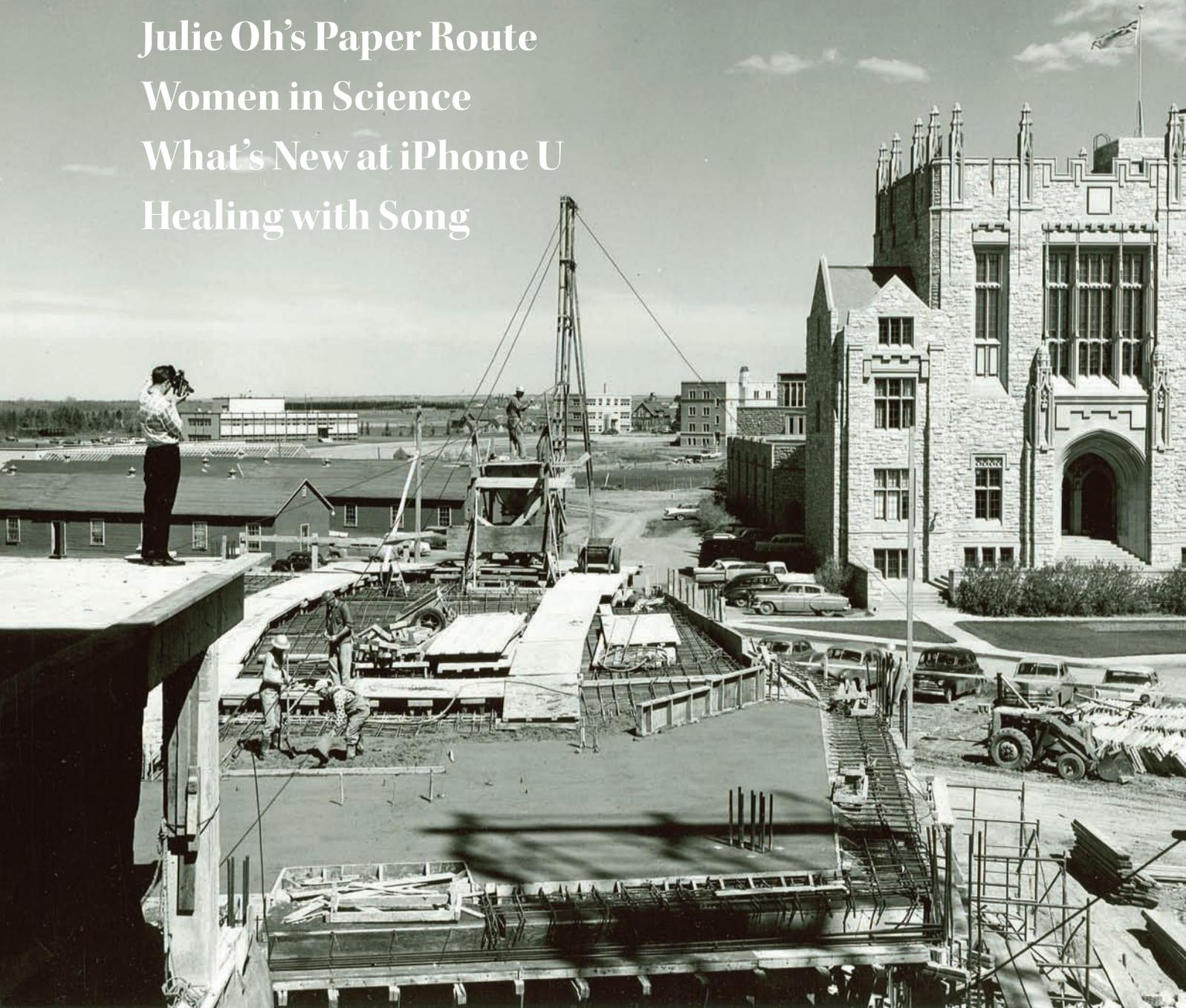


THE COLLEGE OF  
**arts & science**

Celebrating a Century of Great People 1909–2009

SUMMER 2009

Julie Oh's Paper Route  
Women in Science  
What's New at iPhone U  
Healing with Song



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

College of  
Arts and Science

### Building the Arts Building

JUNE 1960: A man photographs the Chemistry building from the roof of the partially completed Arts Tower as cement is poured for the foundation of the theatre wing of the Arts Building.

# Celebrating Excellence

DEAN JO-ANNE R. DILLON



In the academic world, spring represents much the same as it does in all other realms of Canadian society: rebirth ... and relief!

After enduring the usual rigours that accompany each winter and academic year, the beginning of spring is generally a time for celebration and eager anticipation. In the College of Arts & Science, we certainly have a lot to celebrate.

Each year at the end of May, our College hosts a Convocation Awards Dinner and Ceremony to honour our most distinguished students, faculty and staff. The diverse talents, accomplishments and future plans of our award winners are impressive and, as the Dean of the College, this special evening has always been an event that I cherish.

This year was no different. In addition to our almost 40 student award winners, this gala also honours staff and faculty who have displayed excellence, commitment and passion for their work.

The recipients of the College's Teaching Excellence Awards for 2008/09 were Ron Wheeler (Political Studies), Peta Bonham-Smith (Biology) and Veronika Makarova (Languages & Linguistics). Each of these outstanding professors received remarkable testimonials from students and colleagues alike regarding their enthusiasm and innovation in the classroom. Each was also commended for their consistently supportive and encouraging disposition. I would like to thank each of these professors—as well

as the many from our College who again won USSU and U of S teaching and research awards this year—for their demonstrated commitment to improving the student experience and enriching their respective departments.

The USSU Teaching Excellence Award recipients can be viewed online at [www.ussu.ca/news/teaching.shtml](http://www.ussu.ca/news/teaching.shtml). Winners of the various U of S research and teaching awards can be viewed at [www.awards.usask.ca](http://www.awards.usask.ca).

The College also depends on the many talents of our staff to function. This year, choosing a winner for the Dean's Distinguished Staff Award was an incredibly difficult task for the selection committee. There were a total of eight nominees for this award, each of whom makes remarkable contributions to their units and the College as a whole. The award for 2009 was awarded to Troy Linsley (Music). For more on this award, please see page 3.

If you know of a professor who is doing outstanding work or a staff member who goes above and beyond, I encourage you to nominate them for these awards in subsequent years. While recognition for a job well done is sometimes overlooked in the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life, nominating a colleague for these awards says "thank you" in a big way.



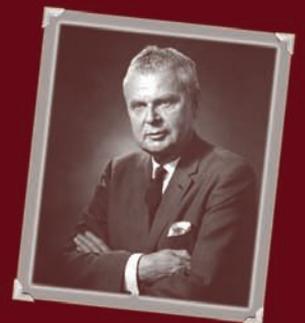
## *Alumni of Influence Gala Luncheon*



*Join us in a special celebration with alumni, students and faculty as we honour a century of distinguished Arts & Science alumni*

Please save this date:  
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or visit <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/events/gala/>



**CELEBRATING A  
CENTURY OF  
GREAT PEOPLE**  
ARTS & SCIENCE 1909–2009

# The Dean's Distinguished Staff Award



Left to right: Lloyd Litwin, Dean Jo-Anne Dillon, Brenda Britton, Gary Brunet, Gloria Brandon, Troy Linsley (photo: Kirk Sibbald)

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Integrity, creativity, innovation and quality service are all listed as criteria for the Dean's Distinguished Staff Award. Based on this, it would be hard to find a more deserving recipient than Troy Linsley.

A departmental administrative assistant in the Department of Music for six years, Linsley was named the 2009 recipient of this award, presented at the College's Convocation Awards Dinner and Banquet on May 27. The award winner each year receives a certificate and \$1,000 cash prize.

His many nominators commented on Linsley's consistent willingness to go above and beyond, acting simultaneously as a coordinator, leader and valued advisory for hundreds of annual events both on and off campus.

Within the Department of Music, he helps organize nearly every concert and tour, and was also instrumental in spearheading the recent renovation of Quance Theatre. Off campus, Troy has assumed the administrative leadership for the National Youth Band of Canada, an ensemble of post-secondary students from across the country. He is also the

principle organizer and administrator for the Saskatchewan Band Association's Summer Band Camp.

In summing up his many contributions, the Dean's Distinguished Staff Award Selection Committee wrote:

"Troy Linsley is a consummate professional. He is a valuable resource to the University and the Department of Music. He has been a great individual to work with and has performed exceedingly beyond the call of duty. He has helped build a stronger Department and make it a more pleasant place to work."

The other nominees were:

**Gary Brunet**, Associate Director of Information Technologies

**Brenda Weenk**, Administrative Assistant, Chemistry

**Lloyd Litwin**, Geophysics/Electronics Technician

**Linda Dietz**, Administrative Assistant, History

**Brenda Britton**, Clerical Services Worker, Geological Sciences

**Gloria Brandon**, Coordinator of Student Academic Services

**Sharilyn Lee**, Clerical Assistant, Art & Art History

# Julie Oh's "Paper Route" Delivers

BY BETSY ROSENWALD



Julie Oh, *Paper Route*, 2009, 36 x 30 inches, inkjet print.

Julie Oh (BFA Art & Art History '09, BSc '07) is one of 55 artists whose work has been chosen for purchase by the Canada Council Art Bank—and the only one from Saskatchewan.

On May 22, the Art Bank announced the purchase of the new works of art, which are by Canadian artists from ethnically diverse backgrounds, including artists of African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and mixed racial heritage. A peer review committee chose Oh's photograph, *Paper Route*, from more than 530 submissions.

The Art Bank has the largest collection of contemporary Canadian art in the world with more than 17,400 artworks. The most recent purchases, said Art Bank director Victoria Henry in an April 23 announcement, "provided an opportunity to understand how artists from

culturally diverse backgrounds tell their stories: stories with autobiographical commentary, use of repetition, subtle references to traditional practices and humour."

Henry could have been describing Oh and her work. *Paper Route* is one of a series of seven 30 x 36-inch photographs called *I M Migrant* that explores Oh's experience as a Korean immigrant growing up in Canada. It depicts two Asian girls—actors Oh hired to stand in for her and her younger sister—engaged in delivering early morning newspapers. Artificially dark, flat shadows envelop the girls and separate them from their environment—bright red

plastic wagon, crisp, white newspapers, anonymous houses and lawns—and each other.

“The I M Migrant series is about my background and myself,” said Oh. “I was trying to reconstruct scenes from my childhood and my immigrant past by hiring actors to play my sister and me at ages 10 and four.”

Oh was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated with her family to Saskatoon in 1994. A year after the family’s move, Oh’s parents divorced and her father returned to Korea. Photography gave her a way to express how she felt about these events and the impact of her expectations of what life in Canada would be like.

“Before leaving Korea, our family watched the movie *Edward Scissorhands* with Johnny Depp, set in suburbia and filmed in vibrant colour. The lawns were this intense green. I asked my mom, ‘Are we going to live in one of those houses?’ She said yes, but we came here and lived in a two-bedroom apartment with no yard. I was so disappointed—it was a huge letdown. So my artwork speaks to the deep need to keep the fantasy alive.”

Oh was 18 years old and in her first year of university when her mother, a nurse, made the decision to attend medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico. This left Oh on her own in Saskatoon to continue her studies and look after her sister, Jane, who was then 12 years old. Oh also worked part-time at the Canadian Deaf-Blind Association.

“Even in Korea it was that way. I have always taken care of my sister,” she says. Though the family decision meant increased responsibility and work for Oh, she could not imagine holding her mother back. “If some circumstance prevented me from doing something I wanted to do, I wouldn’t have liked it, so I let her go.”

Intending to study medicine herself, Oh received her B.Sc. in Microbiology at the U of S in 2007 before deciding to pursue a BFA with a focus on photography. Everything shifted after she took first photography class in her fourth year as a break from her heavy load of sciences.

“I was very intrigued. I took another class, then another. My entire experience of being in the darkroom and getting to know what photography was about was new and exciting. To see something I’ve seen in reality and then see it materialize in the tray of chemicals—it was magic to me.”

The I M Migrant series evolved this year during Oh’s final year of BFA studies after trying different subjects and styles without a strong pull in any one direction. Her plan was to use the year to focus on one body of work. She asked

herself, “What can I do my final year?” And it came to her: talk about what she knew, her immigrant experience.

A single memory sparked the idea to hire actors to recreate scenes from her early years in Saskatoon, and also became the basis for her photograph,

*Five Blonds*. As she tells it, “My sister put a yellow towel on her head and went next door to the neighbour’s house carrying juice and chips for a picnic. She was just four at the time and she wanted to be part of a Caucasian family, which to her meant being blond. It was such a strong image. I was shocked by it and it stayed with me. I wanted to recreate the moment and other childhood fantasies of becoming a Canadian. Things like garage sales and paper routes—in Seoul there were no green lawns, only apartment complexes. Chicken fingers and French fries were another thing—I made them for my sister and me. Doing those things confirmed my myth of becoming Canadian. They were all clichés, but for me as a 10-year-old girl, that’s what I thought being Canadian was.”

Her mother, now back in Saskatoon after completing her studies, is very supportive of her work. “After I showed her the pictures, she was so moved by them, seeing the things she missed in our lives as our mother and what it was like for us growing up with absentee parents. She understood then how an image could be so powerful. Now she supports me.”

Selling her photograph to the Art Bank was an unexpected but pleasant surprise for Oh. “It was a really nice recognition and also nice to receive payment (\$2,000) for my work.”

After May graduation, Oh plans to take time off to continue working on photography projects in progress. She will have her first solo exhibition outside of the U of S next year at the Frances Morrison Library Gallery.

“Photography gives me the opportunity to say what I want,” she says. “Though there are many ways to do this... for me it was photography. I don’t know any other way to express myself.”



Julie Oh, *Five Blonds*, 2009, 30 x 36 inches, inkjet print.

# Science & Math is Cool for Women

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Bucking national statistics on the under-representation of women in the sciences, nine awards at the Spring Arts & Science Convocation Awards Ceremony went to young women graduating from science-based programs, including math and biotechnology.

This should be encouraging news to Julita Vassileva, a professor in the Department of Computer Science) who is working to improve the odds for women considering careers in science and technology. Vassileva is the Cameco/NSERC\* Prairie Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, one of five such chairs across Canada with a mission to increase participation of women in science and engineering and provide role models for women in these fields.

The chairs' mandate covers a whole spectrum of ages and stages. Because girls and boys perform equally well in elementary school, most of the programming focuses on girls who are 12 to 13 years old, when the shift away from math and science occurs. "It is hard to say why this is happening," Vassileva says. "Perhaps it becomes uncool for girls to be good in math and science."

Vassileva also hopes to attract female aboriginal students to the sciences. She recently established myWISEmentor (WISE is an acronym for Women in Science and Engineering), a free mentoring program that uses email communication to provide encouragement and support for girls ages 11 to 18 who are interested in science, math, technology and engineering. A new website [www.mywisementor.com](http://www.mywisementor.com) provides information on the program.

Science Ambassadors— another program coordinated by Vassileva—sends graduate students in science and engineering to northern aboriginal communities for at least two months to help science teachers in the classroom and build interest in science among the students.

Vassileva grew up in Communist Bulgaria free of the barriers and stereotypes that women in science and technology encounter in North America. There, her female contemporaries were equally interested in science, with over half pursuing higher education in the sciences. In fact, Vassileva says, quotas existed for men in all disciplines. "Even mining was 80

per cent women. A quota had to be imposed to encourage men because women didn't want to go into the mines. They wanted to do research," Vassileva says. "Bulgaria needed scientists, which created an environment of opportunity for students.... In China and Bulgaria, where women are really well represented in sciences, it is taught from the first grade that if you don't perform well in school you are a loser. The culture in school there is that you are cool if you are good in math. I experienced quite a difference here in how women are treated," she says. "Women who have succeeded here in science are very tough."

The system clearly needs to change if it is to attract more women, she says, adding that more female faculty would help. She also points to a culture that expects scientists to be stars by age 35, which overlaps with a woman's childbearing years.

Vassileva counsels women to go after what they want and question when they are passed over for awards or publication. Women have been brought up to be "feminine"— to avoid conflict and not to fight—but they can change the way they communicate, she says. "Go and ask why you were passed over. Weaker men shamelessly apply for everything, but excellent women don't because no one invited them to apply. Women have to go and ask! The system has to change, but women also have to change."



Julita Vassileva (photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

\*National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Megan Lewis received the award for the most outstanding graduate in Mathematics at the Spring Arts & Science Convocation Awards Ceremony. She is in Oslo, Norway doing research this summer before beginning a MSc program in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics in September.

### ***When did you become interested in Math?***

I have always enjoyed mathematics. I first became interested in it when I reached high school, and began taking my math courses in English (until that point I was in French Immersion). I loved the variety of problems that could be solved so easily with a little bit of knowledge...When I reached Grade 12, I began to take courses on calculus. I was blown away by Newton, and how calculus could be applied to real world problems, particularly in the world of physics.

### ***Were your teachers and parents supportive of your interest? How about other kids?***

I have always had extremely supportive teachers. I do think they were a bit annoyed with me a times, though. I remember one teacher in particular that I loved to harass. He would be working on solving a problem on the blackboard, and I would sit in the back and watch. He quite frequently made small errors because he didn't just copy down his notes, and when he finally spotted them (his answer would be wrong), he would turn and see me grinning at him. He knew that I had seen his mistake, and enjoyed watching him struggle.

My parents have always been incredibly supportive of all aspects of my schoolwork...My grandfather (who is an aeronautical engineer) is always interested to hear about any new theorems ...even if he doesn't understand all the details.

I do get a bit of negative feedback when I tell people that I'm majoring in math and minoring in physics. The typical response is a grimace, and an answer of "I hate math and physics". I always laugh, and ask if they hate gravity, or driving cars. Of course, the answer is no. They don't hate math, they hate learning about it!

### ***Did you experience any barriers as a female math student?***

I have actually found that there are more opportunities available as a female math student. There are many scholarships aimed at women...When I was in the ninth grade, I was allowed to participate in an all-female Computer Science and Mathematics Seminar at the University of Waterloo, which was amazing. There were 40 top math students from across the country, who gathered together at the U of W. We learned a bit of programming, got to take apart old computers, and have a good time.

### ***Who are your academic role models?***

My parents are first on my list of academic role models. They have always been very supportive of anything academic. I have also met some excellent professors here at the U of S, who have motivated me to pursue graduate studies. My sister has also been a role model for me. She is currently working on her M.Sc. in Civil Engineering. She has always done well academically, motivating me to do the same.

### ***What area of math did you study?***

In my second and third years at the U of S, I was actually majoring in Mathematical Physics, so I have taken courses emphasizing applying mathematics to physical problems. I have always enjoyed the calculus-based courses, and I also enjoy numerical analysis (methods for solving mathematical problems on a computer). I have also taken a number of computer science courses, which I think is an incredibly smart idea if you are planning on becoming any kind of applied scientist. Most jobs in mathematics require some level of proficiency at programming.

### ***Can you comment on your experience at the U of S?***

I have found that the U of S is a great place to study. There are some truly excellent math professors here...The only problem is that the department is quite small, so the variety of courses is just not available.

### ***What do you plan to do now that you have graduated? Will you pursue a graduate degree?***

I am really glad you didn't ask if I am becoming a math teacher! I am actually doing research this summer by collaborating with a research group in Oslo, Norway... trying to find efficient numerical methods for simulation of electrical activity in the heart. In the fall I start a M.Sc. program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the U of S. I haven't yet decided whether I would like to do a PhD, but I think I will take things one step at a time! I think ideally I would eventually like to work on modeling and computing simulations of real world problems.

### ***Do you have the same advantages as a man in your field?***

I feel that there are actually more opportunities available for women in mathematics. Many companies also need to maintain a certain level of women employees. Since there are still low numbers of women in science and mathematics, this can also create opportunities for female mathematicians and scientists.

### ***Do you have advice for girls pursuing math and science?***

If you enjoy it, do it. I know for a lot of people, math can be extremely challenging. If you happen to be one of those people who enjoys math, keep doing it! One of my high school teachers told me to keep taking math until I don't understand it anymore, and that's exactly what I plan on doing.

# Silenced stories become song

BY KIRK SIBBALD



Left to right: Violet Naytowhow, Colleen Dell and Jenny Gardipy (photo: Kirk Sibbald)

After four years and more than 100 interviews, Colleen Dell and her research team hope to help aboriginal women struggling with substance abuse by translating their findings into song.

Dell, an associate professor of Sociology and Saskatchewan Research Chair in Substance Abuse, began working on this project in 2005 through a partnership between the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation, University of Saskatchewan and Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

The focus of the project, says Dell, was to explore the role of stigma and identity in the healing journeys of criminalized aboriginal women who abused illicit drugs. The first phase of the project, spanning a year-and-a-half, involved conducting interviews with aboriginal women at six drug abuse treatment centres across Canada.

After the interviews were completed and transcribed, an obvious question arose as to how the research findings would be presented.

"This was an emotional process for everyone involved, and it was always about hope and respect," Dell explained. "We were concerned that simply presenting the findings in a traditional lecture or publication format would be perceived as very top-down."

Instead, Dell suggested incorporating the women's stories into a considerably more unique form of knowledge translation: song.

Jenny Gardipy, who graduated this year with a B.A. (Honours) in Native Studies at the U of S and was named the department's most outstanding graduate, began working on the project with Dell in 2007. When the idea of creating

a song from the stories was discussed with Gardipy, she contacted her friend, Violet Naytowhow, a woodland Cree singer/songwriter from Prince Albert who volunteered her assistance immediately.

The song-writing process took place Feb. 15 to 17 at Cedar Lodge near Blackstrap Lake. Dell, Gardipy and Naytowhow were joined by about 20 other researchers, interview participants and treatment providers over the three days, during which the group wrote lyrics for the song's verses, bridge and chorus under Naytowhow's guidance.

Naytowhow then returned to Prince Albert and put the words to music. The final product, titled *From Stilettos to Moccasins*, was unveiled during a well-attended event at the Odeon Events Centre in Saskatoon on May 14.

"Respect was incredibly important for the experiences of everyone who came to the table. So whether it was lived experience or academic knowledge, it was equally valid," Dell said of the songwriting process at Cedar Lodge.

Gardipy, an aboriginal woman who will begin the Masters program in Public Health at the U of S this fall, said that her views on academic research were altered considerably through her involvement with this project.

"I always thought of research as existing in a box. But when I came to work with Colleen, I saw research really taking place outside the box and beyond," said Gardipy.

In addition to the song, Dell said there are also plans to create a DVD from video taken during the songwriting retreat. This, along with numerous other learning materials, will eventually be given to substance abuse centres and schools across the country, following which their impact will be evaluated.

"These are women's voices who are too often silenced, and now all women in treatment will be able to hear these voices in the form of a song," said Dell. "So they're hearing not really from academics, but from other women who have been there; that sends a very strong message."

Gardipy, whose father was a survivor of the residential school system, said she can relate to many of the women's stories and believes this unique project will assist many in their struggles with drugs and alcohol.

"Being an aboriginal woman, I feel it's doing justice to our voices and it's empowering," she said.

An audio file of the song, *From Stilettos to Moccasins*, can be accessed online at [www.nnapf.org](http://www.nnapf.org). Feedback can be sent to [fromstilettoptomoccasins@live.com](mailto:fromstilettoptomoccasins@live.com).

# From iPhoneU to iUSask

Computer Science Keeps Getting Smarter BY BETSY ROSENWALD



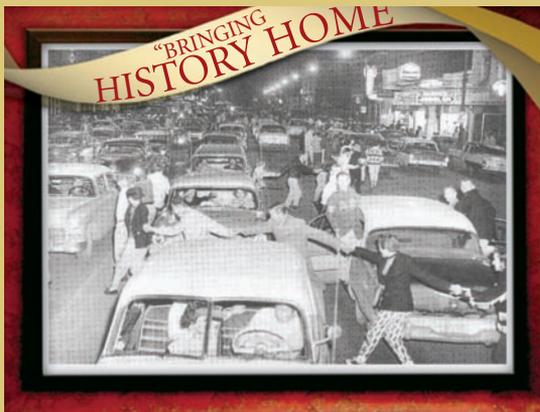
The Department of Computer Science is expanding its popular iPhone workshops into an in-depth, full credit course on smart phone programming, the first of its kind in Canada. The course, Computer Science 298, will be available to students and the public with some prerequisites this fall. Taught by Chad Jones, it will focus on iPhone programming, but will also cover the Google Android and the Blackberry. Students will learn how to create their own applications. Jones, who graduated from the U of S in 2000 with a B.Sc. in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, cut his programming teeth working for Apple at their headquarters in Cupertino, CA from 2000 to 2004.

The department will also launch their own series of apps for the iPhone this September in time for the first week of classes. The free applications, called iUSask, will be available



through the iTunes App Store. Called iUSask iPhone apps, they will allow students to login to PAWS,

check on the status of their classes, check their grades and find out the latest news on the Huskies. A team headed by Collene Hansen, instructional support coordinator for Computer Science, was commissioned by department head Eric Neufeld to create the apps for Research, Classes, Huskies, USSU, Grade Book and PAWS. One will even allow students to book a room at the Library. Modeled after applications developed at Stanford University in California, they will be the first to be available from a Canadian university. The iUSask Development Team includes: Cary Bernath, Dave Bocking, Shane Doucette, Chad Jones, Collene Hansen, Merlin Hansen, Eric Neufeld, Greg Oster, Ken Sailor, Seth Shacter, Sadie Swanson and Guus van de Velde.



## BRINGING HISTORY HOME

Celebrating 100 Years of History at the University of Saskatchewan

The Department of History's Alumni & Friends Reunion  
October 2-3, 2009

To register visit  
<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/history/>



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The honorary degrees committee of the U of S Senate is asking members of the university community and alumni to consider nominating honorary degree recipients for convocation ceremonies in 2010 and beyond.

An honorary degree is the highest honour the university can bestow. Acceptance of an honorary degree by a candidate brings honour to both the recipient and the university.

Nominees should be distinguished persons who have made an eminent contribution to scholarship, education, the arts or public service, in Canada or internationally. Nominations which are time-sensitive or are related to university or college activities such as reunions, conferences or integrated planning initiatives should be so indicated. For more information and a copy of the nomination form and guidelines, please visit [www.usask.ca/university\\_secretary/senate/hon\\_degrees.php](http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/senate/hon_degrees.php) or call (306) 966-4635.

Please send your nominations to Lea Pennock, University Secretary  
Room 212 College Building.



[www.usask.ca/university\\_secretary](http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary)

# Arts & Science Briefs



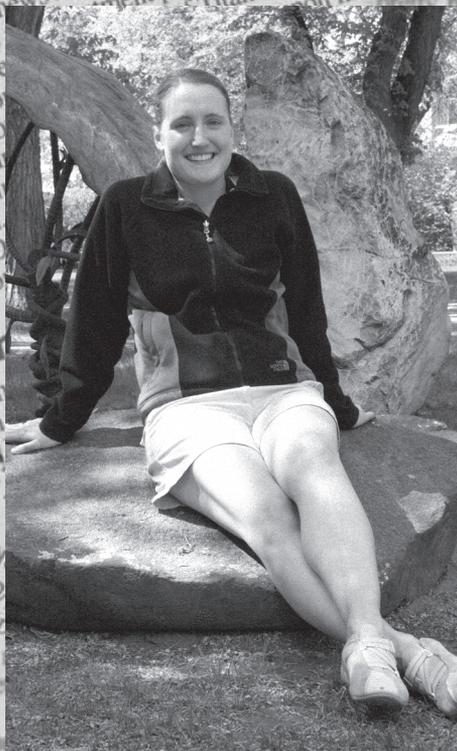
## Poelzer wins Donner Prize

Greg Poelzer, associate professor of Political Studies, has won the prestigious Donner Prize for a book he co-authored with Ken Coates, Whitney Lackenbauer and William Morrison. The authors won the award for their book *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North* (Thomas Allen Publishers).

The award is given annually for the best book on Canadian public policy, and is accompanied by a \$35,000 prize. This year, 69 submissions were received and considered for the award.

“Unquestionably, this book deals with a subject of major public importance and interest,” said Donner Prize jury chairman Grant Reuber. “This is a substantial and accessible book that should be widely read by everyone interested in an insightful introduction to this subject.”

This award marks the latest in a string of recent noteworthy accomplishments for Poelzer. In 2008, he was one of a small group of observers to accompany the Canadian Armed Forces on Operation NANOOK in Canada’s Arctic.



Erica Spracklin (photo: Kirk Sibbald)

## Erica Spracklin named Faith Acts Fellow by Tony Blair Foundation

Erica Spracklin, an honours double major in Political Studies and Religious Studies, has been selected as a Faiths Act Fellow by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s foundation. She was one of 30 young people ages 18–25 from Canada, the UK and the US who were chosen from the hundreds of applications the Tony Blair Faith Foundation received for its Faith Acts Fellowship program from around the world.

The Foundation—in collaboration with the Belinda Stronach Foundation and the Interfaith Youth Core, based in Chicago—announced Spracklin’s selection as one of eight “exceptional young” Canadians who will take

part in a youth leadership program to bring people of different faiths together. The programs will work toward the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, one of which is eliminating deaths due to malaria through multi-faith outreach activity.

Spracklin recently returned to Saskatoon from a year of study abroad in the U.K. at the University of Essex. Being chosen as a Faith Acts Fellow, she says, fits well with both parts of her degree as well as her interest in visiting Africa. She leaves for London on July 29 for 10 days of training in preparation for a 20-day trip to Malawi with other Fellows and advisors from the Interfaith Youth Core. Once there, they will meet with people living with malaria to find out what their life is like and with the faith-based groups who are helping them.

Spracklin will spend the remaining eight months of her fellowship period in Toronto helping to mobilize faith groups and create interfaith leaders to raise money for the non-profit organization, Malaria No More. She will partner with another Fellow, a Muslim woman who is a University of Toronto student.

“The most important part (of the fellowship) is to reach out to different faith groups,” Spracklin says. “Religion holds such an important role in most people’s lives...it is important to recognize that it is ok to hold your own view while still respecting others. It makes for a more cooperative world.”

# Arts & Science Briefs

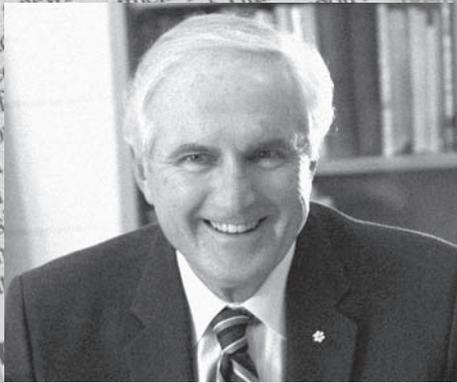
## PhD Students Awarded Prestigious Scholarships

Two doctoral students from the College of Arts & Science—Tolulope Sajobi (Mathematics & Statistics) and Brett Trost (Computer Science)—were selected as inaugural recipients of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships. Carly Whittaker, from the College of Kinesiology was also selected. The Vanier is one of the most sought-after scholarships for doctoral students.

Tolulope Sajobi, originally from Nigeria, is studying population and public health. He will receive funding from CIHR to study “Statistical Procedures to Assess Longitudinal Change in Domains of Health-Related Quality of Life.”

Brett Trost, who is interested in cellular and molecular biology, will receive NSERC support to research “Improved computational prediction of viral microRNAs.

A total of 166 scholarships will be awarded in 2009 to leading doctoral candidates from Canada and abroad. Each will receive \$50,000 a year for up to three years. The aim is to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health.



(photo: University Communications)

## Romanow Receives Honourary Degrees

Roy Romanow, senior fellow in Public Policy at the U of S, will receive two honorary degrees in June to recognize his many public contributions as both Premier of Saskatchewan and head of the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

Romanow receives his first honorary degree at the University of Western Ontario’s June 8 convocation ceremony, and the second on June 28 at York University. In his address to the graduates, Romanow said he will stress the importance of forging a national identity.

“As a multi-cultural and multi-faceted country, it is important that the next generation understands how important it is for us to accommodate different values, beliefs and communities,” says Romanow. “Our values in this regard are highly respected around the world, and it is important that we continue to advocate and practice these ideals from coast to coast to coast.”

## Dillon Receives Pooler Award

Jo-Anne Dillon (Dean, College of Arts & Science) was presented with the inaugural James A. Pooler Award in recognition of her proactive leadership and support in rebuilding the Regional and Urban Planning (RUP) program.

The award was established by the RUP Program to honour persons who make a distinguished and valuable contribution to planning and in recognition of significant contributions to the RUP program, the teaching and training of planners, or the planning profession.

Dillon received the award for her valued commitment and efforts in her capacity as dean to ensure that the RUP program would retain its national standing as a professionally-accredited planning program.

## Giesy named Einstein Professor

John Giesy, U of S toxicologist and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology, has been named an Einstein professor by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The distinction is reserved for up to 20 international researchers each year who have the potential to win international science awards, including the Nobel prize.

Giesy is one of the most cited authors worldwide in ecology and environment. His research has attracted more than \$75 million from organizations worldwide.

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**Design:** Betsy Rosenwald **Cover photo:** courtesy the University of Saskatchewan Archives (photo A-118).

## Better Late Than Never

BY TIM HUTCHINSON  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES

As early as 1909 there were plans for an Arts Building for the University of Saskatchewan campus.



April 1960: View of the completed frame of the first seven floors of the Arts Tower. (Photo courtesy of the University of Saskatchewan Archives, A-116-2)

Construction on the Arts Building was planned to start in the mid 1910s, but the outbreak of war postponed construction. A decade later, plans were foiled again when the Engineering Building burned down, in March 1925. Efforts to rebuild that building as quickly as possible sapped what funds existed for construction and the Arts Building and several other projects were put on hold indefinitely. Plans were revived in 1929, and the project went to tender, but the Depression intervened. The project to build Haultain Hall (in honour of the former premier and current chancellor) was postponed, then cancelled in 1933.

In 1957, funding for the construction of an Arts Building finally materialized. In that year the Canada Council provided a grant to the University of Saskatchewan for the construction, as part of a broader program designed to fund the construction of facilities

for the humanities at universities across Canada. The provincial government agreed to provide half of the funds for the Arts Building as well as full funding toward the construction of an Animal Husbandry and a Biology Building.

The Arts Building was constructed in four major stages from 1958 to 1967 at a cost of \$758,491. The first stage of construction began in September, 1958 with the raising of the classroom wing. It was officially opened on Sept. 28, 1959.

The second phase of construction was completed in 1960. It involved the building of the first seven floors of the Arts Tower, the Arts Theatre, and a link joining the Tower to the classroom wing. The Arts Tower was officially opened on Jan. 16, 1961. The second classroom wing was completed in 1967.

### Occupying the Arts Tower

In 1971, the Arts Building saw a growing movement in favour of student participation come to a boil. In early February, the department of Political Science and Economics announced that it was not rehiring John Richards, a visiting assistant professor on a one-year contract. Citing the confidentiality of personnel matters, the department did not explain why Richards was being replaced, leaving plenty of room for speculation that Richards, an active member of the waffle movement and an NDP candidate,

was being punished for his political activity. Richards himself later released the five reasons he had been given, including the claim that his involvement in politics meant that he was “not interested in Economics.”

In response, students occupied the eighth floor of the Arts Building—the location of the Department’s offices—for 10 days. At least one meeting calling for “open decision-making and the rehiring of Richards” had over 1,500 students in attendance.