

# Degrees

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The University of Regina Magazine

## Arctic Dreams

*Risa Horowitz  
at 77.8° North*



University  
of Regina





The Honourable Ralph Goodale BA'71, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, is celebrating 25 consecutive years as a Member of Parliament. He was first elected to Parliament in 1974 at the tender age of 24. After a stint in provincial politics, Goodale was re-elected in 1993, representing the constituency of Regina-Wascana. In 2006, his colleagues voted him Canada's best MP. While leader of the Saskatchewan Liberals in 1987, he joked that the difference between the Saskatchewan Liberal Party and a Corvette is that "a Corvette has two seats." Goodale's portfolios have included natural resources, finance, public works, agriculture and his current ministry.

Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.

One of the best things about my job as editor of this magazine is that I get the chance to meet all the interesting people that you read about between the covers of *Degrees*. The current issue is no exception.

The inside cover features the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Member of Parliament for Regina-Wascana and the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. We met up with Mr. Goodale on October 5 to photograph him in the newly renovated College Building on the occasion of the re-opening of the grand old building. Behind Mr. Goodale is the façade of the old College Building which is now featured inside one of the new additions. The story about the new College Building begins on page 18.

For journalism graduate Michelle Brass' essay on page 38, we travelled to Peepeekisis Cree Nation, east of Regina to photograph Brass, her son Forest and husband Phillip, who incidentally is the son of the late Oliver Brass, former president of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, predecessor of First Nations University of Canada.

We spent a wonderful autumn afternoon with the family who have decided to live their lives respectful of their Saulteaux and Cree heritage and focused on reclaiming

Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The family's food supply, in large part, comes from Phillip's hunting, fishing and foraging efforts. Both Michelle and Phillip are dedicated to raising awareness of Indigenous rights, environmental protection and Indigenous food sovereignty. Please take the time to read Michelle's reflections on her life as a rising young journalist and why she decided to change the direction of her life.

I also had occasion to meet the two first responders who are profiled in the story beginning on page 28. Recently retired police officer, Sheree Ortman and Layne Jackson, chief of the Regina Fire and Protective Services, not only epitomize individuals who have dedicated their professional lives to the service of others but they are also outstanding representatives of University of Regina alumni.

I had the pleasure to meet the individuals associated with the Camp Yrefly story on page 12. The camp celebrated its 10th anniversary this past summer and in that time has been bringing together teens and young adults who are questioning, gay, transgender, bisexual, intersex, two-spirit and allied. Those closest to the camp know that it plays a vital role in helping youth be themselves. It's also saving lives.

On another occasion, we travelled to Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation, near Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, to photograph Wayne Goodwill who appears in the story about some long lost archival photographs discovered in the basement archives of First Nations University of Canada by professor Andrew Miller. While visiting with Goodwill and his wife Rita, he told us stories of his ancestors who had travelled to Canada with Sitting Bull, the Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux chief who led his forces against General George Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn. That story begins on page 8.

It was delightful to meet all the Alumni Crowning Achievement Award recipients. As usual, this year's "superheros" are a diverse and deserving group of graduates that make all of us alumni proud to call the University of Regina our alma mater.

I hope that you enjoy reading about these people as much as I enjoyed meeting them and sharing their stories.

I would like to remind you that *Degrees* is now online. Please take some time to let us know your preference for receiving the magazine. You can do that by going to the *Degrees* website at [www.degreesmagazine.ca](http://www.degreesmagazine.ca). At the top of the page you will find Subscribe. Click the link and

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I trust you will enjoy this issue of *Degrees* magazine.

Greg Campbell BFA'85, BJ'95  
Editor

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# Degrees

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## The University of Regina Magazine

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**On the cover:** Risa Horowitz, an associate professor of Visual Arts at the University of Regina, travelled to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago between Norway and the North Pole, to complete two very different artist residences. In June 2017, she and 30 other artists and scientists sailed aboard a tall ship exploring the fjords and glaciers around the archipelago. In early 2018, she returned as Artist in Residence of the Galleri Svalbard, the northernmost contemporary art gallery in the world. See some of the results of her residency starting on page 22.



## Features

**The big picture** 8  
 Professor Andrew Miller discovered almost 600 archival photos depicting late 19th century and early 20th century Indigenous life in the basement of First Nations University of Canada.

**Let it shine** 12  
 Saskatchewan Camp fyrefly is celebrating a milestone – its 10th anniversary. The annual summer retreat for gender and sexually diverse youth is doing more than just bringing together young people who are often struggling with their sense of self – it's also saving lives.

**The new College Avenue Campus** 18  
 Thanks to a \$63.6 million restoration project, the historic College Building on the College Avenue Campus will continue to provide a place of higher learning for generations to come.

**Fall 2018 Honorary Degree recipients** 26  
 A world-class medical microbiologist and infectious disease expert, and a dedicated educator and respected history professor are this fall's honorary degree recipients.

**Answering the call** 28  
 Two University of Regina graduates followed their passions and found careers in service to others. One of the first responders recently retired from the Regina Police Service. The other is the head of Regina Fire and Protective Services.

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## President's Note



Members of the University community,

There's an old Peter Allen song that has been running through my mind lately. The song "Everything Old is New Again" includes the following lyrics:

*And don't throw the past away  
You might need it some other  
rainy day  
Dreams can come true again  
When everything old is  
new again*

Considering some of the recent developments at the University of Regina, those lyrics are most fitting.

On Friday, October 5, we had the great pleasure to officially re-open the historic College Building on the College Avenue Campus. See the story on page 18.

As I looked around the College Building that day, I couldn't help but feel so proud that the community and friends of the University of Regina recognized the value of a revitalized College Avenue Campus and took action for future generations. I imagine that if the group of community-minded citizens who established Regina College in 1911 were there, they would have been equally proud that we didn't "throw the past away." As we discovered,

"dreams can come true" now that "everything old is new again."

The results of the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project are stunning. The College Building, which contains the historic cornerstone laid in 1911, has been preserved and enhanced. The Conservatory façade and tower have also been preserved. We now have two beautiful, functional and design-appropriate additions on the east and west sides of the College Building.

The building now incorporates modern teaching technology that will enhance the learning experiences of the 8,000 students, aged 18 months to their mid-90s, who are served by College Avenue Campus programs. The building is also more accessible, allowing all community members to enjoy everything that the campus offers.

Thank you to all the countless committed citizens who supported and shared our vision for phase one of the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project. It is greatly appreciated.

We still have some significant work to do at the College Avenue Campus, but I'm confident that we will get there. If it's possible, I am

even more excited about the next phase of the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project – a full restoration of the historic Darke Hall concert venue and the renovation of an original 1912 lecture hall in the College Building.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to visit the College Avenue Campus and see the results of the project for yourself.

The College Building renovations aren't the only case of "everything old is new again" around the University.

At the beginning of the fall semester, we unveiled the renovated College West. One of the residents of the new College West has compared the revitalized accommodations to New York lofts with their bright colours, glass walls and natural light. With input from students, designers put an emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility, while creating an extraordinary, inviting space for 274 students.

The residence now houses two six-bedroom apartments that have been designated through the Colourful Campus House initiative for students who identify as 2LGBTQIA+ (two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or asexual).

The Colourful Campus House initiative, a partnership between UR Pride and University of Regina Housing Services, was designed primarily to lessen the stress that 2LGBTQIA+ students may feel in traditional student housing options.

So, I'm pleased to say that when it comes to College West, which was originally constructed more than 40 years ago, "everything old is new again."

As you'll discover in this issue of *Degrees*, sometimes old things get a new lease of life. That is certainly the case for the old photos discovered by Professor Andrew Miller in the First Nations University of Canada's basement archives. I encourage you to read this fascinating account of Professor Miller's efforts to repatriate the photos to Indigenous families with connections to the photographs. The story begins on page 8.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the University of Regina and always remember – *Dreams can come true again when everything old is new again.*

Sincerely,

**Dr. Vianne Timmons**  
President and Vice-Chancellor

Left: Marty Klyne  
Centre: Bev Busson  
Right: Doug Moen



## Appointments

University of Regina alumni **Marty Klyne DAA'84, BAdmin'86** and **Beverley Busson LLD'17 (Honorary)** have been appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Klyne has devoted much of his career to advancing the economic development of Indigenous communities. He has held a number of leadership positions including publisher/CEO of *The Star Phoenix* and *The Regina Leader-Post*, president and CEO of Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, president and CEO of Regina Regional Economic Development Authority, president and CEO of SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation, lecturer at First Nations University of Canada, and chief operating officer of the Regina Pats.

Beverley Busson's career began in 1974 when she was part of the first class of women to serve in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 2006, Busson was appointed RCMP Commissioner on a temporary basis – the first woman to hold the position. For her role as a trailblazer, she was awarded a University of Regina honorary degree in 2017.

**Valerie Sluth** is the Faculty of Business Administration's newest RBC Woman Executive in Residence with a focus on Women's Entrepreneurship. Sluth's appointment will be for

two years, effective October 2018. Sluth is the founder and CEO of Saskatchewan-based Praxis Consulting. She is vice-chair of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and member of the Regina Entrepreneurial Council board. She is also past president of the Saskatchewan Institute of Certified Management Consultants, past board member of CMC Canada and Canadian trustee to the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes. Supported by a generous contribution by the RBC Foundation, this next phase of the RBC Woman Executive in Residence program will focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a career path for women, especially women students, and on fostering the skills, knowledge and networks to lead to successful entrepreneurial ventures.

There are a few new additions to the University's **Board of Governors**. **Glen Berger BA'77, BAdmin'81**, who was recently appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan, will serve a three-year term. Berger is an alumnus of the University of Regina and also served as president of the University of Regina Alumni Association. A chartered accountant, Berger has served on the Saskatchewan Institute of Chartered Accountants Practice Appraisal Committee

from 2009 to 2012 and CPA Saskatchewan's Professional Conduct Committee from 2013 to the present.

**Roger Brandvold** has been re-appointed to the Board for another three-year term. He previously served as a Board member from 2015 to 2018, and currently chairs the Finance and Facilities Committee. For more than a decade, Brandvold has been a partner and senior vice-president with Connor Clark & Lunn Private Capital Ltd., Canada's largest independent money manager.

Continuing on the Board are: **Cathy Warner** (chair), who replaces Daniel Kwochka BAADV'93 who joined the Board in 2011 and served as Chair from 2015 to 2017; **Pam Klein BA'80** (vice-chair), **Gary Bosgoed BASc'83**, **Marlene Smadu, Art Opseth BASc'59, MSc'61, LLD (Honorary)'13** and **Carlos David Londoño Sulkin**. Also continuing on the Board are ex-officio members **Jim Tomkins** (chancellor) and **Vianne Timmons** (president and vice-chancellor).

**Kathleen McNutt BA(Hons)'00** has been appointed associate vice-president (Research) and dean of Graduate Studies and Research for a term ending June 30, 2023. McNutt is a full professor and served previously as the executive director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate

School of Public Policy. She holds a PhD from Simon Fraser University, a Masters of Arts from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Art (Hons) from the University of Regina.

**Doug Moen** has been appointed interim executive director of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) for a term that ends June 30, 2019. Moen joined JSGS in 2016 as an executive in residence and on July 1, 2017 became the director of executive education. Moen served as deputy minister of the premier of Saskatchewan from 2009 to 2016. Prior to that, he served as deputy minister of Justice and deputy attorney general in Saskatchewan.

## Accolades

University of Regina historian **Raymond Blake** and environmental biologist **Peter Leavitt** have been elected to the prestigious Royal Society of Canada (RSC). They join more than 3,700 distinguished Canadian scholars, artists and scientists from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, humanities and sciences, as well as in Canadian public life, since the first society meeting in 1882.

Blake's innovative historical research has opened up new ways of thinking about Canada. His scholarship on federalism,

social welfare and national identity has demonstrated that public policy is shaped by the demands of all people to participate equitably in Canada's social and economic citizenship. He is the author and editor of more than 20 books (including several acclaimed monographs) explaining how citizenship has been a powerful force in either creating political crises or solving them. Blake is a professor of History and has just completed a five-year term as head of the department. A new book, *Where Once They Stood: Newfoundland's Rocky Road to Confederation* (University of Regina Press), will be published in early 2019.

Peter Leavitt is advancing our understanding of how climate change and human activities interact to degrade Canada's surface waters. A global pioneer in the field of paleolimnology, Leavitt has investigated how lakes are impacted by global warming, hydrological variability and societal development associated with food production, resource extraction and urbanization. By combining whole-lake studies with innovative fossil analyses, Leavitt's research has led to improved strategies to protect aquatic ecosystems. Leavitt is a professor in the Faculty of Science, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change and Society, director of the U of R's Institute of Environmental Change and Society (IECS), and recently completed six years as director of the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution.

University of Regina President and Vice-Chancellor **Vianne Timmons** is to receive a 2019 Indspire Award for Education. The awards, formally known

as the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, celebrate and encourage excellence throughout Canada's Indigenous communities and represent the highest national honour the Indigenous community bestows upon its leaders and achievers. The 2019 Indspire Award ceremony will take place in Calgary on February 22. Timmons is a member of the Bras d'Or Mi'kmaq First Nation of Nova Scotia.

Timmons has also been appointed to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments. She joins colleagues from across Canada on the board, which was established in 2016 by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to provide non-partisan recommendations for Senate appointments. Timmons joins a board that is committed to ensuring Canada's diversity is reflected in Canada's upper house and that there remains a high standard of integrity and collaboration within Senate.

### Research

The University research enterprise was just one of the benefactors of the mid-October federal announcement of the largest investment in discovery science in Canadian history. The announcement by the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport, pledged more than \$558 million in funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The funding means that nearly 4,300 researchers and students throughout Canada will have the means to pursue leading edge research.

As part of this historic investment, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, on behalf of Minister Duncan, announced more than \$4 million in funding in support of 18 University of Regina science and engineering scholars and researchers through the NSERC Discovery Grant and Scholarship program.

The array of research supported by this round of significant NSERC funding ranges from artificial intelligence to carbon capture, and from how our brains work to enhancing oil recovery. The University of Regina is home to 17 research centres and institutes that enhance the teaching and research opportunities available on campus and serve as catalysts for interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.

### Briefly

On October 31, **Dr. Jack Boan**, Professor Emeritus of Economics, passed away peacefully at the age of 100. Jack, as everyone knew him, began teaching at the University of Saskatchewan - Regina Campus in 1962 after an already-distinguished career that included serving in the RCAF during World War II and working for the Royal Commission on Health Services that ultimately recommended the implementation of Medicare for all Canadians.

The University of Regina's **45th Annual Fall Convocation** was held on October 19 at the Conexus Arts Centre. The event celebrated the achievements of 703 graduates who received degrees, diplomas and certificates.

**Hien Thanh (Alice) Nguyen**

**CECON'18 (Hons), BBA'18 (Hons)** was the recipient of the University of Regina President's Medal, which is awarded at each convocation to a student receiving a first degree who has shown academic excellence, as well as major leadership in and commitment to extra-curricular activities. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, with Great Distinction. Her exceptional grade point average of 92.44 per cent was the highest amongst the members of the fall graduating class. She also received a Certificate in Economics from the Faculty of Arts with a program grade point average of 92 per cent.

Nguyen's many contributions as a volunteer include: developing sustainability projects; being involved in a student organization that uses business expertise to address social issues; mentoring former members of the armed forces; helping other Vietnamese immigrants with legal, health and work issues; helping to translate a book for a Zen master; and volunteering as a reporter while on a student exchange in Korea.

**Harrison Otis MA'18** was the recipient of the President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award, which is awarded to the student deemed to have achieved an exceptional thesis, exhibition or performance, and corresponding defense, and who had an outstanding academic performance in their graduate program. Leadership and university or community involvement is also considered. Otis received a Master of Arts in English.

On October 5, the University

officially re-opened the renovated **College Building** at the College Avenue Campus (see story page 18). President Timmons, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development), the Honourable Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Minister of Advanced Education and His Worship Michael Fougere, Mayor of Regina, were on hand for the announcement.

The College Building is home to the University's Centre for Continuing Education, including the Lifelong Learning Centre and the Conservatory of Performing Arts. It is also home to the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, one of Canada's leading policy schools and home to the Centre for the Study of Science Innovation and Policy. Each year, more than 8,000 learners study on the College Avenue Campus. The campus also hosts dozens of community and cultural events every year.

Enrolment on the first day of classes for the University's 2018 fall semester surpassed last year's with **15,475** students registered, compared to 15,189 students registered in 2017. This is an increase of 1.9 per cent in terms of the number of students and a 2.4 per cent year-over-year increase in the number of credit hours being taught. This is the 10th consecutive year of enrolment growth for the University.

**Colourful Campus House** is a new place on campus for 2LGBTQIA+ students to call home. The University has allocated two six-bedroom apartment-style residences in

the newly renovated College West building to UR Pride Centre's Colourful Campus House initiative. In partnership with the University, UR Pride is confident these residences will soon be home for 2LGBTQIA+ and allied students at the University of Regina. In addition to offering students the opportunity to apply for one of the 12 vacancies, the University of Regina is also encouraging 2LGBTQIA+ and allied students to apply for a housing award to help subsidize the cost of living on campus.

As of August 1, 2018, under the new **Smoke-Free Campus** policy, smoking tobacco, cannabis (marijuana) or other products, including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), cigars, cigarillos and pipe tobacco is not permitted on any University of Regina campus.

In August, the **Cougars women's volleyball** team travelled to Japan to visit the University of Tsukuba, Aoyama Gakuin University and the Japan Women's College of Physical Education. Their 10-day excursion took them from downtown Tokyo to the prefectures of Chiba and Ibaraki, as they toured city and countryside. The team has made the trip overseas four times with head coach Melanie Sanford. The Japanese schools have visited Regina on three occasions. Next August, the University of Regina will host the Aoyama Gakuin University women's volleyball team as they travel from Tokyo to the Canadian prairies.

The **Dr. John Archer Library** is celebrating its 50th year as the educational epicentre of the University of Regina. Still a vital resource for students, more

than 630,000 people walked through the library doors last year. The library study rooms were booked for more than 28,000 hours of study time and the library's website had more than 95,000 visitors. Those numbers don't include the additional services that librarians and user services staff offer or the times people sit at their computers accessing material like sound recordings, films and books through the library's online portal. They also have a huge inventory of electronics, such as laptops and iPads, that were circulated 3,400 times last year. The library celebrated its anniversary with an open house and town hall on October 11.

Twenty members of the Canadian Armed Forces from across Canada took part in the **Prince's Operation Entrepreneur** (POE) week-long business boot camp. Held at the University's Paul J. Hill School of Business, and managed by student group Enactus Regina, the program helps transitioning members of the military to start their own businesses. The University of Regina is the only university west of Quebec to offer this concentrated business camp.

On a volunteer basis, professors from the University provided industry knowledge and business expertise through teaching sessions, including lessons in finance, marketing, human resources and management. Student volunteers were paired with participants and provided one-on-one guidance to help them craft their business plans. Local entrepreneurs were also on hand to share their experiences at networking events throughout the week. Now in its sixth year, the program has continued to grow with an

outpouring of support from the University and community. More than 40 student volunteers from Enactus, Hill JDC West and Hill Business Students' Society programs volunteered their time to help.

Since 2012, approximately 200 businesses have been started by graduates of the POE, many by the University of Regina's more than 100 program graduates. At a pivotal time in the lives of veterans, this program provides the opportunity for those wishing to launch their own entrepreneurial endeavours to learn the necessary skills.

**JDC West** is coming back to the University of Regina and the Hill School of Business after a successful bid by alumni Cari-Lynn Schoettler BBA'17 and Mason Gardiner CPR'14, BBA'14. JDC West is the largest undergraduate business competition in Western Canada. The competition celebrates academic excellence, professionalism, superior teamwork development and goodwill. Approximately 1,000 people will take part as competitors, volunteers, sponsors and former competitors who attend to view the competition. JDC West is the largest undergraduate business competition in Western Canada. Annually, 12 top business schools select teams of undergraduate students in 10 academic disciplines, as well as parliamentary style debate, sports and a social competition. The competition emphasises school spirit and community involvement, with enthusiasm and volunteer hours and dollars raised for charity impacting a school's finish.



# The big picture

**Indigenous Languages, Arts and Cultures professor Andrew Miller was poking around the basement of First Nations University of Canada when he came across almost 600 photos, most of them depicting late 19th century and early 20th century Indigenous life. Now, Miller is teaming up with others to ensure the photos are shared with Indigenous communities across the Prairies. In the process, he hopes the colonial narratives of the photos are deconstructed and the real stories of the Indigenous people in the photos come to life.**

**By Nickita Longman BA'13**

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

It was the start of a new school year in September 2016 when Andrew Miller inadvertently stumbled across a binder of 587 black and white photos in the basement collection of First Nations University of Canada's Library (Special Collections). The photos, taken between 1877 and 1949, portray the lives of Indigenous peoples on the Canadian Plains. Nobody knew where the photos came from or how they became part of the collections. What was clear is that the photos had been archived, most likely by the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (formerly known as the Saskatchewan Archives Board).

Not all of the photographs have captions, but Miller is troubled by many of those that do. Referring to the collection as "colonial photography," Miller has real concerns that the limited descriptions provided epitomize a settler narrative.

"Some of these photos and their descriptions really fit the colonial gaze," he says. "I'm not overly concerned with factual names and events. I just feel as though the Indigenous community needs to see these first-hand."

Miller views sharing the photos with Indigenous communities not only as a way to deconstruct the colonial narrative but also as a repatriating practice. He knew his first step was to consult Elders to ensure that the photo sharing was handled in the most culturally appropriate way. He received advice on protocols; what could be shared and what shouldn't be public knowledge. Elders recommended that the photos be brought out in a ceremonial manner because telling stories of ancestors had to be done in a way that expressed gratitude.

“The simple process of bringing photos to the world and saying, ‘Here, let’s talk about these,’ is not doing things in the proper way,” Miller acknowledges.

To fully realize his hopes of humanizing the photographs and contextualizing the collection, Miller needed to expose the photos to a larger audience. In fall 2017, he took a sample of the photographs to Treaty 4 Days at Fort Qu’Appelle.

Miller’s display was set up amongst other organizations’ booths and local artisan kiosks. Samplings of photos were placed around the room, particularly those that had been taken in Treaty 4 Territory. Miller says the response that day was good. From the 30 photos displayed, at least half ignited conversations, comments and recognition from those who viewed them. One of those conversations was started by Wayne Goodwill.

“Wayne immediately was fixated on the photo of Martha Taweyaka and her husband Louis,” Miller says.

It was the first time Goodwill had seen the photo, but he knew the woman — it was his great-grandmother.

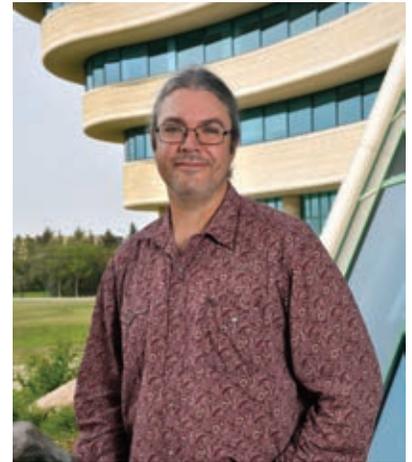
Goodwill is from Standing Buffalo First Nation and is a well-respected Knowledge Keeper in his community. An avid hunter and a long-time artist,

Goodwill attended the Qu’Appelle Indian Residential School in Lebret. Many years ago, Goodwill’s aunt shared with him a story of his great-grandmother Martha at the last Sundance (or Ghost Dance) that Sitting Bull attended in the Canadian territory. The ceremony would have been around 1880 when Taweyaka was still a young girl.

Taweyaka loved her community and was known to partake in the community’s Powwows. Her husband Louis was an announcer — or as they were known at the time, one of “the criers.” Goodwill suggests she would have danced in outfits similar to the one she is wearing in the photograph.

“She was a teacher who helped open the day school on Standing Buffalo reserve,” Goodwill explains. “She even cut the ribbon on its opening day.” Goodwill has come to know that Taweyaka was well-respected and fluent in English. She travelled to the Standing Buffalo area after her marriage to Louis. Although it is still unclear as to where she resided before settling there, Goodwill is certain Taweyaka is of Lakota and Dakota ancestry. The couple had four children.

Miller suggests that sharing the photos is the only way to bring the subjects to life. “Martha went from being



**Professor Andrew Miller**

anonymous to being a person who has a fully developed story,” he says.

Miller notes that the residential schools tried to erase familial lines. “It’s time to flip that narrative and challenge it. It is important to keep in mind who is on the other side of the photographs,” he adds.

It had always been Miller’s hope that an Indigenous archivist would take over the project and connect it to Indigenous communities in a way that he never could. A year after the photographs were displayed at Treaty 4 Days, Miller

Photo by Don Hall.



**Opposite page: First Nations University of Canada (FNUC) Indigenous Languages, Arts and Cultures professor Andrew Miller and librarian Paula Daigle look over some of the hundreds of archival photos Miller discovered in the FNUC basement archives. Bottom left: Wayne Goodwill is photographed with the photo he saw at Treaty 4 Days in Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan. Goodwill recognized the woman in the photo as his grandmother Martha Taweyaka and her husband Louis Taweyaka. Bottom Right: Photo from the FNUC archive of Louis and Martha Taweyaka in front of A. Rooke’s house near Fort Qu’Appelle. The couple married in 1897.**



**Left:** Carmen Miedema, a master’s student in archival studies at the University of Manitoba, has a keen interest in the FNUC archive photo collection. Miedema is also an archivist for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. **Centre:** Thomas Moore circa 1897. **Right:** Thomas Moore after attending the Regina Industrial School circa 1897.

was approached by a master’s student in archival studies from the University of Manitoba. Carmen Miedema, originally from the Peepeekisis Cree Nation in Saskatchewan and an archivist for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, has a keen interest in the collection.

“I became interested in the collection while completing an assignment during my undergraduate degree at Brandon University,” Miedema says. “It was also during this time that I learned that archival practices are still extraordinarily colonial and unfair to Aboriginal peoples — something I’d like to change.”

Miedema has plans to take the photographs and tour them throughout

Manitoba. It is her hope that the photographs will be more appropriately recognized in an Indigenous context and, more importantly, will be repatriated to the communities in which the photographs were taken.

Miedema believes it is essential to archive Indigenous stories in an Indigenous context. “We should have the right to tell our stories the way we see, experience and understand them,” she says. “It is important because how we look at, experience and understand our stories is often completely different than the colonial point of view in which they have been written. Telling our own histories is crucial to being able to teach future generations about our truths, in our languages and through our

protocols. It means giving power back to our people.”

Miller often gets people reaching out to him who have family ties to a photograph. He hopes that will continue on an even larger scale once the photos become more accessible through an online database. The online project is funded, in part, by a generous donation from Pasqua First Nation’s Chief Todd Pagan, who is enthusiastic to see Indigenous students working on the database.

“There are a number of photos that specifically relate to Chief Pagan’s community,” Miller explains. “The database would allow the people of Pasqua First Nation and area to easily access the photos and share them within their community. Students, researchers and community members will be able to access them. They have been in the provincial archives but they’re not scanned or online or easily accessible. You’d have to be there in person or ask for the photo by name, which is too tall of an obstacle.”

Once the project is complete, Miller says all the photographs from the collection will be available through the First Nations University of Canada website. Then, students like Miedema, community members like Goodwill, or anyone else with an interest will be able access these important, historical photographs in their proper context. **D**

*Nickita Longman is from the George Gordon First Nation on Treaty 4 but has spent most of her life in Regina. She graduated from the First Nations University of Canada with a BA in English in 2013. As well as working as a freelance writer, she is a community organizer.*



**Above:** Cheepoostatin, also known as Pointed Cap, a respected Elder of the Indian File Hills Agency, receiving treaty money in 1916. Cheepoostatin was 108 years old when the photo was taken.

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# Let it shine

Camp fyrefly is an annual summer retreat for gender and sexually diverse youth. The camp, which alternates between Regina and Saskatoon, celebrated its tenth anniversary in early August. For all those associated with the camp, that's a decade of bringing together young people who are often struggling with their sense of self and a decade of saving lives.

**By Kendall P. Latimer BJ'14**

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.



# CAMP fyrefly

**A**rrows drawn in coloured chalk adorn a sidewalk that winds past a teepee and between trees toward Luther College at the University of Regina. At the end of the chalk rainbow road is a message: Welcome to Camp fyrefly. We love you.

Inside, Jolie Brewer BEd'12 runs her hand through her short rainbow-coloured hair. She apologizes for her tears. Brewer often finds her work as Saskatchewan Camp fyrefly's co-chair emotionally overwhelming. She didn't expect today's tears so early. She bobs a teabag up and down in a to-go cup as morning sounds echo down the hall. Groggy hellos blend with the scent of fresh coffee and hot omelettes. Most of the youth are already gathered at long tables in Thorn Hall, save for the late sleepers.

Camp fyrefly is a four-day annual summer retreat that alternates between Saskatoon and Regina. The camp welcomes teens and young adults who identify as questioning, gay, transgender, bisexual, intersex, two-spirit and allied.

Campers are welcome to be themselves at Camp fyrefly. It's often the first time they aren't the minority. Those closest to the program say Camp fyrefly saves lives.

Brewer has been part of the camp for about seven years. Each year is different, but Brewer speaks of similarities in the rookie attendees: tiny creatures with no self-confidence. "They're all broken in some way," she says. "It's heartbreaking because they struggle to reach out for help."

Brewer's voice breaks and she takes a deep breath, acknowledging Camp fyrefly is the first safe place many of the youth have ever been. But she marvels at some campers' transformations. "By the last day of camp, those once scared little people realize how beautiful they are," she says.

There is a story of self-discovery behind every person who comes to the retreat, including staff and volunteers. Brewer found the camp not long after her husband Jett came out as transgender. The road to now was rocky for the pair.

"I don't know that our relationship would be as strong as it is today without camp. I know camp saves lives," she reiterates. The couple celebrated 16 years together in 2018.

One-third of fyrefly campers identify as First Nations or Métis, with many coming from northern Indigenous communities such as La Ronge or La Loche. Saskatchewan Transportation Company once provided bus passes to youth in these communities, but the provincial government shut down the service in May 2017. The closure made it more difficult to attend, but it didn't stop northern youth determined to take in the camp. For the past two years, a grandmother from northern Saskatchewan has driven four two-spirit youth — three from Cumberland House and one from Southend — to camp. That's 650 kilometres, one way.

Darlene Lanceley, the Knowledge Keeper at camp, exits Luther College and strides to the camp teepee tucked on the grass. An Indigenous leader, most often an Elder, is always present at Saskatchewan's Camp fyrefly to provide spiritual guidance, stories and healing.

Lanceley begins a smudge as the young adults head to rooms 211 and 215 for the sex ed and healthy relationships workshops. There are workshops focused on mental health and identity, but activities also include yoga, bead working, break-dancing, robotics, and arts and crafts.

The campers break into small groups to debrief, but they aren't the only ones who need to unwind. The leadership crew carries the weight of the campers' burdens in addition to their own. But they know to lean on one another for support.

Brewer reaches out and raps the table twice with her knuckles. "With its 10th anniversary, it's becoming a well-oiled machine," she says.

The camp has been built through the efforts of dozens of volunteers who have contributed thousands of behind-the-

scenes hours to make each year possible — and better than the last.

"It was exhilarating. It was as if we were breaking ground," says professor emeritus James McNinch, recalling the camp's establishment in Saskatchewan 10 years ago. McNinch was the dean of education at the University of Regina — the first dean who was openly gay.

McNinch takes a minute, pushing his dark glasses up the bridge of his nose before crossing his legs. He sets down his cup and rubs his collar bone. He remembers how safe spaces for gay and lesbian kids, let alone transgender, were near-absent in the province circa 2008.

Safe spaces are still hard to come by. Bullying is still present even within schools that have a GSA — or Gay-Straight Alliance, although the phrase Gender and Sexuality Alliance is gaining favour because it reflects a more inclusive perspective.

McNinch led the way for the camp, using his position as dean to generate momentum. Camp fyrefly first began at the University of Alberta in 2004 under the leadership of Andre Grace and Kristopher Wells, who work in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education. It wasn't long before they noticed youth coming from Saskatchewan. They approached McNinch to run a camp in Saskatchewan and he enthusiastically accepted.

McNinch brought the camp to life with help from Carla Blakely and Russell Mitchell-Walker, as well as Saskatoon co-chairs Anthony Bidulka and Herb McFaull, and support from the Faculty of Education, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The first year, the camp was held at a private facility in Saskatoon and was a success. The location remains a secret for the sake of the organizers and sponsors.

Campers find strength in numbers and learn how to help others along the way. In Alberta, the retreat had always been held on campus but that didn't seem feasible for Regina at the time.

“We couldn’t imagine that 10 years ago, the campus was a safe space,” McNinch says. “So fYrefly settled into the countryside.”

Food, craft supplies and AV equipment were trucked out to Lumsden Beach Camp, which is operated by the United Church. McNinch and his partner Michael Hamann rented a trailer so they could stay on site. The wooden cabins and rustic scenery were a change of pace from the neat, private rooms in Saskatoon. Hamann was one of the camp cooks.

McNinch admits it was exhausting to haul out supplies and prepare meals for 75 people for four days. But the natural beauty on the shores of Last Mountain Lake and the valley’s isolation fostered a special sense of freedom. McNinch recalls a moment from Lumsden when campers were transfixed by Indigenous artist-in-residence Adrian Stimson. They watched Stimson emerge from beneath a buffalo robe adorned in fishnet stockings, a priest’s collar and a crucifix. According to McNinch, at camp, truth and reconciliation work is underway to reverse systematic colonial repression of First Nations’ gender and sexuality.

Lumsden Beach Camp hosted fYrefly three times. By the time 2016 rolled around, camp co-ordinators felt the Regina campus would better suit their needs. Luther College was chosen, but the move was not without growing pains.

“They didn’t quite understand our need for seclusion,” McNinch says.

Residence renovations and summer courses were underway, University students were smoking, and the cafeteria was a madhouse as preteen science camp kids shared the dining room with the queer campers.

“It was quite different from fYrefly being out at Lumsden Beach Camp, where we were just there with the birds,” McNinch says.

Saskatchewan fYrefly co-chair Michael White BEd’03, MEd’07 is a registered psychologist and has been Saskatchewan’s fYrefly counsellor for nine years. He recalls spending one and a half hours listening to an Indigenous camper who lived in northern Saskatchewan. The transgender teen detailed years of traumatic abuse and neglect experienced while lost within the foster care system.

“Very few understand what it’s like to feel marginalized as the only gay person in a small town or the only transgender person in your school,” he says. White grew up in Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador, and didn’t come out until later in life. “You don’t have to hide any aspect of your identity at camp.”

Moe Penner, 18, settles into the couch at Luther College. Fidgeting with his sleeves, the First Nations University of Canada Indigenous Social Work student recounts being 15, alone in the dark and in silence as he penned the pros and cons of coming out.

The answer was as obvious as it was terrifying. Penner cried as he pulled out

his phone and messaged his partner: “I think I’m a boy.” He sighed with relief at the response: “That’s okay.”

Penner, assigned female at birth, questioned his identity for years. He spent hours in online forums and watching Youtubers. Eventually, he realized it was the gender that was wrong. His partner helped him come out to his mom, who was more accepting than Penner’s father, who said, “She’s 16. She can’t make her own choices.”

The anxiety from the lack of acceptance persisted and Penner spent days trembling and sweating while attending high school at Regina’s Winston Knoll Collegiate. Suicidal thoughts would bubble to the surface of his mind.

Penner’s mom took him to a doctor, which helped, but still the mental anguish continued. He found a unique reprieve in the summer of 2016, when his mom dropped him off at Camp fYrefly for the first time. While the first day is always the scariest, it’s not long before campers fall in love with camp.

Penner didn’t hesitate when White asked if he would return in 2018 as a youth leader. “I was ecstatic. I was so excited. Somebody sees some potential in me,” he beams.

Now the new campers are windows to Penner’s past.

Penner wants to tell them: “I’ve been through this. It’s okay. It will get better”.

Camp fYrefly is celebrated as Saskatchewan’s first gay camp. The



Regina co-chair Michael White BEd’03, MEd’07, a registered psychologist and Saskatchewan Camp fYrefly counsellor for nine years, leads a workshop at Luther College.



**Left: Professor emeritus of the U of R Faculty of Education James McNinch helped bring Camp fYrefly to Saskatchewan. Right: Jolie Brewer demonstrates beading during this summer's camp.**

demographic has shifted since it first started, with more youth identifying as trans, two-spirit or gender-fluid. The campers are also getting younger.

"They're so much different than I was," says McNinch, who graduated from high school in 1965, a time when "compulsory heterosexuality" was an expected norm.

In 1967, Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau pushed for changes to Canada's Criminal Code; homosexuality was decriminalized in 1969 as part of those amendments. McNinch didn't come out until much later in his life, when he moved to Saskatoon with his wife Sharon. A friend suggested McNinch go to a gay club, where McNinch had an epiphany. He moved to Regina after he and his wife separated.

"I see these kids who, like me many, many years ago, had to build new relationships and you can't do that all alone."

McNinch says the kids who aren't supported, "for whom being queer is quite a challenge," have the toughest battle.

Gender and sexually diverse youth are at greater risk of depression, excessive drug use, suicide, a life on the streets or family estrangement, according to Canadian surveys, studies and academic literature. The risk intensifies in rural and remote communities that have fewer resources. Thankfully, youth emerge from camp with self-confidence and a sense of pride. Their peers become like family. But when they return home to their families, communities and schools, they are most often treated as before.

McNinch has heard tired lines like "He's come back from camp and he's more gay than ever." That's why fYrefly brings parents and guardians to camp for their own workshop. It's held on the last day of camp, before they see their kids. Parents meet other parents. They talk about camp, as well as how to handle the future. McNinch has seen a dramatic increase in supportive parents, grandparents and caregivers. With each new set of campers, the session remains an integral part of helping expand the safe space beyond the four days at camp.

McNinch welcomed the 2018 campers at registration. He was there for the parent session and clean-up on the last day. Once again, he saw the evolution of shy campers who hugged and danced their way out the door.

His eyebrows rise as he notes the significant societal change of sexual diversity within his lifetime: "going from completely illegal, illicit and immoral to being legal and celebrated."

The overarching goal was always to reach a time when camp was no longer necessary. McNinch wonders if that day will ever come. He realizes newcomers are arriving from countries where open gender and sexual diversity is punishable or taboo. He remembers a teen's question at a Saskatoon workshop: "Can you get pregnant from anal sex?"

*Oh my god, McNinch thought, I'm worried about building resiliency for personal identity, when so many young people know so little about their bodies.*

McNinch says that camp often brings up examples of why education is needed outside of camp. It's why fYrefly in

Schools is so dear to McNinch's heart. It's a practical expansion of camp that carries the fYrefly mandate into the community. The fYrefly in Schools coordinators work with school divisions and offer age-appropriate lessons on gender identity and sexual diversity within the Saskatchewan curriculum. They give presentations for students and staff on a wide range of topics that detail definitions, potential outcomes of homophobia or transphobia, and what life is like for queer people. They teach people how to be allies.

It was near the time of McNinch's retirement when he began to relinquish some of his responsibilities with the camp. He muses about the last 10 years, and the meaning of fYrefly and its curious logo. People don't always recognize the grinning, bug-eyed, insect as a fYrefly. The oft-misunderstood creature represents a being that creates its own energy and light.

McNinch remembers how Hamann, who was raised in a Lutheran Church, often talks about songs and verses of the Bible.

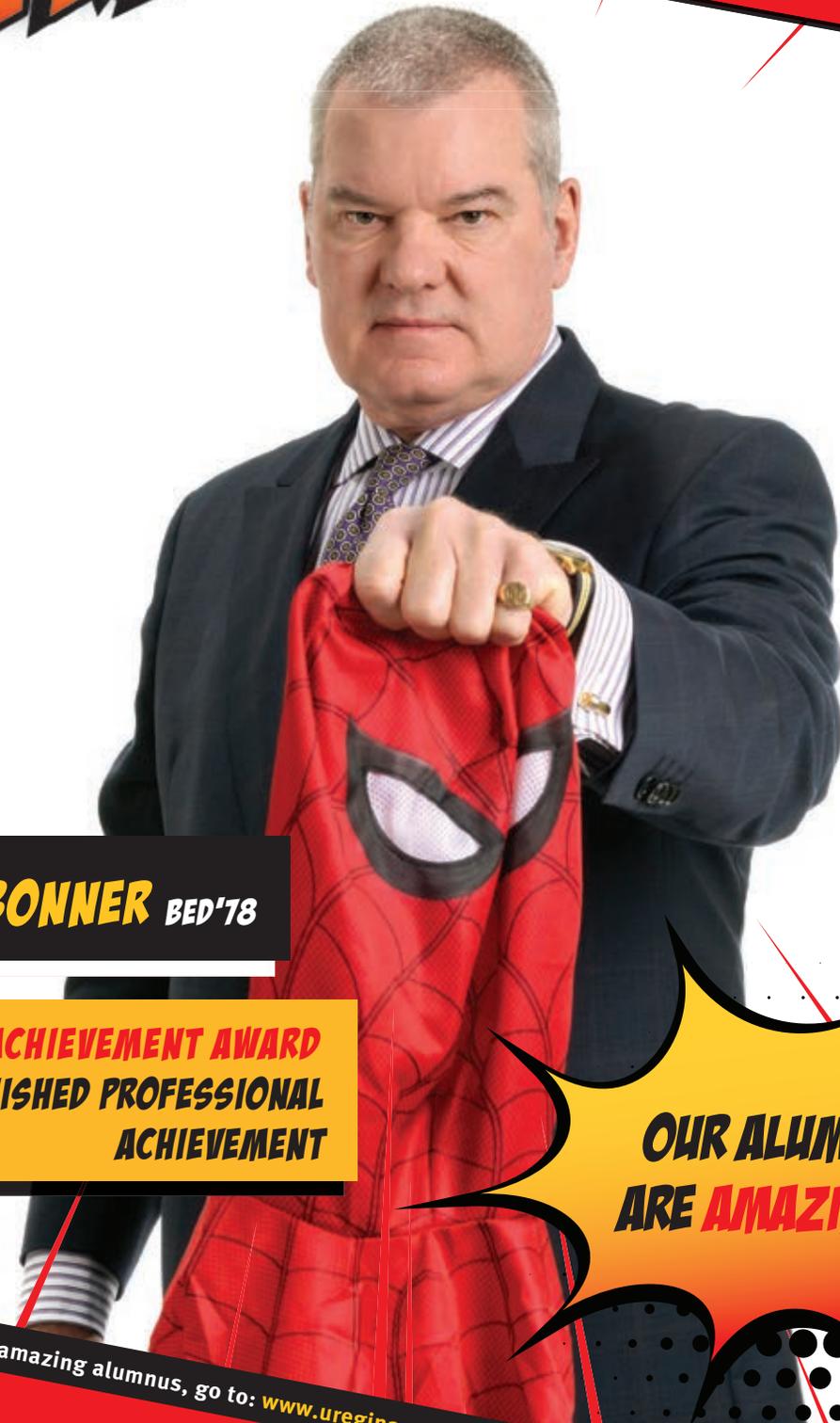
"This idea of light and the light of who you are — that's fYrefly," says McNinch.

"Hide it under a bushel," he sings softly.

"No. I'm going to let it shine." **D**

*Kendall P. Latimer is a curious and creative freelance writer, photographer and filmmaker. She has been storytelling with CBC Saskatchewan since 2016, after previously writing and photographing for The Saskatoon StarPhoenix and The Bangkok Post.*

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**DR. ALLAN BONNER** BED'78

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Canada is one of the world's worst wasters of food. A recent study on food waste released by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation reported that the average Canadian wastes 170 kilograms of food each year. Working extensively in coffee houses, **Paige Klarer** saw first-hand the waste common in the industry. Klarer decided to do something about it. This summer she volunteered to run the food security program at All Nations Hope Network, a non-profit organization in Regina's North Central neighbourhood that supports Indigenous people affected by HIV and hepatitis C. Three days a week, Klarer picked up day-old baked goods from cafes around Regina, packed them into large gray containers and delivered them to the 25 to 50 people waiting for food in the All Nations Hope facility.



**D** Where did you get the idea to gather day-old food and distribute it to families who are in need?

*Volunteering at All Nations Hope Network allowed me to see first-hand the lack of food security many people faced. Although we did our best, we often ran out of food to distribute and had to turn people away. I began to think of how I could solve this problem using resources already available. I decided to start with my workplace at Good Earth Coffee House. I then realized this had the potential to grow and I began reaching out to other businesses in Regina, which resulted in huge success.*

**D** Some readers may have no sense of the scale of food insecurity that some people in a city such as Regina experience. Can you enlighten them?

*Many people don't realize that food insecurity is very widespread in our communities. One in eight households are affected by food insecurity. This can be due to such things as financial instability, disabilities and addictions. It is not something that is limited to one specific demographic as there are elderly people, young adults and families who are affected.*

**D** What needs to change to ensure that people don't have to rely on food banks and soup kitchens?

*There are many factors that contribute to food insecurity. Addictions and poverty are two social determinants of health that contribute greatly to the lack of food security. In order to address hunger, we must first begin to work on the root causes.*

**D** You will soon earn your Bachelor of Health Studies degree. What is one of the most important lessons you have learned while a student?

*I learned many lessons, but being a student taught me that we truly never stop learning.*

**D** Your summer fieldwork consisted of volunteering 560 hours over a 15-week period. Why is it important to consider volunteering?

*Volunteering allows us to give back to our community in a positive way. Not only are you helping others and making your community a better place to live in, but also gaining valuable hands-on experience.*

**D** What drew you to health studies?

*I was searching for a pre-medicine program that would give me a well-rounded understanding of health. Health is not only physical – it is mental, spiritual and emotional. Health studies looks at all the factors that contribute to one's overall well-being.*

**D** What are your career aspirations?

*My hope is to attend medical school and eventually practice in rural communities in Saskatchewan.*

# The new College Avenue Campus



**T**he College Avenue Campus Renewal Project has a special place in Margaret Anne Hodges' heart, as the campus has touched the lives of four generations of her family.

Her grandmother, Anne Owen "Nancy" Goodfellow, took voice and piano lessons at the Conservatory and performed as an original member of the Elizabethan Singers in Darke Hall. Her mother, Alice Goodfellow BA'43, also pursued piano lessons and performed on campus, and later took classes through the Seniors' Education Centre (now the Lifelong Learning Centre) after retiring from her career as a pediatrician. In her later years, Alice became increasingly concerned with the deterioration of the College Avenue Campus.

Hodges joined about 150 others for the official re-opening of the newly renovated space on October 5.

Hodges jokes that she is the "only person in her family to have never taken a class at the Conservatory," but notes that

Darke Hall was instrumental in her meeting her husband, Ed Willett (who did take classes at the Conservatory), as they both sang with Regina Lyric Musical Theatre in the venue.

Together, Hodges and Willett continue the long-time family commitment to supporting the arts in Regina and the College Avenue Campus. The family donated toward the Campus Renewal Project, and a classroom in the College Building bears the name of Dr. Alice Goodfellow Hodges. Hodges and Willett's daughter, also named Alice, performs in music festivals and dances on stage with the *Do It With Class* theatre company, making her the fourth generation to benefit from programming at the campus.

Hodges and her family believe that education is the key to success and that music is part of a basic education. "Arts and intellectual pursuits go together. Science and art are similar – they build brain patterns and structures and help individuals to develop discipline and skill sets," she says.



**October 5 was a grand day – the official grand re-opening of the newly renovated College Building at the College Avenue campus. The early Collegiate Gothic style building had been deteriorating after 100 years of use, but now, thanks to a \$63.6 million restoration project, the historic College Building will continue to provide a place of higher learning for generations to come.**

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

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department. Artist renderings courtesy of P3Architecture Partnership.

The Hodges' beloved College Avenue Campus is also home to the University's Centre for Continuing Education, including the Lifelong Learning Centre and the Conservatory of Performing Arts. It is also the location of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS), one of Canada's leading policy schools.

Located on the third floor, the JSGS space is large enough to house all faculty and staff, as well as over 4,600 square feet of classroom, meeting and breakout space, and an open-concept lounge space dedicated to JSGS students.

Classrooms have been fitted with video conferencing technologies, and the new, modern features serve to enhance teaching and learning. Not to mention, the new atrium provides street-level access to the College Building and elevator access to all floors. Having all aspects of the school under one roof creates greater opportunities for collaboration and conversation between students and faculty.



**Opposite page: Artist rendering of the College Avenue Campus as it will look after the construction of the Conexus Credit Union head office in early 2020. Above: Margaret Anne Hodges (left) and daughter Alice Willett. The pair pose in the revitalized College Building in a classroom named for Hodges' mother, Dr. Alice Goodfellow Hodges.**

"There's no better place to learn from Saskatchewan's leading public service and administration experts than at the JSGS in the newly renovated historic College Avenue Campus," says Master of Public Administration student Jocelyn Crivea. "It is a fabulous space that overlooks Wascana Lake and the Legislative Building. I can't think of a nicer space in the city."

With the Saskatchewan Legislative Building just across the water, interim Executive Director Doug Moen recognizes the move to College Avenue as a great opportunity for the JSGS to develop greater connections with the Government of Saskatchewan.

"Our relocation to the College Avenue Campus is already proving to be an excellent asset for our graduate students who visualize a career in public service," says Moen. "It also has expanded the opportunity for teaching and learning within the public sector, providing space for public servants to take advantage of the school's executive education programs."

The move also allows for the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy (CSIP), an initiative that also helped secure crucial funding from the Government of Canada's Strategic Investment Fund.

"With the new space on our Regina campus, we are looking forward to expanding the Centre's research and outreach in Saskatchewan's capital," says Peter Phillips, the Centre's director and research lead on bioscience and food policy. "This development will be a great opportunity to better connect with students and faculty in Regina to continue the facilitation of CSIP's significant research endeavours."

Just a few years ago, the condition of the College Avenue Campus, which each year welcomes more than 8,000 learners and hosts dozens of community and cultural events, was a growing concern to members of the University community. After more than 100 years of use, the historic buildings were



The next phase of the revitalization of the College Avenue Campus includes the completion of a new Conexus Credit Union head office and an atrium that provides access to a refurbished Darke Hall.

deteriorating. The heating system was unreliable – a problem in -30 degree weather – and there was a lack of air conditioning – a problem in +30 degree weather.

Harvey King, director of the Continuing Education Centre, tells a heartbreaking story of a father who was unable to go to any of his daughter’s recitals because of the lack of wheelchair access. With the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project, all of that has changed. The entrances are at ground level with ramps, and an elevator eliminates the need to climb the steep and seemingly endless staircases. King’s own daughter took classes in the fifth floor of the tower when she was three years old. “She doesn’t remember anything about the classes, but she still remembers the stairs,” King laughs.

Other issues addressed by the renewal project included the addition of sprinkler systems, air conditioning and energy efficiency upgrades, as well as bringing emergency exits up to code.

Announced in 2011, the \$63.6 million College Avenue Campus Renewal Project involved the renovation of the College Building, Tower and Conservatory façade, and construction of new additions at the east and west ends of the College Building. Funding for the included: a \$28.7 million contribution from the Government of Canada’s Strategic Investment Fund (SIF); a donation of 2.6 acres of land from the City of Regina; and approximately \$25 million in private and in-kind donations, including a unique \$8.25 million partnership with Conexus Credit Union.

“Conexus Credit Union has been a great partner,” says University of Regina President Vianne Timmons. “They are not a usual business – they’re a customer-owned, Saskatchewan-based co-operative. They have always been a supporter of arts

and education in the province – the Conexus Arts Centre is a great example. They also have programs to provide financial planning and support to seniors. This project would have been impossible without their funding,” she adds.

The renovated College Building was ready in time for the start of classes in September. The restoration preserved numerous heritage elements, while upgrading the institution into a modern teaching facility. The four-storey Conservatory façade remains, and 16,000 bricks were repurposed, primarily on the west side of the Tower.

All exterior steel windows, including hardware and hinges, were reused. Interior and exterior windows were repaired or refurbished, including interior wood sashes and new double-pane glass for energy efficiency. The upgrades include smart classrooms that are modern, safe and accessible, and wired for video conferencing, computers, data projection and audio. The campus is the perfect blend of old and new.

Carol Reyda, project manager for construction at the University, notes that the design for the additions to the College Building referenced the University of Regina’s master plan from more than a century ago. The College Avenue Campus heritage buildings are early and exceptional examples of Collegiate Gothic architecture. “The goal for the new construction was not to recreate the heritage buildings, but to create a backdrop so they can really shine,” she says.

Plans for landscaping around the building were also taken from the original master plans. The campus was meant to have buildings on four sides and a courtyard inside. The drop-off loop at the back of the building is reminiscent of this courtyard feel. The new entrance to the front of the College Building is in the Tower, which was in the master plan but was filled with bricks instead. By opening up the archway and adding glass,

you can see through the building to the lake on the other side. “It’s reverting to those original plans of the building, where you enter the space and connect with Wascana Park,” Reyda says.

Donald Luxton, the head of Donald Luxton and Associates, Western Canada’s foremost cultural and historical management company and the consultant working on the University’s College Avenue Campus Renewal Project, says the College Avenue Campus is one of the more historically significant sites in Western Canada. “Many people have amazing connections to the campus. Sites like this really tell us about early Regina residents who lived here before we did, and they tell us about the potential for the future. It gives us some deeper meaning in our cities. I think these are all things that are crucial about maintaining historic landmarks.”

President Timmons emphasizes the importance the donor community played in realizing the project. “Donors and the community were essential to the project’s success,” she says. “Because they are passionate about the College Avenue Campus, it inspired the project team to create something worthy of their interest. Without the donors and the community involvement, this project wouldn’t have happened. It’s a community building, and the University knows that, appreciates that and values that.”

The most rewarding aspect of the project for Reyda was when she poked her head into a classroom at the end of one of the first days of classes and asked an instructor what she thought of the space. “She raved about the acoustics and how nice and bright the rooms are. One staff member pulled me aside and said, ‘I feel like I’m coming to a palace every time I come to work.’ It’s rewarding when the users appreciate it and feel it’s a good functioning and inspiring building.”

“I’m proud to see a major federal program like the Strategic Investment Fund supporting the revitalization of the College Avenue campus,” says Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Ralph Goodale BA’71, who was on hand for the official re-opening in early October. “State of the art construction techniques are preserving a heritage building and transforming it into an innovative space for the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, continuing education for adults and the new Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy – all in all a very valuable investment.”



**Left: Doug Moen, interim executive director of Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy one of Canada’s leading policy schools. Right: Harvey King, director of the Continuing Education Centre.**

Although she regrets that her mother passed away before seeing the College Building renewed, Margaret Anne Hodges is excited to see the space revitalized. “Having an inspiring building that is set for the 21st century helps to ground students and support them into the future. It shows students that we care – we support you in your learning endeavours and believe in you,” she says.

“This is a wonderful day for the University of Regina,” remarked President Timmons at the re-opening. “The beautiful, historic College Building is a legacy that was left for us by forward-thinking members of our community more than a century ago. Revitalizing it over the past few years to make it a modern, accessible place of learning in the heart of Regina was once again a community endeavour, and we owe a great debt of thanks to the many dedicated individuals and organizations who provided the necessary support.” **D**

*Sabrina Cataldo is an award-winning writer and communications strategist in Regina.*



**Left: Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the October 5 grand re-opening of the College Building (left to right) Dr. Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Dr. Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor; Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Minister of Advanced Education for Saskatchewan; His Worship Michael Fougere, Mayor, City of Regina. Right: Carol Reyda, project manager for construction at the University, oversaw the project on behalf of the U of R.**

## Risa Horowitz - *Practicing Standing, and Other*



During my sabbatical from teaching and administrative work as an associate profesosr of Visual Arts at the University of Regina, I travelled to Svalbard, in the Arctic, for two very different artist residencies.

In June 2017, I spent three sleepless weeks during the unsetting midnight sun aboard a tall ship with 30 artists and scientists. We sailed around the western and northern coasts of the archipelago, visiting the fjords and glaciers and hiking so carefully across the rocky moraines and fragile tundra.

Still exhausted, in January and February 2018, I returned to Svalbard, but now during the unrising sun: polar night. I was an artist in residence with Galleri Svalbard, the northernmost contemporary art gallery in the world, in the northernmost civil settlement on the planet. On my own, then, I felt that if the farthest I ventured was the roof of the gallery, it would be far enough.

I spent this time standing on that roof in the midst of day/night, all the dusk and twilight and night and aurora, day after day, for weeks, just standing. Looking. Listening. Being one who practices standing in the comfort of the dark.

All images are from the *Practicing Standing* series of documented performances in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, 2018. [www.risahorowitz.com](http://www.risahorowitz.com)  
Text by Risa Horowitz.



Anywhere!.... we say... Anywhere...  
So long as it be out of this world!

We are here.  
Earth.  
This is where we belong.

This is how we walk on Earth.



***Through Baudelaire...***

Of course...we should all always be happier elsewhere than where we happen to be.

There are reasons people venture to the farthest reaches of this planet, leave their homes to locate themselves in places like Longyearbyen, with its feeling of otherworldliness and conflicted sense of isolation.



Here; gravity

Here; pouring rain in January

Here; where ninety-one straight months of warmer-than-normal temperatures

Here; where human waste flows into the fjord

Here; where we are proud to know how to operate rifles in case we need to kill polar bears

Here; where we imagine we are greater than we are and are reminded constantly that we are not

Here; where we knowingly colonize a(n other) place unfit for human survival

Here; where we have no choice but to be uniquely resilient and self-reliant, and to rely on one another ... strangers though we may be

Here; where the waxing twilight shakes us from the shelter of the dark polar night

# Fall 2018

## honorary degree recipients



Photo by Paul Joseph.

**Dr. Elizabeth Bryce BSc'78, DSc (Honorary)'18**

For her life-long dedication to medicine and her bold vision for health care, Dr. Elizabeth Bryce has received the University of Regina's highest honour – an honorary degree.

Bryce is an alumna of the University of Regina (Campion College), having earned a BSc Hons in 1978. She went on to pursue medicine at the University of Saskatchewan and, in a long and distinguished career, has made significant contributions to medical microbiology and infection prevention. She is qualified in medical microbiology and internal medicine and is a clinical professor at the University of British Columbia.

"There was no particular 'ah ha' moment for medicine as a calling," she says. "I loved science and thought I would enjoy the challenge of medicine and its ever-evolving nature."

Bryce is the co-founder of the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Biological Response Advisory Team whose practices were adopted by Health Canada. She was seconded to work on the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health during the height of the outbreak. She was also part of the team that planned how to manage biological events during the Summit of the Americas and the Pan-Am Games. As well, she served on the team that developed Canada's hospital infection prevention response to the H1N1 pandemic.

She served as regional medical director for Infection Control at VCH Acute and is the co-director of the Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia.

"Without question, it is the people – those I work with and those I serve – that provide me with the most satisfaction," she says. "The patient comes first – knowing that you have changed an outcome or prevented a complication such as an infection is so rewarding. My colleagues have been a source of inspiration, and the field of medical microbiology and infection prevention encourages you to be a critical thinker and to challenge the status quo. Life is rarely boring when you work in such an exciting environment."

Bryce is the co-lead for the University of British Columbia Certificate in Infection Control program and the co-creator of several online educational infection control modules. Her animated module on how health-care workers can protect themselves from infections has been translated and distributed throughout South America.

She has published numerous scholarly articles in many of the field's top national and international journals and, along with her colleague Dr. Annalee Yassi, was awarded the Canadian Medical Association Journal Merit Award for Top Achievements in Health Research in 2011.

In 2012, she received the Champion for Change Award from the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO) and GroYourBiz. The award recognizes global leaders who envision innovative ways of benefiting their community. More recently, she has received both the British Columbia Health Care Gold Apple Award for Top Innovation and the People First Award for Innovation for her team's creation of a canine scent detection program to detect hidden hospital reservoirs of infectious diarrhea.

Bryce is an active volunteer and travels to other countries to help health-care practitioners build safer medical environments that minimize the risk of exposure to transmissible diseases.

"I am touched and humbled by this award," Bryce says of the honorary degree. "It serves to remind me of the many people who helped me along my career path. I am truly the product of the proverbial village – from those who have supported, guided and mentored me, to those who gave me the freedom and encouraged me to pursue an intriguing question or an innovative idea."

Bryce received her honorary Doctor of Science on October 19.



Photo by Trevor Hopkin.

## Dr. Ray Cleveland LLD (Honorary)'18

For his life-long dedication to education, Dr. Ray Cleveland is receiving the University of Regina's highest honour – an honorary degree.

Cleveland was born in Nebraska and later moved to California. He graduated from Westmont College with a bachelor's degree. Later, he received his master's and PhD from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. As a graduate student, his educational experience was enhanced by working as secretarial assistant to W. F. Albright, one of the most influential biblical archaeologists of the 20th century.

He went on to work on several archaeological excavations, most notably at Jericho under the direction of Kathleen Kenyon, another of the most influential archaeologists of the 20th century. Dr. Cleveland also had occasion to work with Wendell Phillips, an expedition leader and founder of the American Foundation for the

Study of Man. Dr. Cleveland served as a researcher and editor on Phillips' books *Oman: A History* and *Unknown Oman*.

"I left archaeological fieldwork and research in part to have more varied ideas to consider and to have contact with a greater variety of people," he says. "Archaeological field work and research were, in a sense, preparation for my later teaching. I recommend it for any student who wants to teach history, especially ancient history. Working with the material culture of earlier societies provides important insights into the historical process."

He came to Regina in the mid-'60s and for 27 years was one of the most respected teachers in the Department of History. Cleveland introduced and taught courses on ancient history, modern Middle East and the history of Islam. He was named professor emeritus upon his retirement in the mid-'90s.

"Teaching provides human contact that many occupations do not," Cleveland says. "Teaching is especially great because it brings interaction in the realms of information and ideas."

Cleveland donated hundreds of scholarly books and journals to the Dr. John Archer Library. (A former student recalls the collection on ancient history was largely made up of Cleveland's donations.) He was also an active academic publisher. His scholarly writing included book reviews, articles and contributions to numerous books. His books, *The Middle East and South Asia, 1967*, and later, *The Middle East and South Asia 1988*, were published in 21 annually revised editions.

Cleveland is recognized internationally as an expert on the history of Palestine and continued to publish on the subject long after his retirement. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of the Pacific in 1970.

For decades, he has taught older adults at the U of R's Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC). His courses have covered such topics as ancient history, the modern Middle East, and archaeological research on ancient cultures.

"Teaching older adults differs in the first way because of the life experience that older people have," says Cleveland. "They are able to view early cultures, history and current events from a broader perspective than young students. Teaching non-credit classes to older people also allows for greater flexibility in classroom discussion."

Today, students in his LLC classroom remain as engaged with the gifted educator as were his students in the mid-'60s.

"When Dr. Timmons called me to offer this honour, I found it hard to believe. At my stage in life, this honour does not make me any more marketable, but it makes me happier. I think, too, that it will please many of my present and former students, and that is a cause for some satisfaction."

Dr. Cleveland received his honorary Doctor of Laws on October 19.



# Answering the call

Two University of Regina graduates followed their passions and found careers in service to others. One of the first responders recently retired from the Regina Police Service. The other is the head of Regina Fire and Protective Services.

By Bill Armstrong

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department.

**S**heree Ortman BPAS'95, CA'97, MAdmin'15 had forgotten about her application to join the Regina Police Service (RPS) when the call came asking her if she was still interested. Layne Jackson had wanted to be a firefighter since he was a young teenager. They both knew early on that they wanted to be in jobs where they could serve others; the kind of jobs where each day brought new and different challenges.

Both attended the University of Regina to advance their education and move forward in their chosen professions. Both relied on the flexibility of part-time studies to help them balance their work and family responsibilities with their education. And both achieved their goals: Ortman served with the RPS for 25 years before retiring in early September, while Jackson has served as chief of Regina Fire and Protective Services for the past year and a half, following eight years as deputy chief.

Today, people in their lines of work are referred to as “first responders,” a catch-all phrase referring to individuals with specialized training who are among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene of an emergency, such as an accident, an explosion or fire, a natural disaster or a mass shooting. Informally, they are the brave folks who are trained to rush toward trouble while the rest of us run the other way.

Ortman, who admits to being “something of an adrenaline junkie,” experienced several twists and turns along her path to becoming a police officer. However, throughout that journey wound the common thread that her work would involve helping people, and it would offer a variety of experiences. After finishing high school in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Ortman trained to be an emergency medical technician at SIAST (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic). But after about five years, she recognized that if she wanted to better her pay and benefits and have more opportunities for education, she needed to change careers.

“If you have the motivation to improve yourself and take on new work experiences,” Ortman explains, “you don’t want to be stalled by factors outside your control.” She applied to the Regina Police Service because policing had some of the same characteristics as being an EMT; every day was different. But when she applied to the RPS – the only police service she ever applied to – there was a hiring freeze.

“My family has always been athletic, so I applied to take a physical activity studies degree at the University of Regina,” says Ortman. “I was in my second-last semester when the police service called. At first, I wondered if something was wrong. When they asked if I was still interested in the job, I was surprised but I wasn’t too sure. I told myself, ‘Don’t shut the door too quick. There are about 20 steps to get the job, and I may not make it, or they may say I’m out at any point.’”

Those steps included numerous physical, medical and psychological tests – which she passed – before beginning her training at the Saskatchewan Police College at the University of Regina campus. Ortman also continued her studies and completed her degree.

A southern Saskatchewan native, Layne Jackson BHRD'09 (Hons) originally worked for a year after high school and then pursued his interest in firefighting. He attended Lake Superior College in Duluth, Minnesota from 1993 to 1995, where he received an associate degree in Fire Technology and Administration. He then returned to Saskatchewan, working for more than 10 years in the Office of the Fire Commissioner,



**Opposite page: Sheree Ortman was a pioneer at the Regina Police Service including a stint as critical incident commander. Above: Layne Jackson, chief of Regina Fire and Protective Services.**

which is tasked with investigating and responding to large-scale emergencies and disasters. He began taking night classes toward a Bachelor of Human Resource Development at the University in 1998 and graduated in the spring of 2009.

“It was difficult juggling classes, family and work, but the experience turned out positive,” Jackson says. “I met so many professionals who were upgrading and diversifying their education. There were also elective classes that gave me a good cross-section of subject matter, and also exposed me to young, eager students fresh out of high school and to new Canadians who introduced me to aspects of different cultures.”

Equally important, Jackson’s education was directly applicable to his responsibility for heading an organization of 325 people, what he describes as “... the art and science of leading and developing people.” Several classes in finance and economics also help him in his role as chief, he adds.

When Ortman joined the RPS, four per cent of the service’s sworn officers were women. The 13 female officers were a novelty, she says, and while the RPS has always been accepting and welcoming, she sometimes experienced what she calls “micro-inequities,” such as having a colleague speak to her with his back turned or blocking her from the rest of a group. “You were always trying to prove yourself, and you didn’t want to mess up and prove what you felt your fellow officers and members of the public were already thinking.” Ortman emphasizes that the RPS has made a lot of progress on diversity, with about 23 per cent of sworn officers being female.

Ortman recognized that if she was going to continue taking on more responsible roles in the RPS, where the service's strategies and budgets are planned and executed, she needed more than her undergraduate degree. "I don't like to plateau; when I get to that point, I'm itching to grow. I also recognized that it would benefit me and those I worked with."

Ortman began studying for a master's degree in administration at the Levene Graduate School of Business in 2012, with a focus on courses in leadership. "Leadership was key to what I was going to do for the rest of my career," she explains. "I'm glad I waited to do my master's because the life experiences I'd had gave me more insights that I could apply in my studies and at work." Ortman received her master's degree in 2015.

Jackson's and Ortman's experiences and interests also mesh with research underway at the University of Regina, on the effects of occupational stress injuries on first responders. In the past few decades, public awareness of the psychological, emotional and physical effects that attending to emergency situations have on first responders has increased. It's often referenced under the blanket terms post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or post-traumatic stress injury.

In March 2018, the University of Regina's Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment (CIPSRT) was assigned to lead a Canada-wide consortium of university researchers, partner organizations and stakeholders in developing tools to recognize mental injuries suffered by first responders and other public safety personnel. The two-pronged initiative focuses on prevention measures and treatments that reduce the impact of occupational stress injuries.

Funding for the project includes \$20 million to support a five-year project in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to investigate the incidence of post-traumatic stress injuries, and \$10 million over five years for work with Public Safety Canada to develop an internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy pilot project to increase access to care and treatment for first responders and other public safety personnel across Canada, particularly those in rural and remote areas.

Jackson is excited about the projects and welcomes having them inform the well-being of first responders. "We send our firefighters to do some of the most traumatic work on a daily basis, all year," he says. "After a traumatic event, the people involved debrief with a team of their peers – that is a key element – in what we call "critical incident stress management." Firefighters are very safety conscious, but I'm also mindful of the mental stresses they encounter over a career. I'm looking forward to seeing the results of the work of the national institute, and how it might help mitigate the risk of occupational stress injuries in what is a very dangerous job."



**Sheree Ortman just before her September 2018 retirement. Ortman served the Regina Police Service for 25 years.**



**Layne Jackson confers with administrative associate Samantha Cabylis at Fire Headquarters in Regina.**

Ortman adds that the occupational stress and trauma experienced by first responders and public safety personnel are very real and just beginning to be recognized. Police officers are exposed to some horrific situations, she notes, and some are more resilient than others.

The City of Regina's Employee and Family Assistance Program is available for officers, but there are factors that complicate the process, she explains. "We take pride in our identities of being a front-line police officer. If you are removed from your duties, sometimes parts of that identity are removed. There are also issues of confidentiality; you can't talk about a lot of what goes on in doing your job."

Ortman credits her education with helping her develop safeguards against the hazards that come with the job. These include being physically fit, having an extremely good support system, and living a balanced lifestyle with interests and activities other than work. "Otherwise, if your life is all about work, you have nothing to turn to after experiencing a traumatic situation."

Ortman, who served as a critical incident commander, says there have been times when she was affected by what she saw and experienced, though she was fortunate not to experience long-term difficulties. She, too, welcomes the CIPSRT initiative and anticipates that the results of the research will be invaluable. "It is exciting and long overdue," she states.

As for her own future, Ortman hopes to apply her years of policing experience to create value for other organizations.

Jackson, meanwhile, is faced with the challenge of ensuring his department is keeping pace with Regina's growth, both in population numbers and geographic area. That includes maintaining acceptable response times for residential, industrial and commercial emergency calls, and providing specialty teams to deal with hazardous material incidents and water rescues.

Noting that half of "unintentional residential fires" originate from cooking, the fire department partnered with the University's Community Research Unit to gather information about such fires and to recommend actions to reduce those numbers. The study was completed in 2017 and has drawn interest from the national and international associations of fire chiefs. The fire department's public education officers are now implementing some of the study's findings in their programming.

"It's part of the department's focus on continuing to strengthen the role and the profile of our department in the community," says Jackson. **D**

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

THE LEAGUE OF

# EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI!



**JACQUELINE TISHER**

**CCE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE '16**

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ARE FANTASTIC!**

**ALUMNI CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN  
& COMMUNITY SERVICE**

For the full story on this fantastic alumnus, go to: [www.uregina.ca/alumawards](http://www.uregina.ca/alumawards).

The *University of Regina Act* states that the Chancellor and 14 members of Convocation are elected to the University of Regina Senate. The Chancellor of the University and the 14 elected members of Senate serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-election to a second consecutive term.

## 2019 ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

On June 30, 2019, Dr. R. James Tomkins will end his second term as Chancellor of the University of Regina. All members of Convocation are eligible to nominate candidates for Chancellor. Nominees must be members of Convocation for at least 10 years before nomination and must reside in the province of Saskatchewan.

Nominations for **Chancellor** must be signed by **seven** qualified voters (members of Convocation) and **endorsed by the nominee**. Members of Senate are eligible to vote to elect the Chancellor. The election of the Chancellor will take place at the Senate Meeting held on **June 5, 2019**.

Nominations for Chancellor, accompanied by biographical information and a photograph of the candidate, can be submitted to the University Secretariat until **4:00 p.m., on Monday, April 15, 2019**.



## 2019 ELECTION OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

### ARE YOU A UNIVERSITY OF REGINA GRADUATE?

Consider nominating a fellow alumnus for the 2019 Senate election to be held on **Friday, May 24, 2019**.

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

The University Secretariat office will accept nominations until **4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2019**.

*Nominations will be called for the following:*

- **District 1 (Moosomin-Estevan):**  
*Vacant*
- **District 5 (Maple Creek-Rosetown-Lloydminster):**  
*Incumbent is not eligible for re-election*
- **District 6 (Melville-Yorkton-Hudson Bay):**  
*Incumbent is eligible for re-election*
- **District 8 (Dundurn-Delisle):**  
*Vacant*
- **District 10 (Moose Jaw):**  
*Incumbent is eligible for re-election*

For more information regarding district boundaries, and to access the nomination forms/biographical forms, visit our website at [www.uregina.ca/president/governance/senate/elections.html](http://www.uregina.ca/president/governance/senate/elections.html) or call the University Secretariat at 306-585-4436.



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**DR. JOANA COOK** BAHONS'10

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**ALUMNI CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD  
SPONSORED BY CANADA LIFE**

For the full story on this incredible alumnus, go to: [www.uregina.ca/alumawards](http://www.uregina.ca/alumawards).

**Vivek Jain BAdmin'99** can be a hard guy to pin down. If he's not in Regina looking after his young daughters, chances are he is in Los Angeles or New York promoting his new dating app. Or, you might find him in Toronto, appearing in a commercial or acting in an independent feature length film. Not long ago, the accounting graduate and his partners were on CBC's *Dragons' Den* pitching a unique football league. FANchise is a digital-age sports league where every decision, from the colour of the cheerleaders' uniforms to on-field play calling, is decided by fans.

**D** If you were pitching FANchise to investors, how would you describe it in a sentence or two?

*What if I told you we've turned professional football into a real-life video game? Wouldn't you want to be a part of that?*

**D** You developed one of the first video dating apps, called LOKO. What are the virtues of a video-only dating app?

*Video dating eliminates frustrations such as text conversations that go nowhere or matches who are nothing like their profiles suggest. It also brings back some old-fashioned dating charm – where human interaction and personality become the root to making real connections.*

**D** Most of us know your LOKO business partner Norm MacDonald from his stand-up comedy and his extended stint on *Saturday Night Live*. What qualities does he bring to the partnership?

*He's an incredibly intelligent, hard-working guy with great business instincts. He's the perfect business partner and has been an integral part of building the business from the ground up.*

**D** What was the genesis of your entrepreneurialism?

*I've always been driven to try and make a lasting impact on society. The entrepreneurial world seemed like the perfect way to do that. It's pretty easy to find passion in your work when you've come up with an idea that is needed in the marketplace and [you're] taking it from concept to reality.*

**D** Who or what inspires you?

*I'm fortunate to be surrounded by a lot of inspirational people in my life, but my daughters are the most inspirational. I live my life based on a quote that Walt Disney made famous, "If you can dream it, it's possible." One of my biggest goals is to instill this same belief in my daughters.*

**D** What was the main thing you came away with from your educational experience at the University of Regina?

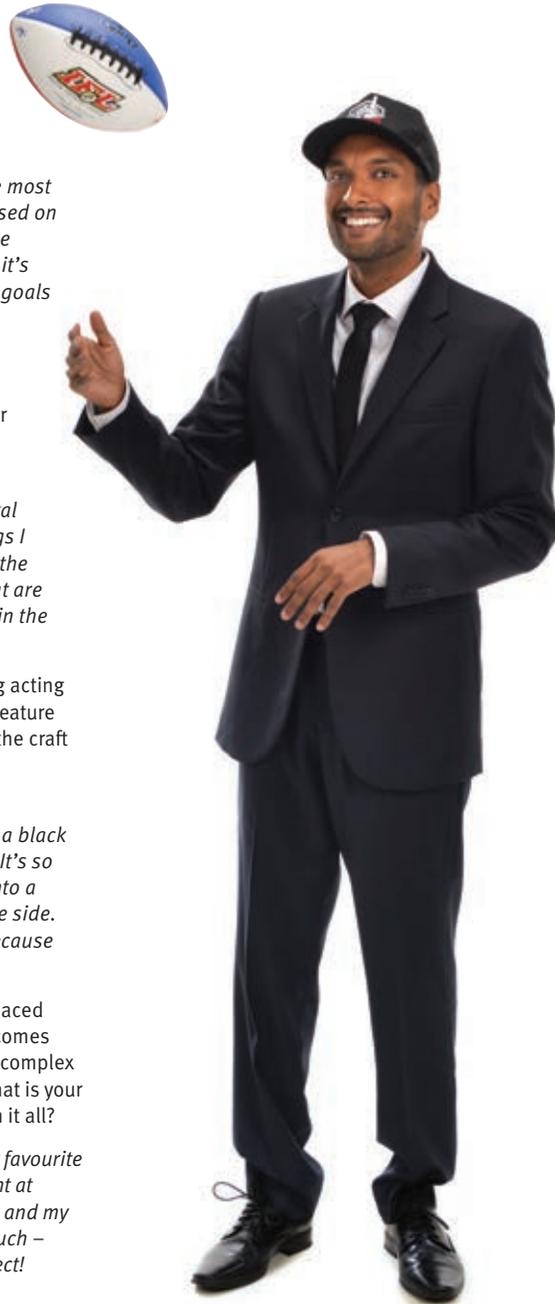
*My education was instrumental in allowing me to do the things I am doing now. It gave me all the basic foundational pieces that are necessary to be able to grow in the business world.*

**D** You also have a burgeoning acting career and have appeared in feature length films. What is it about the craft that attracts you?

*I find acting such a liberating experience. I come from such a black and white world in business. It's so refreshing to be able to dig into a character and find my creative side. Plus my kids think I'm cool because I'm on TV!*

**D** Your lifestyle is often fast-paced with plenty of the stress that comes from chasing and negotiating complex and sizeably valued deals. What is your favourite way to get away from it all?

*Any time with my girls, but my favourite would have to be a movie night at home. A table full of junk food and my babies cuddling me on the couch – not sure it gets any more perfect!*



THE LEAGUE OF

# EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI!



**AMY (MICKLEBOROUGH) MOROZ** BED'98  
**ANDREA (GOTTSELIG) WARD** BED'00, MED'10

**OUR ALUMNI  
ARE WONDERFUL!**

**ALUMNI CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
DR. ROBERT & NORMA FERGUSON AWARD  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

For the full story on these wonderful alumni, go to: [www.uregina.ca/alumawards](http://www.uregina.ca/alumawards).

### Upcoming Alumni Events

University of Regina President Vianne Timmons is looking forward to meeting alumni across Canada. We hope you and a guest will join us if you are in any of these centres on these dates.

President's Reception  
Victoria, B.C.  
November 1, 2018, 5:30 p.m.  
fortune gallery  
events.eply.com/VictoriaAlumni2018

President's Reception  
Calgary, Alta.  
November 26, 2018, 5:30 p.m.  
events.eply.com/CalgaryAlumni2018

President's Reception  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
January 30, 2019, 5:30 p.m.  
Remai Modern Gallery  
events.eply.com/SaskatoonReception2019

President's Reception  
Ottawa, Ont.  
May 14, 2019, 5:30 p.m.  
Rideau Club  
events.eply.com/2019Ottawareception

### Chapter and branch contact information

#### Alumni Leadership Group Contacts

**Victoria:** Lisa King BPAS'95, MAdmin'11 – [kisaling@shaw.ca](mailto:kisaling@shaw.ca)

**Calgary:** Stuart Quinn BAdmin'81 – [stuartq@shaw.ca](mailto:stuartq@shaw.ca)

**Edmonton:** Brad Rollins BAdmin'78 – [bradjrollins@gmail.com](mailto:bradjrollins@gmail.com)

**Saskatoon:** Richard Kies BAdmin'93, CPR'03 – [richardkies@shaw.ca](mailto:richardkies@shaw.ca)

#### Alumni Associations

##### University of Regina Alumni Association

Bert Yakichuk PGDSGC'73, MEd'77 – [uralumni@uregina.ca](mailto:uralumni@uregina.ca)

##### Levene Graduate School of Business Alumni Association

Chuck Sylvester CDP'99, CCS'02, MBA'14 – [levene.alumni@uregina.ca](mailto:levene.alumni@uregina.ca)

##### Hill Alumni Association

Nicole Nameth BBA'15 – [Hill.Alumni@uregina.ca](mailto:Hill.Alumni@uregina.ca)

##### Johnson Shoyama Alumni Association

Rebecca Gibbons MBA'13, MPA'16 – [rebeccagibbons@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccagibbons@hotmail.com)

# INSPIRING LEADERSHIP FORUM

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MARCH 2019

Mira Sorvino  
March 5



MIRA SORVINO

Inspiring  
Leadership  
Forum  
March 6



JANN ARDEN



ELIZABETH SMART



CHERYL STRAYED

PRESENTED BY



[uofrinspiringleadership.com](http://uofrinspiringleadership.com)



University  
of Regina

## 1970 – 79

**Brian Stubbings BEd'71, BA'92** spent 37 years teaching young people, including nine years in Zambia, three and a half years in Malawi, and 26 years with Regina Public Schools. Post-retirement, he was a teacher on-call with Regina Public Schools and Luther High School. He also taught English to newcomers to Canada at the Regina Open Door Society and worked at the Conexus Arts Centre.

**Brenda Bacon BSW'75** retired from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work in 2014 and has since been happily doing volunteer work. She has volunteered as an assistant in English as a second language (ESL) for adult refugees and as an interpreter at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg.

## 1980-89

**Mark Gelowitz BA'83** has published the fourth edition

of his book, *Sopinka and Gelowitz on the Conduct of an Appeal*. Gelowitz co-authored the book in the early 1990s with the late Justice John Sopinka of the Supreme Court of Canada. The book continues to be a leading legal text in Canada on the subject of the law and procedure relating to appeals.

**James Trettwer CA'86, CCE'87, CDP'90, BA'97** published his story collection, *Thorn-Field*, through ThistleDown Press in Saskatoon. The collection was a Saskatchewan Writers' Guild John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Awards winner in 2016.

## 1990-99

**Jayne Barnard-Robertson CA'92, CCE'93, BA'95, BA'97** is the author of the award-winning mystery *When the Flood Falls* and three books in the young adult fantasy series *The Maddie Hatter Adventures*. Barnard-Robertson's works have been

shortlisted for two Prix Aurora Awards in young adult fiction, an Alberta Book Publishing Award, a UK Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger, and three Great Canadian Story prizes.

**Lorne Nordal CVTEd'93** spent one year on a teacher exchange to Australia and was involved in a Canadian International Development Agency project in Vietnam.

After more than 20 years in the not-for-profit sector, **Richard Kies BAdmin'93, CPR'03** fulfilled a career goal by becoming the executive director of the Kinsmen Foundation. Kies was also recently elected to the University of Regina Senate as representative for Saskatoon. He will serve a three-year term.

**Meseret Mamo BSc'99** has worked in international development in Africa and Asia. She also founded a growth accelerator and financial advisory firm based in Ethiopia.

## 2000-09

**Steven Jackson's BFA'00, BA'01** first play, *The Seat Next to The King*, won best new play at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2017. The play drew sold-out audiences and had a second run at The Theatre Centre in Toronto.

## 2010 – present

**Katie Bergman BHJ'11** has written two publications: *When Justice Just Is: Confessing Brokenness, Cultivating Joy, and Creating Space for Authenticity in the Justice Movement*; and *Urban Shalom: Restoring Hope and Justice to Global Communities Affected by Modern Slavery*.

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# Following the **flame**



**When she graduated from the University of Regina's School of Journalism in 2002, Michelle Brass had the world by the tail. She was landing her dream jobs, including one at CBC Radio as the host of *The Afternoon Edition*. Then, just as her young career was skyrocketing, she gave it all up in search of a truer existence rooted in her Saulteaux heritage.**

**By Michelle Brass CICA'02, BAJ'02 (Hons)**

Photos by Don Hall and courtesy of Michelle Brass.

I've always been driven by a strong sense of purpose. I vividly recall a moment from my childhood. I'm seven years old, staring at the side of my hand where my brown skin meets the lighter, paler skin of my palm. As I stare at the line where brown meets white, I am struck with a deep knowing, an understanding that I am both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and that this is somehow significant. It's one of my most powerful memories. It has defined the trajectory of my life.

Growing up, I struggled with my identity. My ancestry is mixed: Saulteaux on my mom's side and English/Swiss on my dad's side. Although I had deeper relationships with my extended family on my dad's side, I have always felt a much stronger connection to my Saulteaux heritage.

I didn't grow up with my culture or language. More than one hundred years of racist government policies aimed at assimilation made sure of that. During the residential school era, they tried to "kill the Indian in the child." But they couldn't, despite Canada's best efforts. They could dim the flame, but could not extinguish the spark. That spark is our spirit. It is our blood memory. It is strong and it will always call us home.

I've spent my life hearing that call. This deep longing to remember who I am is my spirit calling to me. It's the spark, a fire lit within. Sometimes the blaze is strong and bright. Other times it's an ember, a tiny point of light in the vast darkness. It never goes out. It's the driving force behind everything I do. It guides me along a particular life path that's been both a blessing and a burden.

I experience the deep fulfillment and joy of reconnecting to Indigenous ceremonies and teachings. I also engage with emotionally exhausting work that's created the most anguish in my life; searching for a way to reconcile two completely different cultures inhabiting the same space, both figuratively and literally. My inner world and the outer world reflect the same struggle – Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews attempting, but failing, to live harmoniously. This dichotomy, and searching for a way to reconcile the two, has essentially become my life's work, for better or for worse.

This calling is what drove me to pursue a journalism career at 17. I believed if Canadians understood our shared history and Indigenous

perspectives, we could create a stronger future. I had grand notions of building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and healing this damaged relationship through storytelling.

My passion and purpose, my fire, propelled me forward. I completed the Indian Communication Arts program at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and graduated with distinction from the School of Journalism in 2002. I landed the internships of my choice and won competitive scholarships, including two major student awards from the Radio and Television News Directors Association. They are among the top national awards in the industry. I was offered jobs immediately upon graduation. The spark within me was ablaze. I was young, idealistic and ambitious.

Over the next decade, I built my career and landed my dream jobs. I was a TV and radio reporter for CBC Saskatchewan. I did corporate communications for the City of Regina and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. I was recruited as editor of *Shout*, a glossy, monthly magazine for Indigenous youth across the province. I landed my own provincial talk show on CJME NewsTalk Radio. I wrote a monthly column for the

*Saskatoon StarPhoenix* and *Regina Leader-Post*. I was host of *The Afternoon Edition* on CBC Radio in Saskatchewan. All of my dreams had come true.

Except they really hadn't.

Behind my career success, I experienced incredible emotional and spiritual pain due to unresolved intergenerational trauma. The weight of my anguish was crushing me and nothing seemed to help. Deep down, I knew my healing would come from my culture and ceremony. I yearned and searched for my cultural teachings. I learned bits and pieces here and there but, without family connections to my culture, I hit a lot of dead ends.

I didn't realize it at the time, but the pain I was experiencing was a very deep, profound grief over everything that has been taken from our people. I was grieving for something I never had the chance to have. But my spirit remembered and was crying out for me to recall, reconnect and reclaim our traditional ways of living.

Some people say we lost our culture, language and way of life. My journalism career taught me the importance of language and word selection. We didn't lose our culture as though we were careless. That's like saying we lost our keys. Our entire way of life everything was maliciously stolen from us. It's

important to say that, to tell the truth. If the idea of reconciliation is to be a real possibility (and I'm not at all convinced that it is, at least not in my lifetime), we must start by telling the truth of what happened and continues to happen on these lands.

This desire to tell the truth and begin healing this relationship is what inspired me to pursue journalism over other professions. Throughout my career, I maintained a deep commitment to covering Indigenous stories in a fair and accurate manner and to covering all stories with integrity and excellence. I'd like to think I made a difference through my news stories, interviews and writing. I poured my heart and soul into this work to help build a stronger future for all of us.

But one day, out of the blue, it all felt like a total waste of my time and energy. I was spending my life inside a newsroom feeding a never-ending news cycle instead of doing the real work of picking up the pieces of our culture that our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents left behind. Suddenly everything felt futile and silly. I couldn't stand the newsroom, the on-air banter and five-minute interviews. Even more, I couldn't stand having to continually educate my colleagues about Indigenous-Canadian facts and history, battling ridiculous stereotypes and reading racist



Opposite page: Journalism school graduate Michelle Brass near her home on the Peepeekisis Cree Nation. Left: Brass enjoys some quality time with husband Phillip Brass and son Forest in their Peepeekisis home. Right: Brass was a rising star in the journalism field until she turned her back on her chosen career to focus on Indigenous food sovereignty, climate change, Indigenous health and wellness, and personal healing and transformation.

comments on online news stories. I was completely done with it all.

So just like that, I quit my career. My passion and purpose were gone. Without it, the work felt hollow and meaningless. Not only was I done with journalism, I wanted nothing to do with building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. I was done with that too. My flame had been snuffed out.

It's taken me eight years to realize the fire is still there. An ember, burning steadily, guiding me and steering me in ways I didn't understand or welcome at the time.

After leaving journalism, my husband and I moved to Peepeekisis Cree Nation. In the first year we spent a lot of time with wonderful Cree knowledge keepers attending ceremonies, picking medicines and learning teachings. Our son was born and we continued down this path, going to the lodges and learning and living by the teachings as best we could. We're deeply committed to this way of life. Ceremonies and teachings set the foundation for everything we do.

I also searched for a new career. I became an integrative nutrition health coach and took on some clients. I discovered JourneyDance, a therapeutic dance form that uses music, freestyle movement and imagery to release emotions and create healing in our lives. I completed three modules of intensive training to become a JourneyDance certified facilitator and began to lead classes and workshops. I also studied at the Martha Beck Institute for a year to become a life coach. These modalities, combined with Indigenous ceremonies as my foundation, started me on a path of deep healing. I wanted to share these tools with others on a similar path. Everything in my life was centred around holistic health, healing and living in a place of freedom and joy. I was excited to lead workshops and coaching

programs to help people live lives full of purpose and meaning.

It was a wonderful period of transition, discovery and healing. Throughout this time, however, I couldn't shake a sense of duty and responsibility to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together. I tried repeatedly to let it go, but the idea wouldn't let go of me. I didn't want to work in the intersections of Indigenous and non-Indigenous anymore. But my lineage includes both the colonized and the colonizers, and so it seems the work I came here to do sits firmly within that realm.

It has become painfully clear to me that I can quit my career but I can't quit my calling. The spark that drove me to succeed is still there, guiding me forward. It's my ancestors calling me to do my part. As an Indigenous woman, I have a responsibility to my community, particularly to our children. We receive guidance in our lodges. We all have work to do. For me, that is accepting and honouring my identity and heritage by working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to work out how we will share this space in a way that provides a good life for all.

In December 2016, I went to Standing Rock for ten days to support our Lakota brothers and sisters protecting the water. I spent my time with the Indigenous midwives in the medic camp. We shared stories, songs and teachings with one another about the role of our women as we protect Mother Earth and live according to her natural laws. To say the experience was profound feels trite. It created a deep shift in me and brought everything in my life into sharp focus.

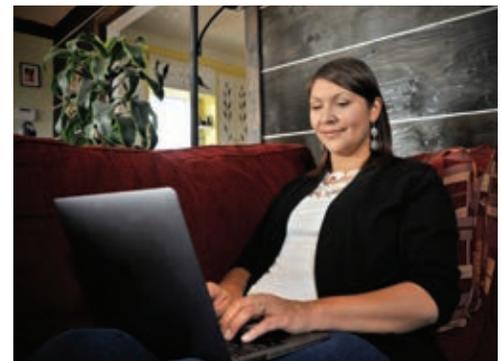
I left there with a renewed commitment to work for the Creator, to heed the guidance of the Grandmothers and Grandfathers (our spirit guides), to be in service to Mother Earth, women and future generations. It stoked the fire within and now it blazes red hot.

My passion and purpose have returned. I stand, with my ancestors behind me, for the water, air, soil, animals, plants and our future with a fierce love and determination.

I've resisted for a very long time but I've finally found my way back to wanting to heal the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It's different now. It's evolved. Before, I focused on healing the past. Now, it's about standing up for our future. We've been warned in our ceremonies about hard times coming. Climate change poses the greatest threat we've ever faced and will require extreme changes on a massive scale. We must work together. Traditional Indigenous knowledge is vital for the survival of our children and grandchildren. It always has been.

I no longer have any interest in trying to change colonial systems to improve the lives of Indigenous people. Instead, my focus is on strengthening our traditional knowledge systems and adhering to our ancient teachings. My work is about developing my relationship with the land and understanding and respecting our natural laws. It's about learning our languages, ceremonies, teachings and way of life. This is what will heal us. This is what will save us.

For years, I've tried to walk in two worlds; to discover who I am and connect to my roots, while simultaneously achieving success in my career and western society. But I've come to realize we're not meant to walk in two worlds. We're meant to walk in one world. The real world. The world of grass and soil and land, the world of water and air and trees and plants. The world of the four-legged and the winged and water creatures. The world of relationships and kinship. The real, natural world where Mother Earth is calling for all of us to remember who we are and how to live with her and with one another. **D**



Left: Brass (centre in long dark dress) facilitates a session of JourneyDance, a therapeutic dance form that uses music, freestyle movement and imagery to release emotions and create healing. Centre: Brass with friends at Standing Rock Indian Reservation, site of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest. Right: Brass works on her writing at her home on Peepeekisis Cree Nation. Michelle Brass is a writer, speaker, health and life coach, and workshop facilitator deeply committed to the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities. You can learn more about her work at [www.michellebrass.com](http://www.michellebrass.com).



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