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The stars of the University's new Campus For All video (left to right) Amanda Saleski CIE'14 (Certificate of Inclusive Education), Nick Popowich, Lesley Beaulieu CIE'15 and Robbie Keith. Campus For All is a four-year inclusive post-secondary education experience for adults with an intellectual disability. The initiative is one of only a few in Canada and the only one that is core funded. Find the heartwarming video on the Campus For All website or on YouTube.

 ${\bf Photo\ by\ Trevor\ Hopkin,\ University\ of\ Regina\ Photography\ Department.}$



Welcome to the spring 2015 issue of *Degrees* magazine. We've got an exciting lineup of stories in this edition starting with the story behind the story of the photo on the inside front cover.

Meet four of my newest friends: Amanda, Nick, Lesley and Robbie. I had the pleasure of getting to know this quartet of outstanding students during the production of a video on the University's Campus For All initiative. Campus For All is a four-year inclusive post-secondary education experience for adults with an intellectual disability. The University of Regina's program is one of only a few in the country and the only one that is core-funded.

Amanda, Nick, Lesley and Robbie are much like most students at the University of Regina. They take regular classes, study with other students, hang out with friends and juggle all the other demands of life.

Since it premiered at the end of April I have received emails from inclusive education practitioners from across Canada praising the video. I urge you to take the time to watch this inspiring video and get to know these students and their families. You can find the video on the Campus For All website or simply go to Google and type "Campus For All YouTube."

Our cover story is a glimpse into the life of alumna Miali Coley who, after finishing an education degree at the University of Regina, is teaching in her hometown of Igaluit, Nunavut. Coley left Igaluit in 2010 and travelled south to Regina to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Though living in Regina was trying at times, she persevered, dedicated herself to her studies, and used the entire experience to become the best teacher she could imagine. Her story begins on page 24.

We also have a story about the research that Dr. Chris Yost and his team of researchers has undertaken. Yost's work will concentrate on the public health risk posed by antibiotic resistant bacteria that survive the wastewater treatment process. Yost explains that the overuse and misuse of antibiotics has led to the rise of antibiotic resistance and that could pose a real public health risk. Yost's story begins on page 12.

The University's Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre is a research unit focused on building capacity for community-based Indigenous health research in Saskatchewan. The Centre's research project "Acting out – but in a good way" sees arts-based workshops delivered to Aboriginal youth at schools in the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council area northeast of Regina. It's an initiative that is helping to build self-confidence

and self-esteem among Aboriginal youth. Judy Bird's story on the project begins on page 30.

That's just some of what you will find in this issue of *Degrees*. You'll also find our regular wrap up of campus news, alumni updates and so much more. Remember, you can also find *Degrees* posted on our website. If you would prefer to view *Degrees* online rather than receive it by mail, please contact us at URalumni@uregina.ca or call us at 306-585-4112 and toll-free at 877-779-4723.

Please keep your emails and letters coming. Send us your story ideas or just drop us a note and tell us what you've been up to lately. You'll find all our contact information on the facing page. We look forward to hearing from you and trust you will enjoy reading this issue of *Degrees*.

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The University of Regina Magazine

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On the cover: Faculty of Education graduate Miali Coley in her hometown of Iqaluit, Nunavut. Coley's journey to becoming a teacher began with the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, a partnership between the University of Regina and Nunavut Arctic College. Since 2007, the two institutions have been working together to prepare students to become primary and elementary teachers in the territory.

Photo by Anubha Momin.





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Features

Honorary degree recipients

Meet the spring convocation honorary degree recipients – a nursing pioneer, a philanthropist and successful businessman, and a Canadian hero and former sergeant-atarms of the House of Commons.

The looming public health storm 12

University of Regina professor Chris Yost and his team of researchers are preparing a study that will determine how antibiotic resistant bacteria impact the environment. According to Yost, there could be a perfect public health storm brewing.

Levene GSB celebrates anniversary

18

In 2005, a \$4 million gift launched the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business. At that time, the school's namesake said that it was his "fervent wish that this graduate school of business and its quest for excellence serve as a catalyst in creating an exciting new climate for the economic growth of this province." Looks like he got his wish.

Northern star

24

Miali Coley BEd'13 left her home in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to finish an education degree at the University of Regina. Now she's back in her hometown teaching and inspiring a new generation of Nunavummiut.

The art of the matter 3

Acting Out – But in a Good Way is an art-based University of Regina research project that is building confidence and selfesteem in Aboriginal youth. It may even be saving lives.

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President's Note

During my time at the University of Regina, there are few things that I am more proud of than our Campus For All (CFA) initiative. CFA is a four-year inclusive post-secondary education experience for adults with an intellectual disability. Our undertaking is one of only a handful in all of Canada and the only one that is core funded.

The initiative began in the Faculty of Education nearly a decade ago and has now grown to encompass every faculty at the University. One of the goals of CFA is to provide an authentic university experience for its students. There are no special classes or separate curricula for CFA students; they participate in regular classes just like any other student. Campus For All students also participate in extracurricular campus activities. They make friends, they work with mentors, they enhance their literacy skills and they prepare for the work world. In short, they enjoy the same opportunities as their post-secondary peers. At the same time, students in degree programs benefit from learning and working with persons with disabilities. In the process, they become even more engaged with their own studies.

We couldn't deliver this important enterprise without the support of our faculty.

Faculty have embraced Campus For All, recognizing it as an opportunity for all. Their contributions are essential to the initiative's success and I greatly appreciate their willingness to get behind it.

We are committed to Campus For All at an institutional level - it's a value that is reflected in our strategic plan. The University's 2015-20 strategic plan, entitled peyak aski kikawinaw, sets a bold collective vision for our future. In it, we state that the University will serve and engage a diverse group of students, lifelong learners and communities. Our Saskatchewan is more diverse now than in any time in its history and our universities need to reflect the greater community and all its diversity.

We have also committed to increasing the resources of the Centre for Student Accessibility, the unit that manages CFA. That commitment will enable the unit to provide enhanced services and support to students with disabilities so that they can approach their studies as other students do.

I have worked in the inclusive education field for more than 35 years. When I was 16 years old, I was a volunteer teaching intellectually disabled children to swim. I had never had a relationship

with an intellectually disabled person and I remember being astounded. I couldn't believe that I had never met somebody with an intellectual disability.

My first summer job while going to university was at a segregated institution for people with intellectual disabilities. What I learned from that job is that segregation is inhumane and unacceptable. I worked there for four summers and became really close with one of the children in the institution. Kim became a part of our family until she died at 15 years old from a heart attack.

My first teaching job in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia was in an elementary school teaching high school-aged students with intellectual disabilities. I taught them in the basement near the furnace. My students had a different start time, different lunch time and different finishing time so that they didn't mix with the elementary students in the school. They called that inclusive practice in the 1970s. It wasn't.

Over the decades I have continued to advocate for inclusive education. I truly believe that the quality of education should be judged by the quality of education for our most vulnerable students. I know from my travels around the world that we still have a lot

of work to do to get classrooms to reflect the diversity of our world. But I'm confident that, through initiatives like Campus For All, some day we will reach that goal.

Every year, we celebrate Campus For All with a special gathering of the students, their families, faculty and staff. We often get to see projects that the students have worked so hard on during the year. This year, we decided to do something a little different. We decided the time was right for a video that could tell the Campus For All story to an even wider audience.

The video premiered on April 30 in a special screening in the University Theatre. Twelve of the 14 Campus For All students, their families and special guests attended the red-carpet event.

They say in Hollywood that it helps a movie's success if it features big stars. If that's true, then I think our video will be a smash hit because it features some mega stars – the Campus For All students. Their photograph appears on the inside front cover of this issue of *Degrees*.

I invite you to watch the heartwarming video for yourself. You can find it on the Campus For All website or on YouTube.

Dr. Vianne Timmons President and Vice-Chancellor Left: Roger Brandvold Centre: David Malloy Right: Judy White



Comings and goings

Roger Brandvold has been appointed to the University of Regina Board of Governors by the Government of Saskatchewan. For more than a decade, Brandvold has been a partner and senior vicepresident with Connor Clark & Lunn Private Capital Ltd., Canada's largest independent money manager. He previously served as senior vice-president with Greystone Managed Investments and as vicepresident and national sales manager with CIBC Wealth Management in Toronto. He has served on a number of boards, including as chairman and director of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club, and was a member of the Canadian Football League's Board of Governors. He co-chaired the 2013 Grey Cup and has served on the boards of the Assiniboia Club, the South Saskatchewan Arthritis Society, the Investment Dealers Association and the University of Regina Rams. He currently serves as a member of the Amenity Health Care Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term, taking the place of board member and past chair Paul McLellan, who served two full terms.

Current Vice-Chair **Daniel Kwochka BA(Adv)'93** was appointed to a second term on the University of Regina Board of Governors. He will serve to March 25, 2018. He has served as vice-chair since August 1, 2013. Kwochka is a partner with

the law firm of McKercher LLP. He joined the firm in 1997 and has practiced law in Regina since that time. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) from the University of Regina in 1993 and received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan in 1996. He articled with the firm of McKercher, McKercher & Whitmore in 1996 and has remained with the firm, now called McKercher LLP, as both an associate and a partner.

Thomas Chase BA(Hons)'79 has been reappointed as provost and vice-president (Academic). His second term will begin July 1, 2016. Chase previously served as vice-president (Academic) and provost at Royal Roads University.

David Malloy has been appointed to a five-year term as vice-president (Research) at the University of Regina, commencing July 1. Malloy has been with the U of R for more than two decades, most recently serving in an interim capacity as vice-president (Research).

David Gregory has been appointed to a second five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Nursing commencing July 1, 2016. Gregory joined the University of Regina in 2011 as the faculty's founding dean.

Harold Riemer, acting dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, has accepted an offer of appointment as dean from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016.



Jennifer Tupper, currently acting dean of the Faculty of Education, has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Education. The appointment is effective July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018.

Judy White has accepted an offer of appointment as dean of the Faculty of Social Work effective July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2020. The appointment was offered after a thorough review and a very strong recommendation from the review committee, based on input received from faculty, staff, students and the professional social work community. White is currently in the same role in an acting capacity.

Kathy McNutt has been appointed executive director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. McNutt is responsible for academic leadership at the Saskatoon and Regina campuses.

Bettina Welsh has been named the new director of Student Affairs Operations. Her focus is on the management of Residence and Conference Services, Bookstore and Food Services. Welsh most recently served as the administration and finance coordinator within Student Affairs.

Peter Dorrington has been appointed vice-president (Academic and Research) at Université de Saint-Boniface. Dorrington previously served



as a professor, as well as in several leadership roles at the University of Regina's Institut français.

Briefly

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences has selected the University of Regina to host the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2018. More than 7,000 attendees are expected to participate at Canada's largest academic gathering, which is also the largest interdisciplinary academic conference in North America.

The congress brings together scholars, students, practitioners and policy-makers from across the country and around the world to share knowledge and innovative research. Discussions centre on issues related to a broad spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including literature, geography, theatre, sociology, education, digital humanities and history. Congress 2018 will take place from May 26 to June 1: this is the event's 87th consecutive vear.

Former dean of the Faculty of Social Work and vice-president (Academic) **George Maslany** received the University's Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony last December. Maslany served the University for more than four decades as an instructor and supervisor of students, a distinguished researcher and an administrator.

The University of Regina's **Mathematics and Statistics Department** has once again received national accreditation for its Actuarial Science program. The U of R is one of 10 institutions in Canada that are nationally accredited by the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

Two new members of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame have University of Regina connections. Joell Fiddler and **Dick White** were honoured at a ceremony on April 9. Fiddler played five seasons with the Cougars women's hockey team. She was a Canada West First Team All-Star each year she played. White, who spent 20 years as director of Athletics, was inducted in the builder category. Under White's leadership, the Athletics department increased the number of inter-university teams from six to 16, and the University hosted five national championships.

Undergraduate student Mengxuan Qui has received the inaugural University of Regina International President's Scholars Award. The \$15,000 award goes to the international undergraduate student with the highest admission average among eligible students. Mengxuan graduated from Concord High School in Shen Zhen, China, with a 92.6 per cent average. Mengxuan arrived at the University of Regina in 2013 as an English as a Second Language student. She is enrolled in the Visual Arts program and says she would like to design jewelry after she graduates.

On March 26, the Faculty of Arts welcomed **Michael O'Sullivan** as its distinguished guest speaker for the 2015 Stapleford Lecture. O'Sullivan, who is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University, is the grandson of Reverend Earnest W. Stapleford,

for whom this lecture series is named. Reverend Stapleford served as the first president of Regina College and, from 1915 to 1934, served as principal.

Alumnus James Wahl BEd'95 has been recognized as one of the top principals in Canada. Canada's Outstanding Principals Awards are presented annually by The Learning Partnership, a national charitable organization with a mandate to support, promote and advance public education in Canada. Wahl is one of 40 principals from across Canada to receive the award this year. Wahl is the principal at St. Francis Community School, part of Regina Catholic Schools.

It was a most memorable experience for Risa Horowitz, a professor in the Department of Visual Arts, at a recent open house that featured her artwork. The occasion was a celebration of the renovation of Canada House in London, England. On hand for the event were Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip. Horowitz's work ended up in Canada House because the Department of Foreign Affairs purchased some of her work through her Toronto art dealer. You can view the artists' works at Canada House by visiting www.canadahousecollection. co.uk/the-collection.

The University of Regina's 2014 United Way Campaign, which raised \$100,089.40, was awarded the Greystone Leadership Award at the Spirit Awards Luncheon. The award recognizes organizations, campaigns, teams and individuals who achieve outstanding results in their United Way campaigns and is presented to the workplace that runs the most effective program for generating personal gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Alumnus Peter Ogryzlo
MSc'95 has been recognized
by the Association for Mineral
Exploration British Columbia
and is the recipient of its 2015
H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award
for Excellence in Prospecting
and Mineral Exploration. The
award recognizes the key role
Ogryzlo played in the discovery
of two new ore zones at the
Huckleberry Copper Mine near
Houston, British Columbia.

Patrick Sherling, a University of Regina campus security officer, has received the Regina Police Chief's Commendation Award, which annually recognizes bravery or an exceptional contribution to the service. Sherling was on duty last August when he received word of a man in distress on campus. His actions are being credited with saving the man's life.

For the third year in a row, **PotashCorp** has contributed \$150,000 to the University of Regina Athletics program. The funds will be used to enhance the program offerings for each of the University of Regina's 16 varsity teams. The contribution follows similar contributions to the University of Regina in 2013 and 2014, for a total of \$450,000.

Shauneen Pete, David Wessel and Wilma Bell-Wessel were recognized for their dedication and leadership in global and Indigenous education at the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) Global Citizen Awards in early February. Pete, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina, also serves as the executive lead on Indigenization. David and Wilma Bell-Wessel have trained teachers in Africa and Jamaica and have committed their lives to supporting many agencies involved in social justice, refugee support and human rights work.

The Wessels also have strong connections to the University of Regina as Wilma has received three degrees and David has received one degree from the University. As well, Wilma is head of Voice at the Conservatory of Performing Arts and David teaches at the Centre for Continuing Education.

For the second year in a row, former University of Regina Ram Jon Ryan played in the Super Bowl as his Seattle Seahawks took on the New England Patriots in the championship game in Glendale, Arizona. Ryan is the first former Ram to earn a Super Bowl ring, after the Seahawks won last year's title game. Unfortunately, the Seahawks lost this year's contest.

Three other former Rams are also in the NFL: Stefan Charles with the Buffalo Bills; Akiem Hicks with the New Orleans Saints; and Jorgen Hus with the Kansas City Chiefs.

University of Regina film student Candy Fox's short film Backroads made its debut at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in mid-April. The film, which Fox wrote, produced and edited, was chosen by TIFF as one of the top student films in Canada. The story is about Fox's friend Camillia Stonechild and her painful journey of family abuse. The film is billed as a "powerful documentary" that sheds light on the strength of survivors of family abuse. This was the second time in the past three years that a University of Regina student's project was chosen to be screened at TIFF.

Author Ramin Johanbegloo was invited to Britain's upper house of Parliament to officially launch his book, *Time Will Say Nothing: A Philosopher Survives an Iranian Prison*, published by **University of Regina Press**. The book is Johanbegloo's account of his imprisonment in his native Iran. He was arrested



by authorities in April 2006 and held for four months. At the time, he found support from members of the House of Lords who called on Iran to release those who were unjustly detained. Johanbegloo, now an associate professor of Political Science at York University in Toronto, wanted the book to be published in Canada and chose to have it published by U of R Press.

Research

John Barden, an associate professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, received an Innovation for Gold Own the Podium grant of \$110,700 for his research to improve the performance of Canada's Olympic swimmers. Barden's proposal utilizes body-fixed sensors to collect information about a swimmer's movements that are not easy for coaches to see. The data is then analyzed to help coaches identify areas for improvement. Innovation for Gold provides support and leadership in applied sport research through Own the Podium, an initiative of the federal government to achieve excellence at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Darren Candow, associate professor and associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, is leading a research project that is good news for women over the age of 50. His research has found that weight training combined with



creatine supplementation - a compound found in red meat and seafood - preserves bone mass in post-menopausal women. The findings have enormous potential for the aging population and the health-care system. Candow's findings, in collaboration with Phil Chilibeck at the University of Saskatchewan, have been published in the peer reviewed journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, the official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Chris Yost, a biology professor in the Faculty of Science, as well as a Canada Research Chair in Microbes, the Environment and Food Safety, will receive \$584,975 over three years from a project grant competition administered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The project - a collaboration with colleagues from Dalhousie and Acadia universities - will allow Yost to study the connections between the genes that make bacteria antibiotic resistant and wastewater treatment plants. The research will help reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance genes and bacteria to the environment and potentially to humans. (See story, page 12)

Researchers at the University of Regina have found that lakes in southern Saskatchewan are absorbing more carbon dioxide as a result of global warming – which is contrary to previous research that suggested

Left: John Barden Right: Darren Candow

global warming is increasing carbon dioxide emissions from lakes. These latest research findings were published online on February 25, 2015, in the prestigious British-based academic journal, *Nature*. The research was done by University of Regina researchers **Kerri Finlay, Peter Leavitt, Gavin Simpson, Bjöern Wissel, Matthew Bogard** and **Richard Vogt**, in collaboration with University of Minnesota PhD student Benjamin Tutolo.

The Faculty of Business Administration has been awarded a \$417,781 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation John Evans Leaders Fund (CFI-JELF) to build a stateof-the-art human research lab. The 1,100 square foot research lab will be equipped to run complex experiments, advanced computer simulations, focus groups, in-depth interviews and physiological tests. Flexible space design will allow researchers to simulate retail and casino environments. The latest in mobile eye tracking equipment will allow researchers to take their work into the real world. The lab's official name will be the Laboratory for Behavioural Business Research. Its purpose will primarily be to study counterproductive and antisocial behaviour in business settings to enhance business productivity, inform public policy and improve quality of life. The lab will be used to study ways to reduce risky consumer behaviours

such as problem gambling; improve workplace team dynamics; reduce dishonest behaviour towards business such as shoplifting; reverse irrational consumer choices that have negative personal impacts like massive consumer debt and obesity; and increase sustainable consumption choices to better serve the public good.

A group of researchers at the University of Regina have received an award for innovation for their method of treating water from Saskatchewan oil reservoirs, removing oil and salts so the water can be used for irrigation or in industry. At the most recent Paragon Awards put on by the Regina Chamber of Commerce, Amr Henni. Ezeddin Shirif and their team were presented an award for innovation, sponsored by Innovation Place. The graduate students working on the project come from Process Systems Engineering (Ali Heydari Beni and Rangarajan Duraisamy), **Environmental Systems** Engineering (M. Rizwan Faisal and Soroush Abbasi), Petroleum Systems Engineering (Ahmed Tunnish) and Industrial Systems **Engineering (Mohamed Zouibek** and Sassi Ashour).



Spring 2015 honorary degree recipients

What do former prime minister Lester Bowles Pearson, actor John R. Vernon (Dean Wormer in the frat house comedy Animal House), singer Buffy Sainte-Marie and hockey great Gordie Howe have in common? They have all been bestowed the highest honour the University can confer – an honorary degree.

The University of Regina awards four honorary degrees: a Doctor of Fine Arts is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in visual or performing arts; a Doctor of Laws, the most frequently awarded, is given to a person that

demonstrates exceptional service to the University or the community at large; a Doctor of Letters is awarded to an individual who achieves success in the humanities or literature; and a Doctor of Science recognizes outstanding achievement in the pure and applied sciences.

In the following pages, you'll get to know this year's spring convocation honorary degree recipients: a nursing pioneer, a philanthropist and successful businessman, and a Canadian hero and former sergeant-at-arms of the House of Commons.

By Bill Armstrong

Ann Thomas Callahan

nn Callahan doesn't consider herself an Elder in the traditional, spiritual context. "Age-wise I fit that description, but I'm still learning; learning all the time," she says.

"I find something helpful in every positive experience."

She was born on the Peepeekisis
First Nation in 1935 to John and Nora
Thomas, who spoke Cree and English
at home. She attended the traditional
ceremonies of her people, including
during summer breaks from the 14
years she attended the File Hills and
Birtle Indian Residential schools. At
age four she was given the spirit name
Wapiskisiw Piyésis (White Birdwoman)
by Elder Ochapawase.

From the mostly dark time at school Ann recalls two role models. One was a caring dormitory matron, Miss Monroe, who would place a piece of toffee under her pillow for her to find after afternoon naps while she recovered from a painful episode of impetigo, which lasted for most of the school year when she was about 12 years old. The second was a junior high school teacher who boosted her students' self-esteem by instructing them in grooming, and even offering piano lessons.

Callahan recounts that when her father scanned her final high school report card, he said she was a smart girl and should go on to further education. "I wanted to be a lawyer, but financially, becoming a nurse was more realistic," she says. Callahan adds that because of her residential school experience, she was very timid and withdrawn for many years after graduating, which almost derailed her nursing career.

While she was a student nurse at the Winnipeg General Hospital (now the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg), a head nurse on a ward deliberately humiliated her in front of other students. Callahan was ready to quit, but the head of nursing, Margaret Cameron, wouldn't

hear of it. Cameron, with Callahan in tow, marched up to confront the offending nurse. "Margaret had a few words with her," is Callahan's summary of the encounter. Callahan persevered and was among the first Aboriginal nurses to graduate from the program in 1958.

As important as these role models are, Callahan's first encounter with Jean Cuthand Goodwill (the first Aboriginal woman to complete a nursing program in Saskatchewan) stands out above the rest in her mind. While interning at Fort San, Callahan would hitchhike around the lake to the Indian Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle.

"At the hospital I saw this young Aboriginal RN, all dressed in white, holding herself so proudly and selfassured and interacting with her co-workers. 'I want to be like her,' " Callahan remembers thinking.

She began forging her own path, quickly becoming head nurse of the Women's Pavilion at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. In 1973 she left to help establish an agency that provides services to people in need, mostly in Winnipeg's inner city. After 10 years there, she became a nursing instructor and academic counselor at Red River Community College.

Ann expanded her education by taking several courses while she was working. After retiring in 1996, she continued to demonstrate her commitment to lifelong learning and her healing vocation, earning a bachelor's degree with a major in psychology. She followed that with a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a thesis titled, "On Our Way to Healing: Stories from the Oldest Living Survivors of the File Hills Indian Residential School."

Her one piece of advice for younger students: "Don't wait until you become an old-age pensioner, the age I was when I received my master's degree. If you get



Ann Callahan was born on the Peepeekisis First Nation and became one of the first Aboriginal nurses to graduate from the Winnipeg General Hospital. In June 2006, the Critical Services building at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg was named after her. (Photo by Leif Norman.)

knocked down, don't stay; get up and move beyond."

Even during her busy professional life and retirement, Callahan contributed to numerous initiatives aimed at improving Aboriginal health and encouraging more Aboriginals to enter the health-care field. She worked with Elders to coordinate four healing ceremonies for the File Hills community and has lectured widely to make people aware of the residential school experience. In return, she has received many honours and awards recognizing her contributions. In June 2006, the Critical Services building at the Health Sciences Centre was named after her.

"In her unflagging commitment to health care, community and continuous learning, Callahan embodies the spirit that defines Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg," says the centre's Chief Operating Officer Dana Erikson. "She has gained respect and renown for applying her healing skills throughout her life, and for her contributions to the community." In 2014, Callahan received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada.

Callahan's only child, Michael, died two years ago. Her family includes two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and what she describes as a family tree with aunties and uncles and nieces and nephews branching in all directions.

Donald Wayne Black

o hear Don Black tell it, his sons
Dustin and Dallas grew up thinking
their father couldn't keep a job. A
more impartial and accurate assessment
is that Black carved out a remarkable
career while working for a succession of
financial services companies, entirely in
his hometown of Regina.

Black credits his parents for instilling his work ethic by their example of hard work and sacrifice. He praises one of his early mentors, C. Morley Willoughby (a University of Regina honorary degree recipient), for his entry into the investment business, for his understanding of the qualities of good leadership, and for his belief in the importance of reinvesting some of what he earned back into the community as dividends.

On the advice of a high school guidance counselor, Black set out to be an accountant instead of the lawyer he wanted to be. After one term at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan, he became a "Christmas graduate." He soon joined local investment firm Houston Willoughby as an accounting clerk, even though he "... had no clue what a stock or bond, or any kind of investment was." He realized quickly that he didn't want to be an accountant, but a broker.

"To say that I took to the business like a duck to water would be an understatement," Black says. "It was always tremendously interesting, a constantly changing environment."

By age 32, Black was president of the company. Three years later, he was appointed president of Saskatchewan Government Insurance and led a turnaround of the troubled company. He then applied his troubleshooting skills to Pioneer Life Insurance, following the collapse of its sister company, Pioneer Trust. Again he engineered a successful turnaround and his own exit from the top job during the sale of the company. He then tried his hand at being an automotive dealer, but discovered that his enthusiasm as a car guy didn't translate into success.

"I chose to stay in Regina instead of taking a job in Toronto, but I was not a very good car dealer," Black says. "But from my business and investment experience I knew when to cut my losses."

After that brief period, Black was recruited to head Reginabased Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan, a small private sector company owned by its clients. Under his leadership as CEO, the company attracted a more diverse roster of clients and transformed itself into Greystone Capital Management, now employeeowned and one of Canada's largest independent investment firms, with approximately \$35 billion in assets under management. He is retired from day-to-day management but continues to chair the Greystone board. Asked why the company remains in Regina, Black's response reflects his belief that the most positive thing to happen in Saskatchewan in his lifetime is the change in attitude of the people.

"Why not Regina? This is where we built and grew the firm. The advent of the Internet and the computer make it easy to access information in real time, changing the world of finance and investment. We like to say we're distanced from distractions, not from information."

Black is proud that the company plays a lead role in many community initiatives, including the Greystone



Don Black Is a member of the Order Of Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. He has also played an instrumental role in establishing the Greystone Bereavement Centre and the RCMP Heritage Centre. (Photo courtesy of Don Black.)

Bereavement Centre, an example of philanthropy in action. He also devoted 12 years as a volunteer working to establish the RCMP Heritage Centre, located at Depot Division.

"Growing up, I lived close to Depot, and it was part of my paper route. Many of the kids I went to school with and played with were sons and daughters of RCMP members," Black explains. "As I grew older I concluded we seem to take Depot for granted."

In recognition of his efforts, Black was named a life member of the Friends of the RCMP and honorary member of the RCMP Veterans' Association. Ron Ostrum, secretary for the Friends, recalls that Black had the financial and political contacts to move the project forward. "He also found ways to work through the complexities of the thing, with the RCMP, three levels of government and a lot of other organizations involved in it. We're happy to have him as a life member."

Black is also a member of the Order of Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, among other honours. He and his partner Leanne split their time between Regina and Phoenix, Arizona. Their sons Dallas and Dustin live in Regina. Dustin has a little boy and a baby girl, the first girl born on the Black side of the family in 91 years, states the proud grandfather.

Kevin Michael Vickers

evin Vickers has fond memories of growing up in northern New Brunswick, learning how to fish with the Aboriginal people along the Miramichi River.

"As poor as it was economically," he says, "it was rich with people."

Those people included his mother and father, who passed along their great values to him (along with Irish ancestry that dates back to the 1800s). The family hosted students from Third World countries who came to St. Francis Xavier University to study about cooperatives.

"Every night at the dinner table I learned things from people from Africa, India and Asia," he recalls, "especially what it meant to be colonized."

He idolized his uncle Benny Vickers, the chief of police of Black Harbour, eagerly looking forward to his visits. By age seven, Vickers knew what his career path would be. "One day, in Grade Two, I saw three members of the RCMP come out of the courthouse, and I knew that was what I wanted to be. I had a tremendous career, and I consider the RCMP to be the best organization in the

During his 29-year career with the force, Vickers had postings in Alberta and the Northwest Territories before being appointed Inspector, District Commander, Acadian Peninsula, in his home province. As the force's incident commander, he helped resolve the confrontation in 1999-2000 between native and non-native fishers over fishing rights at Burnt Church, New Brunswick. When local Aboriginal fishers, augmented by warriors from many parts of North America, blockaded the road to Burnt Church, Vickers sent two Aboriginal constables in plainclothes to chat with them. He often visited the community out of uniform to meet the local people.

"There are many tools in the policing toolbox, and enforcement is the last one to use," Vickers explains.

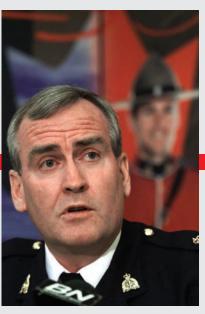
A key move in resolving the situation came when Vickers read a letter from 1758 to both sides. In it, a British Navy fleet commander reported to General James Wolfe that he had removed Acadians from two communities, and burned their stone church (hence the community name). The letter also related that the Indians had hidden the Acadians from a third community so they could not be captured and deported. With a better understanding of their shared history, both sides began talking, and listening. The Aboriginal fishers took down their blockade as negotiations began sorting out the ownership of fishing licenses, which had sparked the dispute.

Burnt Church resident Bobby Sylliboy, a band constable at the time, recalls that Vickers was very approachable and visited the community often, including attending Christmas services.

"One of the things I learned from him is that if you want to know what's going on in a community, you have to get out of your car," Sylliboy says.

Vickers has served as the RCMP's Director-General of the Aboriginal Police Services branch, and been recognized for his role in investigations into the international drug trade. He led the creation of a national strategy to protect children from sexual exploitation on the Internet, which resulted in the establishment of a highly regarded national centre of expertise to combat the problem.

He was appointed director of Security Operations for the House of Commons in 2005. A year later, he became sergeant-atarms, with responsibility for security and a range of other day-to-day operations within the parliamentary precinct.



In 2000, honorary degree recipient Kevin Vickers, then RCMP Inspector Vickers, helped resolve the confrontation between native and non-native fishers in Burnt Church, N.B. (CP PHOTO/Andrew Vaughan)

Vickers was catapulted onto a worldwide stage when he stopped the October 2014 attack on Parliament Hill. Regarding that event, Vickers prefers to praise the actions of his staff. "Constable Samearn Son [who was wounded in the foot] and Constable Alain Gervais [who used his body as a human shield at the door to the room where the NDP caucus was meeting] are my heroes."

Vickers was appointed Canada's ambassador to Ireland in January 2015. In presenting his credentials to Ireland's President Michael Higgins, Vickers said he was like a salmon coming back across the ocean to the home pool. In just a few months he has attended 58 official events and travelled almost 3,800 kilometres in the small country. While admitting that he has much to learn about the world of trade, he is tackling the topic with his usual hands-on approach, going door-to door to introduce himself to chefs and restaurant owners to promote new markets for Atlantic lobster. He was bestowed an honorary degree from Mount Allison University earlier this

Vickers and his wife Ann have a son Andrew, who is a police officer in Miramichi, and a daughter Laura. Grandchildren include granddaughter Reese and grandsons Lucas and Lachlin.

The looming public health storm

Bolstered by close to \$600,000 in federal funding, professor Chris Yost and his team of researchers are preparing to study the impacts that antibiotic resistant bacteria found in wastewater treatment plants could have on the environment and public health. According to Yost, there may be a perfect public health storm brewing.

By Elsa Johnston

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department

tarting out as tiny organisms only visible under laboratory microscopes, antibiotic resistant bacteria have bloomed into public consciousness as a global threat to public health. "We should have known this was coming," says Chris Yost, Canada Research Chair in Microbes, the Environment and Food Safety and a biology professor at the University of Regina.

Overuse and misuse of antibiotics in the health-care sector, agricultural industry and animal husbandry have led to a rise in antibiotic resistance. As a result, when doctors treat a patient for an infection, they have one less tool to combat it.

"It's a perfect storm," explains Yost. "Antibiotic resistance is on the rise because we are creating more environments where antibiotic resistant bacteria thrive. At the same time, the pharmaceutical companies are not investing substantially in any new antibiotics development. So we have fewer treatment options available."

Since 1945, when the revolutionary antibiotic penicillin was first mass produced, the risk of infection from common invasive procedures such as hip replacements and caesarean sections has been reduced. This has provided a degree of comfort that any resulting infection can be treated with antibiotics.

"If that's no longer an option, then you can think of all these situations where now your risk is that much higher," says Yost. "Because if you have an infection, it runs rampant and it's resistant to all the antibiotics that you throw at it, then there is a good chance you might die."

The battle to control the spread of antibiotic resistance is playing out in hospitals and other front lines of health care in Canada and around the world. In June 2013, G8 science ministers, including Gary Goodyear, then Canada's minister of state for Science and Technology, released a statement calling antimicrobial drug resistance a "major health security challenge of the 21st century."

In an April 2014 factsheet on antimicrobial resistance, the World Health Organization echoes this call to global action: "Without urgent, coordinated action, the world is heading towards a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries, which have been treatable for decades, can once again kill."

As a result of the scientific understanding of the consequences of antibiotic resistance in hospitals and animal production, governments in the United States, Canada and Europe have been able to develop more stringent regulations and national action plans to combat the spread of antibiotic resistance in these environments. In October 2014, the Government of Canada released a framework for action that outlines the federal approach to "prevent, limit, and control the emergence and spread" of antimicrobial resistance.

There is one critical environment, however, that remains to be studied for its potential as a control point against the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria – wastewater treatment plants. Wastewater treatment plants are host to a complex community of bacteria, including strains that are resistant to antibiotics.

"After we have taken antibiotics for illness, the antibiotic resistant bacteria in our gastrointestinal tracts can flourish. These antibiotic resistant bacteria and antibiotic residues are excreted in urine and feces, and are ultimately transported to wastewater treatment plants," explains Yost.

In addition, antibiotic resistant genes possess the ability to spread rapidly among other opportunistic pathogens or infectious agents found in wastewater facilities, which could contribute to the spread of resistance.

By their very nature, wastewater treatment plants are hotspots of complex bacterial activity. "We magnify antibiotic resistance genes in wastewater treatment plants and then we release them," says Yost. "We don't know how much risk that is to public health because we're just starting to look at it. But, given what we know about what happens when resistance spreads, such as in a hospital, and the consequences of that, then we really should be looking at defining the risk of releasing antibiotic resistance genes from wastewater treatment plants into the environment."

Yost and his team of researchers at the University of Regina are preparing to tackle the problem by studying the impacts that antibiotic resistance genes and antibiotic resistant bacteria found in wastewater treatment plants could have on the environment and, ultimately, public health.

Along with their partners at Dalhousie University and Acadia University in Nova Scotia, the multidisciplinary research team will collect samples from different wastewater treatment plants in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Nunavut. This nearly \$585,000 national research project will help the scientists uncover some of the mechanisms that are controlling or driving the development and evolution of antibiotic resistance genes and antibiotic resistant bacteria in wastewater treatment plants. In March 2015, the University of Regina



Opposite page: Chris Yost, professor of biology and Canada Research Chair in Microbes, the Environment and Food Safety. Above: Yost in his laboratory in the Research and Innovation Centre.

announced the funding for this project, "Measuring and mitigating the release of mobile antibiotic resistance genes from wastewater treatment plants in Canada," which is being provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) through its strategic project grants competition.

Researchers will compare and contrast the samples taken from the various municipalities to look at the effect of the different wastewater treatment plants, communities, levels of effluent and effluent sources (hospital, industrial, etc.) on the bacterial environment. This will allow them to identify patterns that could help to predict what is creating the hotspots of antibiotic resistant bacteria in wastewater treatment plants.

"Monitoring where and how these genes persist in the environment will allow us to better understand what risks they may incur on surrounding communities," says Claire Freeman, a recent graduate of Colorado State University who will be joining Yost's research lab this summer as a University of Regina graduate student. "I was originally drawn to this research project because of the important implications it will have for the health of humans and the environment."

The City of Regina's wastewater treatment facility will figure prominently in this project. Regina is a perfect place to study antibiotic resistant bacteria in wastewater treatment plants. Currently, the City of Regina is building a new wastewater treatment plant to meet new stringent federal regulations

and keep pace with the demands of the growing urban population.

"The City was in a position where the old technology couldn't meet the new federal permit requirements. On top of that we have a growing city. Things have been growing faster in the past few years than they have been in the past few decades," explains Shawn Fraser BA'07, Regina city councillor and member of the city's Environmental Advisory Committee.

The new treatment plant, located just northwest of Regina, is one of the largest capital expenditures in the city's history with a price tag of \$181 million. "We want to be proactive about making sure that our watershed is healthy. We've just gone through a big part of that conversation with the wastewater treatment plant," adds Fraser. "It's one step in a multigenerational conversation about Regina's impact on the environment."

Every city in Canada has a unique wastewater reality and challenges. And Regina has its own sensitivities. "We live in a semi-arid desert," says Fraser. As a result, "there's a lot of engineering to make water get here and go away too." Regina's citizens take their drinking water from Buffalo Pound Lake where it's treated and sent by pipeline approximately 85 kilometres to the city.

More people in Regina and the surrounding area means more water consumption and waste production, increasing the pressure on Regina's wastewater treatment plant and on Wascana Creek, the natural

environment that receives the cleansed water.

"Water from the wastewater treatment plant goes into Wascana Creek, which has the notoriety of being the dirtiest creek in Canada," says Yost. "It's a good place to study this research because it's almost a worst-case scenario. In the summer, our effluent can be close to 100 percent of the creek flow. If we didn't have the wastewater treatment plant, that creek could dry up. There's no dilution effect."

While people downstream are not drinking Wascana Creek water, the creek flows into the Qu'Appelle watershed where it is used for irrigation, agricultural production and recreation before draining into Pasqua, Katepwa, Echo and Mission lakes.

"The wastewater treatment technology was developed primarily to deal with organic carbon and other nutrients so that you're not polluting a watershed," Yost explains.

Researchers don't know a lot about the role that antibiotic resistant bacteria play in wastewater treatment plants or how they could contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance in environments such as Wascana Creek and Pasqua Lake.

The construction of the new wastewater treatment infrastructure will provide Yost and his researchers with a snapshot of conditions both before and after the new build. The findings of this research could help to prevent or reduce the impact that wastewater treatment plants have on spreading antibiotic resistance into the receiving water systems.

"It will provide a better understanding of the consequences that these emerging pollutants have on our environment ... and help to train the future scientists who are going to have to solve the problems of how not to pollute the environment and maintain public health," says Yost.

The seeds of Yost's own interest in science and research were planted early in his undergraduate years. "I was supposed to be a dentist. That's what my mom wanted," smiles Yost. Instead, he became hooked on agricultural microbes, after finishing a co-op term in Lethbridge with Michael Hynes, a former scientist from Agriculture Canada and professor at the University of Calgary.

"The bachelor's degree is your formative years. So it's really important that universities have good mentors and provide good research opportunities to undergrads. I had it through a co-op. If I hadn't had that, I wouldn't be where I am now," stresses Yost.



Shawn Fraser, City of Regina councillor and member of the city's Environmental Advisory Committee.





Left: Vice-President (Research) David Malloy. Right: Graduate student Adeyinka Ajayi was attracted from the University of Greenwich in England to study under Yost.

Starting this summer, Yost will be carrying on the role of mentor in his new research project. Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from around the world, including Nigeria and the United States, will be coming to the University of Regina to work on the study. At least 70 per cent of the budget for this research project is allocated for student training.

"Training the next generation of great researchers is one of the most important activities we can engage in as a university," says David Malloy, vicepresident (Research) at the University of Regina. "Recognizing this, one of our strategic plan's research impact objectives is to strengthen the supports and resources necessary for students and researchers to work together to produce the high-impact research outcomes that expand the boundaries of knowledge.

"The University of Regina has put a lot of effort into attracting high-calibre graduate students to our institution, and we are proud that so many brilliant students have chosen to pursue their academic and research careers here. Students are attracted by the world-class researchers, like Dr. Yost, that we have on our faculty, as well as by opportunities for international and interdisciplinary collaboration, which is one of our strengths as an institution."

"Dr. Yost has been an inspiration to my career as a scientist, as it was his food microbiology course that first piqued my interest in microbiology," says Kara Neudorf, an alumna of the University of Regina. "His passion for understanding how things work is contagious, and his lab is constantly updating approaches to use exciting new technologies." Neudorf recently completed her PhD specializing in microbiology at the University of Regina and has been accepted as a post-doctoral researcher at Dalhousie

University where she will continue her research in Yost's project.

"My post-doctoral at Dalhousie University will focus on antibiotic resistance reservoirs in the water, with a particular focus on wastewater treatment plants," explains Neudorf. "My role specifically will be sampling, processing and analyzing water samples in Nova Scotia, as well as remote Nunavut communities."

Through research such as Yost's, the University of Regina is responding to the needs of its local, national and global communities.

"Chris Yost really stands out to me as someone who is able to balance reason and passion," says Fraser. "It's one thing to do great research, but the real passion piece is how that research will impact the community."

In its 2015-2020 strategic plan, peyak aski kikawinaw, the University of Regina continues to build on its commitment to developing high-impact research that is beneficial to its communities.

"The University of Regina is deeply committed to advancing research, particularly in high-impact areas," says Malloy. "In our recently launched strategic plan, we've identified five strategic research clusters, which were chosen based on the high-calibre researchers working in those areas, the impact of their contributions both to further research and to society, and their distinctiveness. Dr. Yost's work is central to one of these clusters - Water, Environment and Clean Energy – and through his research, we are building a global centre of excellence in the study of microbes and food safety right here in Regina."

"The University of Regina is such a great part of our community and it's exciting to see research being done that

will have such an important and local impact," adds Fraser, who is also an alumnus of the University.

Strong partnerships with other universities and all levels of government make Yost's nation-wide research project possible. "The problem of antibiotic resistance in Canada is multi-dimensional," explains Yost. Researchers from multiple disciplines including microbiology, chemistry and environmental engineering will participate in the project.

On a provincial level, agencies such as the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory, the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture are helping to support Yost's research project. National organizations such as NSERC, Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the Canada Research Chair program are providing the funding necessary to enhance research capacity through the development of state-of-the-art laboratories and training required for the next generation of scientists.

The message is clear from global organizations and governments worldwide: if we don't start reversing the trend toward antibiotic resistance then the world could go back to an age where people are dying from common infections. "Bacteria are masters at genetic exchange," stresses Yost. "They are the first evolved and will be the last extinct." Perhaps Yost and his research team can identify one more tool to prevent and combat the spread of antibiotic resistance.

Elsa Johnston is a Regina freelance writer and communications strategist. She is currently employed as a homemaker and enjoys delving into the many mysteries of science.



University of Regina researchers who are involved in one way or another with water. (Standing, left to right) Britt Hall, Chris Somers, Björn Wissel, Stephanie Young. (Sitting) Kerri Findlay.

Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.

Testing the waters

It covers about 70 per cent of the globe and is essential for the survival of all life on the planet. On the molecular level it contains one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms. Wars have been waged over it and it's becoming an increasingly strategic global resource. It is water. In addition to Chris Yost, University of Regina researchers from across the campus are involved in a variety of H2O research enterprises. Here are five who are making a splash.

> When coal is burned to produce electricity, mercury is emitted into the atmosphere. It then settles into lakes and wetlands where it is transformed into methylmercury, the most neurotoxic form of the metal. Britt Hall's research investigates how methylmercury accumulates in fish and other aquatic species. This summer, Hall and her research team will be sampling four Qu'Appelle River system lakes to determine methylmercury concentrations and look for environmental factors that regulate production of the toxin.

> Another summer project will see her determine the extent of micro-plastics in the Qu'Appelle River system. Micro-plastics are the small plastic particles or beads that are present in many personal care products, such as toothpaste and facial scrubs. They find their way into aquatic systems through the wastewater treatment process. Fish mistake the particles for food and ingest them, which can result in pseudosatiation or intestinal blockage. A later study will address the impacts of micro-plastics.

> **Christopher Somers** studies conflict between humans and animals. His research concentrates on how human activities change the environment and how animals respond to such changes. In the world of water, Somers studies the ecology, behaviour and genetics of fish, turtles and aquatic birds. Some of his current research projects include understanding how industrial effluent affects the diet, habitat use and genetic diversity of commercially harvested fish. He also studies the behaviour of sport fish following catch-and-release angling. In collaboration with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, he is investigating the life cycle of turtles in Saskatchewan – their natural northern range limit, and how species have dealt with extensive human changes to watersheds. Ultimately, Somers' research aims to provide a clear scientific perspective on conflicts between humans and animals so that we can manage those situations in an informed manner.

Because of its semi-arid climate and the flat relief of southern Saskatchewan, many lakes are isolated, with no major inflows or outflows. Those conditions can often result in elevated concentrations of dissolved substances such as salts and nutrients. Both salinity and nutrient concentrations may further increase during periods of drought or as the result of agricultural run-off. Both scenarios can negatively impact water quality and fish habitat. Björn Wissel's research evaluates the impact of land use and climate on water quality and food web composition in prairie lakes. Wissel aims to predict future changes to the systems under circumstances of intensified land use and climate change and seeks to develop management strategies that can help alleviate such negative impacts on water quality, fisheries and ecological integrity.

He also studies the impacts of emissions from industry at the Athabasca oil sands on downwind lakes located in the Canadian Shield. Studying communities of small crustaceans in about 250 lakes, Wissel has identified acid stress in areas near the Alberta border. By analyzing sediment cores from 16 lakes that will reveal biological and chemical proxies dating back 120 years, he means to determine the impacts of industrial emissions and climate.

Increased global water scarcity, limited wastewater treatment capacity, and more stringent water reuse regulations have motivated the development of the greywater reclamation system. Typically, 50 to 80 per cent of household wastewater is greywater from dishwashers, bathroom sinks, tubs and showers. **Stephanie Young** has developed and managed a comprehensive greywater research program at the University of Regina since 2002. Her research interests include the development of cost-effective greywater reclamation technologies to be used in office buildings, small communities, restaurants and the oil refinery industry. Her greywater reclamation research is focused on using hybrid membrane bioreactors and dissolved air flotation systems. She has recently generated two international patents for two distinct technologies related to the treatment of greywater. Young's research received the 2010 Award of Innovation, which recognizes original research that has the potential to create substantive societal benefits. Young has identified two potential beta test sites in Regina: the Prairie Spruce Commons Cohousing project and the Co-op Refinery Complex.

Kerri Findlay's research focuses on water quality and the nutrient cycles in prairie lakes. In particular, she is interested in the role of prairie lakes in carbon processing and is looking for the drivers behind the patterns of carbon sequestration in prairie lakes. She led a ground-breaking study that shows that decades of global warming have changed the chemistry of Canadian prairie lakes, allowing them to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The study was published in the online edition of the prestigious British journal, Nature. The study also shows the increase in carbon capture offsets about one-third of carbon dioxide emissions from agricultural activities on the Prairies.

She is also interested in evaluating potential nutrient sources in lakes to determine best mitigation practices for improving water quality.

In collaboration with Britt Hall and researchers at other Canadian universities, Findlay is developing a field course to be offered at the world's foremost freshwater research institute, the IISD-Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario. The course will be offered to senior undergraduate students who are interested in aquatic ecology, water quality and environmental sustainability.

Levene GSB celebrates anniversary



Kenneth Levene was the third generation owner of Crescent Furniture, which was founded in Regina by his grandfather in 1929. The store operated several successful locations across Saskatchewan before the company was sold in 1984. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University and an MBA from the Harvard School of Business. Levene is a member of the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business advisory board.

anniversary of a \$4 million philanthropist and former time the largest donation from an individual to the University, was used to develop, advance and promote the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of **Business (Levene GSB).**

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

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department

n his May 12, 2005, donation announcement, Levene dedicated the gift to his late parents, David and Margery, as well as to the city and province "for affording our family the chance to pursue our dreams in a land of freedom and opportunity." Levene said that it was his "fervent wish that this graduate school of business and its quest for excellence serve as a catalyst in creating an exciting new climate for the economic growth of this province."

Today, Levene is proud of all the University has achieved with his gift in the past decade. "They're doing a very good job. I'm quite pleased with the way the school has been progressing under the direction of Dean [Andrew] Gaudes," he says.

In 2005, the Levene GSB offered three graduate management programs. Today, it provides students with a diverse suite of programs, including the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) and the Levene Master of Business Administration (Levene MBA) with specializations in international business, engineering management and public safety management, as well as the Master of Administration in Leadership, Master of Human Resource Management and master's certificates. The school also offers the Directors Education Program in partnership with the Rotman School of Management in Toronto, the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan, which is geared at those interested in non-profit and for-profit board governance.

Dean Gaudes says the diversity of programs within the Levene GSB appeals to students from all walks of life. "There's no standard of work/life balance anymore. Some people will take a full course load and want to get quickly to the other end, while others with personal, family or work demands can only take a course or two at a time and will finish the degree in several years."

The Levene MBA was created in 2013 to simplify MBA offerings outside of the EMBA program. If students do not have an undergraduate degree in business, they can take graduate courses to level up. There is also an international requirement for the Levene MBA, the cost of which is built into tuition fees, enabling students to travel to places such as Estonia, Finland, Brazil and Asia.

The EMBA differs from the MBA in that it is more intense. It takes place on the weekends and in compressed formats, and is structured for individuals who already have extensive management experience in the workplace.





Left: Dean of the Levene Graduate School of Business Andrew Gaudes. Right: Levene GSB EMBA student Jacques DeCorby.

Jacques DeCorby, executive vice-president of marketing and communications at Conexus Credit Union, has been an EMBA student since August 2014, and will finish the program in March 2016. He did a lot of research before deciding to pursue his degree at Levene GSB, considering schools both in and outside of the province. "It is a big decision, and I did some pretty detailed analysis. One thing that made a difference was the ability to have a local cohort group that I could get to know very well," he says. Unlike other schools, which have up to 100 students in the yearly cohort, the Levene GSB averages around 20 students. "I know many people who have been through the program, and one of them said, 'I felt like I owned it.' It's a smaller group and you get to know the instructors really well."

DeCorby believes the EMBA will complement his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan and his 20 plus years of work experience to help him become more well-rounded in all aspects of business. "It's going to allow me to continue to contribute at a senior executive level. If I decide to pursue the next level, this degree is a must-have for me to be able to move in that direction," he savs.

Gaudes says that it's hard to imagine the graduate school existing in the same way without Levene's gift 10 years ago. "It created a huge momentum to how we could think and dream about the school. It changed the tone and ability to envision what the school can be in a way that wasn't possible before," he says.

The school has been able to upgrade its facilities to an international standard, including the addition of an MBA student lounge and a Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)

on-site testing centre. Future plans include further development of MBA offerings, other specializations and broadening international offerings for students. The school is also pursuing three international accreditations to increase its profile and status on the world stage. "We have so much more we plan to do and there are so many opportunities given the resources handed to us by Kenneth Levene. We look forward to continuing in our growth and facilitating student success as well as research through our faculty," Gaudes says.

In addition to his generous donation, Levene gives his time by serving as a permanent member of the Levene GSB Advisory Board, which actively seeks feedback and advice from the business community. Gaudes says, "It's been a pleasure to work with him and to be able to say thanks for the vision and support that he's given the school. He's been a tremendous facilitator for our programs and for moving toward the realization of our vision."

Levene has enjoyed being active in the school over the past decade and watching the impact his gift has had. "What I like about giving to the University is that it's a living and evolving entity. I'm involved in what is happening at the University and also have input. It's constantly growing, and it's stimulating and fulfilling in that regard," he says.

Most fulfilling is when he meets students and alumni from the school. Levene says, "They tell me how valuable achieving their goal has been to them. That I have, in some small way, enhanced that is very rewarding to me."

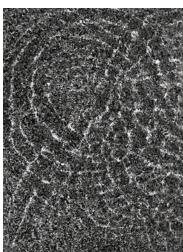
Sabrina Cataldo is an award-winning writer who lives in Regina and volunteers with animal rescue and arts organizations.

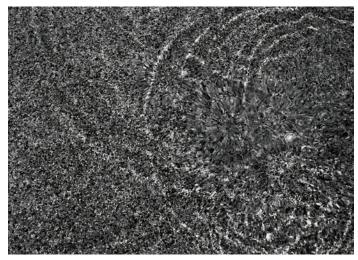


In October 2013, nine Saskatchewan photographers opened a show at the TAE Gallery in Regina. The show, Intimate Details, presented abstract, evocative, natural imagery seen through a feminine lens. Later, the same show was exhibited at the Shurniak Gallery - the gallery of University of Regina honorary degree recipient Bill Shurniak - in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. A second show came together involving six of the original nine women; it explored the same themes, this time in textures. Four of those women are University of Regina alumnae: Jayne Thompson, Stefanie Young, Christy Ganshorn and Wendy Richards. Get to know their work in the pages that follow.











Jayne Thompson CAdmin'89

"Photographing a beautiful scene and capturing the essence of the moment is my way of combining the past with the present and preserving fleeting moments to be treasured in the future."







Stefanie Young BA'03

"A quote by designer Karl Lagerfeld, who said, 'What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce' has inspired me to photograph those fleeting impossible to reproduce' has inspired me to photograph those fleeting instants that never seem to last as long as we want. What can I say? I am a sentimentalist at heart. I want to capture those special moments and evoke emotion from those who view my work. I enjoy fine art photography and portrait photography that illustrates the special relationships that people share. When I'm not taking pictures, I enjoy spending time with my three beautiful children. Their imagination and exploration of the world inspires me and my photography every day."







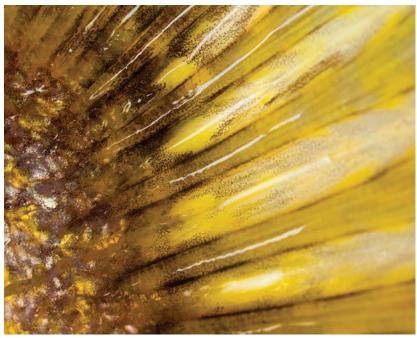


Focal Point









Christy Ganshorn BA(Hons)'95

"I believe every ordinary day arrives with the promise of something extraordinary just waiting to be revealed. Each time I look through the lens of my camera, I am amazed at the magnificent details I discover. It is through the art of photography I am able share these beautiful details with you."



Wendy Richards DBA'13

"There is so much beauty around us, at least that is what I believe. I can see a uniqueness, a beauty in all things and I think that is what brought me into photography in the first place. It isn't just about capturing the moment. It's about seeing that isn't just about capturing the moment. It's about seeing that moment from a different point of view. I love to photograph nature in its ever changing glory. The seasons, the landscapes, the sky, and the sheer power of Mother Nature fascinate me. Macro photography is what this exhibition was about, and although it is not my favourite type of photography, it was a challenge, an opportunity to explore the intimate details of everyday objects and to find the beauty in the textures that surround us."

















Northern star

In 2010, Miali Coley BEd'13 left her home in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and travelled some 2,500 kilometres to finish an education degree at the University of Regina. While it wasn't always easy to be away from her friends, family and her beloved North, she persevered. Now, the alumna is back in her hometown and more committed than ever to teaching and inspiring a new generation of Nunavummiut.

Story and photos by Anubha Momin

Additional photos courtesy of Miali Coley



t's a bright spring day in Iqaluit, Nunavut – slightly overcast, the temperature just below freezing. a fresh blanket of snow on the hill beside Joamie Ilinniarvik School where Miali-Elise Coley's Grade 4 students are getting ready for gym class. The children won't need sneakers and shorts for class today, though; instead, they're suited and booted for an afternoon on the tundra. Armed with garbage bags and an untanned seal skin, the group heads to the top of the hill for a sliding party. Never one for conventional lessons, Coley favours experiential learning rooted in qaujimanituqangit or Inuit traditional knowledge. She even hops on the seal skin for a slide down the hill.

"My upbringing was not always easy, but I have many wonderful memories," says Coley. "The harsh climate and difficulty faced by Inuit are a testament to the hardship that one had to endure to survive. It was wonderful to take trips away from Igaluit and spend time on the land with my family. I loved waking up in a tent, with the sound of my mom preparing a breakfast of mainly tea and bannock, and getting up to join in the chitchat and plans for the day. Depending on the season, those included egg picking, berry picking, clam digging and ice fishing."

Though she's a graduate of the University of Regina's education program, Coley's journey to becoming a teacher began with the Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP), a partnership between the University of Regina and Nunavut Arctic College (NAC). Since 2007, the two institutions have been working together to prepare students to become primary and elementary teachers in the territory. Most students complete their four years at the NAC Iqaluit campus, but, because it's not a degree-granting institution, graduates earn a University of Regina Bachelor of Education degree.



Coley's mother Elisapi Davidee-Aningmiuq and her Jamaican-born father Audley Coley.

Under the terms of the agreement, the University of Regina provides a range of services, including visiting instructors, professional development opportunities for students and learning experiences through exchanges.

The program is designed to put more Inuit teachers in the classroom and more Inuit content in the curriculum. The courses include a variety of locallyrelevant topics, including core courses in Inuktitut, the Inuit language spoken in the central and eastern Canadian Arctic.

Born to a Jamaican father and an Inuk mother and raised among her Inuit family in Iqaluit, Coley reflects, "Starting the program in Iqaluit gave me a sense of being culturally connected to the community."

Despite her satisfaction with the cultural and traditional aspects of the program at NAC, Coley felt an urge to gain a different perspective. In 2010, after completing one year of NTEP in Iqaluit, she took a leap of faith and left her hometown for Regina. Transferring to the University was, at the time, unprecedented for a NAC student. But

Coley was convinced this challenging opportunity would make her a better teacher.

It would seem that for Coley a teaching career was preordained. She was named after her maternal grandmother, a Sunday school teacher. Though she never met her, Coley has always felt connected to her grandmother. The connection to a namesake, or atikulu, is of particular significance in Inuit culture. It is believed that a child will inherit elements of his or her namesake's character or skills, symbolized by the use of kinship terms that reflect the relationship between child and namesake. "My mother calls me anaana (mother), because I'm named after her mother," says Coley. "When I was growing up, I would call my mom panik, which means daughter."

Kinship continued to be an influential part of Coley's development in her formative years. Her father, who had moved to Igaluit in the seventies to work as a cook, left to pursue his own education while Coley was still young. Coley's primary caregiver was her mother, Elisapi Davidee-Aningmiuq, but she was also surrounded by a host of other adults, relatives and others, who played a strong role in her upbringing. On the extended family of her childhood, Coley muses, "It gave me the understanding of how a child can be raised by a community."

Within the community were, of course, teachers. "I saw teachers not just in the school, but also in their homes," she says, recalling friends' parents who were educators. "I think one of the reasons I wanted to be a teacher is because a lot of the people who I felt most inspired by were teachers."

Coley tested the teaching waters early. In 1997, eager to interact with and tutor youth in Iqaluit, she started a program called Sprouts, a free summer day-camp for children aged five to 12. She secured funding and donations to cover the cost

Opposite page top: University of Regina education graduate Miali Coley in her Grade 4 classroom in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Opposite page bottom: Coley and her students enjoy a break from studies at Joamie Ilinniarvik School.





Left: Coley enjoying the prairie landscape west of Regina at the Nicolle Homestead hiking area. Right: Coley and her mother spending some time together.

of sports equipment and lunches, but didn't have enough for a permanent camp location. "We did a lot of things outside," she laughs. Eighteen years later, Sprouts still exists. Now it's a federally-funded summer camp with access to both indoor and outdoor spaces, a feat that is not lost on its founder. "I just felt a sense of gratification," she says, "out of doing something that had not been done." It is that kind of tenacity that drove her to make the decision to move to the University of Regina – another example of Coley doing something that had not been done before.

Nunavut is home to 85 per cent of Canadian Inuit, and 85 per cent of the people in Nunavut are Inuit. Home to 25 remote, fly-in only communities, the cultural milieu of the territory is strongly influenced by Inuit beliefs, traditions and customs. Even the

regional names convey a sense of place — Nunavut, meaning "our land," or Iqaluit, meaning "place of many fish" — that is rooted in the local Indigenous history. Anyone who has spent time in Nunavut can attest to the unique and absorbing way of life there. It is all the more poignant when the lifestyle and location have been a part of your personal and family history for generations, as is the case for Inuit youth like Coley.

Having discussed the option with her family and professors at NAC, Coley felt prepared for the academic challenge of attending the University of Regina – in fact, it was the challenge that drew her in the first place. What she was not expecting, however, was the mental toll of adjusting to a new place, especially one where she was an anomaly.

Coley ultimately did find a sense of community and understanding in

Regina, if not at first with her fellow students, then with the faculty, beginning with the person behind the NAC-University of Regina connection, retired professor Michael Tymchuk. When he hired her as a research assistant, it marked a turning point in her time in Regina. From her perspective, Tymchuk was vital in how she was able to really feel connected to the institution.

Through Tymchuk, Coley was introduced to other staff and faculty members, including Julie Machnaik, the University of Regina's faculty liaison for NTEP and a frequent visiting professor to NAC. On their initial association, Machnaik states, "She was trying to find her way in Regina, and I was trying to find my way in the North." What started out as Machnaik acting as a mentor to Coley quickly developed into





Left: Coley, flanked by her mother and father, and friends celebrate her 2013 convocation. Right: Julie Machnaik, the University of Regina faculty liaison for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.



Coley enjoys taking trips away from Iqaluit to spend time on the land with her family. Depending on the season, outdoor activities include egg and berry picking, clam digging and ice fishing. Here, Coley gathers duck eggs.

a reciprocal relationship. Both women shared stories and Machnaik was able to "understand a sense of Coley's place and her land."

Those who have lived in or travelled to the Canadian Arctic will testify to the impact of the landscape – of being surrounded by the expansive tundra and endless skies. For Inuit, the land is an integral part of being, its significance summed up in the principle of Avatittinnik Kamatsiarnig: respect and care for the land, animals and the environment. It's one of eight concepts that make up the Inuit societal values.

Nunavut is the only place in Canada where the dominant language is neither English nor French. Nearly 70 per cent of Nunavummiut speak Inuktitut – impressive numbers considering many older Inuit, like Coley's mother, were subjected to the residential school system. "I got scolded and slapped on the hands for speaking

my own language in school," Davidee-Aningmiug recalls, an experience she describes as "having your culture washed out of you." But Davidee-Aningmiuq has persevered, fuelled by "a drive to continue with the culture, continue with the language."

Fast forward a generation, and Davidee-Aningmiug's daughter is leading Joamie School's Grade 4 English acquisition class. Her students are all Inuktitut speakers who have only received education in their mother tongue. Coley, who is fluent in both Inuktitut and English, transitions between both languages, slowly moving to more and more English as the year progresses and her students grow more comfortable.

The source of Coley's bilingualism is her mother. Not only did Davidee-Aningmiuq choose to speak only Inuktitut with her children during their formative years, but, as a journalist and

broadcaster, she was also at the centre of the language revitalization movement that pre-dates Nunavut's creation in 1999. As an English-as-a-secondlanguage speaker herself, Coley can empathize with the struggle to adopt a new tongue that is so acutely different from your own.

"I teach my students in the dialect that I was raised with in my own home," Coley says. "My mother did not allow me to speak English in our house until I was about 10 years old. I appreciate her personal investment and interest to make sure I knew my language. Many of my students speak a variety of different Baffin Island dialects and all are important. I thoroughly believe that speaking Inuktitut must be a priority at home for my students. It gives them the foundation to learn other dialects and speak a new language like English. Inuktitut will always be an important part of my life. I love when individuals





Left: Coley and the pair of sealskin kamiik (Inuit boots) that she made by hand. Right: Coley enjoys a snack of seal meat on a family boating trip.

pride themselves in knowing their language – it adds so much pride and sense of identity. It does for me anyway."

Fostering local leadership is another one of the major benefits of NTEP. By combining the best of southern education and northern knowledge, the program is uniquely equipped to address the needs of its students and the communities they come from. Machnaik describes the program as having "a different way of knowing, being and thinking," a feature that is very much inspired by the feedback and consultation of graduates like Coley.

"The important things that add meaning to my life are instilled mainly in my faith and feeling a sense of belonging," says Coley. "My family and the community which I love add the most meaning, because it is important for me to know that I am adding value to those around me. I feel that meaning is very personal, but I am thankful that I feel that I have found something that truly connects me to something more than myself."

The program not only helps aspiring teachers from the North but it ensures that young Nunavummiut receive an education that celebrates their distinct place and enlightens them to the ways of their ancestors.

"We all have different gifts; my gifts include encouraging others and recognizing the needs of individuals," says Coley. "Using my gifts in teaching definitely feels like a calling. I feel fortunate to use my gifts in a classroom of amazing young Inuit who are so unique and have their own individual dreams; my work includes the desire to see them grow yet staying true to myself."

As long as Miali Coley is in the classroom she will speak to her students in Inuktitut – the language of their land. She will tell them about the rich cultural heritage and the history of the Inuit. She will talk to them about the importance of the seal hunt and how it provided food and clothing as far back

as the people can remember. And now and then, she'll show them things like how their forebears would slide down a hill on an untanned seal skin to clean it before tanning.

Anubha Momin chronicles life in a remote Arctic town on her popular blog, Finding True North (findingtruenorth.ca), and as a contributor to Wanderful Travel Network. Momin's words have also appeared in Vice, Briarpatch, National Post, Canadian Geographic, Up Here Magazine and various other publications.



Coley and her former student, Aniita Qappik, dressed in their *amauti*, a traditional Inuit woman's garment with a hood that holds a baby. Coley also wears a *qaurutik*, an Inuit headband.

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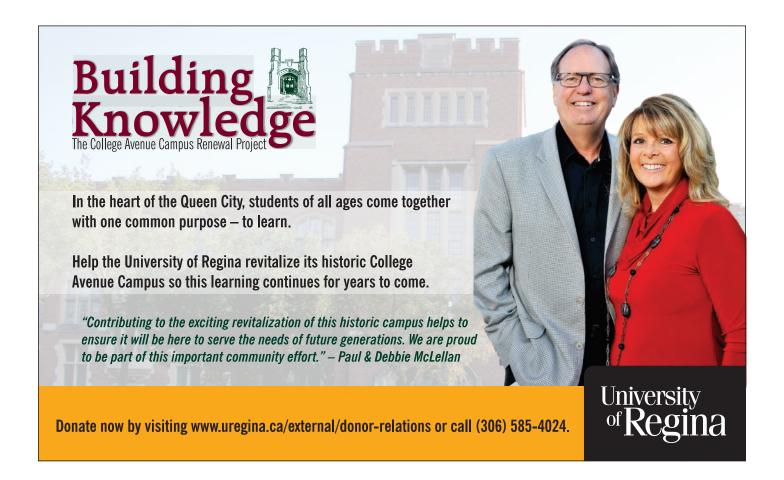




Photo by Gabriel Yahyahkeekoot

The art of the matter

A University of Regina research project is taking art-based workshops on the road and researchers are discovering amazing examples of creativity and courage among Aboriginal youth. The Acting Out project is building confidence and self-esteem - and it's even saving lives.

By Judy Bird BA'93, BJ'97

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.

or the past 10 years, researchers with the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC) at the University of Regina have been running a project that uses the arts to impact the well-being and save the lives of First Nations youth.

Acting Out – But in a Good Way brings arts-based practices to Indigenous youth attending schools in the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC), the community partner for the project. Researchers and assistants conduct workshops using theatre games, visual arts, music, creative writing and other art forms to promote leadership, holistic health, wellness and suicide prevention with Indigenous youth.

The project's roots go back to using theatre to promote anti-bullying and anti-racism in the Regina public school system. Those workshops were facilitated by former professor Warren Linds (now at Concordia University) and First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) professor Linda Goulet MEd'85, PhD'05 among others.

"Kids would tell stories of their experiences with racism by creating images of what happened to them. This work was very successful in helping the kids recognize and deal with racism in a more positive way that didn't escalate the situation so it endangered them in some way," says Goulet. "We also noticed how youth came out of those retreats just on a high. They just felt so good about themselves and the connections they made with other students," she adds.

Goulet and Linds learned of an opportunity for research funding and collaborated with Jo-Ann Episkenew BA'91, BAHC'92, MA'94, a faculty member at FNUniv and the director of IPHRC since 2010. A community partner was found with FHQTC through Karen Schmidt, who worked for the tribal council at the time.

The researchers conducted two to three day workshops at First Nation schools on Carry the Kettle, Little Black Bear, Muscowpetung, Nekaneet, Okanese, Pasqua, Peepeekisis, Piapot, Standing Buffalo, Star Blanket and Wood Mountain First Nations. Initially the project was to develop Aboriginal youth leaders through theatre games.

"We used the arts as a means of data collection but we also discovered that participation improved youth well-being," says Episkenew. "We had kids with big teary eyes saying, 'This is the best week of my life,' parents saying, 'What have you done to my son? He's talking in class now; he was always too shy and withdrawn', and teachers seeing a difference in behaviour."

"We had to look at what was there in the arts that supported that sense of well-being. These games were about theatre but they were also about trust-building and collaboration; some were for focusing, some were energizers. Indigenous research is relational. The whole foundation is building relationships, and Indigenous cultures are about making relatives," Episkenew says.

Once, a puppeteer from England joined the workshop and suggested that the team utilize the collective skills in the room to offer the students a variety of activities. They made puppets, did theatre, created a play, created visual art collages, did creative writing, and wrote a song and performed it. "They were over the moon," says Episkenew. "Everyone had a place and a form to tell their story that just resonated with them, and we went 'Aha!'"

The exercise brought more information than what could have been obtained through interviews. "When we sit and interview youth, we get a bit. When they express themselves and their story through art, we get a lot. There's a sense of pride in their creation and stretching their limits, but that objective art is a mediator that gives them something to talk about," adds Episkenew.

Erin Goodpipe was a Grade 9 student attending Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation School when she took part in a week of workshops. "It was fantastic," she says. "It tends to break down a lot of barriers that you don't actually realize are there."

Goodpipe excelled at academics, and her fellow students looked to her to lead them in the theatre games. One game, Follow the Leader, surprised her. "I was put on the spot and I couldn't do it. I realized that leadership isn't exactly what I thought it was. Ever since then, my whole perception of facilitation and being a leader has changed because of that one exercise."

Now a student at the University of Regina in the Faculty of Arts and a member of the IPHRC research team, Goodpipe recognizes how the experience from the theatre games continues to affect her. "The workshops impacted my choices for areas of study and deeply affected me."

The project hasn't been without its challenges and changes. Funds were scarce, and Episkenew, Goulet and Linds were conducting the workshops on top of their regular duties. In 2009, they were awarded an operating grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to study healthy decision-



Opposite page: Researchers and youth gather at last summer's arts-based tipi camp. Above: At the time of this 2010 photo, Jo-Ann Episkenew (right) had recently been named director of the Indigenous People's Health Research Centre. She is shown here with First Nations University of Canada faculty member Linda Goulet.

making. In 2013, they were awarded a second CIHR operating grant to focus the project on suicide prevention. Additional grants allowed them to hire more research staff and secure funding for the project through 2017. The stability has led to the art activities being expanded with the focus now on wellness and suicide prevention.

Leaders in FHQTC supported the program but were concerned about the academic impact of taking students out of class to attend the workshops. Research associate David Benjoe BA'04, BEAD'06 spent one summer reviewing curricula to relate Acting Out workshops to school studies. "I related it to what the chiefs and leaders needed to see. I think the biggest sell was on math and sciences," says Benjoe, who is also a visual arts and native studies teacher.

"Some people don't relate the math to the arts, but for me it's automatic. When I think of gradation of colour, different uses of things, the way physics works with colour pigment and objects reflecting light. This is something people don't take into consideration, and I think it has a First Nations value too. It's a holistic thought; it's just within us," explains Benjoe.

"We do research to offer youth a different view of the world. Arts can be leading into the connection to what First Nations youth find valuable," he says.

A fundamental concept of the project is to let the students guide the researchers in the activities. Community research associate Dustin Brass BEAD'08 and research assistant Ben Ironstand can see the benefits of this approach in the weekly cultural arts workshops they conduct on Carry the Kettle First Nation with students in grades 10 through 12.

"They're excited to have us out there and are receptive to our ideas. They want to learn and listen alongside us and they've been very open to sharing and just being themselves," says Brass.

"We are showing them different mediums of expression, talking to them and teaching them to convey story through those art pieces. Through those art pieces and through story, we find that we are looking at how we can reduce the risk of suicide by promoting that well-being," he adds.

The project activities are also impacting the researchers beyond seeing the benefits it has for the students.

"The first word that comes to mind is direction. It helped me realize how big the world is and it made me see a part of it that I never knew existed and where I'd like to go," says Ironstand, who is also a University of Regina student in the Arts Education program.

"One thing I say about working with youth is the ripple effect of where it ends and where it reverberates out to. Yes, these are the ones in front of us, but what about the other people attached to that person, and how does that learning and knowledge and sharing translate over to the people in their life?" says Brass.

From a community perspective, both the partnership between FHQTC and IPHRC and the project itself are building strength.

"It's been a great partnership through the years. It's been a really positive experience every time," says Karen Schmidt. Though she retired last fall, she remains a community liaison with the project.

With individual and community impacts as proof positive, the research project has the potential to effect change on a larger scale.

"We want to start showing that the arts are not just fluff. They're the last thing funded, the first thing let go. If we can find evidence to show that they actually have a benefit, then I think we can make a pretty good recommendation to policy makers about this. Arts programming isn't expensive and it's effective," says Episkenew.



Acting Out is a research project that offers workshops that use theatre and other arts-based practices to Indigenous youth in the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council area. The workshops use theatre games to examine the choices that affect health and wellness. The games provide youth with an opportunity to practice leadership and to test different behaviours and develop self-esteem.

"Education for Aboriginal people should not just focus on skills and training. Residential schools were about skills and training with a goal of creating an underclass of farm labourers and domestic servants. Now it's oil sands workers. What kind of society will we have if we don't have artists? The residential school system really did suppress the imagination. We need a community with a vibrant imagination if we want to address all of these historical issues that are still affecting people," she

Find out more about the project by visiting: actingout.iphrc.ca

Judy Bird is a naturally curious freelance writer in Regina with degrees in arts and journalism from the University of Regina. Her combined love for writing and learning have enabled her to share stories and build bridges of understanding, particularly with topics about First Nations and Métis health and culture.







to by Jeanelle Mandes

Left: Research associate Erin Goodpipe. Centre: David Benjoe, IPHRC research associate. Right: Dustin Brass, research associate.

University of Regina social work student Brittany Hudak has proved to be a quick study. In her first International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Cup ski race in December 2013, the crosscountry skier finished as the top Canadian and qualified for the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games. You could say it's all been downhill from there.

This past winter she won the overall title at the IPC cross-country ski World Cup finals in Surnadal, Norway, where she also finished second overall in the biathlon competition in her first year on the national biathlon team. She followed that up with three para-nordic golds at this year's Canada Winter Games in Prince George, British Columbia. At those same Games, Hudak skied the second leg for Saskatchewan's able-bodied women's cross-country relay team, helping it to a seventh place finish. She was Team Saskatchewan's flag bearer at the closing ceremonies.



D You have only been cross-country skiing for a few years. Why do you think you've become so competitive so soon?

I think my early success was due to several reasons but mainly it was about consistency and quality training. I made a commitment to train six days a week and do my best in every training session. I saw every opportunity as a learning experience to grow and develop in the sport. Even if I had days where a race didn't go as planned, there was always something to be learned.

D What has been your favourite international competition destination?

New Zealand, because it is so beautiful.

D You also compete in biathlon. What appeals most to you about the sport?

I love the challenge of mastering both skiing and shooting. It's difficult to ski as hard as you can and then come to the range and relax and focus to hit targets while your heart rate is going wild. It makes for an interesting race because the result can change quickly if someone misses a shot.

What drew you to study social work?

I love working with people. Everyone has a unique story, which makes the opportunity of helping others so exciting. You get to know some amazing individuals by working directly with them and seeing their progression.

D You have been taking online classes. What's the best thing about taking classes online?

I love online classes because I can sit down and do my schoolwork when the time works for me. This makes it easier to balance the demands of training and

D What do you like to do when you aren't competing or studying?

I enjoy doing many outdoor activities, but my favourites are fishing, camping, and going to the lake. I also just hang out and catch up with friends and family when I can.

D What's the best thing about living in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan?

I live on an acreage just outside of Prince Albert so I find the quietness and space of the Prairies to be the best.

Mhat are your ultimate sporting goals?

To reach my full potential and become the best skier I can. That should translate into podium finishes. I really want to have a gold medal performance (maybe even a couple!) at the Paralympic Games because the competition doesn't get any higher.

Photo by Genelle Giblett.

Alumni Association President's Message

Looking back on the year, it was another fabulous 12 months for the University of Regina and the University of Regina Alumni Association. Last September, we hosted an amazing tailgate party for the Rams home opening game. The University of Regina's External Relations department put on an outstanding event. The event had the feeling of a Roughriders game day as we gathered on the practice field for the fun. I hope to see many of you when we do it again later this year at the Rams 2015 home opener on Friday, September 4.

Last October we hosted the University of Regina Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards, a night that celebrated five deserving recipients: Courtney Keith, Leonard Schein, Dr. Barry Pittendrigh, Sel Murray and Sean McEachern, a former Alumni Association president. Truly, we can all be proud of these fine alumni and their contributions to our communities. The 2015 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards dinner will be held on Thursday, October 1, at 10 Research Drive.

I have talked in this column before about our desire to build pride among our alumni. I believe we accomplished a lot of pride building at several events we hosted for Cougars basketball, Cougars

hockey and of course our always very popular Slam Dunk of an Evening. We're seeing increasing numbers of alumni at our events and we're establishing new partnerships with already strong alumni groups, like the Cougars hockey alumni. If you're looking for a great night out with the family, a special someone or with friends, try a Cougars hockey game. They play their home games at the Co-operators Centre and the fan support is inspiring to see. Keep it up Cougars hockey alumni!

The Alumni Association was proud to sponsor several worthy projects this past year. We were a proud partner of Science Rendezvous, one of the great events held at the University of Regina. We also sponsored a group of geology students who made a trip to Iceland, as well as a dune buggy racing team from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Of course, we got behind our beloved Cougars and Rams and really supported Welcome Week.

We try to support events and organizations that promote and build pride in our alumni. If you have an event that's going to build pride in the University of Regina and its alumni, please consider submitting an application for sponsorship. You can do that by contacting us at uralumni@uregina.ca.

Please consider attending the Alumni Association Annual General Meeting coming up on June 17 at the Centre for Continuing Education on College Avenue. Please preregister for the event on the Alumni Relations website.

Your Alumni Association board of directors will be spending a lot of time over the summer planning for the coming year. If you want to get involved as a volunteer at an event or on the board of directors, don't hesitate to contact us. We're always interested in adding to the team of alumni who want to grow the pride in our alma mater.

The June 20 Annual General Meeting will be my last as president. Brian Hillier, your first vice-president, will be taking over the role at that time. I want to say that it has been a great pleasure to serve the fantastic alumni of the University of Regina.

Jeph Maystruck BBA'08
President
University of Regina Alumni Association



Join us for the 2015 Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Refreshments at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Room CB 106, College Building,

College Avenue Campus

Reception and Last Mountain Distillery product tasting at 6:45 p.m.

Please pre-register on-line: www.uregina.ca/external/alumni-relations

2010present

Sheila Pelletier BA'14 was the winner of the 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Award for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Seleena Antonowitsch BEd'13

was offered a temporary teaching position at Albert Community School in 2013 and accepted a permanent contract the following year. It was always her goal to work in a community school and she was pleased to begin her teaching career at a school where the staff is so supportive. She loves her first years out of the University of Regina.

Haris Khan CLA'12 is a stand-up comedian and humanitarian who uses humour to raise funds for charity. Khan was named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 in 2015.

Cadmus Delorme CA'11, CCEd'11, DA12, CHTGEM'12, BAdmin'13 works as a recruiter at FNUC and has won numerous awards through sports and volunteering. He also dances powwow. Delorme was named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 in 2015.

Jose Ceppi BBA'10 is currently managing one of the sales/ customer services teams for a firm specializing in intellectual property protection around the globe.

2000-09

The Next Chapter Book Club facilitators won the Circle of Friends Award at the 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. The group includes alumnae Morgan Campbell BJ'08, Courtney Keith BA'04, Ashlee Longmoore BHJ'08 and Ella McIntyre BA'08.

Ashley Longmoore BHJ'08 is the recipient of the 2014 Red Cross Young Humanitarian Award for her dedication to programs that strive to promote a safe and inclusive community.

Tracy Hamon BA Hon'07, MA'10 received the Drs. Morris and Jacqui Shumiatcher Regina Book Award at the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Awards for her book, Red Curls.

Joell Fiddler BA'05 was inducted into the University of Regina Sports Hall of Fame. Fiddler played five seasons with the Cougars women's hockey team and was a Canada West First Team All-Star each year.

David Kirby BASc'04 is a water quality engineer for the Watershed Protection District in Ventura County, California. In September 2014, Kirby was awarded Project of the Year by the Ventura County chapters of the American Public Works Association and American Society of Civil Engineering for his design of a concrete storm water infiltration project.

Cherish Jean-Baptiste BAdmin'o3 FNUC is a business consultant with Crown Investment Corporation and president of the First Nations Métis Fund and First Nations **Business Development** Program. She was named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 in 2015.

Misty Wensel BEd'oo, a dance educator in Regina Catholic Schools and artistic director of FadaDance in Regina, was named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 in 2015.

Gregory G. Forrest BASc'oo, CSSE'oo has qualified as a Canadian patent agent. Forrest provides patent and technological expertise at McMillan LLP, which has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Hong Kong.

1990-99

Jerred Moore BA'99 has opened New Beginning Law in St. Paul, Alberta, with his wife, Renee, also a lawyer. They are enjoying their small town practice but add that they cover a fairly large area in northeastern Alberta. Moore reports that the judges and justices back in Newfoundland and Labrador used to joke about having "Moore and Moore lawyers."

Marjorie Brown BA Hon'97 was appointed partner at her law firm Victory Square Law Office LLP in 2008. She acted for the intervener British Columbia Nurses Union in the safe injection site case before the Supreme Court of Canada in 2011.

Jennifer Batchelar CSW'96, BSW'98 moved to Edson, Alberta from Vancouver Island in May 2014 and is working as a generalist in a child protection office. She is happy to be closer to family and is enjoying not having to take a ferry to get to a big city.

Dwight Newman BA'96 is a lawyer, scholar, researcher, writer and sought-after speaker. He is the Canadian Research Chair in Indigenous Rights in Constitutional and International Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Newman was recognized in CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 in 2015.

James Wahl BEd'95 was honoured as one of the top principals in Canada's Outstanding Principals Awards.

Peter Ogryzlo MSc'95 was recognized by the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia with its 2015 H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award for Excellence in Prospecting and Mineral Exploration.

Leah Lawrence BASc'94 is the new president and CEO of Sustainable Development Technology Canada. Lawrence's years of experience in sustainable technology development in the oil and gas and electricity industries has been recognized by both industry and government.

Darrin Martens BA'92, BFA'94 is the new curator of the Audain Art Museum in Whistler, British Columbia. The museum is slated to open this fall. Martens has served as director of the Nisga'a Museum in northern British Columbia and as director and curator of the Burnaby Art Gallery.

Susan Knoss BA'90, BSW'92 has worked as a probation officer in British Columbia for 22 years, with a focus on people who have mental health/ cognitive impairments and have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Io-Ann Episkenew BA'91. BAHC'92, MA'94 was the 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Award Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Doreen Lloyd CSW'91 won the 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Award for community leadership and enhancement.

Davis Wessel BSc'90 and Wilma Bell Wessel BA'65, BE'68, MEd'04 (along with University of Regina Education faculty member and Executive Lead: Indigenization Shauneen Pete) were recognized for their dedication and leadership in global and Indigenous education at the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) Global Citizens awards. The Wessels have trained teachers in Africa and Jamaica and have committed their lives to supporting many agencies involved in social justice, refugee support and human rights work.

1980-89

Eric Langager PGDEP'86 moved to Beijing in 2004, where he is a software trainer in the College of Software at Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is now teaching at the China Youth University of Political Sciences. He is interested in doing development work in Afghanistan to address the sad reality that an estimated two million children have no access to schools.

Beverly O'Shea BEd'82 married William O'Shea. The couple has four children, two grandchildren and another grandchild on the way. She continues to take classes at the Lifelong Learning Centre at the University of Regina.

1970-79

Former University of Regina director of Athletics Dick White BEd'77, CA'89 was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame as a builder for achievements in basketball. He was the longest serving Canadian Interuniversity Sport president in the organization's history.

Carol Shipley BSW'76 has published her first book, Love, Loss, and Longing: Stories of Adoption. She brings a unique perspective to the world of adoption as an adoptee, an adoptive mother and an adoption professional. Blending photos and adoption stories with current adoption studies and literature, her book highlights the benefits of open adoption, the right of adoptees to know their origins and the right of gay and lesbian people to adopt. Shipley worked for 25 years in the private adoption system and public child welfare agencies in Ontario as an adoption practitioner and birth parent counsellor.

Alan McIntyre QC BA'75 is contributing to laying the groundwork for changes to the justice system related to the

pre-trial settlement process in Ukraine. McIntyre is a partner at McKercher Law Firm in Regina.

After a career of working with governments (Saskatchewan and British Columbia) and various Aboriginal organizations, Fred Storey MA'72 retired in 2002. He has recently started a second career as a writer and is in the process of publishing his first novel.

For the past four years, Robert Shepard BA'72, PhD'94 has had the privilege of being the museum curator at the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He is in charge of a collection containing nearly 30,000 artifacts, several million documents and nearly a million photographs that chronicle the development of southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. His most recent project was the development of the exhibit "Medicine Hat's War, 1914-1918," which examines the impact of the First World War on the people of this region.

Eugene Seitz BSc'57 graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and a major in dairy science. Seitz is also an alumnus of Oregon State University where he earned a master's degree with a major in microbiology and minor in biochemistry. He also earned a PhD with a major in microbiology, a first minor in biochemistry and a second minor in food science and technology. Seitz also did a post doctorate in the biochemistry of crown gall disease in crop plants, working under Rolf Hochster at Canada Agriculture Research in Ottawa. After serving for almost four years as a research scientist in Ottawa. he joined International Flavors of New Jersey. His highest achievement in flavour science and technology was as director of Biological Flavor Technology. Seitz' retirement started in 2012 after almost 55 years in scientific endeavours.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni Annual General Meeting and Reception

All U of R alumni are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the University of Regina Alumni Association.

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015

College Avenue Campus, Room CB 106 Location:

5:00 p.m. Pre-meeting reception 5:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Product tasting with Last Mountain Distillery

Parking available in Lot 20.

Please **pre-register** for this free event at www.uregina.ca/ external/alumni-relations.

Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards Celebration

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards dinner will be held on Thursday, October 1, at The Terrace, 10 Research Drive in Regina. Registration for this event will open in early August. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at URalumni@ uregina.ca or 1-877-779-4723.

Toronto Rider Tailgate

The Greater Toronto Area alumni branch is hosting a tailgate party for alumni and friends. This may be the last time the Riders play the Argos in the Rogers Centre.

Date: Saturday, August 8

Details posted soon on www.uregina.ca/external/alumnirelations.

Ottawa Rider Tailgate

The National Capital Region alumni branch invites all alumni to the Roughriders vs REDBLACKS game and tailgate party.

Date: Sunday, August 30

Details posted soon on www.uregina.ca/external/alumni-

For more information on alumni events, visit: www.uregina.ca/ external/alumni-relations

University of Regina Alumni Branches

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

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

Greater Toronto Area (GTA): Leah Morrigan BFA'96 leah@transformyourself.ca

Saskatoon: Richard Kies BAdmin'93, CPR'03 -

richard.kies@redcross.ca

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

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

Regina: Karen Woolley BEd'78 - regina.alumni@uregina.ca Dan Danforth PGDC&I'94, CESED'92

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

Interested in steering the future of the **Alumni Association?**

Become a board member in 2015-16. Send your résumé by June 10 to uralumni@uregina.ca

Voting will take place at the **Annual General Meeting on** Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m., Room 106 College Building, College Avenue Campus.

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





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For more information please contact the Alumni Relations office at URalumni@uregina.ca.

Disclosure and acknowledgement of consent

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

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

Regina, SK, Canada S4S 0A2

and return by surface mail. I do <u>not</u> wish to receive the following:

☐ Alumni E-newsletter ☐ Affinity partner information ☐ Alumni Association information
☐ Any communications from the University of Regina Degrees Magazine ☐ Event notices

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Please Return to: University of Regina – External Relations By e-mail: alumni.relations@uregina.ca

3737 Wascana Pkwy, 210 North Residence By fax: +1 (306) 585-4997

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



Behind

On November 2, 2014, near the Euphrates River and the city of Fallujah, Canadian CF-188 Hornets conducted this country's first combat air strikes on ISIS targets in Iraq. The Canadian fighter jets are in the Middle East as part of Canada's commitment to help a multinational coalition destroy the radical militant Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. What is ISIS? How did it come to be? Who is behind it? And is the expected cost of \$406 million for Operation IMPACT over the next year worth Canada's involvement? Department of Politics and International Studies assistant professor Nilgün Önder sorts out the questions.

By Nilgün Önder

Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.

t causes great anguish for Muslims around the world to see their religion constantly associated with extremism and terrorism in the global media. The majority of Muslims also feel outraged by the violent acts committed by extremists in the name of Islam. As someone who grew up in a Muslim society but a secular state, Turkey, I find the kind of Islam that radical Islamist groups are propagating unrecognizable, no less alien to me than to any other Canadian.

Although it has now become a cliché to point out that extremist groups and their supporters constitute only a tiny minority of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims, it is still important to remind ourselves of this fact. However, it is also the case that this minority of extremists is currently setting the international agenda because of the

theatrical, gruesome violent acts they are committing, mostly in predominantly Muslim countries such as Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia and Nigeria, as well as the hatred they preach toward both non-Muslims and Muslims who do not share their doctrinaire and literal interpretations of Islam.

The so-called Muslim world is a very diverse world characterized by different historical experiences, a wide variety of cultures and local religious practices, and different political systems. Muslimpopulated territories stretch from Asia-Pacific in the East to the Balkans in the West. The four countries with the biggest Muslim populations are Indonesia (209 million), India (176 million), Pakistan (167 million) and Bangladesh (134

Nigeria, Egypt, Iran and Turkey are also home to more than 70 million

Muslims each. In India and Nigeria, Muslims are in the minority, although in Nigeria, Muslims make up 49 per cent of the total population. Of these eight countries, only Pakistan and Nigeria's politics and international security are significantly affected by extremist, violent Islamic groups.

It is also necessary to distinguish between Islam as a faith or religion and Islamist movements or organizations whose objectives are political, such as creating an Islamic political community or state on the basis of particular interpretations of Islam. Well-known extremist Islamist organizations such as Al Oaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram and al-Shabaab are united by their doctrinaire and puritanical interpretations of Islam and use of violence as a strategy to create the kind of Islamic community they desire. Their vision is a theocratic totalitarianism that allows no room for dissent, whether religious, political, or ideological, and seeks to organize every aspect of social life according to puritanical religious precepts.

To understand the rise of Islamist movements during the last three decades, it is important to understand the political and cultural consequences of the long historical decline of Muslim countries in military, economic and technological power vis-à-vis the West, and subsequent frequent imperialist interventions by the great powers of the West in the affairs of the Middle East. The ideology of Islamist movements is imbued with a hyper-sense of "humiliation" in relation to and in the hands of the West in both past and recent times; humiliation caused by western colonialism and imperialism, the international economic and political dominance of the West, the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, and similar grievances.

A great part of the 20th century was an era of nationalism that was blended to varying degrees with different political

ideologies and religious identities in different societies. Pro-independence or anti-colonial nationalisms of the 20th century spoke the language of oppressed peoples. The recent rise of Islamist movements in the Middle East and North Africa was partly as a result of the failure of secular nationalism and nationalist politico-economic projects to meet the economic and social needs and rising aspirations of younger generations in these societies.

The end of the Cold War at the start of the 1990s was a very important turning point. For more than four decades, the Cold War between the Soviet Unionled Warsaw Pact and the USA-led bloc of NATO members had ordered international relations in most regions of the world. The Cold War security structure not only ordered relations among states but significantly shaped politics within states. It kept a tight lid on anti-status quo political and social forces, including radical ethnicity and religion-based movements.

The end of the Cold War and the subsequent removal of the Cold War political constraints unleashed a revival of formerly suppressed ethnic identities, as well as radical Islamist movements. However, it is important to note that two of the most violent Islamist organizations, Al-Qaeda and ISIS, have their roots in the USA-supported mujahedeen resistance against the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The phenomenon of failed states in the post-Cold War years is an important contextual factor contributing to the rise of radical Islamist organizations. Extremist, violent groups have found fertile grounds in failed states such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Yemen following the collapse or near collapse of state institutions and authority as a result of communal armed conflicts and foreign invasions. Of course, the global reach of the Internet, easier and cheaper communication and travel compared to earlier decades have also facilitated the transnational networks of such groups.

Saudi Arabia's role in the international dissemination of Wahhabism, an extreme puritanical strain of Islam, needs to be taken into account in understanding the recent



Opposite: University of Regina assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Studies Nilgün Önder. Above: Önder says well-known extremist Islamist organizations like Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, al-Shabaab and ISIS (members shown masked here just before beheading Libyan Christians) are united by their doctrinaire and puritanical interpretations of Islam and use of violence as a strategy to create the kind of Islamic community they desire. (Photo by REX Shutterstock.)

rise of extremist Islamist organizations. The House of Saud, wealthy sheiks and charities in Saudi Arabia have funnelled billions of dollars into spreading their Wahhabi creed in other Muslim countries since the 1980s. The funds go into building mosques, training clerics and operating educational centres, which in turn support the preaching and teaching of intolerant Wahhabism abroad. The extremist versions of Islam that ISIS and Al-Qaeda espouse share a great deal with the Wahhabism centred in Saudi Arabia. Wealthy donors in the Gulf Arab countries are also important sources of funds for extremist Islamist groups. There is no doubt that the Saudi role in spreading Wahhabism and financing radical Islamist groups favourable to Wahhabism contributed to the rise of violent Islamist groups.

For the last two years, international attention has focused on ISIS (the selfproclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria or its latest incarnation as Islamic State, an even more pretentious title). The roots of ISIS are traceable to the mujahedeen fight against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan because its founder, Zargawi, a Jordanian, became a seasoned Jihadist in the Afghan war. However, ISIS emerged and flourished in the state authority vacuum and sectarian violence in Iraq that followed the USAled occupation of the country in 2003.

I seriously doubt that ISIS would or could have emerged if the American invasion and subsequent purging of the Iraqi military, security forces, and administration of Baathist and Saddam Hussein loyalists (a great majority) had not taken place. The initial members of the Zarqawi-led group were mostly Zargawi's associates from Pakistan and Afghanistan; however, the group quickly recruited new members as it started to appeal to Sunni Iraqis who were increasingly marginalized and threatened by the now Shia-dominated government and security forces in postoccupation Iraq.

The group became al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) when Zarqawi pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2004. The organization renamed itself the Islamic State of Iraq in 2006, and

yet again the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria in 2013, as its political aspirations and geographical control expanded. The relationship between ISIS and al-Qaeda has been an uneasy one; the earlier cooperation increasingly gave way to distrust and rivalry. The rift between the two grew from early 2013 as ISIS expanded its reach into war-torn Syria, defied al-Qaeda central leadership and committed the kind of brutal atrocities that disturbed even al-Oaeda core leaders.

In February 2014, al-Qaeda central leadership announced their decision to sever ties with ISIS and condemned ISIS's extreme brutality and indiscriminate use of violence. Although ISIS and al-Qaeda are similar in their objectives of creating a global Islamic community to be governed according to rigid Islamic principles, they differ in their tactics and strategies. Whereas al-Qaeda pursues a longer-term, step-by-step strategy of fighting those institutions and rulers in Muslim countries and their Western 'masters' who are seen as constantly humiliating and keeping down the Muslim community, ISIS's focus is on cleansing Muslim societies of any practices, groups and individuals who do not abide by its interpretation of Islam and immediately building an Islamic state. Although both organizations employ violence in the pursuit of their objectives, al-Qaeda tends to resort to violent tactics more selectively and less directed at Muslims compared to ISIS's indiscriminate use of extreme brutality including against Muslims.

Canada's military involvement in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria raises a number of questions, which still remain unanswered by the government: What are the objectives? When is the military mission considered accomplished? Assuming that ISIS is militarily defeated, what kind of postconflict Syria or Iraq are the Canadian government and public willing to support?

It is not a good policy to try to justify Canada's military operations in the Middle East in terms of several isolated incidents at home, such as the separate murders of two Canadian military personnel by two mentally disturbed individuals speaking the language of Islamist fanaticism, but with no connections to any transnational terrorist networks.

To claim that Canada is under a transnational Islamist terrorist threat, one has to have a great deal of imagination. The ongoing aerial bombardment of ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria with the help of Canadian fighter jets can destroy ISIS's fighting capability. However, civilian casualties and extensive infrastructural damage caused by American and Canadian bombs are likely to have counterproductive effects politically and strategically. Bombs are not going to help to win the minds and hearts of those who are supposedly saved from ISIS.

It is possible to weaken or even destroy particular fanatical Islamist organizations through international cooperation in counter-terrorist measures and intelligence sharing. But terrorism-focused measures cannot defeat the ideology of radical Islamism. The struggle against extremist Islamism is primarily a struggle within Islam. The struggle will succeed when Islam goes through its own reformation.

A rather significant but overlooked development in this regard is the notable rise, in the past several years, of Muslim public opinion against extremist Islamist organizations and violent actions committed in the name of Islam, according to a number of public opinion polls conducted in many Muslim countries.

Perhaps there is hope.

Nilgün Önder received her BSc in Political Science and Public Administration from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. She earned a master's in political science from Wilfrid Laurier University and completed her PhD in Political Science at York University in Toronto. Önder teaches senior undergraduate and graduate courses on international relations and has published articles in international journals and presented papers at numerous international academic conferences. She joined the University of Regina in 2003.

Alumni **Association** honours three professors with Excellence Awards.

Dr. Thomas Hadjistavropoulos

(Psychology) received the University of Regina Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Mentorship.

Dr. Gordon Huang

(Engineering) received the University of Regina Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Research.

Dr. Janis Dale (Geology) received the University of Regina Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The Alumni Association Awards for Excellence celebrate the achievements of the University's most accomplished faculty in the areas of teaching,

research, service (not awarded in 2015), and graduate student mentorship.

For additional information go to the website at www.uregina.ca/external/ alumni-relations



L-R: Huang, Dale and Hadjistavropoulos Photo: UofR Photography

Help Envision Our Campus 2016 Campus Master Plan

The University of Regina invites alumni to participate in the development of its 2016 Campus Master Plan.

The 2016 Campus Master Plan will guide the future development of the built and landscape features of the University, including buildings and other infrastructure such as roads and pathways, as well as open areas and ecological spaces.

The master plan will include consideration of the main campus, the campus east lands, and the College Avenue Campus.

For more information and to provide input on the plan, go to www.uregina.ca/fm and select the "Campus Master Plan" link.

ALUMNISTAY ONNECTED CONTEST

Whether you're a new graduate or long time alumnus, we want you to stay connected to the University of Regina!

Learn about events and news from the U of R and be eligible for great prizes throughout the year!

The draw this June is for a Rider jersey autographed by Riders Slotback # 89 Chris Getzlaf - just in time for the 2015/16 CFL season!



www.uregina.ca/alumni/contest.htm



WELCOME TO THE SUITE LIFE

Living on campus is a great way to get the full University of Regina student experience. Students who live in residence benefit from an on-campus community of friends and a wide variety of services that support their academic success. Residence life is fun, comforting, convenient and secure.







CONVENIENCE

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ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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