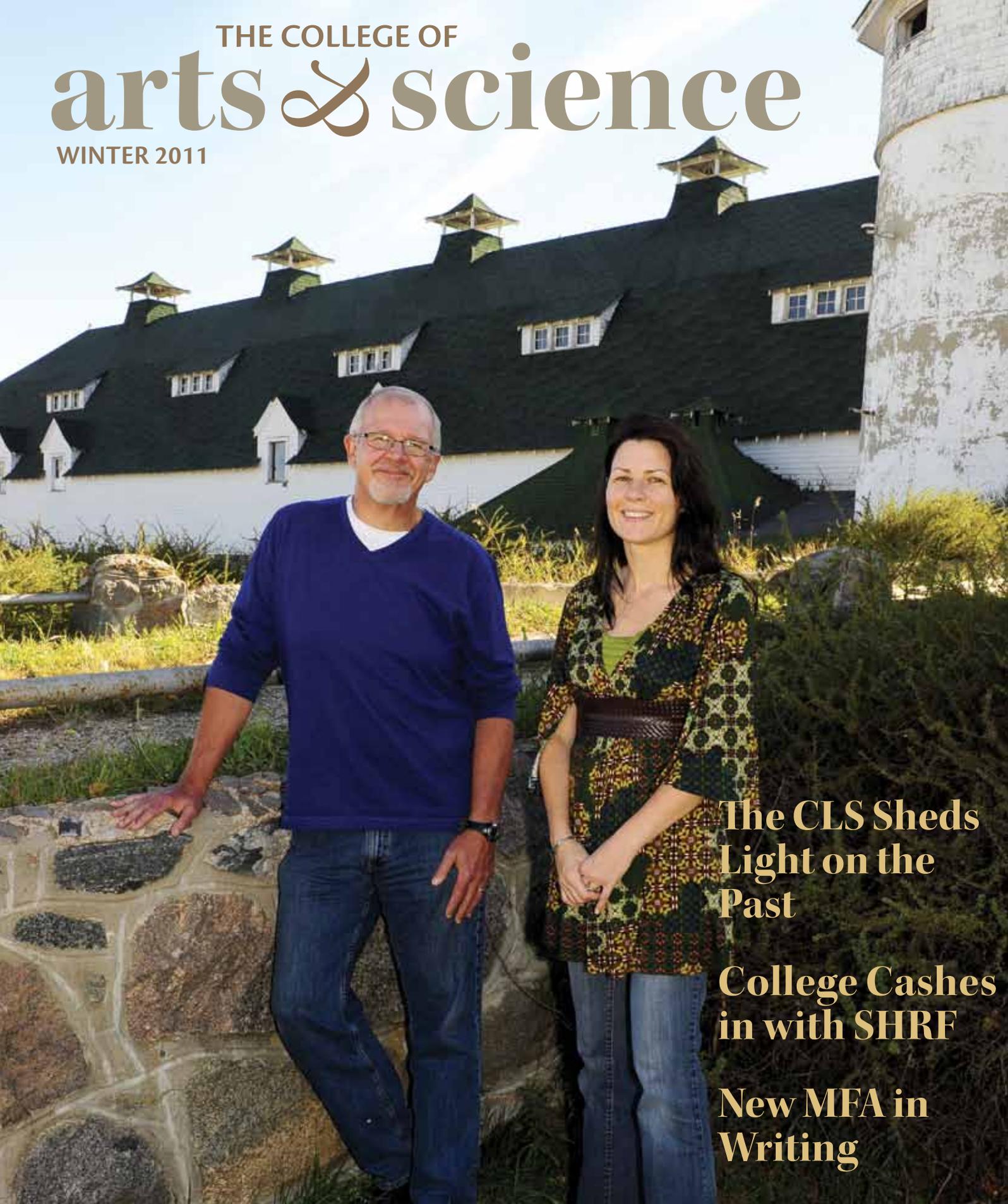


THE COLLEGE OF arts & science

WINTER 2011



**The CLS Sheds
Light on the
Past**

**College Cashes
in with SHRF**

**New MFA in
Writing**



College of
Arts and Science

SHRF recipient Randy Duncan and project supervisor Colleen Dell, Canada Research Chair in Substance Abuse and Associate Professor, Sociology. More on Page 4.

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts

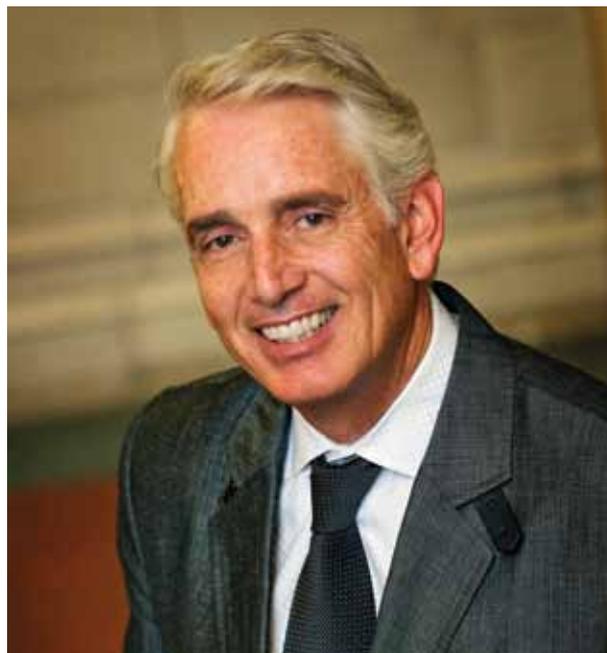
DEAN PETER STOICHEFF

March 1 marked my first day as Dean of the College of Arts & Science, and that particular day contained all the elements that are integral to my vision for the College: it was consultative, decisive, energetic, diverse, and full of possibilities.

After completing my five-year tenure as Vice-Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, and having been a faculty member of the Department of English for the last 25 years, I want to thank students, faculty, and staff for your very warm welcome back. I am excited and happy to be here, and I look forward to the opportunities and complexities that await us all.

We are one of only five medical-doctoral research-intensive universities in Canada that house arts and sciences in one organizational structure. This is a tremendous and unique opportunity to invest in our creative lifeblood: our innovative programming, course delivery, and interdisciplinary teaching and research. Over the next five years, we must regard ourselves as, and become, the destination of choice for both domestic and international students and faculty seeking to be part of a college of arts and science in Canada. Our teaching, research, size, location and history can make us pre-eminent. Our students, faculty, staff and administration can make us the best. In terms of student experience, sense of engagement, and community, we can stand as second to none.

Together we exist as three Divisions—Humanities & Fine Arts, Science, and Social Sciences—and we work together to accomplish things that other universities cannot. One main reason we can do this is that we have one administration and one integrated undergraduate student office whose staff are dedicated to student achievement and success. When you're good at something, you attract other good things,



such as students, awards, research funding, faculty, and donors. Strength attracts strength.

We need to make our College genuinely the right place for Aboriginal students and faculty to realize their academic and career ambitions. This is in the spirit of the numbered treaties, and our new Assistant Dean of Aboriginal Affairs will help us realize this goal, which is central to the Third Integrated Plan. It will cut across everything we do in the College. We want Aboriginal students to be able to look back and say that the College has benefitted them, and that they will always feel part of it. We want more Aboriginal faculty who can contribute to a programming and research culture that is meaningful to them, to students, and to the province's Aboriginal communities.

I am cognizant of the fact that we don't just choose faculty—they also choose us as a place to realize their professional ambitions. Faculty want to come to a place that places a high value on research, a place where they can grow professionally for years, and a place where there are serious, talented, and like-minded students. Faculty members want to invest their talents and creativity in a place that is also the best destination not just for Saskatchewan students, but for students from across Canada and from other countries.

While it is true that we are the largest College on campus in terms of student population and graduates, we must also remember that we are part of a much larger picture, a whole institution. We are one of thirteen Colleges and three Schools and we always must think innovatively about how to make connections with them. This means we align the College with the University's strategic directions. Although we have the size and academic scope of many entire universities, we are part of a much larger one. There are both tangible and intangible ties of which we must be mindful, and we have to work in tandem and intensify our relationship with the University as a whole.

The College of Arts & Science occupies a core position in, and has a formidable presence on, our campus. We must excel at communicating what we do, in ways that the public and people outside the University can understand. We can do at the level of programming what no one else can do in a sustained way. Our College of Arts and Science is comprised of multi-faceted interests and relationships that need to work parallel to each other, in concert, and not at odds. In other words, the College must strive to become greater than the sum of its parts.

PUBS Showcases Science Students

BY KIRK SIBBALD



Front row, l to r: Leanne Ejack, Graham Parsons, Beth Domage, Aaron Bell. Back row, l to r: Susan Kaminskyj, Gary Bortolotti, Allen Maher, Matthew Beniak, Matt Munson, Kaylie Arsenaault, Morgan Albus, Cody Manchester, Amy Noakes, Janelle Ortman (Photo: submitted)

The University of Saskatchewan welcomed nearly 80 science students from across the prairies at the end of February, as the campus played host to PUBS (Prairie University Biological Symposium) for the first time since 2004.

The conference, held annually at a prairie university in Canada or the United States, allows graduate and undergraduate students to present their research and network with an array of peers and renowned experts in their respective fields. The 46th annual event was held from Feb. 24 to 26, and included students studying virtually all biology and biology-related sciences.

Susan Kaminskyj, Professor of Biology and a faculty advisor for PUBS, said the symposium was a resounding

success and provided many Arts & Science students an opportunity to not only showcase their work, but also gain volunteer experience in helping plan and organize a significant academic conference.

"In addition to the opportunity it provides students to share their research, and as well as being a showcase for the U of S, PUBS is important for networking and for recruitment," said Kaminskyj.

In total, 52 students presented their research at this year's PUBS. This year's Plenary Speaker was Lorne Doig from the U of S Toxicology Centre, while Susan Kaminskyj served as the event's Faculty Speaker.

College Cashes in with SHRF Awards



Jake Pushie (Photo: Kirk Sibbald)

Brain Metal Mapping Lands Fellowship

BY KIRK SIBBALD

Jake Pushie took the long road to Saskatoon, but his journey recently paid off in a big way.

The post-doctoral fellow in Geological Sciences was awarded one of seven \$100,000 post-doctoral research fellowships from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF). The fellowship is payable over two years, and will help advance the work he is conducting with supervisor Graham George (Professor and Canada Research Chair) on the prion protein's role in brain metal homeostasis.

To put his work in simpler terms, Pushie explained his research uses synchrotron X-ray techniques to examine how trace metals are disrupted in the brain during the development of neurodegenerative diseases.

"We know, with Alzheimer's Disease for example, that there is a significant disruption in the amount of metals in the brain and also where these metals go," he said. "Whether that's just a consequence of the disease or the disrupted metals are contributing to the disease, that's something we want to try and get a handle on."

Pushie completed his undergraduate education in his home province of P.E.I., and later moved to Calgary to complete his graduate work in Chemistry. And when the chance to study at the CLS Synchrotron with Canada Research Chairs Graham George (his supervisor) and Ingrid Pickering arose, he jumped on it.

"I knew those two, through the general scientific community, as being ranked right up there at the top of their fields," said Pushie. "So when an opportunity came up to work with them, at a synchrotron, and I didn't have to leave the country, Saskatoon quickly went to the top of my list for places to go."

Although most of Pushie's research right now is looking at how the prion protein regulates metals in the brains of animals, he said the findings may well be transferable to neurodegenerative diseases in humans.

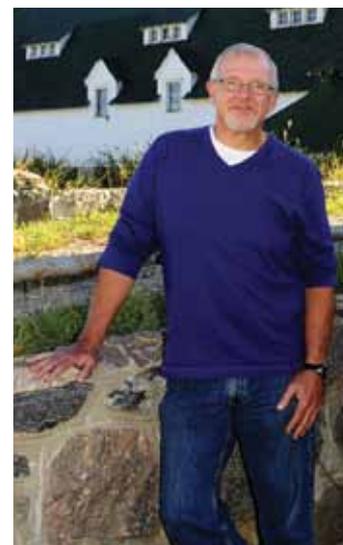
"We're focussing right now on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Mad Cow Disease, lower-hanging fruit, so to speak," he said. "But the underlying mechanisms of those diseases, at the molecular level, are very similar to Alzheimer's Disease. So we can learn a lot about one by studying the other."

Is EAL Effective?

BY KIRK SIBBALD

While Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) has attracted an increased following over the past several decades, little academic research exists to verify its ultimate effectiveness in both the short and long-term. But armed with a two-year, \$100,000 post-doc fellowship from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), Randy Duncan (Sociology) plans to break new ground through researching EAL's impact in the coming months.

"Right now there is very limited evaluation research out there relating to horse programs and human well-being," explained Duncan, who commenced his post-doc fellowship in January. "So a really important part of this is coming up with some tools and measures that can be applied in programs to document the extent of EAL's effectiveness."



Randy Duncan (Photo courtesy SHRF)

EAL is, essentially, a unique form of hands-on learning where horses are used to help individuals improve confidence, communication and creativity. This process involves the individual gaining insight from the horse, which has a unique way of communicating with humans and recognizing their emotions. While it has been used therapeutically with numerous groups of people worldwide, Duncan's EAL research will focus on First Nations youth with solvent abuse problems.

Specifically, Duncan said he will be using the SHRF fellowship to research existing literature related to EAL and work directly with aboriginal youth in a drug abuse treatment program who are utilizing the Cartier Equine Learning Center, located north of Prince Albert. This is being undertaken in collaboration with a larger, community-based study funded by the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research.

"What are they taking away? What are they specifically learning from that program in terms of skills and abilities in terms of working with the horse? How does that translate into their relationships with other people?" said Duncan, explaining the kind of questions his research will address.

"It is also going to be important to evaluate if they are retaining some of those skills or abilities once they are done treatment. So there are quite a few pieces."

Duncan's post-doc supervisor, Colleen Dell (Saskatchewan Research Chair in Substance Abuse) has a long history working with youth at the White Buffalo Youth Inhalent Treatment Centre at Sturgeon Lake First Nation, and is also a proponent of utilizing EAL as a healing tool. Duncan noted he received a hands-on introduction to EAL while working with Dell this past summer, and said it will be invaluable to have Dell's extensive base of knowledge and support as his post-doc proceeds.

Finding Meaning in Metaphor

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Working with Ulrich Teucher's (Assistant Professor, Psychology) cancer research team has opened a world of meaning for doctoral student Devon Andersen.

Their research involved helping individuals with cancer make meaning of their experience through the use of metaphor. Andersen, a third year PhD candidate in Clinical Psychology, will apply what she learned with cancer patients



Ulrich Teucher and Devon Anderson (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

to people with epilepsy, with Teucher as supervisor.

Her study, "Making Sense of Life with Epilepsy: A Study of Individual Narratives," received a \$22,000 Doctoral Award (payable over two years) from SHRF through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program. The project, says Andersen, will combine her training in clinical psychology with her desire to help people cope with a serious diagnosis and establish a healthy identity that includes their illness.

Andersen has read more than a dozen autobiographies of people with epilepsy. Because the experiences related to the disease, particularly seizures, can be difficult to describe, individuals with epilepsy often resort to metaphor to communicate these experiences. "People have traditionally spoken about lightning and electricity in describing seizures. In describing their experience with the illness more broadly, many individuals talk about feeling betrayed whether by their own body, other people (often parents), or outside sources (for example, a serpent or spiritual force)."

Andersen plans to recruit individuals with epilepsy who are willing to write and/or speak about their experiences. She will encourage them to tell their stories without direction to hear the way that they make sense of their experience. "My research aims to examine individual metaphor use in narratives, reflecting on how individuals make sense of their experience with epilepsy....The findings may provide awareness of the communication strategies and specific language that best support understanding of illness and self in individuals living with epilepsy."

The CLS Sheds Light on the Past

BY BETSY ROSENWALD

Last winter, CLS scientists were busy setting up a recruiting session display in Convocation Hall when Frank Klaassen, director of the Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies program (CMRS) seized the moment.

He invited the group of scientists to cross the hall to the Museum of Antiquities and gave them a tour of the collections, tipping them off that it was a resource they could use to explore some very interesting research options.

Museum of Antiquities Director, Tracene Harvey, said, “We began talking with the scientists about how we could analyze ancient artifacts at the synchrotron.” The first thing that came to mind was to examine some of the ancient coins in the museum’s collection. Currently completing a PhD in Classical Archaeology at the University of Alberta, Harvey specializes in Roman coins and, in particular, the images on the coins and how they were used as a form of visual communication.

Harvey recently helped excavate a Hellenistic house in Thessaly, Greece where the team found a number of coins.

“One of the dilemmas is that a lot of the coins are covered by dirt or scale or heavily worn or affected by bronze disease (corrosion of bronze metal). All of these scenarios make it difficult to identify coins. You don’t want to clean them because they are fragile and that could cause further damage, so my discussion with the scientists at that time was to use the synchrotron to try to identify these coins without having to clean them. These coins are vital for dating and trying to understand the economic history of a site. That’s where it started.”

The team, which includes scientists Tomasz Wysocki, George Belev and Dean Chapman, ran preliminary experiments using the Biomedical Imaging and Technology (BMIT) beamline. While some of the coins didn’t image well because of higher concentrations of lead, the coins that did image well showed some of the images and text. The coins will undergo further analysis on a new, more powerful



Tracene Harvey with local and Egyptian faience. (Photo: Betsy Rosenwald)

beamline that should be able to penetrate the metal more efficiently, seeing right through the object—both sides at once.

“The BMIT team is very excited,” said Harvey. “It’s different from what they normally do...it’s fun and exciting and they get an opportunity to work with ancient artifacts, something that not everyone gets to do everyday.”

Another partnership between the CLS and the Museum of Antiquities involves experiments on artifacts made of ancient Egyptian faience, a kind of glass-like ceramic. They are using the beamline to examine the structural integrity of the faience and to determine to what extent it weakens or deteriorates over time.

“We find faience to be quite fragile here at the museum,” said Harvey. “We had one break on us a few years ago... We



Students browsing at the Museum of Antiquities. (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

were just very gently handling it and the way we handled it must have caused a weakness to turn into a break. It was kind of heart stopping. So if we can see inside the faience, we will be able to see where there are weak points in the structure and make decisions accordingly as to how to best preserve the artifact.”

To conduct this experiment, the team hired local ceramic artist, Anita Rocamora, to recreate the ancient amulets using modern techniques. Using recipes that closely approximate ancient Egyptian faience, Rocamora made several sets of samples, which allowed the team to compare the ancient artifacts with modern reproductions made of similar material.

“What we are trying to find out through the scans is whether or not ancient faience weakens or deteriorates over thousands of years similarly to glass,” Harvey explained.

Their findings show that the new faience pieces, which scanned much darker than the ancient ones, are most likely denser and stronger. The ancient pieces scanned much lighter and the team was able to see stress cracks in the pieces. “That was what we were after,” said Harvey. “Can we look deep inside and see where the weaknesses are, then take appropriate action if need be?”

As Harvey learns more about synchrotron technology, and about the research being done in archaeology, museum curatorial work and conservation, she and the scientists plan to develop new experiments. They are hoping to have something they can publish very soon.

Though not yet common, Harvey says that the use of this technology for archaeological analysis and research is really starting to take off. Synchrotrons in Europe and the U.S. have been conducting similar experiments. She is looking forward to exploring more possibilities, getting more people on board with different backgrounds and working to generate an awareness of the synchrotron as being a facility that can use science to delve deeper into social sciences, fine arts and humanities.

“It’s great for the CLS and it’s a great opportunity for the museum to take part in that kind of research. The museum has a number of artifacts that we can use to start doing those projects,” she said.

Students from the Department of Archaeology are working with Harvey on many current projects: conducting research on what’s currently happening in the field of synchrotron technology and archaeology, cataloguing the artifacts that are being scanned, and providing measurements/weights of the samples being tested. The museum has a substantial volunteer program of students, mainly undergrads, from a wide range of disciplines, including: Art History, Ancient History, CMRS, Archaeology and English.

The Museum of Antiquities officially opened in 1981. The collection was established in 1974, largely through the work and vision of Professors Michael Swan (History) and Nicholas Gyenes (Art History). The earliest purchases made by the University were a small group of cast replicas from the Louvre, and replicas from other museums and workshops were added, as well as original artifacts. The initial purchases were intended to benefit students in ancient history, art history and fine arts. The museum now depends primarily on private donors to enhance the collection.

“It’s due to the generosity of our donors that the collection has grown so much in the last 20 years. The coins that we are using at the synchrotron are a donation, and the faience and the amulets and figurines were a gift of the late professor, Bill Sarjeant, from the Department of Geology at the U of S. It’s thanks to their generosity that the museum has become such a fantastic place on campus and really a unique treasure in Canada.”

Harvey is excited about the opportunities for collaborating with other areas of specialization. “That sharing of knowledge, especially between the sciences and humanities, that’s really exciting.”

ICCC Introduces MFA in Writing

BY ROBERT CALDER

After several years of consultation, research, and development, the Master of Fine Arts in Writing degree has been approved by the University of Saskatchewan. It will be offered through the new Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC) beginning September 2011. Because it is an MFA rather than a Master of Arts in English, the degree will allow students to focus considerably more on the development of writing than on the study of literature.

As part of the creation of the MFA program, representative groups of Saskatchewan writers met with the development committee. Reactions were positive on both occasions, and in the first meeting the writers strongly urged the creation of a program that was “uniquely Saskatchewan.” This was good advice since there are now a number of excellent, well-established writing degree programs in Canada, and any new one would have to carve out its own territory. No one, however, could tell the planners what a “uniquely Saskatchewan” degree would look like.

Taking this advice—and other suggestions—and consulting coordinators of other writing degree programs in Canadian universities, the planning committee devised a degree that is unique in several essential ways. In doing so, of course, it had to balance the expectations of the writing community with the rigorous curriculum requirements and standards of the University’s College of Graduate Studies and Research. This inevitably meant some compromise.

The MFA in Writing is a two-year program comprising writing workshop classes and a major writing project (a novel, a sequence of poems or short stories, a play, or a substantial piece of non-fiction). In the first year, students will take two, three-credit-unit workshop classes in which they will be required to present work in two genres.

As well—and this is one of the areas where the program is unique—the students will be permitted to take any three-credit-unit graduate or undergraduate course offered in the university provided they can meet the necessary prerequisites and can demonstrate that the course will contribute to the completion of their writing project. So, for example, a student writing a novel set during the Riel Rebellion could ask to take a class in Western Canadian history; or a student writing a poetry sequence about the female body could ask to do a reading course with a faculty member in the College of Medicine. Someone writing a

play about the Mona Lisa could take an appropriate course in Art & Art History. In this way, the resources of an entire university are opened to the student.

At the end of the first year, the student will be assigned a faculty supervisor, and—following a practice borrowed from the University of Toronto’s MA Program—he or she will also be assigned to a creative supervisor. This will be an established writer from outside the University who will be hired on a contract basis and given professional affiliate status. This affiliate will supervise the completion of the student’s major writing project, meeting with them or communicating by e-mail over the summer and through the second year. At the end of this process, the student will submit the project for examination.

During the second year, students will take two more three-credit-unit workshop classes, during which they will be required to submit some writing in the genres they did not work in during their first year. In both years they will be required to attend a series of colloquia called The Profession of Writing, during which visiting experts will discuss editing, submission of manuscripts, agents, grant application, income tax, and other concerns of the professional writer.

Entrance requirements as described in the University Calendar include: a four-year Bachelor’s degree and a strong portfolio of at least 30 pages of published and/or unpublished writing. In exceptional cases, applicants without the degree may enter the program on a probationary basis.

It is expected that seven students will be admitted in the first year of the program, and that they will be a mixture of recently graduated and mature students. As the program grows, its students should form a cohort of committed, talented writers who will encourage and learn from each other as well as from the instructors and supervisors. The MFA program will be coordinated by a full-time faculty member and a writer with an established national reputation and some experience in teaching at the university level. This individual, working with University faculty and professional affiliates drawn from the vigorous and respected Saskatchewan writing community, should be able to offer a program that is not only of a high standard but is also unique and “Saskatchewan.”

Tribute to Patricia Monture

BY TERRY WOTHERSPOON

Patricia Ann Monture was our good friend, colleague, and mentor. She left us, far too early, on November 17, 2010.

Trish was Haudenosaunee, a member of the Turtle Clan. She offered, through her wisdom, passion and commitment to justice, and unique ability to draw out the inner strengths of people, a role model and inspiration for anyone who came to know her or her work, which spanned vast horizons and crossed many boundaries.

Trish had degrees in Sociology (University of Western Ontario) and Law (Queen's University and Osgoode Hall Law School). She taught at Dalhousie Law School and the University of Ottawa and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1993. She came to the University of Saskatchewan in 1994, initially in Native Studies and as Special Advisor to the Dean of Arts & Science on Aboriginal Initiatives. She joined the Department of Sociology in 2004 as a tenured professor, where she coordinated the Aboriginal Justice and Criminology Program. She took on numerous other roles, both formally and—more significantly—in the close guidance, mentorship, direction and support that she offered to colleagues, students, family and members of diverse communities.

Those of us who had the privilege to work with her closely were continually left breathless by the selfless way in which she successfully accomplished her roles and responsibilities as educator, scholar, lawyer, activist, mother and writer. Her former colleague, Martin Cannon, eloquently expressed what many of us acknowledge:

Trish led the way on ideas involving Indigenous theory, intersectional theory, governance, law, responsibility, and social and political inequality. She was a mother, an inspiration and mentor to many young people and children, faculty members, lawyers, and to people outside of the academy. I will continue to think very seriously about her activism, empathy and writing about federally sentenced women, and her firm beliefs about prison abolitionism.



Her numerous publications, including the books, *Thunder in my Soul: A Mohawk Woman Speaks*; *Journeying Forward: Dreaming First Nations Independence*; and recent anthology with Patricia McGuire, *First Voices: An Aboriginal Women's Reader*, are widely cited among scholars in many fields and highly regarded by people well beyond academic circles.

Trish received many awards and honours in recognition of her work and accomplishments, including honorary doctorates from Athabasca University in 2008 and Queen's in 2009, and relished that she could be referred to as “doctor doctor” or D-squared. Two other recent honours, the Sarah Shorten Award from the Canadian Association of University Teachers,

and the Human Rights in Action Award from the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (both 2008) were cherished for their acknowledgement of her longstanding commitment to justice and to providing a place and voice for many of the least privileged members of our society. Her active role in the establishment of the Canadian Human Rights Museum provided her with a vehicle through which to advance these objectives.

In reflecting on Trish, the metaphor of the needle presents itself to me. A needle points direction; it pokes, prods and lets the air out of things or people that are over-stuffed; it is also healing, restorative and creative, binding together fabrics and materials of varied textures and sources.

We miss Trish's commanding presence, her laughter, her no-nonsense approach, those knocks on the door and her entrance, hand in air, saying, “I've been scheming again...”, and the ring of her phone, followed by, “gotta go, time for hockey/ lacrosse/ dancing,” or other activities devoted to her daughter Kate, who predeceased Trisha in 2009, and three sons, Justin, Michael Blake, and Jake.

Trish has gone home, at the age of 52, to Ontario, leaving an impressive legacy, and numerous seeds to ensure that her passions and work will be carried on in many fronts.

Arts & Science Briefs

Biology Grad Wins “Outstanding New Investigator Award”



Doctoral graduate Maud Ferrari (Biology) has been selected by the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) as the 2011 recipient of the prestigious Outstanding New Investigator Award, for her research on cognitive aspects of predator avoidance behaviour.

This marks only the second time that this award has been received by a Canadian researcher, and the second time the award has gone to a former doctoral student from the U of S.

The award will be presented at a joint meeting of the International Ethological Conference (IEC) and the ABS, to be held in Indiana in late July 2011.

Ferrari completed her PhD thesis in the Department of Biology in January 2009. She recently received the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Doctoral Prize for her research on predator recognition in prey animals, one of only four such prizes awarded nationally. This is the final year of the \$10,000 NSERC Doctoral prize.



Sessional Lecturer Kennedy Wins Learning Communities Teaching Award

Department of English sessional lecturer Michael P.J. Kennedy has been awarded the 2010 Learning Communities Teaching Award. The award recognizes Kennedy's contributions to the University's Learning Communities program and the positive impact he has on his students.

“It is an honour to receive this award, especially since there are so many individuals involved in making the Learning Communities program so successful,” said Kennedy. “It is a group effort and I am just pleased to have been singled out for my contribution to the total group endeavour, which has helped so many students.”

A lecturer in English since 1991, Kennedy has also received the U of S Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award (1999), the College of Arts & Science Teaching Excellence Award (2004), and the Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Teaching Excellence Award (2005).

CFI Funds Several Arts & Science Research Projects

Three research teams based in the College of Arts & Science were awarded a portion of more than \$1 million in research funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). CFI announced in mid-January that a total of 13 U of S projects were approved in its latest funding competition.

College of Arts & Science projects that received funding are:

Chris Holmden (Geological Sciences) will use an automated high performance ion chromatography system (HPIC) to further studies of calcium and magnesium at the Saskatchewan Isotope Laboratory. These versatile tools are currently being applied to studies of forests, rock weathering, soils, ocean sediments, animal health and nutrition.

Matthew Paige (Chemistry) and Ian Burgess (Chemistry) are acquiring a microscope for looking at surfactants. These chemical compounds have a range of medical uses, such as treating the lungs of premature babies. The microscope will aid development of lung surfactant mixtures as well as the design of new molecular sensor devices.

Yandou Wei, David Logan and Peta Bonham-Smith (Biology) will use a new plant growth facility to explore pathogen infections in plants. Their work promises to provide a blueprint for sustainable disease management in crops such as canola and other Brassicas.



Pomeroy Completes Lecture Tour Through Middle East

John Pomeroy's international reputation as a world water expert was augmented by a recent lecture tour through the Middle East that saw him visit Libya, Kuwait and Lebanon in February.

The Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, and Professor of Geography & Planning, conducted his final lecture at the American University of Technology (AUT) in Lebanon.

He spoke about his belief that recent extreme weather changes in various regions are more than just a "blip," and could well be a sign of more to come. In particular, he said the rash of flash floods in areas like Lebanon could actually be a double-edged sword.

"The intensity of rainfall is getting greater but the time between rainfalls is also getting greater," he said in an article published in Lebanon's newspaper, *The Daily*

Star. "This means that, ironically, we will have more rain but also more droughts."

He also said that climate changes on a global scale are happening more rapidly than most experts expected. The resulting rise in ocean levels means that many countries in coastal regions will have to take immediate action to avoid mass flooding of critical infrastructure, such as airports.



Downe is Recipient of Weaver-Tromblay Award

Pamela Downe, a medical anthropologist and Head of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, is the 2011 recipient of the Weaver-Tromblay Award in Canadian Anthropology. The only professional award offered by the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA), the award is given annually to an anthropologist whose scholarly and community-based research activity engages with crucial social, cultural and political issues. Downe will offer the Weaver-Tromblay Award plenary address at the CASCA conference in Fredericton in May.

CaNoRock Rocks at U of S

A memorandum of understanding signed on January 20 at Norway's Andøya Rocket Range solidifies the first phase of CaNoRock, a 10-year student exchange program aimed at teaching students to build and launch rockets into the upper atmosphere. Following two successful trials of the CaNoRock exchange, the Canadian Space Agency and the University of Alberta signed an agreement in December 2010 that provides \$300,000 over three years to allow students from the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Calgary to participate.

"CaNoRock is a marvelous opportunity for students," said Kathryn McWilliams, leader of the U of S contingent. "They enjoy the challenge of real rocket science, with the added bonus of getting to know and work with students from Norway. CaNoRock has also raised the profile of space science with our students; four of the eight U of S students who have participated in CaNoRock will be going on to graduate studies in space science. The sky is no longer the limit with CaNoRock!"

This year's Arts & Science students included Steven Bachiu and Sarah Toderian (both from Engineering Physics). McWilliams is associate professor of Physics and Engineering Physics based at the U of S Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies.



Yonggang Yang (centre) with students and university/government officials (Photo: Mark Ferguson)

Exploring Student Support BY KRIS FOSTER

You don't have to dig too deep to discover Yonggang Yang's generosity. In 2010, Yang made a \$110,000 gift to the Department of Geological Sciences to establish a student bursary.

"I was quite surprised by this," said Jim Merriam, head of the Department of Geological Sciences. "It is a very generous donation from someone with no previous personal connection to the department."

While Yang doesn't have a formal connection to the U of S, he has been involved in Saskatchewan's mining industry for a number of years, explained Merriam.

"Mr. Yang indicated that he came to Saskatchewan not just for business and investment but also to contribute to society, especially to higher education and helping students," said Merriam. "Because he has some mining business interests in Canada, an investment in geological sciences seemed a natural fit for him."

It was an even better fit after Yang toured the Department of Geological Sciences this past January. "He was impressed with the facilities and labs," said Merriam. "This developing partnership between him and the university will go a long way toward strengthening mining research and helping to train students for their future careers in the mining sector.

"Because he specified the donation as a bursary, we can look beyond grades and consider student need," Merriam said. "I think that we will be able to help someone stay in our programs who might otherwise discontinue for financial reasons."

While this is Yang's first gift to the U of S, this is not the first such bursary he has established. He set up the Yonggang Bursary and Scholarship at the Northwest University of Politics and Law, his alma mater in Xi'an, China, which has provided support to 225 students since 2006.

For the Love of Math BY JOY-ANN ALLIN

Professor Emeritus Richard Blum often spoke of his passion for teaching mathematics: "I love mathematics. It's fun and it elevates the soul."

The new Richard Blum Mathematics Enhancement Fund was established by the late Irene Blum in memory of her father, with a bequest from her estate of \$350,000.

Richard Blum began teaching in the Department of Mathematics at the U of S in 1954 and continued well past retirement in 1981. A highly respected mathematician with many publications, he taught at several European universities, and

worked in differential geometry with mathematicians across the world, including Japan.

Richard Blum had diverse interests in history and linguistics, perhaps stemming from a desire to make sense of his tragic experiences as a young man in Romania during World War II.

Along with his wife, noted author Martha Blum, and daughter Irene, Richard Blum enjoyed his life and career in Saskatoon. He considered himself fortunate to be paid to do something he loved so much, teaching math.