

THE COLLEGE OF

arts & science

FALL 2011



Inside the SSRL

Part 1 of our 3-part series on the Social Science Research Laboratory, page 4.

Developing Healthy APPetites

English Student's Down Under Adventure

Miller Settles in at Snelgrove

CFI Success



College of Arts and Science

Jason Disano and Loleen Berdahl of the Social Responsibility Research Laboratory . More on Page 4.

✦ The Value of All We Do

BY PETER STOICHEFF, DEAN AND PROFESSOR



It would be difficult to miss the media attention given lately to the issue of a university degree's value—and particularly the value of degrees like those offered in our College. This scrutiny—by current and prospective postsecondary students, Aboriginal communities, all levels of government, federal granting councils, donors, the Canadian public, employment sectors, and by alumni; in short, by all College stakeholders—will certainly not diminish anytime soon.

“Each (urgent global issue) will be solved by many people from many disciplines working together, bringing to the table what they've learned in the humanities, in the social sciences, in the fine arts and in the sciences.”

And so it should not. In fact, I am excited about this opportunity to put us in the spotlight and will seek every opportunity to profile the tremendous value of all that we do.

I have been speaking with students—many of them first-year—at a lot of orientation and welcome events, and at my weekly “Dean's Student Open Door.” The issue of an Arts & Science degree's value regularly comes up and I always point out the figures that support the financial reasons for getting an Arts & Science education. If you have a degree, for instance, you will earn more money over your lifetime, have fewer periods of unemployment, and have significantly better health. You will get a career faster with a degree. But what I really emphasize to students is this:

Leaving aside the demonstrable financial value of a university degree, consider that the world faces many significant and urgent problems that our students, and those across Canada and beyond, will one day be the ones to solve. Consider, too, that although we don't know the answers to these problems—war and international security, debt, chronic hunger, poverty, disease, political instability, health funding, water security, environmental sustainability, illiteracy—we do know one thing: none will be solved by a single person

working in a single discipline or profession. Each will be solved by many people from many disciplines working together, bringing to the table what they've learned in the humanities, in the social sciences, in the fine arts and in the sciences.

This tells us that the many programs we offer in the College are of crucial value. It also reinforces that we're in a unique position because, under our one roof, we contain more disciplines than any other college in

the country. We need now to connect them in new ways that increase the value of all that we already do—a challenge set out in our recently approved Third Integrated Plan. While maintaining our important core program offerings, we can engage the distinct and separated disciplinary programming and research activities currently in the College so as to create, in strategic circumstances (particularly in first year), broadly interdisciplinary program and course options. Capitalizing on the College's capacity for interdisciplinary activity, while continuing to emphasize essential core programming, this principle will increase the College's attractiveness to prospective students, and promote the academic ambitions of many current and future faculty.

Many of the careers that current students and future generations will have are careers that do not yet exist. We can we prepare students for a changing workforce, a dynamic government and economy, and a rapidly-changing global community by emphasizing what we do well: innovative thinking, communication, interdisciplinarity and curiosity-driven research. We can tell them that an Arts & Science degree is indeed worth a lot of money but that it is worth much more than that as well.

Vanier Scholar Developing Healthy APPetites

BY KIRK SIBBALD

We've all been there before: in line at the cafeteria or perusing the menu at a restaurant, wondering what we should order based on individual circumstances. Some are trying to keep cholesterol in check, others have to manage high blood pressure and many of us are just trying to ensure what we consume doesn't manifest itself in our waistlines.

Whatever the case, deciding what to order when eating out can be tricky. However, research being conducted by Rita Orji in the Department of Computer Science could soon help limit food frustration.

Orji, a PhD student, is developing innovative computer apps that promote healthy eating and, she hopes, will help address the worldwide obesity epidemic. One of her prototype apps, LunchTime, helps people choose what to eat based on individual health objectives.

For her work in this regard, Orji received a \$150,000 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship in August, one of this country's most prestigious and lucrative awards available to graduate students. Of the 167 students who received the Vanier scholarship this year, Orji was ranked in the top 5.

Originally from Nigera, Orji came to the U of S in 2010 after finishing her Bachelors degree in Computer Science from Nnamdi Azikwe University in Nigeria and her Masters degree in Informatics at the Middle Eastern Technical University in Turkey. Although she was accepted to various PhD programs at universities around the world, she chose the University of Saskatchewan based on a combination of factors.

"First, during the process of my application, I had some interactions with the faculty and staff in the Department of Computer Science and they were all so friendly and welcoming," she said.

"Second, the department has a very good reputation for work in human-computer interaction, which is what I wanted to do.

"I also heard from other international students about the good reputation the U of S has for accommodating foreign students. I felt like it would be a home away from home here, and so far so good. It has all been very positive and I have no regrets."

Orji said she immediately felt both "humbled and challenged" after receiving the letter saying her Vanier scholarship application had been approved. It was especially rewarding to share the information with her faculty supervisors, Julita Vassileva and Regan Mandryk, two women she says have been invaluable mentors in both her research and life here in Canada.

"They are helping make me what I am and what I am going to be. They are there for me and believe in me," said Orji. "I did win the Vanier, but I really have to give a lot of the credit to them and everyone else in the department, too, because they offered valuable assistance during the application process. They are just wonderful people to work with."

Although Orji's main expertise lies in the realm of Computer Science, her work is unique in that it overlaps with other subjects in the social sciences, such as Psychology and Sociology.

"The basis (of her research) is trying to figure out how human behaviours work and how they can be changed," Orji explained. "We want to create apps based on how human beings work."

Orji hopes to complete her PhD in about three years, and although she has always wanted to become a university professor her career plans are flexible at the moment.

"Certainly I want to do something that really impacts back on society. But whatever that happens to be, I hope to continue to research in this direction and area."



New Survey Lab to Explore Post-Election Attitudes

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Saskatchewan's fixed election dates have given the College's new Social Responsibility Research Laboratory (SRRL) an ideal opportunity to hit the ground running.



Loleen Berdahl and Jason Disano (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

The SRRL will officially open Nov. 8 when 40 students begin work on a 15-minute telephone survey of 1,000 Saskatchewan residents to find out why people voted the way they did one day earlier. Particular attention will be paid to how residents feel about key Saskatchewan public policy issues.

The lab, which consists of 20 computerized survey stations and a 16-seat focus group room, was established on the strength of a \$169,839 grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and a matching contribution from the Government of Saskatchewan. Support has also been provided by the College of Arts & Science and Edwards School of Business.

Loleen Berdahl, Project Leader for the SRRL and Associate Professor of Political Studies, said that although some other universities in North America have telephone and web survey labs, the SRRL is unique in

terms of its co-location with four other social science research laboratories on campus—all within the Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL) complex.

These synergies between the various laboratories, it is hoped, will create unprecedented opportunity for collaborative social science research within the U of S academic community, as well as with community groups and other researchers around the world.

For example, Berdahl said talks have already taken place to potentially use the post-election survey and work with the SSRL's Spatial Analysis lab to examine riding-by-riding results. In addition, other partners on the post-election survey include the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGSPP), St. Thomas More College and a researcher from the University of Ottawa.

"As people become aware of the lab, opportunities may emerge for individuals interested in survey research methodologies, social responsibility research and similar research themes to make connections and bring their work together," said Berdahl, noting that the SRRL project team also includes Maureen Bourassa (Assistant Professor, Edwards School of Business) and Joe Garcea (Professor, Political Studies).

"There is a little bit of that saying, 'If you build it, they will come.' We can tend to be a little isolated in our disciplinary silos, but there are really a lot of commonalities amongst social science researchers that we are trying to explore and expand upon."

As for the advantages to having a survey lab on campus, Jason Disano, the College's Survey Research Manager and Specialist, noted there several important benefits.

First, he said, is that researchers will be able to have much greater control and involvement in their research

during the data collection stage. For example, data collected through the survey lab can be monitored and managed in real-time. Second are the inherent cost savings, as Disano pointed out the survey lab will operate on a cost-recovery basis. And last but certainly not least, Disano noted the lab presents an additional avenue to employ students in hands-on, innovative research projects.

“That to me is one of the great things about the lab. A lot of students are really hungry for research-relevant jobs,” added Berdahl. “Students want to put something on their resume that goes beyond waiting tables or boxing inventory. This is an opportunity for them to have actual engagement in a research project, and that’s

really valuable on a number of levels.”

Following the post-election survey, attention in the SSRL will turn to a new survey, *Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan*, that Disano anticipates will take place next February. The survey will bring together interdisciplinary teams from across the Division of Social Sciences. Although this survey will use a similar methodology as the post-election survey, Disano said its focus will be considerably more broad.

“The intent is for *Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan* to be an annual project and, hopefully, become a part of the regular public discourse in Saskatchewan, giving us an idea of who we are as a province and how we are changing over time,” he said.

A Look Inside the Social Science Research Laboratories (SSRL)

Welcome to the first of a three-part series profiling the individual modules and researchers who are helping to establish the Social Science Research Laboratories (SSRL) as Canada’s premiere facility for innovative research and knowledge translation in the social sciences. The first installment in this series examines the Social Responsibility Research Laboratory (SRRL) and Video Therapy Analysis Laboratory (ViTAL).

Community-based research, state-of-the-art research facilities and hands-on research training opportunities for students are keystones of the Social Science Research Laboratories (SSRL). The SSRL was originally identified as a priority in the Division of Social Sciences’ Second Integrated Plan, and quickly became a unique and unprecedented collaboration involving eight other academic units on campus with strong social science research traditions. With the third integrated planning cycle now on the immediate horizon, the SSRL will play a vital role in helping the seven departments in the Division of Social Sciences, and their cross campus partners, realize a wide range of research, engagement and recruitment/retention goals moving forward.

The SSRL is comprised of five separate, yet complementary, research laboratories centrally located in the College of Arts & Science. Each laboratory is led by an interdisciplinary team of researchers. The SSRL physical infrastructure was built with financial contributions from a variety of investors, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the provincial government, the College of Arts & Science, and the eight other collaborating units on campus. Additionally, the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) invested crucial operating funds, and strong leadership and support

was provided throughout the developmental stage by the Vice-President Research.

The five labs making up the SSRL are:

Funded and operational:

- Social Responsibility Research Laboratory
- Spatial Analysis for Innovation in Health Research Laboratory
- Qualitative Research Laboratory

Funded and under development:

- Video Therapy Analysis Laboratory
- Experimental Decision-Making Laboratory

With the University of Saskatchewan placing an increasing emphasis on community engagement, student research opportunities, and interdisciplinary research, the SSRL is making significant contributions on these fronts. Several issues-based, thematic interdisciplinary research groups have already been established, and many more will be developed as the modules mature and awareness of the SSRL grows within both academic and community circles.

“The infrastructure and technical supports are now in place for social science researchers from across campus to develop and implement innovative and cutting-edge research programs that address both academic and community issues and concerns,” said Harley Dickinson, Vice-Dean, Division of Social Sciences. “The SSRL equips our researchers with the physical infrastructure and the technical and administrative support required for greater research intensiveness and success in grant competitions. It is a transformative initiative for the social sciences on this campus and there is nothing comparable at any other Canadian university.”

New Lab Makes ViTAL Connections

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Researchers in the Department of Psychology will soon be utilizing state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment to help Saskatchewan residents living with dementia and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Megan O'Connell and Jorden Cummings (both Assistant Professors) received \$66,857 in funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to establish a Video Therapy Analysis Lab (ViTAL) in the College of Arts & Science. Specifically, ViTAL will house a room for individual therapy with video cameras to be used for analysis, a larger room that utilizes videoconferencing through the Saskatchewan Telehealth network or on the internet, and a third space for data analysis.

The lab, which is slated to open in 2013, will be located in the Arts Building and form one component of the College's new Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL).

O'Connell will use the videoconferencing equipment to remotely deliver therapy to rural families of people with dementia, while also researching the process of therapeutic change and the effectiveness of videoconferencing therapy.

Cummings will use the lab's multi-angle cameras to analyze how individuals, especially children with post-traumatic stress disorder, interact in a therapy session. Both hope to gain an understanding of how using technology for the delivery of these therapies influences the therapy itself.

O'Connell is part of a team of Rural Dementia Care investigators at the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic who are working to improve the care of people with dementia. Some of her current research uses videoconferencing to help rural people whose family

members have been diagnosed with rare forms of dementia that cause changes in personality, social behavior and language. Because the Alzheimer's Society already offers support groups to help rural participants with Alzheimer's Disease, she is focusing on addressing the gap in support services for rural caregivers who are geographically isolated and must connect to a support group remotely using videoconferencing.



"These are very unique types of dementia for caregivers because they hit the personality and behaviour regulation, and you really see a lot of problematic behaviours early in the disease process. Caregivers, particularly spouses, experience disproportionate distress relative to other caregivers, yet there is no support for them, absolutely none. So this project is starting the ball rolling."

Telehealth has dedicated, secure links across the province, usually in hospital or clinic settings, for videoconferencing. Participants at each site see all the screens and can interact as if they were in person. "The beauty of videoconferencing is that it is almost like being in the same room together for a group session," says O'Connell.

ViTAL's videoconferencing equipment will be set up with the ability to operate on the Telehealth network. Currently, O'Connell and her collaborator Margaret Crossley must go to a hospital where sessions are not recordable and information that they could be analyzing later is lost. "With ViTAL, we will have the ability to look at the video after the session is over and code non-verbal reactions and expressions."

The new lab will help O'Connell to research the differences in group participants' interactions in videoconferencing settings vs. in-person therapy.

"In videoconferencing therapy, we have actually had to stop and say, 'Are you crying?' because we can't really see. So we must ask how that impacts the group process. Everyone thought the Telehealth medium was fantastic at the beginning of the group but after we got into more emotionally-laden content, they started to see the limitations of the Telehealth technology. So that's where this research is coming from."

O'Connell is also exploring the possibility of using ViTAL to provide exercise-based intervention with persons with dementia. She points to physical activity and exercise as one of the only things you can do to help with cognitive aging.

"If you have a risk for dementia or precursor to Alzheimer's Disease, physical activity can actually delay the onset," she said. "At the very least it helps with treating the depression and anxiety that could lead to excess disability. With ViTAL we can move into integrating cognitive exercise with physical exercise using (video-game platforms) Wii-habilitation and

Kinect, which senses body movement. Pretty exciting."

Cummings' research using the lab will focus on the process of psychotherapy with children and caregivers where the child has experienced some type of interpersonal trauma, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, witnessing community violence, or domestic violence.

"Research shows that interpersonal relationships effect how kids do in therapy. I am particularly interested in their relationship with the therapist and with their caregiver, and the influence of variables that take place within a therapy session."

Cummings will use the ViTAL's psychotherapy room, which will have a dual-angle video camera that has the capability of capturing everything that is happening in a session. This will allow her to more objectively look at expressions of support and how they influence children in therapy. She will also train coders to look for things such as whether the therapist was supportive in the session and how engaged the child was.

"We have a lot of therapies for child trauma that do work but there is still a good percentage of children who don't respond or experience recovery. My research is really about leveraging interpersonal relationships to make therapy more potent."

Now in her second year at the U of S, Cummings is beginning to make connections in the community and locate where the gaps are in trauma-related services. Her long-term goal is to help refugee families who have experienced some type of trauma. ViTAL, she says, has multiple goals as a research space and will fill a niche in a community that might not be seen treatment-wise. It will also be essential for training clinical psychology graduate students how to conduct therapy for families who have experienced trauma.

Both O'Connell and Cummings hope that ViTAL will lead to new and innovative collaborations. Says Cummings, "When you do research near people who do similar yet different things you can come up with some interesting ideas. We are both really excited about seeing the lab space transformed."

Memories Bring Saskatoon Student Home

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

The unbeatable combination of a great program and being close to home brought Rachel Burton back to Saskatchewan after four years as an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Accepted to graduate programs at several universities across Canada, Burton accepted an offer from the U of S in 2010 to complete a Masters/PhD program in Clinical Psychology.

"I was looking for a program that has a balance of both research and clinical training, which is something that they emphasize here," says Burton. "The other important thing for me is that I grew up in Saskatchewan so it was an opportunity to be near my family again. Research-wise I have been really happy. I have enough flexibility to pursue my own interests but in a strong research facility where there is lots of support and ideas shared. I feel that the quality of training I am getting here is really high."

Another plus is that Burton's interest in cognitive aging fits well with the research that her supervisor, Megan O'Connell, is conducting at the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic. "When we met and did the phone interview, I got along well with her and that supervisor/student relationship is an important one."

One of only four candidates nominated by the U of S for a Canada Graduate Scholarships Master's Award from the CIHR, Burton was in the enviable position of having to turn it down to accept three-year funding from the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, a grant that will cover her three years of course work and clinical training. To complete her PhD, Burton must also write her dissertation and complete a year-long internship. "It's quite a long haul," she says, "but I really enjoy what I do."

Using Telehealth and the videoconferencing equipment that the Video Therapy Analysis Lab (ViTAL) (see related story, page 6) will provide, Burton will be examining cognitive rehabilitation therapy for people living in rural areas affected by the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease.



Rachael Burton (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

"What happens with this therapy is that individuals with early Alzheimer's are taught strategies to help them manage better in their daily lives. It is very individualized, so the treatment depends on the goal. It could be keeping track of events during the day, or participating in a social group if that is something they enjoyed and are now struggling with."

With the aging population in rural Saskatchewan, Burton says therapy that requires meeting with a professional every week for at least eight weeks may not be realistic for people who live in rural or remote areas of the province. That's where Telehealth comes in.

"We are looking at whether providing cognitive rehabilitation over Telehealth is something people are interested in doing, and, also, if it is feasible to do so."

Burton will be working with some people in person and another group over Telehealth in order to compare the two scenarios. She has arranged interviews with people who are caregivers to explain what cognitive rehabilitation is, get their feedback and find out if they might want to participate.

Over the summer Burton did her first practicum working in the field at the Battlefords Mental Health Centre in North Battleford. Working mostly in the outpatient unit with people living in the community, her experience was rich and varied. While she enjoyed working in adult mental health, the opportunity to complete future practicums in different settings will help her with decisions about her future. Her goal is to become a clinical psychologist, but she is not ruling out anything.

"You never know what's coming up," she says. "There are all kinds of things I haven't tried yet."

Much of her research is based at the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic, where she hopes to do a future practicum. Working at the clinic has given her the opportunity to establish ties with people and organizations in the community.

In addition to her course work and research, Burton is making time to enjoy her family and friends. She recently joined the U of S Triathlon Club with sister Anna, a student in her final year of study at the Edwards School of Business. The two have begun training together a few days a week.

"I feel better when I am physically active," says Burton, "and it is good to have scheduled workouts and people to do them with or it is easy to let coursework take over your life. I am really enjoying it so far."

HONOURING OUR
ALUMNI OF
Influence
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE



College of Arts & Science
**Dean's Dinner and
Alumni of Influence
Awards Ceremony**

Friday, March 16, 2012
Radisson Hotel

HONOURING TEN INSPIRING
GRADUATES



Contact Teri Olson to reserve your table:

teri.olson@artsandscience.usask.ca

or (306) 966-6388

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/alumni/>

Single Ticket \$50 | Table \$375



Student Rallies for Change

BY KIRK SIBBALD



Undergraduate student Michelle Thompson participating in various issues-based demonstrations. (Photos submitted)

When Michelle Thompson first arrived at the University of Saskatchewan, the on-campus Oxfam Club was more-or-less on life support. Membership: 1.

Fast forward two-and-a-half years and, thanks in large part to Thompson's work and long-standing passion for grassroots activism, membership for the club is hovering around 50. In all likelihood, Oxfam's presence at the U of S has never been stronger.

Oxfam—an international confederation with a presence in 98 countries worldwide—works to develop sustainable solutions to end poverty and injustice. Thompson's work with the campus's Oxfam club is but one example of the many organizations she has become immersed in during her time in the College of Arts & Science. Somehow, in between her studies, she is also involved in the Saskatoon Womens' Movement, Saskatoon Womens' Community Coalition, the Children's Museum of Saskatchewan and Transitions Saskatoon, an organization that advocates for environmentally-sustainable local practices.

And in addition to her leadership role with the U of S Oxfam club, she is involved in the Oxfam Saskatoon and a member of the Oxfam Prairie Region steering committee.

So, how does she find the time?

"Good question," she said with a laugh, after pondering the question a moment. "Prioritizing is the key. At times activism is really important in my life, and at other times my papers and classes have to take precedence. So the priorities shift, but there is always something on my plate."

Thompson left Saskatoon in August to study for one year abroad at the University of Oldenburg in Germany.

She will, however, be returning to the U of S in the fall of 2012 to complete her Four-Year Honours degree in Women's & Gender Studies and Four-Year Advanced Certificate in Modern Languages (German & Spanish).

While some might be apprehensive leaving home for a year to study abroad, travelling overseas is nothing new for Thompson. After high school, she turned what was meant to be a "short working holiday" into a "three-year travelling extravaganza," during which time she first became involved in Oxfam.

It was while working in Scotland that she began volunteering at an Oxfam Reuse Store, and from that point on her affinity for the organization continued to grow. Upon returning home she applied for and received a four-month internship at Oxfam Canada, where one of her last jobs was to revive the organization's club at the U of S campus.

"I spent a lot of time on campus trying to recruit new members and get the club going again. Then when I started school, I basically took over leading it," she said. "When I started our campaign was focused on women's rights and climate change, so I did a lot of work around that. They've now launched a new campaign incorporating food security, so it's an organization that really touches on a lot of important issues."

And while Thompson isn't quite sure yet what she'll pursue upon finishing her undergraduate education, she's excited to meet yet another challenge head on.

"The non-profit sector is really appealing to me, so I might look for some kind of employment there. And I'm really considering doing a Masters program too. It's kind of far off still so we'll see what happens, but whatever that happens to be I'm looking forward to it."

Collaborations, Aboriginal Art Focus of New Snelgrove Director

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Marcus Miller is not short on ideas. Fresh from North Battleford where he was director of two very different galleries—the Allan Sapp Gallery and the Chapel Gallery, which shows regional and contemporary art—Miller is ready to embrace his new role as director of the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery at the U of S.

He is excited about being around young people who are involved in a serious art program. On his new position, Miller says, “I am interested in being close to the latest things that are happening and the idea of being part of a university is very appealing to me.”

The Department of Art & Art History has expanded the job to include a teaching component, so Miller will be developing a new special topics class for next semester. “I’ve got lots of ideas but nothing is in the calendar yet. I want it to make sense with my role as a director of the gallery so it will have a curatorial and museum studies focus, but I need to consult with faculty to see what they think I can bring to the department and what is needed.”

That the Snelgrove has been very much a DIY gallery makes sense, says Miller, as it is important for art students to know how do everything from installing and lighting a show to making their own posters and announcements. He would like to see students provide more information about their work that he could use to educate gallery patrons and for media purposes. He also hopes to be a bridge to other departments, and looks forward to initiating some collaborative projects and interdisciplinary exhibitions.

“Why aren’t we doing things with the music and drama departments and city planning? I would love to get our students together. It would make the opening receptions more interesting and set the stage for more interesting programming.”

Originally from Montreal, Miller moved west in 2006 to take a job as Assistant Curator at the Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, curating exhibitions of local artists and special exhibitions.



Marcus Miller (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

For his exhibition, *The New Flaneurs*, Miller juxtaposed 18th Century paintings of ruins and waste heaps with contemporary art practices such as geocaching, graffiti art, parkour and skate-boarding, even allowing the art to spill out of the gallery and onto city streets.

Moving to North Battleford might not seem like an obvious choice to many up and coming curators, but Miller was intrigued by the job posting at the Allan Sapp Gallery. “It asked if you had any experience with elders. I didn’t, but knew that this would be a curatorial job like nothing else I had ever had and that consultation with the local indigenous community would be a big part of what this gallery would be about.”

Contemporary Aboriginal art is one of Canada’s hottest exports right now, according to Miller.

“These young artists are standing on the shoulders of a previous generation that set a very important precedent in the 1960s and 1970s as the first generation to exhibit their work in art galleries as Capital ‘A’ Art. The younger generation, artists like Adrian Stimson who is teaching here, have gone to art school and are interested in hanging onto their heritage and in how can they pull all of this stuff together. They are inventing something new. It’s fantastic, and it’s happening right now.”



Australian Study Abroad Invaluable

BY MACKENZIE WARNER

In *Lonely Planet's* Top Ten Cities for 2011, Newcastle, Australia was chosen as one of the most underrated cities in the world.

Having lived there for five months through the University of Saskatchewan Study Abroad Program, I can concur with the writers of *Lonely Planet*. Newcastle was not the first pick for my exchange. Initially, I had been more interested in the university in Christchurch, New Zealand. However, Australia turned out to be a great match for me in so many ways, while Christchurch experienced a devastating tsunami shortly after I arrived.

“My college, Barahineban, an Indigenous word meaning ‘a bright place to live,’ could have no better name.”

Living on campus in Newcastle gave me a very literal taste of “living at the university” while I was abroad. My college, Barahineban, an Indigenous word meaning “a bright place to live,” could have no better name. It is a sunny place with an excellent view of Newcastle’s forest. I often had exotic birds outside my door—one cockatoo in particular liked to squawk in front of my door at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. every day. A nighttime symphony of chirping crickets, frogs and birds kept me awake late into that first night away from home.

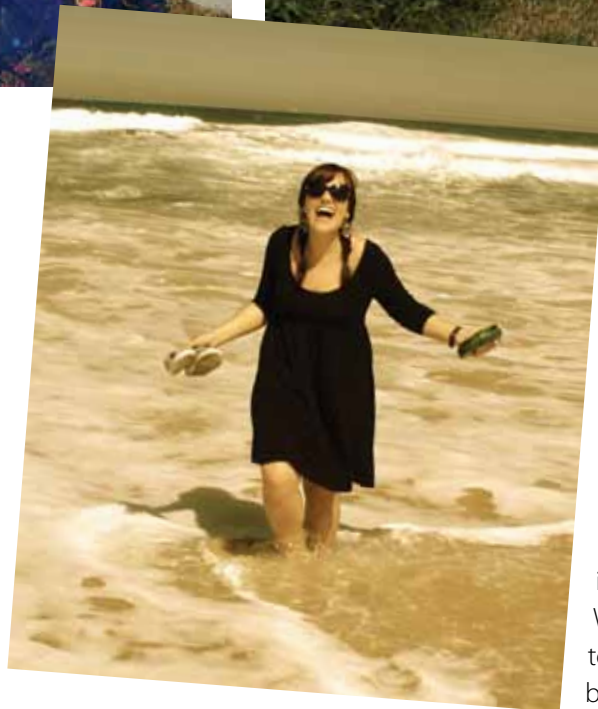
Because the campus was built on protected land, venturing to my classes was a great hike through eucalyptus forests each day. I often had to stop to let ducks cross the path or dodge one or two cockatoos. I was warned that one of Australia’s deadliest snakes enjoyed some of the shadier spots on campus, but I never saw one (and probably for the best). Though the university’s buildings did not compare to its lush exterior, I did appreciate their air conditioning.

My classes were particularly interesting because I had the opportunity to take electives. Though the teaching styles and techniques are interchangeable with what I have experienced at the U of S, I learned a great deal regarding Australian politics, culture and environment. You do not take a philosophical class called “Democracy, Economy and Global Warming” without coming away with the knowledge of something extremely enlightening and devastating at the same time. I also took a film class with a Canadian film on the syllabus. It was interesting to read articles and hear the opinions of my classmates on Canadian identity—something I am not sure even we Canadians have figured out.

One of the first things I learned “down under” is that Australians adore Canadians. I was always received with relaxed warmth and kindness. I had one Aussie friend describe her people as “the kind one hears before seeing.” This is most definitely true! Boisterous laughter, singing and the occasional shouting (particularly when rugby was on the television) are sounds that I will forever associate with my Australian friends. In fact, while touring through Asia after completing my study term, I heard a group of men and women laughing so loudly, I turned to my travel companion and said, “I bet they are Australian.” Sure enough, I heard them before I saw them.

I also came to appreciate that Australia is beautiful in every season. The summer heat is not for the weak, but luckily Australia has plenty of beaches to cool off on. Newcastle’s beaches are particularly stunning. It was a special treat to be able to dip my toes in the water between university classes.

My first ocean experience was quite memorable. Some friends took me to Bar Beach for an afternoon. I have never been the strongest swimmer nor am I the first one to jump into any of the murky lakes of Saskatchewan, so it should have dawned on me that swimming in the Pacific Ocean would be outside my comfort zone. Within seconds of venturing into the water, I took a big gulp of salt water. While still gasping



for air, I was warned that a “blue bottle” was right behind me. I pictured something that was huge, slimy and dangerous, though it turned out to be a thumb-sized jellyfish. I remained safely on the beach for the rest of the afternoon.

Although I never tried surfing while in Australia, two Aussie friends convinced me that “Australian tobogganing” was worth the wait for tickets. We were the oldest people to go on the ride. The ride itself looked very interesting. Each participant was placed on something that resembled a skateboard attached to wire. The skateboard had a lever to control the speed. As we were carried up a steel tube in the middle of a forest, I kept reassuring my friend that she would survive. Once at the top, we shot down a winding steel tube through the trees. It lasted about three minutes and was so exhilarating that I almost forgot to break. Luckily, I pulled the throttle of my skateboard back seconds before hitting my nervous friend. I have since decided that Australian tobogganing is remarkably more fun than the cold and snowy Canadian version.

I could go on about how excellent Australian food is and how wonderful its people really are, but that would

require another essay. I will say, however, that my study abroad opportunity has most importantly encouraged me to explore more of the world. In fact, after I finished my classes in June, I headed to Asia for a month. My journey through Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia put many things into perspective for me. When I came back to Australia to collect the rest of my belongings and head home to Canada I was grateful for

three things in particular: a western-style toilet, my new international friends and the opportunity that allowed me to see the places I did while away. For those students who are thinking of travelling, the study abroad program is great. In fact, it is more than great: it is invaluable.

MacKenzie Warner is an English Honours student at the College of Arts & Science.

Clockwise from top left: MacKenzie Warner dressed as a Malaysian bride in Taiping, Perak, Malaysia; with kangaroo in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia; in the ocean near Newcastle. (Photos: Jen Marlin, Lauren Hinkle, Jess Kellar)

FARLS Welcomes Speck

BY KIRK SIBBALD



Christian Speck (left) and Walter Kreyszig (Photo: Kirk Sibbald)

The University of Saskatchewan's Fine Arts Research Lecture Series (FARLS) kicked off its 21st year in fine form, bringing to campus one of the world's foremost experts on 18th century musician Luigi Boccherini.

Christian Speck, currently the Managing Director of the Music Department at Campus Koblenz, Universität Koblenz-Landau in Germany, presented the first FARLS lecture of the 2011/12 academic year on Sept. 18. This lecture was titled, "The Rise of the Italian Oratorio in Rome in the Seventeenth Century." He also gave the second lecture, "Joseph Haydn and the Classical String Quartet," on Sept. 24.

Speck, an internationally-renowned musicologist, is perhaps the world's foremost authority on Boccherini and has led numerous editorial efforts to document his work. Boccherini was one of the most prominent 18th century European composers whose work has gained increasing recognition over the past few decades.

Speck's visit to the U of S took root last year, when he met Walter Kreyszig (Professor, Musicology, U of S) at a conference in Italy. Kreyszig and Speck are now collaborating on an ambitious, all-encompassing publication documenting Boccherini's work.

In addition to funding from various sources at the U of S, Speck also received a prestigious DAAD (Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst) grant from the German government to present FARLS lectures at the U of S.

He said that an average year will generally see him visit three to four post-secondary institutions worldwide, and that he enjoys the opportunity to observe the inherent differences of universities around the world.

"I saw the music holdings of the library here, and I got jealous because the holdings they have here, it's different in Germany," said Speck, noting university libraries are generally quite small compared to the public ones within each city. "The students here, they have a very good situation with all the books they need inside the university and near their department."

Established in 1990, FARLS invites renowned scholars and artists in the areas of History, Drama, Music and Art & Art History to the U of S, thus enhancing the visibility of the Fine Arts on campus. It is sponsored by the office of the Vice-President Research, and coordinated by Kreyszig. Other sponsors include the Division of Humanities & Fine Arts; Humanities Research Unit; and Classical, Medieval & Renaissance Studies program, Department of History.

The next FARLS lecture will take place on Nov. 13. For more information, go to the Arts & Science online events calendar at: artsandscience.usask.ca/news/calendar

❖ Faculty Convocation Awards, Fall 2011



Peter S. Li
Earned Doctor of Letters

Peter S. Li, (Professor, Sociology), conducts research in the areas of race and ethnicity, immigration, Chinese Canadians and multi-culturalism. He has published 10 books, including *The Chinese in Canada*, *The Making of Post-War Canada* and *Destination Canada*. In addition, he has published 50 papers in refereed journals, 32 chapters in books and three encyclopedia entries. He has served on many professional associations and boards, has received grants for his work and has included graduate students and visiting scholars in his research programs. In recent years, Li has been active promoting academic exchanges between Canada and China.

Photo credits: Peter Li by Dave Stobbe, Robert Clark and Li Zong courtesy *On Campus News*.



Robert G. Clark
Distinguished Graduate
Supervisor Award

Robert G. Clark, (Adjunct Professor, Biology), manages the demanding roles of both a research scientist with Environment Canada and a supervisor of graduate and undergraduate students. Clark leads by example to motivate his students to succeed. By asking interesting scientific questions, using novel research methods, working long hours and being highly productive himself, Clark encourages students to investigate topics of personal interest and guides them to answer their own questions. He believes part of his job is to help his students find fulfilling employment after completing their studies, and many continue to contribute to science by publishing in peer-reviewed journals.



Li Zong
J.W. George Ivany
Internationalization Award

Li Zong (Associate Professor, Sociology), has established himself as a recognized scholar in comparative studies of China and Canada, and has been active in research initiatives related to immigration, integration, ethnic relations, and China studies. His contributions to internationalization have spanned two decades, and he has been instrumental in developing academic links between the U of S and many universities in China with important outcomes, including dual BA and MA degree programs in Sociology. Zong's expert understanding of contemporary China has contributed to many internationalization initiatives. He was recently appointed by the university as an advisor on building exchanges and programs in China.

Researchers Successful in Latest CFI Competition

Nine U of S research projects, four with ties to the College of Arts & Science, were awarded more than \$780,000 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunities Fund in September.



Adam Bourassa (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

Adam Bourassa (Physics and Engineering Physics) received \$74,380 in funding to design and develop instruments to measure atmospheric aerosol and clouds from satellites and high altitude balloon systems. These new sensors and optical technology, which are not commercially available, will allow detailed measurements of the stratosphere, a region where aerosols and clouds have an especially important effect on climate.

Bourassa's main focus is the measurement and interpretation of spectral images of the Earth's atmosphere. These spectral images contain information about the composition of the atmosphere—the distribution of clouds, aerosols and trace gases, such as ozone and water vapour. This research has the potential to foster advances in space-based imaging, allowing unprecedented resolution of an atmospheric region that is key to furthering our understanding of the climate system.



Kyle Larson (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

This will help to guide future policy decisions regarding the environment, and will also maintain Canada's position on the world stage as a provider of high quality global atmospheric measurements.

Kyle Larson (Geological Sciences) was awarded \$63,605 to study mountain building processes and deformation of the Earth's crust, both in the Himalayas and locally by examining individual crystals within a rock. This will make it possible to understand how tectonic plates interact during collision—the process behind earthquakes—and how convergence is accommodated both deep in the earth and at the surface.

When people think about mountain building they often picture the huge majestic peaks of mountain ranges such as the Rockies. New research techniques make it possible to study the processes responsible for the formation of these massive physiographic features

by examining the microscopic structures of single rock specimens.

Larson's research group will use a crystal fabric analyzer to test recent theories about how large collisional zones evolve. The equipment, the first installation of its kind anywhere in the world, will allow researchers to look at the orientation of individual crystals within a rock and make it possible to interpret what processes were responsible for the formation of the highest mountains on Earth from microscopic mineral grains. The advances made through this research will not only provide tests for new mountain building hypotheses, but will also help elucidate the evolution of ancient mountain belts closer to home in northern Saskatchewan.

Megan O'Connell (Psychology) and co-applicant Jorden Cummings (Psychology) received funding (\$66,857) to help establish the Video Therapy Analysis

Laboratory (ViTAL) within the Social Science Research Laboratories (SSRL) complex. (See article on page 6).

Funding was also approved to establish an Experimental Decision-Making Lab in the College of Arts & Science. The lab, which is a module within the SSRL, received \$154,137 in CFI funding and will test how people formulate opinions and make decisions related to new products and innovative technologies in the agri-food, medical and industrial sectors. Insights gained could identify potential hold-ups to regulation and commercialization of science-based, globally-traded products and services, especially in the important agri-food and resource sectors in Saskatchewan. The project team for this lab includes Peter Phillips (JSG School of Public Policy), Valerie Thompson (Psychology) and James Nolan (Bioresource Policy).

Geology alumnus Rui Feng donates \$1.1M toward scholarships



Photos: Dave Stobbe



The U of S celebrated a \$1.1-million gift on Oct. 12 from Rui Feng, a U of S alumnus who received his PhD in Geology.

The gift will provide funding for scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students in Geological Sciences, and an additional award for a graduate student in any discipline.

The winners of the Geological Science awards this year are Dawson Holloway, John Shymr and Jinru Lin, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research will choose the first winner in another discipline in 2012.

"It's very nice to see my hard work in academics rewarded financially," said Holloway. "To receive such a generous gift is a huge benefit, and hopefully it will

encourage me to work even harder going forward. It's people like Mr. Feng who help make the U of S a great school, and it's an honour to be recognized with this award."

"We have a very strong, proud group of alumni that appreciate the value of giving back to students," said Vice-President Advancement, Heather Magotiaux. "Gifts like this one from Rui Feng support our commitment to provide students with additional opportunities."

Feng received his PhD in 1992 and became president and CEO of Spokane Resources in 2003, which became Silvercorp in 2005. Silvercorp has its headquarters in Vancouver, B.C. The gift was made in March 2011, and student scholarship winners were notified in September.

Arts & Science Briefs



Steer and Waiser Honoured as Distinguished Chairs

Ron Steer (Chemistry) and Bill Waiser (History) have been honoured as University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Chairs for 2011.

The Distinguished Chairs Program was created in 2010 to celebrate exceptional achievement in research, scholarly and artistic work by U of S faculty or emeriti. The honorary appointments are held for three years, renewable for a second term. In addition to Steer and Waiser, William (Bill) Kerr (Professor, Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics) was also selected for 2011.

Steer is widely recognized as a superlative researcher, masterful

teacher, and champion for the U of S. A physical chemist in molecular spectroscopy, Steer's research on the behavior of organic molecules that have absorbed light is leading to new insights in

the field of solar energy. He leads the Solar Photovoltaic Research Group, which is examining ways to build cheaper, more efficient solar cells that will harvest the sun's energy.

Waiser (SOM, DLitt, FRSC) has been described as "Saskatchewan's historian" for his decades of work uncovering the rich and vibrant stories from Western Canada, and our province in particular. An accomplished storyteller, Waiser speaks to a general audience in his books and presentations. Notable examples are *Saskatchewan: A New History* (2005), *All Hell Can't Stop Us* (2003), and *Who Killed Jackie Bates?* (2008).



McMullens New SSHRC Rep.

Professor Linda McMullen (Psychology), has been appointed Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) representative at the U of S. In this role, McMullen serves as the SSHRC presence on campus and in the community, working to promote the achievements that support tri-council mandates in the area of the humanities and social sciences.

McMullen joined the U of S in 1980. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association and has received the Jillings Award from the Saskatchewan Psychological Association for outstanding and longstanding service to the profession. At present, she and her graduate students are conducting a research program on the diagnosis of depression and the use of antidepressants as cultural phenomena.



Brenna Launches New Book

Dwayne Brenna (Drama) launched his book, *Our Kind of Work: The Glory Days and Difficult Times of 25th Street Theatre* (Thistledown Press) on Oct. 28.

Established in 1972, 25th Street Theatre Players became the first professional theatre company in Saskatoon. The legacy it left would be nationally acclaimed. Brenna details in this unique and original history of the Theatre, how it managed its personality conflicts, confronted its obstacles of inadequate funding, and grappled with the shifting of its artistic vision. The book offers photographs of Theatre personalities both onstage and in the dressing rooms, but it is the story of the theatre's own personality, its small, youthful beginnings, its risky devised performances, its original scripts, and its improvised collective creations with famed icons that give this book its edge.



Academic Freedom Award Presented to Findlay

The University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) presented the 2011 Academic Freedom Award to English Professor Len Findlay (FRSC, DLitt). Findlay is currently researching the figure of the public intellectual, the role of institutions in determining what counts as knowledge and culture, and the division of academic labour in the contemporary university. He is working to establish—in a number of different settings—how critical theory, combined with critical pedagogy and collaborative research, can help decolonize Canadian universities while repoliticizing them in ways more receptive to the needs and knowledge of different communities.

Through the Humanities Research Unit at the University of Saskatchewan, he has encouraged work connecting scholars to wider publics in the exploration and debate of subjects like racism, community, the socialized and medicalized body, and the Canadian response to 9/11. An articulate, fearless, and compelling public speaker, he has been invited to speak at Harvard, the Sorbonne, Oxford, the University of Utrecht, and the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham, England.



CRC Position Brings Former A&S Dean Back to Campus

Ken Coates, former Dean for the College of Arts & Science, will be returning to the U of S in April, 2012 to serve as a Canada Research Chair (CRC), Regional Innovation, at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. The position is supported by a \$200,000 annual investment for seven years.

Coates left the U of S in 2004 to serve as Dean of Academics at Sea to Sky University in British Columbia. He is currently a Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo. In his new CRC position at the U of S, Coates will examine barriers that prevent rural and remote communities from accessing the scientific and technological innovations that flow mainly to urban areas.

Three other CRC's in the College of Arts & Science also had their terms renewed, including: Soledade Pedras (Bioorganic and Agricultural Chemistry), Jean-Pierre St. Maurice (Environmental Sciences) and John Tse (Materials Science).



Page Examines How Hemp Got High

Jon Page, Adjunct Professor of Biology and plant biochemist at NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute, was part of a team of Canadian research scientists to sequence the genome of *Cannabis sativa*, the plant that produces both industrial hemp and marijuana. In analyzing the complete genome of a marijuana strain called Purple Kush as well as the domesticated hemp strain, Finola, the team discovered that changes to a single enzyme in the plant's genetic code leads to the production of marijuana's psychoactive properties.

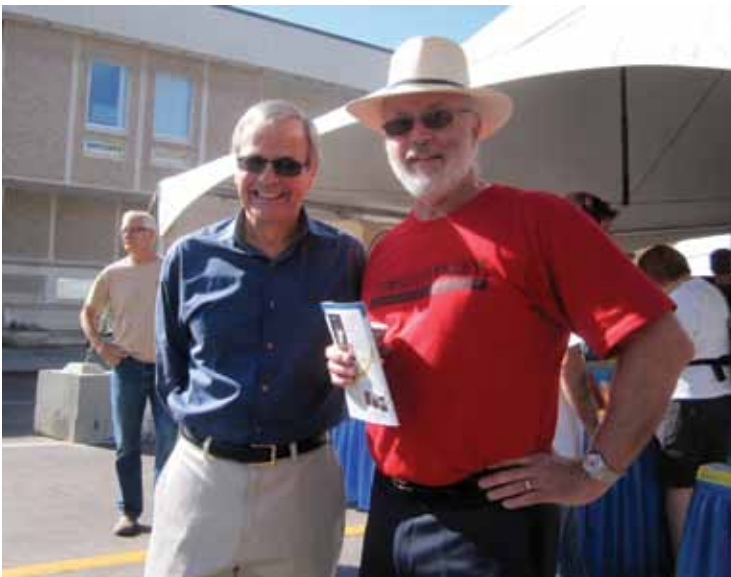
The analysis showed that the THCA synthase gene, an essential enzyme in THCA production, is turned on in marijuana, but switched off in hemp, Page said. Their study was published in the open access journal, *Genome Biology*, available at <http://genomebiology.com>.

"Plants continue to be a major source of medicines, both as herbal drugs and as pharmaceutical compounds," Page says. "Although more than 20 plant genomes have been published, ranging from major food crops such as rice and corn, to laboratory models like *Arabidopsis*, this is the first genome of a medicinal plant."

THE WORD ON THE STREET

The Word on the Street, a one-day national festival, kicked off in Saskatoon for the first time on Sunday, Sept 25. The event, which celebrates literature and promotes literacy, featured several College of Arts & Science professors, professor emeriti, students and alumni, including Beverley Brenna, Dwayne Brenna, Robert Calder, David Carpenter, Allan Casey, Jay Conley, Dave Glaze, Charles Hamilton, Trevor Herriot, Don Kerr, Alexandra Popoff, Adam Pottle, Art Slade, Priscilla

Settee and members of the Saskatoon Slam poetry team. *The Word on the Street* began 21 years ago in Toronto, and now Vancouver, Kitchener, Halifax and Saskatoon all host festivals of their own. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages and all literary tastes to hear and meet some of Canada's best authors and wordsmiths. All authors and presenters are provided to the public free of charge.



Photos (clockwise from top left): Saskatoon Slam Team; Professor Emeritus David Carpenter (English) with announcer; English student Kelsey Gottfried at Saskatchewan Writers Guild booth; U of S President Peter MacKinnon (left) with Professor Emeritus and *Word on the Street* President Robert Calder. (Photos: Betsy Rosenwald)

arts&science is published three times annually by the Communications, Development & Alumni Relations (CDAR) office. Subscriptions are free to students, faculty, staff and alumni of the College of Arts & Science. Story and photo ideas are welcome. For information or to let us know what you think of the magazine, email us at: cdar@artsandscience.usask.ca.

Editors: Betsy Rosenwald and Kirk Sibbald **Design:** Betsy Rosenwald