MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PROVOST, TEACHING AND LEARNING

Fall Orientation 2016
A campus-wide planning committee, as well as individual colleges and student groups, were busy planning for the arrival of our Fall 2016 student intake. All orientation activities are on a single orientation website: https://students.usask.ca/events/orientation.php. Orientation activities took place on campus during August and September. Online registration for the main Welcome & Campus Orientation Event opened the week of August 8 and as of August 29, 2016, 2,378 student had registered to attend. Special welcome events were held for Aboriginal and International students on Thursday, September 1, and a full day of central- and college-led activities occurred on Friday, September 2. Additional campus tours happened on Saturday, September 3. Planning for January 2017 orientation activities is underway!

U of S Language Centre’s Special Programs:
The U of S Language Centre has hosted four special short programs for international institutional partners this summer. In July, North West Agriculture and Forestry University (Shaanxi, China) sent a group of students for a four week English and agriculture program. In August, Huazhong Agricultural University (Wuhan, China) sent two groups for a three week English and agriculture program. Kanto Gakuin University (Yokohama, Japan) sent a group for a three week English and Canadian culture program. Iwate University (Mokioka, Japan) also sent a group for a three week English and agriculture program. In some cases, faculty and administrative staff accompanied these groups as chaperones. Some partner institutions have indicated a desire to expand these programs in the future into other areas of agriculture and also entrepreneurship.

GSR 981: Canadian Academic Acculturation and Literacy
GSR 981 is a program to introduce new international graduate students to the U of S and graduate studies while brushing up their English proficiency and study skills. This is the sixth year that GSR 981 has been offered in cooperation with the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and marks the highest enrolment to date with 56 students participating. A complete curriculum review was conducted this past spring, and the structure of the program has been entirely restructured with evident success.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

College of Arts and Science
- The college welcomes our new Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) executive team: Olya Stepanenko (president), Gabrielle Cousyn (VP External), Raquel Alvarado (VP Academic), and Travis Hebert (VP Marketing).
- In terms of science outreach, we had a successful year with the Kamskenow Program, as we reached 42 Community School classrooms and 1019 students. The Science Ambassador Program partnered with 11 host communities, worked with 153 teachers, EAs, and community educators, and reached 2200

- To help track climate change, Physics & Engineering graduate student Matthew Kozun is perfecting a new way of gazing down at Earth’s atmosphere, and he recently won the Robert S. Hilbert Memorial Optical Design Competition.

- The college has been active on the alumni and fundraising fronts. Our Chemistry Department Head David Palmer presented giant cheques to the recipients of two donor-funded awards. Our Geology alum David Nordin walked from Calgary to Saskatoon to raise money for the Ore Gangue Fund, a scholarship supported by Geology alumni. He recently met with current Geology students, including the Ore Gangue Scholarship winner, at a welcome BBQ hosted by the department. Computer Science alum Russ Muzzolini’s donation created a mobile app development course. Music donors were invited to present awards to scholarship recipients during the department’s annual Awards Reception. College alumni met at recent Canada Day celebration in Mountain View, California, hosted by Digital Moose Lounge. Janelle Digney (BA’11, BEd’12) says faculty in the Department of History changed her outlook on the world, and she was excited for a chance to give back: [http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/494/Alumni_draw_winner Chooses History Department](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/494/Alumni_draw_winner Chooses History Department)

- If you took in a play this summer in Saskatoon, you likely encountered talented alumni, students and faculty of the College of Arts & Science: [http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/470/Summer_shows Featuring arts science Talent](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/470/Summer_shows Featuring arts science Talent)

- The work of wildlife ecotoxicologist Christy Morrissey, who secured a grant from three NSERC funds totaling $391,500, specializes in the effects of pesticides and petroleum-derived pollution on songbirds, some populations of which have been cut in half in the last 50 years: [http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/484/U_of_S_researchers Celebrate 10 Million in NSERC Funding](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/484/U_of_S_researchers Celebrate 10 Million in NSERC Funding). Devoted to ecotoxicology and avian health, the Facility for Applied Avian Research is the only resource of its type in Western Canada. The $2.3 million facility opened in May: [http://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2016/taking-flight.php](http://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2016/taking-flight.php)

- The college is excited to offer 2016-17 Learning Communities: First Year Learning Experience (FLEX): approx. 350 students in 12 LC’s; Aboriginal Student Achievement Program (ASAP): approximately 90 students in 7 LC’s; University Transition Program (UTRAN): approximately 151 students in 10 LC’s.

- The college’s Curriculum Renewal Advisory Committee has been active in discussing proposed new distribution requirements, and had three working groups to explore the corresponding college learning goals: writing; quantitative; and Indigenous. This year, we will further collaborate to determine how best to achieve the Indigenous learning goal, and to ensure breadth of degree programs is maintained.


- The College of Arts & Science presents Lawrence Hill, award-winning author of The Illegal and The Book of Negroes, at two free public events:
  - **Monday, Nov. 21** Both events at Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building
  - 1:30–3:00 p.m. Book Club: The Illegal Talk, discussion and coffee
  - 7:30 p.m. My Writing Life Talk and book signing
  - [http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/495/Arts_Science_Book_Club_with_Lawrence_Hill](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/495/Arts_Science_Book_Club_with_Lawrence_Hill)

**University Library**

**Update on University Library Master Planning**

Open consultation sessions are taking place in September through mid-October to gather feedback from the campus community as part of the master planning process for the University Library. Building upon the 2013 Murray Library Master Plan, the University Library Master Plan will help us map out the future of library spaces on campus – whether that is for study, research, collaboration, display, etc. – and the
steps needed to get there. This is all part of the larger University Library Transformation Project, which has seen deliberate, incremental change to campus libraries since 2004. A number of focused meetings, presentations, and community engagement sessions will be held in different locations around campus (beginning Sept. 15) and this is being promoted widely to ensure everyone is aware and has a chance to give feedback. To see the full list of dates and sessions or to submit your feedback online, please visit the Library Planning website.

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

Appointments/Elections

Dr. Jane Alcorn, associate dean, research and graduate affairs.

Danielle Larocque, inaugural associate director of the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals (CPDPP) program.

Dean Kishor Wasan was elected as chair of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada Dean’s Council for 2016-2017.

Awards

Dr. Azita Haddadi has been named one of the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards.

Grants

Dr. Charity Evans (PI), as well as co-investigator Dr. David Blackburn and their colleagues, were awarded $282,865 over three years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Sciences for their project titled “Medication adherence in multiple sclerosis: a model for other chronic diseases”.

Dr. Charity Evans was awarded $78,700 over two years from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for her project titled "Establishing the incidence and prevalence of multiple sclerosis in Saskatchewan."

Dr. Meena Sakharkar was awarded $145,000 over five years from Natural Sciences And Engineering Research Council of Canada for her project entitled "Understanding the transcriptional role of PPAR gamma in metabolic rewiring".

Dr. Kishor M. Wasan was awarded $119,856 over three years from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for his project titled "Chronic in vivo study of lanthanide compounds in an osteoporosis model (OVX rat) for the treatment of bone density disorders".