



U OF R REPORT

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Province provides additional funds for Lab Building

The University's new Lab Building will be a place where faculty and students can lead in scientific and technological innovation and be environmental stewards at the same time.

The building will be the first in the province to feature a man-made 'green roof' – a roof that is covered in vegetation, says Physical Plant project manager Chris Eagan.

In this case, sedum, a small hardy plant that changes colour with the seasons, along with a number of small prairie trees, will be planted on the second floor podium, or outdoor walkway level at the northeast corner of the building.

This will make the podium more aesthetically pleasing, as well as help insulate the building and extend the longevity of the roof, says Dena McMartin, associate environmental systems engineering professor.



President Jim Tomkins faced the media on his first day on the job during a news conference announcing additional funding for Lab Building construction.

McMartin has a number of fourth-year engineering students working on projects related to green roofs, including a study examining whether green roofs produce both lower quantity and higher quality storm water than traditional ones. This would ease the environmental load on municipal infrastructure.

Some of the building's environmental benefits were featured during the recent provincial government announcement of an additional \$23.6 million in funding to continue construction on the project. The additional funding will offset unforeseen cost increases caused by hyperinflation in the construction industry.

Speaking on his first day as president of the University of Regina, Jim Tomkins said that the facility will exceed the Model National Energy Code by 25 percent. The building features passive solar construction to maximize heat from the sun in the winter and minimize it in the summer, as well as a free-cooling system. This

system allows interior heat to be conducted through a heat sink, reducing cooling costs for the entire university.

"For the University of Regina to compete with the top teaching and research institutions in Canada we must ensure that our teaching and laboratory facilities are as up-to-date as possible for our students, faculty and staff," said Tomkins.

"This new laboratory building will be crucial for science teaching and research, work that touches so many aspects of our lives – health, energy, the environment and information technology, not to mention basic fundamental scientific research that has been so important to the advancement of humankind over the last two to three centuries."

The building will be one of the most modern teaching

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Gift ensures music plays on

For 61 years, parent volunteers lovingly tended the music library accumulated by the Regina Lions Band program. The collection grew so large that the volunteers – some of them working almost full-time hours – could no longer manage it. Now, their dedicated efforts to introduce young people to the joys of music will live on through a donation to the Building Dreams and Futures campaign.

In 2006 the Lions Band board of directors made the decision to find a new home for the music library and to trim the programs it offers.

"Our concert band and jazz band programs were getting smaller and smaller," says Rick De Mars, current president of the Regina Lions Band program. "We have to concentrate on what makes us different from other band programs, which is our marching show band."

Once the difficult decision was made, past-president Susan Hardy approached Brent Ghiglione, director of the band program in the Department of Music, to see if the University would take the music library. The answer was an emphatic "Yes!"

"This is an invaluable addition to what we have here," Ghiglione says. "There are about 2,300 concert titles, 1,100 jazz titles, 1,400 marches and 2,000 solo titles. While we had a good collection, we'll be able to say to our music and music education students 'This is what a music library is all about.'"

The donated collection, which has been named The Regina Lions Band Inc. Music Library Collection, was recently valued at close to \$500,000. Part of it, Ghiglione adds, will form a lending library that will be a boon to high school and junior high school music teachers across the province, in par-

ticular by providing them with a ready-made repertoire for their students.

"Our circumstances are changing," Hardy muses. "By donating the library to Building Dreams and Futures we have ensured the University of Regina will preserve it for future generations of young musicians, who will continue the Lions Band tradition of musical excellence."

In addition to the music library, the donation also includes instruments, music stands and other equipment, ensuring that the Lions' concert band and jazz programs continue through the U of R's Conservatory of Performing Arts.

"This gift will help our students develop their talents, pursue their dreams and showcase their fine education," says U of R President Jim Tomkins. "Generous donations to the Building Dreams and Futures campaign help us attract the best and brightest students."



Brent Ghiglione, director of the U of R band program, and Regina Lions Band past-president Susan Hardy with music library collection donated by the band.

Latest technologies showcased



Writ Large

Dominique Sarny
Director
Institut français

Recent polls show that, throughout the country, learning French as a second language is an increasingly acknowledged asset. A command of Canada's two official languages is, in fact, a selection criterion for many jobs. There are therefore many people learning French as adults, whether for career advancement or for personal reasons, and the number of bilingual persons in Canada and in Saskatchewan has grown considerably. And yet, at the same time, over the past few years we have seen a levelling-off of enrolments in Canadian immersion schools. As an institution directly involved in the growth and development of French-speaking communities, how can the Institut français rekindle young people's interest in French?

In order to ensure a future generation of French speakers in Saskatchewan and elsewhere in the country, the University of Regina offers a whole range of courses and programs in French. Furthermore, a Bachelor's of Francophone Studies, a bilingual program unique in Canada, will be offered at the U of R beginning in September 2007. However the significant challenge is not simply to offer university programs in French; it is also to raise young people's awareness of the importance and advantages of learning this national Canadian language and to foster a greater sense of belonging to francophone culture among the thousands of young people who speak French, no matter what their first language.

It is in this perspective that the University of Regina's Institut français will again be a partner in the second edition of *Francofièvre*, a large-scale, annual, musical event bringing together more than 2,000 students in Grades 7 through 12 from Saskatchewan's francophone and immersion schools. This year's impressive show will include a lineup of francophone musical groups from several Canadian provinces, performances by DJs and dancers, as well as a light show and big-screen projections, all hosted by MCs well-known to young people, with the Honourable Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan, in attendance. *Francofièvre* will be held this year at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre on April 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Francofièvre offers young people not only a program of exciting French-language entertainment, but also a chance to come together with other French-speaking youth. It is for now the only large-scale event in Saskatchewan that brings together young people from francophone and immersion schools. Ties between students from these two institutional systems are still rare, but *Francofièvre* shows them that they can all consider themselves francophone, regardless of their first language, and proves that the French presence in Saskatchewan is modern, inclusive and dynamic. As a player committed to the francophone community's cultural, linguistic and professional development, the Institut français is proud to be a partner in *Francofièvre* and invites you to attend in large numbers.

For more information on this event, please visit www.francofièvre.sk.ca

Writ Large is written by campus leaders and is intended to challenge readers to engage with and learn about the various 'parts' that make up the wider University of Regina community and connect us to the world. If you have a topic suggestion for *Writ Large*, please e-mail communications@uregina.ca and include your contact information. Please put "U of R Report" in the e-mail subject line.

Educators have come a long way from the days of chalk and blackboards. To show the University community just how far, the Centre for Academic Technologies (CAT) and the Distance Learning Division will showcase some of the newest technologies being used in teaching on April 19 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in CAT.

The projects being showcased have received funding from the provincial government through the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) grant. Each spring, all courses taught the previous year are celebrated in the showcase.

Each office in CAT will serve as a station, giving visitors an opportunity to see the latest offerings as well as a chance to talk to the people who help bring the TEL courses to life.

According to Vi Maeers, director of Teaching and Learning, and Brian Campbell, head of the Distance Learning Division in the Centre for Continuing Education, the showcase is a great introduction for people new to online technology and will also be of interest to seasoned veterans.

"It's to let people know that these things are possible, to promote the idea of getting more people involved and also to get the administration and department heads aware of what their faculty members are doing," says Campbell.

Along with highlighting TEL projects, the event celebrates the hard work of all the faculty and staff who put the projects together.

"Development time for online courses is widely acknowledged as greater than for on-campus courses," says



Vi Maeers, director of Teaching and Learning, and Brian Campbell, head of the Distance Learning Division in the Centre for Continuing Education.

Campbell. "It's not like an ordinary course where a faculty member works in isolation; the faculty member is supported. There is a development team consisting of an instructional designer, graphic designer and library staff dedicated to the TEL-content project."

Developing a full online course is no small feat. It takes hard work, approvals, patience and, of course, funding.

"Some instructors wait a year to get TEL funding and a year to 18 months to complete development of the course," says Maeers. "The course is then offered depending on departmental scheduling."

Maeers encourages educators new to online technology to start small and enhance a course with WebCT first or to incorporate online tools as a supplement to a regular class.

Most instructors do not realize the work involved in getting a course ready to teach online. That is where the instructional designers and the entire project management team play a huge role in helping instructors develop their courses and keep to a timeline.

Currently the University delivers approximately 400 to 450 unique WebCT courses in the fall and winter semesters.

Last year during that time period, approximately 8,000 students accessed at least one WebCT course each semester.

"We've come a long way," says Campbell. "Students are asking for more flexibility in the way the courses are packaged and how they learn. Classrooms are now better equipped. We have more online courses than we ever did before and every year we add more and more."

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and research facilities in Canada, added Tomkins. It will feature laboratory and teaching space for more than 30 research teams including approximately 100 graduate students, infrastructure capable of responding to changing needs, modern audio-visual conferencing capabilities as well as a high standard for occupational health and safety.

"With increased learning space and state-of-the-art labo-

ratories, there will be increased opportunities for students to remain in Regina and pursue their graduate studies here," said Minister of Advanced Education and Employment Pat Atkinson, in announcing the funding.

"The University of Regina is certainly positioning itself as a leader in research and innovation. This project confirms the importance of the Regina Knowledge Corridor that encourages research and eco-

nommic partnerships and growth."

The first floor of the building is scheduled to open at the end of May, with the second, third and fourth floors to be completed in stages over the next year and a half. In keeping with the original design of the facility the fifth floor will be developed as needed.

For more details about the recent provincial announcement visit <http://www.uregina.ca/news/releases/2007/march/26.shtml>

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DreamCatching 2007 plans are underway

Math and science teachers from Canada and the U.S. will gather for DreamCatching 2007 in May, when the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) host this major national gathering for educators who teach science and math to aboriginal students and adult learners.

While DreamCatching will work with educators over three days, the conference helps address a broad longer-term need to prepare aboriginal youth for labour market participation in the Canadian economy and community economic development.

"All students need a good grounding in math and science in order to access jobs in a knowledge-based economy. Aboriginal children should have the same opportunity to access these jobs, and while their achievement levels are improving, their teachers still need a lot of support in finding ways to encourage more of them to pursue math and science," says Dawn Wiseman, creative director for Mount Pleasant Educational Services (MPES). The non-profit

organization is dedicated to enhancing math and science education for aboriginal and young people across the country. It also provides needed tools and curriculum resources for teachers.

DreamCatching workshops began as the Native Access to Engineering Program at Concordia University in Montreal and evolved to become a project of MPES.

The conferences are held every two years, and the U of R and FNUniv teamed up with MPES to host the first one to be held in the West. The conference differs from most because of the focus on workshops, rather than lectures or presentations.

"Each facilitator is asked to develop a workshop that will give teachers tools they can take back to the classroom and apply right away," says Wiseman. "Workshops are two hours long, so teachers can really engage with the material and figure out how it can work in their particular contexts. Ed Galindo, from the University of Idaho, calls his workshop 'Cheap Science'



Some of the members of the DreamCatching 2007 organizing committee. Standing (L to R): Donna Braun, Conference Services; David de Montigny, Engineering; Kathy Heinrich, Math; Jolyne Watson, Education, First Nations University of Canada; Harley Weston, Student Development Centre; Dawn Wiseman, Mount Pleasant Educational Services. Seated (L to R): Rick Seaman, Education; Sabrina Sparvier, Aboriginal Student Centre; Ivy Lalonde, Student Success Services, First Nations University of Canada; Thomas Rush, Food Services.

or 'Fun with Urine.' He is an award-winning teacher from a small reserve whose students have flown five experiments on the Space Shuttle."

The featured speaker for DreamCatching 2007 is Greg Cajete, the author of several books on aboriginal education and an accomplished artist. He is director of the Native American Studies program and an associate professor in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Cajete will also lead a hands-on session.

Kathy Heinrich, who is chairing the local organizing committee, notes that the conference offers a selection of three-hour in-depth institutes for pre- and in-service educators. The conference will also feature a poster session where education students can showcase lesson plans designed for aboriginal students.

"The session will give students experience in lesson plan development, cultural inclusion, making presentations and exposure to educators working in aboriginal communities,"

notes Heinrich. The session will be judged and prizes awarded for the best lessons.

"DreamCatching is a perfect fit for what we want to do in aboriginal education," Heinrich says. "It will be good for teachers, good for education faculty and students, and good for the partnership between the U of R and the First Nations University of Canada."

For more information go to www.dream-catching.com/2007/?page=home

Conference season springs to life

As the winter semester winds down, another sure sign of spring – the academic conference season – begins to flourish. During the short summer season, the University of Regina campus comes alive with the sights and sounds of conferences. While some faculty members will jet away to far-off places to hear about the work of their peers, faculty and staff from other universities will visit Regina to share their research and learn more about the teaching and research work taking place here.

"Pictures and videos cannot necessarily convey what a community is like," says George Maslany, vice-president (Academic) at the U of R. "Conferences help to showcase our community. They also help fulfil the University's mission by helping scholars reach their scholarly goals."

While technologies such as e-mail, instant messaging and videoconferencing have enabled new methods of networking and sharing information, Maslany believes the

face-to-face exchange of ideas will remain important, at least for the foreseeable future.

"Exchanges in the hallway between sessions are often the most productive. Sometimes people learn more from each other than from the lecturer," he observes.

In 2000, faced with a growing and diverse range of conference proposals, the former vice-president (Academic) Kathy Heinrich led the initiative to make the job a bit easier by establishing a conference fund. Conference organizers could apply for seed money, rather than expend large amounts of time and effort trying to line up funding from various sources on campus.

"By putting the dollars aside in a fund, and holding a competition each year, everybody saves time," Heinrich says. "We've also been bringing in more and more prestigious conferences because people know the fund is there," she continues. "For the modest amount of dollars (a maximum of \$5,000 per conference), the



Vice-President (Academic) George Maslany.

U of R gets huge exposure from visiting faculty members and staff from other universities."

Maslany adds that while most conferences operate on a break-even basis, there are often side benefits, such as filling residence beds in the quieter summer season and providing food services. Visitors also have opportunities to experience the city, the campus and Wascana Park at the most beautiful time of year.

"We host about 10 conferences a year, and besides the obvious scholarly benefits, visitors always mention how friendly and outgoing we are," says Maslany. "The entire conference experience helps to put the U of R on the map."

Soundscapes, crime statistics and Canada's constitutional evolution. Conferences hosted by the U of R this year cover a wide range of scholarly interests, including these subjects and many more. Here are just some of the academic conferences being hosted by University on-or off-campus in the coming months:

April 13-14: "Putting Theory into Practice: Transferring Creativity into Community Wisdom II"

Lead: Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Graduate Students' Association

May 2-5: "DreamCatching 2007"

Lead: University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada

May 3-4: "Tommy Douglas Vision of Medicare – SOS Medicare 2: Looking Forward"

Lead: Graduate School of Public Policy

May 4-5: "Canadian Association for Young Children Conference: Wondrous Places to Learn"

Lead: Faculty of Education

May 9-12: "Crossing Boundaries: Investigating the Nexus of the Arts, Education and Community"

Lead: Faculty of Education

May 23-25: "A Living Tree: The Legacy of 1982 in Canada's Political Evolution"

Lead: Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy

June 6-7: "Economic Security for All in Saskatchewan: Weaving an Unbreakable Social Fabric"

Lead: Faculty of Arts, Justice Studies

June 9-22: "The Art of Immersive Soundscapes 2: Creative Forum and Conference"

Lead: Faculty of Fine Arts

June 14-18: "11th Annual National Therapeutic Recreation Conference"

Lead: Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies

June 17-23: "National Summer Institute for Statistical and GIS Analysis of Crime & Justice Data"

Lead: Faculty of Science



Celebrating excellence: Faculty and staff recognized



Whether it's through academic or research pursuits, or in the daily contributions made to the successful operation and administration of the University, every member of the U of R community has a critical role in creating a culture of excellence on campus. Faculty and staff across the University have an important part to play in each other's success. A special evening for colleagues, friends, and family was held recently to recognize the achievements of some of our faculty and staff over the past year. While the individuals and groups listed below were formally recognized for their accomplishments, the tribute recognized the level of commitment from the broad campus community needed to make these achievements possible.



Mark Brigham
Gerrit Miller Award
North American Bat Society

Thomas Hadjistavropoulos
2006 Saskatchewan Health
Research Foundation Award
Saskatchewan Health Care
Excellence Award for
Innovation

Britt Hall
University Faculty Award
Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research Council

Bernard Laplante
Prix Rezansoff
Saskatchewan Association of
Teachers of French

June LeDrew
2006 Teddy Bear Care Award
Children's Health & Hospital
Foundation of Saskatchewan

Greg Marchildon
IPAC Gold Medal for
Distinguished Public Service in
Saskatchewan 2006

Aldene Meis Mason
Fellow, Institute of Certified
Management Consultants of
Saskatchewan

James Pitsula
Gold Award, Best Article
Saskatchewan Category,
Western Magazine Awards

Joseph Piwowar
Canada Research Chair Tier II

Barbara Pollock
Fellow, Canadian Public
Relations Society

Morina Rennie
Fellow, Society of
Management Accountants of
Canada

Christina Stojanova
Silver Medal, Bulgarian
Ministry of Culture

Glenys Sylvestre
Fellow, Institute of Chartered
Accountants of Saskatchewan

Larry Symes,
Fellow Member, Canadian
Information Processing Society

Paitoon Tontiwachwuthikul
Malcolm Wilson
2006 Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research
Council Synergy Award for
Innovation

Michael Trussler
Book of the Year, Regina Book
Award, Saskatchewan Book
Awards

Thiruvengkatachari
Viraraghavan
2006 Albert E. Berry Medal,
Canadian Society for Civil
Engineering

Randy Widdis
2006 Albert B. Corey Prize,
American Historical
Association and Canadian
Historical Association

University of Regina
Catherine Bickford-White
Outstanding Institutional
Achievement Award,
Association of Collegiate
Conference and Event
Directors – International

University of Regina
Campus Security
Pat Patton
2006 Regina Crime Prevention
Commission Award

University of Regina
Physical Plant
Dave Button, Chris Eagan,
Vern Rogne, Andy Glavacevic
2006 Brian Eckel Awards:
Award of Excellence (Building
Science category)
Award of Merit (Building
Partnering category)
Consultant Engineers of
Saskatchewan

