

& arts SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN ■ SPRING 2013

Stories From a Shipwreck

Butch Amundson
leads the search for the
SS City of Medicine Hat

Idle No More

Meet the movement's
co-founder, Sheelah
McLean

ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE EDITION

To our readers

Welcome to the expanded and, we hope, improved *Arts&Science*. Five years ago we launched the first issue with a mandate to inform you about the successes, priorities, research, news and events of the College of Arts & Science. Later that year, we began work on another new magazine aimed at our alumni called *DiversitA&S*.

We decided it was time we ask our readers what they thought about both magazines. With help from University Advancement, two surveys went out to *Arts&Science* and *DiversitA&S* readers in 2012. Your responses were both helpful and enlightening.

We were happy to discover that most of you agree with this statement: "The magazine strengthens my connection to the College of Arts Science." We learned that many of our alumni enjoy reading about the history and traditions of the college, would like to see more campus news and definitely disliked the magazine's name, *DiversitA&S*. We also found out that readers of *Arts&Science* would like to see more features on new initiatives, profiles on alumni and opinion pieces on "hot topics."

In response to this information, we have combined the two magazines into one, called *Arts&Science*. The magazine, which covers faculty, students, alumni and staff of the College of Arts & Science, will be published twice yearly. The expanded content in this issue includes two viewpoints on the Idle No More movement, a historical feature from the University of Saskatchewan archives, poetry from MFA in Writing student Andréa Ledding, as well as several excellent portraits by photographer Dave Stobbe. We are also adding some new design elements thanks to input from the U of S marketing team.

We hope you enjoy the results in the pages that follow. We welcome your comments and suggestions to improve the magazine as we strive to reflect the strengths, distinctiveness and diversity of the College of Arts & Science.

—Editorial staff



On the cover: Archaeologist Butch Amundson (BA'83, MA'86), leader of recovery efforts for the SS City of Medicine Hat, photographed by Dave Stobbe underneath the Saskatoon Traffic Bridge, close to where the discovery was made.

Background photo: The wreck of the City of Medicine Hat, June 7, 1908, the greatest marine disaster in the history of Saskatoon. (photograph LH-744, courtesy Saskatoon Public Library - Local History Room)

THE WRECK OF THE "CITY OF M
THE GREATEST MARINE

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Graham Addley (BA'87)

Graham Addley, director of Communications, Development and Alumni Relations (CDAR) for the College of Arts & Science, has a wide variety of senior administrative and leadership experience. He is a former provincial cabinet minister, credit union president, director of a health promotion foundation and board member of numerous organizations, including Word on the Street. In 2009, he lived in Australia for a year writing short stories and fulfilling his dream of being a radio DJ.



Tom Eremondi (BA'82)

Tom Eremondi has been a professional communicator for 25 years, 15 of those as a features writer with *The StarPhoenix*. He is currently communications director for the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.



Byron Jenkins (BA'83)

A Saskatoon writer whose work has appeared in *Westworld*, *Prairies North* and *The Globe and Mail*, Byron Jenkins was a Gold Award nominee at the 2012 Western Canadian Magazine Awards. Two of his children are U of S grads. Outside of work, he explores Saskatchewan's wild spaces, fanatically follows professional soccer and reads rare old fiction and history.



Ashleigh Mattern (BA'11)

Ashleigh Mattern is a full-time freelance writer based in Saskatoon. She graduated from the College of Arts & Science with a three-year BA in English, and a great hands-on education in journalism from working at the University of Saskatchewan's student newspaper, *The Sheaf*. Learn more about her work at ashleighmattern.com.



Betsy Rosenwald

Editor/designer Betsy Rosenwald moved to Saskatoon from New York City in 1999. Her nose for news and eye for detail led her to her current position as a communications officer in the College of Arts & Science. She is also the art editor/designer for the Canadian literary magazine, *Grain*. Her paintings have been widely exhibited, most recently in the Banff Centre's online publication, *boulderpavement*.



Mara Selanders ('13)

Mara Selanders is in her fourth and final year of an English (honours) degree. Her interest in pursuing a career in journalism has led to her internship in the college's Communications, Development, and Alumni Relations office. She is looking forward to attending Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication in the fall.



Kirk Sibbald (BA'04)

Editor Kirk Sibbald completed a BA in English at the U of S before receiving an MA in journalism at the University of Western Ontario. After working as editor of the *Lloydminster Source* newspaper, Sibbald returned to Saskatoon and has been a communications officer in the College of Arts & Science since 2008.

Top to bottom: Graham Addley (file photo); Tom Eremondi (Terri Feltham Photography); Byron Jenkins (Dave Stobbe); Ashleigh Mattern (submitted); Betsy Rosenwald (John Penner); Mara Selanders (Kirk Sibbald); Kirk Sibbald (file photo)

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Economist Howe releases report with FSIN

ERIC HOWE, A PROFESSOR in the Department of Economics, released an extensive report commissioned by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) regarding Aboriginal education and employment gaps in Saskatchewan.

The report, titled *Employment of First Nations People: Saskatchewan Lags Behind*, says that Saskatchewan is set to lose \$6.7 billion in gross domestic product if current education and employment rates continue. Saskatchewan is not progressing at the rate of Alberta, Manitoba and other provinces, all of which currently employ higher numbers of Aboriginal people. While education levels are improving, according to the report Aboriginal people continue to be left behind compared to the general population.

Howe's report states the number of employment-aged Aboriginal people with a high school diploma experienced a 10 per cent drop between 1996 and 2006. In 2009, one out of every four First Nations persons employed in January were unemployed by December, ranking Saskatchewan among the worst provinces in terms of employment of Aboriginal persons.

Howe is adamant this problem cannot continue to go unaddressed. His report provides an opportunity to begin discussing reasons for these dire numbers.

"By the middle of this century, Saskatchewan is going to be majority Aboriginal," he said in an interview with *The StarPhoenix*. "If the gap between education and the gap between employment aren't addressed, then they will result in social upheaval on a level that has not been seen in Saskatchewan since the Great Depression."

The full version of Howe's report is available for download on the FSIN website: www.fsin.com.



Eric Howe (photo: Boehmer Photography)

Playwright enjoying national success



Kenneth T. Williams (photo: Stefen Winchester)

CAFÉ DAUGHTER, a play written by Kenneth T. Williams (instructor, drama), was inspired by the life of renowned neuroscientist, Canadian Senator and College of Arts & Science alumna, Lillian E. Quan Dyck (BA'66, MA'70, PhD'81).

Dyck was one of the college's inaugural Alumni of Influence in 2009. Both Williams and Dyck are from the Gordon First Nation in Saskatchewan.

Recently produced at the Gwaandak Theatre in Whitehorse, YT, the award-winning play is a one-woman tour-de-force about Yvette Wong, a Chinese-Canadian-Cree girl growing up in rural Saskatchewan during the 1960s. The play documents her struggle to achieve her aspirations amid the racism she encounters.

A recent profile of Williams in *The Globe and Mail*, called attention to the "wave of success he's had in Western Canada (that is beginning) to reach the country's biggest theatre centre. He last had a play produced (in Toronto) in 2004; this season, he has three...He is—like many of his contemporaries—continuing to stretch what it means to be 'Indian' and a playwright."

In addition to *Café Daughter*, his play *Thunderstick* opened in Toronto in January and, in April, Native Earth Performing Arts will premiere his new play, *Deserters*.

Read the article in *The Globe and Mail*: <http://tinyurl.com/bo3jr52>

Alumnus nominated for screen award



Greg Nelson (submitted)

GREG NELSON (BA'88) has been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award (CSA) for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series for an episode of *Rookie Blue* (A Good Shoot—Global TV).

"I'm honoured to be nominated for a CSA," Nelson said. "Unlike fiction or journalism or playwriting, television writing is an intensely collaborative process. I

worked with an extremely talented team on *Rookie Blue* and they get a lot of the credit too."

Nelson has been a writer and producer for TV shows such as *The Border*, *The Associates*, *Republic of Doyle*, *Rookie Blue* and *Saving Hope*. He was co-creator and head writer of *Afghanada* for CBC Radio Drama. His plays have been produced at Tarragon Theatre, Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC), Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects and the Grand Theatre, London. He was playwright-in-residence at Canadian Stage Company in 2004.

CTV recently ordered 13 episodes of *Played*, a new cop drama created by Nelson for Back Alley Film productions. The show is an ensemble police procedural that follows the Covert Investigations Unit (CIU), a Toronto-based police unit that goes undercover to infiltrate criminal organizations.

Steer receives national research award

A COLLEGE CHEMISTRY professor was recently granted a national award for his progressive research on solar energy.

Ronald Steer won the Canadian Society for Chemistry's John C. Polanyi Award for 2013. The award is presented annually to recognize excellence by a scientist carrying out research in physical, theoretical or computational chemistry or chemical physics.

Steer is recognized as an outstanding researcher in photochemistry, photophysics and molecular fluorescence spectroscopy. His research on the behaviour of organic molecules that absorb light promises to significantly advance the field of solar energy.

Steer and his research team—including Matt Paige, Tim Kelly, Ian Burgess and Rob Scott—are currently working on turning relatively inefficient organic cells into more efficient and long-lasting sources of electrical energy.

"For me, these ideas are based on my 30-plus years of research in fundamental chemistry and physics that tells us there are a number of ways we can improve on current organic cells," said Steer. "We have the proof of principle and soon we'll be at the stage of having working devices."

Steer has taught in the Department of Chemistry since 1969. He was awarded an Earned Doctor of Science from the U of S in 1995, the U of S Master Teacher Award in 1996 and was named a U of S Distinguished Professor in 2011.

Kaplan instrument collection opens

FROM DRUMS AND zithers to more exotic instruments like crum-horns, shawms, and rackets, during and beyond his 30 years at the U of S, Professor Emeritus David L. Kaplan (music) has collected historical and Indigenous instruments from all over the world.

During the past year, Kaplan has assembled a part of his collection as a donation to the Department of Music for research, exhibition, and use by student and faculty musicians.

On March 9, the department honoured Kaplan at the opening of the collection's new storage and display space in the Education Building.

David Kaplan came to the U of S in 1960s to establish a program in music education. Since that time, and in addition to many other accomplishments, he has served as head of music department and music director of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. He officially retired in 1990 but continued to teach as a sessional lecturer until 2005. In 2002, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to music.

(photo: Kirk Sibbald)



Alumni honoured for work abroad



Left: Denise Kouri in Mozambique; right: Heather Hale (photos: courtesy Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation)

THE SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL for International Cooperation (SCIC) honoured the global vision and hard work of two Arts & Science alumni with Global Citizen Awards on Feb. 4 in Saskatoon. Denise Kouri (BSc'70, BA'72) received one of two 2013 Global Citizen (Saskatoon) awards. Political Studies grad Heather Hale (BA'03) was presented with an Emerging Global Citizen award. Lori Hanson, an associate professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, also received a Global Citizen award.

Kouri is a public policy consultant, focusing on health and social policy, leadership and governance. She was honoured for her lifetime commitment to social justice at

home and internationally, especially her 30-year dedication to Mozambique.

Kouri's involvement in Mozambique began in 1981 with Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), first as a system analyst, then as a program officer. Since 1999, she has been part of the Training for Health Renewal program at the U of S, a partnership with the Mozambican health ministry to foster health workers' community engagement.

Hale is a program officer at the Saskatchewan Co-operative

Association who recently helped lead and mentor a group of young co-operators who travelled to Ghana to work with fellow co-operative members. A former Katimavik Project Leader, Hale has pursued themes of co-operation and youth engagement across provinces and around the globe.

"Countless people in our province work to improve the lives of others, both at home and overseas, through projects that span from ecological to social and economic justice," said Jenn Bergen, the executive director of SCIC. "We are honoured to be able to showcase and celebrate their work."

Distinguished alumnus Robertson remembered



GORDON ROBERTSON (BA'37, honorary LLD'59), distinguished public servant and one of the college's inaugural Alumni of Influence in 2009, passed away on Jan. 15, 2013 at the age of 95.

Born in Davidson, Sask., Robertson studied at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and at the U of S and University of Toronto. He began his career at the Department of External Affairs and was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of

Northern Affairs and National Resources in 1953. In 1963, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson appointed him to the position of Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. He held this esteemed position until 1975.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper called Robertson "one of the most influential public servants of his day" who will "be remembered as a great Canadian."

Robertson received the Vanier Medal in 1970, was named a

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1974, and was inducted as a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1976.

After retiring, Robertson went on to become president of the Institute for Research on Public Policy and served as a Chancellor of Carleton University from 1980 to 1990. He recounted his experiences in a memoir, *Memoirs of a Very Civil Servant*, which was published in 2000.

& Viewpoints: Idle No More

JOHN HANSEN AND ERICA LEE



John Hansen (photo: Kirk Sibbald) and Erica Lee (photo: courtesy of Indigenous Students' Council)

IDLE NO MORE (INM) was founded in Saskatoon by activists Sheelah McLean, Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAdam and Jessica Gordon in November 2012—a response to the government’s introduction of Bill C-45. Fuelled by flash mob round dances at shopping malls, protest rallies and teach-ins, the grassroots movement has swept Saskatchewan and fanned out across Canada and beyond. It has galvanized Aboriginal youth and elders alike. The movement’s leaders have defined these three issues as their primary focus in a vision statement on the Idle No More website:

- INM has and will continue to help build sovereignty and resurgence of nationhood
- INM will continue to pressure government and industry to protect the environment
- INM will continue to build allies in order to reframe the nation to nation relationship, this will be done by including grassroots perspectives, issues and concerns

The University of Saskatchewan has one of the highest Aboriginal student enrollments among Canadian post-secondary institutions. Campus student groups have sponsored rallies in support of the movement and faculty have addressed its roots and meaning through research, writing, teaching and discussion. *Arts & Science* continues this ongoing dialogue with these two viewpoints, from political studies and philosophy student Erica Lee and John Hansen, an associate professor of sociology.

—Betsy Rosenwald

JOHN HANSEN

AN AWAKENING AMONG the people has occurred and this development is reflected in Idle No More. The Indigenous-based movement emerged not from official leaders but from informal leaders—four Indigenous and non-Indigenous women demonstrating their cause for justice by launching Idle No More. The movement is significant because it embraces Indigenous laws—we have a responsibility to protect the water and land.

The Old Inninew (Cree people) still teach us that the “women are the heart and strength of the nation.” However, colonialism brought alien values and patriarchy to Indigenous communities and entrenched it into the Indian Act. This indoctrinated patriarchy into young minds via residential schools, and the repercussions for Indigenous women and Indigenous communities as a whole are horrific. We would have to see that much of the violence against Indigenous women in society comes from the basis of patriarchy and racism.

I recall a conversation I had with John Martin, a Swampy Cree Elder who explained that male dominance is not that of our own people or culture. He often spoke of the need for Indigenous peoples to return to our old ways of knowing and being, which I interpret as decolonization action.

Although Indigenous peoples in Canada have experienced hundreds of years of imperialism, forced assimilation and patriarchy, we still exist as Indigenous peoples. And furthermore, Indigenous justice models tend to begin from the basis of our culture—women. For example, the “healing as justice” activities of Hollow Water First Nations in Manitoba. In British Columbia, Alkaloid Lake First Nations, and my home nation Opaskwayak, emerged not from the men but from the women.

However, colonial governments do not favour promoting the Indigenous community as a whole, but prefer to deal with select leaders, which obstruct political consciousness. Without this consciousness, it is hard for the oppressed to unite. Nevertheless, Idle No More proved to be an important movement towards developing unity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups in Canada and across the globe.

As an Indigenous justice proponent and Idle No More supporter, I am deeply disturbed by the incredible lack of respect for Indigenous rights and laws demonstrated by the Conservative government’s omnibus Bill C-45. Our resources are exploited while our impoverishment and incarceration increases. The Indigenous cause to protect the water, land and air for the future unborn must continue to unfold and expand.

John George Hansen, a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, is a new faculty member in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. His research centres on Indigenous justice and Indigenous knowledge.

ERICA LEE

ON NOV. 10, 2012, I spoke at the first Idle No More gathering; around 100 people attended. Since that first rally, discussions of Idle No More have dominated the headlines in Canada and around the world. To those who have always been involved in Indigenous resistance, environmental activism, and the pursuit of social justice, the necessity of this movement is clear. Idle No More represents a turning point in our history. After generations of powerlessness, those most vulnerable in our society are refusing to remain silent regarding the denial of their basic human rights; quite simply, Idle No More is a fight for survival.

As academics, we have a responsibility to choose empathy over complacency in this struggle. We must realize that every discipline will be affected by government censorship and austerity that limits academic freedom, and every individual will be affected by the erosion of democracy, disregard for human rights, and environmental destruction occurring in the name of economic growth as presented in Bill C-45 and C-38.

While the rallies, round dances, and hunger strikes brought worldwide attention to the struggles of First Nations, education is the path to the systematic change we desperately need. Racism, poverty and violence are often a daily reality for First Nations students, and the classroom ought to be a safe haven, empowering students with knowledge and the ability to envision a better future. My education affords me the power to speak out and be heard, and Idle No More reminds me of the responsibility that comes along with that power. While these are difficult issues to address, the most enriching educational experiences are results of disagreement and discourse. Certainly, Idle No More is accomplishing this goal: to open a dialogue among those living on this land regarding our history, identity and values.

Our education system serves as both a reflection of and a blueprint for our society. At the end of my degree, the value of my experience will be based upon my ability to live the ideas I have studied—empathy, justice, and conscientiousness—instead of simply writing papers about them.

Erica Lee is a fourth-year political studies and St. Thomas More philosophy major. She is an administrator for the Idle No More Facebook page, and cultural coordinator for the Indigenous Students’ Council.

» IDLE NO MORE DISCUSSION SERIES

An Idle No More discussion series is currently being held in the College of Arts & Science. For information on upcoming events in the series, click the link on the Arts & Science homepage: artsandscience.usask.ca

Arts & Science alumna's work in education helped to inspire Idle No More movement

A CALL TO ACTION

BY TOM EREMONDI (BA'82)



SHEELAH MCLEAN'S PASSION for Indigenous rights, born in Saskatoon's inner city classrooms, has led the educator to the core of what is perhaps Canada's most captivating and controversial movement.

"I had a background in native studies and critical theory but at Mount Royal (high school in Saskatoon), where I started teaching, I learned so much from my students and guest speakers," said McLean (BA'90, BED'91, MED'07), one of the founders of Idle No More.

"I realized there was a context that I didn't fully understand, particularly about racism, and knew I needed to learn more about that."

After completing her education degree in 1991, McLean returned to the U of S to pursue a masters degree in educational foundations through the Indian Northern Education Program. She was mentored by Verna St. Denis, an education professor, earning her grad degree in 2007. Her studies focused on colonization, racialization and the effect of these forces on communities.

"In my studies, I wanted answers to fully understand what my students were experiencing. It was suggested that I work with Dr. St. Denis, who has a PhD in anti-oppressive, anti-racist education," explained McLean.

McLean was also inspired by others, notably Priscilla Settee, a native studies professor at the U of S.

"I never took it but every time I was with her, I felt I was taking her class," said McLean.

Settee said McLean has long shown strong leadership traits. She was instrumental in developing Students Against Racism and has worked in various other capacities to prevent oppressive education.

"(Sheelah) has a connected relationship with the Indigenous community. It didn't surprise me to learn she was a founder of Idle No More," said Settee.

After receiving her masters degree, McLean taught at Bedford Road but has since moved to Aden Bowman high school. She's also a part-time sessional lecturer on campus.

She explained that Idle No More began with co-founder Sylvia McAdam's (LLB'09) concerns over the destruction of her father's fishing lands in Whitefish, Ont. After studying Bill C-45, McAdam started a conversation with McLean and the movement's other co-founders, Nina Wilson [BSC(NUTR)'08] and Jess Gordon.

"I knew Sylvia because I'd asked her to speak at a refugee rights rally I organized. She was impressed with its energy and contacted me to do the same against Bill C-45," explained McLean.

McLean notes the movement's focus is "two-pronged because the government's is as well. We're concerned about Indigenous rights but also how the bill scales back protection of our water and land. The government knows that, to become an extraction state, it must make these attacks on both Indigenous sovereignty and protection of the land.

"Canadians like me are questioning why these policies are embedded in a budget bill. It's a 400-page document that many Members of Parliament have admitted voting on without reading or understanding. If this is happening, what are the chances of democracy being part of this process?"

“After the national day of action on Dec. 10 . . . we had thousands of people contacting us, asking what else they could do.” — Sheelah McLean

Idle No More began with teach-ins in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Regina before moving to Edmonton and Winnipeg.

“After that was the national day of action on Dec. 10 and that’s where it really took off,” McLean says. “We had thousands of people contacting us, asking what else they could do.”

The movement quickly expanded throughout Canada and even into the United States. Protests have been reported in several states including New York, Texas and New Mexico. With Idle No More’s rapid growth, McLean and her co-founders are working to ensure the movement remains true to its original purpose.

“It’s a grassroots, peaceful movement focused on education and building community and consciousness in Canadians. It’s really a conversation about what we feel our nation-to-nation country should look like as opposed to the vision currently proposed,” she said.

“The ultimate goal is a shift in consciousness away from the thinking that profit is the only or best way to build this country. It can be part of it but sustainability also can be built into it.”

While continuing to be involved in Idle No More, McLean is also working towards a PhD.

“I’m dealing with the same issues, still asking questions about colonialism and racism. I want to learn what third-generation, white settlers like myself can do to support the struggles of Indigenous people everywhere.”

» WEB EXTRA

Listen to Priscilla Settee and Sheelah McLean talk about Idle No More’s roots, goals and future on YouTube:
tinyurl.com/byn79au

» WHAT IS BILL C-45?

That’s the number of the bill introduced by the Conservative government on Oct. 18 with the title, “A second Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 29, 2012, and other measures.”

The bill passed and received royal assent on Dec. 14. It is now known as the “Jobs and Growth Act, 2012.”

C-45 is better known as the second omnibus budget bill. The act changes the legislation contained in 64 acts or regulations. The act itself is more than 400 pages.

The changes that most concern the Idle No More movement are the ones to these acts:

- » Indian Act
- » Navigation Protection Act (former Navigable Waters Protection Act)
- » Environmental Assessment Act

In addition to the changes, those involved in the Idle No More movement were angered by what they call a lack of consultation with Indigenous peoples. The movement has also expressed concern about other acts and bills from the Harper government.

—Source, CBC News, <http://tinyurl.com/acc8yw8>



Right: Idle No More founders (from left) Sheelah McLean, Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAdam and Jess Gordon (photo: m.pet productions)

SLADE FINDS SUCCESS IN STEAMPUNK

Arthur Slade (BA'89), one of Canada's most acclaimed authors of children's literature, raises the bar with "The Hunchback Assignments"

BY ASHLEIGH MATTERN (BA'11)

GRITTY AND ADVENTUROUS, like the wild west of science fiction, "steampunk" envisions a world run by steam-powered machinery. Its settings are inspired by 19TH century industrialized Western civilization, and the prose is brimming with retro-futuristic gadgets. *The Hunchback Assignments*, a worldwide best-selling series by Arthur Slade (BA'89)—considered one of Canada's finest writers of children's literature—exemplifies this idiosyncratic sci-fi subgenre.

Slade was at work on a book that featured a younger Sherlock Holmes when inspiration hit. The Holmes story fell apart and *The Hunchback Assignments* was born.

"The idea was to make it our world, but just twist things a little bit so it was almost believable and might have happened."

He also credits Victor Hugo's classic tale, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. "I was thinking, what if I had a detective that was also a hunchback?" said Slade.

The series' main character is named Modo, a nod to Quasimodo. Both characters are disfigured and both come from the same area of France, but that is where the resemblance ends. Modo is a smart young man who has the ability to change his physical appearance at will, and has been trained all his life to be an agent for a secret society.

Although Slade was familiar with steampunk before he started the series, he says he was more apt to describe the genre as "Victorian romantic science fiction" while he was at work on the first book. He says he began it as an "homage to English literature," thanks in part to his English degree from the U of S.

"I joke about this, but (my degree) forced me to read a lot of the important novels that I may not have read on my own."

Historical accuracy is an important part of *The Hunchback Assignments*, even though some aspects are fantasy. He did a lot of research for it, saying he wanted to feel like he had lived and breathed in that time period.

"I wanted to add depth," he said, "like this might have really happened. Even though there are some very fantastical events, the queen is really the queen from that time

period...The idea was to make it our world, but just twist things a little bit so it was almost believable and might have happened."

Slade admits to a few small historical inaccuracies. For example, in the second novel, Modo receives a wireless telegraph, even though they weren't widely used until sometime in the 1890s. But then again, he says, Modo was a spy, so maybe they had that technology earlier.

Slade included all the elements he loved reading when he was a kid, "and still love reading now," he said. The series is aimed at young readers, but adults will also find a compelling story.

Island of Doom, the last book in the four-novel series, has been left open enough so the series could be continued, but for now, Modo's adventures have come to an end.

"There are other things I want to work on now. It's the longest series I've done, and I enjoyed it, but after four years of reading Dickens, I've had enough. I need to look somewhere else for awhile for inspiration."

He's nearly finished his next book, *Flickers*. A horror novel set in Hollywood in the 1920s, it's about the move from silent films to sound films, but in Slade's universe, the first sound movie lets "something else" into the world.

Flickers will mark Slade's 18TH published novel. His 2001 novel, *Dust*, is still his most popular book and won several awards, including the 2001 Governor General's Award for Children's Literature. *The Hunchback Assignments*, however, has gone more international than anything else he's written. It has been published in England, France and Germany, and soon will be available in China and Australia.

Despite the success of his worldwide bestselling series, Slade remains down to earth. Maybe his friendly demeanor has something to do with growing up on a ranch in the Cypress Hills region.

Whatever the reason, he was happy to share a tip for aspiring authors: "Work hard at your writing and believe that eventually you'll get that break, either in your own writing or in the people recognizing that you can write."

» WEB EXTRA

Check out Arthur Slade's wacky YouTube channel, including a video unveiling his legendary treadmill desk, at: [youtube.com/user/slade67](https://www.youtube.com/user/slade67)





The SS City of Medicine Hat as she capsized in high water (photograph LH-9386 courtesy Saskatoon Public Library - Local History Room)

Stories From a Shipwreck BY KIRK SIBBALD (BA'04)

Although the story of the SS City of Medicine Hat began with Horatio Hamilton Ross, archaeologist Butch Amundson and his team are busy making the tale of Saskatoon's most sensational shipwreck their own

IN 1908, AN ORNATE STEAMSHIP captained by a Scottish nobleman struck a pier on Saskatoon's Traffic Bridge.

As its crew scrambled for safety, dozens of townspeople—flanked by a small herd of cattle—watched as the ship capsized and its crew scrambled to safety.

All but forgotten for the next century, a routine diving exercise in 2006 unearthed one of the ship's 200-pound anchors. The discovery triggered a string of efforts, led largely by archaeology alumni and students who have been working tirelessly to bring the ship, and its stories, back to life.

Captain Horatio Hamilton Ross

The story of the SS City of Medicine Hat began with Horatio Hamilton Ross. Widely described as a colourful, larger-than-life personality enlivened by fine music, alcohol and cigars, Ross immigrated to Canada from Scotland in the late 1800s.

He quickly built a steamship empire and, in 1906, began construction on a lavish, 140-foot sternwheeler. Christened the City of Medicine Hat, the ship hauled freight during the week. Each Friday night, however, the SS City of Medicine Hat was transformed into a popular party boat, often occupied by upwards of 100 passengers looking to unwind for the weekend.

According to a document compiled by the team charged with investigating the wreck site, Ross set off for Winnipeg in June of 1908. The ship was loaded with cargo and several of Ross's friends, family and crew members. As it approached Saskatoon, dozens of citizens congregated on the Traffic Bridge to witness the fabled vessel's passage through the city.

However, spring run-off that year was

high and the river's water levels doomed the ship's journey before it even arrived in Saskatoon.

"The ship had no chance of ever getting under that bridge, no chance at all," said Butch Amundson (BA'83, MA'86), senior archaeologist at Stantec Consulting and the man who led recovery efforts for the ship more than a century later.

As the townspeople watched, and while a farmer was driving cattle across the bridge to Saskatoon's stockyards, the ship struck a pier. As it sank, the ship's engineer jumped overboard and swam to shore while the remaining passengers climbed a ladder onto bridge. Apart from the ship and its material contents, there were no casualties.

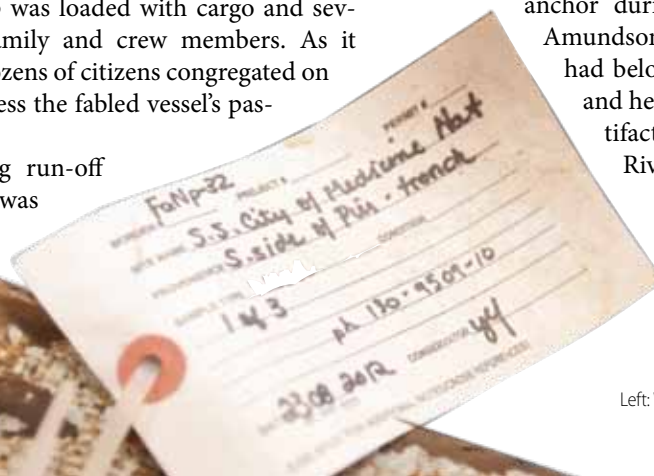
Following the wreck, Ross moved forward unperturbed. He purchased several more ships and continued hosting extravagant river parties. An article in *Scotland Magazine* claims Ross died in 1925 after a rifle he was cleaning accidentally discharged into his stomach.

Digging up the past

Amundson lives for moments like this. He hasn't gone a month without an archeology-related paycheck since he was 19, so delving into Saskatoon's greatest marine disaster has been a definite career highlight.

He was first approached about the project after Saskatoon's Fire and Protection Services found the ship's anchor during a training exercise in 2006. Amundson's research confirmed the anchor had belonged to the City of Medicine Hat and he led conservation efforts for the artifact, which is currently on display at River Landing.

In 2008, a team including Amundson was assembled to actively look for additional remains from the wreck. A film crew documented these efforts,



Left: Wood from wreck site (photo: Dave Stobbe)

“One of the drillers kept hitting a piece of wood and couldn’t get through it. At one point, he looked at me and said, ‘You know, Butch, I’m really starting to hate this ship.’” — Butch Amundson

which culminated in a 2010 film, *The Last Steamship: The Search for the SS City of Medicine Hat*. Despite all the fanfare surrounding this search, not much was found—a brick from the boiler, a marlinspike, and, according to Amundson, “a lot of junk...it was really hard to separate the wheat from the chaff.”

Complicating those early search efforts was the fact the wreck site was buried under nearly eight metres of soil and sand. The pier where the ship sunk had been buried when soil was brought in for construction of the riverbank in the 1960s—meaning the actual site of the crash wasn’t even in the river anymore.

Then, when it was determined the Traffic Bridge needed to be replaced in 2012, geotechnical engineers were called in. They were required to drill large holes to test the pier’s integrity, giving Amundson and his team the resources they required to explore what possibly laid buried far underground.

“In all four holes that were drilled, we found artifacts,” said Amundson. “One of the drillers kept hitting a piece of wood and couldn’t get through it. At one point, he looked at me and said, ‘You know, Butch, I’m really starting to hate this ship.’”

It was mostly wood that was pulled from those holes—naturally, considering it was a 140-foot ship they were searching for. But other items, such as food tins, cutlery, engine pieces and an old boot were also recovered.

At that point, the archaeologists had to determine if these artifacts came from the ship, or were just random pieces of garbage.

“The strongest evidence supporting the fact these items were from the wreck was that, above them, there was three metres of sand that had no artifacts in them. Above that was five metres of landfill,” said Amundson. “So we could reasonably conclude that we had what we were looking for.”

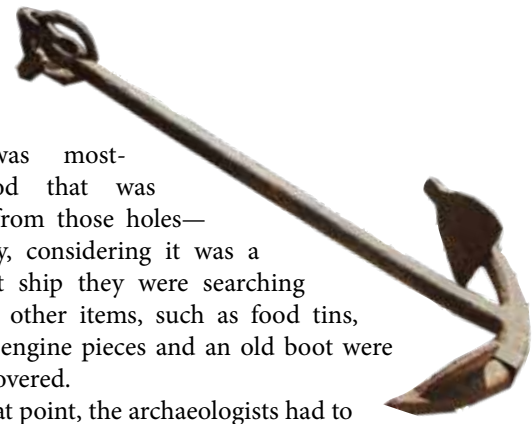
In total, about 1,000 individual pieces from the ship were recovered in 2012. Nearly 800 of those were different types of wood—fir and tamarack from ship’s the frame, spruce from the hull and decking, and oak from the cabinets.

Two archaeology graduate students from the U of S helped with the project. Erika Cole worked to officially catalogue the artifacts and Yvonne Fortin was actively involved with the day-to-day fieldwork.

Archaeology alumni also played integral roles in the excavation. Garrett Cessna (BA’08, BA’12) worked as a lab assistant, Lisa Hein (BSC’05, MA’10) was the project’s permit holder and Kristin Enns-Kavanagh (BA’97, MA’02) was the project’s historical archaeologist in charge of quality assurance.

Of the seven archaeologists who worked on the City of Medicine Hat excavation, Amundson said six are U of S alumni or grad students.

Above: Anchor from SS City of Medicine Hat (photo: courtesy Stantec Consulting); below, from left: Lisa Hein, Yvonne Fortin, Erica Cole, Garrett Cessna and Butch Amundson with SS City of Medicine Hat artifacts at Stantec Consulting (photo: Dave Stobbe)





Left: Drilling crew at work in 2012 near the wreck site; top right: Boot discovered at the wreck site (photos: courtesy Stantec Consulting); bottom right: Rogers Golden Syrup tin can, circa 1900, found at the wreck site (photo: Dave Stobbe)

Archaeology & Anthropology grads play critical role

Ties between the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology and its alumni are strong. Amundson said grads from the department are not only achieving wide-ranging success throughout the world, they also play critical roles in making possible development projects throughout Saskatchewan.

The province's Heritage Property Act stipulates that archaeologists must be consulted for many development projects to ensure items or sites of historical significance aren't compromised.

"Archaeologists are a key link in the chain that allows development and growth in this province to continue," said Amundson.

In his 21 years at Stantec, Amundson said the strength of the U of S archaeology program is continually reinforced—even going so far as to claim the U of S "has the best archaeology school in Canada.

"I've been told we have the most employable grads...and it's obvious to me because we exclusively hire grads from the U of S and it almost always works out," he said.

Cole, who has been working with Stantec for the past two years on a contract basis, hopes to gain full-time employment with the firm after completing her thesis. She said the hands-on experience she has received at Stantec—being involved in everything from cataloguing artifacts to fieldwork—has been invaluable.

Fortin agreed, saying she hasn't taken for granted the chance to work and learn alongside successful alumni like Amundson on this high-profile project.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to find a sunken ship in Saskatchewan. I don't think it's going to happen again so, as students, we're pretty lucky to be working this."

Archaeology's "Aha" moments

For Amundson, the opportunity to partially excavate a century-old ship within Saskatoon's city limits ranks amongst his most notable projects. There have been others that stick out in his mind, too—the excavation of a 8,000-year-old archaeological site near St. Louis, SK, for example, and the repatriation of Chief One Arrow's remains from Manitoba.

What makes a project memorable, though, has little to do with the site's age or subject matter. It's the ability, afterwards, to tell a story that Amundson said keeps his job fresh and dynamic.

"Older isn't necessarily better. What I like as an archaeologist is the kind of story I can tell and what we are able to learn from the site that we didn't know before," he said.

"That's the business of archaeology. You have fun outside discovering things, and then you have fun when you get back to the lab and put it all back together and get to finally say, 'Aha!'"



Biology grad students Iain Phillips and Brittney Hoemsen, founders of TRoutreach

Science and Sustainability

BY MARA SELANDERS ('13)

TRoutreach introduces students to the science in their own backyard

BRINGING THE LAB to life is the focus of an innovative science education program established by two biology grad students.

TRoutreach was hatched by Iain Phillips (PhD candidate) and Brittney Hoemsen (masters candidate) in Pine Cree Creek, SK, located in the southeast block of Cypress Hills. The program began in May 2012, with students in Grades 4 through 12 from surrounding schools—Eastend, LaFleche and Lumsden, among others—taking part.

While working for the Water Security Agency (WSA) and studying brook trout in the area, Hoemsen recognized her research was an ideal opportunity to combine her love of teaching and science. Phillips, who was also working with WSA, said TRoutreach is about making science more accessible—bringing it out of peer-reviewed journals and into public discourse.

At a typical TRoutreach session the students collect insect samples from local ponds and streams and carry them back to a makeshift lab where the bugs are identified using the keys provided. The students then compare pond-dwelling bugs to stream-dwellers and are taught how the samples can be used as indicators of water quality.

“The kids look at the life history of organisms, right down to their needs in the environment, and how (one)

can better design monitoring and improvement processes to fit with those taxa and those organisms,” said Phillips.

Stressing the importance of conservation is also a key aspect of the program. Hoemsen said an objective of TRoutreach is to show the students how science and environmentalism are intimately linked.

“We act as a liaison between academia and the public, bringing the students a love for the actual environment that is visible to them,” she said. “They learn how to appreciate Saskatchewan’s natural habitats and about how to conserve them.”

Phillips added that environmental science in Saskatchewan has evolved significantly in recent years.

“At one point community groups were leading the way with what they knew about the environment, but now it has become a scientific profession and less of a community occupation.”

Whether it was a group of enthusiastic high school students or one particular eight-year-old who proposed an intriguing hypothesis about sexual dimorphism, Phillips and Hoemsen said they were continually inspired.

Both look forward to expanding TRoutreach into different areas of the province, motivated by the belief that grassroots and experiential learning initiatives are essential for Saskatchewan’s future environmental health.

“At the grassroots level, if we can involve people in what science actually is and what it does...ultimately that will hopefully lead to more sustainable science in the future,” said Phillips.

HONOURING OUR
ALUMNI OF*Influence*
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

The Alumni of Influence awards recognize individuals whose life accomplishments have had tremendous influence locally, nationally and internationally. Each person represents the excellence and diversity upon which our college was established and continues to be defined. Their careers and life achievements are an inspiration and source of pride. Celebrating their success signals to our alumni, students and faculty that they are all part of a vibrant and accomplished college. Thanks to all nominators and selection committee members for their contributions.



Sarah Carter
BA '76, MA '81

FOR THE PAST 20 years, Sarah Carter of has forged an international reputation as a distinguished and vigorous scholar in the fields of history and native studies. Currently a professor and Henry Marshall Tory Chair at the University of Alberta, Carter has also held faculty positions at the Universities of Calgary and Winnipeg.

Carter's research focuses on the history of Western Canada, particularly the late 19TH century when Aboriginal people and newcomers began sustained contact. Her work in this area has touched on several topics, including Aboriginal roles in the agricultural economy and the creation of race and gender categories. She is a widely-published author of numerous articles,

papers, books and monographs. Her writing has won several honours, including the CiloAward (Prairie Region) in 1992 and 2009 and the Armitage-Jameson award in women's and gender history from the Western History Association. Her most recent book, *Recollecting: Lives of Aboriginal Women of the Canadian Northwest and Borderlands*, won a total of four book awards in 2012. Her work has earned Carter numerous awards and prestigious grants, including a Killam Research Fellowship and Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America. She was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007.

Leonard (Len) Edwards
BA '67, MA '69

ONE OF CANADA'S longest serving and most distinguished diplomats, Len Edwards has not only organized the logistics of several summits in Canada, but has also served as the Prime Minister's personal representative (or sherpa) in promoting Canadian interests at Asia Pacific, G-8 and G-20 summits, including negotiating summit outcomes and communiqués.

After studying history at the University of Saskatchewan, Edwards spent almost 41 years in a long list of diplomatic and senior public service positions before retiring in 2010. His foreign service appointments included ambassadorships to the Republic of



Korea and to Japan, as well as assignments to Geneva (United Nations), Brussels (NATO), Turkey and Vietnam.

In Ottawa, he served nine years as a Deputy Minister in three assignments: International Trade, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and finally Foreign Affairs. Edwards is currently a strategic adviser with Gowling Henderson Lafleur LLP and a Distinguished Fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation. He is also a member of the board of directors of VIDO-InterVac at the University of Saskatchewan. He has received several awards throughout his career including the Public Service Outstanding Achievement Award in 2011 for his work on the Muskoka G-8 and Toronto G-20 Summits.

2013 HONOUREES



Tim Gitzel
BA'86, LLB'90

A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE in the nuclear industry, Tim Gitzel is the president and CEO of Cameco, one of the world's largest uranium producers.

His roots in the industry were planted early, working as a summer student with AREVA Resources as a teenaged summer student in 1979. While studying French, political science and law at the U of S, he worked for two summers with AREVA as a summer student in France. Following a brief career with a local law firm, Gitzel joined AREVA's Saskatoon office in 1994 and eventually moved to Paris where he headed the company's mining business unit as executive vice-president.

He joined Cameco in 2007 as senior vice-president and COO, was appointed president of the company in 2010, and CEO in 2011.

Gitzel is active on many industry and community-based boards and committees. He is currently chair of the World Nuclear Association,



Allen Harrington
BMUS'99

A WORLD-RENOWNED saxophonist, respected adjudicator and popular professor, Allen Harrington is one of the University of Saskatchewan's most accomplished music alumni. Harrington is an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music where he teaches saxophone, bassoon and chamber music. Harrington also maintains a

busy performance schedule, drawing rave reviews from many critics worldwide. He has appeared as a soloist with more than a dozen orchestras in Canada, Europe and South America, and has considerable success at both national and international music competitions. He won the Grand Award at the National Music Festival of Canada in 1999, the Grand Prize at the International Stepping Stone Competition in 2004 and, in 2006, finished fourth at the International Adolphe Sax Competition in Belgium, the only Canadian to have advanced to the final round of the largest and most prestigious saxophone competition in the world.

Harrington regularly performs in recital alongside fellow U of M music professor and pianist Laura Loewen. The duo has performed at the World Saxophone Congress and toured in Asia, Europe and South America, as well as Canada. Harrington also plays second bassoon for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and is a regular extra with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.



Mary Houston

BA'47, BED'50

DESPITE HER QUIET and unassuming ways, Mary Houston has significantly impacted the lives of numerous people, of all ages and from all walks of life. After graduating from the U of S with a BA and BED, Mary began her professional career as a teacher. She married Stuart Houston in 1951 and began raising her family, which eventually grew to four children.

During this time, she was a highly-active volunteer and served on various boards throughout the province. Mary also spent considerable time assisting Stuart, a revered medical doctor, historian and naturalist—particularly in relation to his work with birds. Whether it was helping Stuart file information, band birds or help him produce a constant flow of books and articles, Stuart says without Mary he could not have accomplished half of his life's work.

Since 1951, Mary has banded thousands of birds in her backyard, on her "bluebird house trail," and at colonial bird islands across Saskatchewan. Of particular note are 5,340 Bohemian waxwings; two experts say she has monopolized the banding and resultant recoveries for a single species more than any other bander since the practice began in 1921.

Her achievements have been recognized with several awards, including



the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal and Centennial Medal in 2006 and being inducted into the Saskatoon Council of Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

Thomas Mackie

BSC'80

LIKE MOST ACADEMICS, Thomas "Rock" Mackie spends much of his time researching, teaching and applying for grants. Unlike many of his colleagues, he is also an award-winning entrepreneur whose companies have revolutionized the field of medical physics.

After earning his BSc at the U of S and PhD at the University of Alberta ('84), Mackie worked for three years at the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation before moving to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. He has been there ever since—currently as a professor emeritus—and over the years has become one of the North America's most respected medical physicists.

While staking claim to a distinguished academic reputation, Mackie has also become a highly-accomplished entrepreneur. He was a co-founder and chairman of the board of TomoTherapy Inc.,

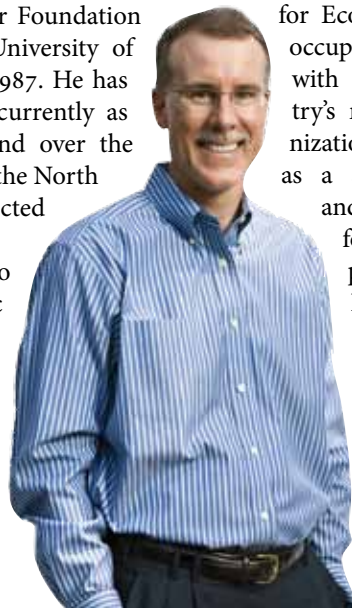
a radiation therapy treatment platform, now owned by Accuray. He is on the board of Novelos Therapeutics, a developer of radiopharmaceuticals; Shine Medical Technologies, a medical radioisotope production company; and BioIonix, a water purification company based on electro-catalytic processes. He also co-founded Geometrics Corporation in 1992, which developed the Pinnacle™ treatment planning system now marketed by Philips Medical. In total, Mackie holds more than 30 patents, has published more than 180 peer-reviewed publications and has supervised more than 25 PhD students. He has received several awards, including the Sylvia Fedoruk Award from the Canadian Association of Physicists and a range of entrepreneurial achievement and research awards in the United States.

Mark Mullins

BA'84

AN ENTREPRENEUR, government fiscal expert and noted networker with prominent contacts worldwide, Mark Mullins has become one of this country's most accomplished and respected economists. After receiving his

PhD from the London School for Economics, Mullins has occupied senior positions with some of this country's most respected organizations. He has served as a senior vice-president and chief economist for Midland Walwyn, president of MSG Hedge Corporation and, with the Fraser Institute, has been director of Ontario Policy Studies and executive director at its head office in Vancouver.



Between 2005 and 2009 he led unprecedented growth for the institute, helping the think tank achieve a top 10 worldwide ranking. He has established close business relationships with senior business leaders and policy makers across Canada, as well as the United States and China. He led an expansion of the Fraser Institute, opening new locations in Montreal, Ottawa and the United States, during which time revenues increased 70 per cent in less than four years.

In 2009, Mullins developed his own asset allocation and financial markets analysis firm, Veras Inc. After joining the National Bank of Canada as a portfolio manager, Mullins used Veras' analysis and trading techniques in 2011 to beat 99 per cent of peer funds and outperform global stock markets by 20 percentage points. He recently joined Ramsey Quantitative Systems Inc. in Kentucky as their chief investment officer.



Sandra Pyke
BA '58, MA '61

A PIONEER IN the field of feminist psychology and tireless champion of gender equality, Sandra Pyke has inspired countless women to challenge the status quo and to promote positive change for women.

After attending the U of S and receiving her PhD at McGill University ('64), Pyke was hired by York University's Counselling and Development Centre (CDC). Here, she established a comprehensive feminist workshop program that was unique within Canada at the time. She became increasingly involved in activist events and participated in a march in Ottawa, dedicated to the legalization of abortion.

In International Women's Year, Pyke sat on the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) task force for Women in Psychology and also participated on the Status of Women Committee, which supervised subsequent changes in the organization. She was also the founder of the CPA Section on Women and Psychology and was later elected president ('81-'82) of the association. At York, Pyke was appointed advisor to the president on the status of women, chair of the department of psychology, and dean of graduate studies. She was responsible for establishing a doctoral program in women's studies; York became the first Canadian university to offer a PhD in women's studies. She has long been in high demand as a speaker on women's issues. Pyke's publications have appeared in several prominent journals and she has won several awards, including the CPA's lifetime achievement award and a university professorship award from York.

Gerald Schmitz
BA '73, MA '75

ONE OF CANADA'S foremost experts on Canadian foreign policy, Gerald Schmitz's Parliamentary career also made him one of this country's most distinguished public servants. He was employed by the Parliamentary Information and Research Service (PIRS) for 30 years. Specializing in the fields of international relations, political economy, human rights and



parliamentary affairs, Schmitz held several senior roles with PIRS prior to his retirement in 2011. He was also the longest-serving research director for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade/Development ('94-'08). During this time he was the lead drafter of many major reports, including: Canada and circumpolar cooperation; the future of the World Trade Organization; relations between Canada and the United States and Mexico; Canada's relations with the Muslim world; Canada's international democracy assistance; and Canada's role in Afghanistan.

Schmitz's reputation for excellence in research and government policy knowledge also led to him twice being seconded—first as a program director for the North-South Institute and, later, as an advisor for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Schmitz was awarded a Hanns-Seidel Memorial Fellowship in 2007 and is a prolific author, having penned an array of scholarly papers, books and critical parliamentary reports. Among a wide range of interests, Schmitz is an accomplished photographer, winning the World Wildlife Fund's international grand prize in 2005. He is also the longtime film critic for the Saskatchewan-based weekly journal *The Prairie Messenger*.

The Dogs of October

Alumnus Byron Jenkins reflects on a life-defining race with the 1979 Huskies cross-country squad



BY BYRON JENKINS ('83)

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE STOBBE

They were happy with that inordinate happiness that comes of exhaustion and achievement, and with which all else in life—no joy of either body or the mind—is even able to be compared.

—George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

It is rare for God to allow a man to run life's race from start to finish without stumbling or falling.

—Philo (20 BC–AD 50)



Huskies cross-country team members, 1980 (photo: U of S Archives RG 2095)

IT IS A THING OF BEAUTY, the start of a Saskatchewan cross-country running race. Athletes dressed in a blaze of colours stretch across an open field in the crisp autumn air. Grouped in teams, they form a single line, often some 100 strong. Runners in the 1979 men's provincial final near Prince Albert spanned a sunny forest meadow beneath towering dark spruce trees. I stood proudly with the best of them. A dozen of us wore green shorts and white singlets emblazoned over the heart with a 'U of S.' We were the best cross-country team in the province; one of the best in the west, maybe even all of Canada. We were the University of Saskatchewan. The Huskies. The Dogs.

"Three minutes, gentlemen! Three minutes!" The race command came from a schoolteacher armed with a starting pistol and a bullhorn. In an hour, the U of S Huskies men's cross-country team of 1979 would be decided. Only seven runners would make the cut. The entire season was down to this one race. We all knew it. Do or die.

Some busied themselves jumping low, two-legged hops. Others staved off starting-line tension with arm-swings, hip gyrations, or running on the spot. One or two broke from the line for a short, warm-up sprint. Ten weeks of intense training led to this, a demanding 12KM race through field and forest. With the innate certainty of youth, I knew I'd make the squad travelling to the Western Canadian championships in Victoria.

"One minute!" said the bullhorn. I'd done my homework, worked my calculations and knew where I stood on the team. My season had been a perfect upward trajectory of increasing fitness. For the rest of my life, I'd tell people I'd been a Huskie.

"Runners take your marks!" We shuffled forward, toed a line then leaned into a crouch. A pregnant pause followed before a sharp crack from the starter's pistol. A cheer rose up from the crowd of onlookers. We were off.

I'm not certain what I was more excited about that freshman season, my schoolwork or making the cross-country team. But classes such as *The History of the British Empire* and *The English Novel in the 19th Century* opened a new world to me. Reading Hardy, Thackeray and Scott left me spellbound. I regularly prowled the library aisles to find more of their work. After classes, I was monk-like in my devotion to my sport, never missing a workout. Two months into term, I had the tanned limbs, defined leg muscles and hollow cheeks of the long distance runner. Fit and focused, I was hungry for success.

The first steps of a distance race are a crowded, disconnected affair, with a crush of bodies, all in a hurry, jockeying for position. The more confident and aggressive fight their way near the front of the pack. I was one of them. Floating over a narrow back road, we turned down a slope to a narrow creek. One by one, like steeplechasers, we leapt over it then shot up an embankment into the forest. We'd do three laps of a 4,000M loop, each ending with a run up a demonic long, steep and sandy hill. Ten minutes in, we'd sorted ourselves out. I'd left the main pack behind. With five Huskies ahead of me, I was runner number six. Hold my position to the end of the race and I'd be a letterman.

I DIDN'T SEEK out cross-country, it came to me. A 90-pound waif in Grade 9, my school wouldn't let me play football. Like many small boys with athletic ambitions, I took up long distance running. American comedian, Dick Gregory, said running got him through high school. It helped me, too. In the 1970s, baby boomer joggers ushered in Canada's first running boom. American Steve Prefontaine made long distance running cool. His coach, Bill Bowerman, believed running took more courage than football, because if runners fail, everybody sees them fail. "A lot of football players can't stand being alone out there with no one to hide behind," Bowerman said. Maybe it wasn't true, but I bought it.

In cruise control, alone in the silent forest, the only sound was the tap, tap, tap of my feet and the coming and going of my breath. It was an odd feeling, competing at the top level in a sport while alone in near wilderness.

Cross-country racing began in England in the mid-1800s, evolving from rural running pastimes such as hare and hounds. It's a team sport, with each runner scoring points toward his squad's total. Saskatchewan high schools adopted it in 1962. The U of S fielded its first team two years later. The sport features prominently in one of the more famous short stories in English, *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner*. Alan Sillitoe's gritty, ground-breaking tale of English working-class redemption contains some of the best descriptions ever of the joy of running:

"It's a treat, being a long-distance runner, out in the world by yourself with not a soul to make you bad-tempered or tell you what to do....Sometimes I think that I've never been so free as during that couple of hours when I'm trotting up the path out of the gates and turning by that bare-faced, big-bellied oak tree at the lane end."

EFFORTLESSLY COVERING KILOMETRE after kilometre, a sensation swept over me, the sweet taste of success.

I had fond memories of high school cross-country. Provincial finals were held each fall near some peaceful small town. Buses, vans and pickups driven by cowboy-hatted fathers descended on the race site in the countryside to disgorge some 600 athletes. Afterwards, crowded into a school auditorium or old town hall, we'd receive ribbons and crests. Beaming with pride, I'd board our bus for the long ride home through a prairie autumn's golden late afternoon. It left this city boy with a lifetime of warm and fuzzy feelings for rural Saskatchewan.

Emerging from the forest, I attacked the hill for first time. Cresting it, running the gauntlet of cheering spectators shouting encouragement, I was on fire. Back on the sun-dappled forest path, I created more separation from my pursuers then fell into that out-of-body feeling Sillitoe wrote about:

"I go my rounds in a dream, turning at a lane or footpath corners without knowing I'm turning, leaping brooks without knowing they're there..."

PERCHED HIGH ON a riverbank, the U of S campus was ideal for training. We ran repeated long, pain-inducing riverside inclines and torrid 10-mile runs through Saskatoon suburbs. One cold, overcast day, on a narrow riverbank forest trail, we ran long, repeat interval sprints along the rugged, twisting path. Afterwards, our breath rising in clouds above our flushed, smiling faces, came the satisfaction of simply completing these workouts. It wasn't quite *Chariots of Fire*, but it was close.

My second solo lap was well paced. Countless workouts and races taught us exactly what speed we were moving. In 1979 we didn't wear running watches. We didn't need them.

Running improvement was a slow, creeping thing. Weeks went by with seemingly no results. Then, almost imperceptibly, workouts that used to leave me gasping were a cakewalk. Psychologists say running appeals to people with a highly-developed sense of delayed gratification. We were race tough, too. Our on-campus home race, the Sled Dog, featured three loops through a spirit-crushing deep ravine appropriately named Devil's Dip. At the final prep race on Edmonton's high riverbank, I finished within striking distance of our best runners. That breakthrough run told me I could make the team.

Leaving the crowd and plunging a last time into the forest, with just 4KM to go, telltale signs of early fatigue hit me. I believed my lead insurmountable, but 10 minutes later, began thinking fondly of the finish line and why it seemed so far away. Emerging from the forest for the last time, with 400M remaining, I could hear the cheering crowd. Up and over the hill and I'd cap the ideal season with the perfect race, crossing the finish line a hero. Then I heard footsteps.

Good distance runners never look back. Physically depleted and nearing the finish, they're painfully tempted to. Glancing backwards gives your pursuers a psychological boost. They're hurting too, but seeing your concern gives them a shot of confidence.

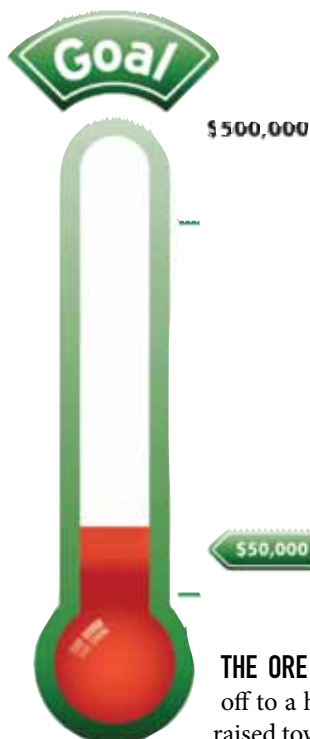
The footsteps came closer, but I didn't panic. If overtaken, I'd still place seventh. My spot on the team was guaranteed. Halfway up, a teammate caught me. He was with another Huskie, both running strongly. Then they passed me. I thrashed away in an attempt to keep up, but I was spent. I'd given everything for 11,800M. Now, mere steps behind them, I watched the two battle it to the finish line.

DISTANCE RACERS ENTER a post-race realm of pain few of us would go voluntarily. Exhausted, asthmatic, near collapse and in pain all over, they're in a state that would normally call for emergency medical care.

None of this came close to the psychological agony of failure and disappointment I felt. Two weeks later, stuck in Saskatoon's grey November pre-winter gloom, I missed the competition, fun and camaraderie in balmy Victoria. The Dogs of 1979 won the Western championships that year. Then they all travelled to national finals in Toronto, placing fifth in all of Canada.

But I got something else out of that autumn of 1979. I went on to get my degree. And today, still passionate about running, I'm even more fanatical about literature and history.

Running with the Dogs gave me that, too.



Ore Gangue launches alumni bursary fund

Formed in 1934, the Ore Gangue is the oldest undergraduate society at the U of S and the lifeblood of the Department of Geological Sciences

BY GRAHAM ADDLEY (BA'87)

THE ORE GANGUE'S Alumni Bursary Fund is off to a healthy start with more than \$80,000 raised toward an ambitious target of \$500,000.

The first two recipients, Zoe Brewster ('14) and Carson Brown ('14), will receive bursaries of \$3,500.

The idea of the bursary fund developed at the annual golf tournament held by Calgary alumni each autumn. Spearheaded by Gordon Beach (BSc'74), the committee has attracted both younger as well as older, experienced alumni. The goal of the bursary is to provide financial support, reward academic performance and recognize the contributions of the society's student members.

To support their initiatives, the group recently launched a website (www.oregangue.org) that includes a history of the Ore Gangue dating back to its earliest years.

Beach calls the Calgary Ore Gangue a tight-knit organization with strong social and professional bonds. They first met as university students in Saskatoon, and as they migrated towards the centre of the oil and gas industry in Calgary the group continued to stick together.

The golf tournament began as a few friends spending time together for an afternoon and eventually grew into an annual tournament with yearly attendance of 100 or more. Ten years ago, the decision was made to raise money to provide steady, predictable funding support to students in need of financial help.

The ongoing social events "help maintain contact and friendships," said Beach, but with the added bonus of fund-raising success. While he says more work needs to be done, the golf tournament has been successful in raising more than \$12,000 for the U of S Michael D. Welch Memorial Book Prize and \$80,000 for the U of S Ore Gangue Alumni Bursary Fund.

"I am sometimes asked how the Ore Gangue is so successful at raising funds. My answer is simple—we know supporting the next generation of students is a valuable goal and we always have fun while we do it," said Beach.



From left: Wayne Pridham (BE'75), Dale Coburn (BComm'74), Gordon Beach (BSc'74) and Cliff Herman (BSc'73) at the Ore Gangue's 2007 annual golf tournament (photo: Erin Beach)

Jim Merriam, professor and head of the Department of Geological Sciences, is appreciative of the Ore Gangue's good work. "The Ore Gangue Alumni Fund is targeted towards students in need of financial assistance. We put on field schools, which means additional travel and accommodation costs over and above tuition, so many of our students may not be able to participate without this valuable support," he said.

Merriam looks forward to attending more Ore Gangue events in Calgary and perhaps some closer to home. "The resource industry in Saskatchewan has seen such impressive growth in the past 10 years that there are now a significant number of Ore Gangue alumni in Saskatoon. It would be great to see a Saskatoon Ore Gangue formed."

Keen Eye on the Past

History Professor Erika Dyck and PhD candidate Amy Samson are working to shine light on a dark spot in Western Canada's history—the practice of eugenics.

BY MARA SELANDERS ('13)

ERIKA DYCK ADOPTS a serious tone when asked how she and PhD student Amy Samson are hoping to change current attitudes and policies around mental illness through studying eugenics.

“As historians, we don't talk about the future,” says Dyck, a young, energetic professor of history and Canada Research

Chair in the History of Medicine. Though the comment is made in jest, she adds, “I'm reluctant to say that our research necessarily provides some kind of self-righteous view on what we should do today. But I think that there are things we can learn by studying the past that (would) have an impact on our current practices.”

Keeping a keen eye on the past is essential for historians looking to inform and construct the future, says Dyck. She is a team leader within the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA), a research group that brings together scholars, students and community partners with survivors of eugenics—the practice of sexual sterilization—to create living archives in Western Canada.

While there were pockets across Canada promoting eugenics in the early 20TH century, Alberta—in 1928—and British Columbia—in 1933—were the only provinces that enacted legislation permitting the practice. In British Columbia, a total of 200 people were sexually sterilized. In Alberta, which had a more aggressive program, 2,822 people were documented as being sterilized. Alberta's eugenics law was repealed in 1972 while British Columbia's was struck down in 1973.

The vast majority of those sterilized were recommended due to perceived disabilities or mental health issues. However, the legitimacy of many recommendations has since been called into question. Leilani Muir, for example, was an orphan who was sterilized in Alberta. She has since been found to not be mentally deficient and successfully sued the Alberta government for \$750,000. Hundreds of others have also been compensated.

By researching what many consider a dark period in Western Canadian history, Dyck says CURA hopes to shed



light on contemporary attitudes around reproduction for people with disabilities and mental health issues.

Dyck's rapid rise to academic prominence started with her research on the historically-documented use of LSD as psychiatric treatment in Saskatche-

wan. Her monograph on the subject, *Psychedelic Psychiatry: LSD from Clinic to Campus*, was published in 2008.

Gravitating towards eugenics research was a natural progression, she says, due to her interest in institutionalized populations. Samson shares a similar interest, working on a thesis that examines the roles nurses, social workers and teachers played in eugenics programs.

In many ways it was Muir who paved the way for studies such as the ones initiated by Dyck and Samson. Her 1996 trial brought eugenics to the fore of public consideration. Samson, who was able to meet Muir in person through CURA, said connecting with eugenics survivors has been integral to her work.

“You start to realize that this is a real person...and it changed the way I look at what I'm doing and what I'm writing.”

The CURA project also brings research findings to the general public and other members of the disability community in both traditional and interactive ways. For example, a forthcoming addition to CURA's website will allow users to walk through the process of what it may have been like to be a patient.

“There's a concerted effort to bring a lot of these insights into a variety of classrooms,” said Dyck.

Samson, who recently taught a course on the history of eugenics, said it was gratifying to see students realize the subject matter isn't simply buried in the past.

“I had them bring in a newspaper article for the last day of class, a recent article that they felt touched on similar themes,” she said. “So it was interesting to see them start making connections, like, ‘Okay, this isn't just something that happened, this is still alive.’”

Above: Michener Centre, Red Deer, AB, where many sterilization patients were institutionalized (photo: courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta)



Amy Samson (left) and Erika Dyck (photo: Dave Stobbe)

FACTS ABOUT EUGENICS IN WESTERN CANADA

- › The vast majority of eugenic sterilizations in Canada were performed in Alberta.
- › British Columbia was the only other province in Canada to pass involuntary sterilization legislation that was explicitly eugenic.
- › Alberta's eugenic sterilization program continued until the repeal of the Sexual Sterilization Act of Alberta in 1972.
- › Leilani Muir won a landmark legal case in 1996 for wrongful sterilization and confinement against the Province of Alberta.
- › The typical grounds for eugenic sterilization were that a person's undesirable physical or mental conditions were heritable, and that those persons would not make suitable parents.
- › Central amongst those targeted by such eugenic practices were people with a variety of disabilities, especially (but not only) developmental disabilities.
- › Many other marginalized groups—single mothers, First Nations and Métis people, Eastern Europeans, and poor people—were disproportionately represented amongst those subjected to eugenic ideas and practices, such as sterilization.

—Eugenics Archive Canada (<http://eugenicsarchive.ca/>)

Winter of 1885: Woman With A Broken Rifle

ANDRÉA LEDDING

The only thing you would never stop wanting:
his arms at night. His snore.

What you would remember:
the times you feigned sleep.

He loved to watch you
braid your hair.

And you were the one who lived
to see children and grand-children walk down a hundred dark paths.

You faced down the fear of lighting your fire at night
because every scenario brought a wolf.

That first winter, after the soldiers left for their home, yours still smoking -
that winter your youngest child named for the father
he never saw

froze to death in his sister's arms. That night you had snared
a winter-thin jackrabbit. You didn't cry.

Skinning the rabbit was
like undressing an unruly child in too-tight clothes.

You have a scar still on your hand. Just there.

You were the rabbit and the snare.

Beneath wolfwillow you dug a hole,
buried your own tongue.

When the bush was cut down,
an entire world in the roots.

Author's Note: *This was written in 2010, the 125th anniversary of Canada's last battle on what is now Canadian soil, the Riel-led Métis Resistance of 1885. Middleton marched on Batoche on May 9, two weeks after being turned back at Tourond's Coulee. After three days and heavy losses on both sides, he defeated the Métis, who were down to shooting nails and stones. Lands lost, families scattered and holdings burnt and looted, more displaced women and children would die of exposure and starvation in the months following than died on both sides during the entire campaign.*





ANDRÉA LEDDING, a student in the MFA in Writing Program through the Interdisciplinary Centre for Creativity and Culture (ICCC), is the 2012 recipient of the Dick and Mary Edney Masters Scholarship for International Understanding through the Humanities & Fine Arts. The aim of this scholarship is to enrich the cultural life of Canada by promoting the study of other cultures. Ledding received the award for her multilingual creative thesis focusing on first contact in Canada.

Ledding says she was thrilled to be a part of the inaugural class of the new MFA in Writing program. "It is wonderful that there is a scholarship that focuses on the fine arts and humanities," she says. "It is through creativity that understanding, growth and connectivity take place. I am very grateful to the Edney family for this gift of sustenance for creative work. As a writer and freelancer and single parent, this reliable monthly income allows me some security to focus on my studies."

Ledding's writing has appeared in *Eagle Feather News*, *The Prairie Messenger*, many Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) national and regional newspapers as well as several literary publications, including the anthology, *Canada's Best Poetry of 2011* (Tightrope Press). She is the recipient of Anvil Press/*subTerrain Magazine's* Lush Triumphant Poetry Award for 2010, and two John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Awards—for poetry (2012) and for creative non-fiction (2011) for *In the Pockets of Our Hearts*, about the legacy of Batoche.

In November 2012, Ledding's play, *Dominion*, opened Toronto's 25th Annual Weesakeechak Festival. It was the first work to be presented in the new Aki Theatre.

Ledding has received grants from the Saskatchewan Arts Board and The Canada Council for the Arts. The mother of seven children, she also volunteers with Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op and is on the board of SAWCI (Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writer's Circle, Inc.), which organizes the Anskohk Literary Festival.

—Betsy Rosenwald



(photo: Dave Stobbe)

Presiding Over the Prehistoric

BY KIRK SIBBALD (BA'04)

OVERSEEING PREHISTORIC REMAINS and a litany of animals might not be in the job description for most museum managers or curators. But the Museum of Natural Sciences isn't your typical museum, either.

Sue Johnson has worked at the U of S for 13 years, the past 10 of which have been in the Museum of Natural Sciences. The facility spans three floors and is home to everything from rare rocks and minerals to various dinosaur replica skeletons, plants, fish and live animals.

Trained as a veterinary technician, Johnson started working casually at the U of S in 1998, tending to mice and rats in the Health Sciences. In 1999, the Department of Biology advertised a half-time position working in the old Biology Museum.

"That had really been my dream job for some time. So when it was finally advertised and I got (the job) I thought, 'How lucky can I be?'" she said.

It turns out that museum was in the process of closing and she was hired to disperse the assets, continuing to care for the few animals that were still in the biology teaching program. When the Museum of Natural Sciences technician position opened in 2003, Johnson assumed that position and has held it ever since.

The Museum of Natural Sciences officially opened at the U of S in 1986, filling much of the foyer that separates the Geology and Biology Buildings.

One of the first displays purchased remains, perhaps, the museum's most popular today. Affectionately referred to as REXY, the Tyrannosaurus Rex was purchased in 1986 for nearly \$80,000. Records indicate it's a replica of the 1908 skeleton found by researchers from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. If purchased today, Johnson estimates the same replica would be worth upwards of \$250,000.

All of the dinosaur skeletons are, in fact, replicas made mostly of fiberglass and resins. Actual dinosaur fossil skeletons are simply too heavy, too rare and too cost prohibitive, said Johnson.

However, the rest of the museum is almost 100 per cent authentic. The rocks used to construct the museum's iconic waterfall and surrounding exhibits were even imported from the Zortman area in Montana.

The museum is currently home to a wide range of animals and reptiles, including: several fresh and saltwater fish, lovebirds, one snake, degus and bullfrogs. The koi pond is of special note—these fish have been here since the museum opened and are approximately 27 years old.

Beginning at the fish tanks, the animal displays follow the theory of evolution, highlighting different physiological adaptations the animal world has produced. Johnson said because many students are unable to have pets in their homes, they have been known to get attached to museum residents.

There is also an array of plants, including those of both the domestic and exotic variety. Johnson said one of the trees, a Wollemi Pine from Australia, was until recently thought to be extinct. She was lucky enough to acquire one working in concert with *National Geographic*.

"The plants have been a huge learning process for me, but it's nice because I get to garden all year long," said Johnson, noting she recently earned a prairie horticulture certificate through the university's Centre for Continuing and Distance Education. "I'm not going to lie, that a pretty big draw for me."

Johnson said no one day is quite like another. Whether it's tending to a sick animal, pruning plants, lights that need replacing or dinosaurs that need dusting, there is always something that requires her attention.

Increasingly, much of Johnson's time is also spent filling out the regulations and permits required to house many of the museum's animals and plants.

"The museum hasn't changed a lot outwardly or noticeably, but the regulations of having animals in research, and especially in teaching and uniquely on display, has escalated a lot over the years," she said.

Asked what the best part of her job is, Johnson's answer is both telling and succinct:

"It's not a job," she said.

"It's coming to work everyday and, you know, it just fits...I learn something new every single day, and that keeps me happy. I really just love doing this. I've told many people, I have the best job on campus and it's a place I have become very attached to."

» DID YOU KNOW?

The average number of Natural Science Museum visitors per year is estimated at 15,000

Balfour Currie and the Second International Polar Year

SUBMITTED BY
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



THE “FIRST IDEAS of an auroral oval” emerged from the observations of Balfour Currie, on leave from the University of Saskatchewan and stationed at Chesterfield Inlet in the Canadian Arctic during the second International Polar Year (IPY), 1932 to 1933. IPYs are concerted, international efforts to research the Earth’s polar regions.

Currie, with colleagues Frank Davies, Stuart McVeigh, and John Rae, took several thousand images of aurora between August 1932 and September 1933. They also measured “electric fields and other meteorological variables in the lower atmosphere.... Measurements of the earth’s magnetic field were also taken with great care at hourly intervals.”

Currie analysed the data upon his return to the U of S, but at least one colleague believed that for Currie, “the official record of discovery” was unimportant. “It was only because of Currie’s success at Chesterfield Inlet, and in gleaning the results afterward, that the University of Saskatchewan was able to embark on upper atmospheric physics at such an opportune time, in the early fifties. Currie’s contribution enabled Canada to participate actively in space science... That is the real legacy of Chesterfield Inlet and Balfour Currie.”¹

Balfour Currie had joined the Department of Physics in 1928. He went on to be department head, founder of the



Top: Currie measuring atmospheric potential gradient (Department of Physics fonds, A-22); bottom: Expedition Residence—coal bags stacked to shelter auroral camera and operator from the wind (Department of Physics fonds, B-10)

Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies, dean of graduate studies, and vice-president (research).

IPYs are rare events, involving a new generation of scientists and researchers each time. Only two have occurred since the second IPY 80 years ago—the most recent spanning 2007 to 2009.

To view more information and images:
<http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/northern/currie>

NOTES

1 All quotes from essays in *Musk-Ox*, VOL. 35, Spring 1987

Streamlining Student Transfers

2 + 2

BY KIRK SIBBALD (BA'04)

MARRYING DIPLOMAS WITH degrees hasn't always been harmonious or without critics. Arts & Science Dean Peter Stoicheff is working to change that, moving aggressively to create new transfer agreements and dispelling stereotypes along the way.

The college has 11 transfer agreements currently in place, with at least 15 more being discussed. A new position, transfer articulation coordinator, was also established in 2013 to manage current agreements and develop relationships between the college and other institutions.

Although details vary, these agreements essentially allow students to complete two years at one institution and get full credit for these years when transferring to a similar program at the U of S. In the case of technical institutions or community colleges, this often means students receive a diploma or certificate and then can earn a degree with only two additional years of study.

The College of Arts & Science is currently home to nearly 3,500 transfer students—defined as students who come to the college after spending time in other colleges or institutions. That number comprises nearly 20 per cent of the university's total undergraduate population.

Without transfer agreements, moving from one institution to another can be cumbersome as students don't receive credit for some of their previously-completed courses.

"It can become so bureaucratically difficult that, regardless of the result, (students) don't want to go through the process," said Stoicheff.

"Given that there is so much interest in transferring here, we feel we should identify the programs where it can be really simple and straightforward."

Stoicheff said transfer students have, statistically, performed well academically in the college. And because the college has capacity for more students in the third and fourth years at the undergraduate level, it makes sense to actively identify programs where transfer agreements could potentially fit.

"It's not anything goes. The transfer articulation agreements we are creating are meaningful and strategic ones, and they have to maintain the academic integrity of the



From left: Wei Xiao (dean, College of Life Sciences, Capital Normal University, Beijing), Peter Stoicheff (dean, College of Arts & Science) and Jack Gray (head, Department of Biology) sign a 2 + 2 block transfer agreement in February 2013 (photo: Kirk Sibbald)

programs students are moving into," he said.

"But students who come from SIAST or a community college are extremely well qualified... they know how to complete something and they tend to be educationally very mature. So if they want to come here, why would we make it difficult for them?"

In addition to seeking new agreements with diploma or certificate-granting institutions, Stoicheff is also looking to augment the college's international presence and relations with other universities around the world.

The Department of Biology signed a new 2 + 2 transfer agreement with Beijing's Capital Normal University (CNU) in February, which allows students to earn a BSc degree by studying two years in CNU and two at the U of S.

The college is also about to sign its first-ever renewal of a block transfer agreement, another 2 + 2 transfer agreement between SIAST's Chemical Technology Program and the Department of Chemistry.

"The transfer credit agreement provides options for our students," said Netha Dyck, acting provost and vice-president, academic at SIAST. "Students can enter the workforce after completing their SIAST diploma program or they can opt to pursue further education and acquire both marketable skills and a degree."

Transfer agreements have historically been a divisive issue, with many believing the academic gap between technical institutions and universities is too wide to bridge. Stoicheff, however, believes "the gap isn't very wide at all," again pointing to stats showing the success of previous transfer students in the college.

The increased marketability of students with both a diploma or certificate and degree is another reason Stoicheff says it's important to move decisively on transfer agreements. And his thinking on the matter goes both ways.

"Just as it's a really formidable combination for someone to have diploma or certificate and then get a degree, I think the reverse is also true. If you have a degree from here and add on a certificate or diploma from a community college or a SIAST, that's a really good thing to do as well," he said.



DEAN PETER STOICHEFF



EVERY YEAR, WE honour and celebrate our most distinguished alumni with the Alumni of Influence Awards Gala. I am delighted to welcome this year's inductees, who are featured in this magazine. The Alumni of Influence awards recognize those individuals whose life accomplishments have had tremendous influence locally, nationally and internationally. This evening has quickly become an annual highlight for our college, and it is humbling to gather and formally recognize the tremendous, wide-reaching impact our former students have had on scientific, social, artistic and economic spheres around the world.

It is because of the rich legacy of the college's students that we established the Alumni of Influence awards in 2009 to commemorate our college's 100TH anniversary. While it originally looked to be a fairly straightforward task, selecting 100 honourees out of more than 50,000 alumni proved quite challenging, to say the least. It quickly became clear that we had well over 100 alumni who deserved to be recognized with this distinguished honour and, thus, the Alumni of Influence awards banquet was born and has now become an annual tradition for the College of Arts & Science.

And what the college is now—indeed what the university is known for now—can in large part be attributed to the energy and vision and hard work of our many alumni, nine of whom we honour this year. I can't say the college takes all the credit for what these people achieved.

But I like to think they received something of value when they were here that helped set them on their journey. They might not have known what that journey was going to look like, exactly, but their passion kept them at it, and the skills they acquired at this college helped them with it too. It speaks to the high and unique value of the undergraduate arts and science degree.

Our college has a unique position in the country because it houses the widest range of disciplines, and we are bringing them together in new combinations that increase the value of all that we already do. We identify what those skills are that are so coveted by employers and that drive employers to look for arts and science graduates—communication, critical thinking, global awareness, cultural competencies in many different groups (but particularly First Nations and Métis), creativity, community engagement. We're transforming our curricula to ensure that all arts and science students receive these skills, no matter whether they're graduating with a degree in mathematics or a degree in theatre.

It's exciting—we're on a roll, we've got a tremendous purpose and we've learned a lot from our extraordinary Alumni of Influence so that our future students can benefit from them. To our Alumni of Influence, therefore, I say thank you, on behalf of our students, faculty, and all the other stakeholders who hold this college high regard and want to see it thrive. You're always showing us the way.

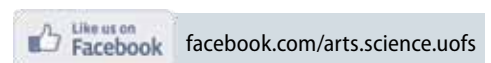


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Nomination deadline: Friday, September 6, 2013

Left to right: Roy Romonow,
Sylvia Fedoruk, Guy Vanderhaeghe



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