

Savvy

Summer 2006

the newsletter of the College of Arts & Science

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Help Shape the Future

Dean's Message

It's difficult to hold a College-wide discussion when we are so numerous and scattered in various buildings across the campus. And yet, that's just what we want to achieve.

This spring, Department Heads and Dean's Executive initiated a discussion on the values and purpose of our college and on where we want to be 5, 10 or even 15 years from this point. Now we need your input.

IT staff have established a **PAWS chat room** for all faculty and staff in the College so that you can help us imagine our future. Log on to PAWS (<https://paws.usask.ca/>), then select **Groups** and **Arts&ScienceFacultyStaff**. To view the background information and invitation to participate, click on **Files**. To share your thoughts and chat with colleagues about our values and goals, click on **Post a Topic**.

I encourage you to participate in the chat room. I will make sure that all your comments are taken into consideration by the faculty committee we will be establishing in the fall, to develop the College's final value and purpose statements.

These statements will also serve as a foundation for the College's next Integrated Plan. The strategic planning process for our next 5-year plan has already begun and will build on initiatives already started, as well as exciting new ideas in teaching, research and administration, which will be discussed in the upcoming months.

Your thoughts and ideas really matter for the future of our college, and I look forward to your input and comments.

Jo-Anne R. Dillon
Dean of Arts & Science

Building on Success

Alternative Reading Week

The College of Arts and Science and Student Enrolment Services Division are building on the initial success of the Alternative Reading Week (ARW) program, a Community Service Learning (CSL) initiative. The program involves A & S students working with community agencies in core Saskatoon neighbourhoods. Orientation sessions, reflective activities and academic mentorship provide opportunities for students to cultivate leadership skills and to learn more about the community and what it means to "get involved." Participating community

(cont. on page 2)



Participants in Alternative Reading Week (ARW) in 2006 worked with a variety of community organizations, such as the Food Bank, in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods.

Building on Success:

Alternative Reading Week

(continued from page 1)

agencies benefit through program exposure and student participation. Students, community partners and instructors all agreed that ARW 2006 was a resounding success.

Over the next twelve months, several new one-day CSL experiences will be created, and Leadership Advantage will expand its CSL component. In addition, the College is contemplating a 3-credit-unit class in CSL for Term 2 of 2007 that will integrate theory and experiential learning through participation in ARW.

The 2007 Alternative Reading Week will, once again, be guided by Phaedra Hitchings, who accepted the post of Community Service-Learning Coordinator in July. Phaedra provided the initial research, program design and implementation model that will be expanded upon in the coming year.

Alternative Reading Week was successful due to the dedication and efforts of many individuals, including Faculty Instructor Paul Bidwell, John Ault from the Student Employment and Career Centre, and Sandra Ritchie and Susan Bens from Student Retention, Support and Development. As well, the participation of ARW collaborators David Peacock, Robin Mueller, Tayah Hanson and Ann Remy must be noted.

The College and the University are building on their commitments to Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods and to the process of experiential learning. Please feel free to contact Susan Bens (4747), Phaedra Hitchings (7164) or me (6427) if you are interested in becoming involved with this program.

Tom Steele

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs



The Art and Science

of Building Saskatoon's Future

The College plans to celebrate the City's and the University's centennials with a series of community dialogues to recognize the College's involvement in the past, present and future development of our community. The events will showcase the research and achievements of College faculty and provide an opportunity for a diverse group of people from across the College and the community to meet and share information and resources. Our goal is to provide a lively, stimulating event that will incorporate a wide variety of media and activities to heighten awareness of, and interest in, the College.

The first Centennial Dialogue will be held at White Buffalo Youth Lodge (602 20th Street West) on Monday, October 16, from 7 to 10 pm and will showcase Aboriginal research from within the College. If you or your students are conducting research in this area, we encourage you to participate. Contact Penny McKinlay, Communications Officer (1982 or penny.mckinlay@usask.ca).



The Beam Team:

Tips on Attracting Students

Alex Moewes, Canada Research Chair in Materials Science with Synchrotron Radiation, is spreading the word that science is good, and also exciting. He happily participates in outreach activities and, along with professors from Biology and Chemistry, has recently taken part in the Calgary Recruitment Initiative.

Alex has worked hard at establishing a strong group of graduate students and offers a few tips on how to attract good students:

Get to know the students – Alex teaches a third year class that all students have to take. This provides an opportunity for the students to get to know him, and for him to get to know them.

Be available – Alex has established a regular series of meetings. He holds individual meetings with each student on a weekly basis. The whole group meets on a monthly basis and shares PowerPoint presentations so that they are up to date on each others' work. Group meetings play an important role in team building and, although each student works on an individual project, they consider themselves part of a group — the Beam Team.

Celebrate success – Alex treats students to lunch when they are first author on a publication.

Lead by example – Alex demonstrates the importance of working hard and tries to motivate his students to do the same.

Alex also recommends being an ambassador for the university and the city. As he says, he doesn't have a long commute, housing prices are low and the campus is attractive.



Community-based Research

Honours students in Brenda McDougall's Native Studies class 450.6, Research Seminar on the History of Aboriginal People in Saskatchewan, have been researching the history of the Round Prairie Métis community for the past three years.

The Round Prairie Métis were originally a community of buffalo hunters with strong connections to the Montana Métis and Batoche who established a hivernant village, or wintering site, at Round Prairie south of the Dakota Whitecap First Nation. By the early 1900s, Round Prairie became the permanent home of this group of Métis as they settled and took out homesteads. The community began migrating into Saskatoon in the late 1920s and '30s to look for work and, by the end of the 30's, they were settling permanently in Saskatoon, in the Holiday Park area and on the east side between Taylor, Broadway and Clarence. According to some family members, the present site of Aden Bowman Collegiate was a large communal garden in the late '40s and '50s.

Once in the city, the Round Prairie Métis worked hard to maintain a sense of community and demonstrate a strong sense of civic responsibility. They did this by initiating one of the first alcohol treatment facilities in the city and also by helping to establish the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. While the Friendship Centre is now open to all Métis in Saskatoon, it was members of the Round Prairie community who first established the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI), an organization which continues to initiate a wide range of programming for families and youth.

This community-based research seminar was first offered in 2003 and was co-taught by Maria Campbell and Brenda McDougall during its first two years. Native Studies Master's student, Cheryl Troupe, has served as the course's tutorial assistant for two years. Students spent the first year conducting a general search for any archival materials they could find on the Round Prairie Métis. During the second year, students collected all pertinent homestead and census records and compiled family portfolios that showed each family's socio-economic history. During the past year, students focused on the community's urban history and, in the upcoming term, they will start to conduct interviews and prepare all of the previously located materials for a public display that is planned for the fall of 2007.

Each year, classes share their research findings at a community forum and, at the conclusion of this year, copies of all the material collected will be turned over to the Round Prairie Métis community for their own collections.



Plan to attend the
Fall Faculty Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2006
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Arts 241 (Neatby-Timlin Theatre)



Budgetary Surplus

The 2005/06 fiscal year has been closed, and I am pleased to report an operating surplus for the year. This is a significant turnaround from the large deficit of a couple of years ago. As the Dean has mentioned, this modest surplus will be used to strengthen teaching and research in the College. We are committed to maintaining a balanced budget and appreciate the support and understanding of the College with respect to the hard decisions that need to be taken.

Barb Gillis
Director of Finance and Administration

International Biology Olympiad



The Canadian team placed well at the 2006 International Biology Olympiad in Argentina. Megan Bagley and Chris Yau won silver medals; bronze medals were awarded to Merlin Lo and Justin Chakma.

The International Biology Olympiad (IBO) will be held on the U of S campus in July 2007. The event is expected to bring together approximately 220 students and 180 professionals from 55 countries around the world. Secondary school students will compete individually on practical and written exams. Professionals from each country participate in designing the test questions and serving on the jury.

Chary Rangacharyulu, a Professor in the department of Physics and Engineering Physics, is committed to encouraging students to consider pursuing careers in science and technology. He was involved in science fairs for 15 years and brought the Canadian Science Fair to Saskatoon in 2002. He identified a need for further opportunities in biology and became involved in the IBO.

Canadian students have participated in the past three Olympiads. Each spring, 15 students take part in an intensive training camp, and the top four students then travel to the international competition. The 2006 competition was held in Argentina. Megan Bagley and Chris Yau won silver medals, while Merlin Lo and Justin Chakma won Bronze medals (see photo).

Dr. Rangacharyulu emphasizes the importance of holding the 2007 International Biology Olympiad in Saskatoon, saying it promotes science education and develops a pool of highly qualified youth who will go on to become researchers, educators and other professionals. Such an event will also showcase the people, facilities and scientific achievements of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan.



Sociology Graduate Student Conference:

Collaboration and Professional Development

Two years ago, the department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan and the department of Sociology and Social Studies at the University of Regina began holding a joint graduate student conference. Professor Martin Cannon said that those involved hoped it would be useful in bridging both departments, particularly as no PhD program is currently offered in Regina and some students come to Saskatoon to complete their studies. Ten students participated in a one-day event in 2005. By 2006, the conference had expanded to two days and 19 students. Students expressed a genuine interest in each others' work and in the possibilities for collaboration. The event, well attended by faculty, was also seen as a good way to bring students and faculty together.

The 2007 conference will be held in Saskatoon, and Professor Cannon expects that students will play

an instrumental role in organizing panel presentations and involving other universities, such as the University of Alberta. Students have also requested more professional development workshops on topics such as publishing, poster presentations, the peer review process and applying for jobs.



Immigrant Lexicon

The English language has a rich history of influx from other cultures. The following are words and phrases that we might take for granted as being English, but which are in fact derived from other languages.

alto (Italian):

the highest male voice, or a female voice of similar range.

batik (Javanese):

literally "painted"; a method of making coloured designs on textiles by waxing the parts not to be dyed.

casserole (French):

a covered heatproof vessel in which food is cooked and served.

karma (Sanskrit):

fate or destiny that follows as effect from cause.

patio (Spanish):

originally an inner court, open to the sky, in a Spanish or Spanish-American house.

source: Speake, Jennifer, ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

College News in Brief

FALL FACULTY MEETING

Plan to attend this meeting on Thursday, October 5, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (Arts 241).

RENOVATED ARTS BOARDROOM

298 Arts has been renovated and is now fully equipped as a boardroom with web conferencing capability. Bookings may be made through Sharon Ford, secretary to the Dean, at 4232.

IT / FACILITIES REASSIGNMENT

Responsibility for Information Technology (IT) and for Facilities and Projects has been reassigned. Gary Brunet (1644) is responsible for IT, while Stephen McLeod (5647) is responsible for Facilities and Projects.

FREE COMPUTER UPGRADES

Computers that were previously used in the Arts & Science Computer Labs are available at no cost to college faculty and staff.

Many of the computers have already been distributed through Capital Equipment and other requests, but approximately 100 of the following systems are still available: Compaq Deskpro–1GHz Pentium 3 with 256MB Ram; 20GB Hard Drives; CD-Roms; Floppy drives (no monitors available). Our goal is to replace all hardware older than those listed. If you think one of these computers would be an upgrade, please visit the following Web page and request one: <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/itsupport/computerrequest.php>

PAWS REPLACES my.usask.ca

The university's my.usask.ca website is being retired at the end of the 2006 summer session. As more university-wide features were added to the PAWS portal, it was felt that utilities available on my.usask.ca should also be moved to PAWS.

This move will help to further centralize IT services and utilities on one easy-to-find site. College IT staff have spent the summer rewriting and migrating any my.usask.ca utilities that were not already available on PAWS. For more information about how PAWS replaces my.usask.ca, go to: <http://my.usask.ca/retire.htm>

GOT NEWS?

Post news and events on the College website:

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/updates>



Letters to the Editor


I think the electronic newsletter is a great idea to foster a stronger sense of college community. It's great to hear what's going on in other departments, and to learn of issues that the college administration is considering.

On the latter score, I would like to urge that the college not increase the international student tuition fee differential in a way that would discourage students from poorer nations coming to the College of Arts and Science to study. As a wealthy institution, relative to most universities in the so-called developing world, we have a moral responsibility to help educate the citizens of nations in the Southern hemisphere, a responsibility born of our wealth having been amassed in no small part by exploiting the human and natural resources of the South. Moreover, our Canadian students benefit immeasurably by having students from the Southern hemisphere in their educational community. Let's not impoverish our learning community morally, culturally and academically by making it even harder for such students who come here to study.

Susan Gingell, English



Letters to the editor may be sent by mail to Savvy, c/o Communications Officer, Arts 235, 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5, by email to penny.mckinlay@usask.ca, or by fax to (306) 966-2355. Letters should be accompanied by sender's name, department, and phone number; they may be edited for length and clarity.



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