Campion College marked its 100th anniversary with celebration events from October 4 to 8. On October 7, University alumni Jackie Beaurivage BA’74, Natasha Jaques BA’12 and Jane Leibel BMus’83 were honoured at the 100th Anniversary Alumni of Distinction Gala. Shown here are current Campion students (left to right): Jose Argerami, Rimo Creer, Derek Cameron, Moreen Ogwenyi and Brennan Kowalski.

Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.
I asked for it and you delivered.

In the last issue of Degrees, I wrote about our challenge sustaining the magazine and the need to transition to a more sustainable delivery model. Many of you were kind enough to take the time to share your thoughts about your preferences to keep up with the latest news and feature stories about interesting people associated with the University of Regina. As we predicted, there were a wide range of suggestions. Here are a few samples.

“This particular issue of Degrees was terrific. So many great articles. My preference would be to receive a print copy of the journal, and I would pay a subscription rate if requested.”

Eileen Danylczuk BEd’88

“Good morning all! I just read the beginning article on the latest Degrees magazine and, while it saddens me to hear of the financial struggles the magazine is experiencing, I am delighted to know that a greener option is being considered. I, for one, would be glad to give up my paper copy for a digital version. And I am sure many other recent graduates would be glad to as well if it meant the continuing publication of the magazine.

Hopeful for the future.”

Erin Jeozegou BA’14

“I’m a 71-year-old grad. Yes it’s time to go digital. Of course, being old, I do like the feel of having the printed copy in front of me. But, I got used to Maclean’s digital and I’m sure I can get used to Degrees digital. Go for full digital. Don’t bother with the occasional printed one. As costs increase, we have to all do our part to keep this working.

Do what you gotta do!”

Glenn Wilton BA ’68, BEd’69

“I just wanted to say that I really enjoy Degrees magazine, always read it, and would hate to see it stop being printed. It’s the best alumni mag we receive. (We also get the Western Gazette and the U of S publication.) I think it would be a mistake to kill the print version. Going to one printing per year? That’s OK. Totally killing it? Not a good idea.”

Ed White BAAdv’90

“Digital only works for me. It’s how I already receive the Green & White.”

Diana Humenick CG’00

“Thanks for a great spring/summer 2017 magazine (as always). I wanted to let you know I usually read it cover to cover and enjoy the articles. I guess I am now one of the older generation who prefer the paper version of most things. I read the last magazine out on my deck (over a few days) with a cup of coffee. So as I said, I enjoy the paper copy and would be happy to pay for the magazine. I doubt that I would look at much of an electronic version. I spend enough time on the computer and don’t find it relaxing to spend time reading much on it. It isn’t good to read outdoors or at our lake cabin.

I do understand that it is unaffordable to carry on in the present manor so good luck to you in the difficult decision ahead.”

Yours truly,

Heather Haid (McLellan) BLT’82

“Digital only works for me. It’s how I already receive the Green & White.”

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Yours truly,

Heather Haid (McLellan) BLT’82

Heather is right. It is a difficult decision. Print or digital? Bytes or paper? Ink or pixels? We are definitely in a transition stage. I can tell you one thing for certain — we are embarking on a website development project. In the new year, we will launch a website that will become a primary storytelling tool for the University of Regina. It will house the kind of stories that you have enjoyed for years in Degrees magazine about some of the terrific people associated with the University of Regina. It will be a new and improved Degrees with the capabilities to tell stories in fresh and exciting ways. Still, we’re not ready to turn our back on the print version quite yet. What does the future look like? We’re not sure. Time will tell exactly how the two will coexist. As always, if you have comments or suggestions, write us at uralumni@uregina.ca. In the meantime, enjoy this printed issue of Degrees.
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The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards are the University of Regina’s distinguished alumni awards. Meet the five deserving recipients of this year’s awards.

okihcitâwiskwêw 14
Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum is a co-founder of Idle No More, the worldwide grassroots environmental and Indigenous sovereignty movement. The University of Regina Human Justice graduate not only talks the talk, she walks the walk. Courageous, tenacious and determined, you might say she’s an okihcitâwiskwêw or “warrior woman.”

Shedding light on prison writing 24
Rik McWhinney spent a total of 34 years in Canadian prisons. So why is he a guest at a University of Regina English class? He’s sharing his experience about the harshness of incarceration with students in an innovative course helping to illuminate the world of corrections.

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Joana Cook, a University of Regina political science graduate, is a post-doctoral research fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at King’s College London. For media around the world, she’s also become the go-to expert on the way people, particularly women, are drawn into terrorism.

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Associate professor David Garneau is preparing 400 pieces of art that will adorn the underside of a light rail transit and pedestrian bridge crossing the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton.

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Those of us who work and study at the University of Regina are very excited about mid-2018. That’s because from May 26 to June 1, we are hosting the largest conference to ever be held in Regina. The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences brings together more than 70 scholarly associations and attracts about 7,000 academics, researchers, policymakers and practitioners. I’m so pleased that when we put together the bid to host Congress, the entire Regina community came together to endorse our proposal. Our premier and our mayor wrote letters of support for us. Tourism Regina and Tourism Saskatchewan got behind us because they are as excited as we are to showcase our city’s great attractions including the RCMP Heritage Centre, new Mosaic stadium, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Saskatchewan Science Centre, MacKenzie Art Gallery and Wascana Park. The community truly rallied around us and saw this event as a great opportunity to showcase our prairie hospitality!

Of course this isn’t the first time Regina has hosted a major event. The city has a tremendous reputation for volunteerism and when Regina hosted such events as the Grey Cup, JUNO Awards and the North American Indigenous Games, they were all huge successes and attracted hundreds of volunteers. We know that Congress 2018 will be an unqualified success because of our city’s amazing volunteers.

The theme for Congress 2018 is “Gathering diversities”. We arrived at this theme through an inclusive on-campus process. “Gathering diversities” is more than fitting considering our campuses are located on Treaty 4 and 6 territories and the ancestral lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota and Lakota nations and the homeland of the Métis. It’s also appropriate because our province was built by many cultures from around the world, as reflected in our provincial motto: “From Many Peoples, Strength.” The Congress theme honours Regina’s history as buffalo hunting grounds and as a sacred meeting place for generations of Indigenous peoples. It is a nod to our past but it also speaks strongly to who we are today – a campus committed to diversity and inclusion.

To that end, we are bringing Indigenous ways of knowing into our course work, and transforming our spaces, policies, course curriculum and research. We have renamed buildings to reflect Indigenous language. For example, three of our residences are Kišik Towers, Paskwâw Tower and Wakpâ Tower.

We have expanded programs and resources at the Aboriginal Student Centre and introduced the student success program, nițįncipâmin omă (OMA Program). The mentorship program for new Indigenous students has helped raise retention rates among first-year Indigenous students more than 90 per cent. The number of self-declared First Nation, Métis and Inuit students continues to grow and is up 91 per cent since 2010.

Gathering diversities also reminds me of our longstanding commitment to internationalization. The University of Regina was the first in Canada to formalize relationships with Chinese institutions. Our partnership with Shandong University dates back to 1981. Those relationships remain important to this day, as we have a large population of Chinese students on campus and dozens of partnerships with Chinese institutions. These and other collaborations laid the foundation for an increasingly diverse student body. Today, international students constitute more than 14% of our student body.

I’m proud of our achievements in these areas. I believe they really do reflect our objective to be an inclusive university and a place where diversity gathers. Many people are working hard on the thousands of details surrounding the hosting of such a conference. Many more will become involved as we get closer to the opening day of Congress 2018. It will be an exciting time on campus – and in our city! Why not consider attending Congress 2018 or becoming a volunteer? You can find more information at www.congress2018.ca.

Sincerely,
Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor
Honorary Degree

On October 20 at Fall Convocation 2017, Murad Al-Katib, an entrepreneur and humanitarian, received the highest honour that the University can bestow on an individual – an honorary degree. Al Katib has distinguished himself as one of Canada’s most respected agricultural experts and has used his business success to help those in need at home and around the globe. In the early 1990s, Al-Katib recognized the potential that lentils, an emerging Saskatchewan pulse crop, might have on the world. The company he founded, AGT Foods and Ingredients Inc., headquartered in Regina, has grown into one of the largest suppliers of pulses, staple foods and food ingredients in the world. Under his leadership, AGT has partnered with the United Nations World Food Program and the International Committee of the Red Cross to help deliver more than 4 million family-ratio cartons to Syrian refugees. As a patron sponsor of the Canadian Red Cross, AGT is helping the organization’s disaster response program, as well as Imagine No Bullying, a program delivered by members of the Saskatchewan Roughriders that reaches 20,000 students in the province annually.

Earlier this year, Al-Katib received the Ernst and Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He was named an Oslo province annually.

Accolades

For the third year in a row, a professor from the Faculty of Engineering, Christine Chan, was named an Oslo World Entrepreneur of the Year. He was named an Oslo World Entrepreneur of the Year and received the Ernst and Young Award. Earlier this year, Al-Katib

Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering. Christine Chan, professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Energy and Environmental Informatics, is one of 52 Fellows from across Canada to receive the honour. A ceremony was held in Ottawa in June at the Canadian Academy of Engineering’s annual meeting. Chan is the first female Fellow of the Academy at the University of Regina. In 2016, the University’s Paiton Tontiwachwuthikul was inducted as a Fellow. In 2015, Gordon Huang received the same honour.

Livia Castellanos, associate vice-president (International), was awarded the 2017 Award of Distinction by the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC). Castellanos was acknowledged for her exemplary leadership in building a bridge of understanding across the borders of Canada, Mexico, the United States and beyond, and in celebrating diverse educational systems. The award also recognizes the outstanding contributions that Castellanos has made in advancing the collaborative academic agenda in North America. The award was presented at CONAHEC’s 18th North American Higher Education Conference held in June. The conference attracted educators from across North America, as well as Brazil, Cuba, India, Germany, Korea and the Netherlands. Under Castellanos’ leadership, the University has truly internationalized the campus. Enrolment of international students has grown significantly. Approximately 2,000 international students from more than 60 countries now study at the University, making up about 14 per cent of the student population. As well, more than 500 students study abroad every academic year.

Jennifer Ackerman, a student in the School of Journalism, was awarded the 2017 EU-Canada Young Journalist Fellowship. The fellowship, which is co-sponsored by the European Union Delegation to Canada and the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), recognizes outstanding journalistic talent among young Canadians. Ackerman is completing an internship at the Regina Leader-Post, covering a variety of stories ranging from hard news to features. She earned the fellowship based on a story she produced on the impact the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will have on Saskatchewan’s cattle industry. Ackerman and two other fellowship winners participated in a week-long study tour of European Union institutions in Brussels in October. The trip included visiting media outlets in Brussels, taking part in the daily European Commission press briefings and visiting the Canadian Mission to the EU. Ackerman will return to classes in January 2018 to complete her final semester.

Dave Button, vice-president (Administration), received the Ken Clements Distinguished Administrator Award from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO). The award wins a fellowship based on a story she produced on the impact the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will have on Saskatchewan’s cattle industry.
recognizes a university administrator who has made an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of higher education administration and has demonstrated outstanding leadership in CAUBO. Button has contributed to CAUBO in various ways, including serving on its Board of Directors longer than anyone (nine years) and serving as the president of CAUBO for two terms. Founded in 1937, CAUBO is a non-profit professional organization representing the chief administrative and financial officers at over 100 universities and affiliated colleges in Canada.

Pat Patton, the University's head of security, has received the 2017 International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Award for Administrative Excellence. Patton received the award at the association's 59th annual conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June.

Emmet Boyle, director of Maintenance and Utilities at the University, received the APPA 2017 Pacesetter Award. The Washington, D.C.-based international organization promotes leadership among facilities managers in educational institutions. It has 12,000 members across 1,300 educational institutions. The maintenance and utilities department that Boyle oversees is responsible for the repair and maintenance of campus facilities and infrastructure. There are more than 40 journey level tradespeople and apprentices in the department, and they handle everything from routine maintenance to campus emergencies.

Research

Three research projects geared at helping address the challenges facing Indigenous youth, people living with neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease, and people who receive mental health care, received more than $3.7 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Mohan Babu, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will use his more than $1.9 million grant to shed light on the genes linked to Parkinson's disease. Heather Hadjistavropoulos, a University of Regina psychology professor and director of the Online Therapy Unit, will use internet-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy (ICBT) to make accessing mental health care easier for all Canadians. Her work is supported by a grant of more than $972,000. Tarun Katapally, assistant professor at the University's Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, will use his more than $772,000 grant to study how to adopt culturally appropriate ways to integrate physical activity into the daily lives of Indigenous youth to foster better physical, mental and emotional health.

On September 8, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, speaking on behalf of Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan, announced more than $2 million in Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) funding for 16 University researchers. The researchers receiving Discovery Grants this year are: Mark Brigham and Kerri Finlay of the Department of Biology; Allan East of the Department of Chemistry; Cory Butz, Orland Hoeber, Jing Tao Yao, Yiyu Yao and Sandra Zilles of the Department of Computer Science; Yee-Chung Jin, Mehran Mehrandezh, Farshid Torabi and Peng Wu of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science; Allen Herman and Andrei Volodin of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and Chris Oriet of the Department of Psychology. Renata Raina-Fulton of the Department of Chemistry is receiving a Discovery Development Grant.

According to a recent national study, substantial numbers of Canada’s public safety personnel report symptoms consistent with one or more mental disorders. Entitled Mental Disorder Symptoms Among Public Safety Personnel in Canada, the study was released by a team of researchers with the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment, led by University of Regina psychology professor Nick Carleton BAdmin’02, BA(Hons)’02, MA’05, PhD’10. Carleton says the team sent out a survey designed to clarify the scope and impact of mental health symptoms reported by diverse Canadian public safety personnel, including correctional workers, call centre operators, dispatchers, firefighters, paramedics and police. Other results indicate: women may be more likely than men to report clinically significant symptoms; those living in Ontario or Quebec may be less likely to report symptoms than those living in Western Canada; and municipal and provincial police and firefighters may be reporting fewer symptoms than other public safety personnel. The research was funded in part by Public Safety Canada.

Margot Hurlbert BAdmin’86, a professor at the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, has been appointed a co-ordinating lead author by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for its Special Report on Land and Climate. The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to provide periodic scientific assessments regarding climate change to governments. The panel also informs the UN Climate Conference, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The IPCC assessment reports are written by leading scientists who volunteer their time and expertise.

Jennifer Gordon, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, is the recipient of the Banting Research Foundation Discovery Award for $25,000. The funds will support Gordon’s research project on depression and hormones in perimenopausal women. Gordon’s research aims to improve understanding of depression in the years leading to menopause. The Foundation annually awards outstanding new investigators in any area of health and biomedical research. The funding is also intended for recipients to gather pilot data that will improve their odds of receiving further funding from other sources. The Banting award builds on funding Gordon has already received from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

For the second year in a row, an engineering team with strong University roots has won at the AgBot Challenge. The competition, held at Gerrish Farms near Rockville, Indiana, encourages robotics in agriculture and comes with a prize of $25,000. The Regina team, Prairie Robotics, is made up of three recent graduates of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Caleb Friedrich BASc’16, Joshua Friedrich BASc’16 and Sam Dietrich BASc’17 are the graduates behind the repeat win. The other member of the team is Dean Kertai, a graduate of the civil technologist program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The team finished first in the weed and feed category ahead of Purdue University. The team
was to fabricate a robotic device that could monitor crop plants and fertilize them as needed. The device also needed to be capable of eradicating three common weeds, either chemically or mechanically, as it moved along the field.

The University of Regina and Northwest University in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China have signed a partnership agreement to strengthen research into development of **carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS)**. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes the China-Canada Low Carbon School program, an initiative that encourages cooperation between the two universities in academic and professional development related to CCUS. Vice-President (Research) David Malloy, who signed the agreement, says CCUS is a key technology in the global effort to reduce the environmental impacts of carbon emissions. With knowledge, research expertise and access to infrastructure, the University of Regina is becoming an international hub for CCUS. Carbon capture and storage is crucial to climate change mitigation technology for China, and Northwest University’s National and Local Joint Engineering Research Center of Carbon Capture and Storage Technology will play a key role in implementing the technology across the country. The University of Regina has several agreements related to CCUS with other institutions, including the University of Edinburgh, the Kyoto University, Imperial College London, the University of Melbourne and the University of Texas.

Briefly

The University of Regina welcomed its first Fulbright scholar to campus. Richard Russo, an associate professor of geography at Frostburg State University in Maryland, will spend the fall 2017 semester conducting research on campus and across Saskatchewan. Russo’s main research objective is to understand the role of Fransaskois books and written language in Saskatchewan. Fulbright Canada is a joint, bi-national, treaty-based organization created to encourage mutual understanding between Canada and the United States through academic and cultural exchange.

Ryan Clark BASc’15, MASc’17, a graduate in environmental system engineering from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, represented the University at a dinner hosted by former Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall on September 19. The dinner recognizes the principal supporters of the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship. The scholarship is a collaboration between Universities Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Rideau Hall Foundation. It supports graduate students who want to pursue their studies abroad at Commonwealth partner countries. Clark spent eight months at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the prestigious Imperial College London. As part of his master’s thesis, Clark looked at modelling the future of clean energy within Saskatchewan. He presented his research at the 27th European Symposium on Computer-Aided Process Engineering in Barcelona, Spain, in October.

The Grand Ballroom at the Queensbury Centre was packed when nearly 1,000 people came to show their support for the University’s athletics programs. The **President’s Breakfast for Athletics** raised more than $150,000, bringing the total raised over the course of the event’s eight-year history to nearly $1,000,000. The President’s Office matches up to $100,000 of the money raised at the breakfast. The funds are used to hire assistant coaches, and support scholarships and out-of-conference competitions. The guest speaker was curler Ben Hebert, an Olympic gold medalist, two-time world curling champion and three-time winner of the Tim Hortons Brier. The revamped 90-year-old fountain was unveiled during the park’s grand re-opening of the park held on June 30. The park originally opened in 1927 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Confederation. Over the years, the park and the fountain fell into a state of disrepair and were largely forgotten. With the construction of the new Mosaic Stadium, the city embarked on a renewal plan for the nearby park and it has become the hub of pre-game activity for thousands of football fans.

This summer, James Daschuk, associate professor and author of the acclaimed book *Clearing the Plains*, took part in the Canadian Nelson Mandela Dialogues. The conference, brought together more than 30 human rights advocates from Canada and around the world. This year’s theme was reconciliation, with a focus on the 94 recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Conference participants from Canada included: Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum, co-founder of the Idle No More movement and a University of Regina alumna (see story page 14); Noah Richler, author, journalist and cultural critic; and Beverly Jacobs, a lawyer from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ontario. The conference was hosted by the Enoch Cree Nation, located near Edmonton. This is the fourth time the Nelson Mandela Dialogues have taken place.
This year marks the 13th anniversary of the University of Regina’s flagship alumni award program – The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards. The awards were established to celebrate the accomplishments of University of Regina alumni who have realized outstanding achievement in their field. This year’s gala was held on October 5 at Regina’s Hotel Saskatchewan with more than 200 alumni and friends gathered for the celebration. Meet this year’s deserving recipients in the pages that follow.

Photos by Rae Graham, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.

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 jardine de l’esprit that adorns the north side of the University of Regina campus.
Guy Vanderhaeghe is a national treasure who has written his way into the annals of great Canadian authors. He has received numerous awards for his writing. His first book, *Man Descending*, received a Governor General’s Award and the United Kingdom’s Faber Prize. His novel *The Englishman’s Boy* won him a second Governor General’s Award, Saskatchewan Book Awards in two categories, and a place on the short list for the Giller Prize. Two later books also based on the history of the West, *The Last Crossing* and *A Good Man*, have earned several awards. His most recent work, *Daddy Lenin and Other Stories*, published in 2015, also won a Governor General’s Award.

“Awards are always hard to put into perspective,” he says. “I’ve been very grateful for each one I’ve received, and also very surprised. My response is: ‘Who, me?’ Having already received one lifetime achievement award, a second is also a little scary,” he adds with a laugh. “Is there a hidden message there?”

Vanderhaeghe is a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

After earning three degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, he worked there as a research officer and as an archival and library assistant from 1973 to 1977. He then spent an extremely busy year at the University of Regina, packing a heavy course load for an education degree into one year so he could fulfill a contract to teach high school in Herbert, Saskatchewan.

Much of Vanderhaeghe’s writing is rooted in the 19th-century West; he finds the fresh new ground of this relatively unexploited field attractive. He credits his years as a graduate student in history and his work as an archivist for giving him the basic skills needed to ferret out information essential to a historical novel. Unlike an academic historian, however, his focus is on what he calls the textures of the past: details such as what people ate, how they dressed and how they entertained themselves.

“Above all, I’m interested in how individuals regarded and responded to the world in which they lived, and in showing that while their ideas about certain matters diverged from ours, they still faced and wrestled with many of the same human quandaries that we do,” he says. “I think that paying attention to details is what makes fiction – any kind of fiction – come alive for readers.”

Fellow author and editor David Carpenter recalls reading one of Vanderhaeghe’s short stories almost 40 years ago, and knowing immediately “… this writer was the real thing. We must have met about 1981, and by 1982 I had become the self-appointed president of his fan club.”

Carpenter says Vanderhaeghe’s work is as perceptive and hard-edged as the early work of Sinclair Ross, who wrote about Depression-era Saskatchewan. They both knew about the severities of life in rural Saskatchewan, he observes, but Vanderhaeghe’s work has a greater range than Ross’s Depression stories. “Guy’s stories and novels can be simultaneously grotesque and witty; and at the end of each work, there are no easy answers,” Carpenter states. “He is simply the greatest, most widely applauded writer to come out of this province, by all accounts a beloved teacher and mentor, and he is very good company.”

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Guy Vanderhaeghe is a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

After earning three degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, he worked there as a research officer and as an archival and library assistant from 1973 to 1977. He then spent an extremely busy year at the University of Regina, packing a heavy course load for an education degree into one year so he could fulfill a contract to teach high school in Herbert, Saskatchewan.
Greg Kratzig had a bold goal in mind when he decided to leave behind a successful career in retail management and return to school. His goal was to study psychology and, as it turned out, he earned his honours bachelor’s degree, master’s and PhD – all at the University of Regina.

“When I began my studies, I had an interest in child psychology,” Kratzig notes, “but by the end of my undergrad degree, my focus had shifted to adults and how we make decisions. I also knew that the clinical route was not for me; my interest was in applied research and experimentation.”

In his master’s work, Kratzig explored whether aging affects our decision-making processes. While he was working on his doctoral degree, “the stars aligned” as he puts it: the RCMP were looking to hire a researcher to enhance cadet training and policing practices. His experience and research interests ticked all of the boxes in the job description and he became the first in-house researcher hired by the force.

In his position as a training, innovation and research analyst, Kratzig designed and developed a comprehensive research program and a sophisticated simulation lab at the RCMP Training Academy that attracts interest from academic researchers and police agencies nationally and internationally. Over the past seven years, he has initiated and led research projects in areas such as firearms training, emergency vehicle driver training, use-of-force decision-making, forensic interviewing, anti-terrorism programs, and officer health and well-being.

As the mental health champion for Depot Division, he is part of a research team in a large-scale project investigating post-traumatic stress disorder that will periodically test a select group of police officers over a 10-year period. The firearms training simulator he developed has been adopted by the U.S. Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (which handles 70,000 trainees annually) and by the police force in Singapore.

His paper on the topic, in collaboration with other researchers, is his most cited. “There is a huge gap in the area of policing-related science,” he says. “Much of the work done here has never been done before.”

For all of his research projects in the lab, Kratzig draws from a broad network of colleagues, although he particularly seeks out students, faculty and staff from the University of Regina. His research into decision-making, for example, involves faculty from the Department of Psychology and from the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies. He is in the early stages of developing a virtual reality area within the simulation lab, in collaboration with faculty and staff from the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance.

When he is asked for his thoughts about being selected for the achievement award, Kratzig admits he didn’t know what to say when he received the phone call. He relates it to a psychological concept he and his fellow grad students felt – the Imposter Syndrome – where they weren’t sure they were smart enough to be there.

“This is the biggest award I’ve ever received. It was not ever within my thoughts,” he says. “There are a lot of great people out there doing outstanding work. To have my work recognized by my peers in this way is overwhelming.”
From the age of nine, Joan Halmo played the organ in church in her hometown of Kuroki, Saskatchewan. It clearly instilled in her a love of music – including church music in all its rich variety – as well as a devotion to education, built heritage, and musical and cultural activities in her community and beyond.

Halmo is currently the executive and artistic director of Gustin House, a historic residence and studio space in Saskatoon named after Dr. Lyell Gustin, who taught piano to countless students – including Halmo – for almost 70 years. Under Gustin’s mentorship, Halmo attained a Licentiate in Piano Performance from Trinity College London.

Halmo was invited to join the non-profit Gustin/Trounce Heritage Committee that had been established after Gustin’s death to preserve his artistic legacy and follow his example of advocacy for music and the fine arts. During 2004-05, Halmo led the committee’s work in completely restoring the former home and studio, which was designated a Provincial Heritage Property in 2008. She also spearheaded the initiative to stabilize Trounce House, a small residence situated on the same city lot as Gustin House. Built in 1883, it is Saskatoon’s oldest surviving building.

In addition to physical restoration projects, since 2005 Halmo and her colleagues have re-established Gustin traditions of musical programming, including a series of three concerts featuring performers from national and international stages and a series of smaller-scale interdisciplinary programs held at Gustin House.

“Built heritage is a witness to our shared history as a city, a community, a province and a nation,” she says. “We need built heritage as a physical reminder of our origins, our stories, and the direction that the future can take. There is a kind of magic in that Dr. Gustin’s last teaching piano continues to send music throughout the house, as it has for so many years.”

Gregory Schulte, an organist and part of the seven-member Heritage Committee for 12 years, affirms that Halmo is the right person to lead the way in continuing the Gustin legacy. “She has the cultural foundation – including her education – that has given her an understanding that is deep and unshaken in her view that the arts should be contributing to society,” Schulte states. “She understood why it was important to preserve Gustin House for the benefit of the whole community.”

Halmo graduated from the University with her bachelor’s degree in 1977, receiving both the University Medal and President’s Medal. She received numerous scholarships while earning a Master of Liturgical Music from the Catholic University of America in 1978, a Master of Arts from St. John’s University in Minnesota in 1982, and a doctorate in Musicology from the Catholic University of America in 1993. While teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, she received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study music manuscripts and the Lyell Gustin legacy.

She received a City of Saskatoon volunteer award for heritage in 2012, and a Campion College alumni award in 2015. “I am humbled by being selected, by being in the company of other awardees who are greatly accomplished and greatly deserving,” she says. “Given this marvelous honour, I hope to go forward worthily as an alumna of this fine university that gave me so much.”
Dr. Margaret Dagenais

CV/TEd’87, BV/TEd’91, MEd’97, PhD’11

Dr. Robert & Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service

Dr. Margaret Dagenais was surprised to learn she would receive the Dr. Robert and Norman Ferguson Crowning Achievement Award from the University of Regina Alumni Association (URAA) as recognition for what she describes as “... an 11-year experiential learning opportunity.” Dagenais was referring to the 11 years she devoted to the board of the Alumni Association, but the award recognizes much more than that: it acknowledges her years of service to the University of Regina, as well as to the URAA.

Dagenais, who is currently a program development consultant at Saskatchewan Polytechnic based in Regina, recalls that her involvement with the Alumni Association came about after she had served on the SIAST (as Sask Polytechnic was then known) Board of Directors.

“I was looking for a rewarding experience and opportunities to use some of the skills I’d developed on the SIAST Board, so I applied to the PhD program (in Educational Psychology) at the University of Regina and responded to the call for URAA board members, hoping I would be accepted to one or the other,” she explains. (She was accepted into both, and received her doctorate in 2011.)

Her contributions to the University include reviewing research proposals as a member of the Research Ethics Board of Directors, developing and facilitating a workshop in curriculum redevelopment for international scholars, and serving two terms on the University Senate.

During her time on the Alumni Association board from 2005 to 2016, she helped develop a more sustainable investment strategy to support funding for scholarships, helped move the association away from reliance on hands-on fundraisers toward revenue-generating affinity partnerships, revitalized the faculty recognition program and secured a more profitable arrangement with the supplier of degree frames.

Making the Association’s Faculty Awards for Excellence program more accessible was particularly important to Dagenais. The Association also raised its profile on campus by branching out into new areas, and sponsoring lectures, conferences and on-campus events like Welcome Week, Slam Dunk and Winter Carnival.

Gwen Keith, CEO of the Holy Family School Division, was chair of the URAA Board when Dagenais revamped the awards program. “She was brilliant in giving attention to every detail that would lean out and fairly execute the awards process,” Keith observes. “She also was always willing to volunteer to create contacts and educate the board on the features of potential partnerships. I hold her in high regard for the personal teamwork she offered to me through some challenging and complex work on behalf of the URAA.”

Dagenais continues to support the mission of the University and the Alumni Association by attending and assisting at events. She is particularly proud that, in 2016, the URAA moved to include graduates of the University’s Campus for All program as alumni. The program sees students with intellectual challenges taking University courses and earning a certificate in Inclusive Post-Secondary Education in the process.

She values the University of Regina because it offers “… a post-secondary learning opportunity right here in southern Saskatchewan. It attracts a diverse group of intellectuals and thinkers to Regina who contribute to the greater community, attracts students from all over the world, and is also a major supporter of the arts and cultural industries.”
Thomas Benjoe is helping to shape one of the most important growth sectors in Saskatchewan’s economy – Indigenous business development. Benjoe was 17 when he read a magazine profile about the CEO of a successful First Nations investment company in Manitoba. “I want to be that guy,” he remembers thinking. “That company was building wealth for communities, and its success inspired me to want to work and support our communities in the same way.”

Benjoe is the president and CEO of File Hills Qu’Appelle Developments Ltd. (FHQ Developments), which was formed through a limited partnership agreement of the 11 First Nations communities that make up the File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council in Treaty 4 territory.

FHQ Developments was established in 2010 to contribute to its partners’ long-term economic independence by investing in business ventures and supporting community economic development. FHQ Developments’ companies now generate over $35 million in annual revenues, with interests in construction, drilling and a hotel located beside the Living Sky Casino in Swift Current.

Benjoe graduated from First Nations University of Canada in 2011 with a Bachelor of Administration degree. While there, he served as vice-president of Finance for the First Nations University Student Association, and as president of the Business Students’ Society. He also helped develop an entrepreneurship camp for Indigenous youth who had no previous exposure to business or a university campus.

Benjoe had several job offers before he graduated, but choose to join the Aboriginal Banking unit with the Royal Bank of Canada. Besides achieving spectacular growth in his client portfolio, Benjoe has also worked to develop new products and services for First Nations and helped strengthen the bank’s Aboriginal strategy.

He was on a path to a leadership role at RBC when members of the FHQ Developments Board of Directors approached him about becoming the company’s president and CEO. One of his first tasks was to improve the way the company structures new partnerships and investments.

Leanne Bellegarde, who has served as a director on the FHQ Developments board with Benjoe, heartily endorses the recognition. From the outset, she recognized him as one to watch. “He struck me from the first impression as a well-grounded, thoughtful leader from my home territory.”

Bellegarde, who is director of Diversity and Inclusion with the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, adds that she has benefited from having Benjoe as her millennial mentor. “His humble leadership, passion and respectful manner in all aspects of his life inspire me.”

Benjoe was recognized in the past with a Young Humanitarian award from the Canadian Red Cross and was a member of CBC’s Future 40.

Away from the office, Benjoe and his wife Dana have three children: Patience, Thomas Jr. and Evelyn. He does the beadwork for his family of Powwow dancers, keeping alive a tradition handed down from his great-grandmother. Patience is already a champion dancer. “It’s important that my family be part of Powwow and other traditional ways,” he says. “I’m encouraged to see other people – including recent immigrants – come out to a Powwow to learn about the Indigenous people of this territory and discover who their neighbors are.”
Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum never attended residential school. Neither did her grandparents, parents or siblings. They were all hidden away and therefore avoided the legacy of pain that has trickled down through generations of many Indigenous families. Her earliest educational experiences were spent with family, speaking Cree on their traditional hunting lands. Later, sacrifice and persistence in the largely non-Indigenous world earned her human justice and law degrees. In 2012, Saysewahum and three other women founded Idle No More, a worldwide movement protecting the planet from corporate destruction and seeking inherent Indigenous sovereignty. Her unique upbringing and life experience has led to such honours as the Carol Geller Human Rights Award, Foreign Policy’s Top 100 Global Thinkers Award, Social Justice Award and the 2014 Global Citizen Award. It’s also shaped the okihcitawiskwêw or warrior woman she is today.

by Nickita Longman BA’13
On a cool autumn day, Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum BH’98 and two of her children, Richard and Vicky, drive deep into their traditional hunting lands in Treaty 6 territory near what is now Big River First Nation. After a short walk down a winding trail cut into the boreal forest, the family stops at a sacred place that Saysewahum knows well. All around them are the burial mounds of perhaps 1,000 of her people, including her great-grandfather and her great-great-grandfather, who was one of the signatories of Treaty 6. The ancient burial ground is only a short distance from the province’s Zig Zag Bay campground, but it’s doubtful that many of the campers know about its proximity.

Saysewahum kneels at the grave of her great-grandfather and carefully places tobacco in a can located just for the purpose. “When we come here we honour him by giving tobacco to give thanks. Without him, I wouldn’t be here, I wouldn’t speak the language. As much as possible, he and his wife protected us. This is his legacy. We are still carrying on, defending and protecting the land. I carry on his work.”

Saysewahum turns to her children, “Someday, when I pass on, this is where I want to be buried. Okay?”

Saysewahum has always loved the land. Her earliest and most significant teacher was her father, who heavily influenced her relationship with the land. “My dad significantly impacted the way that my siblings and I interacted with the land. My dad is a skilled hunter. Put him out on the land with a knife and he will survive,” she says. “He had nourished that strong connection for me to the land.”

Saysewahum took her knowledge of the land with her into the classroom. Early in her education, she recalls taking an immediate liking to the sciences. “Science was absolutely something you could apply to the land. When we learned that all things were alive, I totally related to that,” she says. “What I was taught was that everything had a spirit. Everything had a soul. I was taught to respect that. Science reaffirmed that for me in a different way.”

Saysewahum, one of few of her generation who did not attend residential school, did not speak English until kindergarten and is fluent in Cree.
It is the language in which she addresses her children and her grandchildren, as well as her father. It was also the language she used when speaking with her mother until her mother’s passing this year. Cree, or the nêhiyaw language, is so embedded in her upbringing that she still finds herself struggling with English. “There’s certain words I still can’t say. For example, we don’t have the ‘r’ sound in the Cree language,” she says.

Unlike so many generations who attended residential school, Saysewahum was never punished by her kindergarten teacher for speaking her language. “Her kindness has stuck with me,” she says.

Despite the self-admitted struggle with English, Saysewahum has never had a problem speaking about the colonial effects on Indigenous people and their lands to English-speaking audiences.

It was always Saysewahum’s intention to be a voice for her people and her lands. She saw the University of Regina’s social work program on the University of Saskatchewan campus as a way to start that journey, specifically because of the human justice courses it offered.

“I already knew I was going into law. I thought, at the time, that human justice would provide that avenue, and it did.”

While studying, she began to recognize the correlation between violence to the land and violence to Indigenous people. She says the program became a means for her “to gain skills to verbalize the injustices towards Indigenous people.”

“I saw so much injustice,” she says. “So much pain.”

Saysewahum says the program and instructors were crucial to opening doors she never knew existed. When she reflects on her educational experience, she says that the courses struck a chord in her and peeled back layers of colonization. “It was crucial to helping me do what I do now,” she says.

Aside from the class material, Saysewahum was especially influenced by one of her University of Regina instructors, Ailsa Watkinson. Watkinson is still a professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the Saskatoon campus and remembers Saysewahum clearly. “Sylvia sat close to the front,” Watkinson recalls. “Despite being on the quieter side, she hung onto every word. She was an eager learner.”

During the mid-90s, the enrollment rates of Indigenous students were quite low compared to non-Indigenous students. Watkinson recalls Saysewahum being the only Indigenous student in her class at the time. The pair had a strong connection, so much so that Saysewahum invited Watkinson to visit Big River First Nation to witness firsthand the conditions in which her people lived. “It was the first time I had ever been to a First Nations reserve,” Watkinson says. “She took me to see some of the homes people lived in. It was horrifying.”

On-reserve housing has been an ongoing struggle faced by Indigenous communities across Canada. In November 2016, Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett acknowledged that the government’s $417 million dollar housing boost couldn’t begin to address the crisis faced by Indigenous people today. From lack of energy and heating issues, to undrinkable water, the many housing challenges have yet to be addressed by any government in a meaningful way.

Attending post-secondary school had never been an easy choice for Saysewahum as it meant she would have to leave her family and her land, and relocate with her children to Saskatoon. “Leaving the land for the city was a shock to my system,” she says.

Saysewahum experienced the many difficulties that face Indigenous people who relocate to the city. As a single mother, she was only able to access low-income housing. “Not only was I unable to access the nicer parts of Saskatoon,” she says, “I also witnessed the heavier police presence.” Saysewahum and her friends were all too familiar with frequent stops by Saskatoon police for little to no reason. “It was a bad time for Saskatoon,” she says. “We all heard about the ‘tours’.”

Saysewahum also recounts a time when she was leaving a late night class alone. A truck slowed down behind her and she assumed it was to stop for a red light. She realized she was wrong when the windows were rolled down. Not only were profanities and slurs hurled her way, but pennies were thrown out of the moving vehicle as well. “Although there is violence on my land, those kinds of things weren’t experienced,” she says. “Those kinds of experiences made me feel unsafe in the city.”

Perhaps the biggest obstacle for Saysewahum was that her children experienced the same kind of racism for the first time in the city. They struggled in primary school and Saysewahum recalls making frequent trips to the school’s office while they adjusted. She also saw a severe difference in resources compared to schooling on reserve.
“The adjustment for my kids to go into the Saskatoon public school system meant that they had to work really hard to catch up,” she says. Above all else, though, she worried about their safety.

At the same time her family was trying to adjust to life in the city, Saysewahum was struggling through a violent relationship. While dealing with her abusive relationship and her children’s and her own adjustments to the city, Saysewahum also feared an encounter with social services.

The courses she was taking at the University of Regina offered her a space where she could quietly learn and take in the material, but she never felt the environment was inclusive. “I didn’t think I could talk about being Indigenous,” Saysewahum says. Being the only Indigenous student in many of her courses, she says that her social work class had some very unsettling viewpoints. “I met some of the most racist people I’ve ever encountered,” she says. “It shocked me that they would talk like that. My allegiance is to my people, for myself, for my children, for my grandchildren,” she says.

Saysewahum’s loathing is well warranted. Five of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action focus on the urgent need for provincial governments to address the high rates of Indigenous children and youth in care – nearly half of the total numbers. In June 2015, Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, stated that today’s rates of Indigenous youth in care exceed the number of children and youth who attended residential schools in the past. As it stands, governments have yet to reverse the growing numbers.

Saysewahum’s dream of helping her people also included protecting traditional lands. “I want freedom, liberation and self-determination for my people, for myself, for my children and for my grandchildren,” she says. Ultimately, her desire to change the world would not come in a court of law. Despite obtaining her degree in 2009, Saysewahum has yet to practice law.

Despite the difficulties associated with balancing school work, motherhood and the ongoing effects of colonialism in an urban setting, Saysewahum graduated with a Bachelor of Human Justice in 1998.

Saysewahum always knew that law school was in her future, but the experience was far from idyllic. In addition to having to face racist attitudes at university, her studies also gave her insights into the ways in which the social services system worked against Indigenous people. She saw a system that apprehended children and she loathed it. She decided that studying law would be a strong way to learn the system more clearly. “I wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a lawyer because perhaps that was the place I could make changes,” she says. “I wanted to correct and help achieve some sort of justice for my people.”

Saysewahum’s work with Idle No More. Saysewahum’s loathing is well warranted. Five of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action focus on the urgent need for provincial governments to address the high rates of Indigenous children and youth in care – nearly half of the total numbers. In June 2015, Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, stated that today’s rates of Indigenous youth in care exceed the number of children and youth who attended residential schools in the past. As it stands, governments have yet to reverse the growing numbers.

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In the winter of 2012, Saysewahum, Jessica Gordon, Nina Wilson and Sheelah McLean founded the international movement Idle No More. The grassroots initiative was born during highly political times under the Stephen Harper government and sparked national rallies, teach-ins, round dances and protests. By no coincidence, the founding of Idle No More coincided with Saysewahum’s reconnection to her traditional lands.

“I knew I needed to return home. I put my things in storage and I came home. Coming home was spiritual, physical, mental and emotional. I was reminded and fell in love again. I was revived. But I saw the devastation to the land. I began to grieve. It impacts you. I think, at that point, I drew a line right across my people’s land, and I said, ’I can’t.’ ”

After losing touch, Watkinson said she was not at all surprised to hear of Saysewahum’s work with Idle No More. “She had invited me to one of the earlier meetings of Idle No More. She wanted to host a teach-in, challenging the Harper government, and discuss water and land disputes,” Watkinson says.

Erica Violet Lee was a young, Indigenous student studying philosophy at the University of Saskatchewan when she attended the first Idle No More meeting at Station 20 West in Saskatoon. Lee recalls meeting Saysewahum there for the first time. “The way she spoke was kind, passionate and unafraid,” Lee says. Growing up in the inner city of Saskatoon, Lee was no stranger to the startling conditions in which Indigenous people live, on the Prairies and across the country.

The two have worked on many projects together, including a housing project Idle No More initiated called One House Many Nations. In the winter of 2015, the organization raised $15,000
and purchased a tiny house from an organization based in Manitoba. The home was delivered to Saysewahum’s reserve, Big River First Nation, and gifted to a local man. The project was used to draw national attention to the poor housing and living conditions Indigenous people experience on their own land. Idle No More is hopeful that tiny houses can provide a solution for the sub-standard housing conditions faced by many Indigenous people.

Lee says that working on the project was one of the more moving experiences she has had with Saysewahum. “It was a reminder that housing is a basic right denied to our communities by governments,” she says.

A major catalyst for the widespread popularity of Idle No More was social media. Today, the official Idle No More twitter page boasts more than 39,000 followers; the Facebook group contains nearly 59,000 members; and the website continues to host online traffic from all over the world.

Watkinson’s course on human justice and advocacy fueled Saysewahum’s activism and her knowledge of the law has helped her further advocate for her people and the land. She has also dedicated plenty of her time in the past decade to learning and writing about the tradition legal systems of her people. In 2015, Saysewahum released the book *Nationhood Interrupted: Revitalizing nêhiyaw Legal Systems*. In it, she shares nêhiyaw (Cree) laws so that future generations, both nêhiyaw and non-Indigenous people, may understand them, live by them and revitalize Indigenous nationhood.

The book has been a useful resource in Lee’s pursuit of education, as well. “It taught me that our laws and love for the land are inextricable,” she says, explaining how the book can keep people grounded. “Being at university, people become disconnected from our responsibilities to the ground under our feet, and to the communities around us,” Lee says. “Saysewahum’s work, both personally and through the work of Idle No More, remind us to advocate for the land. I hope people are strong and smart enough to support her work,” she says.

One House Many Nations was the recipient of the 2016 Margolese National Design for Living Prize. If the tiny house project wasn’t evidence enough, Saysewahum says the grassroots organization continues to move toward finding solutions. “We know what the problems are,” she says. “We want to provide an awareness that there are solutions and energy alternatives and sustainable ways to live on the land. We want to shift the consciousness of Canada,” she adds.

It’s unlikely the nation’s court rooms or provincial or federal legislatures will propel Canada toward the future Saysewahum so desperately wants to realize. Instead, a bigger driver would be if every young Indigenous person in Canada follows Saysewahum’s example and pursues their education to whatever extent possible.

The advice she offers to those youth is simple and straightforward. “Learn who you are. Learn your language. Learn about your lands. Learn about the history of the colonizer to understand the in-depth impacts of patriarchy, misogyny, genocide and the doctrine of discovery,” she says. “Bury your feet deep into the land. Don’t let anyone tell you different: we never ceded or surrendered these lands. Smudge, pray, learn ceremony. Those things saved my life so many times. I couldn’t do this work without that.”

With advice like that and a journey like hers, it’s pretty well certain that Saysewahum will be a source of inspiration for many young warrior women to come.

Nickita Longman is from the George Gordon First Nation on Treaty 4 territory but has spent most of her life in Regina. She graduated from the First Nations University of Canada with a BA in English in 2013. She is the Indigenous Program Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild, as well as a freelance writer, community organizer and *Briarpatch* board member.
Adam Serblowski BASc’08 describes himself as hardworking, driven and always up for a challenge. With these qualities, he was just the man to lead Royal Dutch Shell’s quest to develop the world’s first resident, mobile robot designed to operate in potentially explosive environments. The Sensabot is a remotely operated four-wheeled rover fitted with an array of sensors, cameras and wireless communications technology. The robot allows for virtual visits to remote oil and gas locations. One day technology based on Sensabot may be as common as the drones used for industrial inspections today. Shell has recently relocated Serblowski to Houston, Texas, after he worked for the company for four years in the Netherlands. (You can see Sensabot in action on YouTube.)

D How did your University of Regina educational experience most prepare you for life after university?

By teaching me how to work and learn effectively. The sheer volume of work you have to tackle over the course of your engineering degree can be overwhelming. Learning how to effectively manage this workload has been critical to my daily work life.

D What was the best thing about being a university student?

More than any time in your life you are surrounded by people of different experiences and viewpoints. It presents an opportunity that really challenges your core beliefs and helps you grow into a more well-rounded individual. I didn’t realize how much my way of thinking had changed until years after I graduated, but that is what I appreciate most about university.

D What is the worst thing about being a university student?

Easy, the exams.

D How would you sum up your experience with Royal Dutch Shell in the Netherlands?

A time of transition and learning. I moved to the Netherlands as a telecoms expert and ended up leaving a few years later as a robotics expert. Going through this kind of professional transition brought me face to face with some of my shortcomings and forced me to grow.

D What was the most fabulous thing about living in Europe for four years?

The chance to travel around and experience the continent in a way you never could as a tourist. Jumping on a train for a weekend in Paris or catching a plane to Florence just to get some pasta is something you can’t imagine.

D What did you most miss about Canada while you were abroad?

It may sound cliché, but it’s the people that you miss the most. I always look forward to coming home and seeing my friends and family.

D What was the most challenging aspect of the development of Sensabot?

Completing the explosive atmosphere certification was far and away the most difficult aspect of Sensabot. It was a world’s first that led to many engineering challenges that we needed to overcome. In addition, the logistics involved in certifying a device of this size were incredibly complex, with the certification being more involved than the design of the robot.

D What gives you more satisfaction, having solved the engineering challenges or knowing that Sensabot means humans aren’t put in harm’s way?

Knowing that the work you are doing is helping to contribute to a safer work place and could help to save lives brings a personal satisfaction that solving engineering problems never can.

D Finish this sentence. My time in Houston will likely make me…

Regain my freshman 15!
Earlier this year, Robin Schlaht BFA’92 co-created the interactive documentary Convictions for Legacies150, a National Film Board series of photo-based digital projects exploring ideas of home and legacy. Convictions follows the Wiebes, a traditional Mennonite family, as they emigrate from their Old Colony community in Chihuahua, Mexico to an uncertain future in Canada, reversing the path that their forebears took almost 100 years earlier.

For the full Convictions interactive documentary, visit legacies150.nfb.ca/convictions/
Clockwise from far left: The Wiebe family of 11 at breakfast in Chihuahua, Mexico. The oldest girls, Suzie and Greta, do the dishes. Cleaning the yard before leaving. Middle child Maria picks the first flower of spring instead of leaving it for the new tenants. The family prepares to leave the Mexican desert, the only home they’ve known. The car is packed with belongings and children.
Clockwise from top left: Getting ready to be on the road by 6 am. The first night in Canada is spent at a cousin’s house, where the kids watch Lassie over and over on a laptop, to improve their English, they say. All the immigration applications have to be made within three weeks of arriving in Canada. Eva misses the dolls she had to leave behind. The morning is chilly and there is only one heater for the entire trailer. Progress is made on settling in, the day warms up, and, despite it all, hope and joy are never far from the surface for this family.
Robin Schlaht is a Regina-based director, producer and writer of documentary and dramatic film and television projects. Chief among Schlaht’s early films are the documentary Moscow Summer, shot in Russia in 1995, and The Heart Becomes Quiet, about survivors of the Union Carbide gas disaster in Bhopal, India. Schlaht’s first dramatic feature film, Solitude, starring Lothaire Bluteau, premiered in 2001 to rave reviews throughout Canada and internationally. His 2007 documentary To Be Romeo & Juliet accompanies actors portraying Shakespeare’s star-crossed lovers in three different countries. And in 2008, Schlaht’s documentary series A Few Good Men & Women, following police recruits through their training at Saskatchewan Police College, premiered on Canadian television to rave review. More recently he participated in the I Heart Regina compilation film, and produced the 2013 documentary ChristCORE, directed by Justin Ludwig. In 2017 Schlaht produced the documentary U R Here, directed by twelve graduating University of Regina film students.
Shedding light on prison
An innovative prison writing course offered at the University of Regina is giving students new insights into corrections, while examining the voices of the neglected and ignored.

By Bill Armstrong

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.

Rik McWhinney’s apartment is a book lover’s haven. Shelves of books stand here and there along the walls, with more books stacked on top. McWhinney reads non-fiction – mostly histories, biographies, memoirs and collections of poetry. He has no time for genres like novels or science fiction, he says, dismissing the libraries in the prisons where he spent 34 years of his life. Those libraries were mainly stocked with paperbacks that portrayed a romanticized Old West that never existed. So, McWhinney read whatever seemed worthwhile from the libraries at the institutions where he was incarcerated, but he also had what he calls an extra “in”: “People would smuggle books in for me.”

He is currently re-reading Che Guevara’s *The Bolivian Diary*, an account of the revolutionary’s time spent with rebels intent on overthrowing the Bolivian government. McWhinney suggests he was born rebellious. Soon enough, he was a kid in trouble, running away from a broken home and an abusive step-father, living on the streets of Toronto. At age nine he was labeled as incorrigible and sentenced to a reform school at Coburg, Ontario. There was a lot of physical, emotional and sexual abuse there, he says, without elaborating. He graduated to a maximum-security reform school for youth, where he became even more out-of-control. A few years later he was in a federal penitentiary, where he spent most of his adult life until he was paroled in 2007. “The overwhelming majority of guys I met at reform school I met again at the penitentiary,” McWhinney observes.
during one stretch while he was on the outside, McWhinney stumbled across the poetry of Allen Ginsberg, a high-profile American social and political activist of the 1950s and 1960s. He was impressed by the directness and honesty of Ginsberg’s poetry. By chance, McWhinney bumped into Ginsberg at a poetry reading and had him sign a book. Back in prison, McWhinney struck up a correspondence with Ginsberg that lasted for several years. He also began writing his own poetry. Most of his early work was “just garbage”, he concedes, but he persevered because writing was a therapeutic outlet that served as an alternative to violence.

Today, McWhinney meets regularly with his Friends on the Outside (FOTO) group, and shares portions of his story with interested listeners. Earlier this year, those interested listeners were students in Jason Demers’ English 110 - Critical Reading and Writing course, a class focused on prison writing.

The idea for his prison writing class came from English instructor Jason Demers’ experience volunteering as a literacy tutor at Kingston Penitentiary while a student at Queen’s University.

One of the main goals of the course, Demers explains, is to look beyond the stereotypes that words insinuate, to examine how words carry power, and also to examine the networks, practices and procedures that allow some people to define words, while others live out their effects. “The ultimate aim of the course is to hone students’ critical thinking skills.”

McWhinney readily agreed when Demers – who is a member of McWhinney’s FOTO group – asked him if he would come to a class to relate his experiences, read some of his poetry and field some questions. “I would do anything for Jason,” McWhinney says. He gave the students what he terms a perspective they won’t get from anyone else about spending time in several prisons. Most of his poetry focuses on his experiences in solitary confinement, officially called administrative segregation, and particularly his time in what was called the solitary confinement unit at the maximum-security prison in New Westminster, B.C.

Contrary to the movie stereotype, the solitary cells at that prison were not in the basement, but in a unit built on top of one of the cellblocks, which became known as “the Penthouse.” Cells were basically small concrete boxes with no windows and only a small slot in the steel doors. Prisoners had no control over the temperature or lights in their cells, although the lights were dimmed at night. Exercise consisted of a half-hour pacing the corridor each day. “For 32 months I didn’t see blue sky or green grass,” McWhinney says.

The B.C. Penitentiary (BC Pen) experienced several riots over the years, including a full-scale riot and hostage-taking in 1976 that lasted for three days. A Citizens Advisory Committee that had been formed at the time by the Correctional Service of Canada helped to negotiate a resolution to the situation. McWhinney wrote about the struggle led by prisoners’ rights advocate Claire Culhane to end the conditions that led to the riots – in his poems Slash Solitary and Prison Justice Day.

The legal action spearheaded by Culhane and other activists resulted in a court decision, which found that solitary confinement as it was carried out at the B.C. Penitentiary constituted cruel and unusual punishment and contravened the Canadian Bill of Rights. One of McWhinney’s possessions that survived riots and his transfers within the prison system is a one-page
statement titled *Solitary Confinement*, written by a criminologist about the court ruling and the effects that solitary confinement has on prisoners.

In response to the court ruling, McWhinney recounts, the prison administration gave the Penthouse a paint job, changed the name to SMU (Super Maximum Unit, the cosmetic change noted in *Slash Solitary*), installed a larger food slot in the cell doors and gave the prisoners control over the lights in their cells. Still, McWhinney notes, the self-mutilations and suicides continued. (The BC Pen closed in 1980, after 103 years in operation).

McWhinney’s experiences as an activist inmate are an important part of his story missing from his writings. When his friends finally convinced him to upgrade his education, his initial SAT assessment showed that he was reading at a second-year university level. Taking liberal arts and humanities courses with professors from Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria on-site, McWhinney was soon given a job mentoring other students in the prison.

While he was at Edmonton Institution he became president of the Lifers Group, which sponsored a team in the Special Olympics. He also initiated a one-on-one peer counselling program that empowered designated prisoners to work with other prisoners to address grievances and defuse volatile situations. McWhinney notes that prisoner grievances dropped by 60 per cent after the program was implemented. He recalls one incident where he was able to calm down a prisoner who was angry with a guard and who was threatening to vent his anger on any guard who came into his cell. The alternative would have been for guards to intervene with force, and possibly lethal results. The Correctional Service of Canada eventually ordered that the program be implemented in all of its facilities.

Sidney Lebrun was deeply moved by McWhinney’s appearance in the classroom and she strongly recommends the course to anyone. She began her studies at the University of Regina in journalism, but without a firm career plan in mind.

“In my first year I was taking a psychology class that briefly touched on corrections and justice issues,” Lebrun says. “I also began binge-watching Orange is the New Black, and so when I saw a poster about the course, I was interested.”

Lebrun says she was “immediately astounded” by the first lectures in the course, which provided a condensed history of the prison system, outlining the past and present roles of prisons in society. She recalls McWhinney’s visit to the class as an exceptionally moving morning. “The raw and honest energy in the room was humbling, and it helped to piece together all of the lessons and lectures the class had learned thus far. Before the course, I had learned something about the subject through the media and scholarly articles,” Lebrun observes, “but as the course progressed, I saw empathy and understanding fall across my fellow classmates as well. The change in energy and awareness was a key highlight I recall from the course.”

English 110 was a major factor in helping Lebrun find the career path she had been looking for. She decided to pursue a nursing degree, having heard McWhinney describe how nurses in the penitentiaries where he lived were cold, callous and borderline abusive. “I believe that if more people treated prisoners as people and less like numbers, reform within the penitentiaries would happen at a greater rate. I plan to be a part of the positive change in the system through the healthcare route,” she says. (Lebrun is currently completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Alberta. She also plans to broaden her experience through volunteer visits to prisons in the Edmonton area).

Her advice to anyone considering taking the course is succinct: Take it. Even if English is not your strong suit or if you are generally indifferent about prison issues, the course content is interesting and thought-provoking. “You will have a better understanding of society, human nature, and the correctional and legal systems that you will carry with you and that will aid you in your day-to-day life.”

Demers has offered the course twice, and it will likely be offered again. He was delighted to walk into class every week to encounter so many open minds and people who cared so deeply about other people among his students. Returning to the course theme of unhelpful stereotypes, Demers notes that he doesn’t understand the “me generation” label often attached to young people when he sees students with a genuine desire to learn about lives that are entirely different from their own. “Young people understand, perhaps better than anyone, that people are connected and we need to learn to live together,” he says.

These days, Rik McWhinney does more reading than writing in his cozy apartment, which, with an ironic twist, he calls his cell. Crohn’s disease flare-ups sometimes make his life miserable but are minor compared to the 34 years living under constant lock and key that he describes in *Force Majeure*.
In a world fraught with terrorism, a University of Regina graduate is adding to the body of knowledge about the way people, particularly women, are drawn into terrorism. In the process, she is helping governments, military, law enforcement, businesses and intelligence agencies around the world combat and prevent terrorism.

By Iryn Tushabe BJ’14
Photos courtesy of Joana Cook unless otherwise noted.
whenever violence was perpetuated. This realization was continuously apparent to her in topics ranging from gender-based and intimate partner violence, to the many incidences of missing and murdered Indigenous women within Canada. It bothered Cook that while women were the most impacted by conflict and violence, they weren’t always part of the solution.

As a political science student at the University of Regina, she sought to understand women's agency in political violence, especially in parts of the world affected by conflict and war like Rwanda, Palestine and Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Her learning was always meaningful,” recalls Brenda Anderson, associate professor in Women's and Gender Studies and Religious Studies at Luther College. “She certainly was concerned about how the theory plays out in real life.”

Anderson recalls Cook once convincing her to offer a class—a directed reading on women in Islam—she hadn't planned on teaching that semester. “She had started to think about the role of women in crisis areas, and specifically in places where political extremism had taken hold,” says Anderson.

But it wasn't enough for Cook just to zero in on societal beliefs that limited the participation of women in politics. She wanted to go to the source, to see for herself.

In the years since she graduated from the University of Regina, Cook has travelled the world extensively, always on a mission to investigate women's roles in politics and security. It is through that careful interrogation that it became clear to her the fundamental changes 9/11 had initiated for women around the world.

She explains: “Prior to 9/11 – and I’m looking specifically at the U.S. here – there was a recognition that a lot of the development and governance work being done abroad was aimed at creating more stable societies. It wasn't necessarily connected to counterterrorism.”

But after 9/11, Cook says, as demonstrated in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, or countries like Yemen, programs that were previously focused on areas such as women's education and skills development were reframed towards their contribution to counterterrorism.

“All of a sudden, if you wanted to access resources to support this or that program, to keep it relevant, you had to figure out all the different ways it could be seen to contribute to counterterrorism,” she says.

One result was that women became increasingly visible participants in relation to security, both positively and negatively. Because the war on terror had as its primary focus Iraq and Afghanistan, the gender-segregated cultural norms there also required that new roles for women be established within the U.S. military.

“You now needed female security personnel to engage with women in these populations, so that they could talk to women or search women,” says Cook, adding that even though they were restricted from combat roles, women often inadvertently found themselves on the front line.

Then women became more visible in terrorist groups.

In 2015, increasing numbers of women from around the world were travelling to Syria to join the Islamic State group, including young women and families from Britain and Canada.

In an article Cook wrote that same year for British newspaper *The Telegraph*, she stated, “It is no longer surprising if women play violent roles in a terrorist group – women have been suicide bombers in the Tamil Tigers, Boko Haram, and Islamist groups in Chechnya, and have been militants in groups like the IRA and the Basque separatist movement.” She further noted, “Some have been forced or coerced into such roles, while others have been enthusiastic participants.”

Even then, Cook says, those cases of women carrying out terrorist attacks were often nationally contextual.

But that all changed with the emergence of the Islamic State group in 2014. Cook says they created roles for women in a way that was absolutely unprecedented for jihadist terrorist groups.

“A lot of that had to do with the fact that “ISIS” were framing themselves as a state-building project,” she explains. “They were putting out calls for professionals in terms of everything from teachers to nurses to doctors – any role you can think of in a state that would work specifically with other women; “Daesh” structured itself as a gender-segregated state.” (Cook refers to ISIS or Islamic State as “Daesh” because it’s a term that’s condescending to the jihadist organization, and one that the militants do not favour.)

According to Cook, many women were, and continue to be, lured from Western countries, including from Canada, to join “Daesh” in Iraq or Syria. Not surprisingly the story is different upon arrival.
“They are often immediately married off and encouraged to have kids. They may also be exposed to sexual violence and incredibly strict and conservative interpretations of how they should conduct themselves,” Cook said in an interview with Radio Free Europe, an organization that reports the news in countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established.

Though horror stories are now commonplace in the media, women (and men) had continued to leave their so-called first world countries to join “Daesh” until very recently. The motivations, Cook says, were as diverse as the women themselves. There’s the pull of “Daesh” promoting itself appealingly to women, providing public services, homes or husbands. And there are other factors at play, too. For some individuals, direct manifestations of Islamophobia, such as the recent shootings at a Québec mosque in Canada, make them believe that their faith is under attack – narratives “Daesh” often emphasize in their propaganda to recruit.

However, if you see Muslims in Canada that are equal citizens with equal rights who have a stake in society the same as any other citizen, then to me that’s demonstrative of a healthy, well-functioning society that can help prevent that kind of propaganda from resonating,” she says. “We also have to be empathetic and understand how this kind of violence affects different members of our society and how we can work together to overcome those challenges or face them more proactively.”

This June, when three men carried out a vehicle attack and went on a rampage near London Bridge, Cook was nearby in Borough Market where perpetrators stabbed people in and around pubs and restaurants. She was impressed with how quickly officers responded and how efficiently they disseminated helpful information through social media, and how citizens helped each other from the scene and came together the day after the attack.

With increasing and diverse incidents of terrorism around the world, including often overlooked right-wing violence, Cook says it is now a matter of when the next attack will happen, not if. Countries like Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. are continuously assessing their responses so that they are prepared for the eventuality.

For Cook, this is all the more reason to include women in new ways of countering the rise of violent extremism. Women participate and contribute in many ways. Mothers may be well poised to detect when a family or community member is being radicalized or recruited by a terrorist organization. They can, she says, with proper guidance and assistance, help intervene and disrupt this process.

She warns, however, against a heavy reliance on stereotypical roles of women as peacemakers and caregivers, as that viewpoint can also limit the scope of what women are capable of, especially as violent actors themselves.

“They could be the very ones driving those kinds of radical narratives in the home or in women’s groups,” Cook cautions. “It’s a fine balance and women have to be understood in complex terms.”

But even more strongly, she advises against the underutilization of the merits of women in all aspects of countering terrorism – women can play important roles in security forces, as community leaders, in counter and deradicalization work. As a researcher with ICSR at King’s College London and an affiliate with the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society (TSAS), Cook has lent her expert voice to the dialogue about women in counterterrorism in wide-ranging news media and discussion forums. She has commented on stories for Time, The Washington Post, BBC and CBC, to mention but a few. And she doesn’t take lightly the opportunity to share her views on these platforms. In fact, she wishes for more women and minorities to engage in conversations about such topics as terrorism and societal violence.

“If you’re a woman, a Muslim, a First Nations youth or other group currently under-represented in security research, policy or practices in Canada or other countries, and you see a face resembling your own talking authoritatively about security, or shaping security policy, or playing a role in security practice, that’s very important,” Cook says.

In that way, eventually when she tells people that she studies war, their minds will not wander to horses. 

Iryn Tushabe is a Ugandan freelance journalist and writer living in Regina. Her short fiction story, A Separation, is forthcoming this fall in book seven of the Carter V. Cooper short fiction anthology.
Not only is **Gord Steinke BAJ&C’88** the anchor of Global Edmonton’s flagship evening news program, he’s also a bit of a Renaissance man. He is a seasoned touring musician with three albums to his credit. He authored a Canadian best selling book called *Mobsters and Rumrunners of Canada*. In 2012, he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 15 Edmonton Field Ambulance. The same year, the news veteran received a Radio Television Digital News Association lifetime achievement award for his work in electronic journalism. He also devotes much of his time to Edmonton charities like Kids with Cancer Society, MADD and Kids in the Hall Bistro. Earlier this year he was recognized for his volunteerism with a prestigious Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers from the Governor General of Canada.

What drew you to journalism?

I was always writing and storytelling as a young student in Saskatoon. In grade four, my friend and I started a school newspaper and would interview students and teachers about school events. In high school I enjoyed creative writing. That evolved into telling stories through music when I became a singer-songwriter and a working musician after high school.

What were the greatest lessons you learned while attending the University of Regina School of Journalism?

The greatest lessons were critical thinking, meeting deadlines, honing writing skills and teamwork.

What is your favourite part of being Global Edmonton’s news anchor?

Every day is different. I work with an amazing team to bring the best quality information and news to our viewers every day. I think our team really shines during breaking news. We worked around the clock during the Fort McMurray wildfires to bring the very latest coverage to our viewers. I was very proud when our coverage won four national RTDNA awards.

What is your advice for aspiring journalists?

Read as much as you write. Learn from the articles or broadcast news stories that grab your attention and tell the story in a compelling way. Be critical of what you write. How can you tell the story better? Check and triple-check your sources. Be honest.

You were on the road for years as a touring musician. What does playing music in front of a live audience give you that delivering the news doesn’t?

Ha ha, good question. Applause? Seriously, performing music live is always a good physical workout and it’s a nice diversion from the whirlwind of daily news. It’s a good stress reliever. I’d put it right up there with riding motorcycles.

How would you characterize the satisfaction you get from your involvement in the charities you support?

I feel it’s an absolute privilege to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much. I enjoy getting out in the community to support and work with local charities. Whether it’s Kids with Cancer, Habitat For Humanity, No Stone Left Alone or Motorcycle Ride for Dad, it’s a pleasure to support these worthwhile organizations and give them airtime and publicity to help them reach their goals.

You were appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 15 Field Ambulance (Edmonton). What does that mean to you?

It was a huge honour and completely unexpected. My grandfather was a decorated First World War veteran. It’s been an amazing experience.

Finish this sentence: While not working, I most enjoy...

Spending time with my family and dog, riding my motorcycle and playing music. I’m a bit of a news junkie, so part of my day is always spent catching up on local, national and international news on social media, newspapers and TV.
Métis artist and associate professor David Garneau is working on a two-year art commission for the City of Edmonton. When it's complete, the 400-piece work will span the 200-metre underside of a light rail transit and pedestrian bridge across the North Saskatchewan River. The location is especially significant to Garneau – it’s only a short distance from where his great-great-grandparents settled as one of the first families in the Alberta capital.

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

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted. Artwork photos courtesy of Jill Ferron, FERNxDesign.
David Garneau's artworks have been exhibited nationally and internationally in group and solo shows. His work can be found in numerous collections, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, Canadian Parliament, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the City of Calgary. His most recent installation, however, is in an unconventional location: underneath the new light rail transit (LRT) Tawatina Bridge in Edmonton.

The ambitious commissioned work contains more than 400 individually shaped DIBOND® (two sheets of aluminum with a plastic core) panels. The pieces range in size from 20 centimetres to about six and a half metres, all of which will be attached to the ceiling of the bridge. Pedestrians traversing the walkway below will be able to look up and appreciate the artwork, which is comprised of four themes: water, sky, earth and fire.

This is the first time the Métis artist has attempted a project of this scale. “I’ve done murals in the early 80s at daycares in Calgary, but nothing close to this,” he says.

Garneau was inspired to apply for the Tawatina Bridge public art commission after he was involved in the consultation process for an Indigenous Art Park in Edmonton. He was one of six artists brought in by the city to give advice on best practices for Indigenous art commissions. As a result, meaningful consultations with Indigenous Elders, community members and artists were part of the process for both the art park and the LRT bridge commissions.

Garneau was one of three Indigenous artists short-listed for the LRT commission. Their proposals and maquettes reflected conversations with the local Indigenous community. “I was so pleased by the process for this and the Indigenous Art Park, recently named ᐄᓃᐤ (ÎNÎW) River Lot 11∞. All of the artists were influenced by the Elders’ teachings. It was very site-specific work,” he says. Garneau was thrilled to be chosen to undertake the two-year, $295,000 project. “This project will bring lots of visibility to MAP, to our faculty and students,” says Rae Staseson, dean of MAP. “It is so exciting to watch the work develop and to see students being mentored on this project. It is transformative in so many ways, and demonstrates the strength and quality of the work being produced by Indigenous artists in this province, and particularly at the University of Regina, where David is an important mentor and teacher of emerging artists.”

Robert Harpin, public art officer with the Edmonton Arts Council, which is engaged by the City of Edmonton to manage the public art program, says that Garneau’s work was chosen because of its ambitious nature. Originally, he had proposed 100 paintings for the project, which impressed the council. Since acquiring the commission, Garneau has quadrupled the amount of work to be created.

“He is such a respected artist in Canada,” Harpin says. “These are all original paintings going on the underside of this bridge. It’s not just about the numbers, though. A lot of public art doesn’t have the artist’s hand quite the way this piece will.”

Harpin calls the amount of consultation Garneau has committed to “absolutely staggering and critical to this project.” In addition to combing through the Métis beading and other material culture at the Royal Alberta Museum, Garneau continues to engage with Indigenous people around the city, especially the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Chief Calvin Bruneau and members of the Papaschase Band. He is also soliciting stories and feedback through the project’s website (tawatinabridgeartproject.ca).

While the themes and style are primarily Métis and Cree, Garneau also wants to refer to other peoples of the region. For example, he met recently with Nii Koney and members of the Nile Valley Foundation about representing the African Diaspora.

“It’s not just the stories of the Indigenous community, rather it’s the stories of the people of this place that he’s engaged in this particular project,” Harpin says. “The amount of research and connection to various communities is on a level that I’ve never seen a public artist take on. It’s absolutely remarkable. There’s often a lot of contention around public art, but this piece – David is extending himself so far beyond what the average public artist would be doing. It’s kind of a coup for the city – I’m personally thrilled that we have a massive David Garneau project going in. It’s an honour for us, and I hope he’s getting a lot out of it.”
For Garneau, consultation is essential. “I feel the weight of the Métis and First Nations community on my shoulders,” he says. He made six trips to Edmonton in the year since receiving the commission to engage with Elders and community members, seeking out their ideas of imagery that should be included in the project. A significant portion of his budget is dedicated to the consultation process, making sure that Elders and others are paid for their cultural consultation and showing them that the project is being taken seriously. “This is not the expression of an individual artist, but an expression of a community and an individual artist working together. That’s the part I’m most excited by.”

Consultation also helps to ensure that the resulting public art project is authentic and does not upset members of the community. A recent controversy took place in Calgary, where a New York artist created public artwork that offended local First Nations, as they felt it emulated Indigenous burial scaffolding. Before accepting the commission, Garneau researched public art, even giving a lecture in Canmore about why bad public art happens. He says the culprit is usually juries made up of community people who understand communities and artists who understand art, but neither understanding the unique field that is public art.

“Working with the community and Elders has been the most joyful part of this project. People are excited to have their stories represented. While I hope my team and I will make something beautiful and of lasting visual interest, the paintings respond to the site, its history, and will have some unsettling content,” says Garneau.

The 400-piece scope of the mural also acts like a fail-safe mechanism. “If I unintentionally upset someone, I can take that part of it out.”

The project is a homecoming for the University of Regina associate professor, who was born in Edmonton. His family has a long history in the city. His great-great-grandparents, Laurent and Eleanor Garneau, were among the city’s founders in 1874. The land the Garneaus purchased, river lot 7, extends up from the river and includes the east side of the University of Alberta, a few short kilometres from the bridge that will bear their descendant’s artwork.

The Garneau legacy made the news in September when a tree that Eleanor planted was declared unsafe due to rot and was slated to be removed. The tree is in the City of Edmonton’s inventory of historic resources, usually reserved for buildings, and is well known among residents.

The community came together in celebration of the 143-year-old Manitoba maple with a ceremony and Métis kitchen party hosted by Cheryl L’Hirondelle, David Garneau, the University of Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta. Garneau flew back to Edmonton for the occasion and was among hundreds of attendees, many of whom had ties to the Garneau family. Thanks to the generosity of the University of Alberta, wood from the tree is being salvaged, dried and milled, and will be distributed among interested family, community members and Métis carvers.

Garneau’s family history also served as inspiration for some of the panels in his mural. In addition to representations of a map that shows Edmonton’s founding Métis river lots, he included a painting of Laurent’s wrists in shackles, referenced from a historical photograph. Laurent was suspected of being involved in the 1885 Métis Rebellion in Batoche and was jailed and sentenced to be hanged. During Laurent’s incarceration, Chief Papaschase took in Eleanor and the Garneaus’ ten children. Years later, Laurent repaid the favour when he heard the Chief was in poor health, giving him a cabin for his golden years.

The relationship between the Garneaus and the Papaschase Band continues today, with the artist consulting with the current chief in order to incorporate Papaschase history into the public artwork. “He told me things about my family that I didn’t know,” he says.

This winter Garneau will play a Métis interpreter in an upcoming re-enactment of the adhesion to Treaty Six signing in Edmonton, reinforcing parallels between past and present relationships.

One challenge Garneau faced in expressing Métis themes in his work...
is that, traditionally, Métis people didn't paint much, making it difficult to use Métis painting as a source for contemporary art. Instead, Garneau is looking to Métis beadwork from the area as major inspiration, translating the beads into painted dots.

“The fact that Métis culture is represented in this project is crucial to me. Métis culture was forced underground. People are rediscovering it, but this resilience must come with enrichment,” he says. “For a long time, Métis culture focused on Batoche in 1885. That moment is important, but should not stand as the paragon of Métisness. I am excited to contribute to the continuation and advancement of Métis culture.”

Some of the panels of the mural are based on archival photos and others are more playful. “The long (200 metres) bridge format gives me a lot of freedom. When an artwork is on a wall, there’s a certain weight to it. When painting for the ceiling, you can take advantage of that space and feel that weightlessness.”

He created an animated crow using 30 still images of the bird to make it look like it is flapping its wings as you walk below it. A dozen cranes will be arranged in a spiral, varying from twenty centimetres to two and a half metres. There is a large painting of the inside of a teepee, from the vantage point of someone lying inside it and looking up at the sky peeking out between the poles. One hundred little fish will “swim” throughout, including representations of all the different kinds of fish that live in the river flowing under the bridge.

A top hat with a beaver painted in it is a reference to the fur trade – Edmonton is known in Cree as Amiskwaciy or “beaver hills.” A painting of a Google Earth image of the old bridge being taken down, as well as a representation of some of the carvings people had made in that bridge, are nods to a structure beloved by many in the Edmonton community.

While some images are obvious representations, others are attached to stories and local knowledge; this artwork requires storytelling to become complete. When finished, Garneau will give talking tours of the project. After that, the stories will not be written down; it will be up to other storytellers to narrate the painting cycle. “Some stories are not mine to tell. I have been asked to make an image, but the story can only be unlocked by those gifted with the responsibility of the story,” explains Garneau.

This echoes his work as a co-curator (with Michelle LaVallee) on the project Moving Forward, Never Forgetting at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in 2015. As part of that exhibition, the Aboriginal artwork was activated by stories told by a story keeper rather than by words printed on paper. “I can see schoolchildren reading this mural like a book,” he says. “My ideal viewer would be lying on a longboard looking up, watching it flow like a river or like the movement of clouds.”

Garneau knew he would never be able to complete a project of this scope on his own. He has engaged mostly Indigenous University of Regina students and recent graduates, a team of graffiti artists in Edmonton led by AJA Louden, and his two children, B and Cassandra, to help. They are doing the prep work – sanding and priming the 400 plus pieces – as well as some of the painting, under Garneau’s mentorship. He expects about half of the project costs will go toward preparation and labour. “It’s important to me to have students involved, not just in the painting, but hearing the stories and getting experience for future commissions. I think this is something we could teach in the future,” he says.

Garneau’s main student assistants for the project include Matthew Lapierre, Mackenzie Grad BFA’17, Sadie George, Evan Obey, Sarah Timewell, David Zhang and Madhu Kumar BFA’17. Kumar, originally from India, had the distinction of painting a portrait of Chief Papaschase on the shape of a cloud, among other works. “I felt the practical knowledge of painting connected me more to Indigenous people. These are all Indigenous people’s stories that are true and real, and you feel that,” she says.

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This echoes his work as a co-curator (with Michelle LaVallee) on the project Moving Forward, Never Forgetting at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in 2015. As part of that exhibition, the Aboriginal artwork was activated by stories told by a story keeper rather than by words printed on paper. “I can see schoolchildren reading this mural like a book,” he says. “My ideal viewer would be lying on a longboard looking up, watching it flow like a river or like the movement of clouds.”

Garneau knew he would never be able to complete a project of this scope on his own. He has engaged mostly Indigenous University of Regina students and recent graduates, a team of graffiti artists in Edmonton led by AJA Louden, and his two children, B and Cassandra, to help. They are doing the prep work – sanding and priming the 400 plus pieces – as well as some of the painting, under Garneau’s mentorship. He expects about half of the project costs will go toward preparation and labour. “It’s important to me to have students involved, not just in the painting, but hearing the stories and getting experience for future commissions. I think this is something we could teach in the future,” he says.

Garneau’s main student assistants for the project include Matthew Lapierre, Mackenzie Grad BFA’17, Sadie George, Evan Obey, Sarah Timewell, David Zhang and Madhu Kumar BFA’17. Kumar, originally from India, had the distinction of painting a portrait of Chief Papaschase on the shape of a cloud, among other works. “I felt the practical knowledge of painting connected me more to Indigenous people. These are all Indigenous people’s stories that are true and real, and you feel that,” she says.
Alumni Association President’s Message

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I begin my term as president of the University of Regina Alumni Association (URAA).

I would first like to thank the outgoing president, Kaytlyn Barber, for her tireless effort and dedication to making the URAA a strong organization.

I am a retired teacher and principal who has spent my entire adult life working in the field of education. I graduated from the University of Regina in 1977, and my wife and two children are also U of R alumni.

Being retired provides me with the opportunity to devote time and energy into furthering the goals of the URAA, which are to increase alumni engagement and to highlight and maximize the benefits of URAA membership.

I believe that the present URAA board will work determinedly to ensure that we see many positive initiatives and outcomes in the next year. The board members are a dedicated, creative, hardworking and highly effective group of individuals who are committed to assisting and supporting the University’s Alumni Relations and Community Engagement department in reaching its engagement goals. I truly believe that this board understands the concept of team and I am excited about collaborating with them.

The University of Regina has seen dramatic changes since I was a student on campus. The URAA is now 70,000 strong and the changes are reflected not only in the number of students, staff, programs and buildings, but in the basic fabric of the institution.

The University of Regina was built on a foundation of inclusion, openness and global outreach. This approach has resulted in 14 per cent of the student population being international students, while another 14 per cent have self-identified as Indigenous.

The Alumni Perks Pass, which offers exclusive benefits to alumni, is a new program introduced last spring. You can use the pass on your mobile phone to access many special programs and discounts. To activate your pass, please sign up at www.uofralumniperks.ca/mobile.

My first meetings with alumni highlighted the fact that many of you wish to volunteer with the Association as a way to connect with other former students and give back to the university that provided you with so much.

One such opportunity is the upcoming 2018 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted by the University of Regina. The 87th annual Congress will take place May 26 to June 1, 2018. We anticipate that this conference will be the largest ever held in Regina and will bring between 7,000 to 8,000 visitors to the city. We are hoping to recruit 500 volunteers for this event.

There are numerous opportunities to become involved, so if you are interested, please contact the Alumni and Community Engagement Office at Uralumni@uregina.ca

We are facing some challenges in communicating with alumni. Over time, we have lost touch with many of you. I encourage all alumni to remain in contact with the University of Regina. Updating your contact information will give you access to our bi-monthly e-newsletter AlumniConnect, which will keep you informed about University of Regina events and opportunities.

Each month, invitations to the most exciting events on campus are distributed – you can take in everything from academic lectures, to Cougars and Rams sporting events, to theatre and music performances.

In 2014, the URAA established that the core of our organization is about building pride. We continue to pursue that goal to this day.

I look forward to hearing from many of you throughout the upcoming year. Comments, suggestions and volunteers are always welcome. Together we will continue to strengthen our URAA community.

Bert Yakichuk MEd’77
President
University of Regina Alumni Association

Upcoming Alumni Events

Edmonton
February 7, 2018
Join President Timmons for an alumni reception and short presentation by one of the U of R’s prominent researchers. Further information will be posted on the Alumni Engagement website at www.uregina.ca/alumni. You may register now at www.eply.com/Edmonton2018.

Saskatoon
Date: April 19, 2018
Join President Timmons for an alumni reception and short presentation by one of the U of R’s prominent researchers. Further information will be posted on the Alumni Engagement website at www.uregina.ca/alumni. You may register now at www.eply.com/saskatoon2018.

Regina
Visit the website for information to come about our 2018 events in Regina this winter (www.uregina.ca/alumni).

Chapter and branch contact information

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Levene Graduate School of Business Alumni Association:
Chuck Sylvester CDP’99, CCS’02, MBA’14 – levene.alumni@uregina.ca
1970 – 79

Colleen Schonhoff BE’71 retired after 31 years of teaching with Regina Public Schools and is “living the life” on the beautiful Central Coast, one hour north of Sydney, Australia. Schonhoff is travelling the world, volunteering, cycling and bushwalking with two groups. She has three healthy and happy grandchildren who keep her entertained.

Mary Lou Ast BE’76 retired in 2011 from a teaching position with the Saskatoon Public School Division. Five years ago, she and her partner moved into the first senior’s cohousing project in Canada. She fills her time with quilting, painting and watercolours and being involved in the intentional community of cohousing. All her children and grandchildren live in and around Saskatoon.

1980-89

Bernadette McIntyre BAdmin’80 retired in August after nine years of outstanding leadership as the CEO of Wascana Centre Authority. A lifelong volunteer in Regina and beyond, Bernadette is looking forward to involvement in major curling events, including the Brier in March 2018.

Jerry Exner BAdmin’80 retired after 30 years with Texaco, Imperial Oil and Mobil.

As the Principal at ISM International School in Tripoli, Libya, Donna McPhee BE’81 recruits teachers who are interested in an international experience.

1990-99

Shaun Frenette BAJ’92 marked 25 years in the TV news business in Western Canada this spring. He has been working as a reporter, producer and anchor at CTV Calgary. In May, he travelled to northern Alberta to do a five-part series on how Fort McMurray citizens are doing, one year after the devastating wildfire. He caught up with many people that he interviewed one year earlier, covering the mass evacuation. One of his recent stories, about an Australian hockey team touring Canada, was a finalist for a Radio Television Digital News Association award in the sports feature category. He also was busy in July, producing CTV’s live coverage of the Stampede parade.

2000-09

Jason G. Antonio BAJ’06 recently received four awards during the spring Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Awards (SWNA) banquet. He received a first place award for writing about education, two second place awards for agriculture and a second place award writing about veterans issues. Since 2009, he has garnered more than half a dozen awards from SWNA. He has also received a handful of awards for his religious journalism in the Anglican Church of Canada. Jason has worked at the Melville Advance for the past two years.

2010 – present

Chelsea Coupal BAJ’10, BA(Hons)’12, MA’17 received the top prize at the 2017 City of Regina Writing Awards. She was recognized for her book of poetry inspired by her hometown of Sedley. The book is scheduled to be published by Regina’s Coteau Books in 2018.

Jordan McFarlen BE’10 was awarded the Young Professional of the Year at the 2017 SYPE Silver Spades Awards for his work as a business teacher at Campbell Collegiate and his contributions to the Saskatchewan Business Teachers’ Association. McFarlen has grown the Campbell business program from 160 students in 2010 to more than 500 in 2017. The program is largely focused on youth entrepreneurship, financial literacy and career education.

Paul J. Hill PhD’11(honorary) and Carol Hill received the Regina Humanitarian of the Year award for their contributions to community and education initiatives at the 2017 Red Cross Power of Humanity Awards Gala.
Navigating climate change policy

Dale Eisler, senior policy fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, takes a candid look at climate change, the challenges it presents and the policy options being considered to address it.

By Dale Eisler BA’70
Probably the best way to start is with a question. Why is it so difficult to stop climate change? It’s one of those questions that, just by asking it, implies the answer: because it’s very complicated. It’s the same answer that explains why the easier public issues get addressed in one fashion or another, and the tough ones linger unresolved.

In fact, it’s hard to imagine a more complex and difficult public policy challenge than the one posed by climate change. No doubt that explains why very little progress has been made for the last 30 years, since climate change was identified as a critical global issue at the formation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1998. As some argue, climate change represents the ultimate “prisoner’s dilemma” where one person’s choice affects the fate of another. Essentially, to address climate change effectively requires collaboration and collective action in pursuit of a common good. In this case that means a reduction in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to reverse, or at least mitigate, the consequences of global warming. If anyone acts in their own, short-term self-interest, others share the harm that results.

So you can add a moral dilemma to the geopolitical mix. In effect, the developed world is asking poor, underdeveloped nations not to do what we’ve done and use cheap fossil fuel energy sources to develop their economies, and improve their standard of living and quality of life.”

Recently, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) decided to explore the climate change issue, the challenges it presents and the policy options to address it. Clearly, it is a subject fraught with conflicting economic interests and political priorities, drawn along international, national and regional lines. One small dimension of the challenge is the on-going disagreement between the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan on the policy framework that will enable Canada to meet its goal of a 30-per-cent reduction in GHGs from 2005 levels by 2030. The federal government is proposing a national carbon price to be in place next year as a key element in its climate change policy. The Saskatchewan government takes the position that a carbon price will do significant harm to the province’s trade-exposed economy and, moreover, not be effective in reducing CO2 emissions.

The starting point for the JSGS policy paper “Climate Change: The Challenges, Policy Options and Implications” is an established fact. It is the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is the result of human activity caused by greenhouse gas emissions, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels.

Now put that into context. We’re talking about an issue that is impervious to borders and will have negative, some argue grave, global environmental, economic and social consequences. It brings with it a litany of seriously complex geopolitical issues in a global reality where nations instinctively act in their own self-interest. Moreover, climate change policy must exist in the political certainty that governments in democratic nations inevitably rise and fall on short-term political cycles and climate change requires long-term policy and commitment. A breathtaking example of how the vagaries of politics can derail climate change policy was last year’s election of U.S. President Donald Trump. Within days of taking office, Trump ended U.S. climate change policy established under his predecessor, Barack Obama.

To complicate matters even further, to successfully reduce GHG emissions and halt global warming requires that the more than 190 nations in the world act in a collaborative and coordinated fashion. All must agree to specific, measurable and enforceable actions that will transform their economies by drastically reducing their use of fossil fuels. Tackling climate change raises critical issues for many nations, especially ones heavily dependent on fossil fuels as a source of cheap energy and with societies where oil-and-gas production and the use of fossil fuels is a cornerstone of their economy. It means a transition to a greener, less carbon-based economy that, at least in the short-to-medium term, can also mean a lower standard of living.

There are those who will contest the lower-standard-of-living argument. They will say new renewable energy technology will itself stimulate innovation, creating jobs and opportunities. But we shouldn’t kid ourselves. Many forms of renewable energy make sense only with significant public subsidies because fossil fuel-based energy alternatives are often much cheaper. As a result, many societies and economies have been built on cheap carbon-based energy sources for generations. Given that fact, for a low-carbon market to be created it must be imposed by government edict, which is the crux of the climate change debate.

The fact remains that energy is the lifeblood of any economy. Access to cheap, accessible and reliable sources of carbon-based energy has been the foundation for our standard of living and quality of life in the developed world. But not everyone has been as fortunate as us. As the World Bank notes, billions of people live in a state of energy poverty. In 2015, it said about 1.1
a system of cap and trade on heavy GHG emitters. The federal
be in the form of a carbon tax, or a regulatory instrument like
$10 a tonne price on carbon in place nationally next year. If
provinces don’t implement the price – which rises $10 a year
to $50 a tonne by 2022 – Ottawa will impose the price. It can
political challenge of creating a carbon price that is visible
in the form of a tax, is to keep the revenue it generates in the
jurisdiction where it’s raised. The Saskatchewan government
estimates the fully implemented carbon price of $50 a tonne
in this case the effects of climate change. So, in a proper-
functioning market environment where carbon has a price,
the social harm created by the burning of fossil fuels would be
included in the price.
That is about as far from a radical idea as you can get. It is
Economics 100 dogma and how we treat virtually everything
else in the private market. Yet when it comes to climate
change policy, the talk of a carbon price can make some
heads explode.
The reason it does has many layers, some more visible than
others.
But the key one relates to the strength of policymakers’
belief in the urgency of the climate change issue and how that
 correlates with public opinion. The fact of the matter is that to
seriously address climate change requires a significant change
in public behaviour now for the benefit of future generations. It
amounts to a leap of faith. People need to believe they can make
a difference and that the cost to them today is justified by the
benefits others will derive from the change long after most of
us are dead and gone.
Determining the public’s willingness to act is a political
calculation that is hard to discern. Public opinion research
suggests that, in the abstract, a significant majority of
Canadians believe climate change is happening and is an
important policy priority. But whether that opinion will
withstand the practicality of a tax on carbon, or accepting the
need for a change in behaviour that results in even a temporary
lower standard of living, is the true test of its resilience. It’s
worth noting that public opinion research on whether climate
change is caused by human activity tends to lag the Canadian
average in Saskatchewan.
For the Government of Canada, the key to unlocking the
political challenge of creating a carbon price that is visible
in the form of a tax, is to keep the revenue it generates in the
jurisdiction where it’s raised. The Saskatchewan government
estimates the fully implemented carbon price of $50 a tonne
by 2022 would cost taxpayers $2.5 billion. Ottawa argues that
revenue used wisely – whether to reduce other taxes such as
provincial income tax or sales tax, or through other stimulative
spending, will, on a net basis, more than offset the negative
economic effects of the carbon price.
All it would take is a little policy ingenuity on the part of the
provincial government. And, yes, a little bit of political nerve
to do what evidence suggests is the right thing. But if history is
any lesson, that’s a lot easier said than done.  

Dale Eisler is a senior policy fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama
Graduate School of Public Policy and a senior advisor on Government
Relations to University of Regina President Vianne Timmons. He previously
held several positions in the federal public service, including assistant
deputy minister at Natural Resources Canada, consul general for Canada in the U.S., assistant secretary to Cabinet, and assistant deputy minister at Finance Canada.

billion people still do not have access to electricity and about
2.9 billion use solid fuels such as wood, charcoal and dung for
cooking and heating.
So you can add a moral dilemma to the geopolitical mix.
In effect, the developed world is asking poor, underdeveloped
nations not to do what we’ve done and use cheap fossil fuel
energy sources to develop their economies, and improve their
standard of living and quality of life. They need to skip that part
in the development cycle and go straight to a more expensive
modern, green, renewable energy economy and society.
A person could go on with other complicating factors, such
as how to price the future costs of climate change in current
dollars, but the point seems clear. Addressing climate change
is arguably the most, or one of the most, difficult public policy
issues on the world agenda. Which brings us back to the climate
change policy standoff between Ottawa and Saskatchewan.
The ongoing friction between the two governments
demonstrates the perils of trying to get agreement on the
coordination of climate change policy. A key dimension of the
Trudeau government’s Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean
Growth and Climate Change is to establish a national price on
carbon. The federal government intends to have a minimum
$10 a tonne price on carbon in place nationally next year. If
provinces don’t implement the price – which rises $10 a year
to $50 a tonne by 2022 – Ottawa will impose the price. It can
be in the form of a carbon tax, or a regulatory instrument like
a system of cap and trade on heavy GHG emitters. The federal
plan calls for all revenue raised by the carbon price to remain
in the jurisdiction where it is generated – any money from
the carbon price paid in Saskatchewan will go into provincial
coffers, to be spent any way the provincial government sees fit.
The policy argument for a carbon price is grounded in
sound market economic principles. Simply put, price is the
mechanism we use to efficiently allocate resources. Ideally,
price is a reflection of both supply and demand for something,
as well as the external costs that result from its production. The
more something costs will tend to reduce its demand. When
CO₂ has no price, its use is unconnected to the costs it imposes,
in this case the effects of climate change. So, in a proper-
functioning market environment where carbon has a price,
the social harm created by the burning of fossil fuels would be
included in the price.

Dale Eisler is a senior policy fellow at Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, with a focus on energy policy and Canada-U.S. relations. He is also a senior advisor on Government Relations to University of Regina President Vianne Timmons. (Photo by Trevor Hopkin)
Call for Nominations:
Election of University of Regina Senators

Are you a University of Regina graduate? Consider nominating a fellow alumnus for the 2018 Senate election to be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

Send us a nomination form signed by three graduates and endorsed by the nominee. Nominees must live in the district for which they are nominated and must provide biographical information and a photograph.

The University Secretariat will accept nominations until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Nominations will be called for the following:

District 1 (Moosomin-Estevan)
Incumbent is eligible for re-election

District 3 (Assiniboia-Bengough)
Incumbent is eligible for re-election

District 4 (Swift Current-Gravelbourg)
Incumbent is eligible for re-election

District 6 (Melville-Yorkton-Hudson Bay)
Incumbent is not eligible for re-election

District 7 (Melfort-Wynyard-Davidson)
Incumbent is eligible for re-election

District 8 (Dundurn-Delisle)
Vacant

District 12 (Saskatoon) 2 members
Appointee is eligible for election

Incumbent is eligible for re-election

For more information, or to access nomination forms, visit our website at www.uregina.ca/president/governance/senate or call the University Secretariat at 306-585-4436.

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District 7 (Melfort-Wynyard-Davidson)
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District 8 (Dundurn-Delisle)
Vacant

District 12 (Saskatoon) 2 members
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The University of Regina is proud to host the 2018 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Congress 2018 theme, “Gathering diversities,” honours Regina’s storied history as a rich buffalo hunting grounds and a sacred meeting place for multitudes of Indigenous peoples.

The theme not only celebrates our past, it speaks of who we are today and what our collective futures hold. The University of Regina has a rich tradition of inclusivity – we have earned our standing as a place where diversity gathers. And from May 26 - June 1, 2018, we invite members of our communities, alumni and friends to gather with us.

From academic programming that sparks debate on critical issues to cultural programming that showcases Saskatchewan’s deep artistic talent – we invite you to join us for the largest gathering in Regina’s history.

www.congress2018.ca