

THE COLLEGE OF
arts & science

WINTER 2010



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**UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

College of
Arts and Science

SWITCH Volunteer Alix Dick

What's New with Clarion?

DEAN JO-ANNE R. DILLON

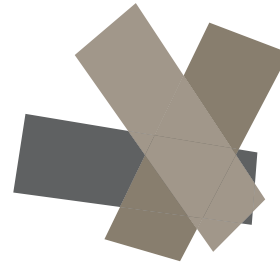


**ENHANCING
THE VISIBILITY
AND LONG-
TERM VIABILITY**
of the fine and performing arts on this campus and within our College has been one of my main objectives since I became Dean of the College of Arts

& Science in 2004. While we have already made several important strides in this respect, one important and ongoing initiative gaining significant momentum is the Clarion Project.

As many of you are already aware, the Clarion Project will be a premier university-based destination for artistic and creative work for students, faculty and the community. At its core is creative programming, which will focus on new learning opportunities for our students and linking these learning opportunities to the fine artistic work of our faculty and instructors. This new facility will bring together fine and performing arts faculty from across campus, enabling new connections with the sciences, medicine, business and other disciplines. Indeed, the Clarion Project will create a cultural milieu that will have impact far beyond the U of S; it will be a space for imagination and innovation, and will position our university to further explore the synergies between scientific and artistic achievement. Many initiatives have led us to this present juncture.

In January, I and others from our College traveled to Ontario and met with officials at York University and Queen's University, to discuss the new or proposed fine



and performing arts facilities on their respective campuses. Since the initiation of the Clarion Project, the College has worked closely with the University's Facilities Management Division (FMD) and, as such, three of FMD's senior leaders accompanied me on this trip (Colin Tennant, University Architect; Colin Hartl, Space Planner; and Trevor Robertson, Space Manager). The academic leaders and building professionals we met were most hospitable and provided our team with an array of valuable logistical advice on topics ranging from space requirements to funding strategies.

The College's Clarion working group continues to work closely with Schick Shiner & Associates and FMD, as well as our faculty, to refine the building programme for the Clarion Project. This collaborative work has been on-going for over a year and the plans are nearing completion. We are looking forward to moving to preliminary design very soon. A number of other committees and working groups with various mandates are developing the other aspects of the Clarion project including: innovative programming, financing, business plan development, and community outreach/engagement.

On April 22, the College is holding its second annual Artful Soiree donor reception, which will be co-hosted by President Peter MacKinnon and held at TCU Place. The ongoing endorsement of The Clarion Project by President MacKinnon and various other senior leaders at the University is deeply appreciated and has been a driving force in moving the Project forward. I hope that you will be able to join us in celebration of the unparalleled support of our alumni, donors and community partners whose commitment has been integral to the progress of the Clarion Project.

Unmasking Motherhood & HIV/AIDS

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Pamela Downe is attempting to put faces to one of society's most dehumanized and marginalized groups: mothers with, or at high-risk of contracting, HIV/AIDS.

The researcher, an associate professor of Archeology & Anthropology, received a three-year CIHR grant in April 2008 to analyze the interrelationship between women's experiences with motherhood and HIV/AIDS. Partnering with AIDS Saskatoon and working with Katherine Shwetz, a community-based researcher and Arts & Science student, Downe and her co-investigators—Sylvia Abonyi (Community Health and Epidemiology), Karen Lawson (Psychology) and Jennifer Poudrier (Sociology)—are working to understand what it means to be a mother in this context and how the stigmas attached to this group affect health maintenance and promotion.

"There are few people more demonized than drug using, HIV positive mothers," said Downe. "For these women, hopefully (our research) can be something that humanizes and normalizes their experiences."

Downe explained that while considerable research has already been conducted on HIV/AIDS and reproduction, she is solely concerned with a subject that has been largely ignored in research discourse to date, namely, "Where do the mothers go once the fluid exchange (breast feeding) ends? What does it mean to be a mother in this context?"

The first two phases, which are already completed, involved determining what regional programs exist for this demographic and conducting a series of narrative-based interviews with these women in the community. The third phase uses Photovoice, where the mothers are provided cameras and asked to take pictures of places and things that reflect their experiences as mothers in the context of HIV/AIDS.

"For example, if a mother has had children taken from her, and placed into provincial custody, she might take a photo of empty bed. Or it could be the child's favourite toy,



Pamela Downe (Photo: Kirk Sibbald)

or the park where she has supervised visitation," said Downe, adding that this phase of the research is still ongoing.

After wrapping up the Photovoice phase and analyzing the images, Downe and her research team will be making a list of the programs currently being accessed by these mothers and make recommendations in terms of what can be added or changed to make these programs more maternal-specific. The team also hopes to create an exhibit using images collected through Photovoice.

"These are women who are marginalized and desperate, and we're hoping that this public education component might help."

While Downe feared she would have a difficult time getting these women to trust and communicate openly with her at the outset of this project, she quickly found this was not the case.

"These women really do want to talk about their experiences; they just want to talk to someone. The biggest challenge I've had has been hearing their stories, which are often very heart-wrenching and crushing."

Another surprise, said Downe, was of the 40 interviews that she conducted during the project's second phase, 12 of those who volunteered to come forward were men.

"The men want to talk about their child's mom, and they bring a different and interesting perspective. I didn't expect this, but we ended up interviewing both mothers and partners and got an idea of what the experience is like for both sides," she said.

"These are amazing women and men who I'm working with, and the way they engage with the notion of family, children, parenting and kinship, it defines resilient to me."

SWITCH Volunteers Are Passionate About Health

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

When Alix Dick began volunteering at Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) four years ago, her first reaction was shock.

“I grew up on the north end, (of Saskatoon)” said Dick, a fourth-year Microbiology and Immunology student. “I never had any experience with drugs or alcohol or addiction....I used to think being an addict was a choice.”

Almost 300 U of S students, many from the College of Arts & Science, volunteer at SWITCH, one of the only student-managed primary health care centres in Canada. A non-profit charity, whose partners include the U of S, Saskatoon Community Clinic and Saskatoon Health Region—Primary Health Services, it is governed by a board entirely made up of students. Operating out of Saskatoon’s West Side Community Clinic, the students work with professional mentors and community partners to provide clinical and social services to residents of Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods, mostly of First Nations and Métis ancestry, on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays when the Clinic would otherwise be closed.

Dick now thinks of addiction as a disease rather than a decision that people make. “Working at SWITCH has changed my perception. It opened my eyes to how people who are homeless or drug addicts live. I had to rethink my perception and views. You don’t know what’s happened to a person to bring them to this point.”

Recently, Dick helped a client to begin a detox program. “He was so sad. He felt like a failure because he and his wife couldn’t help themselves get better. I was able to hook him up with one of the social workers who got him into detox. That was a really good day for me, to be able to get him the help he needed. He needed help and I was that help.”

Volunteering, says SWITCH coordinator Carole Courtney, gives students something they don’t get in the classroom. Beyond learning how to provide better health care, they gain valuable leadership skills and experience in project

development, financial and human resource management, public speaking and program delivery.

“I love watching their process of discovery. Something clicks—they happen to be studying something and they run into it on their shift. The students are smart, funny, passionate, motivated and empathetic.”

Dick started out as part of the social outreach team, helping with activities such as preparing and serving food, talking with clients and working in the daycare centre. Now she is a shift supervisor and last March coordinated a conference in Kingston, Ont. with medical student Kali Nunweiler for all the student clinics across Canada. It opened up a world of conferences for her. She will be attending a conference in Jacksonville, Fla. to present on the different programs offered at SWITCH, and has been invited to Melbourne, Australia to present at the Altogether Better Health Conference this spring.

Dick, the beneficiary of the Les and Irene Dube Christian Service Scholarship for high school volunteerism, has been an enthusiastic SWITCH volunteer since she began classes at the U of S. Now in the final year of her undergraduate program in Microbiology and Immunology, she finds that the topics she is studying in class—bacteria, disease, infection, vaccines, organ transplantation, and autoimmune diseases such as HIV—are things she sees firsthand at SWITCH. She has become passionate and vocal about public health issues such as needle exchange and the importance of vaccination.

“A big problem in the core neighbourhoods is hepatitis C and HIV infection due to IV drug use, so my class work in Immunology helps. When H1N1 broke my professors spent a lot of class time explaining everything about it, so I was able to explain to my clients at SWITCH how it worked and why it was so important to get vaccinated.”



L to R: Carole Courtney, Alix Dick and Megan Clark of SWITCH (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

She learned about Saskatoon’s needle exchange program (SHARPS) by observing it in action. The program’s van is located right behind the Westside Clinic. “The client/addict comes in with any number of dirty needles,” she explained, “for which they receive the same number of clean ones in exchange—one dirty for one clean. Once they are there, we teach them how important it is to use an alcohol swab before injecting, and also provide them with clean spoons, condoms and bandaids to prevent infection and transmission of disease. By asking addicts questions, such as, ‘How do you inject, what do you use’—you understand the importance of the needle exchange program as a preventative measure against Hepatitis C and HIV, but also it is a way to connect with addicts as people.”

Both Dick and Megan Clark, another SWITCH volunteer, say that working at SWITCH has taught them to embrace the First Nations’ holistic view of health. Clark, a second-year Biomedical Sciences/Physiology student, hopes to eventually go into medicine. Her volunteer work has helped her to view medicine and health in a whole new way.

“Being a Physiology major,” she said, “I learn about the chemical and physiological aspects of health in class but at SWITCH I learn about the mental, social and spiritual dimension. You need harmony in all these areas for whole health. It has also taught me about building community, something that will affect how I practice medicine 20 years down the road...how I relate to my patients, but also how I focus in my own life to be a healthy person. SWITCH has helped me learn how to relate to the diversity of patients we see in health care and how to meet their needs.”

Dick hopes to do a masters degree in Public Health at the U of S. “I feel like I can’t leave SWITCH. I have dedicated most of my spare time to it. It has

made my university experience so much more positive and helped me to see how my schoolwork is so connected with the real world. I am really, really happy about my choice to pursue public health and hopefully they will be happy to have me.”

More students are always needed on the SWITCH team. Said Courtney, “They can make their own schedule. We feed 150 people (most days). Every time you feed someone who doesn’t have money for food you’ve done something good. If you’ve opened a clinic on a night with no service then you’ve opened access to care. We have a little food store on Wednesday night that sells eggs, fruit, vegetables and milk cheap to people who may not have access to groceries. Students come in and can’t put two words together and they go on to present at international conferences.”

Please contact SWITCH at www.switch.usask.ca if you are a student who would like to volunteer in some capacity. If you would like to make a donation to SWITCH, go to: www.canadahelps.ca

Science Conducts Experiments with Pleasant Hill

BY KIRK SIBBALD



Students and teacher from Pleasant Hill School conduct experiments during field trip to U of S in Dec. 2009. (Photo: Kirk Sibbald)

In October 2009, the Division of Science began offering weekly science instruction to Grades 4 and 5 students at Pleasant Hill School in Saskatoon's west side.

The course is offered for two hours each week, and the theme of instruction is altered monthly to reflect each department within the division (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geological Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics & Engineering Physics).

The idea stemmed from discussions amongst senior leaders in the Division of Science. After securing funding for the program from the Aboriginal Students' Centre (ASC) at the U of S, the Saskatoon Public School Division (SPSD) was asked if they would be interested in having one of their schools participate in a pilot of the program for 2009/10. The SPSP immediately jumped on board, and it was decided that the program would be launched at Pleasant Hill School in October 2009.

"We believe that our schools are community centres and that community resources that encourage and support rich learning experiences for our students should be welcomed," explained George Rathwell, Director of Education for the SPSP. "These learning experiences...are invaluable to the education of these young people."

After learning the program would be offered at their school, children met with an aboriginal Elder to provide guidance in settling on a formal name. They decided on Kamskénow, an aboriginal word meaning, "to find, to learn."

Fred Berry (Masters candidate, Biology) and Lindsay Jacobi (Masters candidate, Anatomy and Cell Biology) were hired as instructors for the course with funds provided by the ASC. Berry said the program's activities and experiments



Pleasant Hill students do an activity using straws to learn about the wavelengths of sound. (Photo: Kirk Sibbald)

utilize real scientific concepts but are simple enough for children to replicate at home.

To introduce the students to Chemistry, for example, the students used purple cabbage juice to find the pH levels of common substances, such as acetaminophen and household cleaners. For Physics, they learned how light bends and bounces by navigating a maze using laser pointers and small mirrors.

While these practical learning experiences are certainly valuable, parents of the students at Pleasant Hill School agree that the program's most important contribution is that it allows many underprivileged children to envision a future that includes post-secondary education.

"I think it's really important, especially when the kids are coming from an inner city area. The university is a really positive symbol, it shows them that there are many possibilities for their future," said Rodney Mercer, whose son, Tyler, is a student in the Kamskénow program.

Jason Henry, father of Erica, another Kamskénow student, echoed similar sentiments.

"She tries a lot of the experiments at home, and also goes on the internet to try and find other ones she can do," he said. "(Going to university) is something I'm really looking

forward to her doing when she gets older, and she's really starting to get excited about it now too. I like her to not be bunched up in our neighbourhood, and this really shows her the opportunities that are out there."

Based on the program's initial success, the ASC recently offered to support this program further by committing additional funds that will allow a second class to be offered in 2010/11.

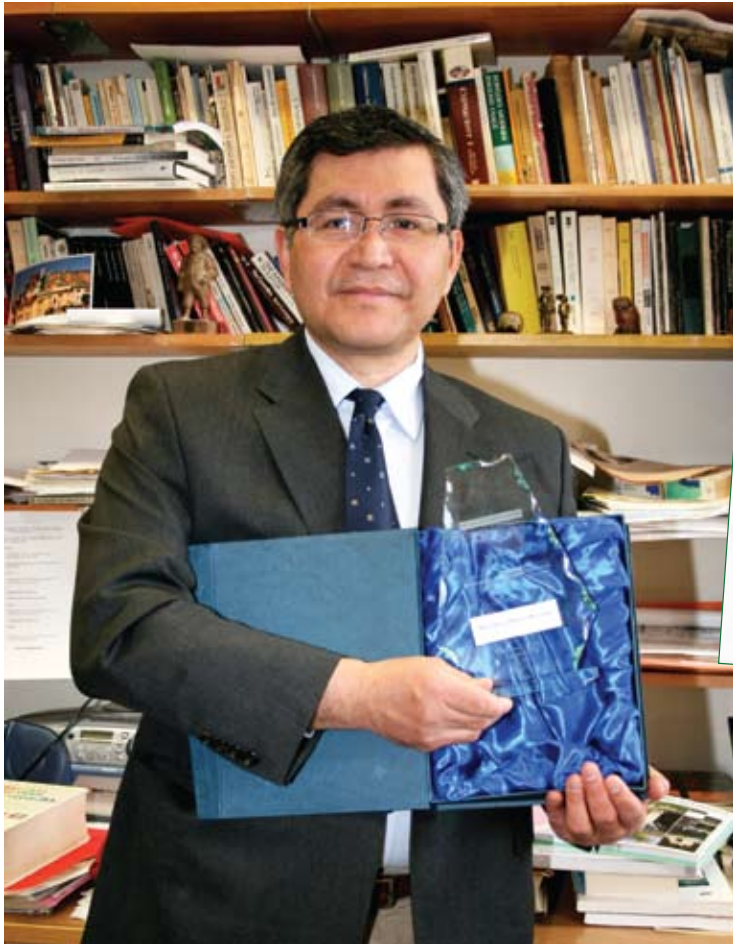
Kevin Schneider, Vice-Dean of Science for the College, said although he isn't certain what expansion of the program will look like in subsequent years, he would like to eventually see the program reach outside of Saskatoon, particularly into some of Saskatchewan's remote northern communities.

"We're very happy with our current partnership (with the SPSPD), but we're also interested in not necessarily restricting ourselves to the local school boards," he explained, adding there is already talk of expanding the program to the Whitecap Dakota First Nation next fall.

"It has become increasingly important for grad students and faculty members to get involved in outreach activities, so a program like this gives them an excellent opportunity to get out in the community and make a difference."

Julio Torres-Recinos Wins Influential Award

BY BETSY ROSENWALD



Julio Torres-Recinos (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

Julio Torres-Recinos, associate professor of Spanish, was named one of 2009's "Scotiabank 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians" at an award presentation on Nov. 20 in Toronto.

Born in El Salvador, Torres-Recinos first left his native country for Costa Rica in 1980, a move necessitated by civil war and closure of the country's only public university. In 1988 he moved to Canada to finish his degree, during which time he became deeply involved in Ontario's Hispanic literary community.

"My experience of living in a new country—the nostalgia for home is strong—is one of the themes in my writing," said Torres-Recinos, an accomplished author and editor whose latest book of poetry, *hojas de aire*, was chosen as one of the



best books of poetry to be published in Spain in 2008.

"How you experience the memory of your homeland and how you feel about your new country changes with time...but I don't want to limit myself when it comes to writing poetry. I write social poems, love poems, poems about family and death. Not just the immigrant experience."

Torres-Recinos was chosen for the award from 34 nominees who immigrated to Canada from 10 different countries. The award, he says, is an important indicator of the growing visibility of Hispanic-Canadians.

"We have come to the realization that we (Hispanic-Canadians) need to claim our position in society, to announce that we are here and we want to be heard," he said, noting the Hispanic population in Canada is close to one million people.

"Many people in the Hispanic community feel that they can contribute to Canada's economic and cultural development. These Hispanic-Canadians, through their many contacts in Latin America and their skills, have the ability to make trade and exchange between Canada and Latin America possible."

In addition to his renowned literary work, Torres-Recinos is also well-known for his extensive community involvement and volunteer work. He has served as president of the Hispanic Circle of Saskatoon and has sat on the board of directors for several other organizations, including the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, the Canadian Association of Hispanists and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. For his role as president of Folkfest, he received Tourism Saskatoon's Leadership Award in 2009.

Through his work with the Multicultural Council, Torres-Recinos says he has come to learn more about the immigrant experience in Saskatchewan.

"We support the organizations of many groups—First Nations, Polish, Ukrainian, Chinese—that are dealing with issues such as racism, human rights, education and immigration."

Brian Zulkoskey Receives Sylvia Wallace Award

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Heralded by students as "personable," "thorough" and "astounding," Brian Zulkoskey, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Physics & Engineering Physics, has won the 2010 Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Award from the University of Saskatchewan.

Born and raised in Prince Albert, Zulkoskey attended the U of S as a student, earning both his Bachelors (High Honours, Physics, '78) and Masters (Nuclear Physics, '82). In the fall of 1981, he joined the department as a lab instructor/coordinator, and has been teaching first-year classes as a sessional lecturer since 1990.

In addition to winning the Sylvia Wallace award for 2010, Zulkoskey has won two USSU Teaching Excellence Awards and two Departmental Teacher of the Year Awards through Physics & Engineering Physics.

Many students have left complimentary reviews for Zulkoskey's instruction in anonymous Student Evaluations of Educational Quality (SEEQ) assessments over the past two decades.

"There are many excellent professors; however, the reason I write this is because I regard him as an outstanding professor. He has earned my respect as well as (that of) other

students," wrote one student.

Despite some progress in these areas, he says Saskatoon still has a long way to go. "We are not a welcoming place for immigrants....They need a centre of their own, where they can come for English classes, basic employment issues such as how to find a job, daycare, an introduction to the culture here."

Though he helps others to tackle these barriers to opportunity and growth, he considers himself fortunate to have escaped many of their difficulties.

"I have always been in a university setting. I never left that. A lot of people are not protected like this. If you have a strong accent or your skin colour is different, you are going to face difficulties. When I was in Toronto, I met several people from Latin America and they are struggling."



Said another: "I have enjoyed the clarity and consistency of Brian's teaching. He explained things clearly and in a concise manner. Thanks so much for making an intimidating subject enjoyable!"

And finally: "BZ was simply astounding! He is one of the most gifted teachers I have ever had the pleasure of learning from....It's clear that he's passionate about his job."

In addition to his work at the U of S, Zulkoskey is also very interested in baseball and fencing, sports where he has served as a coach, athlete, administrator and referee. He is married and has two children currently attending the U of S.

The Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Award was established in 2001 to honour the memory of Dr. Sylvia Wallace, who was Associate Vice-President (Academic) at the U of S and past recipient of the U of S Master Teacher Award. In addition to public recognition, the award winner receives \$1,000 and travel costs to the next Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) conference.

conference.

Arts & Science Briefs



Eric Neufeld, Head of Dept. of Computer Science (Photo: Joy-Ann Allin)

Technology Giants Recruit Comp. Sci. Students

On Feb. 9, the Computer Science Department played host to technology gurus from Apple, Google and a host of local firms at its annual student-run career fair. Organized by CSSS President Johannes Lindenbaum and the CSSS executive, the career fair inspired interactions between students and an army of recruiters: the Canadian Armed Forces, Gradworks, IBM, LucidHelix Solutions, Point2, PotashCorp, SED Systems, Vecima Networks, VendAsta, Zu. A rock star welcome was given to returning U of S alumnus Steven Woods, now Site Director at Google Canada in Waterloo, and alumna Verna Friesen. Woods recognizes the strength of Computer Science at the U of S: "There's great talent at the U of S and I think it's great to be coming back...there's great back-and-forth between academia and industry. The students that come out of the U of S already have industry experience."

John Pomeroy Presents Data on Columbia Basin Water Reserves

John Pomeroy, CRC in Water Resource and Climate Change and professor in the Department of Geography & Planning, was one of a distinguished panel of glacier scientists in Golden, BC the week of Feb. 1 to present information about the state of water reserves in the Columbia Basin, and to discuss the impacts of shrinking water supply. The event, organized by Kindy Gosal, Director of Water and Environment for Columbia Basin Trust, was intended as an information session for the citizens of the area about glacial recession and the future of the water supply in the face of climate change. Pomeroy presented data that highlighted the impact of glacial recession on rivers and streams.



John Pomeroy (Photo courtesy: U of S Research Communications)

Geological Sciences Grad Student named Scientist of the Month

The Saskatchewan Science Network (www.sasksciencenetwork.ca) has designated Patricio Desjardins, a PhD student in the Dept. of Geological Sciences, as the January 2010 Scientist of the Month in recognition of his past and ongoing activities in science and geoscience outreach.

Desjardins who was born in Argentina, received the 2007 Appel Global Citizen Award for his outstanding volunteer contributions to science education in both the southern and the northern hemispheres.

He has been a volunteer with Let's

Talk Science, a national outreach program run by graduate students that provides curriculum-based science programs to the public school system and was part of a long-term outreach project in Ile a la Crosse. With a group of friends in Argentina, he founded the El Mirador Group, which focuses on inspiring creativity through geology and photography workshops in the Aboriginal community of Amaicha del Valle, Tucumán. He was also the leader of the Tierra Viva Geology Workshops, the result of which was a geotouristic trail, along which rocks of different ages could be observed.

Arts & Science Briefs



Above: Silke Falkner; Right: Katie Salmers, ASSU president and Dean Jo-Anne Dillon at Hearts for Haiti (photos: Kirk Sibbald)

Silke Falkner Receives CATG Award

Silke R. Falker, associate professor in the Department of Languages & Linguistics, was awarded the 2010 Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG) Award. The award is presented annually to a member who has portrayed long-standing dedication to the profession and support of the CATG.

Falkner is a past recipient of the USSU Teaching Excellence Award (2003) and known amongst students for being a challenging but motivational, approachable and effective instructor. She joined the

U of S in 1998 after completing her PhD in German Studies at McGill University.

In 2005, Falkner received the Centennial Arts Pin, awarded by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan for her consultant work for the Imhoff Heritage Society and her work on the documentary film, *Servant of God: German Painter, Berhold Imhoff*.

Falkner received the CATG award during the organization's annual conference in Montreal on Feb. 20.

Priscilla Settee's Artwork on Exhibit

Priscilla Settee, a professor of Native Studies, is one of the artists being featured in *Healing through Art and Culture*, an exhibition at the Lavender gallery in Saskatoon. Settee is a member of the Board of the Iskewwak Group on Disappeared and Missing Indigenous Women.

The exhibition, which was organized by Marlee Ritchie of

Iskwewuk E-wichwitochik ('women walking together' in Cree), commemorates the plight of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada. It features work by local aboriginal artists and also the national travelling quilt from the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

Hearts for Haiti raises \$1,600+

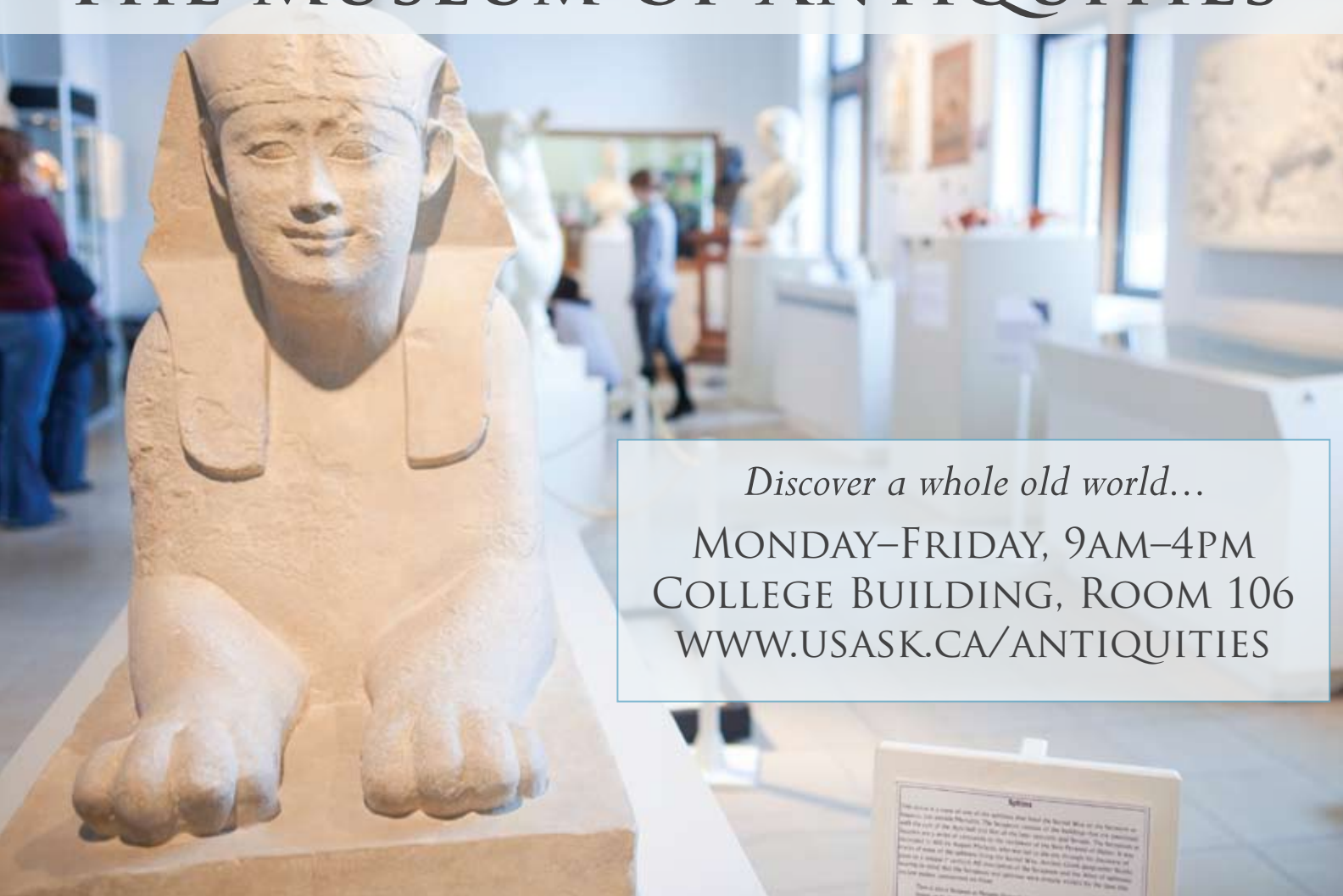
Dean Jo-Anne Dillon and the College of Arts & Science thank everyone who generously contributed to the Hearts For Haiti fundraising event on Friday, Feb. 12. The event raised \$1,645.51 for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti, an amount that will be matched by the federal government.

Dean Jo-Anne Dillon provided 800 cupcakes for the fundraiser, and donations were made through a silver collection.

The funds raised through this event were delivered to the Canadian Red Cross Saskatoon office on the afternoon of Feb. 12. The International Red Cross Movement has mobilized to launch their largest ever emergency relief and recovery operation in one country. It is estimated that 3 million people have been affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti, and more than 200,000 are estimated to have died.

The donations will go toward helping the Red Cross with emergency assistance such as food, clean water, and shelter such as tarps and tents to the survivors of this devastating disaster.

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*Special thanks to the Department of Music,
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