

Degrees

volume 26, no. 2 | fall/winter 2014

The University of Regina Magazine



Clearing the Plains

James Daschuk
brings to light Canada's
darkest hour

University
of Regina





President Vianne Timmons stands in front of the new gateway that marks the University of Regina's main entrance at the intersection of Kramer Boulevard and Wascana Parkway. The University's gateway project enhances accessibility, improves safety and gives the University a marquee entryway at the busiest access point to the main campus. The gateway project is part of the University's Campus Master Plan, which was launched in 2011 following extensive consultation with faculty, staff, students and alumni. Approximately 30,000 vehicles pass the intersection every day and many of the University's students, faculty and staff walk by the gateway on their way to and from campus. The sign's letters are constructed of recycled stainless steel and built to specifications that will allow them to last for more than 100 years. The base of the sign is set on regionally-sourced Tyndall stone, which has been used on several other recognized landmarks, such as the Saskatchewan Legislative Building and the Conexus Arts Centre. Also incorporated into the sign is the University of Regina's new coat of arms. Photo by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department.

Welcome to the fall issue of *Degrees* magazine.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. If that's true, and I believe it is, then our cover image this issue is worth 10,000 words. It is, in our opinion, as spectacular as it is unconventional. It seems to me that's a good combination.

What this cover shot has in common with so many of the other fine photographs that have graced these pages over the years is the man behind the lens. That man is Don Hall, the manager of the University of Regina's Photography Department and an on-campus photographer since 1975.

This is the story of how the current issue's cover photo came to be.

In early October, Hall went out with the subject of our cover story, Dr. James Daschuk, to shoot the photographs that

would illustrate Daschuk's story, which begins on page 38. Daschuk's essay, based on his book *Clearing the Plains*, is about the policy of starvation adopted by John A. Macdonald's government against First Nations to further Macdonald's dream of a national railway.

When Hall first showed me an image he had taken of Daschuk for the cover, I guess he judged by my reaction that I was on the fence. "Let me think about it," I said. Two days later, I stopped by his office to say hello and Hall said, "I have something to show you. What do you think of this for the cover?"

My first reaction was, "Well, this is rather unusual. Why is Jim's back to the camera?" But the more I looked at it and the more we discussed it, the more it became obvious that this was the perfect image to represent Daschuk's story.

The dreary sky embodies the gloom that the government had wreaked on the First Nations in Western Canada. The location of the photo, on the outskirts of Regina, represents the eastern fringe of what once was the largest bison herd on the continent and the critical food source that allowed First Nations to thrive before European contact. The light in front of Daschuk (created by a flash held by Hall's assistant standing hidden in front of Daschuk) symbolizes the enlightenment he brings to the topic through his scholarly work. There's a sense of being led to the light and, as the photo suggests, of John A. Macdonald turning his back on the First Nations of the Prairies.

Hall had done it again.

He is retiring at the end of the year after 39 years of

exceptional service to the University of Regina. Those of us who have come to count on his professionalism and creativity will miss his photographic talents. Those of us who call him a friend will miss his good humour and his company.

By my count, this is the 24th issue of *Degrees* magazine that has come under my charge. In that time we have brought you hundreds of stories about interesting people associated with the University of Regina. I trust you will find that this issue holds true to form as you learn a little more about some of the intriguing people who are connected to the University of Regina.

And, I trust you'll like the photos too.

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On the cover: James Daschuk spent 20 years researching *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. The book illuminates a dark period in Canadian history when the John A. Macdonald government turned its back on the First Nations people of the western plains. Ironically, almost a century and a half after the tragic injustices, Daschuk's work received the Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research – also known as the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize.

Photo by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department.



Features

Crowning glory 8
 This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards. Meet this year's most distinguished graduates.

A lesson in teaching 14
 Christopher Knapper, a university psychology professor for more than 40 years, is one of Canada's foremost experts on post-secondary teaching and educational development. In BD Miller's story, Knapper shares his insights on the state of teaching in Canada's post-secondary sector and reflects on his achievement as the University of Regina's first doctoral degree in psychology.

Capital gains 18
 For 20 years, University of Regina alumna Coleen Volk has risen through the bureaucratic ranks in our nation's capital. Today, as a deputy secretary in the Privy Council Office, she spends much of her time seeing to it that the most important non-elected jobs in the federal government are filled.

The music man 26
 Malcolm Lowe, a former student of the University's Conservatory of Performing Arts, is this fall's honorary degree recipient. He also holds one of the most prestigious positions in North American classical music – concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Salgado 28
 Andrew Salgado's future may have been foreshadowed six years ago on the University of Regina campus when, as a student in 2008, his \$5,000 paintings were flying off the walls of the University's Fifth Parallel Gallery. Now, as one of the most talked-about contemporary artists, Salgado is selling out exhibits around the world.

departments

Feed Back	2
President's Note	4
Around Campus	5
Focal Point	22
Spot Light	33
Alumni President Message	34
Class Notes	35
360 Degrees	38

President's Note



There have been a lot of exciting developments and a number of firsts at the University during the fall semester. Chief among them is a student enrolment milestone. For the first time in our history, our enrolment exceeded 14,000 students (briefly on September 14) before settling at 13,902 students by the end of the fourth week of classes. This marks the sixth straight year of enrolment increases and the fourth straight year of record enrolments.

A closer look at the enrolment statistics reveals even more good news. The number of self-declared Aboriginal students has increased by close to six per cent in the past year and by an astounding 50 per cent over the past five years. Our efforts are attracting and retaining First Nations and Métis students in unprecedented numbers, and setting the standard for indigenization in the Canadian post-secondary sector.

I am confident that our Aboriginal student numbers will continue to grow because of such indigenization initiatives as the expansion of the Aboriginal Student Centre and the establishment of the Aboriginal Advisory Circle, but also because of the emphasis on indigenization in our new strategic plan. In this plan, approved by the Board of Governors earlier this month, indigenization and sustainability are overarching areas of emphasis that inform

each of three priorities: student success, research impact and commitment to our communities.

Another enrolment success story is the number of international students at our University. In the past five years, the number of students attending the University of Regina from outside of Canada has almost doubled. Including our ESL students, many of whom transition into degree programs, we have well over 2,000 international students from more than 90 countries attending the University. Almost one-third of our graduate students come from other countries, which is a strong indication of the international reputation of our master's and doctoral programs, and a positive endorsement of our research enterprise.

Our research enterprise earned another first in a recent national evaluation completed by Research InfoSource, one of Canada's premier research intelligence firms. Research InfoSource concluded that our researchers collaborated on publications with colleagues from outside Canada more than 51 per cent of the time between 2008 and 2012 – the top rating for Canadian comprehensive universities.

We reached another milestone recently at Fall Convocation, where our largest fall graduating class ever – 655 students – crossed the stage to receive their degrees, diplomas and certificates. One of those

students was Denine Peterson of the Faculty of Education, who received both the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Prize and the President's Medal.

Also at Convocation, I had the pleasure of presenting an honorary degree to Malcolm Lowe, concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Lowe's early formative musical education came at the University of Regina's Conservatory of Performing Arts, where his father was an instructor and where Lowe studied under the venerable Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown. Dr. Lowe is a shining example of the quality of education delivered through our Conservatory.

In another Convocation first, Dr. Amber Fletcher and Dr. Darryl Hunter were named co-recipients of the President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award. This is the first time the award has been presented to two students. Dr. Fletcher graduated this past spring with a Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Dr. Hunter graduated in the fall with a Doctor of Philosophy in Education.

It wasn't a first but rather a tenth when we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards on October 22. This year's Alumni Crowning Achievement Award recipients are: Leonard Schein MA'73, Lifetime Achievement Award; Dr. Barry Pittendrigh BSc Hons'90, Luther College, Award for Distinguished

Professional Achievement; Sel Murray BA Hons'74, Campion College, BSW'76, Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service; Sean McEachern BEd'03, Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service; and Courtney Keith BA'04, Campion College, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Our Crowning Achievement recipients are wonderful representatives of the more than 64,000 University of Regina alumni who live in every corner of the globe, are involved in every imaginable enterprise, and contribute in meaningful ways to make the world a better place.

It has definitely been an exciting fall with new milestones and multiple firsts. Perhaps my favourite first this autumn, however, is the first formal statement in our recently approved strategic plan – the Vision Statement. The Vision Statement reads: "The University of Regina aspires to be a national leader in developing educated contributors, career-ready learners and global citizens, and in generating meaningful, high-impact scholarship."

By continuing to work together, I know we can build upon the tremendous successes we have seen over the past few months and realize this ambitious shared vision for our University.

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor

Left: Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education Jennifer Tupper.

Centre: President Timmons and Dr. Jacqui Shumiatcher at the announcement of Shumiatcher's donation of more than 1,000 works of art to the University. The art, estimated to be worth up to \$3 million, was collected by Shumiatcher and her late husband Morris over several decades.

Right: Bev Robertson (centre), owner of the Bushwakker Brewing Company, poses with his wife Elaine (left) and President Timmons on the occasion of Robertson's \$500,000 donation to the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. The gift establishes the Centre for Science and Public Policy and will fund graduate fellowship scholarships.



Comings and goings

Following a review carried out according to University policy, President Timmons has reappointed **Richard Kleer** as Dean of the Faculty of Arts for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Kleer joined the University in 1990 as a lecturer in the Department of Economics.

Jennifer Tupper has been appointed acting dean of the Faculty of Education until June 30, 2015. Tupper joined the University of Regina in 2004 as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education, where she has since taught undergraduate courses in social studies education, gender and education, and graduate courses in curriculum theory.

Briefly

Dr. Jacqui Shumiatcher has donated more than 1,000 works of art that she collected with her late husband, Dr. Morris Shumiatcher, to the University. The diverse collection of art, which includes works of Inuit sculpture as well as paintings by The Regina Five, has an estimated value of up to \$3 million.

The Shumiatchers' contributions to the University of Regina over the years have been extensive. They include funds that established the Shu-Box Theatre, as well as the Dr. Morris Shumiatcher Graduate Scholarship in English and the Rose Jeanne Souillart Clay and Pierre P. F. Clay Scholarship in French. In 2013, Dr. Jacqui

Shumiatcher also contributed \$250,000 to *Building Knowledge – The College Avenue Campus Revitalization Project*.

A portion of the donated works will become part of the University of Regina's President's Art Collection. The approximately 300 Inuit works will form the University of Regina Shumiatcher Inuit Art Collection, and will be stewarded on the University's behalf by the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

The Shumiatchers were awarded honorary degrees from the University of Regina in 2002.

Local Regina entrepreneur, **Dr. Bev Robertson**, has donated \$500,000 to the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) as part of *Building Knowledge – The College Avenue Campus Renewal Project*. The gift will establish the Centre for Science and Public Policy within JSGS and fund graduate fellowship scholarships.

Robertson is well known in the community as the owner of the Bushwakker Brewing Company. Robertson was a professor at the University of Regina in the Department of Physics from 1969 until his retirement in 1997. In 2003, he was conferred as a Professor Emeritus.

The University's new **2015-2020 Strategic Plan** was unanimously endorsed by the University Senate on October 17, approved by Executive of Council on

October 22 and approved by the Board of Governors on November 4. The plan focuses on three strategic priorities: student success, research impact and commitment to our communities. Indigenization and sustainability are also identified as two overarching areas of emphasis that thread throughout each priority, and upon which the University will continue to increase our impact, reputation and competitiveness.

The student success priority pushes the University to provide the necessary supports required to meet diverse student needs. The plan also states a desire to ensure all students are given the opportunity to encounter a variety of perspectives, reflect critically on their assumptions and communicate effectively on a range of subjects.

The research impacts priority focuses on high-impact research and the communication of research successes within our communities.

The commitment to our communities priority directs the University to focus on people and institutional sustainability. It emphasizes the importance of engaging with communities to improve institutional and personal well-being through actions that address community needs.

The strategic planning process began in early 2014 when a 15-person strategic planning facilitation team came together to hear a rich and wide variety of input from hundreds of faculty, staff,

students, alumni, community members, and other University stakeholders and partners. Through extensive face-to-face consultation sessions, student suggestions, email submissions, blogs and online forums, the team listened to the thoughts, ideas and dreams people have for the University of Regina over the next five years and beyond.

The University of Regina is pleased to announce the members of the 2014-2015 Board of Governors. **Lee Elliott**, chair, and **Daniel Kwochka**, vice-chair, have been reappointed for a second one-year term that ends July 30, 2015.

Elliott is a business entrepreneur and management consultant from White City. He earned a Master's of Business Administration degree from the University of Regina in 2008. He is the president of End of the Roll in Regina and a lecturer at the University of Regina's Paul J. Hill School of Business.

Kwochka is a partner with the law firm McKercher LLP. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) from the University of Regina in 1993 and received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan in 1996.

New to the board is **Devon Peters** who was elected as the president of the University of Regina Students' Union. Peters will serve a one-year term that ends April 30, 2015. **Elaine Bourassa** was re-elected by the University of Regina Senate and will serve a second three-year term until June 30, 2017. **Mark**

Brigham was re-elected as the faculty representative and will also serve a second three-year term until June 30, 2017.

The other members of the Board are: **Vianne Timmons**, president and vice-chancellor; **Jim Tomkins**, chancellor; **Patrick Maze**, elected by the University of Regina Senate; and, appointees of the Province of Saskatchewan, **Paul McLellan**, **Pam Klein** and **Cathy Warner**.

The University of Regina held its **41st fall convocation** on October 17 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. While the first full cohort of nursing graduates from the SCBScN program will convocate next June, the fall convocation saw the graduation of more than 50 students who opted to follow an accelerated stream.

Amber Fletcher BA(Hons)'06, MA'08, PhD'14 and **Darryl Hunter MEd'97, PhD'14** were co-recipients of the President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award. This is the first time two students were equally deemed worthy of this award. The award is presented to the student that demonstrates outstanding academic performance in a graduate program, and has achieved an exceptional thesis, exhibition or performance, and corresponding defense. Fletcher graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies in Spring 2014 and Hunter is graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy in Education.

Denine Peterson BEd'14 was awarded the President's Medal. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education. The President's Medal is awarded to a student with a minimum average of 80 per cent who has shown leadership in and commitment to extra-curricular activities while at the University of Regina. Peterson was also the recipient of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Prize, awarded to the most distinguished student in the

Faculty of Education who does not hold another degree.

The University has launched a new **Master of Journalism** program, the first on the Prairies. The program offers a one-year intensive professional degree, with an extra year of enhanced basic training and a newsroom internship for students who do not have prior journalism experience. The new program includes a faculty-sharing agreement with the Indian Communications Arts (INCA) program at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv), strengthening the existing bridge between the two highly regarded journalism programs. The School of Journalism will begin accepting applications to the program in January 2015, with the first class starting in September 2015.

Student enrolment at the University has reached a record high, increasing for the sixth consecutive year. Enrolment exceeded 14,000 students by the fall census date in early September. International student enrolment has increased by more than 96 per cent over the past five years, nearly doubling the number of students from abroad in that time frame. In the same period, the University has seen an increase of nearly 50 per cent in self-declared Aboriginal students.

The **Department of Film** has received a generous donation from NBCUniversal that has been used to purchase some high-end equipment, including a RED Mysterium X camera that records digital video at four times the resolution of high-definition video.

The University played a key role in the **North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)** held in Regina July 20 to 27. Approximately 4,600 participants – including

athletes, coaches and support staff – took part in 14 events that were held throughout the city.

Not only was the University a centre of sporting activities, the campus residences housed hundreds of athletes and the NAIG Cultural Village was located at the First Nations University of Canada. Many members of the University family also gave of their time helping to ensure the NAIG's success.

On September 24, long-time Faculty of Fine Arts instructor **Jack Cowin** passed away in Illinois following complications from surgery. Cowin, known for his etching and printmaking, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1947. He came to Regina in the early 1970s to teach printmaking at the University, a job he continued for 36 years until his retirement in 2007. Cowin is survived by his wife Mary, two sons and their families.

Research

The University of Regina achieved the **top ranking** among comprehensive universities in international research collaboration in results released recently by Research InfoSource. The analysis was part of a special Spotlight on University International Research Collaboration. The rankings are based on the proportion of publications at each institution co-authored with researchers outside of Canada. From 2008 to 2012, over 51 per cent of all publications by University of Regina researchers were co-authored by researchers from abroad. Research InfoSource is one of Canada's premier research intelligence firms, providing comprehensive analysis of innovation leaders across the country among universities, corporations, hospitals and colleges.

Department of Psychology faculty member **Nick Carleton BAdmin'01, BA(Hons)'02, MA'05, PhD'10** has received a New Investigator Salary Award, one of the most competitive investigator awards offered by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The award allows Carleton to devote his time to overseeing research projects from around the world aimed at developing inexpensive and broadly deliverable assessment, treatment and prevention methods for anxiety and pain. This is the third time Carleton has received an award from the CIHR, the most recent being two years ago when he received an operating grant for a project involving chronic pain with people who have fibromyalgia.

Sarah Abbott, an award-winning independent filmmaker and associate professor of film production at the University of Regina, has received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to support her doctoral studies at Royal Roads University. The scholarships are among the most prestigious graduate scholarships in Canada and are awarded to world-class doctoral students who demonstrate strong leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement. The scholarship is valued at \$50,000 per year for three years.

Abbott is currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Sciences degree. Through her research, she intends to combine her experience with film, media literacy and empowerment projects with social science research approaches. Engaging Media and Indigenous Youth, a community engagement project Abbott led in Regina in the winter of 2013, was an inspiration for her dissertation research, which will culminate in a film that examines factors associated with the high rates of suicide among Indigenous people.



Left: Shanthi Johnson.
Right: Peter Leavitt.

Faculty members **Shanthi Johnson** and **Peter Leavitt** have been named visiting scholars for 2014-2015 by Fulbright Canada. Fulbright Canada is an organization created to encourage mutual understanding between Canada and the United States through academic and cultural exchange. The prestigious program is designed to strengthen collaborative research between the two countries, and promote excellence in scholarship and community service. Each year, 11 Fulbright Scholars are placed. This year, the University of Regina is the only Canadian institution that is home to two Fulbright Scholars.

Shanthi Johnson, professor and associate dean in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies and research faculty at the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, has been named a Fulbright Scholar at the University of South Florida. Her research will focus on a comparative analysis of Canada-U.S. active ageing and fall prevention. Johnson is an internationally-recognized expert in the field of aging and fall prevention among older adults.

Peter Leavitt, Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Environmental Change and Society, received a year-long placement as a Visiting Research Chair at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research will focus on the effects of climate and humans on aquatic ecosystems. Leavitt

is a renowned environmental researcher and currently serves as director of the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution, as well as director of the University of Regina's newly-opened Institute of Environmental Change and Society.

Three University of Regina graduate students have received a 2014 Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The \$17,500 award is intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing graduate studies in a health-related field at a Canadian institution. The three recipients of the award in 2014 are: **Joelle Soucy**, a first-year master's student in clinical psychology who is researching whether internet-delivered cognitive-behavioural therapy is an acceptable treatment for health anxiety; **Michelle Degelman BHS'13**, a second-year master's student in health studies who will examine the relationship between multiple sclerosis and its proposed causes using the sufficient-component cause model; **Lucas Robinson**, a first-year master's student in biology who is researching the therapeutic potential of an antimicrobial recovered from cystic fibrosis isolate, *Pantoea agglomerans* Tx10, and evaluating its role in polymicrobial infections.

Researchers at the University of Regina have received provincial

funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) to explore health issues affecting Saskatchewan residents. Approximately \$2 million will be dispersed over two- and three-year terms to three University of Regina faculty members: **Josef Buttigieg** and **James Vlasblom** of the Faculty of Science and **Bridget Klest** of the Faculty of Arts.

Buttigieg and Klest received the SHRF Establishment Grant, which is awarded to faculty who have recently moved to Saskatchewan and are establishing independent health research programs in the province. Vlasblom received a SHRF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship that provides financial support for postdoctoral research in a health-related field under the supervision of an experienced, active researcher. SHRF is a provincial agency that funds and facilitates health research in Saskatchewan.

Third-year clinical psychology doctoral candidate **Katherine McMillan MA'11** is one of 85 doctoral students across North America to receive a Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O) Scholar Award in 2014. The award, established in 1991 by the P.E.O Sisterhood, provides substantial merit-based awards for women in the United States and Canada who pursue a doctoral level degree in an accredited college or university and are expected to make significant contributions to their field of study.

The award is just one of the

many programs offered by the P.E.O. Sisterhood to provide increased opportunities for higher education to women, whether they are just entering university as a recent high school graduate or mature student or are pursuing post-graduate studies.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has awarded \$1,412,350 to researchers at the University of Regina to study a variety of topics.

The agency is a Canadian government entity that provides grants for research in the natural sciences and engineering. Discovery Grant recipients receiving five-year funding are: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science's **Gordon Huang**, **Paitoon Tontiwachwuthikul** and **Yongan Gu**; Department of Biology's **Gavin Simpson** and **Richard Manzon**; Department of Computer Science's **Howard Hamilton**; and Department of Mathematics and Statistics' **Douglas Farenick**, **Shawn Fallat**, **Fernando Szechtman** and **Yang Zhao**. The University's largest NSERC grant for a one-year period under the Research Tools and Instruments Grants Program goes to **Dena McMartin** in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

NSERC is also awarding Graduate Scholarships and Fellowships to the Department of Biology's **Leanne Michelle Heisler MSc'13** and **Heather Haig** and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science's **Zhong Li MSc'12**.

2014

Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the University of Regina's distinguished alumni awards program – the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards. The awards were established to celebrate the accomplishments of University of Regina alumni who have realized an outstanding achievement. This year's gala was held on October 22 at Regina's Connexus Arts Centre, with more than 200 alumni and friends gathered for the celebration. Meet this year's worthy recipients in the following pages.

Profiles by Deborah Sproat

Photos by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department.

Screened background on this page: Recipients of the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards receive a miniature steel facsimile of one of the panels from the Joe Fafard sculpture *Le Jardin de l'esprit*, that adorns the north side of the U of R campus.

Leonard Schein MA'73

Lifetime Achievement Award

The award recognizes an individual for a lifetime of achievement, for giving back to society on a regional, national or international basis and for being recognized as a leader in his or her field.

Leonard Schein built his career in the film industry in Vancouver, but the seeds were sown when he was a student at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan.

When Schein moved to Regina, he missed the independent and foreign films he had enjoyed as an undergraduate at Stanford University in California. His solution was to start a film club, get use of an auditorium on campus and begin to show the kind of films he missed. It was his first adventure in showing films, rather than simply being a movie patron.

In Vancouver, where he moved after graduating with a Master of Arts degree in psychology, the situation repeated itself. There were more theatres, but Hollywood movies dominated.

"After a while, I thought, 'Why don't I open my own movie theatre?' " he says. "I'd had some experience in Regina and I enjoyed it. Why not do it again?"

He purchased the lease to the Ridge Theatre in Kitsilano in 1977, gave up his job teaching psychology and began learning the skills needed to operate a movie theatre.

It was the beginning of a 35-year career that has seen him play a major role in cinema in Vancouver and nationally, as he has lent his expertise to other major film festivals, and contributed time, money and resources to the community.

Early in his career, Schein also saw that there was sufficient interest in film in Vancouver to warrant a film festival and founded the Vancouver International Film Festival in 1982. The Vancouver festival grew quickly and is now the second largest film festival in Canada.

Of all his accomplishments, Schein says he is most proud of the film festival because he believes it will survive change.

"It is a long-term legacy, something that I think will be here for a long time," he says. "When you start a movie theatre, at some time they want to tear it down and put condos in its place. The film festival can survive regardless of property values and competition."

His impact on the film industry has reached beyond Vancouver, including involvement in film festivals in Toronto and Montreal, the founding of the film distribution company Festival Films in 1989, and the founding of Lumiere Cinemas in Ontario in 1997.

From 1998 to 2001, he was founder and president of Alliance



Photo by Daryl Cline.

Atlantis Cinemas, an art/specialty cinema circuit with 32 screens in nine locations across Canada.

For Schein, film is more than entertainment. He sees it as a vehicle for education and cultural understanding.

"When I chose films, I looked for those that had educational or cultural importance," he says.

Schein also gave tirelessly to the community, a generosity that he believes grew out of the social consciousness, the "people wanting to help others," he saw in action when a student in Saskatchewan. He has always made space in his business and his life for the community.

The Canadian Cancer Society holds a special place in his philanthropic work because he is a cancer survivor and has watched several family members battle the disease. He has served as board chair of the society's British Columbia and Yukon Division, playing a key role in areas such as forging partnerships with other organizations, encouraging young people to take leadership roles, and securing funding for research and housing for patients. He has also served as a member of the national board.

Other causes he devoted time to include, among many others, SEVA Canada, the Coastal Mental Health Foundation, EcoJustice and Inspire Health. He also established The Schein Foundation, a registered charity that supports causes including housing, health and the environment.

Schein retired in 2013. He is currently leading a campaign to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Centre. The centre, which will be staffed by researchers, along with advocacy and health promotion staff, will be the first of its kind in North America.

Barry Pittendrigh

BSc (Hons)'90 Luther College

Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement

Awarded to an alumna or alumnus who has achieved professional excellence and distinction in his or her career, and has demonstrated leadership in his or her pursuit of success.

Dr. Barry Pittendrigh's commitment to ensuring the results of his research got into the hands of the people who needed it — farmers in sub-Saharan West Africa — means people all over the world now learn from animations on their cellphones.

Pittendrigh, an entomology professor and researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, heads a large research program aimed at finding solutions to pest problems in cowpea, a legume crop that is an important source of protein for some of the poorest people in West Africa.

The research has resulted in the development of biological methods of controlling pests in cowpeas, but efforts at providing this information to farmers were confounded by the fact that many of the farmers were low-literate learners and they spoke many different languages.

That problem led Pittendrigh and his colleagues to create Scientific Animations Without Borders (SAWBO), a University of Illinois-based program that produces animated videos that people can watch on their cellphones. The content can be scientific knowledge or traditional indigenous knowledge, and the narration can be changed to match the language of the user.

The cellphone is an emerging educational tool because cellphone ownership is widespread in both rural and urban areas of Africa and other parts of the developing world. SAWBO's partner group in Niger, for example, has transferred the videos to an estimated 50,000 cowpea farmers' cellphones.

Since its inception, SAWBO's reach has expanded far beyond its original target audience. Developing animations that can be loaded onto cellphones has been embraced as a way to provide information of all kinds to low-literate populations all over the world, addressing subjects such as pest control, better cropping methods, disease prevention and treatment, safe water and microfinance.

After his graduation from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in biology in 1990, he went on to earn a Master of Science from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1999.

Pittendrigh holds the C.W. Kearns, C.L. Metcalf and W.P. Flint Endowed Chair in Insect Toxicology. From the Pittendrigh Lab, he leads a team of research scientists and graduate students who work on how pesticides impact biological systems, as well as a range of other research programs.



Pittendrigh says SAWBO is one of the most satisfying projects he has been involved with because it's possible to see the practical impact it has. It has "taken on a life of its own," he says, and is now a major part of his program.

Another project that stands out for him is the Body Louse Genome Sequencing Project, completed by an international team of scientists from 2005 to 2010. This work provides a basis for further study of the relationship between disease-spreading insects and the pathogens they transmit, and may lead to better controls for head and body lice.

"The work we did with the body louse genome was a very satisfying project because we were able to contribute an important tool to the scientific community — allowing others to investigate a series of important questions that were not easily addressable before this genome project," he says.

According to Pittendrigh, working with a small genome makes it much easier to conduct research on basic biological questions, such as how insects become capable of transmitting human diseases, understanding differences in rates of evolutionary change in hosts and parasites, and understanding the evolution of pesticide resistance.

Pittendrigh said his undergraduate education at the University of Regina prepared him well for his subsequent studies.

"I had a series of professors who played a very active role in mentoring me, who encouraged my interest in research and were very influential in me going down the path I have taken," he says.

He has received many prestigious awards for his work, but says receiving an award from the University of Regina is special because it's where he began his career.

"You always feel a greater connection to the place where you started," says Pittendrigh.

Sel Murray BA Hons'74 Campion College, BSW'76

Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service

The award recognizes an alumna or alumnus who has made a difference to the well-being of others, as a professional and/or a volunteer, by contributing service “above and beyond the call of duty.”

For Sel Murray, the line between career and community involvement frequently blurred as both were inspired by his concern for the welfare of others.

Murray served as the University of Regina's first international student advisor and, later, as manager of international student services.

Not only did he throw himself into his job, laying the foundation for what is today a thriving international program at the University of Regina, he also made himself available to students whenever they needed him, earning the nickname “24-7 Sel.”

At the same time, Murray put his passion for diversity, human rights and internationalization to work as a volunteer and advocate for a broad range of community groups at the local, provincial and national levels.

“Causes that advance respect for diversity and promote a culture of inclusion, and programs that foster the intellectual and social development of disadvantaged, marginalized and at-risk populations, are especially important to me,” he says.

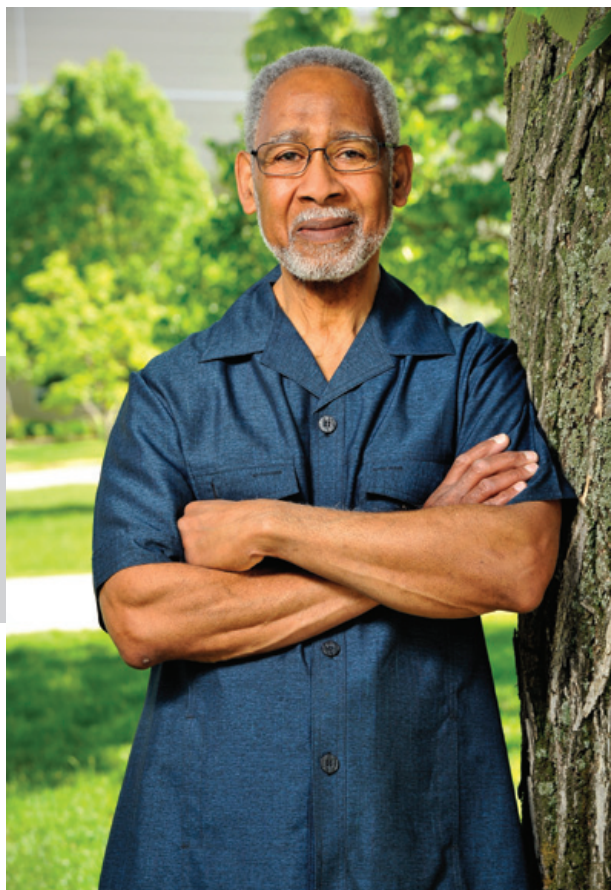
Murray came to Regina as an international student from Trinidad in 1967 and worked part-time as a janitor, cab driver and barber while attending university. During this time, he also helped establish the International Students' Association.

Following that, he was hired to research the need for an international student advisor at the University. This led to a 32-year career at the University and the beginning of what is now UR International.

Over his career, Murray helped thousands of international students adjust to life in Canada and succeed with their studies. He was there to help whenever he was needed — with visas, finances, family, housing and other issues.

He played a key role in the development of University policies to address issues such as support for students with disabilities and harassment on campus; the latter led to the creation of the first anti-racism and harassment officer position. He also participated in Immigrant Advisory Board discussions that led to new regulations regarding international students' right to work while studying and after graduation.

In 1975, he developed and taught the first class in cross-cultural communications for the University's Faculty of Social Work.



Murray says his willingness to respond to the needs of students beyond the normal workday was born of his own experience as a student far from home and family support.

“It also came from the knowledge that problems did not arise only between nine and five, Monday to Friday,” he adds. “Concern for others, responsibility to assist those in need, and the fact that there were others who gave of their time and talents to assist me all motivated me to assist others where possible.”

He's quick to add that it was a two-way street, providing him the opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world and enriching the lives of his own children through the contact they had with students who needed assistance.

Murray says he hopes he played some small part in advancing the internationalization process at the University and in developing policies that address the needs of vulnerable members of the University community, both students and staff.

“I consider myself very fortunate to have had opportunities to participate in the process of advancing change and development at a young and vibrant institution, in areas that were important to me, and to get paid to do it,” he says.

Murray also spent time developing other organizations. Now, he says the effort he put forward to grow and develop the Saskatchewan Caribbean Canadian Association and the Regina Open Door Society was well worth it.

He played roles small and large in many other organizations, some connected to the University and others not. These included the World University Service of Canada, Regina Multicultural Council, Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation, University of Regina Group for Refugees, Canadian Bureau for International Education and Sepak Takraw Canada, among others.

Sean McEachern BEd'03

Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service

The award recognizes an alumna or alumnus who has shown exceptional volunteer leadership and service to the University of Regina or its alumni association.

Sean McEachern has always taken the University of Regina motto “As One Who Serves” seriously. Just a year after he began his studies at the University, McEachern was elected president of the University of Regina Students’ Union (URSU). He was 18 at the time, making him the youngest URSU president on record.

The commitment to public service that he showed then has not diminished – in the years since, he has devoted much effort and many hours to the University, its alumni association and the larger community.

“My time at the University taught me a lot about serving one’s community and the impact an individual can have,” he says.

During his two years as URSU president (1998-2000), he was a member of the University of Regina Board of Governors, giving him an opportunity to speak on behalf of students when important issues were discussed. A major project during this time was the development of the First Nations University of Canada.

He feels his most important contribution as student president was an improvement in the relationship between student government and the University administration.

“Before that, relations were very strained,” he says. “I brought a different perspective on how that could work. That positive relationship has endured.”

Following his terms as president, he went on to serve as a member of the University of Regina Senate, a member of the Business Education Student Society and as president and founder of the Social Studies Student Society.

When he graduated, McEachern knew he wanted to continue to serve both the University and the community in some capacity.

“Post-secondary education is very much a privilege,” he says. “And I said, in the remainder of my life, I want to return some of what I learned back to the institution and the community. I continue to try to serve.”

The University of Regina Alumni Association was a natural fit; he served as a director from 2005 to 2010, and as president from 2010 to 2012. He also found himself back at URSU when the student organization decided to bring in community members to chair its meetings, and served as chair of the URSU Board of Directors from 2007 to 2013.



McEachern was involved in a number of initiatives through the Alumni Association, including the establishment of new scholarships and review of the association’s bylaws.

One project he personally took on was selecting an appropriate award to be given to recipients of the Alumni Association Crowning Achievements Awards. The award chosen is a miniature copy of one of the panels of the Joe Fafard sculpture *Le Jardin de l’esprit* which is installed on the shores of Wascana Lake, north of the University library. It was designed by Fafard in 1994, installed in its current location in 1999 and donated to the University’s permanent art collection in 2004.

McEachern said he felt the choice of award was particularly appropriate because Fafard has a strong connection with the University — Fafard taught art at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan from 1968 to 1974, and received an honorary degree from the University in 1989.

Receiving his own copy of the award, inspired by the Fafard sculpture and produced by the Fafard studio, will have special meaning for McEachern. He says he is honoured to be recognized by an institution that has meant so much to him.

“It’s exciting to learn that there are people out there who want to acknowledge you for service you have provided.”

McEachern currently works as director of policy and communications for the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA). His work in the community has included serving as chair of the Broadway United Church Council, director of the Regina Airport Authority, director and now president of Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers and a member of the Jaleta Pacers Royal Road Race Committee.

Courtney Keith BA'04

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

The award recognizes an alumna or alumnus under the age of 35 who is making a significant contribution, is an emerging leader and is setting an example for young alumni to follow.

Courtney Keith is an associate lawyer at MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP (MLT) in Regina, where she focuses on labour, employment and human rights law. At MLT, she is encouraged to engage with the community and has become involved in a range of community activities.

The opportunities Regina provides for individuals to forge relationships with the community and to make an impact were key factors in her decision to return in 2011. She says she sees her career as more than the work she does in her legal practice, adding “things do interconnect so easily here.”

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (English) in 2004, she went on to earn law degrees from the University of Ottawa (LL.B-J.D.) in 2007 and University College London (LL.M Public International Law, Great Distinction) in 2010.

It was only after living and studying in Ottawa and London, England, that Keith came to understand the full value of her education at the University of Regina.

“When I graduated I was completely confident I was leaving with a high-quality education,” Keith says. “What I didn’t realize was the value of education in a more intimate environment.”

As an undergraduate at a smaller university in a smaller city, she had better and easier access to resources and to people both at the university and in the community. She also had opportunities to employ what she was learning as she was learning it, as a volunteer or in other ways.

“In Regina, if there is something you are interested in, people are willing to help and point you in the right direction,” she says.

At MLT, Keith deals with issues that arise in both unionized and non-unionized workplaces. This typically involves advising employers on a wide range of issues, such as interpretation of collective agreements, drafting workplace policy, and the hiring, discipline and termination of workers.

Taking cases to trial after months of preparation and winning is a highlight for her, but what she finds most rewarding is being in a position to advise employers and help them avoid problems in the workplace. She notes, “You sometimes underestimate the impact you can have advising at



the front end.” She has also shared her expertise in this area as author of the Saskatchewan chapter in the *Cross-Canada Guide to Human Rights Law in Employment* (2013).

Like several colleagues at MLT, Keith is a mentor at Mother Teresa Middle School, a small private school for vulnerable youth in Regina’s inner city. She serves as a board member for Water Polo Canada and is a trained volunteer for the Canadian Red Cross Restoring Family Links Program, positions that allow her to share and improve her legal skills.

Keith is also Election Readiness Co-chair for southern Saskatchewan for the Liberal Party of Canada, a job that appealed to her because it is “a role where you have an opportunity to make an impact.”

But the volunteer work closest to her heart is Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC), a literacy program for adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities, introduced to Regina three years ago by the Regina and District Association for Community Living.

As facilitators, Keith and her sister meet with their book club weekly at a local coffee shop. The three goals for NCBC members are to increase literacy, connect with other people and be part of the community.

“Working with NCBC has been very personally rewarding for me,” she says. “I think it is rare in our world to experience the level of genuineness I experience being part of that club.”

Keith believes people have a responsibility to engage with the community, but she also sees volunteer work as an opportunity to learn. “I believe in doing what I can where I can, but it’s also about the exposure to new people and new things,” she says.



A lesson in teaching

Regina's first PhD in psychology makes his mark as the "father of teaching and learning" at Canadian universities.

**By BD Miller BA
Hons'89, BJ'95**

Photos by Greg Black Photography.

If you'd asked Christopher Knapper PhD'69 when he was growing up in England in the 1940s where life would take him, he likely wouldn't have mentioned Canada. And he certainly wouldn't have envisioned a career in academia or said anything about a university campus in Regina, Saskatchewan.

In fact, until he enrolled at the University of Sheffield in 1958, nobody from Knapper's working-class neighborhood in the railway town of Crewe had ever attempted to get a higher education, much less contemplated becoming a professor.

But defying expectations in and outside of the classroom has been one of the hallmarks of Knapper's life and career, and the University in Regina played a pivotal role in making it all happen.

Knapper joined the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan as a psychology instructor in October 1966. At that point in his career, he held an honours degree in psychology from Sheffield, augmented by four

years as a professional research assistant.

The hiring process that brought Knapper from England to Saskatchewan was conducted entirely by telegram. "I only had a bachelor's degree, but Canada in 1966 was expanding its universities, and Regina was desperate to get people," Knapper says. He believes his string of publication credits as a researcher, as well as the high regard in Canada for Sheffield and other British universities, may have been what tipped the balance in his favour.

"On paper, I looked better than I was," Knapper says, "because my job was to do research and publish with the person I was working for. And we published quite a bit. So I had quite good academic credentials in that sense."

As it turned out, the job he'd accepted in Regina also looked a bit better on paper than it turned out to be. "It was a position that doesn't exist in universities anymore called an 'instructor,'" he recalls.

Knapper might have asked more questions

about what he was getting himself into had he not been caught up in the exciting prospect of moving to a new country to teach at a university. He'd never heard of Regina or its university campus when he first read about the job, and had to look the city up on a map. At one point before leaving England, Knapper admits "getting into somewhat of a panic, wondering if this institution really existed." Still, he packed his bags and booked passage to Canada. "It all seemed like a great adventure to me."

It wasn't until it was too late to turn back – aboard ship and crossing the Atlantic – that it dawned on Knapper that he might be venturing down an academic rabbit hole, at least compared to what he was used to at Sheffield. Before leaving England, his new department head at the Regina campus, Duncan Blewett, had mailed him a copy of Morgan and King's *Introduction to Psychology*. The book had arrived with a note from Blewett advising Knapper that one of his duties in Regina would be to use the book to teach the University's introductory class in psychology to about 200 students. The thought of instructing such a large class using a "weighty psychology textbook" as his primary teaching aid left Knapper feeling "absolutely terrified." When he was an undergraduate at Sheffield, "you never studied from textbooks," Knapper explains, noting that students were instead provided with a more tailored list of readings.

"And when I'd graduated, there were only eight graduates of the psychology department. So the idea that I'd be giving a lecture to 200 students seemed overwhelming. I remember sitting on a deck chair on this ship going over (to Canada) looking at this textbook

and thinking 'How do you take this great fat book and prepare a series of lectures without repeating it, without summarizing it?' It baffled me then and it baffles me still."

Knapper arrived by train in Regina on October 1, 1966, to take up his new instructor job at the Regina campus. He didn't know it yet, but he'd already missed the first three weeks of his first semester. Knapper had assumed that the fall term in Canada began, as in Britain, in early October, and he'd booked his travel arrangements accordingly. The sparse communication he'd received from Regina hadn't specified a start date, and so he arrived nearly one month late to find "poor Dr. Blewett manfully teaching my introductory class for me." Blewett shrugged off the misunderstanding and cheerfully offered Knapper a place to stay until he could find an apartment.

And so Knapper took over teaching introductory psychology to a huge classroom of students, using a giant textbook as an instructional aid (ironically, two of the things he now criticizes as an advocate and scholar of better teaching practices). He hadn't intended to stay long in Regina, but discovered that "life in Saskatchewan really suited me. England was still a very hierarchical society. In those days, people from my background did what they were told and didn't question things. But it was different when I got to Saskatchewan. If you made a suggestion, people would say 'Well, go ahead and do it'."

Knapper soon realized his lack of a PhD would hinder his advancement as an academic. He talked the matter over with Blewett, who put him on the path to getting one. A PhD

program in psychology was developed in coordination with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, with Knapper as the first student. "The University of Saskatchewan - Regina Campus really did everything possible to allow me to get my PhD, which I did while I was still teaching in my department – something that likely wouldn't be possible today," Knapper says. "But in those days, there weren't so many regulations, and we were in new territory."

Knapper received his PhD in 1969; it was the first psychology PhD granted by the Regina campus at that point. After receiving his degree, Knapper was immediately promoted to assistant professor. Within a few months, he became head of the psychology department – a position he held for seven years.

During that time, Knapper also became active in the faculty association and was eventually elected to the board of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). As part of his service with CAUT, Knapper chaired a committee that looked at how well faculty members were being prepared for their roles as teachers and supervisors of students. This sparked an enduring and career-changing interest in teaching effectiveness and evaluation.

"CAUT felt that faculty were not being well prepared for their roles," Knapper says. "That they'd obtained these PhDs, which were really based on research accomplishments, but when they actually became faculty members they were expected to do a much wider range of tasks."

As Knapper's interest and expertise in the scholarship of teaching and learning grew, he secured a series of research grants and sabbaticals to further his



Opposite page: Christopher Knapper, the University of Regina's first Psychology PhD, on Queen's University campus in Kingston, Ontario where he is Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Director Emeritus of the Instructional Development Centre. Above left: Knapper and his colleagues advocate active learning with much less emphasis on the traditional university lecture. Above right: Knapper in one of Queen's University's active learning classrooms. Knapper served as the director of Queen's Instructional Development Centre and has established himself as one of Canada's foremost authorities in post-secondary teaching and educational development.

knowledge in the field. This culminated in 1977 when he joined the University of Waterloo as the founding director of the institution's teaching resource office – a unit that was launched to enhance the quality of teaching at Waterloo. Knapper would continue in that role for 13 years, until he joined Queen's University in 1990 to establish a similar centre for teaching and learning effectiveness. He is presently Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Queen's, as well as a writer and consultant on teaching and learning in higher education.

Based on his years of research, Knapper advocates for much greater emphasis on active learning in university classrooms, and for much less emphasis on the traditional lecture. "People learn by doing, not by listening," he says. "Every university teacher knows that from their own life, but they don't practice it in classrooms."

Knapper says active learning or "learning by doing" is the first criterion for good teaching and good learning in a university. "I don't mean there's no role for listening or for telling, but by and large, you learn things by trying them. A learner needs to be confronted by a series of challenging tasks. The tasks can't be too simple or you won't bother with them; they can't be too difficult because you'll give up. They have to be just challenging enough to make you engage in those tasks."

Knapper says this task-based teaching and learning approach needs to be buttressed with quality feedback from instructors, who should advise students along the way what they're doing wrong and how to correct it. "Teaching in a university is amazingly simple," he says. "You have to set good learning tasks, ones that are appropriate to what the students are trying to learn – not extraneous, challenging, but not too challenging. And then you have to provide feedback to the students that's constructive, meaning that they can learn from the feedback and gradually get better."

Despite the apparent benefits of this teaching model, Knapper says trying to implement it can encounter resistance on all fronts – from both faculty and students, as well as from a university's administration. "Teachers tend to teach the way they were taught," he says. "Most (university faculty) were lectured at, and so they lecture. And there's no preparation for the role of being a teacher, so (lecturing) is what they do."

University administrations often have their own reasons for perpetuating



James McNinch, the first director of what is now the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of Regina.

Photo by University of Regina Photography Department.

the status quo in classrooms, he says. "Administrations tend to like bureaucratic things like credit hours and classes, which are organized neatly so they can be timetabled. We've invented bureaucratic conveniences to keep track of students, and very importantly, to bring in income, and we've come to believe that they're absolutely essential. We fail to recognize that they are just that – bureaucratic conveniences."

For their part, students tend to prefer learning experiences that are predictable. "Students can also be somewhat resistant because they just want to 'get through,'" Knapper says. "And so students are quite naturally averse to anything that's out of the mainstream, anything unusual."

Students will usually come around after a little exposure to the new methods, he says. "I taught for years in the latter part of my career and I didn't lecture. My courses were completely project-based, and there were no exams. There were tasks my students had to do, and they were graded, but there were no sit-down exams. And once students become familiar with that approach, if the teacher is competent enough, students actually like it."

Knapper advocates changing the teaching approach for students as soon as they enter university; it's the point when they're most open to teaching and assessment methods and learning experiences that might be different from what they encountered in high school. "I would begin by trying to change first year. I think it's a great pity that universities have dealt with the numbers crunch by having enormous classes in the first year, which are primarily didactic, with multiple-choice tests and so on. That's exactly what you don't need when students arrive. What you need is

small classes with lots of interaction and lots of hands-on learning."

James McNinch, the director of the Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit at the U of R, says Knapper's expertise and advocacy in the field of teaching and learning effectiveness has been a great help to him in his career. In 1996, McNinch was appointed the first director of what is now called the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the U of R, and he came to rely on Knapper for advice and encouragement.

"Chris was very much a kind of mentor," McNinch says. "Some of the first CAUT guidelines around the assessment of teaching were developed by people like Chris Knapper. His reputation and his own scholarship and contribution to the field were well established by the time we set up our own teaching development centre here at the U of R. He's really one of the fathers of teaching and learning centres, and of teaching and learning as a scholarly activity in Canada."

The establishment of teaching and learning centres at the U of R and other universities across Canada was viewed with suspicion by some faculty members, McNinch concedes. "There was a fear on many campuses that these centres would become the 'teaching police,'" he says. "But that was the last thing we wanted to do." He says one of the best pieces of advice he ever received from Knapper was not to push change on those who were resistant, but instead work creatively and collaboratively with faculty members who were willing to experiment and try new teaching approaches.

Knapper believes Canadian universities may eventually make accreditation in teaching effectiveness a prerequisite for tenure, as is now happening in Britain; however, in keeping with his emphasis on collaboration, he does not advocate forcing faculty who are "already in the system" to become accredited. "It would have to be something that is done for new entrants to the profession who are given plenty of notice that this is going to be asked of them," he says. "And time and resources would have to be made available for them to do this. I don't think they can be expected to do all the other things a beginning teacher does and (earn accreditation) at the same time." ■

BD Miller is a Regina-based writer and two-time graduate of the University of Regina.

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Appointment is eligible for election

District 6 (Melville-Yorkton-Hudson Bay)

Incumbent is eligible for re-election

District 7 (Melfort – Wynyard – Davidson)

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Capital gains

When University of Regina alumna Coleen Volk BSc'86, DAA'89 first arrived in Ottawa in 1996, she thought it would only be for a few years. Now, almost 20 years later, she still calls it home. Volk's influence is far reaching in the nation's capital. Among her chief duties is staffing the 2,000 governor-in-council jobs – the most important non-elected jobs in the federal government. In many ways, her professional success can be attributed to her Prairie roots and quintessential Saskatchewan character.

By Paul Gessell

Photos by Gregory Abraszco

You can take the girl out of Saskatchewan, but you can't necessarily take Saskatchewan out of the girl. These days alumna Coleen Volk can most often be found near the seats of Canadian political power, as well as serving as Deputy Minister Champion to the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, a role akin to that of a federal government ambassador. Thirty years ago, she was a typical University of Regina student fond of music and curling, which she still plays to get away from her hectic day-to-day Ottawa work life.

"I curl in a couple of mixed leagues and the men are always impressed with the weight I can throw on a take out, until they find out I'm from Saskatchewan," says Volk. As everyone in Ottawa knows – or at least thinks – if you're a Saskatchewan expat, you must be a curler. Well, Volk is one Saskatchewan curler who has been impressively throwing her weight around the national capital on and off the ice since 1996, when she arrived as deputy treasurer at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Initially, Volk had planned to stay in Ottawa for just a few years and then return to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Toronto. But, almost 20 years later, she is still in the capital, having left CMHC in 2005 to breeze her way through several federal departments. She has assumed such tough assignments as helping negotiate a \$10 billion restructuring of General Motors of Canada in 2009 and, two years later, reaching a landmark wildlife protection deal with the energy company Total for operating the Joslyn oilsands mine in northern Alberta.

"The work here is endlessly fascinating," Volk said during a recent interview shortly before flying to France to celebrate her 50th birthday. "There's an endless supply of intellectually complex problems to work on."

Volk's current post is with the Privy Council Office, where she serves as deputy secretary for senior personnel, business transformation and renewal. A primary duty is to staff 2,000 governor-in-council jobs, which are the most important non-elected jobs in the federal sphere; jobs like deputy ministers that are filled only with the approval of the prime minister. Recent vacancies for Volk to tackle include chairperson of Canada Post Corporation, law clerk of the House of Commons, taxpayers' ombudsman and the public sector integrity commissioner. Clearly, Volk's personnel recommendations ultimately influence every branch of the federal government and its dealings with citizens.

The Privy Council Office is essentially the prime minister's department, co-ordinating activities of all government sectors, so Volk spends much of her time liaising with the prime minister's top political staff. Despite its crucial role, PCO, as it is generally called, has a low public profile. Some of the PCO is housed atop Ottawa's 75-year-old limestone, chateau-esque Central Post Office (think a smaller version of Saskatoon's Delta Bessborough Hotel). The downtown Sparks Street doorway leading into the PCO bears no sign indicating what's within. The outside is guarded by two upright, life-sized stone lions and the inside by a commissionaire in a security booth who only buzzes you in with an appointment.

Volk insists the advice she provides the prime minister and cabinet ministers is always non-partisan. "We call it fearless advice and loyal execution. So, I give them my fearless advice and they decide and I loyally execute their demands. That's how the system works."

The head of PCO is titled Clerk of the Privy Council. Wayne Wouters, the newly retired clerk, is, like Volk, a Saskatchewan native. He is from Edam; she is from Denzil (although she was born in nearby Macklin and, by the time she entered high



Opposite page: University of Regina alumna Coleen Volk on Parliament Hill. Volk serves as the Privy Council Office's deputy secretary for senior personnel, business transformation and renewal. Volk with her colleagues Steven Misener, director Leadership Development, and Geneviève Lemieux, executive assistant to the Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet.

school, her parents – both teachers – had moved the family to Regina). Coleen was the youngest, with five sisters and one brother.

Volk cites Wouters, recently replaced by Janice Charette, as one of her prime mentors in government. Last year Wouters asked Volk to assume the role of Deputy Minister Champion for the two Saskatchewan universities to replace Glenda Yeates, who was retiring as deputy health minister. The champion serves as a liaison between a university and the federal bureaucracy, helping both sides to tap into each other's programs, expertise, research and personnel.

Another of Volk's mentors has been Paul Boothe, a former deputy finance minister in Saskatchewan who later held several executive positions in Ottawa at Finance Canada, Industry Canada and Environment Canada and brought Volk on board in all three. As Boothe recalls, Volk had requested a meeting with him in 2005 about moving from CMHC to Finance. "I had a talk with her and I was very impressed and I thought, 'We have got to find a way to get this person into the department at some senior level,'" says Boothe, now a professor of business, economics and public policy at the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario in London. Volk wanted an economic policy position. None were available, so Boothe talked her into taking a more administrative type job at the assistant deputy minister level.

Boothe soon knew he made the right decision to hire Volk. "She's very smart and very analytical. The other thing that is very impressive about her is her ability to remain calm, remain serene, under very trying circumstances. That's one of the things that set her apart from most people. I think of Coleen, especially when she was dealing with those high-powered auto executives and their legal counsel, as friendly but firm. Saskatchewan people are very friendly but also they know what is right and they stick by it and that was certainly Coleen."

Another of Volk's bosses at Industry was the now retired Richard Dicerri. The former deputy minister describes Volk as extraordinarily substantive and praises her soft leadership skills, measured temperament and careful use of words that allowed her to make a point with five words when most people would use 30. Dicerri especially remembers Volk's handling of the GM deal, where she was Boothe's second in command. "She very ably represented the interests of the Canadian government and Canadian taxpayers."

Sitting in her PCO office, Volk beams as she recalls the GM talks. “I was involved in the background of Chrysler restructuring, but I had a real leadership role in the General Motors file. Many times, it felt unsolvable. But it was a fascinating experience. It was intense and arduous.” Volk makes the negotiations sound like a gruelling triathlon in which she crossed the finish line in good time and with a runner’s high.

Volk’s corner office atop the post office has a big east-facing window that offers a sweeping view of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, the National War Memorial, the National Arts Centre and the stately Chateau Laurier hotel. The north window of this prestigious address looks down onto Sparks Street and the very spot where MP Thomas D’Arcy McGee was assassinated in 1868. A nearby pub has appropriated McGee’s name and is usually filled with young political aides collecting gossip for their bosses.

Decorating Volk’s office walls are abstract paintings borrowed from the Canada Council Art Bank and photographs of prancing caribou that look like Santa’s reindeer. The caribou are remembrances of Volk’s days at Environment helping protect endangered species. There are other photos of Volk’s two teenaged children, a hockey-playing son in Grade 11 and a daughter newly enrolled at McGill University in Montreal.

Down the hall, a discreet sign points to a covered walkway across a back alley connecting the PCO to the Langevin Block, the 125-year-old sandstone building directly facing Parliament Hill and housing the offices of the prime minister and his top political staff. This patch of real estate is where much of Canada’s history is determined.

As a student at the University of Regina, Volk began her studies hoping eventually to enter the business world. She initially followed pre-administration, but then switched to computer science, graduating in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science. By that time, Volk realized she was less enamoured with the science of computers than with their ability to solve business problems. During her days in Regina, Volk also took some French courses that paved the way for her to become comfortably bilingual in Ottawa, a necessity for most, but not all, senior public service jobs.

Among the computer science professors who taught Volk, she was most impressed with Larry Saxton and his advanced system

design course. “In that class, we were split into three groups and we had to do term assignments, and that was how our mark was determined. It was all about what you did in your project team. I learned so much from that experience, so much about working with teams and team dynamics and things that work and things that don’t work and things that were painful to learn. Dr. Saxton imparted a sense of fairness when he assessed our team work. It was an incredible experience I have carried with me and it has certainly served me well in a working capacity.”

Now a professor emeritus, Saxton does not remember most of the thousands of students he taught over the years. But he does remember Volk. “She was very attentive, a pleasure to teach,” he says.

After graduation, Volk’s career took off. She first landed at the Saskatchewan Computer Utility Corporation, a Crown corporation later privatized. Simultaneously, she started taking courses that would eventually make her a Chartered Professional Accountant. After a few years, she moved to Toronto with Toronto-Dominion Bank, initially working in systems and later in finance. Then came six years with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, where she served as a technical expert in the finance division. “I was working in a capital markets function, executing interest rate swaps, raising medium-term debt for the bank, managing interest rate risk.”


Volk loved her job at CIBC and envisaged staying for “a long, long time.” But a headhunter approached her about becoming deputy treasurer with CMHC in Ottawa. This was a chance to be in senior management and she had to try it. She has been in Ottawa since, despite her chagrin at the heavy winter snowfall.

After nine years at CMHC, there followed a series of public service jobs, some of them lasting only a year or so. Public service executives in Ottawa have long embraced the idea that a competent manager in, say, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, can be just as good managing at Health Canada. That idea is fading, says Volk, with managers staying in jobs longer to build specialized expertise.

Volk is one of 33 Deputy Minister Champions responsible for building relations between the Public Service of Canada and universities across the country.

In Regina, Volk deals mainly with University President Vianne Timmons. The relationship is all about building connections between the University and the federal public service. That can mean co-operating on research projects and in marketing the fruits of those projects. Volk and Timmons have also been discussing ways to recruit more graduates and interns, especially from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, to work in Ottawa. In Timmons’s words, they can “get some federal experience” and return to Saskatchewan where the job opportunities, Volk says, are far better than when she left university.

Timmons says she is a fan of the Deputy Minister Champion program. It opens doors for her to meet top government officials and raise the University’s profile when visiting Ottawa. As for Volk, Timmons describes her as delightful, confident and impressive. “She knows the University and is positive about it.”

Volk’s passion for curling has also come to Timmons’s attention: “That’s a bit of Saskatchewan you can’t take out of her,” Timmons says. 



Volk serves as liaison to the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina under the Deputy Minister University Champion Initiative where her role is to strengthen the connections between the institutions and public service.

Paul Gessell is originally from Strasbourg, Saskatchewan. He was in the Parliamentary Press Gallery for many years as a political reporter with The Canadian Press. He later served as Ottawa bureau chief for Maclean’s and as Hill bureau chief for The Ottawa Citizen. Gessell is now a freelance writer living in Chelsea, Quebec and writes for various publications including Ottawa Magazine, National Post and Carleton University Magazine.

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*Like many of us of a certain age, Mike Rollo BFA'99 Campion College, has fond memories of the nights he spent at drive-in theatres wrapped in a blanket in the back of the family car. The illuminated screen floating in the darkness of the prairie night sky left an indelible mark on him. As a filmmaker, Rollo explored the emotional, social and cultural significance of the drive-in in his film *The Broken Altar*, a 35mm portrait of empty and abandoned open-air venues re-examined under ever-changing prairie daylight in a landscape devoid of human voices, radioed-in soundtracks, or tires on gravel.*

*The images on the following pages are taken from single frames of *The Broken Altar* or are production stills Rollo took with lomography cameras like the Holga, known for its surrealistic and impressionistic images.*





"Drive-ins emerged with automobile culture driving people outside the traditional setting of the theatre space and congregating under the darkness of the black skies. I remember the excitement of travelling to a destination in the middle of nowhere, gazing at a screen half illuminated from the headlights of cars, where moths would cast shadows on the windshield. This was cinematic to me. It was a play of light and shadow before any projector was turned on. The drive-ins that are currently operational project content that is mostly family friendly, but in the past, the films varied with a rotation of B-movies ranging from horror to science fiction, to raunchy comedies, to X-rated content. This diverse collection of films developed an auditory collage in my head, which informed the design of the soundtrack."

Mike Rollo



"My eye is always drawn to the surreal presence of these white screens isolated in the landscape. The function of the film, through the filter of documentary, was to survey the unique architectural details of these emptied locations and project a subjective and personally reflexive engagement with the landscape. These empty spaces evoke a dream-like quality, a strange presence, which inspired the formal construction of the film's visual and auditory relationship."

Mike Rollo



Mike Rollo was born and raised in Saskatchewan and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production at the University of Regina and a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts at Concordia University. His work explores first-person cinema and experimental approaches to documentary filmmaking. Rollo's films and videos have been screened at festivals, galleries, conferences and venues around the world. His film *Ghosts and Gravel Roads* was recognized as one of Canada's Top Ten Shorts of 2008 by the Toronto International Film Group and received the Mikeldi Silver Documentary Award at the 50th Edition of the International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao. He is also a founding member of the Double Negative Film Collective, a Montreal-based group of film, video and installation artists interested in creating, curating and disseminating experimental film and video. He is an instructor in the University of Regina's Department of Film. Visit his website at mrollo.com.

The music man

Meet Malcolm Lowe, concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and this fall's honorary degree recipient.

By Bill Armstrong

Photos by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department and courtesy of Boston Symphony Orchestra.



Malcolm Lowe describes a family photo of himself, not yet three years old, standing and holding a bow over a violin held by his father, Elman, who is seated. Despite the very early evidence that music would be his career and his life's work, leading to his role as a long-serving concertmaster with one of the world's great symphony orchestras, performing in a world-renowned concert hall, Lowe discounts the idea. Lowe, who grew up in a music-filled household on a farm in western Manitoba, explains that a lot of people entertained themselves with music, especially during the winter months. "People were busy with farm work during the spring, summer and fall, but over the winter there would be a lot of visiting, and a lot of music making," he says.

The music makers included his father, who played violin, and his mother Donna, a vocalist and piano player who served for many years as Lowe's accompanist. His maternal grandfather played piano, and one of his cousins had a dance band that played regularly in the area where he grew up.

Proving that the apples don't fall far from the tree, Lowe's three siblings also pursued careers in music. His sister Heather Lowe-Conley is a teacher

and cellist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, while his brother Cameron is a cellist and teacher, and his brother Darren is concertmaster with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra.

"Music was a really engrossing activity, but I never thought of it as a career," Lowe says. "I did strive to play like the performers I heard on recordings or the occasional live performances I attended."

Malcolm's family moved to Regina when he was nine years old, after his father was hired to teach at the Conservatory of Performing Arts by former director Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown. Lowe describes the move in 1962 as one of the saddest days of his life; he had a strong attachment to farm life and it took him a few years to adjust to the city. The adjustment was made easier when he began taking violin lessons from Leyton-Brown, and became immersed in baseball, hockey, curling and golfing. As for Leyton-Brown, he recognized very quickly that he was teaching a unique and gifted student.

"Malcolm was the best student I've ever had, without question," Leyton-Brown says. "Many students are not interested in pursuing perfection," he explains, "and that is understandable. It is good to know one's limitations.

However, Malcolm accepted the need for perfection; he looked for perfection.

"Malcolm would bring in recordings and ask me to critique them," Leyton-Brown recalls. "To be looking for that kind of detail at that age, it was crazy."

Teacher and student both agree that Lowe's years at the Conservatory laid the vital foundation for his further development. While Leyton-Brown assumed that Lowe would become a professional musician, he notes that Lowe was also a talented athlete and expressed aspirations of being a professional baseball player. Lowe concedes he "did pretty well" as a ballplayer, but dismisses the idea of making it to the pros. "I think all of the boys I played with said the same thing from time to time. It was a common wish, but I don't know that it was realistic."

At age 17, Lowe moved to Philadelphia to study at the Curtis Institute of Music. He found the move from Regina to Philadelphia much easier, perhaps because his teacher was Ivan Galamian, who Lowe describes as "one of the great pedagogues in music." During the summer he studied at the Meadowmount School in nearby New York State under two other influential teachers – Sally Thomas and Jaime Laredo.

"Curtis and Meadowmount represented an incredible opportunity for me because I was exposed to so much great teaching, and to so many guest conductors through affiliations with the Philadelphia Orchestra," Lowe says. "I got to know many students at Curtis. We travelled by train to New York City for classes, and now some of them are my colleagues in Boston. It's as though we have come full circle."

How Lowe came to be appointed concertmaster of the Boston Symphony in 1984 is an interesting story, with some significant milestones along the way. He won first prize in the CBC Talent Festival in 1972, was concertmaster of the New York Christmas String Seminar in 1973 and a member of the Casals Festival Orchestra in 1974. He served as concertmaster of the Regina Symphony Orchestra in 1975 and 1976, and of the Quebec Symphony from 1977 to 1983. In 1979 he was a laureate of the Montreal International Music Competition. After a season (1983-84) as concertmaster at the Worcester (Massachusetts) Symphony, Lowe was appointed to the prestigious post at the Boston Symphony, but his career path could have led him to the Big Apple.

"My music director at the Quebec Symphony, James DePriest, said I should audition for the job as concertmaster at Boston," Lowe explains. "I had also auditioned for a job in the violin section at the New York Philharmonic, and they offered me the job, coincidentally, in the week of the final Boston audition. I asked them if they would mind waiting

until I learned the results of the Boston audition," Lowe says, marvelling now at his own audacity. "I'd never do that again."

As concertmaster, Lowe also performs with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and teaches at Tanglewood Music Centre, a summer school in western Massachusetts. When he is asked what a concertmaster does, Lowe answers carefully and deliberately.

"It encompasses so many things it's difficult to grasp," he begins. "A concertmaster is a communication conduit between the music director (the conductor) and the orchestra, interpreting the director's gestures and decisions, and vice versa, because the orchestra has a voice, and it's not always easy when the conductor wants to change the voice," he explains.

"The concertmaster has to be able to express the different points of view and facilitate the compromises so that everyone can aim for an inspired and memorable performance. The concertmaster can help lead, with the conductor, toward that goal, because the whole orchestra is influenced by the tone and gestures you use in your playing," Lowe says. To a suggestion that the job description of concertmaster is part musician, part mediator and part diplomat, Lowe responds with an emphatic, "Oh, yes!"

Lowe describes the Boston Symphony as being "full of traditions." This seems to include the longevity of its concertmasters; since 1920, the orchestra has had only three concertmasters, including Lowe. Symphony Hall is often cited as one of the best sounding classical concert venues in the world. He relishes playing in Symphony Hall, which was one of the first to incorporate scientific acoustical principles in its design when it opened in 1900.

"It's an honour to be concertmaster of a great orchestra, playing in one of the great halls in the world, and in a really special place like Boston," Lowe says. "I count my blessings every day."

Lowe has returned to Canada many times to make guest appearances as a soloist with the Toronto and Montreal Symphony Orchestras. He treasures the opportunity he had to perform in a chamber music series in Ottawa in 2011, alongside his brother Darren and sister-in-law pianist Suzanne Beaubien-Lowe. The series highlighted Prairie musicians."

Along with his work as concertmaster, Lowe spends time during the summer teaching at Tanglewood and, when he

can fit it in, indulging his other passion – golf. He has golfed only sparingly since having surgery for a rotator cuff injury in January 2013, adding that there are many similarities between playing golf and playing violin. "Music is an expressive art form," he explains, "and there are emotional things that affect you physically. With golf, more than other reactive sports, more than half the battle is with yourself. Control of your reaction is so critical. Putting just magnifies that," he adds with a chuckle.

Lowe says Tanglewood is different from most other summer schools because it helps its students focus on the work they are likely going to do, which is performing in orchestras or chamber groups, rather than as soloists. Videos of Lowe on the Tanglewood website suggest he has a patient and supportive teaching style. When asked if that is indeed his style, his response implies that he still strives for perfection. "Sometimes, sometimes not," he says. "Sometimes you have to ask a student, 'Do you realize you can't do this?' At the same time, the older autocratic methods of teaching do not work well today."

Lowe is comfortable with the technological changes that have taken place over the past few decades, noting that his students send him videos of their performances so that he can check in on their progress. He and his wife Colleen have one son, Brenden, a California-based jazz pianist who teaches online. "Being a struggling musician, you have to be entrepreneurial, and teaching online is one of the ways Brenden is doing that," Lowe says.

Regarding being chosen to receive an honorary degree from the University of Regina, Lowe says he was surprised to receive the news, and very honoured. It brought back to him the many hours he spent at Darke Hall, taking lessons and observing his mother and father teach at the Conservatory.

"I began to recall from my time there the faces of people who studied there and have made great careers, and I know what young kids who are studying at the Conservatory now can get out of their experiences there," Lowe says. "When I tell people I received my early training in Regina, I still get that 'Where?' reaction. I'm extremely proud of Saskatchewan, the Prairies and Canada, and I could not have done what I did without the Conservatory." **D**

Bill Armstrong is a Regina freelance writer and amateur photographer with a strong interest in Saskatchewan history.



Opposite page: Malcolm Lowe on the University of Regina campus hours before receiving the fall 2014 honorary degree. Above: Lowe, who first studied seriously at the University's Conservatory of Performing Arts, now holds one of the most prestigious positions in North American classical music – concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Salgado



Though his time at the University of Regina was brief, the early promise that Andrew Salgado cultivated in studios and classrooms across the campus helped him become the artist he is today – one of the art world’s most talked about contemporary painters.

By Sabrina Cataldo, BA’97, BJ’99, Cert. PR’04

Photos by Oskar Proctor

At only 32 years of age, visual artist Andrew Salgado has generated international buzz for his fearless painting style and daring colour palette. If you Google him, you will come across articles with impressive titles such as, “Andrew Salgado, a new ‘Lucian Freud’”, “One to Watch” and “Portrait of the artist as a young man on the rise.” In 2011, he was featured in the Channel 4 (U.K.) documentary, *What Makes a Masterpiece?*, and the next year he was commissioned to outfit the storefront display of high-end London retailer Harvey Nichols. He received the Saskatchewan Arts Board’s Lieutenant Governor’s Arts Award for Emerging Artist in 2013, and was recently chosen by an international panel of judges to be included in the *100 Painters of Tomorrow* publication.

Salgado lives and works in London, England, and exhibits in the United Kingdom, Germany, Scandinavia, Australia, Venezuela, Thailand, Korea and South Africa, as well as in Canada and the United States. Art collectors from Chile, Chicago, Los Angeles and London have purchased his work, which can also be found in the private collection of Regina’s Morris and Jacqui Shumiatcher.

However, Salgado has never forgotten his roots or let the global acclaim go to his head. “I’m a very proud Prairie boy. I love Regina and credit it for a lot. I always have and always will,” he says. “I get such a distaste when people from Saskatchewan speak poorly about their hometowns, which – believe me – they have a tendency to do. I’m the opposite. I will go to bat for Regina, because it’s a great place.”

Salgado says his ongoing connection with friends and family in Saskatchewan helps to ground him, along with the fact that his partner is also from a small town in Canada. “We keep each other balanced and realistic when we see a lot of drama and hype in both the art world and in London. We just tend to laugh about it.”

Salgado began his academic career at the University of Regina in 2003. He moved to Vancouver after two years to complete his bachelor of fine arts at the University of British Columbia, then to London to earn a master of fine arts with

distinction from the prestigious Chelsea College of Art. He remembers his time at the University of Regina fondly. “The U of R is an amazing school with really passionate instructors,” he says, listing professors John Noestheden, Lynn Wells and Christine Ramsay as “cathartic and influential characters” who contributed to his development as an artist.

Wells, who taught Salgado postmodern literary theory, says, “I remember he just got so excited about all the theories about postmodern art and representation. He was in his element and performed really well in that course.” She has a soft spot for Salgado’s early work. “He would often write poetry on his canvases in fine pencil. It was quite spectacular. When you

stood back, you didn’t see the words, just the image. I would go up to the work and painstakingly read it, because I love poetry.”

Wells also points to an exhibition held at the University of Regina’s Fifth Parallel Gallery in 2008 as the first indication that Salgado was going to be a star in the art world. “His paintings were selling for \$5,000 to \$6,000 and were just flying off the walls. People were almost elbowing each other out of the way,” she exclaims.

Today, Salgado’s paintings continue to fly off the walls. *Storytelling*, his most recent exhibit at Beers Contemporary Gallery in London, marks his seventh consecutive sold-out show. His homecoming show in Regina in fall 2013, *The Acquaintance*, was no exception. All

the works sold before the show opened, at prices upwards of \$10,000.

However, it wasn’t the sales that made *The Acquaintance* special to Salgado, but the Regina community’s response to his work. “It was overwhelming. Apparently, we broke all records for the gallery – highest attendance numbers, largest opening and largest attendance at an artist’s talk. The whole thing feels like a dream,” he says. “It’s funny, because I was still learning – I still am learning – but it happened at the perfect time in that learning curve. Any earlier, I would have blown it, and too much later and I would have missed the spring it placed in my proverbial step.”





Some of Salgado's most recent work from his sold-out exhibition at Beers Contemporary in London, England. The show runs until November 22.
 Top left: "Magic" (2014), oil on canvas with collage, mixed media and spray, 180x190cm. Top right: "The Party" (2014), oil on canvas with spray, 180x190cm. Above: "Notes" (2014), oil on canvas with mixed media, 170x240cm.



Photo by University of Regina Photography Department.



Photo by Artec Photographic Design/Mark Greschner.



Photo by Janice Noestheden.

Left: Professor Lynn Wells taught Salgado postmodern literary theory while he was a student at the University of Regina. Centre: At ten years old, Salgado was taking painting classes from Saskatchewan visual artist Ward Schell – in adult classes. Right: Former Fine Arts faculty member John Noestheden was Salgado's design and drawing instructor.

It is fitting that Salgado's first museum show took place at the Art Gallery of Regina, located in the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre where he took his first art classes. At six years old, he began children's classes with visual artist Ward Schell. "He's been consistent, from the time he was a kid. Right from the beginning, he was so eager to learn. He took every class we offered for kids and took them more than once. When he was eight, he said to me, 'I want to learn about abstract art. I want to understand what it means.' What eight-year-old says that?" Schell marvels.

At ten, Salgado wanted to take painting, but there were no children's courses offered. Schell welcomed him into his adult classes, where Salgado excelled. "The other students thought he was cute, and then they saw his work. He was the best in the class – the first person there and the last to leave, like an athlete. He asked a lot of really smart questions. He grasped what I was saying and took it to another level," Schell says.

That dedication to learning and mastering technique continued through high school and university. Noestheden taught him design and drawing at the University. "He had an incredible sense of intent and commitment. He also had a very hungry mind. He always said, 'Why? Why John? Why do you say that?' Along with his hungry mind, he had a hungry intellect and hungry eyes, which is important for an artist," Noestheden says. "I've always been a supporter because he has all the ingredients intact. He's not pretending anything. He's not pretending that he's an artist. He's not pretending he wants to paint. He's doing it. It's a calling."

In addition to his training at the Balkwill Centre and the University of Regina, Salgado credits his artistic development to the atmosphere in which he was raised. "I grew up across the street from Beth Gaffney, a celebrated watercolour painter, and my grandmother was also an artist. It might sound cliché, but how can I say for certain that I'd be doing what I am today without the affections from these people?" he asks. "It was like a little experiment. Put a kid around all these intensely passionate artistic people and see what comes of it. I was always hard-wired to the arts. It's a classic case of nature plus nurture."

Margaret Bessai BA'93, in her 2013 essay introducing Salgado's *The Acquaintance* exhibition, describes his work as: "Spatters and drips, wide brush strokes, contrasting colour scraped, splayed, and flung ... a celebration of paint."

His pieces manage to walk the fine line between abstract and figurative. "It's two parts of my psyche that compete for

attention: the logical half and the half that's totally crazy," he laughs. "I'm interested in the subject, but you know what? At a certain point we can abstract an arm, or an eye, or a face, and the human brain will replace it for us. So, it's like I'm leaving visual clues. I also love the idea of fantasy. As the painter, I'm omniscient. I can do whatever I want. There are no rules. It's very 'magic realist' what I do. And I don't have to explain anything. The first rule of painting is that there are no rules to painting. It's a lot like Fight Club, even down to the imaginary friends."

Many describe Salgado's pieces as "portraits," but he hates the word. "Portraits are what you go to Walmart to get with your parents from a photographer that does 200 a day. It's what you do on class photo day. Or maybe you've commissioned a portrait of your dog. I'm not interested in recording truth. After ten years of saying 'yes' to commissioned portraits, I'm finally, thankfully, in a position to say 'no', and that's a great feeling."

Salgado also enjoys the challenges that come with creating large-scale works, often two or three metres in height. He focuses on the body of work for each show rather than on individual pieces, working on numerous paintings at the same time. "I allot myself a certain amount of time per exhibition, typically about four-and-a-half months, and I never do more than 12 works for a single exhibition," he says.

His practice is intuitive and involves a variety of media, using a style that Salgado refers to as "simultaneously sloppy and precise." He revels in surprising his audiences, constantly evolving and changing approaches from one show to the next. For example, his 2014 New York City show, *Variations on a Theme*, included paintings embedded with bottle caps, bits of magazine and even paintbrushes. "I love reinvention. There's always an element of surprise to my works, and between exhibitions nobody knows where I'm going because I only debut the works in person, at the show. It's very theatrical."

He calls *Storytelling* a return to form. "At its most extravagant and indulgent, a single painting has oil, spray paint, collage, mixed-media, and even a walnut frame to which paint has been applied. But on the other hand, there are at least five paintings that are just oil on canvas. To me, that is the ultimate seduction, to do so much with so little," he says.

Numerous articles and interviews have focused on the 2008 hate crime assault of Salgado and his partner. The artwork he created in the aftermath has been described as unsettling, visceral and angry. While Salgado's recent work is less overtly autobiographical, he says the themes are still there, underneath

the surface. “The analogy I use is ripples in a pond: always moving further away, but always related to their original source of creation. That event made me the painter and man I am today,” he says.

Salgado sometimes thinks about what he would do if he ever ran into the man who assaulted him and his partner. “I’d shake his hand, maybe treat him to a fancy lunch: ‘Thanks for making me the successful artist and confident person I am today. You’re still a redneck homophobe. Those are oysters.’ ”

Noestheden has noted the evolution of Salgado’s work over the last six years as well. “Every year, there’s change in his repertoire. He’s moved on,” he says “He’s telling us something much bigger than ‘I was beat up.’ He’s telling us about how human we are. It’s a highly emotional, provocative, intense vision of being human.”

“All of the artists in all of the museums are there because they have something to say about being alive,” says Noestheden. “Andrew has the gift. He has something important to tell us about who we are, and we need to listen to him. His commitment to the figure is his commitment to humanity. Some people do it by going to medical school. Some of us do it differently.”

Salgado further connects with others through social media, which he has adopted as part of his artistic practice and business. He posts on his Facebook page several times a day, sharing with his fans sneak peeks of works in progress, links to music that he’s listening to while he paints, odd emails and messages he receives from members of the public, and amusing responses to interview questions (including one from this interviewer). The personal touch is working – Salgado now has more than 200,000 Facebook followers from all over the world.

“I’m very active on my professional Facebook account, but also very guarded with what I release about my personal self. Because in the end, Andrew Salgado the artist and Andrew Salgado the person are not interchangeable. I don’t want my followers knowing what I’m up to on the weekend. A bit of mystery is sexy,” he laughs.

For more on Salgado, visit www.andrewsalgado.com and follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/andrewsalgado. artist. **D**

Sabrina Cataldo is an award-winning communications consultant who lives in Regina with four cats and a much-loved collection of Saskatchewan artwork.



More paintings from Salgado’s *Storytelling* exhibition at Beers Contemporary in London, England running until November 22. Bottom left: “Reds” (2014), oil on canvas with spray, 180x190cm. Bottom right: “Gabriel” (2014), oil on canvas with spray, 120x100cm. Below: “Visiting Hour” (2014), oil on canvas, 180x190cm.

Bev Liski has been a not-so-secret weapon when it comes to organizing the University's bi-annual Convocation ceremonies. Her first experience with Convocation was in 1975 when she assisted with the ceremonies. Then, in the spring of 1980, she took over the lead role for good. Liski is retiring after this fall's Convocation, having overseen 68 ceremonies. In that time she has watched more than 50,000 University of Regina graduates take to the Convocation stage to receive their degrees, diplomas and certificates.



Q What will you miss most about working at the University?

I'll miss the challenge of putting together a large successful event. I'll miss the daily interaction with the network of people in and outside of the University that I have come to know and the many who have become good friends. I'll miss the energy and enthusiasm that is always there with students who have so many goals and dreams.

Q You have watched more than 50,000 University of Regina graduates take to the Convocation stage in your career. How would you sum up the emotion that graduates display on that day?

It's every emotion, but mostly happiness, hope and pride. I've also seen tears of joy and sadness, jubilation, excitement, fear, wonder, relief. You name it – students have displayed it.

Q What is the biggest challenge about staging a Convocation ceremony?

My biggest challenge is managing the many moving and ever changing parts of a growing ceremony. When I took over Convocation in 1980, the annual number of graduates was just over 1,000 per year. This year, there were 2,500 graduates.

Q Of all the honorary degree recipients you've met, who stands out in your mind?

There were many outstanding honorary degree recipients over the last four decades, but I have to say the one who still stands out in my mind is Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar. She has achieved

so much worldwide fame, but is such a humble, warm and down-to-earth human being – no pun intended!

Q Finish this sentence: The University of Regina is important to the community because ...

It provides a venue for people to pursue their educational and career goals and dreams in the comfort of an environment that is like family.

Q What has been the greatest change you have seen at the University during the course of your career?

The move from typewriters to computers and from telephones to the Internet and email. I remember my first encounter with the World Wide Web, when Reid Robinson, then University Secretary, took me on a virtual tour of the Vatican Apostolic Library. Wow!

Q On the University's Convocation website under FAQs, there is the question: "My dog ate my diploma. Can I get it replaced?" Has anyone ever taken you up on this?

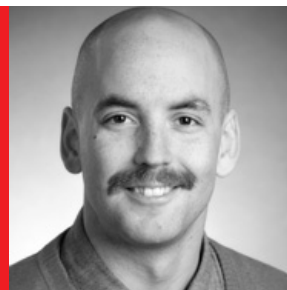
Yes, and I can tell you that the document he brought in to have replaced was pretty chewed up.

Q What is the best thing about jumping on your 1986 Harley Sportster 1100 Liberty Edition and hitting the open road?

Having the wind blow in my face and through my hair. It's the same feeling I get when I jump in my 2005 Mustang convertible with the top down on a warm summer day.

Photo by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department.

Alumni Association President's Message



One of my favourite events of the University year is the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards banquet held each fall. Every year, we honour five very special alumni who have made huge contributions to the professions that they have chosen and the communities where they live. Every year, I am awed and inspired by their achievements. This year was no exception. It was a great evening — beautiful fall weather outside, delicious food and a chance to visit with alumni, leaders from our University and members of our community.

An Alumni Crowning Achievement Award is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed on University of Regina alumni. On behalf of all alumni, I would like to congratulate this year's recipients:

Sel Murray BA Hons'74 (Campion) BSW'76, Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service

Sean McEachern BEd'03, Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service

Courtney Keith BA'04 (Campion), Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Barry Pittendrigh BSc Hons'90 (Luther), Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement

Leonard Schein MA'73, Lifetime Achievement Award
These award winners are only some of the amazing people who have graduated from the University of Regina and are making a difference here and around the world. We now have 65,000 alumni. Can you believe it?

Alumni are an incredible resource for our University. We can play an important role in spreading the word about what a great place the University of Regina is. We can also play a role in helping to shape its future.

I am extremely proud of my degree from the University of Regina. You should be proud of yours, too. One of my goals as alumni association president is to build on that pride and encourage people to be passionate about our University. I know from experience that passion creates loyalty, and that loyalty builds a brand and creates a culture. And that culture is what will draw students to our University.

I think we as a University community can do even more. I am looking for alumni to give me input on what they believe are the strengths of our University now and into the future. What are we going to be known for? We need to decide on this soon. With all the different options out there, people need a reason to come here. Let's be known for something. There's a lot of passion here; let's capitalize on it!

If you are not convinced you should be involved, think about this — if you have a degree from the University of Regina, you have a vested interest in seeing your alma mater increase its profile. As the University increases in popularity, so does the value of the degrees we earned at the University of Regina.

If you haven't been involved at the University for a while, start small. We all can support the University of Regina a little better in our own ways.

There are many reasons for alumni to be on campus: sports events of all kinds; lectures by authors and scholars, some of the greatest minds of our

times; musical performances by talented students and visiting artists; and classes, both at the Lifelong Learning Centre and on the main campus, for children and for adults.

I also encourage alumni to participate by planning and attending events that build pride in the University of Regina. Two special alumni events I'd like to mention are the Grey Cup event in Vancouver on November 29 and the Slam Dunk of an Evening Family Fun Event on campus on February 7, 2015. You will find fun and fellowship at both.

Last but not least, put some thought into who might be deserving recipients of the 2015 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards. Nominations are now being accepted. Please visit the Alumni Relations website for more information. The committee that chooses the recipients always has a tough job because there are so many worthy alumni.

Jeph Maystruck BBA'08
President
University of Regina Alumni Association

1960-1969

Carla Bech-Hansen BA'66 has been retired for three and a half years and a widow for seven years. She is moving to Sun City Hilton Head in Bluffton, S.C. to an active senior community for the lifestyle it offers.

Harold A. Love BA'67, BEd'69 retired in 1995 after 30 years of teaching high school in Balcarres, Sask. His wife Betty Lou retired in 2006 from Regina Public Schools after 30 years of teaching.

William E. Heselton BEd'68 was an elementary school teacher and administrator from 1968 to 1997. He retired and began a second career as a communication officer with Moose Jaw City Police. He retired after 12 years due to a stroke. Heselton is married and has seven children, 23 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1970-1979

Rita E. Nell BA'71, BEd'74 is married to William Edward Nell. Three of their five children attended the University of Regina. They also have eight grandchildren. Nell farms with her son Robin and his family in the Francis, Sask. area. She and her husband go on exotic tours and are involved in volunteer work in the surrounding communities.

Don K. Taylor BA Hons'73 had his paper "Governance for Not-for-Profit Organizations: Questions for Directors to Ask" published by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

Carmen Forrest BEd'77, PGDEA'90, MEd'92 retired after working 30 years at the First Nations University of Canada.

Ying C. Wong B Lab Tech'78 became head of the Department of Clinical Pathology at the Hong Kong Central Hospital after working for eight years in the hematology/blood bank at Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital and serving as chair of the quality care committee. He confirmed the first female case of AIDS in Hong Kong in the 1980s and received an Outstanding AIDS Workers award from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in 1998. He has delivered numerous speeches in mainland China on diagnostic techniques for HIV. He earned a master's of philosophy at the University of Hong Kong and later founded BioLab Hong Kong where he serves as director. Wong is enjoying semi-retirement.

1980-1989

Lise A. Julian BSW'85 will be celebrating her 30th wedding anniversary in August 2015. She has two children: Dori, age 18, and Tess, age 16. She is enjoying living in the beautiful city of Fredericton, N.B.

1990-1999

Karen Smith CA'92 was re-elected for another year as president of the Saskatchewan Administrative Tribunals Association.

Sabrina Cataldo BA '97, BJ '99, Cert. PR '04 received the 2014 Canadian Public Relations Society Award of Excellence for Best Print Project for her work on the Saskatchewan Arts Board's 2012-13 Annual Report.

Brenda L. Bathgate BPAS'99 was an advisor for the North American Indigenous Games that were held in Regina July 20-27, 2014.

Congratulations to the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business on your new space.

This fall, the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business moved into new facilities on the sixth floor of the University of Regina's Education Building. The new space gives the school a bold presence in a high visibility location with GMAT testing facilities and improved resource and lounge space for graduate students.

The Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business was established in 2005 after a generous \$4 million donation by Kenneth Levene.



(R to L) Kenneth Levene cuts the ribbon to the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business' new space with Ron Camp, associate dean of Research and Graduate programs and Andrew Gaudes, dean of the Levene Graduate School of Business Administration.

levene | gsb Kenneth Levene
Graduate School
of Business

Crystal Waller BEd'99 got married in 2007 to Tony Waller. She enjoys spending time on their farm with their three girls: Victoria, age 7, Olivia, age 3, and Mikayla, currently in her second year in the Faculty of Science at the University of Regina.

2000-2009

Jeffrey Mahovsky MSc'01 has been working on DreamWorks' 3D animation software for the past several years.

Herman Michell PhD is the new president and CEO of the Northern Teacher Education Program and Northern Professional Access Careers Program (NORTEP-NORPAC) in La Ronge, Sask. The program offers university courses from both the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan in northern Saskatchewan.

Lionel Robin BSc'03 retired from the RCMP Informatics section after 33 years service and is moving from his current home at Pilot Butte, Sask. to Chilliwack, B.C.

Michael J. Johnston BPAS'06 opened his own athlete training centre in Weyburn, Sask. and works closely with the Weyburn Red Wings Junior Hockey Club. He also worked as head therapist for Team Canada West at the 2012 World Junior A Challenge.

Melissa Komus BA'07 is the first and only person from Saskatchewan to become an onshore volunteer with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. In December 2013, she joined the Sea Shepherd campaign, Operation Infinite Patience. She travelled to Taiji, Japan, which is known for its cove made popular in the Oscar-winning

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Prizes will be drawn in
November, 2014, February
and June, 2015.



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Disclosure and acknowledgement of consent

The University of Regina maintains a database of all its students, alumni and friends that is used for University alumni relations purposes, information and activities; news about the University; electronic newsletter; and requests for support. The database is also used by the University and Alumni Association's third-party business partners that offer benefits to alumni and students through insurance, credit card, financial and other services.

You acknowledge and consent to the use and disclosure of database information relating to you (such as name, mailing address, phone number, degree(s) and year of graduation) for the aforementioned purposes unless otherwise indicated below.

Complete the following and return by surface mail. I do **not** wish to receive the following:

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To access and update your preferences online, please go to:
www.uregina.ca/alumni/uyi.htm

documentary *The Cove*. During her two weeks in Taiji, she spent each day photographing and documenting the dolphin drive hunt and capture. She also created her own blog to bring further awareness to this issue.

Crystal Thiessen BKIN Hons'07 spent seven years in non-profit sport administration/management roles and now has switched careers to adjust claims for SGI.

2010-present

Haris Khan BA'12, is the founder of "Stand Up for Charity" shows, a series of fundraising comedy shows organized by Khan and his team for charitable organizations in Saskatchewan. The team has put on six shows including Stand Up For the Homeless People, Stand Up Against Domestic Violence and

Stand Up For the Creative Kids. He has also organized Stand Up for Alberta Flood Victims and Stand Up for Animal Welfare. More recently he organized Stand Up Against Cancer for the Terry Fox Foundation and Canadian Cancer Society. Haris and his team have raised more than \$10,000 for charitable organizations in Saskatchewan.

After graduating in April 2013, **Rachel Froh BEd'13** successfully ran her own house painting franchise for the summer after graduation. Her sales were second highest in Canada for franchisees. Froh later worked as a substitute teacher for Regina Catholic Schools and coached the junior girls' basketball team at Riffel High School. She also ran a Royal City Soccer Club that teaches soccer skills to kids aged five to 13.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni Grey Cup Party in Vancouver: Looking for a place to party in this year's Grey Cup city? Join us on Saturday, November 29, in Vancouver to celebrate the best of the CFL with fellow alumni.

Slam Dunk of an Evening: Slam Dunk of an Evening will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2015, before the Cougars basketball games. Save the date for the family fun event of the year.

For more information: www.uregina.ca/external/alumni-relations

University of Regina Alumni Branches

Get connected to U of R alumni in your area. To find out more about what is happening in your region, please contact your branch representative.

National Capital Region (Ottawa): Joanne Pomalis BSc'86 – ncr.alumni@uregina.ca

Greater Toronto Area: Leah Morigan BFA'96 – leah@transformyourself.ca

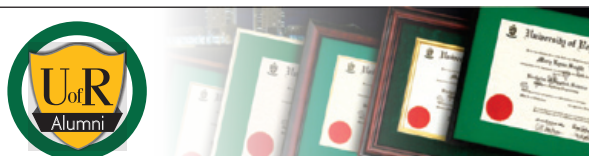
Saskatoon: Richard Kies – richard.kies@redcross.ca

Calgary: Stuart Quinn BAdmin'81 – stuartq@shaw.ca

Edmonton: Brad Rollins BAdmin'78 – bradjrollins@gmail.com

Vancouver: Tricia Gilliss – tricia.gilliss@sisystems.com

If you would like more information or to organize an alumni event in your location, contact: URalumni@uregina.ca



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Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards 2014

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards highlights the contributions of outstanding University of Regina alumni. Together with the Alumni Association, the University of Regina congratulates the 2014 recipients!

Consider nominating an outstanding alumnus or alumna for a 2015 Alumni Crowning Achievement Award.

To learn more go to: www.uregina.ca/alumni

The deadline for 2015 nominations is March 15, 2015.



A man with short brown hair, wearing a bright blue hooded jacket and dark blue jeans, stands in a field of tall, dry grass. He has his hands in his pockets and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a soft, overcast sky with some light clouds.

Clearing the Plains

In his recent book, *Clearing the Plains*, author James Daschuk examines the origin of the divide between the health and economic well-being of First Nations people and non-Native populations. In the works for 20 years, the book sheds light on a dark time in Canadian history and looks at the tremendous cost First Nations people paid for the realization of former prime minister John A. Macdonald's national dream.

By James Daschuk

Photos by Don Hall, University of Regina Photography Department.

Author and historian James Daschuk.

As Canadians, we think of ourselves as decent, even good people. We're nice. We take care of each other, with universal medical care; we have even enshrined that into the most important institutions of our society. Saskatchewan, where the idea of medical care for all was born, is a province with an ethic of hard but honest work that, in a generation, turned sod homesteads into the breadbasket of the world. Perhaps the quintessential Canadian province in the way that it reflects our values as a nation.

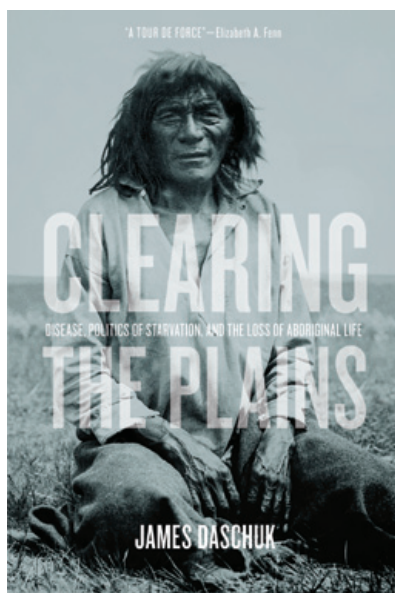
Tommy Douglas, who mobilized the province during some of its darkest days, was voted the "greatest Canadian" ten years ago for epitomizing the values that we aspire to. From humble beginnings, we have achieved so much. Our historic positioning as an honest broker and our commitment to social justice has made our country the envy of the world, and has provided us with the ability to expect some of the highest measures of health, material well-being and life expectancy on the globe. As another politician once said, "a just society."

There is only one thing. The prosperity and the expectations of the good life that flow from it aren't available to everyone. Individual health outcomes will vary from person to person, but the ideal situation is to have as small a gap as possible between the rich and the poor with regard to health-care needs, life expectancy and so forth. If we all get sick and die at about the same stage of life, then the system, and society, is working at its most efficient and equitable.

Study after study has shown that Aboriginal communities are the poorest and most marginalized in Canadian society. Not surprisingly, they are the most vulnerable to disease, violence and preventable death. Because of our demographic makeup, the gap between the mainstream and our indigenous neighbours is a particular threat to Saskatchewan's future. In the next 20 years, the proportion of Aboriginal people is expected to double to 30 per cent. In 40 years, half of the population could be First Nations or Métis. As the population balance shifts, the burden of unequal health and the cost of treatment

will eventually bankrupt us – not to mention the snowball effect of human suffering.

We probably don't like to think about it, but the differences between living conditions for those in the mainstream and Aboriginal people in the province are so striking, they could be living in different countries. In the yearly ranking of countries in the United Nations Human Development Index, Canada



consistently ranks in the top 10. If the same measures, like housing, education and health, were applied to the First Nations population, they would be on par with Romania in the 72nd position.

In 2013, two-thirds of all First Nations children in Saskatchewan lived in poverty. Tuberculosis rates in First Nations communities are 31 times higher than the national average. Infant mortality is triple the Canadian average. More than a hundred Aboriginal communities across the country don't have safe drinking water.

An average funding gap of \$3,000 to \$4,000 (and as high as \$8,000) per student per year between the provincial school system and the federally funded schools on reserve means that many of the buildings are decayed and unsafe. Less than half of the kids who live on reserves finish high school.

More Aboriginal young people go to jail than graduate. A recent article in *Maclean's* magazine called them "Second-Class Children" condemned from birth to a poorer, sicker and shorter life than the rest of us. As I write this, people from across the country are calling for an investigation into how almost 1,200 Aboriginal women and girls have gone missing or been killed. In Winnipeg, the families of the missing and the murdered have taken it upon themselves to drag the Red River for the remains of their loved ones.

So, how did we get into this absurd and terrible situation where members of one group can expect to lead a shorter, more violent and sicker life from the moment they are born?

This was the question I tried to answer with *Clearing the Plains*, the culmination of more than twenty years of research. I knew the story would be grim. Before Columbus, America wasn't a disease-free paradise; some societies flourished while others floundered, occasionally in violent confrontations with their neighbours. The chain of events that was unleashed with the arrival of Europeans to the continent is hard to fathom. Without previous exposure to a number of Old World diseases, all were equally vulnerable.

In the case of smallpox, the most deadly, eight out of ten may have died in the span of three weeks. Survivors, so sick they could barely move, often succumbed to famine. In an instant, communities lost their elders, the keepers of knowledge and wisdom, the children, their mothers and fathers – a true catastrophe. Some communities buckled under the pressure and disappeared. Some joined together creating new identities.

There was one constant during the days of the epidemics. The bison, the staple food for millennia, provided a diet so dependable and so nutritious that the First Nations of the Plains have been described by anthropologists as the tallest people in the world in the nineteenth century.

This was the situation when Canada acquired the West in 1869-1870. To open the land for our immigrant

ancestors, the Crown negotiated treaties throughout the 1870s. The completed treaties, an exchange of commitments and responsibilities for both First Nations people and representatives of the Dominion of Canada, are the legal framework that prairie society was founded on. Without them, none who descended from the settlers would be here.

In opening the land for our ancestors, the Plains Cree, recognizing the herds would not be around forever, received a promise in the terms of Treaty 6 that, in a time of famine, Canada would provide humanitarian assistance.

No one foresaw what happened next. Within two years, the bison were gone for good. In the early months, members of the North West Mounted Police – the only real Canadian authority in the region – scrambled to find food while their physicians reported previously unseen hunger and sickness among the First Nations.

As desperation spread, Sir John A. Macdonald was elected on the platform of the National Policy and the promise to build a railway to the Pacific as quickly as possible. Overnight, the famine was turned into an opportunity to clear the land along the C.P.R. and the adjacent plains for the expected rush of settlers.

Instead of the promised food aid, rations were withheld until chiefs led their people to reserves hundreds of

kilometers away from the tracks. Once there, government officials controlled every aspect of life, often relishing the daily humiliations inflicted on the people they were hired to serve. Food brought to the region for the hungry rotted in storehouses on reserve while Indian Department employees were praised for their parsimony. The region between Regina, Saskatchewan, and the Alberta and American borders, once some of finest bison range on the continent, was cleared of the people who had hunted there for centuries. A generation after the arrival of Canadian officials, reserve communities were so undermined by malnutrition and tuberculosis that physicians described them as doomed to extinction.

It wasn't a biological accident that came with exposure to a new disease. Food was used as a weapon. The Prime Minister, who also served as the Minister of Indian Affairs in the years after the herds disappeared, spoke in the House of Commons of his plan to remove First Nations people from Assiniboia. He boasted in Parliament that the hungry were "kept on the verge of starvation to reduce the expense", even demanding "proof of starvation" before food was distributed. On reserves, any suggestion of political dissent could be met by an order to withhold rations for entire communities for a week or more. Thousands died of malnutrition-related

illnesses. Aboriginal people did not lose their health in the decade after they allowed our ancestors to establish the agrarian society that is so much a part of our identity. In thousands of cases, they had their health taken from them.

The settlers from Europe and elsewhere did not drive First Nations people from their land, subjugate them and impoverish them, setting the stage for more than a century of displacement, uncertainty and preventable early death. The government did it on their behalf. Those who came were enticed to the prairies with Canadian promises of "Free Lands for the Millions" and a "Farm for Every Man", among others. By the time the region was flooded with immigrants, the Treaty population could not leave their reserves without the written authority of a government official, a prohibition on free movement that remained law until 1951. Residential schools institutionalized the marginalization, the violence and the sickness for a century.

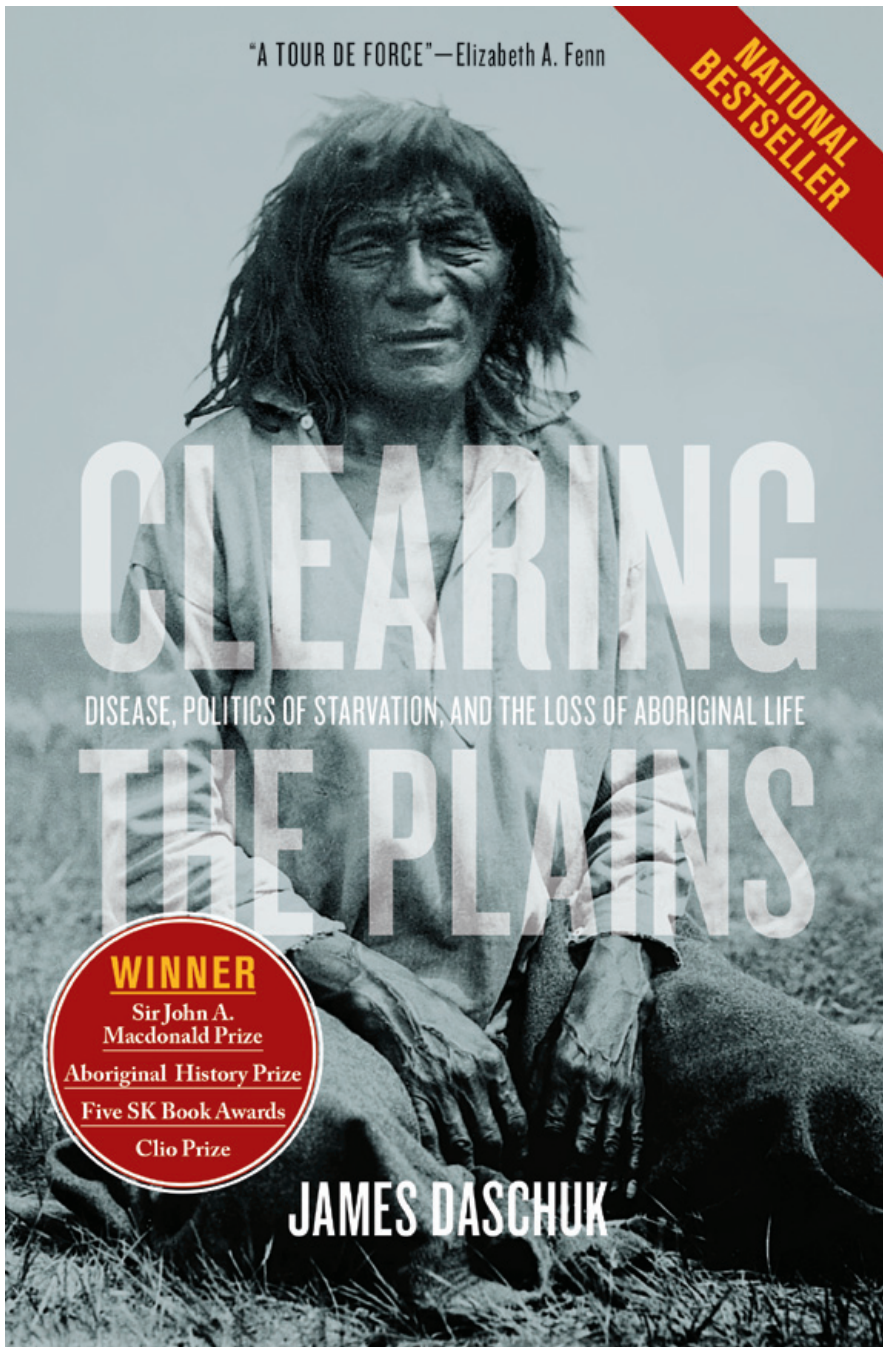
In 2014, the gap in health is just as real as it was when Saskatchewan was being established as a farming society more than a century ago. As our immigrant ancestors took up free land and established a society that became the breadbasket of the world, it was the Aboriginal people who paid the price with their freedom, their health and even their lives. As citizens of Saskatchewan and Canada, maybe it is time to come to terms with the uncomfortable parts of our past so we can build a future of which we can all be proud. **D**

James Daschuk is the author of Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life. He is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina and a researcher with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit. The book received five Saskatchewan book awards, Clio Prize for Prairie history, Canadian Historical Association's Aboriginal History Book Prize and the Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research: the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize. The book is available on the University of Regina Press website at: www.uofrpress.ca.



Daschuk in his office with two of his KIN 105 students, Ashley Desjardin and Evan Lemieux.

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Left to right: Shannon Avison, Assistant Professor, Indian Communication Arts, First Nations University of Canada; Mitch Diamantopoulos, Department Head, School of Journalism; Patricia Elliott, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism.

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J School

In 1980, the University of Regina launched Western Canada's first undergraduate journalism program. Since then, we've graduated more than a generation's worth of first-class journalists. They staff some of the most respected newsrooms around the globe.

We've also worked closely with the Indian Communication Arts (INCA) program at First Nations University of Canada. Together we created Canada's first Journalism and Aboriginal Affairs Chair.

We are pleased to introduce another first – the Prairies' first Master's option in Journalism.

Graduates of the program will join accomplished alumni like International Emmy Award recipient, Jacqueline Corkery; Derek Stoffel, CBC News' Middle East correspondent; and Tamara Cherry, CTV Toronto's crime reporter.

At the University of Regina, we're proud to empower Canada's finest journalists to question authority.

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