

President's message – December 2014

If you've ever wondered what a year in the life of our University looks like, I invite you to scan the list of stories that are featured on our homepage. You can see the full index here:

<http://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/feature-stories/index.html>

By year's end, this list provides a brief snapshot of the diversity, depth and richness of our campus life and just some of the achievements of students, faculty, staff and alumni. The headlines tell the story of our community: our many partnerships locally and outside our borders; the broad impact of our research; the accomplishments of our alumni; and the scholarship and public engagement of our students and professors.

When I scan the list, I'm reminded of the success of Dr. James Daschuk's book, *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. Published by our own University of Regina Press, it received honours from the *Globe & Mail*, *Quill & Quire*, and *The Writers' Trust of Canada* before being awarded the Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research. The book was the result of years of work by Dr. Daschuk and will have an impact on generations to come.

Other stories on the list – such as those about programs like Science Rendezvous or Campus for All – remind me of the work we have done to be an even more accessible and welcoming campus. Convocation stories remind me of our new graduates about to begin their journey and make their mark on society, while stories about outstanding young alumni such as Courtney Keith demonstrate that our efforts are helping shape emerging leaders in our communities.

As we look back at the year and forward to the future, I want to thank all faculty and staff for everything you have accomplished this semester. You have contributed in meaningful ways on every level to our University community.

To help show our appreciation, my husband Stuart and I would like to invite all faculty and staff to the annual come-and-go gathering in our home at 1001 McNiven Avenue from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 12. Although this is one of the busiest times of the year, I hope you are able to take the time to celebrate the warmth and joy of the holiday season with us, and connect with each other as the semester draws to a close. Please confirm your attendance by December 3, 2014 by registering at: <https://uofr.inviteright.com/UofRHoliday>.

Please also watch your e-mail for an invitation to the second annual TGIF event for faculty and staff at the Owl later this month.

While the holiday season is a time to enjoy the company of friends, it is also a time to give. Last Friday, you may have seen a message to campus about "Giving Tuesday." This year the University of Regina is a proud partner in the Giving Tuesday movement, an initiative in which 13,000 charities in Canada participated last year as a way to raise awareness about giving back through volunteerism and donations. The City of Regina became the first municipality in Canada to officially proclaim December 2 as Giving Tuesday.

On December 2, the University will post a special Giving Tuesday message on its official Twitter and Facebook sites. The President's Office will then donate a dollar – to a maximum of \$14,000 – to student aid for every retweet and share of this message. That represents a dollar for every student registered at our University for the Fall 2014 semester.

You can find the Twitter and Facebook sites here: <https://twitter.com/UofRegina> and here: <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofRegina>.

Participating in this initiative is a great way to lead into a season traditionally known for giving. Your donations have a direct impact on students by helping them overcome financial barriers, recognizing their accomplishments, and inspiring them to continue their studies. I encourage you to challenge your colleagues and friends to participate in Giving Tuesday on December 2 by visiting the following link:

https://onlinecommerce.uregina.ca/ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=166&SINGLESTORE=true&utm_source=Pres%20Dec%20msg&utm_medium=Groupwise&utm_campaign=Giving%20Tuesday

Thank you for considering this unique way to make a difference in a student's life. This is indeed the season for giving, but often, one of the most overlooked gifts is the gift of time – time for rest, renewal and connection with family and friends. In this busy season and over the holiday, that is my wish for you.

Have a wonderful month. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor