

arts & science

WINTER 2012

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UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN
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Political Studies student Tomas Borsa ('13) takes notes for his project, **Line in the Sand**. Photo: Tristan Becker (BA'10)



Part 3 of our 3-part series:
**Inside The Social Sciences
Research Laboratories (SSRL)**



SAFIHR An Interdisciplinary Gem

SSRL facility maps health research in new, innovative ways

BY KIRK SIBBALD

THE MOST FREQUENTLY-USED health services in Canada might also be the most overlooked from a research perspective.

Aiming to change that is the Spatial Analysis For Innovation in Health Research (SAFIHR) lab, one of five facilities that comprise the Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL).

The lab is currently at work on a project mapping primary healthcare services (i.e., family doctor offices) in Saskatoon and Mississauga, research that will soon be expanded to 15 cities across the country according to Scott Bell, professor of geography and planning and a co-principal investigator for SAFIHR.

While considerable time has been spent looking at the variability amongst primary healthcare facilities in urban and rural communities, Bell said research has largely overlooked the variations within cities.

“Our research is motivated by primary care being the gatekeeper to all other health care services,” said Bell. “Usually you go to a family doctor and they refer you to a cardiologist, a rheumatologist or an allergist and so on. So as individuals, we access the breadth of healthcare through our family doctors.”

The work, while still in relative infancy, has already uncovered patterns of discontinuity.

The research found that in underserved urban areas—where people have to travel further to see a family doctor—those residents were more likely to find an alternative location for care, such as walk-in clinics and emergency rooms. Bell said this affects the continuity and quality of care many people receive, as medical histories are not readily available and there is no pre-established relationship between doctor and patient.

“So despite the fact that health care in Canada is universally available and supposed to be equitable, there are aspects of the way we access care that can have implications on our health,” said Bell.

One of the keystones of SSRL laboratories, such as SAFIHR, is that students are actively encouraged to make use of the facilities and get involved in research projects. This was recently highlighted by an undergraduate student, Lindsay Aspen, who published a paper on the aforementioned research and presented the paper at a conference in Los Angeles.



“The best thing is the fact I’ve had undergrads and grads working on different project, all with links to health but with different focuses. If this lab didn’t exist, the students would be over in different departments and offices,” said Bell. “But here, they are all in the same location, I see them every day, they’re able to ask each other questions and help each other out.

“That idea is really a driving force behind the whole SSRL, the idea that we can do things as a collective that we wouldn’t be able to do on our own.”

Bell, an expert in spatial analysis, says the lab has also made possible research projects with colleagues in other colleges. For example, he is currently working with a group in the College of Medicine, mapping patterns of dust density and asthma in cities.

“If I didn’t have SAFIHR, I wouldn’t be able to commit to it because I wouldn’t know if we have the necessary facilities and computing resources to conduct that research. So certainly an important element is the academic collaborations it makes possible.”

As for next steps in the primary care research project, Bell says they will be engaging with practitioners, finding out why they locate where they do and what the referral patterns are between primary and specialized healthcare services.

There is also a strong policy focus in the project, and decision-makers at both provincial and regional levels will be engaged as the research progresses.

“If populations in certain areas have less access to primary care or dental care, things like that, the policy makers in government can use that information to better allocate resources,” said Bell.

Cancer Survivors Get Creative

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Research group explores art, culture in healing process



EXPRESSIVE, PERFORMANCE AND physical activities are being explored by an interdisciplinary research team as creative means to help cancer survivors heal.

Elizabeth Quinlan, assistant professor of sociology, is a co-principal investigator on the Creative Practices for People with Cancer (CP4PC) project, funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF). The group plans to develop and evaluate cancer survivorship interventions, addressing research that estimates nearly 75 per cent of cancer survivors experience impaired quality of life.



The CP4PC research team includes graduate students and researchers from a range of academic and clinical disciplines, such as: psychology, sociology, nursing, kinesiology, education, physiotherapy and massage therapy. This wide range of expertise, says Quinlan, is becoming increasingly common in various forms of health research.

“Health is a social issue. It’s not just a psychological or physical issue. It encompasses the entire person and all that person is involved in,” said Quinlan. “We really need the special knowledge all those disciplines provide to address the experience of being unwell or facing a traumatic, life-threatening illness.”

The research team is currently funded under a SHRF Phase One Group grant, which allows groups to further explore ideas that have potential to evolve into sustainable projects. If Phase One proves successful the group will apply for Phase Two, where they would secure major competitive funding and more broadly share their research knowledge.

In April of 2011, CP4PC initiated group development with a workshop titled, *Crafting Connections, Methodologies and Practices for Person-Centred Interventions*. Working with national, provincial and local colleagues, the team explored guided imagery, free writing, dance and journaling as potential interventions for cancer survivors.

Most recently, members of the group met with a local potter to conduct two half-day workshops, culminating with researchers producing a small collection of masks that were on display in the College Art Galleries in October.

There is an emerging body of evidence, says Quinlan, that creative practices hasten a range of healing processes. Alongside her colleague, Roanne Thomas (University of Ottawa), Quinlan is already involved in other projects that engage breast cancer survivors in fine arts activities.

One project, for example, used collaging and art installation to help women express their experiences with breast cancer treatment and the aftermath. The womens’ experiences were then developed into a script, which has been theatrically performed for audiences of breast cancer survivors and healthcare providers, enhancing awareness of long-term issues these women face.

“We have already found that (these activities) give women a certain confidence and helps them develop a group cohesion that would have been difficult to develop otherwise,” said Quinlan. “A whole lot is said without having to use any words.”

Moving forward, the CP4PC group will be evaluating their accomplishments to date and exploring long-term intervention projects that would form the basis for developing the SHRF Phase Two proposal. As for what these projects might look like, Quinlan says the group’s diverse expertise means the sky is the limit.

“Increasingly, we’re finding the pressing issues that we’re facing as a society call for multiple perspectives to arrive at solutions that are going to work, that are fair and equitable, that are rigorously designed,” she said. “To draw on each of those intellectual traditions is necessary to solve the kinds of problems we are facing.”

LINE IN THE SAND



Former forester Katrin MacLean stands at the edge of her property on Fraser Lake, BC, downstream from many of the Enbridge pipeline's proposed water crossings (photo: Tristan Becker, BA'10)

by Tomas Borsa ('13)

Political studies/psychology student Tomas Borsa reflects on his project to document the stories of people whose lives will be directly affected by the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline

THE DEBATE SURROUNDING the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline has reached a fever pitch, particularly in British Columbia and Alberta. On one side the argument goes that it represents a rare and promising economic opportunity, with others contending that it represents little more than reckless endangerment of existing industry and an increasingly fragile ecosystem. It's an issue in which the environment has been pitted against the economy in a zero-sum battle. But is there a middle ground to be found? How do First Nations, many of whom never signed treaties, feel toward the federal government's handling of the proposal? And is there as sharp a divide in opinion between Albertans and British Columbians as has been portrayed?

In late July, I set off on a westward journey with photographer Tristan Becker (BA'10) and Whistler-based videographer Skyler Flavelle, to search for answers to these questions. Our plan was to document the opinions and personal stories of everyday Canadians whose communities run nearest the proposed route of the Northern Gateway pipeline. The trip, titled **Line In The Sand**, would take us from Bruderheim, AB (the eastern terminus of the pipeline) to Kitimat, BC, where a tanker port would be constructed in order to transport the incoming bitumen to Asian markets.

Beyond a requisite curiosity and love of adventure, our reasons for pursuing the project were threefold: first was the timeliness of the issue. Begun in 2010, the public and governmental review process for the Northern Gateway pipeline project will conclude by the end of 2013. If approved, construction of the 1,177 km pipeline is slated to begin almost immediately. Further, recent changes to environmental assessment under Bill C-38 have imposed time limits on public deliberations and restricted the range of opinions permitted at official Joint Review Panel hearings. If a committed documentation of perspectives is ever to occur, it needs to be done now.

Second, the Northern Gateway Pipeline project is not a regionally-specific matter. In BC, the project is a front page story; in Alberta, it might be lucky to attract a reprinted editorial. But debate of the issue cannot be confined to these provincial boundaries. Although the physical infrastructure would only span two provinces, the implications of its development are profound, and discussion on a trans-Canadian scale is desperately needed.

Finally, and most importantly, we conceived **Line In The Sand** as a vehicle to give a voice to those Canadians whose input might not otherwise be taken into account during this critical phase in the project's assessment period.



Top to bottom: Terry TeeGee, Prince George, BC; Loretta Bird and Brian Ketlo setting nets for salmon fishing on Nadleh Whut'en First Nation; Tomas Borsa interviews Don Pettit, photographer and author of *Power Shift*, a DVD/book project chronicling Dawson Creek's transition toward wind power in Dawson Creek, BC; a natural gas and an oil pipeline owned by Pembina Pipeline Inc. crossing the Pine River near Tumbler Ridge, BC. (photos: Tristan Becker)

Over the course of our journey, we encountered a wide range of opinions, from outright apathy to fervent opposition. By and large, the mayors, business owners and residents of Alberta with whom we spoke were unwilling to share more than a few words. Many were unaware that the proposed route could pose significant risks. (It's worth noting that Enbridge itself considers the soft, ever-shifting river valleys of Alberta to be a more challenging terrain than the numerous mountain ranges and harsh climate of BC.)

Ann Harvey, a reporter with the *Whitcourt Star*, explained that in her mind, this disinterest stems

from "the ubiquitous nature of oil and gas industry throughout the province," paired with an exodus of recent retirees of the region's primarily agriculture-based economy.

Conversely, British Columbians expressed passionate disapproval of every possible facet of the project, from skepticism of the economic benefits of the project to a concern that the traditions and livelihoods of many First Nations could be put at risk.

We spoke with Terry TeeGee, recently elected as Tribal Chief for the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, in Prince George, BC, who told us that, for the most part, the First Nations of BC "have no faith in Enbridge; we have no faith in a lot of these pipeline companies. What keeps us going is the fish—the salmon. And we can't get that back if there is a spill. We can't eat money, we can't drink oil."

Even those with a vested interest in the project—such as oilfield welder Donald Prynne, a member of Lake Babine Nation—were steadfast in their opposition to the project. "If and when there's a spill," said Prynne, "it won't be beautiful British Columbia anymore."

Although the initial investigative phase of **Line In The Sand** has concluded, we've been left with thousands of photographs, hours of audio and video recordings, and several hundred pages of field notes. So, where to from here?

Shortly after our return, the independent online magazine *The Tyee* announced a program of five fellowships worth \$5,000, to be used in the production of a series of three or more articles, each running at least 1,000 words. If all goes according to plan, we expect to return to the affected communities for a series of follow-up interviews and a more in-depth exploration in the summer of 2013. In the meantime, the team will continue posting updates, short interviews and photo essays at www.lineinthesand.ca.



Rising Fame

by Ashleigh Mattern (BA'11)



The Canadian electronic band Austra is enjoying international acclaim



Album cover for *Feel It Break* courtesy Paper Bag Records.

RYAN WONSIK HAS toured abroad with the electronic band Austra so many times in the past two years, he says the trips have started to blur together.

“It’s really disorienting, always waking up in different time zones,” he said.

Wonsiak and his band mates have toured Iceland, Brazil and Australia, and went on their eighth European tour in November.

Austra vaulted to popularity in 2011 with the release of their debut album *Feel It Break*. In January 2011, the band had their first European tour; in March, they played South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, and before the end of the year, their album had been shortlisted for the 2011 Polaris Music Prize and had made critics’ year-end lists in the *Toronto Star* and *New York* magazine.

Originally from Yorkton, Wonsiak graduated from the U of S in 2008 with a double honours in studio art and art history. While he says his degree didn’t directly prepare him for success in the music industry, his studies did have an impact on his artistic life.

“Indirectly, these degrees helped me to continue exploring myself artistically,” he said. “This exploration found its home in my musical endeavours.”

Music has always been a part of Wonsiak’s life. As a child, he played piano and, through high school, played the saxophone in jazz and concert band and participated in choir. In university, he started a band called Ze and the Boyfriends.

“...[my] degrees helped me to continue exploring myself artistically. This exploration found its home in my musical endeavours.”

In 2009, he moved to Toronto, and joined a punk band called Revenge Pregnancy. It was through an RP band mate that he met Austra’s vocalist Katie Stelmanis.

“Katie Stelmanis had a solo project in Toronto, and I’d been going to her shows a bit since I moved here, and I really liked her music,” he said. “She saw [Revenge Pregnancy] perform and befriended me, and the rest is history.”

Austra consists of founding members Stelmanis, Maya Postepski (drums) and Dorian Wolf (bass); backing singers Sari and Romy Lightman; and Wonsiak on synthesizer, keyboard and saxophone.

Their music is variously labelled as electronic, synthpop, dark wave, new wave, dream pop and indietronica, but Wonsiak describes it simply as “pop.” Whatever you label the music, the energy and atmosphere at their shows is indisputable. Stelmanis’s mournful, classically trained voice balances the band’s upbeat rhythm, creating a sound that can often be at once melancholy and danceable.

Finding success as a musician is never easy, especially in today’s online, global marketplace. Wonsiak credits the band’s success to their constant touring and suggests anyone starting out do the same if they can.

“Play as many shows as possible and travel with your project, if possible,” he said. “Meet as many people as you can and keep a positive attitude.”

Despite the trend toward independent artists and bands, he also says their record labels (Paper Bag Records in Canada and Domino in the UK) have made a big difference, helping with online promotion and organizing tours.

The group is taking a break from touring in December and January to record their second album and then they’ll kick off another (hopefully) crazy year in March at SXSW 2013. Listen to Austra’s music at: <http://tinyurl.com/c5utoxv>

Q & A ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Dean Stoicheff talks about accompanying President on provincial tour **BY KIRK SIBBALD**

You were involved in President's Tour for the first time last year. What was that experience like and what are you most looking forward to in the 2012/13 tour?

The two stops that I went to last year were Moose Jaw and Prince Albert. One of the reasons for choosing those cities is both have very high concentrations of Arts & Science alumni. My being able to join a President's Tour was a great opportunity to touch base with alumni, because people came out in large numbers to see an outgoing president and, I anticipate, will come out in even larger numbers to see an incoming president.

So it's a huge opportunity to meet with a wide range of people, ask questions about the university, and get a better feel for the thoughts and concerns of our alumni.

Another reason for going on these tours, akin to my reasons for going out and meeting with regional colleges, is that the role of Dean of this college is to get out there. We have a good governance structure that ensures a lot of the internal activities of the college are well in hand—things like research, academic programming and the student experience. The responsibility of someone in the Dean's position is getting out to the rest of the province, giving a face to the college and ensuring people understand the value of all that we do.

There is a huge discussion constantly going on about the value of an Arts & Science education, and I think it's my responsibility to engage in that discussion and be as informative as possible.

The President has requested that most stops on this tour also include visits to local First Nations communities. What are you most looking forward to in conversing with First Nations leaders and community members?

I will want to talk about all the Aboriginal initiatives we have going on in the college, particularly Aboriginal student learning communities, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Office, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Program, and so on. But more importantly, I want to understand from their perspective what the issues facing current and prospective Aboriginal students are. So that, to me, is going to be a really new and informative dimension of the President's Tour.

What are some messages you really try to get across in meeting with college stakeholders across the province?

The first message would be that it is, from any perspective you look at it, really valuable to get the kind of education that we offer. There is a strong financial argument to be made. There is an argument that what you learn here—regardless of the discipline—is what's desired by employers. And there is an argument for the personal, creative intellectual experience itself.

I also talk about the direction the college is taking and its commitment to the Aboriginal student experience and Aboriginal student success.

I will also be talking about the exciting research going on across all three divisions. I will be talking about how we are undergoing a curriculum renewal process, and how one of the results of that will be that undergraduate students who are more engaged with research activity.



When you're out in these communities what messages are you hearing from stakeholders about how they perceive the College of Arts & Science?

One thing I often hear, and that's very interesting to hear, is how important the college is to people from across the province. I hear it from guidance counselors, from parents of prospective students, from employers and from alumni. When they are thinking about what a university is, largely they are thinking about the kinds of things that go in our college. They have a very clear sense that the kind of education and learning experiences we offer is very important.

And one really interesting question I hear is, "What do you think is one skill students can acquire in your college that could help them once they graduate?" The answer I keep coming back to is communications skills, which are applicable to any given audience—whether it's an audience that's going to read you or an audience that's going to listen to you on a stage or in an interview. To achieve success in many fields, you must be able to effectively communicate, persuade, inform and have impact. We are building that into one of our learning goals for the revamped college curriculum, ensuring students gain those skills early in their studies.

It's not like I'm telling college stakeholders something they don't know. What I say really just resonates with what they already think. But I am always very impressed, and I mean that genuinely, with the importance people attach to what we do as a College of Arts & Science.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I'd just like to say it's really fascinating to watch a group of people who are really invested in a university come together in these communities when the president visits. I think that is a really fascinating phenomenon. I don't know for sure, but I don't think you would see that on quite the same scale in other provinces. I would suspect that this is relatively unique. It speaks to the value of the imagination in the province's citizens. I come originally from Ontario, where you might get the same numbers for a President's Tour but I don't think the passion would be the same. I find it quite remarkable.

The other great thing, I think, is that our new president is continuing to do this. Her connecting up stops on the tour with local Aboriginal communities is a fantastic idea, and I think she will be really successful in these visits. She really knows how to speak to people and listen to them. I'm really looking forward to it.

**This interview has been edited and condensed.*

Above left: Dean Peter Stoicheff with alumnus. Right: U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac. Photos courtesy of the University of Saskatchewan.



photo: Sean Campbell

Scholarship Opens New Directions

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Thomas Seibel is the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Frederick Mechner Barnard Scholarship

IN BOTH ACADEMIC and geographic terms, Thomas Seibel is one well-travelled student, enrolling in graduate school this fall thanks to a unique confluence of events.

He arrived at the U of S with his sights set on a physics degree. Electives in philosophy and anthropology—along with a religious studies taught abroad course in India and two separate trips to Latin America—influenced him to chart a different course.

When Seibel graduated with a double major BA in philosophy and anthropology in December 2011, he took another trip to India and was strongly considering pursuing graduate studies in anthropology upon returning to Canada. But after attending the Arts & Science Convocation Awards Banquet in 2012—he received the Department of Philosophy Convocation Award—a quick conversation

with political studies Professor Joe Garcea had him rethinking his plans once again.

“I don’t see my interests as necessarily being divided by disciplines in a strict sense, so after talking with Professor Garcea I felt that pursuing political studies here was just a natural progression in following my interests,” said Seibel.

“Travelling, meeting people, seeing things and hearing people talk about their life experience, it’s something that made me more open to trying new directions in life and academically.”

This fall, Seibel arrived back on campus, now as a MA candidate in contemporary political philosophy under the supervision of Neil Hibbert in the Department of Political Studies.

Were it not for a substantive scholarship he received, however, Seibel admits the decision to enter grad studies would have been far more difficult. Seibel was the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Frederick Mechner Barnard Scholarship, established in honour of the former and recently deceased political studies faculty member.

The endowment pays out \$10,000 annually to a graduate working in the area of political philosophy.

“I graduated with student debt and, after travelling, I wasn’t comfortable taking on a whole lot more,” said Seibel, whose studies are also aided by a SSHRC Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, worth \$17,500 for the 2012/13 academic year.

“At the very least, without the Barnard (scholarship) I would have thought twice before going into grad studies. I’m able to do this now and really make it my full-time thing for this year, which is unbelievably helpful.”

Also helpful, says Seibel, is the diversity and flexibility inherent within the college’s programs and structure. Without the ability to seamlessly switch majors and gain exposure to different disciplines and world views, where would he be right now?

“If it was more rigid, I don’t really know. Maybe I’d still be in physics and I would be a different person,” he says. “The structure in the college has really allowed me to follow whatever seemed important at that stage in my life, and that has changed along with my experiences.”

Arts & Science News



FINDLAY HONOURED WITH U OF S DISTINGUISHED CHAIR

A vigorous scholar and staunch defender of academic freedom, Professor Len Findlay (English) has been honoured with a U of S Distinguished Chair for 2012.

The U of S Distinguished Chairs Program was created in 2010 to celebrate exceptional achievement in research, scholarly and artistic work by U of S faculty or emeriti. The honorary appointments are held for three years, renewable for a second term.

Amongst his many other honours, Findlay also received an earned D.Litt from the U of S in 2011 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007.

Findlay's contributions in the academic sphere are varied and profound. He has contributed more than 40 chapters and edited two book collections, published more than 50 articles in refereed journals and presented nearly 20 keynote lectures, plenary or inaugural addresses. He also produced a major translation and edition of *The Communist Manifesto*.



ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE NAMED TO SOM

Thomas Molloy (BA'64), named an inaugural Arts & Science Alumni of Influence inductee in 2009, was recently invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

The Saskatoon-based lawyer is one of Canada's top treaty negotiators and an award-winning author of the book, *The World is Our Witness*. He also served as the 12th chancellor of the U of S and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws by the U of S in 2009.

Top: Professor Len Findlay; bottom: Thomas Molloy. Photos submitted.

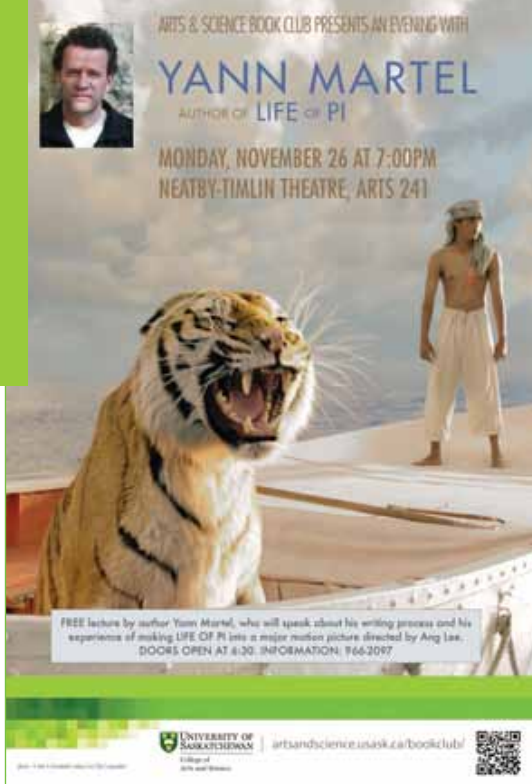
GRAD STUDENT USING MATH, COMPUTERS TO SIMULATE HEART

PhD student Saeed Torabi, studying under the supervision of Raymond Spiteri (computer science), is working to build a computer simulation of a beating heart.

The research, which was featured in *The StarPhoenix* on Dec. 3, could be put to practical in labs and hospitals. Although other heart simulators exist, Torabi hopes his will be considerably more advanced and lifelike. The grad student uses supercomputers on campus to solve complex math equations that simulate a pulsing human heart.

"Medical researchers could use these really fast simulations to design drugs or determine optimal placement of pacemakers," said Torabi's supervisor, U of S computer science professor Raymond Spiteri, in *The StarPhoenix* article.

"Doctors and other health practitioners could also be trained on virtual hearts, or see how the effects of procedures unfold in front of their eyes."



Martel Wows Book Club Crowd

BY GRAHAM ADDLEY

Renowned author Yann Martel kicks off the Book Club with a sold-out talk on the *Life of Pi*

ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR Ang Lee's adaptation of Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* continues to perform well critically and at the box office with more than \$168 million worldwide revenues. *Life of Pi* the novel was originally released in 2001 and is back on bestseller lists.

So what was Yann Martel doing in between playing host at a movie premiere in Montreal and donning a tux on the red carpet in New York? The answer may surprise you—he was launching the inaugural College of Arts & Science Book Club.

Said Martel, “It was an honour to be asked. May this be the first of many U of S Arts & Science Book Club selections.”

Dean Peter Stoicheff originally had the idea of starting the book club while crafting the college's third integrated plan. The goal was to design an

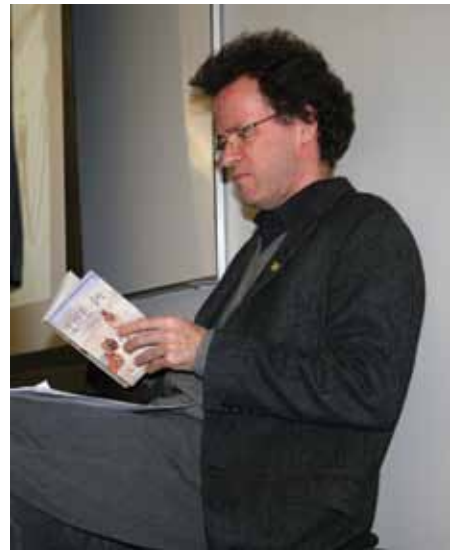
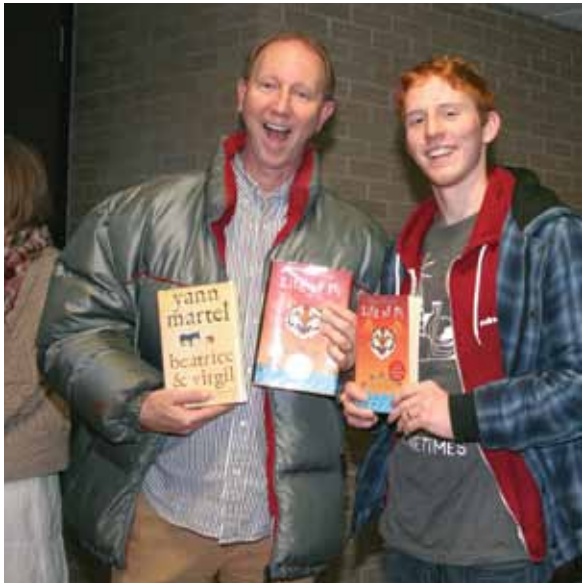
annual Book-of-the-Year program that consultatively identifies a book that can be recommended or required reading in any College course, and whose author would be invited to visit with students.

Martel immediately liked the idea. “There's nothing like a book to form a community,” he said. “You've read a book, you talk to someone else who's read it—there, you've formed a bond.”

On Nov. 26, Martel spoke to a full house in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre, eloquently sharing his experience of how *Life of Pi* went from an idea to a novel to a movie. He generously provided autographs and posed for photos for everyone who waited in the hour-long line after the lecture.

Life of Pi turned out to be an ideal choice as the first book. Said Martel, “I think *Life of Pi* was a hit with book clubs because, whether you liked it or not, it's a novel that gives you lots to talk about.”

Martel will be back on campus for the capstone events during the week of Feb. 11. Stay tuned for details at artsandscience.usask.ca/bookclub/





Dean Peter Stoicheff and Chuck White. (photo: Kirk Sibbald)

Chuck White's Unexpected Calling

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Fulbright residency brings expert in curriculum renewal to college

CHARLES (CHUCK) R. WHITE was a professor of political science at Portland State University (PSU) in Oregon for more than 20 years when he found a reluctant calling in curriculum reform and student learning. Today, he is a Fulbright Specialist and leader in the field.

During a two-week Fulbright residency in October, White shared his expertise in curriculum renewal with faculty, staff, students and administrators in the College of Arts & Science, as well as the university at large. White's visit came at a crucial time for the college as it seeks to implement a new curriculum model based on learning outcomes by 2015.

Dean Peter Stoicheff has defined curriculum renewal as an essential goal of the college. "A solid commitment to the principles and creation of program goals and learning outcomes is one of the college's main promises to our students," he said recently. "The Third Integrated Plan calls for our instructors to map academic programs to the

college's program goals, to create alignments that are sustainable, creative and responsive to students' needs, and to incorporate innovative pedagogies."

White was in the midst of writing a scholarly article when, in 1992, he was selected to chair a committee tasked with overhauling the general education requirements at Portland State. He expected to serve his time on the committee and get back to writing by the end of the 10-week term.

"I had really no interest in curriculum renewal at all," said White. "There was a call out of a fiscal crisis for a faculty committee to look at general education. To defend my department—because student credit hours would be impacted—I signed up for the committee. Well, I never left. My career changed, my research changed, everything changed. I saw my intellectual interests change. I was no longer interested in that article. I had a bigger article that had a major impact across the United States."

The committee's changes were adopted in 1998, and PSU's award-winning university studies program was established, with White leading the way.

White first visited the U of S in 2010 to give a presentation at the invitation of Lesley Biggs,

professor (history and women's & gender studies) and chair of the First Year Review Steering Committee (FYRSC) tasked with reimagining the undergraduate experience. Biggs was impressed by White's understanding of the challenges involved in making substantial changes to curriculum and proposed the idea of a further exchange through the Fulbright Canada Specialist program.

"Chuck brought a wealth of experience and was well aware of the challenges that the college would face," said Biggs. White's visit would benefit the college by helping identify the strengths and challenges of curriculum reform, as well as developing strategies for implementing change. It would be well timed to provide support to the Curriculum Innovation Steering Committee, chaired by Scott Bell (professor, geography and planning) and charged with following up on the first phase of the FYRSC's recommendations.

White's ability to focus, laser-like, on the key issues facing the college and articulate them succinctly was infectious. During his stay, White and Bell engaged in a free-flowing dialogue about everything from using digital portfolios to measure students' progress to the value of an arts and science education. White met with everyone from vice-deans and department heads to undergraduate program chairs, the Undergraduate Student Office, the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning and students working as peer leaders. Though a guest of the College of Arts & Science, he also met with curriculum leaders in other colleges as well as campus and government senior administrators.

"These college goals create the possibility of the college becoming a site of distinction. They say, 'These are the things we value, this is how we accomplish them,'" explained White.

"The really significant thing is that the goals have been adopted by the college. They aren't proposals; these are goals of the college and when this process is done, every graduate of the college will be expected to demonstrate progress. Students will be able to say, 'I know and can do these things.' What a gift that is to students."

Added Bell: "At the outset, as consumers, students will be able to better understand what a degree from a program offers. And at the end, they can turn to what they have achieved by attaining these goals and better market themselves to employers. They will better be able to articulate what they can do."

White concedes that accomplishing a change of this magnitude is "a fairly complex process." Among the roadblocks to success, in his view, are the current distribution requirement model and a lack of clear measurement for students' writing and communication skills. However, he remains optimistic that the college will be successful and the challenges are by no means insurmountable.

"I think this is a moment in the history of this institution, where things are aligned—president, provost, dean—that make big things possible," he said. "Not certain, but possible. So the prognosis is quite positive, because some of the roadblocks that often show up with big changes are not there.

"These opportunities come along once every 10 years, once a generation, not that often. This is the time here."

Another visit is not out of the question according to White. "I have become personally invested in what's going on here," he said, "and invested in Scott succeeding at a high level. I am invested in these learning goals moving from words to action."

THE FIVE PROGRAM GOALS

In answer to the question "What should a student know by the end of his/her first year?" the First-Year Review Steering Committee developed program goals for the college that are organized around five themes of **DEEPC Learning**:

1. **D**evelop a wide range of effective communication skills.
2. **E**ncourage personal development, growth and responsibility.
3. **E**ngage students in inquiry-based learning, critical thinking and creative processes.
4. **P**repare thoughtful, world-minded, educated, engaged citizens.
5. **C**ultivate an understanding of and appreciation for the unique socio-cultural position of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Reprinted from the Curriculum Renewal website at : <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/curriculumrenewal/>



Dean Peter Stoicheff

Curriculum Renewal: Part of Our Oxygen

CURRICULUM RENEWAL IS one of the most important faculty-driven projects that the college will undertake in the Third Integrated Plan. Earlier this year, we established five college-level learning outcomes for students graduating from any of our programs (see page 17). In the shift to a learning outcomes model for curricula we are ensuring that our students develop skills and abilities common to every program in the college and that, among other things, help prepare graduates for careers regardless of their disciplines.

From now to 2016, curriculum renewal will involve four phases. We are currently working on the first—creating learning goals for each program and undertaking curriculum mapping. Next, we will shift to curriculum alignment, in which programs, departments, divisions and the college will redesign their curricula to be as innovative and distinctive as they can be, to include the program goals and align with the college's learning outcomes. We will then undertake the administrative and collegial processes necessary to institute revised and new curricula in the fall of 2015.

The college's Curriculum Innovation Steering Committee (CISC), chaired by Professor Scott Bell and Sheryl Mills of the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, has done an outstanding job of undertaking and promoting the crucial planning and legwork for the beginning of our first phase of curriculum renewal. Mills and the previous First-Year Curriculum Bridging Committee (chaired by Professor Lesley Biggs) and the First-Year Curriculum Review Steering Committee (led then by former Dean Jo-Anne Dillon) did the research and formed the necessary recommendations to lead our college to our current stage, where we are now poised for transformative and cultural change regarding how and what we teach.

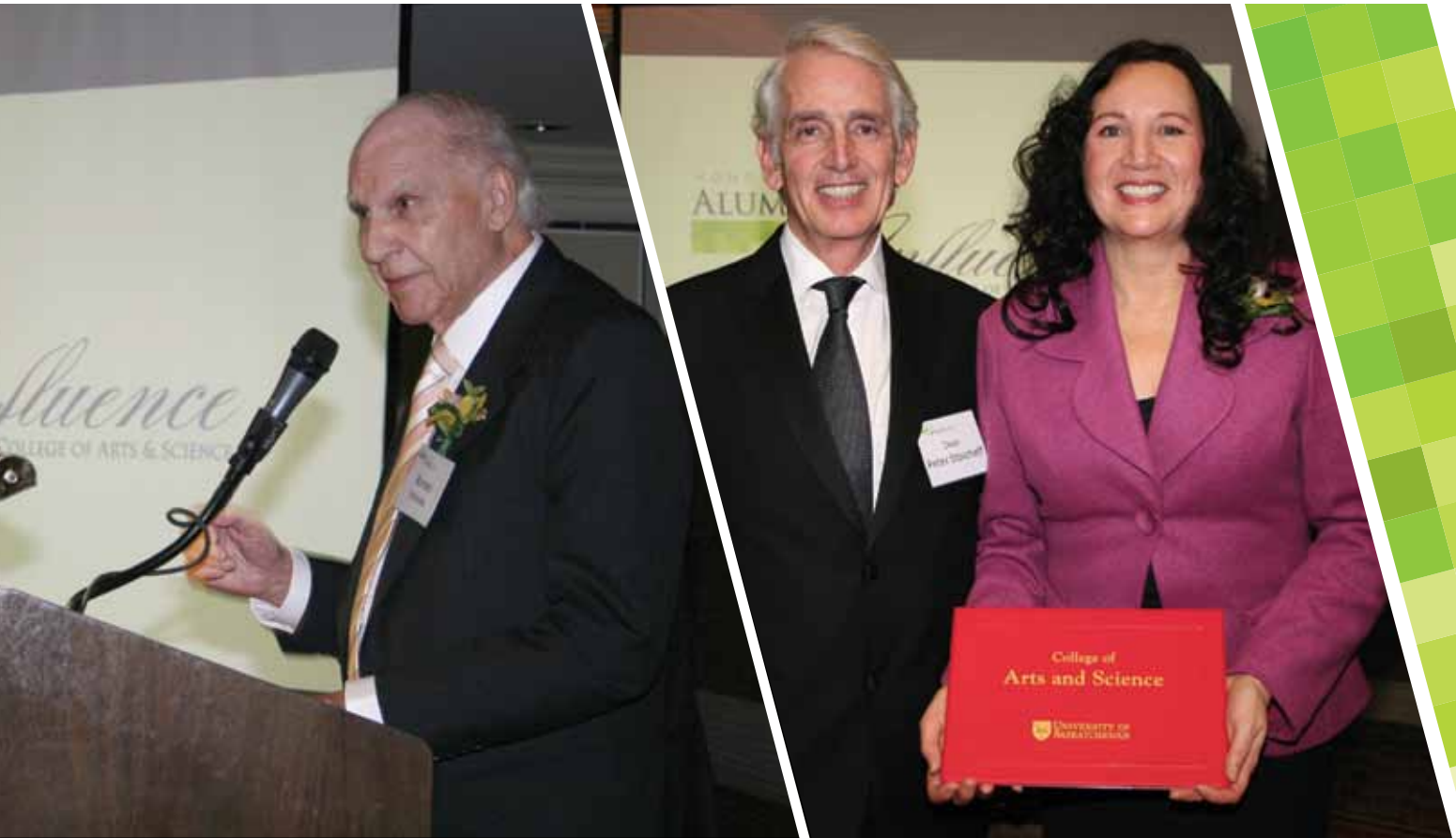
I am pleased to announce the formation of a new committee within our college (beginning at the start of Term 2) that will oversee the implementation

of curriculum renewal. The Curriculum Renewal Implementation Committee (CRIC) will oversee the alignment, coordination and communication of the many aspects of curriculum renewal. CRIC will include members from the Dean's Executive, the Programs Office, the Undergraduate Student Office, Arts & Science IT and the Gwenna Moss Centre.

With administrative efficiency and sustainability at the forefront, CRIC will form three subcommittees, each of which will examine and interrelate discrete elements of our college's culture and structure that will factor into conversations and decisions during the alignment phase. These elements include Aboriginal engagement, accreditation, mapping of program's goals to those of the college, block transfer agreements and transfer credit, types of credentials offered (degrees, diplomas, certificates), distributed learning, distribution requirements, interdisciplinarity, internationalization, learning communities and peer mentorship, pedagogical innovation, program prioritization and TABBS. The college's and divisions' Third Integrated Plans provide us with a chance to think about what we do and why we do it. The period of the Third Integrated Plan (2012–16) gives us a chance to promote the value of all that we do. Our curriculum renewal process is now part of our oxygen—a key dimension of our college's commitment to innovative teaching and research, scholarly and artistic work—and it promises to create a college that is truly unique in Canada.



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