, has since served as interim executive director.

With a PhD in physics from University of Guelph, Root has co-authored more than 100 peer-re-

viewed articles. His work has been cited more than 1,700 times, and he was elected as a Fellow of the Neutron Scattering Society of America last year for his leadership in the Canadian neutron scattering community.

“Under John’s highly regarded leadership, the Fedoruk Centre will continue advancing the province’s legacy of world-class nuclear-related research that dates back to the cobalt-60 cancer therapy work of U of S researchers Harold Johns and Sylvia Fedoruk,” said U of S Vice-President Research Karen Chad, who is vice-chair of the Fedoruk Centre board.

“He will do this by building partnerships for a network of facilities and expertise that will advance Saskatchewan’s capability for creating social and economic benefits in areas such as nuclear medicine, and materials research with nuclear methods, as well as better understanding the public policy, environmental and social aspects of nuclear technologies.” ■



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A lot happens at the U of S during the weeks when *On Campus News* isn’t published. Here are a few of the top stories from news.usask.ca:

Engineering for Indigenous youth

The University of Saskatchewan was awarded nearly \$150,000 in federal funding to teach Indigenous youth about engineering principles underlying the technologies and designs in their own communities. A grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada PromoScience Program will invest \$147,474 in the project over three years.

U of S partners with SESAME

U of S delegates attended the opening ceremony of the new SESAME synchrotron facility in Jordan on May 16, the largest scientific project in the Middle East. Canada was granted observer status on the SESAME Council, opening the door for collaboration and research initiatives between Middle Eastern scientists and their colleagues at the Canadian Light Source facility at the U of S.

Chartrand joins Native Law Centre

The College of Law has named Larry Chartrand as academic director of the Native Law Centre, effective July 1. Martin Phillipson, dean of the College of Law, described professor Chartrand as one of the leading Indigenous law academics in Canada. Chartrand had taught in the University of Ottawa Common Law Section since 1994, and became a full professor in 2014.

Dunbar takes on leadership role

Danielle Dunbar is set to take a leadership role in University Relations. Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president, University Relations, announced May 16 that Dunbar will join the U of S as associate vice-president, development, and chief development officer, beginning July 4. Dunbar currently serves as executive director of alumni and advancement at University of Manitoba.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: news.usask.ca @usask

Supporting students

Preston Crossing development expansion enhances U of S scholarships

 JAMES SHEWAGA

The University of Saskatchewan's partnership with one of Saskatoon's premier shopping centres is paying big dividends for U of S students.

The fifth and final phase of the successful Preston Crossing development is nearing completion, with 15 new tenants opening their doors this year to bring the major shopping centre to a total of 40 stores, services and restaurants on the 70-acre parcel of land owned by the U of S. Lease arrangements with the developer have generated more than \$17 million for student scholarships, bursaries and initiatives.

"We think it has been really successful," said Judy Yungwirth, U of S director of corporate administration. "When we started, our vision was to leverage the value of our land to generate revenue for priorities of the university. Student scholarships were identified as a priority at the time. It has exceeded our financial expectations and it's become a hugely successful shopping centre."

The final phase of expansion—developed in partnership with Ronmor Developers Inc.—will add 100,000 square feet of retail space to the shopping centre, bringing the total to 850,000. While previous phases were developed around anchor tenants including Canadian Tire, Walmart, Rona, Sobeys and Cabela's, the fifth phase—known as Preston West—features smaller stores and services in a walkable village-style atmosphere.

"It has a very different feel," said Yungwirth. "With the smaller stores our development partner could do a lot more with the layout and it's more like a shopping village, rather than a large store that you pull up and park in front of."

The developer is also pleased with how the final piece of the



An architectural rendering of the newly rebranded Shop usask store, set to open soon at Preston Crossing.

 SUBMITTED

NEW PRESTON CROSSING TENANTS:

Projected opening:

BarBurrito (restaurant)	August
Bed Bath & Beyond (home décor)	October
Booster Juice (restaurant)	Now open
Fatburger (restaurant)	July
GoodLife Fitness (fitness centre)	September
Jump.ca (wireless service provider)	Now open
Lammlie's (western apparel)	August
Little Sheep Mongolian Hot Pot (restaurant)	September
Party City (party costumes, rentals)	July
Premium Label Outlet (apparel)	Now open
Press'd The Sandwich Co. (restaurant)	Now open
Skechers Factory Outlet (footwear)	Now open
Starbucks (coffee shop)	Now open
Shop usask store (apparel)	July
Sobeys Liquor	August

Preston Crossing puzzle has come together.

"We're really pleased with how things have gone," said Ryan Darragh, director of leasing and development for Ronmor Developers Inc.

"We're excited about some of the concepts that we've integrated into the site and it's very pedestrian-friendly. We're pleased with the tenant mix and there are a number of them that are new to the market,

which is always exciting. So we're pretty pleased with our lineup."

Along with a health club and five additional quick service restaurants, the expansion will also be home to the newly rebranded U of S merchandise and apparel store, which is slated to open this summer.

"I think it's great exposure for us as it's in a great location and we have received lots of positive comments from the public, from having it available in our development," said Yungwirth.

Construction of the Preston Crossing development—Saskatoon's largest regional shopping centre—began back in 2002, with the first stores opening in 2004, and work on the final phase starting in 2015. Lease revenue covered the university's initial investment in infrastructure for water, sewer and roadway construction and preparation of the land for development, with profits



Yungwirth

now providing the U of S \$1.8 million per year for student scholarships and priorities, according to Yungwirth.

"We think it's a great model," said Yungwirth. "We put our land together with private sector development expertise to create a very successful retail development. The city is pleased with it as it is a significant generator of property taxes and employment. It's a very attractive shopping centre with a unique tenant mix that serves the regional area as well as the Saskatoon market. And the tenants are happy since it is one of the premier locations." ■

University making difficult budget decisions

The effects of one of the largest provincial funding cuts in the history of the University of Saskatchewan are starting to be felt across campus.

The U of S has reached agreement with the 1,100-strong Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association (ASPA) to offer options for some members who wish to apply for the voluntary exit program.

The program, which will be offered until June 30, is a key part of administration's efforts to find

budget savings in salaries and benefits through attrition and voluntary options first, to help make up for the 5.6 per cent provincial funding cut to the U of S.

Decisions to accept applications for ASPA and exempt staff voluntary options will be made on a case-by-case basis by the dean or senior leaders, with support from Human Resources and Financial Services, according to Cheryl Carver, associate vice-president human resources.

Negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 1975 executive were not successful, while the university remains in ongoing discussions with the U of S Faculty Association.

In another announcement, the university has confirmed that six staff positions will be lost due to the closure of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, after annual targeted funding for the research centre was eliminated in this year's provincial budget.

While the centre is scheduled to close on June 15, the Johnson Shomaya Graduate School of Public Policy will administer the centre's current master's programs in order for current students to complete their courses.

The university is also in ongoing discussions with funding partners to maintain important financial support for students focused on northern research areas of study.

"While we are deeply disheart-

ened by the recent loss of provincial government funding for the centre, we will not be deterred from our important work alongside the people of Saskatchewan's northern communities," U of S President Peter Stoicheff stated.

Meanwhile, the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning is scheduled to ask the U of S Board of Governors at the June 19-20 meeting to run a deficit for the 2017-18 academic year to help deal with the budget shortfall. ■

Restructuring will offer financial relief

A long-planned restructuring in the finance and resources portfolio that has been a year in the making is being implemented to improve service and provide cost savings at the U of S.

The streamlining process, a major project headed by Greg Fowler, vice-president finance and resources, will consolidate seven units into four while reducing 25 per cent of the leadership complement and eliminating a total of 15 positions from the 1,200 members in the division.

"This change is about people working together to provide service that has a positive impact on the university's core mission," said Fowler. "We know we have not always met the university's needs—we are focused on improving that.



Fowler

We will be successful when people say 'you make it easier for me to do my job.'"

Fowler said the changes are designed to eliminate duplication, align services and reduce errors and wait times, while also saving

the university close to \$2.7 million annually, beginning in 2018-19.

"Although our planning began long before the current budget situation facing the university, we have and must consider budget implications in all of our decisions," Fowler said.

The seven business areas in the portfolio (Customer Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Facilities Management, Corporate Administration, and ConnectionPoint) will now be integrated into four: People and Resources, Information Technology, Services, and Strategic Projects. The streamlining will result in trimming associate vice-president positions from four to three, director positions from 24 to 19, and manager positions from 72 to 50. ■

Federal funding for livestock and forage centre

The U of S has received \$4.47-million in federal government funding to help construct the planned Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE).

The announcement was made May 26 on campus by David Lametti, parliamentary secretary to Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Devel-

opment and minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada, the funding agency for the grant. The funding is being allocated to the university through a partnership with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, which is the initial recipient of the federal grant.

The LFCE will consist of two

new facilities on U of S land designed to address forage, cow-calf, beef cattle, and environmental research. The facilities will unite all areas of livestock and forage research under a single complex of field laboratories and science labs at a cost of \$37.5 million. The LFCE project is expected to be completed in 2018. ■



Across the street from the University of Saskatchewan, and only a 10-minute walk to downtown, Refresh Inn & Suites offers Saskatoon's perfect central location.

All guests are guaranteed immaculately clean and quiet rooms featuring temperature control, four-piece ensuite washroom, mini-fridge, free Wi-Fi and Netflix, and complimentary coffee and tea.

All suites also have access to a common gourmet kitchen with all the amenities, from fridge and stove to toaster and microwave.

Treat yourself to our amazing complimentary continental breakfast offering a variety of items that is sure to please (including gluten-free, diabetic and lactose-free options).

refresh
INN & SUITES

306.934.5555

Email: refreshinn@sasktel.net
www.refreshinnandsuites.com

1220 College Drive • Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W4 • Toll Free: 1-855-493-7374

Mushroom cap and shield: Professor uses fungi to protect against radiation

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Ekaterina Dadachova is the Chair in Radiopharmacy at the Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation at the U of S.

University of Saskatchewan researcher Ekaterina Dadachova wants military services to put mushrooms on their menu.

Fungi such as mushrooms contain a high quantity of melanin, a dark brown or black pigment which provides colour and helps protect them from harsh environments such as those found in areas of radiation exposure.

If Dadachova's current research moves forward into practical application, that melanin could mean a new avenue of radiation protection

for soldiers.

"The published work from ours and other groups has shown that when mice were fed black mushrooms, which are widely used in Chinese and other cuisines, they were protected from really high doses of external radiation," Dadachova said. "It's not like you can eat a mushroom and be protected forever, but if you experience a

radiation influx while the mushroom's melanin is in your digestive tract, it protects it from really high doses of radiation."

Dadachova, a pharmacy and nutrition professor who is also the Chair in Radiopharmacy at the Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation, currently has two research projects on fungi-produced melanin. The studies are being funded by two grants—a combined total of \$700,000 USD per year for three years—through the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA),

which is a part of the United States Department of Defense.

It's hoped that the first project will harness the melanin from fungi to produce protection from radioactive materials.

"It's not unlikely that military personnel could find themselves in some kind of situation where there are elevated levels of radiation, maybe after a radiological accident or, God forbid, after a nuclear event," she said. "The DTRA has an interest in developing fundamental research which can, in the future,

benefit more applied research to be used for personnel."

Though the project is aimed at military application, Dadachova said it has just as much potential for use in nuclear energy and medicine.

"If a person develops cancer and they go for radiation therapy, they sometimes lose the ability to eat, to swallow, because of the side effects of radiation," said Dadachova, adding that melanin could help protect the fragile organs of the digestive system.

SEE DADACHOVA, PAGE 15

www.edwardsmba.ca

REDEFINE YOURSELF

The Edwards Master of Business Administration program is a transformational experience that focuses around team-building, leadership and business strategy. You will learn the people skills of management such as how to manage, how to communicate effectively, and how to lead. Our students develop management skills that are both integrative and strategic, gaining a deeper understanding of organizations and their local and global context. Graduates then enter their professional endeavors with confidence, integrity and accountability. Faculty and colleagues within the Edwards MBA program will become valuable business contacts and life-long friends. **APPLY NOW!**



EDWARDS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

LEARN, PLAY AND WORK. SAFELY

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy, safe and secure work and study environment. This includes the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses.

In 2010, the university became a partner in occupational injury prevention by signing the Saskatchewan Health & Safety Leadership Charter and by adopting *Mission: Zero*. It is our pledge to reduce workplace injuries. As a place of discovery and home to a global community of students, faculty, staff, researchers and visitors, we are steadfast in promoting a culture of safety on our campuses.



Continuous improvement in workplace safety is up to all of us. A healthy work and learning environment is a principle that guides us—in our classrooms, laboratories, offices, buildings, workshops and facilities.

The university strives for a safe and healthy campus environment by providing the proper equipment, training, services and support. Through proactive risk reduction practices and policies, we will ensure that all members of the university community are accountable for workplace health, safety and environment management.

Workplace injuries are often predictable and preventable. As a campus community, we share a responsibility to ensure a safe learning and work environment. At the end of the day, we want everyone to be able to go home safely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Stoicheff".

Peter Stoicheff
President and Vice-Chancellor



Global implications for new GIFS scholarship

 SARA ALEXANDER

Dr. Patrick Man Pan Yuen was just a teenager when he came to Canada from Hong Kong to study, first as a high school student in Montreal before heading west to Saskatoon to study medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Now, six decades later, Yuen still fondly remembers his time on campus and his mentor, Dr. Donald Baxter, and is giving back to his alma mater by establishing a major scholarship for graduate students at the U of S.

On June 1, the university announced Yuen's gift of \$1-million to establish a scholarship fund in the name of Baxter, to help graduate students from mainland China and Hong Kong study at the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS).

"Throughout my medical career, I have come to the conclusion a medical doctor can really save relatively few of his patients in his lifetime," Yuen said. "By offering to help set up research in increasing

food production to combat hunger, far more lives can be saved. I cannot think of a better place in the world than the University of Saskatchewan in fulfilling my wishes."

The Dr. Donald Baxter Scholarships in Global Food Security will be awarded to high-achieving graduate students undertaking research at the U of S in areas such as seed and developmental biology, root-soil-microbial interactions, and related digital and computational agriculture.

In the event that there are no suitable candidates from mainland China or Hong Kong, the scholarships can be awarded to qualified Canadian students to carry out research in China.

"This is the largest donor-funded graduate scholarship ever offered at the U of S and we are extremely grateful to Dr. Yuen for making this major investment in young academic talent that will advance our global research collab-



Dr. Patrick Man Pan Yuen graduated from the U of S in 1964.

 DANIEL HALLEN

oration in our signature area of food security," said U of S Vice-President Research Karen Chad.

The \$1-million gift will be matched by the Global Institute for Food Security through an annual contribution of \$40,000 for 25 years. Each year, one to two graduate students from either mainland China or Hong Kong will each be

awarded \$40,000 per year to study at the U of S for up to three years under the supervision of a GIFS researcher.

"This very generous gift will ensure that we make the most of productive collaborations and the talents of graduates from both countries working together, in pursuit of a common goal: to bring global food security to both

developed and developing regions for future generations," said Maurice Moloney, GIFS executive director and CEO.

The scholarship fund is a tribute to the professor who meant so much to Yuen during his time at the U of S.

A celebrated neurologist, Baxter trained at Boston City Hospital and taught at Harvard Medical School, before joining the U of S medical faculty in 1957. Baxter supervised Yuen when Yuen was a second-year medical student, and they worked together on a research project whose results were later published in a 1963 paper in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*.

"I remember I was completely thrilled. Fancy you already have a publication in an international journal when you are only a medical student," said Yuen.

SEE DR. YUEN, PAGE 14



BE ACTIVE

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Kinesiology
KINESIOLOGY.USASK.CA

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CAMPS

Ages 5-12 and a variety of camps to choose from. We have something for everyone

JULY 4 to AUGUST 25

AQUATICS

Spring and Summer lessons for all ages. Leadership programs and BOAT courses

JULY 4 – SEPT 8

DANCE

Summer dance camps now available. Mornings/afternoons or all day. Ages 4-6 and 7-11

JULY 10 – JULY 28

REGISTRATION INFO:

Online: beactive.usask.ca
Phone: 306-966-1001

(Space is limited, so register soon)

Master's degree a family first for Absher

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Before they came to Canada, Nafisa Absher's family spent years moving through the Middle East in search of a home.

Though her upbringing was steeped in Somali culture, Absher and her siblings have never set foot in the country in which their roots lay. Instead, their formative years were spread across Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Syria before they were able to secure a permanent home in Canada.

And through it all, the then-13-year-old Absher gained a profound appreciation for the single mother who strained and toiled ceaselessly to give her children opportunities that she never had.

"My mom worked really hard to make sure that, even though things were difficult, we never felt like we were living in poverty or being discriminated against," said the University of Saskatchewan master's student. "She always made sure that we were comfortable and felt like we were at home.

"Now that I'm older and have talked to her, I'm realizing that the stuff she's been through is beyond my mind. I feel so grateful for my mom to have gone through all that for us to be here, and for me to sit here today and say I'm getting my master's and I'm the first woman in my family to attain post-secondary education."

Absher's family found a home in Regina, where she attended high school and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Regina. From there, she looked to the U of S as the place where she could



Nafisa Absher, a member of the Graduate Students' Association, completed her Master of Public Health program at the U of S this year.

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

pursue her master's in the School of Public Health, without straying too far from the family she holds so dear.

"I've always had a passion to improve the health of marginalized communities with an integrative approach, and I wanted to pursue a career that would enable me to address health inequities from a population level," said Absher, who completed the Master of Public Health program this year and received her degree at spring convocation.

Coming from the U of R was difficult at first for Absher, who says the U of S proved a larger and more daunting school at the outset. Feeling that graduate students are often isolated from campus activities, Absher became involved with the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) as a way of carving out a place on campus and helping to build

“ My mom worked really hard to make sure that, even though things were difficult, we never felt like we were living in poverty or being discriminated against.

Nafisa Absher

community among fellow graduate students.

By her final year, Absher was helping lead the GSA as its vice-president operations and communications. This past year, Absher focused on the internal operations of the GSA, including the supervision of the staff, co-ordinating the GSA bursary selection process, overseeing the implementation of additional programs and services, and advocating for additional financial support for graduate students.

Absher recalls her final year of study fondly, when as the recipient of the Dr. James Rossiter MPH Practicum Award, she took on a 12-week placement with Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health branch in Regina.

Absher said the experience was one of the highlights of her school year, as she conducted interviews to help build a framework for developing a comprehensive regional surveillance plan. The resulting data could then be used to empower

Indigenous communities to improve and protect their own health and well-being.

"It really did reaffirm my passion for working with underserved communities and working in the area of health inequities, and doing it from the point of view of epidemiology and health policy," she said.

These days, Absher is reflecting on the influence her mother's experience has had on her upbringing, stretching from her beginnings a half a world away and through to her chosen career-path today.

"She makes me more passionate about the work that I'm in, and makes me want to work even harder to help people who are going through similar experiences and feel they don't have a voice—to offer my support," she said. ■



Edwards School of Business student Rashid Ahmed immigrated to Canada from Pakistan in 2012.

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Pakistan to the Prairies:

Edwards student celebrates long journey to U of S degree

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Until he came to Saskatoon, religious persecution was an everyday part of Rashid Ahmed's life.

Ahmed and his family were no strangers to violent, menacing treatment in their home country of Pakistan, where federal law excised their Ahmadiyya Muslim faith as illegitimate and lowered their status, legally and socially, in comparison to their fellow citizens.

"One day, some guys came and they told my family, 'If you would not leave this house, we will kill your son or your husband,'" Ahmed said. "My brother at the time was not in the house and my father was at work, fortunately, but still they threatened my mom and my sister. When I heard that story, I asked them to leave that place right away. That's not a good place to live."

After earning a degree in finance but finding little in the way of work, Ahmed left Pakistan behind in 2012, immigrating to Canada as a land of new opportunities. Today he's a proud alum of the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business, graduating this spring with a degree in human resources. This year, in addition to being a U of S grad, he's happy to say he will also become a full Canadian citizen.

Ahmed fell to his lowest point in his second year of school, an ocean away from his family and nearly completely incapable of helping them. But instead of giving in to thoughts of dropping out, he sought out ways to give back, taking on volunteer opportunities with the likes of Feed the Homeless, the

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, and 5 Days for the Homeless, to meet new people and raise his spirits.

"I don't think there was a weekend when I missed doing volunteer work," he said, adding that his volunteerism culminated in being given the U of S Students' Union Vera Pezer Award. "I was involved with different activities in Saskatoon because I believe that if you help others, God will help you."

Ahmed is perhaps most satisfied with his work as president of the U of S branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association (AMSA), a nationwide organization that aims to provide guidance and outreach opportunities for those of the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith.

SEE AHMED, PAGE 15

Distributed learning sites model a perfect fit for nursing graduate

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Ever since she was a little girl, Kristy Mirasty had a knack for caregiving.

She remembers watching her grandfather struggle to balance a healthy lifestyle with his diagnosis as a Type 1 diabetic. As she was only a child at the time, all she could do in these moments was to try to monitor his food intake.

"He was insulin dependent, which means he had to give himself insulin daily and I had many opportunities to help him make healthy eating choices," Mirasty said. "I have always wanted to help people with all different illnesses. Helping them makes me feel good, knowing that they are satisfied with their care."

Now, Mirasty has turned that lifelong passion for helping others into a career path.

This spring, Mirasty graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. But unlike many of her fellow graduating students, Mirasty never took classes on the U of S campus in Saskatoon. Instead, the institution's distributed learning sites model—designed to help serve the needs of students in the North—made it possible for her to do the entirety of her degree at home in La Ronge, where she could remain with her family.

"I did not want to move my family and I knew that it would be hard for me as I would not have any support in Saskatoon," she said, adding that the model actually made her feel more involved in her degree. "Distributed learning made my learning experience interesting and unique because almost everything was through technology and I felt that our instructors



Mirasty

were more involved with us."

Mirasty is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the largest First Nation in the province. She is also the proud recipient of an Aboriginal Student Achievement Award, which was given to her in recognition of her leadership and academic success.

"I think that this award just made me realize that I have accomplished a lot in the last year of nursing, and I had many opportunities that I was involved in and did not recognize how much these opportunities help me grow as a student and future nurse."

With her studies behind her, Mirasty is excited to join the workforce and start putting her education to use for people who, much like her grandfather in her younger years, need guidance and support for their health. But, just as when she started planning for university, what's most important is her family.

"I am unsure of where I want to work, but I prefer to be close to home because I have supports here. When I need to work 12-hour shifts, my family could help with the kids." ■

21ST ANNUAL U OF S APPRECIATION PICNIC

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

11 am – 2 pm

**Thank you to staff and
faculty for all their work and
effort this past year.**

Employees are encouraged to bring their
families for treats and activities.

Students are welcome to join the fun.



\$2 Hot dog combo

**\$3 Burger or veggie
burger combo**

All combos include a
beverage and dessert.



**Bring your
reusable water
bottle.**



**If it rains,
the event will be
on Wednesday,
June 14.**



**If you're a
shift worker,
meet us in Marquis
Hall from 6 – 7 pm on
Tuesday, June 13.**



**There will be
photographs taken.**

You can also take your
own. Be sure to tag #usask.



Rahat Yasir (left) and Rashid Chowdhury won the Emerging Agriculture Hackathon at the U of S.

 HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Students' app maps crop health

 HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

A few months ago, Rahat Yasir visited a farmer from Tisdale. He listened as the man spoke of walking through the crops, painstakingly inspecting for signs of crop disease, pest infestation and areas in need of herbicide or fertilizer.

The process may be a far cry from the work expected of a first-year master's student in computer science at the University of Saskatchewan, but it is vital for Yasir, a young developer working on a mobile application that will help farmers survey crop health with unheard of efficiency.

"They are still doing the manual process," Yasir said. "They are walking through the fields and checking each individual leaf to see if there are visual changes, and then they apply medicine all over the land. If they use our system, they won't need to do that."

Yasir is building the project, a mobile application dubbed Project Beetle, in partnership with fellow first-year computer science master's student Rashid Chowdhury. It is designed as an easy-to-use application for mobile phones that will allow farmers direct access to diagnostic

information, identifying potential diseases through visual changes in their crops and predicting when and where larger outbreaks may occur.

One needs only to take a photo of a leaf and wait a few moments as the app scans it and provides a detailed breakdown of possible health issues, including potential diseases and nutritional information, as well as an estimate of how much of the surrounding crop is similarly affected.

In January, the app earned first place in the Emerging Agriculture Hackathon. The contest, an annual event hosted by the U of S Junior Chamber of Commerce, brings together students of technology and agriculture to compete and collaborate on computer programming and related projects.

"We started almost four years ago," Yasir said. "This project was originally designed for rice paddy crop diseases, then for this emerging Agriculture Hackathon we have updated the software, added predictive analysis, and at the same time we have made it universal, so that it can predict any type of crop diseases

for any type of crops."

Project Beetle works through the use of artificial neural networks, which have made it possible for Yasir and Chowdhury to compress the entirety of their informational database on different crop diseases directly within the app itself. The result is an app that functions even without access to internet, though it does become more expansive when running online.

The next steps are to hopefully partner with others working in similar areas, or with government agencies from which the duo will be granted even greater access to data on crop diseases.

"If there is an existing system that's already supporting problems, we could do a collaboration," Yasir said. "Our tool is very handy and they could integrate it with their own very easily. And at the same time, our system would get access to their data. It would be a perfect collaboration. Once we get more data, our system will start to show us amazing results."

SEE PROJECT, PAGE 15

The Great War: Profoundly altering the U of S

CHRIS MORIN

Like many communities across Canada, the University of Saskatchewan's campus community was devastated by the loss of students, staff and faculty during The Great War, with 350 serving and 69 losing their lives in combat.

Fought in trenches far from the Prairies, the ripples of the First World War, which broke out in Europe on July 28, 1914, suddenly became an everyday part of student life. These events would also prove to irrevocably alter the course of the university.

The impact of these events can be seen in the new exhibit *Deo et Patriae - For God and Country: The University of Saskatchewan and The Great War*, part of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre's efforts to commemorate The Great War. The exhibit officially opened on April 9, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

While U of S students, staff and faculty fought in the ground forces, there were those who expected that technological advancements would turn the tide of the war. These priorities were emphasized in the classroom, something that shifted the identity of the U of S and left a legacy that we still see 100 years later, according to Kendra Schreiner, senior docent and special projects assistant with the Diefenbaker Centre.

"There was a marked shift in focus (at the university) from arts to science and research, with an emphasis on agriculture," said



Kendra Schreiner, senior docent and special projects assistant with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, in front of the new Great War display.

CHRIS MORIN

Schreiner. "And we can see that importance continuing today."

Throughout the exhibit are scenes of a time when the university became a recruiting ground, when it was not unusual to see students in the Bowl training in preparation to fight alongside allied forces.

"We also saw the role of women change during this time," said Schreiner. "With so many of the men leaving campus to fight in the war, the university saw more women step up to fill those vacated roles."

There were other traditions that

were started during The Great War. In order to keep a sense of normalcy going during the war, Schreiner said university staff started Frosh Week, a more extreme version of the Welcome Week that we have now.

Drawing from university archives and collections, the exhibit tells a more localized version of the story of our role in The Great War, with photos and artifacts that highlight the contribution of those on campus and those who fought overseas. In addition to the 69 lives lost, nearly 100 soldiers from the U of S

were wounded and 35 were awarded medals of valour, with the College of Engineering closing for the 1916-17 academic year after so many faculty members and students enlisted.

For Schreiner, the exhibit offers a perspective that's far removed from the university experience of today.

"The war was something that was very close to the university in that the students who attended at that time were in many ways expected to go overseas and fight—something we wouldn't be expected to do anymore," she said.

And while the exhibit paints a poignant picture of an era and experience from a century ago, the legacy should not be lost on those on campus today, said Schreiner.

Names of those who served, and those who were lost, are forever remembered, cast in stone memorials that can be found across campus, such as those inscribed on the walls of the Peter MacKinnon Building.

Deo et Patriae - For God and Country: The University of Saskatchewan and The Great War is on display until December 15. ■



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

remember us



Turning the page with new dean of university library

✍️ HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Melissa Just doesn't want to advance the stereotype of librarians as eternal readers, rarely spotted without glasses pushed up on their nose and their face buried in a book.

The only problem is that Just, who recently joined the University of Saskatchewan as dean of the university library, is herself an insatiable reader.

"Being a reader and being a librarian, those things are not intrinsically connected," she said. "My concern is that I love to read. I read voraciously. I feel like I learn so much from stories, whether they're contemporary or historical fiction, narrative nonfiction or even mysteries, because the best ones take

you to a place beyond what you live and know every day."

Just's hobby will likely help her feel right at home during her five-year term at the U of S. In the months since she began her new role on Feb. 1, she has developed a fond appreciation for the staff and faculty she's worked with and all they've done to situate the library as it is today.

The result, she said, is an organization that's already well-positioned to take confident strides forward.

"I feel fortunate to come to a place where the library is already doing good things, and I get to build on that instead of having to focus only on remedial work to

get the library to the place where it is already," said Just, who joined the U of S from Rutgers University where she was serving as the associate vice-president for information services and director of New Brunswick Libraries.

With the library currently in

the final stages of completing a multi-year process of transformation inquiry—looking at available spaces and discussing how to adapt and improve them—Just is excited to help guide long-term developments and planning.

Just said the hope is to renew the library's ability to encourage learning in current and future generations alike.

"A lot of great work and conversation has already happened," she said. "A master space plan has been developed, and we are currently in the process of taking our findings back to the groups we consulted with earlier in the process to see if what we heard and what we've come up with resonates with what they said."

When she first started exploring the U of S as a career option, well into the interview process, Just was encouraged by the overall attitude toward the library. Since accepting her position, she's happily discovered that her expectations align with reality.

"The thing that was most appealing to me was—and continues to be—the way that the library is seen, valued and positioned on campus," she said. "Everybody spoke very highly of the library. There's clear engagement between the library and the library dean with

other colleges, deans and administrators. Collegiality feels woven into the fabric at the U of S."

Just looked to the university's Mission, Vision and Values statement, a document recently updated to outline foundational driving concepts at the U of S, as one example of how she sees the library working in stride with the institution as a whole.

"One of the principals in the Mission, Vision and Values document is about different ways of knowing, learning and being," she said. "I think this is exactly what libraries do. Libraries support the different ways that our students and our faculty build knowledge, satisfy their curiosity, and create community with each other in our spaces."

Excited as she is to be in her new role, Just's first day in Canada was a bit of an icier welcome than she was hoping for—literally.

Having left a home in New Jersey to relocate to Saskatoon, Just wasn't expecting the drastic shift in weather that greeted her in her new home north of the border.

"The weather definitely takes some getting used to," she said, laughing. "The day I moved here, there was a 105F difference between New Jersey and here. It was a lot for one day." ■



Melissa Just officially began her five-year term as the new dean of the University Library on Feb. 1.

✍️ HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK



BOOK WITH US TODAY
USASK.CA/MARQUIS-EVENTS-CENTRE



MARQUIS HALL
EVENTSCENTRE

U of S researcher examines elderly bullying

Age old problem becoming issue for rapidly aging senior population once again

MARG SHERIDAN

Their worlds have already become smaller, in some cases limited to the immediate neighbourhoods surrounding the retirement home.

Men and women who were once mobile, busy and hard-working often find themselves contained by the physical limitations of their aging bodies, a consequence of growing old.

But for some, an old problem returns again as they wind up facing down an opponent they hadn't contemplated in years: the bully.

"This is like bullying occurring in your own home," said Donna Goodridge, a professor in the Department of Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine. "And you may not have any kind of supports because there are (minimal) supports offered in the apartment itself."

Which means there's almost nowhere to hide.

The research being done in Saskatoon is revealing that incidences of peer-to-peer bullying in seniors' communities is prevalent. Bullies are making fun of weight, clothing and appearances, and even mocking the use of physical aides like walking sticks, in the unavoidable common areas in the residences.

In her study, Goodridge and her team found that 39 per cent of respondents admitted to having seen a peer bullied within the past year, with nearly a third confirming that they were personally bullied. And those seniors who had been bullied were self-reporting the same health and mental-health symptoms that their youth counterparts were, with responses ranging from added stress and a sense of embarrassment, to a loss of sleep and sense of worry.

The difference, Goodridge explained, is that there are well-established programs to help try to



Donna Goodridge is a professor in the Department of Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the College of Medicine.

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

curb youth bullying and, in a lot of cases, a bullied youth is more physically able to extricate themselves from the situation because they're more mobile. For bullied seniors, they often have no way of avoiding their tormentors because they either have nowhere to go, or don't have the mobility to leave.

And with a number of seniors fearful to leave their own homes, they start to become susceptible to perceived loneliness or, more worryingly, social isolation.

"Their home is (a) haven," Goodridge continued. "When they're not able to get to their doctors' appointments because they're worried that they might be bullied, they become scared to come out of their apartments and become socially isolated. And social isolation causes all kinds of problems, like premature institutionalization, because they can't support themselves."

“ The number of seniors is going to continue to increase hugely in the coming years. This is something that we need to take a really proactive approach to and create those respectful environments where people do feel safe.

Donna Goodridge

It's an issue that Goodridge expects will only get worse, as Canada's senior population continues to grow. That increase in the number of seniors who will move into retirement complexes as residents who may never have had to live in an apartment-style community are forced to adapt to new social standards.

"The number of seniors is going to continue to increase hugely in the coming years," she stressed. "This is something that we need to take a really proactive approach to and

create those respectful environments where people do feel safe."

Outside of designing retirement communities with an understanding that this is an issue, Goodridge recommends we adapt the anti-bullying strategies that are well established for Canadian youth. Visual reminders, like campaign posters and flyers, encourage respectful environments by stressing that bullying is not acceptable and bring the issue front-and-centre. Creating community rules and standards that broadly define what behaviour is considered to be bullying can also

have an immediate impact.

Several retirement communities in Manitoba have taken steps to encourage mindfulness and self-care by hosting workshops that help residents deal with issues that they do not always have control over. Goodridge and the Saskatoon Council on Aging are currently working with Youville Centre in Winnipeg to develop a common strategy that combines a focus on creating respectful environments, along with developing a mindful approach to living.

"Engaging seniors, hearing about what other things they want to do, is really critical," Goodridge said. "Because as outsiders we can come in and say, 'This is the answer to your problem.' But we really need to hear it from (them)."

Marg Sheridan is an online communications co-ordinator in the College of Medicine.



Babyn

Dr. Paul Babyn's term extended as Unified Head of Department of Medical Imaging, for one-year term from Dec. 1, 2016 to Nov. 30, 2017.

Dr. Jim Barton appointed associate dean, continuing medical education, College of Medicine, for a five-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Don Bergstrom's term as interim dean, College of Engineering, extended for a period of up to one year, beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

Fiona Buchanan appointed the acting head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science for six-month term, for the period of Jan. 1 to June 30, 2017.

James Bugg's term as associate dean, college operations, College of Engineering, extended for a period of up to one year, beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

Danielle Dunbar appointed associate vice-president of development and chief development officer, University Relations, beginning July 4, 2017.

Thomas Ellis appointed acting head



Ferguson



Germida

of the Department of Chemistry for a six-month term, effective Jan. 1 to June 30, 2017.

Linda Ferguson appointed acting associate dean, Central Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Campus, and Academic Health Sciences in College of Nursing, for period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Jim Germida re-appointed vice-provost, Faculty Relations, effective July 1, 2016 to June 20, 2018.

Venkat Gopalakrishnan re-appointed head of the Department of Pharmacology for three-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Liz Harrison's term extended as associate dean, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medicine, from Jan. 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

Safa Kasap, College of Engineering, awarded Centennial Enhancement Chair in Photonics for a five-year term effective May 1, 2017.



Harrison



Low

Nicholas Low appointed acting head of the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences for a six-month term, effective Jan. 1 to June 30, 2017.

Dr. Adel Mohamed re-appointed head of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, College of Medicine, for three-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Emmy Neuls appointed strategist for international relations and circumpolar innovations, International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, effective March 1, 2017.

Dr. Keith Ogle appointed vice-dean, faculty engagement, College of Medicine, for the period of Dec. 1, 2016 to May 31, 2018.

Bruce Sparling appointed associate dean academic, College of Engineering, for a five-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Stella Spriet appointed head of Department of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies, effective Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2019.



Sparling

CONFERENCES

4th annual Saskatchewan Cancer Research Conference

June 14, GB03 Health Sciences Building. Dr. Paul S. Rennie, Director of Laboratory Research, the Vancouver Prostate Centre and professor in the department of urologic sciences at the University of British Columbia will present *Discovery and Drug Targeting of Novel Sites on the Androgen Receptor to Inhibit Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer*. Lunch is provided. For free registration, visit: homepage.usask.ca/~frv603/scrcreg.html

5th annual Protein Structure Function and Malfunction (PSFaM) Symposium

June 14–16, College of Medicine, Health Sciences Building. Keynote speakers include Dr. Cheryl Arrowsmith, University of Toronto; Dr. Chris Overall, University of British Columbia; Dr. Ralph Isberg, Tufts University; and Dr. Michael Tyers, Université de Montréal. To register for free, visit cmcf.lightsource.ca/psfam/registration/

COURSES / WORKSHOPS

Language Classes

For information or to register, visit learn-languages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4355.

- ESL Evening Classes at the Language Centre
- Summer term, July–August. Classes include advanced writing and speaking, graduate-level writing, pronunciation.
- Summer Non–Credit Conversational Language Classes
- Learn, improve, maintain and master your French and Spanish speaking, listening and grammar skills. Classes begin the week of July 4.
- One–week Intensive French Immersion
- Aug. 14–18; 8:30 am–5 pm (one-hour lunch break). Beginner to advanced levels. This week-long program consists of 40 hours of learning. Highlights include: themes, vocabulary and grammar taught with the communicative method. Language lab exercises and group projects and excursions. Guided conversations, discussions and debates. Friday final luncheon will be provided.
- Four–day Intensive Cree Immersion
- Aug. 14–18; 10 am–3 pm (one-hour lunch break). This program offers 16 hours of learning over four days. Highlights include: instruction using the communicative method, experienced teachers, group projects, guided conversations and discussions, and socio-cultural activities. Learn nêhiyawêwin (Cree language) through a practical approach. The lessons inspired by Dr. Stephen Greymorning will provide you with the

skills and appreciation to speak and understand the nêhiyawêwin language through total immersion techniques. This beginner Cree language course will enhance your professional and personal relationships. An ideal course for those with little or no Cree language skills. Must be 18 years old. Textbook included.

Training sessions for new online conferencing tool

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) division is offering training sessions for academic instructors on the new Cisco WebEx system, which will replace BlackBoard Collaborate as of Aug. 1. The new system, which was tested in a pilot project during the past academic term, will be used to broadcast lectures, to host provide meetings and for one-on-one video and audio conversations. ICT is offering in-person and virtual training sessions for instructors throughout the spring and summer. To register for a WebEx session, visit training.usask.ca or contact the ICT Service Desk at servicedesk@usask.ca or 06-966-2222.

MISCELLANY

Wellness Events

For more information, contact wellness-resources@usask.ca or call 306-966-4580. June 21, 9:30–10:30 am, Learning to Relax. Dealing with daily stress can be hard on your body as well as your mind. This workshop will explore a variety of relaxation techniques to calm the body and mind and reduce stress. To register visit usaskrelax.eventbrite.ca. (Free for U of S employees)

Sailing On: A Guide for Transitioning Into Retirement

June 14 and June 28, noon–1 pm. Moving from a career into retirement can be filled with unexpected challenges. Planning what to do with your time, re-examining your living arrangements and staying healthy are some of the areas people don't consider when retiring. The University of Saskatchewan is hosting free webinars for faculty, staff and their families to help those nearing retirement. Registration is required. To register for June 14, visit bit.ly/2r8wObW or bit.ly/2pXTz24 for June 28.

Sunday Mass at STM Chapel

Each Sunday until Oct. 22, 11 am–noon, join the campus ministry team for the celebration of the Eucharist! Come worship God in a welcoming environment with people from the campus community. For more information, visit stmcollege.ca.

**Next OCN: Friday, July 14
Deadline: Tuesday, July 4**

Dr. Yuen pays tribute to former mentor

FROM PAGE 7

Yuen graduated from the College of Medicine in 1964. Following his North American training in general paediatrics, paediatric haematology and oncology, he returned to Hong Kong and became one of the few paediatricians to develop haematology and oncology as a subspecialty, culminating in the establishment of the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre.

In 2007, Yuen was elected as the Outstanding Asian Paediatrician by the Asian Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA). He received the Master Teacher Award for his work in the Faculty of Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and became Professor Emeritus in Paediatrics in 2016.

"Dr. Baxter will always be a great teacher to me, and he is my mentor, I owe him a great deal,"

said Yuen, who credits Baxter with teaching him "the importance of being meticulous and taking pride in everything you do."

Full criteria and application forms for the new scholarship will be available on July 10. ■

Sara Alexander is the director of marketing and stakeholder relations in the Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S.

Dadachova's radiation research may have wide range of applications

FROM PAGE 5

"They cannot eat," Dadachova said. "Some of them die of starvation because they cannot take those feeding tubes, and such cases occur often."

Dadachova's second research project is similar in subject matter, but takes the same fungi and looks at them not as possible protectors from radiation but as signifiers of the material's spread.

Some species of mushroom have developed the unique ability to not only survive in a radioactive environment, but actually thrive in such severe conditions. These growths, known as radiotrophic fungi, are believed to use melanin as a tool to convert gamma radiation into energy for growth. And Dadachova believes this fungal life could be used as cost-effective, sensitive biological detectors of nuclear fallout.

"If there is some kind of illicit nuclear activity going on somewhere and you want to see if someone had performed, say, an underground nuclear test without

notification, we want to see if we can train our fungi to recognize certain types of radioactive nuclides—they grow towards it and we can see because they are melanized."

While her work is fairly grounded for the time being, Dadachova sees possible new and boundless frontiers awaiting its application if one merely tilts their view toward the stars.

"The radiation doses in space are enormous," she said. "It's good that the astronauts in the U.S. and cosmonauts in Russia are exploring space, but these people are not like anybody else; they're selected to be really healthy partly because the doses of radiation they take are huge. Nobody, not even those as fit, as trained, as healthy as those astronauts, would be able to take those radiation doses for that length of time.

"If you're thinking about prolonged space flight, like a mission to Mars, you need to protect those folks." ■

Project addresses crop losses

FROM PAGE 10

Yasir and Chowdhury first met during their undergraduate program at North South University in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and quickly banded together on a passion project that they believe has the potential to save billions of dollars in crop losses annually.

The two students have always been driven by a desire to curb world hunger, but their interest ignited when they started looking into global statistics that estimated

nearly one billion people are starving annually, while 15-20 per cent of crops are lost due to preventable issues such as crop disease, lack of herbicides and improper fertilization.

"We came up with the idea that if we could develop something or come up with some solution that can reduce the number of crops lost to crop diseases or insects, then we would be able to make our world hunger-free," Yasir said. ■



Edwards student Rashid Ahmed completed his degree while also working 35 hours a week.

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Ahmed a leader on campus and in the community

FROM PAGE 9

During his two-year tenure as president, Ahmed was the proud recipient of the AMSA Excellence Award. The commendation came as a result of his leadership in projects like Stop the CrISIS—an event aimed at curbing the spread of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's radicalization of youth—as well as hosting Meet a Muslim Family community-building opportunities and working toward reconciliation with Aboriginal student groups on campus.

Ahmed also used his connections within the Saskatoon Muslim community to arrange a warm reception for the first wave of Syrian refugees to their new home on the Prairies, and even learned some Arabic for the occasion.

"The first flight that came to Saskatoon for Syrian refugees, around 60 more people went

“ In Canada, I have freedom to live. I always tell people, everywhere, that I'm proud to be Canadian.

Rashid Ahmed

to the airport to welcome them and tell them, 'You are in a safe place,'” Ahmed said. “Myself and my cousins actually sang a song in Arabic for Syrian refugees, to show them they are in the safest and best place to live.”

In April 2014, Ahmed's mother joined him in Saskatoon under refugee status. By December of the following year, his father and sister would follow suit.

After his family's arrival, and with connections from his degree program, Ahmed added nearly 35 weekly hours of work with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways to his already-hectic academic and volunteering schedule, in order to keep everyone in house and home.

The hours were long, often involving Ahmed sneaking away from campus between classes to squeeze in a few hours of work, but he said having his family by his side in a country that actually appreciates them makes it all more than worthwhile.

"I spent my school and my university (in Pakistan) pushed down—by my colleagues, by my friends, by my professors even—because of my minority status,” he said. “In Canada, I have freedom to live. I always tell people, everywhere, that I'm proud to be Canadian.” ■



There are fascinating statues, artifacts and fun objects located all over the University of Saskatchewan campus. Get to know them a little better with this year's *On Campus News* back page feature: Interviews with inanimate objects. If you know an inanimate object, tell us about it at news@usask.ca.



Duke the husky

LOCATION:
ENTRANCE TO GRIFFITHS STADIUM
IN POTASHCORP PARK

■ **Tell us a bit about huskies at the U of S.**

The husky dog has a long history at the U of S and is at the centre of interuniversity sports. Newspaper articles and yearbook photos show the team name of Huskies dating back as far as 1932.

Symbolically, the husky exhibits qualities appropriate for student athletes, such as strength, loyalty and teamwork.

■ **Where are you from?**

I was born and bred in Nipawin, from a long line of ferocious huskies before me.

■ **When did you come to the U of S?**

As a dog, I was presented to former athletic director Joe Griffiths in 1946—I was the first mascot. From there, the Huskies evolved: from Hymie the Huskie in the late 1970s and early 1980s,

to the Hustlin' Huskie seen during the 1980-81 season, to the lovable modern day mug of Howler, the spirited mascot seen in the cheering section of most sporting events on campus.

As a statue (designed by local artist Grant McConnell), I took my place in front of the park in September 2007, as a gift from former Huskie David Dubé and his wife Heather Ryan. I serve to honour the Huskie tradition and to welcome all participants and spectators involved with football, soccer, track and field, or other university events at the venue.

■ **What are your dimensions?**

I'm 44 inches tall and 56 inches long—about twice the size of my real life canine counterpart.

■ **What are you made of?**

Like all huskies, a no-quit attitude. But in actuality, bronze.