WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?
Amy Smith-Morris (BSP’10), a cancer survivor and national powerlifter, embodies what it means to be a fighter. Read her story on page 31.
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About last issue...
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@DanielleFulawka
Danielle Fulawka Art

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Their legacies are incomparable. Meet this year’s eight award winners.

In last issue’s story Olympic Fever we failed to mention the incomparable Joan McCusker (BED’87) who was also a member of the curling broadcast team from the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics and is pictured here on the far left.

McCusker’s list of accomplishments are long and impressive, and include an induction into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 and winning an Olympic Gold Medal in 1998.
Remember When

We reached far back into the archives for this issue’s Remember When. So many of our alumni have fighting characteristics, but one in particular stood out as a story we should share with you.

William Allen was born in England, near Bristol, in 1892 and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1911, taking out a homestead at Smiley, Saskatchewan. This photo of him was taken a year before the creation of the University of Saskatchewan (1907).

He joined the army in 1915, was wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and sent to the Beaufort War Hospital to recuperate.

The Great War exacted a heavy toll on the university. Of the 345 students, faculty and staff who enlisted, 69 “passed out of the sight of man by the path of duty and self-sacrifice.” More than 100 more were wounded and 33 were awarded medals of valour. The College of Engineering closed its doors for the 1916-1917 session when the faculty and students enlisted.

Discharged in 1917, Allen enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan as an associate student in agriculture, transferring to the degree course and graduating in 1922. His studies took him to Harvard and Cornell Universities, and he earned a PhD in 1925. He returned to USask organizing and serving as the first head of the Department of Farm Management.

He resigned in 1938 to accept the position of the first Commissioner to Britain for Canadian Agriculture. In 1941, while enroute to England, he lost his life at sea when the steamship Nerissa he was on was torpedoed.

The Allen Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the top graduating student in agricultural economics. He is also memorialized with a plaque in Convocation Hall, which reads in part: “His sincere, manly character inspired the respect of many friends, especially the farmers of Saskatchewan for whom he did so much.”

On Campus News

A clean bill of health for the College of Medicine

After hosting a full-site accreditation visit in fall 2017, Saskatchewan’s medical school has achieved full accreditation of its undergraduate program from the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS).

“The college has worked very hard on improvements in our medical doctor program and we are highly encouraged by this positive acknowledgement,” said Dean of Medicine Dr. Preston Smith. “In particular, CACMS does not require a follow-up visit, which is a strong indication of confidence in our team and our program.”

The college’s work in recent years to improve areas of student services and support, curriculum, faculty engagement and governance were successful, with clean ratings from the accrediting body.

Low oxygen therapy has high potential for spinal cord patients

A new type of therapy is showing promise for people and animals with spinal cord injuries.

Acute intermittent hypoxia (AIH) therapy involves exposing patients to low oxygen levels intermittently for short time periods. This action triggers a chain of events in the nerve cells or neurons as they react to the mild stress, according to Valerie Verge, director of the Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Center and a professor in the College of Medicine.

In the study, Verge—along with Dr. Gillian Muir from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and Gordon Mitchell from the University of Florida—looked at cellular changes in response to AIH combined with rehabilitative training. Verge and Muir are optimistic that AIH therapy will have a positive impact on a wide range of injuries and conditions that affect the nervous system.
ON CAMPUS NEWS

Bright young minds

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships have been awarded to four top University of Saskatchewan PhD students working in health, water and feral horse conservation research.

“it is a great achievement for these four exceptional students to be chosen as Vanier Scholars,” said Karen Chad, USask vice-president research. “We are very proud of these students who have demonstrated the leadership skills and research accomplishments to become tomorrow’s leaders.”

With $150,000 awarded to each student over three years, the Vanier Scholarship is a competitive federal program that recognizes top-tier doctoral students who demonstrate excellence in academia, research impact and leadership at Canadian universities.

International honours

Graduate student Kalhari Bandara Goonewardene is one of five worldwide recipients of the inaugural BioOne Ambassador Award, which recognizes early-career researchers excelling at communicating the importance and impact of their research beyond their discipline.

Goonewardene is a PhD student in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research focuses on raising healthy chickens, something vital to human health and economic growth. She tested an antibiotic alternative that, via a nebulizing chamber, delivered a synthetic DNA as an aerosol directly into the lungs of newly-hatched chicks. In turn, the treatment stimulated the chicks’ front line defense mechanisms and significantly protected them against a deadly dose of E. coli.

The next phase of Goonewardene’s research involves partnering with engineers to develop a large-scale poultry nebulizer to test the findings in an industrial setting.

ON CAMPUS NEWS

The left hand does know what the right is doing

PhD student Justin Andrushko (MSc’17) and kinesiology professor Jonathan Farthing (BSc’99, MSc’02, PhD’06) have found that when you immobilize an arm, exercising the same free limb on the other side of the body may be key to maintaining strength and muscle size in the immobilized limb.

For their study, Andrushko and Farthing asked participants to wear casts that immobilized their wrists for a month. Half of the students did wrist flexion training on their non-casted arm, and half did not, so that the researchers could compare changes in muscle strength and size in the immobilized wrists. Students who did the training preserved the strength of their wrist muscles in the casted arm, while in the non-exercising group the strength of wrist muscles decreased by 20 per cent.

These findings, published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, may one day be applied to standard of practice for injury recovery. The work was also featured in a recent article in The New York Times.

Alumna granted cannabis retail licence

A week before her spring graduation from the Edwards School of Business, Cierra Sieben-Chuback (BCOMM’18) was awarded one of seven licences in Saskatoon—and one of only 51 permits granted in the province from 1,502 applications—to establish a retail cannabis store.

For the 23-year-old, it was the culmination of a whirlwind week of completing her business plan and filing her request for proposal before the province’s April deadline, all while studying for her final exams.

Sieben-Chuback is preparing to put her commerce degree to good use by establishing her first business and getting in on the ground floor of the potentially lucrative recreational cannabis market. She has trademarked her business name, Living Skies Cannabis, drawing on the Saskatchewan licence plate slogan, and is now working on opening her store before the end of the year, backed by her father and local business owner Glenn Chuback.
ON CAMPUS NEWS

The new facility, which will be named the Ron and Jane Graham Sport Science and Health Centre, will serve to enhance the performance, conditioning, recovery and education of athletes. The facility will support research in injury prevention, nutrition and conditioning, and performance and recovery.

The Ron and Jane Graham Sport Science and Health Centre will also offer a range of physiological, biomechanical and psychological performance assessments and sport psychology coaching for student-athletes and athletes from across Saskatchewan.

ON CAMPUS NEWS

Edmonton-based businesswoman and philanthropist Cathy Roozen made the personal contribution to the WCVM because of her strong interest in the veterinary college’s clinical and research programs.

With this technology, the WCVM will join a select group; only five other veterinary colleges in North America have a PET-CT unit available for clinical use in animals as well as for animal-human health research studies.

Computer science professor Regan Mandryk, whose ground-breaking research involves developing digital game technology to assess mental health, has been awarded one of Canada’s highest honours for young scientists.

Mandryk is among six university researchers across Canada who received the prestigious E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Mandryk will be awarded $250,000 over two years to advance her research, enabling her to devote time and energy entirely to the work. In addition, the fellowship will provide USask up to $90,000 a year for a replacement to perform her teaching and administrative duties for the duration.

Working with industry partners such as gaming giant Electronic Arts, Mandryk has done pioneering work in using elements of digital games to design interventions in both physical and mental health.

University of Saskatchewan researchers in archaeology and anthropology are assisting the Muskowekwan First Nation and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to preserve the last remaining residential school in Saskatchewan.

They’ll join researchers from the University of Alberta at the Muskowekwan Residential School to examine a number of sites that are believed to be the final resting place for several Indigenous children who attended the school.

Located near Lestock, Sask., the school has been left in its original condition. Survivors and community members previously voted against its demolition, electing to leave it intact as a reminder to future generations.

New sport science and health hub

This May, alumni and long-time donors Ron (BE’62) and Jane (BEd’62) Graham made a donation of $2,068,000 to establish and build a sport science and health facility within Merlis Belsher Place.

Merlis Belsher Place is set to open this fall. Read more about this exciting new facility on page 37.

PET-CT for pets

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at USask will soon be home to Canada’s first PET-CT unit dedicated to animals, thanks to an Alberta donor whose $2.5-million gift is the largest private donation in WCVM’s history.

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ON CAMPUS NEWS

Dig it

Ever since she was a young girl, Lauren Rooney has wanted to be an archaeologist.

Now an archaeology student in the College of Arts and Science, Rooney is working toward her dream. Although she is only in her second year of studies, she has already made a significant discovery.

In May 2018, Rooney was at the Wolf Willow dig site at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a national historic site located five kilometres outside of Saskatoon. It was there that she discovered an Iniskim, a bison-shaped figure collected by the Blackfoot people. While the figure is about 800 years old, it is made from a fossil that is more than 66 million years old, according to Wanuskewin.

“I was very excited when I found the Iniskim. I knew it was going to be something special as soon as I picked it up. It was my first major find of the field school so, no matter what it was, I was going to be over the moon about it,” said Rooney.

No bones about it

Strand by strand, and layer by layer, Daniel Chen (PhD’02) is inching closer to repairing and rebuilding bones with the use of 3D printing technology.

A leader in the exciting and emerging field of tissue engineering, Chen’s interdisciplinary research team is working with the 3D-Bioplotter (printer) in the University of Saskatchewan’s Bio-fabrication Laboratory to develop new ways to help restore bone function in individuals who have suffered serious trauma, infection, disease or defects.

Chen was one of 12 USask researchers who were awarded Collaborative Innovation Development grants in March from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, receiving $50,000 in funding over the next 18 months for his new project. Chen’s team is bioengineering bone substitutes (known as scaffolds) and employing the world-class imaging technology of Canada’s only synchrotron in the Canadian Light Source facility on USask’s campus to track the effectiveness of their new bone regeneration strategies.

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The young woman across from Zoey Roy (BEd’17) was terrified.

Sheld being skipping class, afraid that Roy was going to hurt her if they crossed paths in the hallways, and as a result the two teenagers had been pulled into a mediation session at their high school.

The goal of the session was to find out exactly what was going on and get everyone back to their studies, but for Roy the sit down turned out to be revelatory.

“People were scared of me,” Roy said. “I thought that was powerful, but in that situation she was scared to come to school and that hurt me. I’m actually a very sensitive person, and that was just how I made sense of myself and thinking that I was Indigenous to become what I idolized. I had this concept as a means of giving youth just like me a greater sense of security and control. Of what Roy then represented, and how that individual helped each of them gain something as simple as ceding a little power to that person helped each of them gain.

The thought was inspiring. Afterwards, Roy went onto a path of ever-expanding successes that includes an education degree through the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), working as a focal point with the United Nations’ Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the pursuit of a masters in public policy with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and collaborating with Marcel Pett and Jeremy Morgan to design and launch the first-ever Indigenous Artist in Residence Position at USask.

When Conrad Neufeldt (BCom’10) started working as a mortgage broker in 2014, he quickly realized the mortgage industry was outdated.

Neufeldt’s five tips for new homeowners:

1. Know your budget
What you’re qualified for and what you can afford are sometimes two different things. Sometimes people want to get qualified for the largest mortgage they can, and a great broker can get people approved for mortgages that are a lot higher than fits their budget. Just because you can get qualified for it doesn’t mean you should take that full mortgage amount.

2. Save for a rainy day
Set some of your savings aside for after you buy a home. Furnaces break, dishwashers leak and there’s maintenance in everything, so not dumping everything you have into the property (upfront) is important.

3. Pre-qualify before you shop around
Before buying a home, find out what you qualify for. People have ideas in their heads and think they’ll be able to get qualified at $450,000 easily, so they start looking in that price range, but then struggle to find a good home at $380,000, which is what they qualified for. It’s about setting expectations and the best way to do that is to find out right away what you qualify for.

4. Take free advice with a grain of salt
A lot of people, especially when they’re first-time home buyers, want to rely on (family). There’s nothing wrong with that, but oftentimes the people giving you advice bought in a very different economic time when approvals, laws and regulations were all different. It’s not that their advice is wrong—it was perfect for when they bought, but it may not be the best advice for the current environment.

5. Surround yourself with knowledgeable professionals
Making sure you have a strong network of professionals to rely on is important. If you know more than your mortgage broker or your realtor, then you are using the wrong one.
April 6, 2018 is not a day anyone in Saskatchewan will soon forget. Sixteen people died and 13 were injured in a collision between a bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos hockey team and a semi-trailer truck. The crash shook the entire Canadian hockey community and beyond.

Especially in Saskatchewan, where hockey ties run so deep, most people remember where they were when they heard the news.
Heather Miazga (BSN’85) heard first through her husband, who had received a text from a fellow hockey dad.

There had been a crash, and it was looking like mass casualties.

“As almost as he was reading that out to me, I got the call,” Miazga recalls.

She is the director of surgical services for the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and was on call that week for any clinical leadership advice needed, but the call came from the emergency preparedness director.

“The minute I landed... the charge nurse for the emergency department already had the emergency preparedness manual out,” Miazga said. “As I’m still getting my feet on the ground, they had already started thinking through the processes.”

Miazga and her family knew some of the people on the bus. Her oldest son had played for the Humboldt Broncos previously. Her younger son had played with some of the players as well.

“Saskatchewan is small,” she said. “We know the hockey world.”

But she had to put those emotional ties out of her mind to do her work.

“My background is critical care and emergency. Most of my career I’ve been involved in those areas and you need to be able to function at a high level and not be emotional about it and so I did just go into work mode and put that kind of on hold.”

All hands on deck Code Orange is a hospital emergency code that alerts staff to prepare for mass casualties. It’s incredibly rare; Miazga said Saskatchewan has never had a Code Orange to this magnitude.

But that doesn’t mean the hospitals weren’t ready.

Nipawin, Tisdale and Melfort were the nearest hospitals from the crash site and began to receive casualties between approximately five and six o’clock that evening. From there, health-care providers stabilized the injured, who were then transported into Saskatoon’s Royal University Hospital (RUH) for further treatment.

“It’s part of the work we do every day,” Miazga said. “Planning and emergency preparedness; there are several different emergency response codes—we look at those every year. We review them to ensure they’re going to meet our needs and we’ve occasionally done mock exercises that test different parts of our system.”

Miazga’s initial task was to work with the transport physician on indexing and triaging the incoming patients. It was 3:30 a.m. by the time they had made a plan to transport the last patient and the hard work was just beginning.

Ongoing work included critical health care for the patients, as well as supporting staff, families, extended families and billet families. All this, amongst a tsunami of emotion and public interest.

“The public interest in it was almost as challenging as the critical care and added a whole other workload that had to be managed,” Miazga said.

Even people with good intent, wanting to donate food, for example, created more work. Someone needed to manage that.

“It was a challenging but inspiring weekend to work through on many different levels... We all needed to do different jobs and support the team in different ways. The response to the call out when people were activating their Code Orange—it was astounding how people stepped up to the plate and responded.”

Every unit has a Code Orange plan, from the clinical units, to the disaster, to the laboratory, and beyond. “Once that Code Orange is activated, each unit has a duty and a roadmap to start to follow,” said Miazga.

A Code Orange at one hospital also puts pressure on other health-care facilities, for example, patients had to be diverted to Saskatoon City Hospital Emergency to relieve pressure at RUH and St. Paul’s Hospital so they could deal with the most critical patients.

When plans go from paper into action, though, sometimes not everything goes as planned, and critical decision making needs to happen on the fly.

Miazga said the Code Orange worked like it was supposed to, but it also showed some areas for improvement; she said communication between the new provincial teams was one detail that could be focused on for the future.
“You’re constantly preparing and training yourself. It doesn’t fully prepare you, but you can certainly rely on those leadership skills and the team based training you’ve done.”

DR. JOANN KAWCHUK (BSC’97, MD’01)

“It was likely one of the most difficult nights of their career,” Livingstone said. Dealing with catastrophic injuries and a large number of casualties can be a challenge despite the best training and experience, Livingstone said. Mental health and counselling support is in place for any staff members who are struggling to process the experience.

He expects the events that night will have a long-term impact not only on staff, but also on Good Samaritans and first responders at the scene, and, of course, the family members and friends of the athletes.

“A tragedy like this requires not only a healing of the body, but a healing of the mind for those directly involved, and care providers and mental health professionals are working hard to care for those affected,” said Livingstone.

“Amazing families to stand alongside”

Dr. Joann Kawchuk (BSC’97, MD’01) said she was also grateful for the unstructured support that happens amongst staff.

“An arm around you behind a curtain, to shed a tear in a moment that you need,” she said. “It’s impossible at times to access support when you’re in the middle of those things, and it was apparent very early on that everyone needed to grieve.”

Kawchuk is currently the adult critical care department head. At the time of the tragedy, she was the most responsible physician for the intensive care unit (ICU) at RUH, managing the care for the sickest patients in the hospital.

She said everyone has a visceral reaction to tragedy, that “sinking, awful feeling,” we likely all know. But when you’re in a hospital setting, you put that immediate reaction aside and your role takes precedence. She calls that secondary feeling “anticipatory.”

“It feels like rehearsal come to life. The lights are on; it’s time to show what we know,” Kawchuk said everyone stepped up their game in order to execute Code Orange and take care of the patients’ intense needs, and she has a great deal of admiration for the people who came together to make the system work.

When she thinks of the tragedy, her strongest memories are from the days following that night, in the ICU. It was a situation completely out of the ordinary. She recalls one strange moment when she was doing her rounds as usual and turned around to see the prime minister standing behind her.

The tragedy eventually made international news, garnered celebrity attention, and raised over $15 million in a crowdfunding campaign, a national record.

But for Kawchuk and her team, they continued to stay focused and worked very closely with families to negotiate the next stages of life, or even passing. Despite the intense national and even international attention, they maintained intimacy for the families of their critically ill patients.

“I have had many gracious thank yous from the families of people that I am lucky enough to look after when they’re in the ICU, including families specific to that time. … They were amazing families to stand alongside and share emotion alongside.”

What is Code Orange?

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) defines Code Orange as a call that initiates a hospital’s emergency response to a large number of incoming casualties.

The SHA says that while every Code Orange is unique, a basic emergency preparedness plan outlines what a facility’s response should be in a Code Orange situation.

“Those guys in this accident, but also most of our patients that go through a major injury, are the strongest people I know.”

IVAN ENGLISH (BSC’97)

Like many people in Saskatchewan, Ivan English (BSC’97) was shocked to learn about the bus accident that claimed 16 lives on April 6.

“I was shocked at the number of injuries and how severe the crash was. You don’t want even to hear anything like that, it was devastating,” said English.

English received his Bachelor of Science at the University of Saskatchewan and went on to the University of Toronto to study physical therapy. He works at the Saskatoon Rehabilitation Centre where he and a team of speech pathologists, social workers, occupational therapists, nurses and doctors work with patients after serious neurological injuries.

After hearing about the crash, English predicted many of the survivors would eventually make their way to the Rehabilitation Centre—which indeed many of them did after they were released from acute care.

“It didn’t take long to realize that some of them would be coming through a program like ours,” said English.

The road to recovery can be long, said English. He said one of the main factors in any patient’s success is if they are motivated to get better, something English saw in the injured players of the crash. Also, the amount of support that each one received was also an important part in adjusting after the tragedy.

“The goal is to try to help them get back to a better level of independence and quality of life,” said English. “The amount of support that they have had from their own families has been pretty amazing. I think support in general from the public as well. It’s been impressive and overwhelming,” said English.

Of course, some roads to recovery will be a longer road than others. The injuries range and therefore everyone’s recovery has been different. English maintains the main factors to recovery is the drive to succeed and support.

“Hopefully that will take them a long way. That’s one of the major things about getting them better… it’s a journey. This is the early part of physical rehab and then there’s a whole life to lead after this,” said English.

English and his team work with hundreds of patients every year. He watches them grow, adjust, change, strive and even struggle to adapt. He labels himself as “fortunate” because he is able to work with those who have made it and he is continually amazed by the willpower of those that come through his doors.

“You’re working with some of the most motivating people you’ve ever worked with. These guys in this accident but also most of our patients that go through a major injury are the strongest people I know,” said English.

“That’s one of the greatest things of working in this area. You see the best aspects of human nature. It’s pretty inspiring to work with.”

The road ahead

What does the next chapter look like for the survivors?

LESLIE-ANN SCHLOSSER
Kevin Lewis spreads a mixture of moose brains and Dove soap onto a skin to soften it for use as a moccasin. CHELSEA LASKOWSKI

CHELSEA LASKOWSKI

There is no single Indigenous language or culture.

Across Canada, there may be some common ground between different Indigenous languages and cultures, but there are unique regional dialects and histories. Dakota, Dene, Cree, Saulteaux, Michif and their different dialects are among the 58 native languages in Saskatchewan. Beyond that, the origin stories of an Indigenous community’s place on the land and its cultural customs vary.

With such a wide array of local knowledge and languages of Indigenous people, it is a struggle—and some researchers say, a losing battle—to try to preserve them. The number of people who identify an Indigenous language as their mother tongue in Saskatchewan declined by more than 2,500 people between 2011 and 2016, according to Statistics Canada.7

Despite this decline, there is a group of dedicated academics, teachers and USask alumni who have taken on the fight to preserve their culture in the classroom. They’re building a lifelong understanding of Indigenous history and language not only for Indigenous people, but for students from all backgrounds.

DIY language teaching

When Feather Pewapisconias (BEd’16) first started teaching Cree to Grade 1 and 2 students at Saskatoon’s Confederation Park School, she struggled to find teaching materials.

She could find flash cards to give children a picture and Cree word to associate it with—but the cards would be in the wrong Cree dialect.

“I found that really challenging, when you’re trying to reinforce this idea of language but you don’t really have these materials to solidify it in the classroom,” she said.

At times, she resorted to building materials herself. When she couldn’t find Cree medicine wheel materials either in teacher’s stores or online, she made her own, using colours and teachings specific to Cree people.

It’s not the first time the 24-year-old Pewapisconias has had to lead the way. When she was in Indigenous studies at USask, as well as on the executive on the Indigenous Student Council, she took action when she saw racism circulating on campus at the idea of language but you don’t really have those materials to solidify it in the classroom,” she said.

At times, she resorted to building materials herself. When she couldn’t find Cree medicine wheel materials either in teacher’s stores or online, she made her own, using colours and teachings specific to Cree people.

It’s not the first time the 24-year-old Pewapisconias has had to lead the way. When she was in Indigenous studies at USask, as well as on the executive on the Indigenous Student Council, she took action when she saw racism circulating on campus at the idea of introducing mandatory Indigenous studies in all classes. She took it upon herself to “myth bust” people’s misconceptions about education practices worldwide around the Indigenous peoples of different lands, and to meet with the president and deans to push against Euro-centric views at the university.

The work paid off, with USask now responsible for incorporating Indigenous teachings into every single college classroom.

Her push for more Indigenous education in schools is rooted in her own experience growing up. She spent half her childhood on reserve, either on Little Pine Cree Nation or Saulteaux territories by Nipawin.

But when her family moved to Regina, she ended up in schools with very few fellow Indigenous students in “upper-class” neighbourhoods. She recalls the students, and at least one teacher, making her feel insecure about her race.

“I spent a lot of time actually trying to talk normal I guess, or in my mind, it’s how to talk more white,” she said. “I kind of lost myself.”

But in university, Pewapisconias rediscovered her Indigenous identity. While student teaching, she found that her mostly non-Indigenous students really absorbed her style.

“If I want the audience that I’m speaking to to really understand what I’m talking about, I have to show that passion. And in order to show that passion I need to talk about where I came from and how I got to where I am,” she said, adding that showing vulnerability by sharing her own stories is a way to build trust and engage students.

Now, she envisions getting her master’s degree and creating change from a higher position, helping teachers change their classrooms and clear the way to see Indigenous people as more than just people of the past.

People who have come before her are guiding the way. One of them is Darryl Isbister (BA’96, BEd’97, MEd’00). As the First Nation, Métis and Inuit co-ordinator with the Saskatoon Public School Division, he has been through a long journey.

The Métis man was born and raised in Saskatoon, and was among teachers who started prioritizing Indigenous education long before the province made treaty education mandatory in 2007. He started including Indigenous history throughout the semester in History 30, rather than leaving it as a two-week lesson at the end of the year that teachers try to cram in.

As a man with still-unanswered questions about his family’s roots in Batoche and Quebec, he said the lack of focus on Métis history is a factor in his efforts.

“The biggest thing was not seeing [my own Métis culture] in the curriculum, seeing it as an add-on or not even at all,” he said.

“I don’t think anybody should leave high school without knowing prehistory, the pre-contact history of this land because it does impact perceptions.”

To future educators, his biggest piece of advice is to be open-minded.

“Start to know who you are. Know where you are at in terms of your knowledge. And then be willing to find more. Find as much information as possible.”

1. cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/indigenous-language-drop-saskatoon-1.4232999
He also seeks the sense of community he grew up with, but finds himself disappointed in how people so often seem to be content to be alone. He’s bemused by how people are so fixated on keeping their lives pristine, while he invites neighbourhood kids to come and play on his lawn—it’s in keeping with his belief that the land is meant to be shared.

He speaks Cree to his children, who understand him but don’t speak it back. Morin said being surrounded by English, they don’t know why it’s important to speak Cree. But statistics show that the number of Plains Cree speakers dropped by 2,000 in Saskatchewan between 2011 and 2016.

“It feels like I’m a lonely, lonely island, you know, trying to keep this language alive, even amongst other Cree speakers. I ask them, do you speak Cree to your children? No? Why?! I don’t know why, it’s easier to speak English.”

These days Morin works at the University of Saskatchewan, and is developing a Cree Language Certificate Program. The program is meant to create language teachers who can create fluent speakers.

“It’s imperative work. We can expect half of the 6,000-plus languages in the world to risk being lost over the next century, according to a 2016 UNESCO report. In 2011, just 15 per cent of Indigenous people in Canada identified an Indigenous language as their mother tongue. Half a century earlier, that number was 87 per cent, according to the National Geographic Society’s Enduring Voices Project.”

Morin said the mentality that “we need to teach them how to read and write” needs to give way for more successful methods that focus on getting people speaking the language first. The languages are structured too differently for the same methods to work for Cree, in which words mean different things depending how they’re used in a sentence.

As he squares up to the challenges to come, he keeps in mind the ancestors whose stories he collects and shares.

“They fought, they died, they were persecuted, you know, for us to maintain and retain our languages and our culture. That would be just a big slap to their face if we don’t do that,” he said.

Language Learning

Sitting in a lawn chair at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Kevin Lewis (BA’01, BEd’03, CERTEE’03) watches his USask Indigenous Language Certificate program students scrape hair off a hide that’s been stretched out on a wooden apparatus. At another station, other students shake the hide, stretching it out.

The group shares laughs as the older “master speakers,” fluent Cree speakers, discuss what they’re doing with the newer speakers. The apprentice-master relationship is a fast way to learn language, Lewis said.

“Language is meant to be shared. It was within the walls of the reserve’s pool hall, surrounded by a jukebox and arcade games, that he and other children would sit attentive listening to Elders tell them stories in Cree.

One of Morin’s greatest teachers was his kokum, or grandmother, Flora Weenonis who speaks only Cree. At the age of 106, she has had a sense of peace in the Cree ways, which Morin says are not just linguistic.

Conversation in Cree is full of the deepest gut laughs Morin has ever had, because it’s a very descriptive language that creates deep visuals. The sense of humour is, in itself, a part of the culture. The teachings are common sense, he said, to not waste anything, to pass along and share your possessions and the more you give to something the more it feeds you back—whether it’s good or bad.

Losing his mother in a car accident at the age of 12, Lewis live for 20 years with his grandmother, who had a profound influence on his life. He describes his grandmother as “very strong, a very spiritual person.”

“He taught me to respect the land, how to hunt, to fish, to respect all life,” Lewis said.

Growing up in St.灵山ukwatin, he learned English through shows like The Muppets. And when he started learning the two languages in school he never felt overwhelmed.

“You speak to me in Cree and I speak to you in English, but I understand in both—and then we can have a conversation,” Lewis said.

“Language is meant to be shared.”

Lewis believes Cree resists people, not just the language. He said the lessons give people confidence and an understanding that their people had sophisticated technologies and chronologies before settlers came.

Coming from the Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation, he sees himself in the traditional Cree role of a scout: a man who leaves home but frequently returns to share what he has learned. He has been a teacher, vice principal and band councillor on the reserve.

“I love that I will be part of keeping it alive,” she said.

Lewis eyes light up when he talks about the changes he already sees in Saskatoon: a syllabic sign on Broadway Avenue that shows the Cree words for “river and sky,” a playwright who incorporates Cree into his scripts. There’s a visionary. He wants to see a full immersion school in Saskatoon, and has had parents support the idea.

“We have a voice too,” he said.

But on this day at Wanuskewin, Lewis’ focus is on the students who need a hand spreading a modern oiling mix of moose brains, Dover soap and other liquids to spread on a skin, softening it up to be used for making moccasins. The plan is for his students to graduate with their moccasins on.

The strong smell lingers in the air as Lewis’ gloved hands glide over the skin, and the sound of his students speaking to each other in a mix of new and well-seasoned Cree is a show of culture in action. He believes Cree resists people, not just the language. He said the lessons give people confidence and an understanding that their people had sophisticated technologies and chronologies before settlers came. Coming from the Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation, he sees himself in the traditional Cree role of a scout: a man who leaves home but frequently returns to share what he has learned. He has been a teacher, vice principal and band councillor on the reserve.

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A TESTAMENT OF STRENGTH

Heather Kuttai (BA’94, MSC’09) was only six years old when a car accident took away her ability to walk.

HENRYTE GLAZEBROOK

She doesn’t remember much more than flashes from the crash, both because of her young age and because of the trauma incurred when the vehicle came to a twisting, grinding halt. Still, there’s a kind of muscle-memory that has burned into her body even all these years later.

“I remember distinctly being really uncomfortable and lying on the side of the highway,” Kuttai said. “They dragged me out and laid me on a piece of cardboard. I remember how the asphalt felt under my fingers. I remember being very uncomfortable and scared, because I couldn’t feel my legs at that point.”

“It was a big car crash and people weren’t exactly listening to the six year old. They were trying to find my dad, who was working on the farm half a mile or so down the road.”

It’s been 42 years since that fateful night permanently put Kuttai in a wheelchair, but in the intervening time she has carved out a more than comfortable place in the world for herself. If you ask her directly, she’ll refer to herself professionally as a writer, human rights commissioner and disabilities activist. Between those words, you get a clear picture of her as a dedicated mother and warm friend.

What might be lost in that first impression, however, are the years that Kuttai spent among the finest athletes in the world, training tirelessly in pursuit of competition at the Paralympic Games and returning home with one bronze and two silver medals.

Kuttai’s introduction to target shooting came through her father, who saw his then 12-year-old daughter struggling to express herself athletically as she entered junior high. He brought her along to some of his own competitions, where she took aim alongside contestants her own age and discovered a natural love for the sport—even finding herself outpacing the able-bodied entrants in her purview, creating a rally for her to move into wheelchair sports despite her reticence. “I didn’t have any
peers, I didn't have any mentors and I didn't see my disability as any kind of positive," Kutai said of the change into para-athletics. "It was a thing I tried to cover up and a thing I tried to pretend wasn't there. I was so busy trying to be like everybody else that the concept of wheelchair sport was not only foreign, I wanted nothing to do with it."

Kutai's father did what any good parent would do when faced with an immensely talented, yet stubborn, child: he bribed his daughter, convincing her with any means he had to chase her skill through to national competition in Calgary, Alta.

"I made the national team," Kutai said, recalling the moment that hobby transformed into ambition before her eyes. "I still didn't want to be a part of any of it, and then the national coach called me up and said, 'World championships are in a couple of months in California and I would like you to go.'"

"I was 17 and there was an invitation to California, so I went."

Inviting your ambitions

Colette Bourgonje (BSPE'84, BED'85) doesn't have a specific moment when she knew she wanted to challenge the Paralympics. She likes to say that she got all the competitive genes in her family. Even when a car accident left her paraplegic at 18, it wasn't long before the gravitational pull of athletics drew her into sit skiing.

"I just enjoyed competing," Bourgonje recalls. "That really evolved into just being the best that I could be. I think initially it was competing against others, and now it's more evolved into challenging myself and competing against myself!"

It's this competitive spirit that has come to define Bourgonje's life. First, she was a success story of someone who lost so much and still returned to the athletics she loved. Then she was the first ever student in a wheelchair to make the Canadian team for the World University Games. Later, she rode her stark determination to seven winter and three summer Paralympics, winning four bronze medals at the summer games and another three bronze and three silver at their winter counterpart.

Each of these accomplishments are cherished memories for Bourgonje, but it's her performance at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games 10-kilometre sit ski race that holds a special place in her heart. The race marked the first time in Paralympic history that a Canadian medaled on home soil. To hear her tell the story, it's clear the race has etched a permanent, crystal-clear impression on her mind even to this day, despite a rocky start.

"I flipped the sled, actually," Bourgonje said. "I was in the lead, and it was going great. I was probably in the best shape ever, really, but I was super aggressive — a little bit too aggressive — and made a little bit of an error on a downhill. I didn't think I was going to make it. I thought if I did get anywhere, it might be a bronze.

"Getting up, my first thought was that I broke a ski or something. I don't even remember the effort. There's only a couple of times in your life where you're so focused and you feel unbelievably strong, and definitely pounded the rest of the 10K out."

Today, Bourgonje remains as active as ever even though she's since retired from competition, seeking out young para-athletes to coach through a contract with the Saskatchewan Ski Association and training others at various levels—anything to leave her mark on the generation racing behind her, gaining ground each day.

“There’s a little guy in Canoe Lake who was in Grade 3 and couldn’t ski with his class because he has cerebral palsy,” she said of one of her proteges. “He’s feet wouldn’t stay in the boots and he wasn’t able to ski with his class, so he was crying. I took him to a mountain board, which you can rest the sit ski on so you can train in the summer. He totally loved it.”

The next wave

It was someone just like Bourgonje and Kutai—a Paralympian by the name of Ilana DuPont—who inspired Julian Nahachewsky (BCOMM'13, JD '17) to spring back from the accident that paralyzed him from the waist down.

Nahachewsky was “just a 19-year-old kid” when one wrong jump on his snowboard tore too much air and a bad fall snapped his spine at his T-12 vertebrae. Only a month later, an invitation to visit the Cyclones Road and Track Club convinced him his life in sports wouldn’t change just because his means of participating had.

“A big part of learning to compete with a disability is seeing others and knowing where to set your standard and quality of life,” he said. “Through that club, I was able to see a whole bunch of really independent people live their lives. A paraplegic driving a full-size F350, getting in and out of that where some people might still be coddled—that was fundamental for me.”

Before long, wheelchair athletics grew into a passion. Describing himself as taking “part-time school in order to train full-time,” Nahachewsky started pushing himself to compete harder, racing nationally, internationally and even representing Canada at the 2013 pararathlon world championships in London, England. In his spare time, he helped found a hand-cycling club and took up sit skiing to stay active in the winter months.

“Anybody still continuing to live life after a life-altering injury, it’s always good,” he said. “It shows human willpower. Obviously there are challenges that are traumatic that people deal with, but you see the people who are winners and who keep going—I think that’s a testament to our strength.”

It can be difficult these days for Nahachewsky to balance his love of racing with his burgeoning career as a lawyer with Miller Thompson LLP in Regina, SK. But whether he’s heading for mountains with his sit ski in tow or staying at the office late finishing paperwork, he’s always striving for excellence.

"Why not be some of the best at what you do?" Nahachewsky said. "Racing’s fun and it was a good group of people, but I just wanted to be the best. Even now, as a lawyer, I don’t want to be average. I want to be among the best.”

Beyond heroes or victims

It would be easy to say that it was the first time she sat in her wheelchair, the first time her dad handed her an air rifle, or that fateful trip to California that launched Kutai toward her many staggering achievements. But listening to her speak, there's no denying that there was always a champion spirit behind each and every accomplishment.

"I don't know why we would want to live any other way," Kutai said. "We don't get a lot of time as people, and I can't imagine not trying to make a difference every day. It feels like a waste of a gift to not strive for something better!"

But even more critical to Kutai is the importance of denying easy narratives. Here is a life that skirted catastrophe far earlier than anyone would hope, sure, but it's also one in which she's made bold strides for herself and for others; pioneering the University of Saskatchewan's Disabilities Services for Students and creating several retention programs, becoming a much sought after public speaker and recently authoring Maternity Rolls, a book detailing the unique experience of raising children as a paraplegic.

But all obstacles and achievements aside, Kutai takes umbrage with her story, or that of anyone else with disabilities, being pushed into corners often reserved for superheroes and victims.

She's just living life the only way she knows how.

"That word, 'inspire,' is a tricky one for me," she said. "I don't aspire to live as an inspiration. If I'm going to inspire anything, I hope it is to have people see that we are just regular people living regular lives and trying to do the best that we can in this world."

"I hope to inspire disability as an identity—as a positive identity, as an identity that fluctuates and that's okay. It's okay to feel crappy about it some days and good about it others. It's not an either-or kind of construct.”

"There are challenges that are traumatic that people deal with, but you see the people who are winners and who keep going—I think that's a testament to our strength,” Nahachewsky said.

Julian Nahachewsky (BCOMM’13, JD’17)
Universities are needed now more than they have ever been, and that is certainly true for the University of Saskatchewan. To be a university for the future, it is incumbent upon us to stay connected to the communities we serve, locally and globally—to contribute to them and, in so doing, to be the university the world needs.

Guiding us towards achieving this aspiration is our 2025 University Plan. Built through consultation and collaboration it evolved from our 2016 Mission, Vision and Values, and is informed by and takes us beyond previous integrated plans.

This 2025 University Plan is grounded in our strengths. As our Vision document states, “we use interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovery.” No other research-intensive, medical-doctoral university in Canada has the array of colleges and interdisciplinary schools we do. None has the unique scientific infrastructure we have, nor our unique signature areas through which we are having a global influence. We have an unparalleled breadth of expertise in our professional colleges, social science disciplines, humanities and fine arts departments, and fundamental and applied science units. Together, we have the tremendous variety of programming and research—and the faculty, staff and student talent—to serve and inspire our communities: this city, this province, the country and beyond.

Fundamental to all of this is the key role our university plays in reconciliation. This plan must impel us, and clarify our purpose, in this regard. It is fundamental because we will achieve much when we are a strong university of common purpose, a trusted partner in the national imperative of reconciliation, engaging together the communities we serve in an era of unprecedented political and technological change.

Our challenge, to be met in this plan, is to make this whole greater than the sum of its parts. When we are successful at doing so, students around the globe will see the university in particular as a place to develop knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a future defined by constant change. Faculty will view the university as a place that creates unmatched possibilities for collaboration, discovery and impact. Staff will find inspiration in the opportunity to create solutions—systems, practices, physical spaces—that reflect the university’s ambition. Our diverse communities will engage with and find inspiration in everything we do. We will take our place among the world’s top institutions of higher learning.

And in the process we will be the university the world needs. I invite all of us to join together in reaching that aspiration.

Peter Stoicheff
President and vice-chancellor

I am a graduate of the College of Education and spent 32 years as a teacher and administrator in both public and private schools at all levels. For the last 13 years, I have felt I owe a debt of gratitude to the university for giving my parents a wonderful opportunity in their new-found homeland and providing a terrific launch for my brothers and myself.

My husband Scott McCreat (BComm’69) and I always stressed the importance of education to our own children. In our immediate family, there are more than 25 degrees from USask. Since 2006, I have proudly served on the USask Senate, the Board of Governors and now as the honorary university alumni ambassador.

Like all of you, our degrees from USask are just the beginning. From the day we graduate, all we do and all we accomplish, we do as alumni. No matter what we call it—a family, a clan, a network—being a USask alumni is a great connector. We are students for a short time, but alumni for a lifetime! All of us should feel integral to the fabric of this incredible institution.

It’s important to stay connected to our alma mater. This will ensure we remain engaged and a USask family. Alumni can be a real force and provide so many opportunities to mentor. There are examples of this in every college. How fantastic is it to learn from those who have walked the same path and had similar experiences. My husband Scott is experiencing one of his life’s highlights—volunteering as the executive-in-residence with students at the Edwards School of Business.

Alumni are a valuable asset and staying connected is paramount. Alumni want to know what USask is accomplishing so they can spread the word. They are the most passionate ambassadors, champions, advocates and cheerleaders. There is so much to be proud of—the list of the more than 152,000 of us in 120 countries and the accomplishments are formidable! People are willing and enthusiastic about giving back—they just have to ask. Alumni can mentor, provide scholarship funding, collaborate with the university to come up with creative ways to become financial partners for new initiatives. They are generous in sharing wisdom and experiences. Their networks and expertise are barometers that help guide the university.

Alumni are enthusiastic supporters of the University of Saskatchewan and their commitment and influence are treasures.

Debra Pozega Osburn on the three commitments of the University Plan

Courageous Curiosity
“We’re not afraid to ask the questions that need to be asked. We’re not afraid to confront the things that need to be confronted. You can do that at a big research university and at the University of Saskatchewan you can do it in a powerful way because we have our deep roots in Saskatchewan and we have a certain set of values.”

Boundless Collaboration
“We collaborate and we forge partnerships no matter what we’re doing. Boundless means exactly what it says; there is no limit to our ability and willingness to collaborate.”

Inspired Communities
“The more we can work with and for our communities to inspire the world, the more we can work with and for our communities to address society’s needs for the next generation.”

The three commitments of the University Plan were then framed from the conversation resulting in Courageous Curiosity, Boundless Collaboration and Inspired Communities. From each of these commitments, goals were built, guidelines and goals were developed and aspirations were established. All of the layers were built based on the input from the discovery process.

“People are telling us and what we heard through this whole discovery process is that people expect great things of us. They think that there are things that we can accomplish, areas in which we can lead, areas in which we can collaborate and partner, things we can do to inspire that will make a big difference in the world,” said Debra Pozega Osburn.

Pozega Osburn said USask alumni played a valuable role by bringing their expertise to the table during the discovery process. Alumni can act as ambassadors, she said, and she is excited for the group’s involvement as the university gets to work moving the plan forward.

“It became clear that alumni want to be involved in our university in new ways, in mutually beneficial ways and in productive ways. That is so important for a university to succeed. It’s so important to us that our alumni want to be a part of our future,” said Pozega Osburn.

“Nobody can tell our story the way our alumni can tell our story.”

From the day we graduate, all we do and all we accomplish, we do as alumni.”

The discovery process
Becoming the university the world needs

As well, we have an unbelievable opportunity to mentor. There are examples of this in every college. How fantastic is it to learn from those who have walked the same path and had similar experiences. My husband Scott is experiencing one of his life’s highlights—volunteering as the executive-in-residence with students at the Edwards School of Business.

Alumni are a valuable asset and staying connected is paramount. Alumni want to know what USask is accomplishing so they can spread the word. They are the most passionate ambassadors, champions, advocates and cheerleaders. There is so much to be proud of—the list of the more than 152,000 of us in 120 countries and the accomplishments are formidable! People are willing and enthusiastic about
However, the past is just that: the past. Today looks a lot different from the days of hand plows and horse-drawn machinery. Women are stepping up, seeing greater presence in agriculture’s business boardrooms and fields.

According to the World Bank, women make up almost half of the world’s farmers. Those numbers vary in the western world. On Saskatchewan farms, the number of women working solo on farms rose marginally between 2011 and 2016, from 1,385 to 1,965. As of 2016, 11,275 women farmed provincially. But, as several USask alumni have proven, the extended world of agriculture and bioresources is vaster than the farms of the prairies.

Susan Blair (BSA’88) currently works in southern Ontario in the field of animal health pharmaceuticals. As Boehringer Ingelheim’s executive director of animal health, she leads a team that brings preventative and specialty therapeutic pharmaceutical products for livestock and companion animals to market.

“I landed in a very different part of life and in a different part of the country than I would have planned,” she commented wryly. “I spend my workdays thinking about three things: the industry itself—the Canadian animal health business; people, both customers and the internal talent we are building; and strategy—where we are going and how we will get there.”

Raised on her family’s grain and cattle farm near Lanigan, Sask., Blair recalls writing a paper for school in Grade 4 detailing how she was going to get a degree and farm, just like her father and grandfather. But she also recalls her father telling her unequivocally, “You can’t just farm, you need an education first. No one can take that from you in tough times.”

His words proved prophetic. Blair, who went on to earn both her degree and buy land near the family holdings, lost her land in the economic downturn of the late 1980s, when high land prices and interest rates combined with drought and global trade wars drove commodity prices through the floor. Blair moved laterally into pharmaceutical sales with Pfizer, hoping to eventually return to farming. She never did. Instead, curious and ambitious, she shifted her focus from livestock to companion animals, and took on marketing, leadership and global assignments.

She parlayed her farm background into a corporate leadership role that eventually landed her with Boehringer Ingelheim, a global, research-driven pharmaceutical company. In doing so, Blair received a lot of support but initially her mentors were mostly male. In her turn, Blair has grown into a role as a respected champion of women, notably speaking in 2015 at the annual Advancing Women in Agriculture conference.

Blair’s gratitude for her wide-ranging cultural and business experiences has accrued interest.

“I would not be where I am now without that diversified background,” she said, laughing. “It’s a complicated life.”

By all standards, she has achieved just that.

Fran Walley (PhD’93) serves as USask’s College of Agriculture and Bioresources associate dean (academic). Deeply involved in farm-related research, like current AgBio dean Mary Buhr, Walley’s field is literally the ground that farming is built on: soil science.

“I’ve always been interested in biology,” she explained. “Agriculture is in many ways applied biology. That aspect of applied science fascinates me. I’d love to farm, but it’s not my path.”

As a scholar, she has investigated what teems underground—the life in soil—that forms the bedrock of agriculture. But she also has a pulse on the lives of women who enter the field.

“Agriculture continues to evolve and programs within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources have also evolved from a...
single undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Agriculture," she said.

"Nowadays, along with the many majors (within the BSA), we also offer Bachelor of Science degrees in renewable resource management, agribusiness and animal bioscience. All of our programs, including the BSA, attract a lot of women. More than 50 per cent of our undergrads are female. In addition to training future farmers, we train scientists and agronomists, researchers, people who go into sales, consulting, environmental consulting, finance, government and academia. The diversity of jobs and careers reflects just how closely our provincial economy is tied to agriculture. This college touches the entire world!"

Walley admits that even as societal customs toward child-rearing evolve, women who carry the weight professionally often still have to balance their home lives and careers. "The same issues face any woman balancing family and professional lives, and there can be extra challenges in terms of progressing professionally."

Women are pursuing careers in all aspects of agriculture and contribute meaningfully, she said. "Farming is a very complex business, with many complex considerations—science, agronomy, marketing, food processing for value added. To capture that diversity, education provides a really solid background."

Finding those skilled farmers, male or female, is part of the role played by Debra Hauer (BSA’79), currently manager of Agri LMI (Labour Market Information) in Ottawa. In her youth, Hauer was actively involved on the family farm near Lymondient, Sask. She earned her masters in education in 2008 in Ottawa, and taught agriculture courses at the college level in Regina, where she served as executive director of the Saskatchewan 4-H Council before serving with an Indigenous women’s organization in the North.

In her current role, Hauer returned to her farming education background. She describes her job as finding and identifying people in agriculture, having the right number of people with the right skills, encouraging family businesses, ensuring that there are sufficient well-trained people in the agricultural workforce. To clarify the difficulty, she suggests thinking about children age five to 14 who will be taking over farms in the coming decades. "There are not a lot of kids in rural areas," she said. "Where will (farm) people come from in the future?"

Hauer was never tempted to farm herself.

"At the time when I might have, there was a lot of consolidation, changes that resulted in fewer, but bigger, farms. My roots are in farming, though, and I enjoy working in a farm-related industry," she said.

For women looking to make their names on the corporate side of agriculture, she has some succinct advice. "Women need to grab their chance to find out how food is produced. Women need to learn about the business model of food. Women need to be advocates." Hauer was never tempted to farm herself.

"First this guy offered me a job in the kitchen [by long-distance phonecall]," she said. "The next day, when he realized I had real experience, he asked if I’d be comfortable with the boys in camper vans for two months. I told him I didn’t expect any special arrangements, but I did expect a respectful work environment. My tone convinced him, that and my unwillingness to settle for the kitchen job. I ended up being the first girl he ever hired to drive combine."

After Australia came a month in Zambia, where Duncan worked long hours on an 18-hectare farm owned by an orphanage. "It was humbling, on top of experiencing culture shock," she said. "Here, maybe 12 per cent of people work in farming and related fields, so the North American disconnect from agriculture is staggering. In Africa, over 60 per cent of people work in food production. And it was all manual labour. We fertilized maize, dug mounds of dirt for sweet potatoes, worked with pigs and mucked out their stalls."

"When in Zambia, Duncan made time to visit Nkoda University's farm to investigate banana research and make a presentation on agriculture in Canada. She came home inspired.

"Farmers in Africa are passionate about the soil and what they do," she said. "The work ethic is incredible. I am a different person because of it."

As a young alumna, Duncan has already racked up some impressive credentials. During her final year of her BSA, she completed her Agriculture Technician Certificate through Sask Polytechnic. She worked as general manager of SK Ag Young Entrepreneurs, an organization that provides networking and training to young farmers. She currently serves as a director for the Canadian Young Farmer Forum and the local Conservation and Development Association. After a government job in Regina, working with farmers to rebuild trust in modern agriculture and later, in agriculture policy, Duncan and her family arrived at a compromise.

"In university, I was full of pith and vinegar," she admitted. "But the situation has changed since: the women's father has started to pass the torch. "We are partners, with different strengths and weaknesses," Duncan said proudly. "My sister is stronger at finance and marketing, and I am stronger on operations and equipment. Succession plans are something every farm has to deal with. We have to make compromises to be happy and to keep the people in our lives happy."
How am I going to survive? And secondly, how am I going to financially survive?”

These were the first thoughts that raced through Amy Smith-Morris’ mind after receiving the devastating diagnosis of ovarian cancer. It was the fall of 2016 and she was just 30 years old.

It came at a time when life was unfolding in front of her. After completing her degree in pharmacy at USask, she went on to obtain her Doctorate of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, specializing in oncology and cancer care.

She had just married and come back from honeymooning in Italy and Greece when she found out she had a tumour the size of a football.

The symptoms had been subtle; mild weight gain which she attributed to two weeks spent eating pasta and pizza and drinking wine. There was also bad heartburn.

Her doctor sent her for an ultrasound, which revealed the mass.

Surgery quickly followed, then chemotherapy.

As cancer patients often do, Smith-Morris turned to support groups to help her through the ordeal. The problem was, those groups did not speak to her particular concerns.

“I was the youngest person there by 20 or 30 years sometimes,” she explained. The age gap meant that, even though they all had cancer, their struggles were different.

For instance, while many had grown children and paid-off mortgages, Smith-Morris wondered if she would ever be able to have children and how she could pay off her student debt.

“It’s hard to really connect and resonate with someone that’s at such a different life stage than you are,” she said.

Although she didn’t know it then, that observation would lead her into a series of unexpected ventures.

Smith-Morris went home to Abbey, Sask. for Christmas. A question from someone in her community inspired her to act. She had confused chemotherapy with radiation.

When the crisis of cancer struck Amy Smith-Morris (BSP ’10), she seized an opportunity—to give voice to the hopes and fears of women her age fighting the disease.
Smith-Morris decided to livestream her chemo sessions on her Facebook page Amydee PharmD, to help people become better informed with the cancer treatment process. “If you don’t know what this is like, then it’s going to be even more terrifying,” she explained.

It was an uncharacteristically vulnerable step for someone who thinks of herself as normally private. Smith-Morris was overwhelmed by the response. The livestream received more than 26,000 views and garnered plenty of comments. They came from loved ones of cancer patients, and cancer patients themselves—including young ones like her. “It was just really seemed to break open a very quiet discussion, helping people overcome their fear of asking questions,” Smith-Morris said.

In social media, she had found her support network, one that still extends around the world. “It’s so nice to be able to have someone that’s parallel in your experience,” she said. “That’s what I think of the compassion Christina reflects in her story.”

Proceeds from the book, which sells for $40, go directly to women’s cancer research. Since its release, over 250 copies have been sold. As Smith-Morris says on the Surviv(her) website, “Detecting and treating women’s cancers needs to improve. With survival rates for ovarian cancer unchanged in the last 50 years, it’s time to start demanding better informed with the cancer treatment process. As a cancer pharmacist, she said knowledge gained through experience helps her better relate to what other patients are going through. There are some things that aren’t mentioned in academic training, such as toenails that hurt and fall off after chemo.

Her efforts to educate and support other women with cancer aligns with the philosophy she has lived by from early on in her pharmacy career: “If I can just help one person, then this makes it worth it … my career … my education, my exams.”

Smith-Morris is focusing her attention on her Facebook and Instagram accounts. She uses Facebook to publicize charity events such as Deadlift 4 Cancer (scheduled for October 27, 2018), and share information useful to young cancer patients. She said she uses Instagram as a kind of abbreviated

Smith-Morris gives us her three main tips when talking to someone with cancer. For more insight, visit her website survivher.ca.

Some days it seems like cancer is all around. As a friend or family member standing on the sidelines, it’s difficult to know what to say or do when someone you love is facing this terrifying diagnosis. As both a cancer pharmacist and cancer survivor, Smith-Morris is in a unique position to see all sides of everyone’s story. She is certain of this: “Helping people with cancer in some regard will be in my life forever. It’s like a part of me now.”

“I just felt like if people don’t know what this is like, then it’s going to be even more terrifying.”

Don’t ask for a miracle
Cancer is often thought of as just one monolithic disease but it is actually a thousand different diseases all under one umbrella term. Some types of cancers are deadly but others are curable. Saying to someone that you’re “praying for a miracle” when a cure is not only probable but likely, can be both startling and insulting. Without knowing the specifics of a diagnosis, it’s impossible to know the outcome. Some types of cancer need medicine and science rather than a miracle.

Don’t do the positivity
Everyone has bad days and this doesn’t differ after a cancer diagnosis. It’s completely normal and allowed. But some feel the only way to interact with someone battling cancer is to flood the conversation with positivity. There is nothing more irritating than having rainbows and sunshine shoved in your face when you really just need to get something off your chest. Statements like “well at least you have…” or “look on the bright side…” are not going to be helpful. If someone with cancer is expressing a frustration, listen, it’s that simple. Listen, provide your opinion, and move on.

Don’t ask ‘what can I do’
“Let me know what I can do for you” is a reflex statement almost entirely empty of meaning. Instead of asking if there’s anything you can do to help, just do. Leave supper, shovel snow, or walk the dog. It does not have to be complicated or involve a lot of planning. If you want to help, just do.

“I just felt like if people don’t know what this is like, then it’s going to be even more terrifying.”

AMY SMITH-MORRIS (BSP’10)
WHAT I KNOW NOW

While 3,700 students crossed the stage this past spring to receive their degrees at convocation, every USask graduate has their own unique story. Here’s a look at five of our newest alumni, as they prepare for their next chapter.

What advice do you have for new students just starting university?

Prioritization and time management are very important skills to consolidate. Focus on your goals, and plan your days and study time accordingly.

Also, have realistic expectations of yourself—do not get discouraged if your expectations are not met.

What did you learn about yourself during your time at USask?

I learned I am very good at time management and that sometimes you have to let certain things go. For me it was Netflix, laundry and housework! This would be my advice for new students as well—use your nursing skills and prioritize the important things in life.

What advice do you have for new students just starting university?

It is about the people not the grades. Focus on creating a reputation of positivity and deepening a relationship with your classmates, professors, TA’s and the professionals in the community.

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What’s something you learned at USask that didn’t come from a textbook?

I learned a lot about effective teamwork within a research team. My committee provided strong mentorship and good communication which kept me motivated and passionate.

Overall, how was your USask experience?

My experience at USask was very educational, fulfilling and well rounded. I transferred from Lakeland College after receiving a diploma, hoping to finish my degree and get into the work force. I ended up running into some great professors at the university that involved me in using some unique scientific tools to conduct research, mainly the Canadian Light Source. This research sparked the need to further my education past a bachelor’s degree.

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“...”

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Join us for a lively weekend of sport in celebration of hockey and what it means to our community. The full schedule of events is available at: usask.ca/merlisbelsherplace

Ken Ready (LLB’76) has had a fulfilling career as one of the top lawyers in Canada over the past several decades. He has been recognized with many awards and accolades, including the Best Lawyer in Canada awards in Health Care Law and Medical Negligence.

Along with his impressive accolades in the legal community, Ready is a dedicated volunteer. He has been a part of many boards and organizations including the Saskatchewan Baseball Association, several theatre companies in Regina, the Arthritis Society and the Lakeview United Church.

It’s time to drop the puck!

OCTOBER 26 AND 27

Thank you to everyone who helped make this multi-sport facility a reality. It would not be possible without the generosity and vision of founding donor Merlis Belsher and the hundreds of people and organizations who followed his lead.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Grand Opening

Merlis Belsher Place

OCTOBER 26 AND 27

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Volunteer Highlight: Ken Ready

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USASK ALUMNI WEEKEND


Thank you to all of those who came out and to those who volunteered as we learned, connected and celebrated our USask alumni.

For more photos of the weekend, visit alumni.usask.ca

1. Rain or shine (or snow!) Despite some unseasonal weather, the BBQ in the Bowl and Pregame party were still the place to celebrate with fellow alumni!
2. Alumni got a sneak peek at the world-class Merlis Belsher Place as part of the Alumni Weekend tours.
3. Jay Famiglietti enlightened alumni with his lecture on 21st century fresh water security.
4. Hundreds of USask alumni attended this year’s Alumni Weekend and checked out Alumni Central in Upper Place Riel.
5. Dr. Ivar Mendez wowed the crowd Saturday morning with his lecture on the future of medicine.
6. On Sept. 20, eight outstanding alumni were honoured at the 40th annual Alumni Achievement Awards.
7. Everything that glitters is still gold! The golden grad ceremony gave alumni who have graduated 50 years or later a chance to walk the stage at Convocation Hall one more time.
Agriculture Scholarship.

established the annual Carlson College of

member of both the Senate and Board
dedication and involvement. He was a

Saskatchewan Farm Vacations Association

the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame,

was the lead organizer in the formation of

in Saskatchewan.

50 years, Gary Carlson has lived a life of

A community volunteer for more than

philanthropic pair of doctors to a provincial court judge, this year’s diverse group

of Alumni Achievement Award winners embody what it means to be dedicated

Nominated by their peers from a group of more than 152,000 alumni, recipients of the USask Alumni

Their legacies are incomparable, their stories impactful and their influence

and committed to one’s profession and community.

On September 20, USask recognized these eight extraordinary alumni for their contributions to their

community, professions, and the university. The Alumni Association is proud to present the

2018 Alumni Achievement Award winners:

Gary Carlson, BSA’61, MSc’64

A community volunteer for more than 50 years, Gary Carlson has lived a life of

thoughtful contribution, supporting and giving back to the agricultural community in Saskatchewan.

Among his many accomplishments, Gary was the lead organizer in the formation of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, Saskatchewan Farm Vacations Association and Nuffield Canada.

Gary’s love for the University of Saskatchewan shines through his ongoing dedication and involvement. He was a member of both the Senate and Board of Governors. He and his wife have also established the annual Carlson College of Agriculture Scholarship.

David Christensen, BSA’58

David is internationally recognized for his research in dairy nutrition and feed development. His research has involved cattle mineral nutrition, forage and other feed evaluation.

David has also demonstrated strong support for and interest in international development, working in Uganda in the early 1970s to develop a graduate program, teach undergraduates, establish an analytical nutrition laboratory and advise on government dairy policy.

He received the Order of Canada in 2002, and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011. As professor emeritus, he continues to teach, supervise and consult for several companies and organizations. He and his wife recently established the Christensen Family Award Fund for Animal Science.

Kathryn J. Ford, O.C., BA’71

Kathryn Ford has practiced law in Saskatchewan for over 40 years and specialized in family law and mediation, specializing in ‘conflict resolution’.

Along with her career in the legal world, Kathryn is widely known for her broad-ranging commitment to community. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she was a board member and president of the YWCA during the organization’s very successful Capital Fundraising Campaign and new building construction. She was also a board member of the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation, Saskatoon Health Services Authority, Saskatoon Community Foundation, USask Board of Governors, Riverside Country Club, and LutheranCare Communities, among many others.

In 2017, Kathryn was awarded the YWCA of Saskatchewan Women of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tim Hodgson, LLB’83

Tim played for the USask’s men’s Huskie hockey team from 1979 to 1983, being fortunate enough to be part of a hockey program that evolved from obscurity to prominence in those years.

The Men’s Huskie hockey team won three CWUAA Championships in his four years on the team, culminating with a national championship at the 1983 CIAU National Finals.

Most recently, Tim readily accepted the role as the volunteer Saskatoon chairperson for the Home Ice Campaign, which was the fundraising campaign to build Merlis Belsher Place. Tim was unwavering in his passion to see the successful attainment of the fundraising target so the university and community could reap the benefits of this facility as soon as possible.

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Dr. Suzanne Yip, BA’58, MD’60

and Dr. Ivan Jen, BA’57, MD’60

Drs. Ivan Jen and Suzanne Yip are an exceptional couple who have made outstanding contributions to the medical profession, the artistic community and more broadly as generous philanthropists.

As newcomers to Canada from Hong Kong, Ivan and Suzanne overcame significant obstacles to attend the University of Saskatchewan. They met while attending medical school and were the first two Chinese-born immigrants to graduate from the College of Medicine in their respective specialties of dermatology and radiology.

Today, their philanthropic endeavors reach many supporters of the hospital foundations, University of Saskatchewan, Remai Modern, Saskatoon Community Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, Meewasin Valley Authority, and others.

Patricia Lawson, BA’50, BEd’53

Pat Lawson was the most distinguished female athlete in Canada during the 1950s with an unmatched athletic legacy. As a student athlete, she represented the university on 13 teams over four years including basketball, swimming, tennis, and track and field.

Pat was a member of the Canadian women's basketball team at the 1959 Pan American Games, a seven-time member of the Saskatchewan amateur golf team, and claimed Canadian titles in basketball, speed skating and golf.

It’s a good thing there is no limit to the number of Halls of Fame one can be in, because Pat would’ve exceeded that number a long time ago. She earned her inductions in the University of Saskatchewan Athletic Wall of Fame, the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame to name a few.

Hon. Gerald M. Morin, JD’87

The Honourable Judge Gerald M. Morin has dedicated his life to the Canadian justice system for the past 45 years, travelling around Canada and lecturing on law, the Cree Court, criminal law, self government and First Nation political issues and the human condition.

He is nêhiyow (Cree) from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and grew up traditionally in Cumberland House, SK. In 1999, he was the first Indigenous person in Saskatchewan to receive the Attorney General’s Queen’s Counsel designation and by 2001 was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan where he led the introduction of the Cree language into the court process.

Judge Morin continues to sit in many communities, most in the northern regions of Canada. He has also worked with the College of Law to initiate the Wunusweh annual lecture series on Indigenous law. In 2007, he was awarded the Willy Hodgson Award from the Law Society of Saskatchewan.
For information: alumni.travel@usask.ca

"Alaska is a good mix (and choices) of on-shore travel adventures. The locales and the scenery were superb. The ship's condition, staff, amenities and food services were excellent."

RICHARD BARTLETT CRUISE THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST MAY 2017

"Everything was prepaid so you were not constantly dipping in your wallet. Good value for your dollar. We enjoyed the lectures included in our tour."

HOWARD AND SHIRLEY GANGE DUTCH WATERWAYS APRIL 2018

1950
Mr. Marvis M Belsher, BComm’57, LLB’59, DLitt’18, of Saskatoon, SK, received a honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan and was inducted into the Lifetime Achievement of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Austin F. Fennell, BA’44, of Lethbridge, AB, has been inducted into the University of Saskatchewan Alumnae Association Hall of Honour. Mr. Fennell has written several books about Victoria High School and has contributed to several publications.

Mr. Jacob E Kreiser, BA’66, BEd’74, of Victoria, BC, began his career in education in Saskatchewan as a high school teacher and principal in Moose Jaw, Uranium City, Killaloe and Elmhurst. He has taught in several other locations.

Mr. Gusty E. Rochow, BA’44, MAVS, of Cumberland, ON, along with his wife, Reinhilde, published their memoirs, The World as We Saw It. This book is available in digital and paperback formats online.

Mr. Janet R. Minuk Wees, BEd’73, of Regina, SK, is the recipient of the 2018 Vernadsky Gold Medal from the American Society of Nature Conservation. She is a retired teacher and has been involved in community service.

Mr. Dennis R. Gruending, BA’70, of Ottawa, ON, has written several books on Canadian history, including "Dennis Gruending" and "Changed Canada." He is a former reporter at the Western Producer.

Mr. Donald B Campbell, BA’82, of Regina, SK, has been elected to the University of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Bob L. Calder, BA’63, MA’65, of Calgary, AB, has published his first novel, "A Hero's Life," which tells true stories of Canadians in wartime. (www.elinorflorence.com)

Ms. Sharon A Butala, BEd’62, BA’63, of Calgary, AB, received the Canadian Book Award for her novel, "Bird’s Eye View," which was published in 2014 and became a national bestseller. Her second novel, "Wildwood," was published in 2016. She has written a monthly column for "The Senior Paper" and maintains a website and monthly blog called "The Wartime Wednesday" in which she interviews Canadian veterans and tells true stories of Canadians in wartime. (www.elinorflorence.com)

1960
Ms. Shaun A Butala, BA’62, BAY ’68, PDD’73, SUTT’04, of Calgary, AB, has published her first novel, "Journey of the Rings," which was the inspiration for the film."Journey to Culturally Secure Research on May 14, 2018.

Ms. Angela Bowen, BSN’86, PhD’07, of Saskatoon, SK, has been elected to the University of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame. She is a retired teacher and has been involved in community service.

Mr. David G. Collins, JD’79, of Saskatoon, SK, was appointed a Senior Judge of the Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island. He is a former judge and has been involved in community service.

Mr. Maurice A Doleans, BA’60, MSc’78, of Hull, Que., is a recipient of the 2018 Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Mr. James E. Edwards, BA’87, MAYS, LLD’18, of McPhail, ON, received a honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan on June 1, 2018.

Mr. George Fedak, BA’32, MSc’53, of Ottawa, ON, has been awarded the 2017 Verity Medal Gold Medal from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Mr. Harry T. Malley, LLB’94, BAVS’65, of Regina, SK, is the 2018 recipient of the Norman John Haysphyn Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Bar Association.

Mr. Jack O. Neumann, BComm’95, BA’78, of Calgary, AB, received the 2018 Colleen D. Duit Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Rose E. Pettis, MD’05, DCS’18, of Vancouver, BC, received a honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Saskatchewan on June 7, 2018.

Mr. Alain Rosenbaum, BSc’69, MD’74, of Cara Rosa, SK, received the Canadian Rheumatology Association’s 2019 Distinction in Rheumatology Award on February 23, 2018. The award honours outstanding contributions to rheumatology in Canada.

Ms. Nancy Sommese, BRY’73, of Saskatoon, SK, received a honorary Lifetime Membership in the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association. This is his third honorary membership. The other two were in the Law Society of Saskatchewan in June of 2014 and in the Canadian Bar Association in 2014.

1970
Mr. Doug G. Currie, JD’79, of Saskatoon, SK, was appointed a Senior Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in November of 2017. Having retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Canadian Forces (Reserves) in the office of the Judge Advocate General and as a Senior General Counsel in the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

Ms. Anna F. Doig, MD’73, LLD’13, of Saskatoon, SK, has been elected to the University of Saskatchewan Senate as a district 13 representative (Saskatoon). This is a three-year term from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Mr. David T. Elder, BEd’78, of Saskatoon, SK, will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame on November 3, 2018.

Ms. Elinor M Florence, BA’71, of Invermere, BC, has had a long career in journalism. She is the former travel writer and reporter at the Western Producer in Saskatoon in the 1970s, it included writing and editing for daily newspapers and magazines, including Reader’s Digest. Ms. Florence’s first novel, “Bird’s Eye View,” was published in 2014 and became a national bestseller. Her second novel, “Wildwood,” was published in 2016. She has written a monthly column for “The Senior Paper,” and maintains a website and monthly blog called “The Wartime Wednesday” in which she interviews Canadian veterans and tells true stories of Canadians in wartime. (www.elinorflorence.com)

Mr. Dennis R. Gruending, BA’70, of Ottawa, ON, has written several books on Canadian history, including “Dennis Gruending” and “Changed Canada.” He is a former reporter at the Western Producer.

Mr. Ross G. Balfour, BA’70, BEd’73, of Saskatoon, SK, was inducted into the Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame on June 12, 2018.

Mr. Manny Sonnenschein, BA’62, MD’67, of Victoria, BC, has been elected to the University of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Bob L. Calder, BA’63, MA’65, of Calgary, AB, has published his first novel, “A Hero’s Life,” which tells true stories of Canadians in wartime. (www.elinorflorence.com)

Ms. Janet R. Minuk Wees, BEd’73, of Regina, SK, is the recipient of the 2018 Saskatchewan Non-Fiction Book Award and City of Regina Book Award for his book, Elinor Florence Project Was Walking. She has been involved in community service.

Mr. David R. King, BAP’77, BFA’72, LLD’18, of Scottsdale, AZ, was the assistant coach of the Western Hockey Team at the 2016 Winter Olympics.

Ms. Janet R. Minuk Wees, BEd’73, of Calgary, AB, published her first novel, “When We Were Young.” Ms. Wees has been published in national and international educational journals and Alberta Retired Teachers’ Magazine. Since retiring after 29 years of teaching, she volunteers as a school library volunteer and as a Warden at the Library of the University of Saskatchewan. She is also a past president of the Saskatchewan Retired Teachers’ Association (BCTERTA).

Mr. Donald R. Campbell, BAA’82, CTEC’89, of Saskatoon, SK, continues to have success as a playwright. His play, "Sunday: Six Shorts about Love, Sex and Relationships," was rated number two in the number of productions at the Saskatchewan Fringe Theatre and moved to the esteemed Broadway Theatre for the 2018 Saskatchewan
Mr. Martin S Kenney, LLB'98, of Saskatoon, was selected as one of the 40 Top Thought Leaders of the Legal Industry in Canada by Who's Who Legal. Mrs. Mary A. Toews, BA'61, SK, has been elected president of the Canadian Dental Association for a one-year term ending in the spring of 2019. Mr. Brad J. Watson, MBA'03, of Saskatoon, was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame on April 17, 2018. He will be honored at the President's Circle Luncheon on May 18, 2018 in a special ceremony.

Ms. Peggy M. Moen, BUS'62, of Saskatoon, was the recipient of the 2017-2018 SHRF Collaborative Innovation Award for her work in developing novel 3-D printed Thymus of the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Shelley P. Krychuk, BSN'T, MNP'10, RN, of Saskatoon, was the recipient of the 2018 SHRF Collaborative Innovation Award for her work in understanding if measures of mould floor dust samples are an effective method to estimate the influence of mould on the respiratory health outcomes of Saskatchewan residents. The findings will help with mould control and remediation strategies.

Mr. David C Carpenter, DLITT'18, of Saskatoon, SK, was the recipient of the Governor General’s Gold Academic Medal at the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Trevor W Ethow, BSKI'18, of Saskatoon, SK, will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for football on November 3, 2018.

Dr. Leish F. Bargy, BSCI'07, of Saskatoon, SK, received the 2018 Provost's Project Grant for Innovative Practice in Collaborative Teaching and Learning from the University of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Morgan N. Vickers, BSCI'18, of Saskatoon, SK, was inducted into the University of Saskatchewan's National Student-Athletes Hall of Fame.

Mr. Colin P. Laroque, BSc'93, of Saskatoon, SK, was the recipient of the 2018 Health and Wellness Award from YWCA Saskatoon.

Mr. Alastair J. MacFadden, BSc'99, of Saskatoon, SK, received two honours degrees, one in Political Science and has been elected to the University of Saskatchewan's faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan on March 1, 2018.

Mr. Terrance R. Pelletier, BEd'92, of Swift Current, SK, was inducted into the Saskatchewan Co-operators First Book Award for his book, The Art of Storytelling.

Mr. Trevor W Ethow, BSKI'18, of Saskatoon, SK, was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for football on November 3, 2018.
The Alumni Association has noted, with sorrow, the passing of the following graduates.

In Memoriam includes those who have passed prior to August 15, 2018. Names are listed by decade of receipt of their first U of D degree. Date of death and last-known address can be found online at usask.ca/greenandwhite.

1940
- Chapple, Evelyn M (Frenholz), BA’49, MA’55, BE’57
- Blaz, Wilma E, BA’47, MA’50
- Forsberg, Donald R (Dana), BA’54, BS’51
- Fuller, Constantine M (Manuel) (Turtle), BA’47
- Guinan, Joan R (Clement), BA’49
- Hall, John E, BA’48
- Hamilton, William G, AGRIC’45
- Harris, Avis, BA’49
- Hubbard, Geraldine C (Gianc), BHS’44
- Jaenisch, Peter E, BE’49
- Lehmann, Arnold L, BBA’40, MED’41
- Mackay, John W, BE’45
- Marks, John B, BE’41
- Martin, Donald F, BE’42
- McLean, Margaret E (Howie), BACC’44
- Melnick, Allen R, BA’49
- Mitchell, Ronald G, BA’48, BEd’49
- McLean, Marguerite E (Howie), BACC’44
- Olynyk, Peter J, BE’48
- Moody, Harry J, BE’48, MSc’50
- Olynyk, Peter J, BE’48
- Reeder, Wesley F, BE’45
- Rensaglia, Michael J, BACC’45
- Prenevet, James E, BSc’50
- Nickell, John P, BE’53
- Pecco, Michael J, AGRIC’51
- Watson, Howard J, BA’55
- Woods, Margaret E (Brand), BA’52
- Zaparzuk, John C, BA’54
- Hamilton, Donald C (Don), BE’56
- Harris, Clive D, AGRIC’57
- Hopkins, Lorna C (Doxowell), BComm’53
- Johns, Carolle-Aim (Parker), NURS’59
- Kitchin, Theodore (Ted), BSc’55
- Krywinsky, William J (Bill), BSc’51, Educ’51, BEd’50, MED’70
- MacFadyen, Charles R (Chuck), BE’55
- McIlvain, Thomas A (Tom), BComm’55
- Meneley, Daniel A (Dan), BS’68
- Moss, Anastasia N (Barsky), BEd’50
- Nickell, John P, BE’53
- Pecco, Michael J, AGRIC’51
- Prenevet, James E, BSc’50
- Schneier, Douglas A (Doug), BA’54, LLB’56
- Schulte, Lawrence F, BSc’51
- Stoles, Bryan J, BE’59
- Sutherland, John R, BE’55
- Watson, Howard J, BA’55
- Woods, Margaret E (Brand), BA’52
- Zaparzuk, John C, BA’54

1950
- Banescu, Victoriu A, BE’53
- Biluky, Omar G, BS’55
- Bird, Harald G, BE’51
- Brist, Marion L (Curtius), BA’50
- Byrnes, Merle E, BA’53, Educ’60
- Chapman, Gerald T, Acc’57, BusAdm’58
- Croll, Arthur (Alouette), NURS’57, BE’57
- Connors, Ramona M (Barber), BA’50
- Doyle, Walter W, BA’51
- Ehman, Dennis R, BSA’53, BAS’54
- Elliott, Richard S (Dick), BE’56
- Goldstein, Benjamin, BA’49, LLB’58
- Hambleton, Donald C (Don), BE’56
- Harris, Clive D, AGRIC’57
- Hopkins, Lorna C (Doxowell), BComm’53
- Johns, Carolle-Aim (Parker), NURS’59
- Kitchin, Theodore (Ted), BSc’55
- Krywinsky, William J (Bill), BSc’51, Educ’51, BEd’50, MED’70
- MacFadyen, Charles R (Chuck), BE’55
- McIlvain, Thomas A (Tom), BComm’55
- Meneley, Daniel A (Dan), BS’68
- Moss, Anastasia N (Barsky), BEd’50
- Nickell, John P, BE’53
- Pecco, Michael J, AGRIC’51
- Prenevet, James E, BSc’50
- Schneier, Douglas A (Doug), BA’54, LLB’56
- Schulte, Lawrence F, BSc’51
- Stoles, Bryan J, BE’59
- Sutherland, John R, BE’55
- Watson, Howard J, BA’55
- Woods, Margaret E (Brand), BA’52
- Zaparzuk, John C, BA’54

1960
- Bell, Joan P (Coates), BE’66, PGD’73, MED’77
- Bright, John A, BComm’68
- Burak, Daniel M, BComm’67
- Burnows, Beverly D, BEd’66, BA’73
- Byrnes, John L, BusAdm’68
- Chester, John D, BA’63
- Chandraw, Lynn D, BSA’43, Educ’65
- Collins, Alphonse B (Bernie), BEd’68
- Deputch, Nick J, LLB’66, BA’67
- Deslaur, Gary C, BA’63
- Fost, Sandra E (Smith), BSN’65
- Goodman, Alan S, BA’64, MS’65
- Gordon, Philip H, MEd’66
- Graf, Terence G (Terry), LLB’65
- Hanson, Andrew R, BE’61
- Hoover, James M, BE’62
- Hunt, Linsell A, BA’63
- Jones, Phyllis F (Waterman), BE’60
- Lane, Thomas C, BComm’64
- MacCrumm, Ronald F (Ron), AGRIC’63, AGRIC’64
- MacKenzie, Gordon W, DVM’69
- Mandri, Maria T (Hrabeczewski), BA’68
- McLeod, Gordon G, BComm’64
- Muttart, Kathleen M, BSA’49, BE’50, Meduc’58
- Negrych, David, BSc’62
- Okon, Stanley M, BSc’62, BE’63
- Rees, James J, BE’60
- Robertson, Earl W, BA’62, BASHON’63, Educ’67, BE’67
- Roffey, Gordon M, BComm’69
- Schuham, Robert C, BComm’63
- Thon, William C (Bill), BE’69, PGD’77, MED’89
- Wiles, Donald, BA’65
- Wylie, Wesley V, BusAdm’62

1970
- Bauer, Marcella M (Henderson), BE’67, BA’71
- Blake, Joyce M, BA’71
- Chatterton, Ronald J, BA’72
- Fowlie, Neil E, BComm’72
- Greer, James E (Jim), BSc’73, BEd’76, SC’84, MED’84
- Harms, Myrna E (Orthon), PHYS’73
- Howe, Kevin, BSA’73
- Knowles, Wayne S, BA’76, MBA’79
- Lapierre, Florence E (Plaatje), BE’74, BA’91, MED’94
- Lee, Richard W, BA’74
- Maxwell, Carol L (Thompson), BSc’73
- McCall, Robert W, BPA’73
- McAlister, Howard W, BSc’76
- Mouling, Michael B (Bren), BScMCET’77, DMD’82
- Nelson, Dona A, BSc’72, MD’77
- Nowlan, Diane L, BSc’71
- Pettit, James M, BBA’77, LLB’87
- Perry, David J, DMD’73
- Roy, Ernest S, BEd’76
- Sand, Marina M (Weiman), BA’75
- Tegedion, Elizabeth (Ban), BE’76
- Wolan, Wallace T, BA’72, BComm’76

THE DUFF SPAFFORD ALUMNI BOOK COLLECTION

Nominated in honour of Duff Spafford

ROXANNE MCHATTIE

The Alumni Book Collection has moved into its new permanent home in the Murray Library, and has been nominated in honour of Professor Emeritus Duff Spafford (BA ’39, MA ’41), who was the driving force behind the collection.

Spafford began his long association with the University of Saskatchewan in 1955 studying political science and economics, and serving as editor-in-chief of The Sheaf from 1956 – 1957. After graduate studies at the London School of Economics, he returned to USask as a political scientist in the College of Arts and Science for nearly 40 years, until his retirement in 2002. During his time on campus, he developed a keen interest in university history, particularly in the achievements of its alumni, and even rediscovered several long forgotten notable graduates.

Not long after retirement, Duff spearheaded the development of an alumni project unique among Canadian universities—the U of S Alumni Book Collection.

With enormous dedication to the task, Duff compiled a list of over 3,000 titles representing diverse works by USask alumni produced as early as 1922. Over the course of a decade, almost 800 of these works were gathered for the collection, many of which were purchased and donated by Duff himself.

Alumni authors are welcome to donate to the collection by sending books to:

The Duff Spafford Alumni Book Collection
301 Murray Library, 3 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A4

Faculty and staff
- Bock, Alfred A
- Bright, John A
- Dear, Myrtle M
- El Serafy, Ahmed M
- Engstrom, Christine S (Kris)
- Greer, James E (Jim)
- Halin, Abella
- Jag, Linda
- Khachaturians, George G
- Leung, Maggie L
- Melson, Eleanor E
- Miller, Leonard G
- Moulding, Michael B (Bren)
- Nicolas, Karie L
- Nifontov, Peter N
- Schmeister, Douglas A (Doug)
- Williams, Charles M (Red)
- Wills, Lucy D
You can inspire the next generation of educators.

Jordanne Estergaard and Christina Luross are passionate about teaching. The two students are in their final year of the early childhood education program in the College of Education, thanks to an estate gift left from a similarly impassioned donor.

The A. Marion Clarke Education Trust re-established the early childhood education undergraduate program at the University of Saskatchewan in 2016. The program provides a deeper understanding of the youngest minds in the education system—pre-kindergarten to Grade 3—at a time when their brains absorb information like a sponge.

Thanks to Marion Clarke’s gift, the College of Education can continue to support programming for teacher candidates like Jordanne and Christina, and train teachers with a strong foundation in early childhood principles.

You can make a difference to students like Jordanne and Christina by leaving a gift to the university through your will, like Marion Clarke. For more information, contact:

Bev Cooper, Gift Planning, University Relations
306-966-2416 or 1-800-699-1907
gift.planning@usask.ca, usask.ca/giftplanning

"Without Marion Clarke this experience would not have been possible, and with it we have come to recognize the inspiration, passion and motivation within each other towards becoming the best early childhood educators."

CHRISTINA LUROSS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

For more information or to donate, visit give.usask.ca/students or call 1-800-669-1907.

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As a USask graduate, you understand that students face several financial obstacles. With your annual support, USask students can pursue their education without interruption or compromise. By supporting ALL IN FOR STUDENTS, you help to fund scholarships and awards.

Your gift will ignite a student’s curiosity and inspire their passions so they will go ALL IN.