What's the 'Big Idea'?

Style by Jury

Reading the Bones

A Wave of Relief:

Captain Carmen Meakin Deploys to Hard-Hit Sri Lanka
Zero one Reunion 2005

green and white
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16 | A Wave of Relief: Captain Carmen Meakin Deploys to Hard-Hit Sri Lanka
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No one who saw the footage or heard the stories of the December 26th tsunami in Southeast Asia could remain unmoved. For Captain Carmen Meakin (BSc’97, MD’01), however, the impact of the disaster was far more direct.

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While technology in its various forms often gets credit for bridging global distances, it’s hard not to notice that recent disasters, like the tsunami that ravaged Southeast Asia, have prompted many of us to re-examine the way we see ourselves in relation to far away places.

The result, it seems, has been a renewed sense of global community — one that’s nestled in a sincere humanism which has emerged recently through acts of profound generosity. And while this sense of connectedness may be lost in the pursuit of profit (if it can happen there, it can happen anywhere!), it is nevertheless poignant.

You’re about to meet Carmen Biak, who was deployed to Sri Lanka as part of Canada’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). While her journey to the area hardest hit by the tsunami reveals the violent dimensions of the disaster, it’s also the enactment of the desire felt by many to become more directly involved in the relief effort.

Even though our attention has been sharply focused elsewhere in recent months, it’s difficult to ignore the buzz in our own back yard over Saskatchewan’s centenary: With the rededication of the College Building in September and the release of Professor Bill Waiser’s Saskatchewan: A New History, the University is embarking on its own celebration of the province’s 100th Anniversary. You’ll read more about what’s being planned in September, as well as an article by Dr. Waiser that describes how the 100 of 5 found its way to Saskatoon in the context of the birth of a “progressive prairie province.”

As I read through this issue and think about how we understand and celebrate History, I’m struck, in particular, by their scope. We have contributed much in the last century that’s still being heard increasingly far beyond our borders, our commitment to community and to the Province of Saskatchewan will remain strong in the years ahead.

A Modern Stonemason

Young Saskatoon stonemason Robert Assie is in demand at the University of Saskatchewan these days. He has just finished carving the crest of the College of Kinesiology out of a large round piece of Tyndall stone — work commissioned by Gillis Quarries Ltd. of Garson, Manitoba as a gift to the University in recognition of its use of millions of pounds of the Tyndall stone product over the years.

Assie, who learned his craft in Europe, is also working as a consultant and architectural stonemason on campus — part of the University’s effort to preserve and protect the unique features of its beautiful Collegiate Gothic buildings.
The Future of the Liberal Arts
Heated debate broke out across campus and in the local news media this winter over a perceived lack of commitment from the University’s senior administration to protect and support the liberal arts.
At campus forums and in news reports in January, half a dozen professors and an ad hoc group calling itself Students Opposed to Liberal-arts Decline (SOLD) alleged that faculty positions and support for travel grants and study abroad by students and faculty are being cut. The new space will be located in Lower Place Riel and is expected to open in early September. Thanks to an infusion of money for recruitment, the University’s attempts to attract students from around the world are gathering momentum.

Towards Internationalization
The U of S recently launched a Global Commons initiative on campus and a worldwide student recruitment drive, as part of a major new effort to internationalize the University. On February 3, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Michael Atkinson held a news conference and announced that the University will provide new campus space for international students and more support for travel grants and study abroad by students and faculty. The new space will be located in Lower Place Riel and is expected to open in early September. Thanks to an infusion of money for recruitment, the University’s attempts to attract students from around the world are gathering momentum.

Synchrotron Gears Up
While the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron officially opened last October 22, it has been in a quiet phase in preparation for full operation of the facility expected to begin in May.

CLS Executive Director Bill Thomlinson said in early 2005 that the synchrotron is in “commissioning and installation mode,” with equipment being installed on the various beamlines. The commissioning team is currently conducting tests on the equipment using experiments with known data and outcomes, he said.
At the same time, an independent peer review process has accepted the first seven proposals for external use of the facility, but there has been no confirmation as to which proposals will get the first use of a beamline.

The special tuition grant to the U of S is expected to be $3.3 million, taking its total projected tuition-related revenue to about $87 million in the coming year. When other operating funding for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) and investment and sales income are added, the basic U of S operating budget will total about $280 million – $12 million higher than last year’s $268 million.
U of S President Peter MacKinnon issued a statement following the budget announcement saying it’s a “welcome recognition of the need to invest in post-secondary education if Saskatchewan is to grow and prosper.” He said he hopes the funding “is a vote of confidence in the direction of the U of S and our responsible fiscal management.”
MacKinnon added that the one-time tuition-related grant “will allow us to make a recommendation to our Board of Governors that no tuition increase be assessed for the vast majority of our students in the coming academic year.”

The U of S is happy with the Calvert government’s March 23 budget rather than as people, he said he shares students’ concern over tuition costs. But he defended the national norms tuition policy, saying it assures program quality. He went on to say that the U of S is making great strides in improving its student services and student aid.

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As we celebrate the Saskatchewan centenary in 2005, we’re also celebrating, in part, the rich history of the University of Saskatchewan — a history irrevocably linked to the birth of the province and one that nearly came far from the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

A little more than four years after the Saskatchewan 1905 inauguration ceremonies, Governor General Earl Grey was back in Regina laying the cornerstone for the new Legislative Building.

The ceremony was no ordinary public event. Nor was it an ordinary public building. More than anything else, the new building was to serve the dual purpose of housing the provincial government and the seat of the University. Prince Albert city council and board of trade called on Premier Walter Scott to do the honourable thing and recognize the city’s rightful claim to the provincial university.

Prince Albert got its answer in the spring of 1907 when the legislature refused to recognize the dominion charter and unanimously approved the University Act. The legislation provided for a single, government-supported institution with exclusive degree-granting powers, except in theology; it was to be free from political interference, open to both men and women, and required no religious test for admission. The proposed University’s defining feature, however, was that it was intended to serve the wider provincial community.

This role was openly embraced by the University’s first president, the affable W.C. Murray, a philosophy professor from the Maritimes who was appointed in August 1908. “What is the sphere of the University?” he asked in his first annual report. “Its watchword is service — service of the state. No form of that service is too mean or too exalted for the University.”

For Murray, his University was “the sheet anchor of the university” in his letter of application — determined the site. That site was the south bank of the South Saskatchewan River north of Nutana. The latter was chosen because it was the better farm land; in other words, agriculture. What Murray called “the sheet anchor of the university” would take root in Regina some day.

Even the governor general was struck by this sense of destiny. “I do not think I have ever been so greatly surprised,” he confessed during a candid moment later that day. “I realized for the first time how extremely dignified your new parliament and executive buildings will be...and the big idea which they have given expression to.”

And what was this big idea? The political leaders of the day not only believed that the future belonged to the province, but more importantly, that the province could decide and shape that future.

The Saskatchewan government consequently embarked on an ambitious provincial-building program, determined to put the old territorial days and any lingering sense of colonialism behind it, while cultivating a new and separate identity as Canada’s powerhouse prairie province. An educated public was seen as one of the ways that Saskatchewan would assume its central place in Confederation. In fact, even before the capital question had been decided in Regina’s favour, Premier Walter Scott announced during the province’s first election his intention to establish a provincial university and agricultural college, a decision that one political scientist has called “an act of supreme confidence in the future of the province.”

Many initially assumed that the logical home for the provincial university would be the provincial capital. But the Scott government wanted to decentralize major institutions throughout the southern half of the province. A fierce struggle between rival communities ensued.

Once again, as in the contest for the provincial capital, Saskatoon was an early entrant in the race. In early January 1908, the Phoenix suggested that the University would be admirably located on Caswell Hill, just across the river from the site for the capital buildings. When the Moose Jaw Signal responded, “You take one and we’ll take the other,” the Saskatoon newspaper shot back that the capital and university could not be separated.

Moose Jaw citizens had their own scheme and tried unsuccessfully to secure a provincial charter for a “Saskatchewan College,” believing that it would give the city an edge in the contest for the university. Indian Head, meanwhile, claimed that the agricultural school would be a natural fit with the town’s federal experimental farm.

Then there was the case of Prince Albert. In 1883, the Reverend Dr. John McLean, the first Anglican bishop of Saskatchewan and founder of Prince Albert’s Emmanuel College, a training school for Native missionaries and catechists, had secured a federal charter for the “University of Saskatchewan.” These degree-granting powers fell into disuse in 1887 when Emmanual became an Indian boarding school. But in October 1906, when the diocese decided to open a theological college, the Prince Albert city council and board of trade called on Premier Scott to do the honourable thing and recognize the city’s rightful claim to the provincial University.

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By Bill Waiser
An affinity for service

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Can Alumni Influence the Maclean’s Rankings?

Every November, university administrators anxiously await the results of Maclean’s magazine’s rankings of Canadian universities. For better or worse, these rankings are a national indicator of the quality of universities in Canada — and alumni have a key role to play in their outcome.

Scored according to a number of quantifiable measures, like alumni support and faculty-to-student ratios, universities in essence “compete” for top spots in the annual Maclean’s university rankings, which appear in a special issue of the magazine published in November. Arguably, these rankings are not always a fair representation of a university’s quality, nevertheless, where a university sits in the rankings often affects how the quality of that university’s post-secondary education is perceived.

According to University of Saskatchewan President Peter Mackinnon, “We measure our success by our own criteria rather than those set by Maclean’s. The U of S is, and always has been, an excellent University that provides a high-quality education to its students and produces some of the most sought-after graduates in the country.”

While President Mackinnon has always maintained that the high quality of education offered at the U of S is not necessarily reflected in the rankings, he believes “the University should pay attention to the Maclean’s survey in part of the public attention the rankings garner.” At the U of S and elsewhere, there is a growing recognition that what is reported in the media has an important and long-lasting impact on an institution’s reputation.

In 2000, the U of S was ranked at the bottom of the medical-doctoral university category (15th out of 15), a category comprised of universities with a broad range of undergraduate and graduate programs, significant research strengths, and a medical school. There are also two other categories: one for comprehensive universities, which are engaged in significant amounts of research activity and offer a wide range of undergraduate/graduate programs, and another for primarily undergraduate universities.

Since 2000, the U of S has worked closely with Maclean’s to ensure the reporting of data is consistent with what Maclean’s requires. Thanks to this effort, the University has steadily moved up in the rankings and now sits in 10th spot. At the same time, the University embarked on an aggressive public awareness campaign using advertising, marketing, key speeches, and information days to improve its overall ranking.

This campaign has resulted in an increase in the reputational category, which carries the most weight in the rankings (20%) and measures the leadership, innovation, and quality of an institution. An institution’s rank in this category is determined by responses to a questionnaire that Maclean’s sends out in June to selected alumni, faculty, staff, guidance counselors, and business leaders across the country. Alumni who receive the survey are strongly encouraged to fill it out and return it.

Indeed, alumni have an important role to play in the Maclean’s rankings. Currently, the U of S sits at 14th out of 15 in the category of alumni support. While alumni support for the University has been steadily increasing, there is still much more that can be done.

When ranking universities on their alumni support, Maclean’s awards points for the number — rather than the value — of gifts to a university over the past five years. This means that although 13.4% of U of S alumni contribute a generous $800,000 to the University’s annual fund program each year, we rank low on the number of donating alumni. (The annual fund is different from the University’s $100 million fundraising campaign currently underway.)

Alternatively, if the U of S received $10 from 25% of its 80,000 alumni, it would be ranked highest in this category, even though it would have raised only $200,000. To reach an average ranking in this category (8th place) would require an additional 4,000 donors per year for the next five years.

Alumni donations can also affect another significant indicator in Maclean’s when they donate that their donation goes towards scholarships and bursaries or student services. Scholarships and bursaries amount to 4.3% of the total rankings for each university. Melana Soroka, Director of Alumni Relations, is well aware that alumni have the potential to exert significant influence over the rankings. “University of Saskatchewan alumni are an influential group,” she says. “They have an important role to play in the ongoing success of the University in the rankings. Their contributions and support also have a significant impact on the reputation of the University. Supportive alumni will help ensure our success continues.”

For more information on how you can support the University of Saskatchewan, please contact the University Advancement office at 966-5186, toll free at 1-800-699-1907 or email advancement@usask.ca

How Alumni Can Help

› If 25% of alumni contributed $100 each year for the next five years, the U of S would be ranked highest in alumni support in the Maclean’s ranking and raise $10 million annually for the University.

› If 25% of alumni contributed $25 of their $100 donation to student support, the U of S would be ranked highest in alumni support in the Maclean’s ranking and move to 8th from 10th place for student support.

› If an additional 4,000 alumni per year contribute to the University annually for the next five years, the U of S could move to 8th place in the rankings overall.

The home insurance program is underwritten by Security National Insurance Company. The contest is open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in the province and their country. To win, the entrant, selected at random, must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question. For more details on the contest, see the complete rules at melochenmonex.com/usask.

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The contest is open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority where they reside. The approximate value of the prize is $25,000. The contest runs from January 1 to December 31, 2005. In order to qualify, you must be a Security National Insurance Company policyholder, a member of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, or have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

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An affinity for service
A woman stands before a two-way mirror. She thinks she’s auditioning for a makeover show. What she doesn’t know is the show has already begun. The cameras are rolling and behind the two-way mirror 12 strangers wait to offer their honest, sometimes brutal first impressions.

It’s called Style by Jury and it’s one of the W Network’s highest-rated television shows. "They’re told that they’re auditioning for a makeover show," says Dr. Kucy Pon (MD’96), member of the makeover team. “So I guess when people come in they dress as bad as they can. They come in looking really, really frumpy.”

After facing the jury, the style offender meets the makeover team to get a crash course in the finer points of style. The makeover team has been so successful in theiraku’s contributions to the subject’s metamorphosis include minor procedures like laser surgery, chemical peels, Restylane treatments (collagen filler for wrinkles, fine lines, and lip contouring), or Botox injections.

Kucy was born in Hong Kong, and her parents moved to Canada when she was four.

The Pons arrived in Tisdale, Saskatchewan where Kucy’s father, also a medical doctor, worked at the hospital.

“It was very cold; it was the middle of winter and there was a lot of snow,” she remembers. “I thought that was very cool because I had never seen snow before.”

The family spent four years in Tisdale before moving to Saskatoon. Kucy graduated from Walter Murray Collegiate in 1988 and went on to attend the University of Saskatchewan. She eventually received her MD in 1996.

She chose to do her residency in dermatology – a highly competitive field. “The year I graduated there were five [residency] spots across Canada, so I was very lucky,” she notes. She was accepted to do her residency at the University of Toronto. It was at the U of T that Kucy met her husband Alan Ong, a neurologist, and the couple married in May 2003.

Aside from adjusting to the rhythms of married life, Kucy spends much of her time working at the Sunnybrook and Women’s College Hospital. Half of her patients see her for cosmetic dermatology, the other for skin diseases and skin cancers.

This doesn’t mean that Kucy’s a stranger to the media spotlight. She has shared her expertise on Balance TV (CTV), Quirkz and Quarkz (CBC), Girlz TV (YTV), and Medical Intelligence (Rogers). She believes her other television work led to her involvement in the hit W Network show.

So far, Style by Jury, which debuted in November 2004, has attracted a wide audience.

“I think it’s just because it’s so novel,” she explains. “There hasn’t been a Canadian makeover show.”

The show concentrates on giving the style challenged the tools to look their best – teaching them what clothing will help them look their best, how to take care of their teeth, or in Kucy’s case, how to take better care of their skin. And unlike other makeover shows, which often employ extensive surgery, most of the procedures used on Style by Jury are minor.

“It’s not a makeover show that turns them into Barbie-looking things,” she explains. “That’s not what the show is about.”

She admits, though, that it’s fun watching subjects swap their frumpiness for beauty and confidence. “We kind of transform them into the person they want to portray,” she says. “It’s always neat seeing the before and after. I always think they’re very happy seeing the results.”

Even with her hectic schedule, the 34-year old enjoys the opportunity to do some things outside of medicine, like traveling back to Saskatoon.

“I come back to Saskatoon at least twice a year – to see my brother and my very beautiful little niece. She’s two years old,” she gushes proudly. And the people of her hometown still surprise her with their friendliness. “It’s a little different than Toronto,” she acknowledges. “People here tend to mind their own business, keep to themselves. People in Saskatoon are much more friendly and look out for one another.”

For now, Kucy is content with life in Toronto and will continue to appear as the dermatological expert on Style by Jury. “I never thought that I’d ever be doing television, she says laughing. “It’s not something that you’d ever think you would do when you get into medical school.”

Makeover candidate Karen Irvine
Ernie Walker’s boyhood summers in 1960s Riversdale were filled with lazy afternoons fishing the Saskatchewan River and searching for arrowheads in the sandy hills now occupied by the Holiday Park golf course.

A voracious reader, he soaked up natural history and Westerns from Louis L’Amour to Tony Hillerman, writers who describe the rich traditions of Aboriginal peoples. There were different stories than those in John Wayne movies.

“All the weekends were for 50 cents,” Walker says. “Afternoons, you could get a buffalo robe, which means ‘Red Thunderbird.’ I’m highly honoured by that.”

The recognition was for efforts that began in the 1980s, when Walker and Wes Bolstad, then Executive Director of the Meewasin Valley Authority, approached about a half-dozen First Nations for advice and support for the proposed park.

Cy Standing is a former chief of the Wahpeton Dakota Nation near Prince Albert and current member of the Wanuskewin board. He recalls that Walker approached the elders in the traditional way, with gifts of tobacco and cloth.

“He was a very knowledgeable person, with a sincere interest in our culture,” Standing says. “He was very knowledgeable and respectful of our culture and spirituality.”

That knowledge was in part borne of Walker’s insatiable curiosity about the natural world and its workings. He has learned to read the bones, artifacts, and sediments laid down like layers in a cake over thousands of years.

Discovering and telling these tales of people long departed – the discipline of archaeology – first drew him to the U of S.

“My early interest in Aboriginal culture and natural history would shape his life as one of Canada’s most prominent archaeologists and forensics experts. He was a driving force in establishing Wanuskewin Heritage Park at a site used by Aboriginal peoples for millennia. His forensics expertise in the case of three murdered Aboriginal girls helped put one of Canada’s worst serial killers behind bars.

As a teacher, he imparts his insatiable curiosity to his students, along with the philosophy that understanding means asking questions through the lens of multiple disciplines.

Walker has won many accolades during his career. He holds a Saskatchewan Order of Merit and in October 2004, the site is extremely rich in Aboriginal artifacts – this particular shard was unearthed by a pocket strecher. Photo: Michael Robin

He has worked on many high-profile cases, including the discovery of the bodies of three young Aboriginal women near Moon Lake south of Saskatoon. Walker’s painstaking analysis helped convict serial killer John Crawford of three of the murders. The case is detailed in Warren Goulding’s 2002 book, Just Another Indian: A Serial Killer and Canada’s Indigifence.

Walker says his time is now taken up with forensics work, be it crime scene analysis, testifying in court, or teaching courses.

About half of Walker’s time is now taken up with forensics work, be it crime scene analysis, testifying in court, or teaching courses.

He has learned to steel himself against the grisly and tragic work of crime scene investigation. His home is also a refuge, where his wife Bobbi, an artist, has made their house a personal gallery. He also tends to his hobby: more than 1,000 cacti in a greenhouse on the U of S campus. Still, a forensics case occasionally slips through to touch his heart, such as an incident that coincided with spring convocation a few years ago.

“It kind of struck me – here’s all these kids coming up and getting their degrees and their families are really proud of them,” Walker says. “But later that day, in the afternoon, I had to do a homicide investigation and it was a young Native kid. No promise there – none at all.”

The experience helped galvanize efforts to work with the University President’s Office and George Lafond, U of S special advisor on Aboriginal issues, to try to get more First Nations students onto the education track and into university. Lafond has since taken the lead in this area.

Walker maintains a full teaching load on top of duties such as graduate student advisor. Workdays can start at 8:00 a.m. and end 12 hours later, with every time slot booked solid from start to finish.

In the morning, he may be teaching a course on rock art, and what it tells us...
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The Good Neighbour

“I am part of all that I have met.” The words belong to Alfred, Lord Tennyson. The thinking behind them is shared by many, including Dr. Karim (Kay) Nasser, PhD ’65. For almost 40 years, Dr. Nasser and his family have been quietly donating to the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). What began as a $200 annual donation is today a $2,000,000 family endowment that funds 10 scholarships to U of S students every year.

Such growth seems to surprise even Dr. Nasser, now Professor Emeritus in the College of Engineering. He shrugs modestly, though there’s a smile in his eyes. He knows he’s making a real difference in students’ lives.

Dr. Nasser is one of many alumni donors whose modest but consistent gifts have made remarkable things possible. He practices a quiet philanthropy and only agreed to the interview with the Green & White because he believes it might provide an example to others. “There may be people who want to support the University, but can’t see a way to do it. And there is a way, there are many ways,” he says.

After earning his PhD in 1965, Dr. Nasser joined the College of Engineering. He made his first donation in 1967. He continued to give something every year thereafter. As his teaching career flowered, his research also began paying dividends in the form of marketable inventions. The first, the K-Slump Tester, was introduced to the world during the construction of the CN Tower. Dr. Nasser donated royalties earned from the invention to the University.

“It was a family decision, based on loyalty to the community,” Dr. Nasser says. “I was raised with the idea that you are good to your neighbours, and the U of S is more than my good neighbour.”

“I also feel that as human beings, we should try to do the best we can for future generations. If I hadn’t had help when I was starting university, I wouldn’t have made it. I wanted to give something back that would benefit students, like myself, who were anxious to get an education but also had financial need.”

Life has rewarded Dr. Nasser and his family, and he continues to expand his gifts to the U of S. He recently committed $50,000 to fund two new scholarships in the College of Engineering.

He has also made a bequest of land, a quarter section located across the road from the College of Agriculture’s research station. Purchased in the 1980s, the land has grown significantly in value. In recent years the Nasser family has leased it to the University for a nominal stipend. The land is being used to grow test crops under development at the U of S – with exciting results.

Research is close to Dr. Nasser’s heart, and this success inspired him to gift the land to the University in his will.

As colleague, teacher, mentor, friend and benefactor, Dr. Kay Nasser is indeed a part of all that he has met… and will continue to be long into the future.

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M eakin was part of the 191-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), including 44 medical personnel, sent to Sri Lanka as part of the Canadian Forces humanitarian aid response to the December 26 tsunami that devastated parts of Southeast Asia. She says the hardest thing about her 45-day tour of duty was not being able to do more. The best thing is knowing she made a difference.

“We helped a lot of people, including many children, who don’t have as much of a reserve as adults when it comes to fighting off infections,” the 30-year old Canadian Forces Medical Officer says. “It was difficult not being able to do more for the people, especially for those who were suffering from grief reactions. What made things more difficult was seeing the poverty and destruction and realizing that this was their life. You just hope that things will somehow get better for them.

For a girl who spent her childhood on an acreage northwest of Saskatoon and her university career at the U of S, being part of DART has been an eye-opener. Her first mission was last July, when she was deployed to Haiti for several months to provide medical support to Canadian soldiers during Operation HALO. Eleven days after the December 26th tsunami, she was deployed on her second mission: Operation STRUCTURE in Sri Lanka.

“We arrived in Columbo, Sri Lanka on January 7th. We had one day to settle and then we were out seeing patients the following day,” Carmen says.

According to the Canadian Forces, DART moved into the Ampara region on January 10th with tents, food, and four water purification systems capable of producing 150,000 to 200,000 litres of water a day. It set up main camp at a former sugar factory about six kilometers south of Amparai.

The medical clinics operated from about 9am to 3pm everyday, and the patient load was anywhere from 50-100 patients per team, per day, six days per week. Meakin says they saw over 7,600 people, the most of any DART mission to date.

“We had various sites set up where we would have our mobile clinics. We would spend an average of three days in each site and then either rotate with the other teams or relocate to an under-served area,” Carmen says. “There was also a site on the southeastern coast, right in the devastated area, in a place called Pottuvil, where we had an ongoing clinic.”

It was here that Meakin got her first real look at the destruction. “It was just shocking. We went along the coast where there were resorts – you could see the concrete where they used to be and the piles of rubble. It was devastating to see the homes and schools that used to be there. We actually ran one of our clinics out of what was left of a school near the beach. Waves took out half of it. We saw the schoolbooks, the shoes – it was the first we saw of the wreckage.”

In the first days of their tour, Meakin remembers that the beaches seemed remarkably clean, other than the cows and goats wandering around. But as the weeks went by, more flotsam began washing up on shore. “It was weird, but I guess it was to be expected,” she says.

In the Ampara district where she was based, estimates put the death toll at 10,400 and the number of displaced people living in temporary shelters at around 180,000. In fact, many of the mobile clinics DART set up were right next to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

“Being that close to the people you’re seeing really gives you insight into their situation,” Carmen says. “They didn’t appear to have a lot to begin with, but now they had nothing, literally.”
Footprints in the Stone

Tsunamis like the one that devastated Southeast Asia in December 2004 leave footprints in the very bones of the earth, according to U of S geology professor Ulf Fransson.

Paul’s theory bore of rocks from Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park in Alberta and Montana. Red, green, and gray, many of them have an odd structure, cracked and rippled like the top of an elephant’s tooth, prompting the first geologists in the area in the 1860s to call them “molar tooth structures.”

Paul reasoned that the structure came from earthquakes “shaking the boneyard” out of sediments under the shallow sea that lay over this part of the world 1.5 billion years ago. Where there are undersea earthquakes, tsunamis can be unleashed that sweep towards the shore. Sure enough, when he knew what to look for, Pratt found layers of rock that could only have come from a distant disturbance. He dubbed these formations “tsunamiites.” These traces of ancient events help our understanding of geological processes such as the formation of petroleum deposits. While the faults under the ancient seabed have been quiet for 50 million years, their echoes may at last be understood.

Carmen remembers another occasion when a local man talked about the event itself. “He said the first wave came, and it was probably knee level. The second wave was higher, but not much; he said roughly as high as a person. Then he said the third wave came and it was 40 metres high – that was the one that took everything out. It must have been a tremendous force because the destruction was so widespread.”

During the mission, DART medical personnel treated a wide variety of ailments. “We were pleasantly surprised,” she says, “because there weren’t the number of vector-borne diseases that you might expect to see in that area of the world. We did see a number of common conditions that were most likely the result of the close-quarter living. We treated a lot of skin conditions, respiratory infections, insect bites, and some tropical diseases that we don’t see in Canada.”

The language barrier was a big challenge, as was the hot, humid weather. And being away from loved ones, feeling their anxiety reason he gave us was that he had carried the only three sons he had, who were dead, to the morgue.”

The stories were usually told through translators, mostly local people pushed into service because they knew a little English. In one clinic, Carmen remembers some of the translators and other local people bringing in pictures taken after the tsunami. “That was pretty grim, but they just wanted to talk about their experiences. Someone to listen – it’s not all that uncommon. But the story might not be about life.”

A Feeling of Disorientation

While some U of S students might find the experience of graduating from university a bit disorienting, those students who attended the Disorientation 2005 program from March 7-11 are ready to hit the ground running after convocation. Designed for upper-level students about to graduate, Disorientation consists of a variety of sessions that offer information on how to transition successfully from university to the ‘real world.’

Disorientation 2005 also gave alumni a chance to interact with students and discuss their experiences of life after university. During a lively question and answer session, alumni addressed more than 50 students and discussed a range of subjects from traveling abroad to searching for jobs.

For more information on how to become involved in your local alumni branch or for a schedule of upcoming events, visit our website.
Next stop Toronto, where the revitalized Toronto Alumni Branch held a reception at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on March 2. The President delighted in meeting the nearby 100 guests who attended the event, and delivered a speech focusing on the future of the University.

After only a day spent in Toronto, the President was on his way to Montreal, where alumni are in the process of developing an active branch of the Alumni Association. Things got off to a good start at the McGill Faculty Club, where 40 alumni and friends enjoyed an opportunity to meet and speak with the President.

For more information on how to become involved in your local alumni branch or for a schedule of upcoming events, visit our website.
Re-Dedicating the College Building

Closed since 1987, the College Building is finally reopening this fall. Declared a Provincial Heritage Property and a National Historic Site by the Federal Government, the College Building will open its doors in September. Alumni are invited to participate in a number of ceremonies and activities planned for September 6 – 12. For more information, contact Mr. Rob Norris, Coordinator of Global Relations at (306) 966-2428.

Scholarships for Children of U of S Alumni

Every year, two of our corporate alumni partners, TD Meloche Mortons and Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance, sponsor one scholarship each to be awarded to children of alumni based on academic achievement and service to community. Please join us in congratulating the 2004-05 recipients Anastasia Tataryn and Kyle Coorman. For information on how to apply for these scholarships, please visit our website.

2005-2006 Events Calendar:

- date TBD CLS Presentation
  - Toronto
- date TBD Saskatchewan 100th Anniversary Celebrations
  - Lloydminster
- date TBD CLS Presentation & Tour
  - Saskatoon
- July 9 Pre-game alumni event Riders vs Argonauts
  - Toronto
- July 23 Sask Social Club Tailgate Party
  - Riders vs Stampeder
  - Calgary
- August 11 Pre-game alumni event Riders vs Renegades
  - Ottawa
- September 6-12 College Building Re-Opening Activities
  - Saskatoon
- September 24 "Dog Day Afternoon" Alumni Branch
  - Saskatoon
- September 29 All-Canadian Universities Alumni Reception
  - New York
- November 5 Pre-game alumni event Riders vs Lions
  - Vancouver

Watch for details on these and other events by checking out our website at www.usask.ca/alumni or contact the University Advancement office at 1-800-699-1907, 306-966-5186 or by email at alumni.office@usask.ca.

Saskatchewan Stories (Aroza Publishing, 2004) by Gerald Lee, BA’46 – Through his telling of six Saskatchewan stories, Gerald Lee renders an unforgettable portrait of rural life during the dirty thirties. The characters are distinctly Western Canadian – from the crop-failed farmer and the girls at the school house dance to the lawmen in buffalo coats and the farm wife selling eggs. With a realist’s eye, Lee vividly transports you to a place in time that characterizes life on the prairies in the 1930s.

Flight of Aquavit: A Russell Quant Mystery (Innominate Press, 2005) by Anthony Budulka, BComm’91 – At the dead end of a desolate country road, a private detective Russell Quant is faced with personal threats he can’t ignore: a friend who may be a foe and a capry client with a treacherous monkey on his back. From the kaleidoscope world of New York’s electric nightlights to the beautiful simplicity of Saskatoon, Quant deftly maneuvers through the twists and turns of a perilous case and a personal life rife with its own mystique and mayhem.

The Lake in the Middle of Town (Your Nickle’s Worth Publishing, 2004) by Neil Sawatsky, BA’73 – Inspired by reading to his grandchildren and taking them to watch the deepening of Wascana Lake in Regina, Sawatsky’s children’s book uses imaginative poetic verse to capture the beauty of local places and events. The accompanying artwork by Julio Salazar not only paints the vibrant history of Wascana Lake, but takes the reader from sunrise to twilight, through the seasons, and around the lake itself.

Return to Willows: Celebrating the Centenary of the Prairies (Willow River Publishing, 2004) by Howard H. Birnie, BA’52, BLD’65 – Every second village in Saskatchewan is disappearing. Farming is a troubled endeavor, and the tiny village of Willows is struggling for its very existence. Why would anyone retire to a small town on the Prairies at this time in history? Combining a series of nostalgic flashbacks to the 40s and 50s with an analysis of rural life in the 21st century, Howard H. Birnie creates a remarkable celebration of life and love in Saskatchewan as the great province commemorates its 100th birthday.

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1940
Robert (Bob) Wilfrid Clark, BEd, FR, OFC, Life Member, married Nell Gordon, his wife Sandy, marked their 25th Wedding Anniversary in December, 2004, with a tour of the Caribbean. Sandy accompanied Bob to Tucson, AZ to spend the winter months. In March, Bob retired from the Foreign Service, Bob retired in 1971. The retirement years have been spent travelling widely in North America and Europe. Sandy and Bob currently reside in Ridgelake, River, where Bob and Sandy would be happy to welcome fellow alumni.

1950
Barbara Jean Fraser (Bibbs) C.M., BSc, of Calgary, AB, for some years has been a member of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. In addition, she is now acting after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75 in October 2004.

1960
Dr. Kenneth (Kent) Charles Sauer, 1960, 1940, classmate was a Staimen of the Millennium Volunteer Award for his service to the Medicine Hat, AB community. He is past President of the Royal Canadian Legion.

1970
Jeff [Jeffrey] William Pinder, BComm 70, of Medicine Hat, AB, is the Director of International Trade and Agriculture following three years as Deputy Minister of International Trade Canada.

1980
Donna Louise Moore (Puto), BA 79, and James Dwayne Moore, BSP 85, of Calgary, AB, have been married on August 20, 2004, to a two-year term on the Board of the Directors of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

1990
Lynn Alice James (Karaisk), BComm 78, of Victoria, BC, was nominated for the 2004 GAPP Award for Public Service to the Community. She is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Support Services in Victoria, BC.

1995
Jason Dwayne Saskatchewan (Jas) Wagner, MDiv 95, of Vancouver, BC, was ordained as a presbyter by the Rocky Mountain Synod of the United Lutheran Church in Canada. He is a County pastor of the United Methodist Church in Vancouver, BC.

2000
Rhonda Marie Kuz (McLaren), BComm 03, of Calgary, AB, has recently completed the requirements of her Masters of Education degree in educational administration. She recently accepted an assignment as Vice-President, Academic and Chief Operating Officer for the University of Regina.

2005
The University of Saskatchewan is proud to announce the launch of its International Access Program, which will help you advance and achieve your career goals. The University has also announced the launch of its new Master of Public Administration degree with a focus on economic development.

2010
The University of Saskatchewan is Proud to Announce the Launch of Its International Access Program, which will help you advance and achieve your career goals. The University has also announced the launch of its new Master of Public Administration degree with a focus on economic development.

2015
The University of Saskatchewan is Proud to Announce the Launch of Its International Access Program, which will help you advance and achieve your career goals. The University has also announced the launch of its new Master of Public Administration degree with a focus on economic development.

2020
The University of Saskatchewan is Proud to Announce the Launch of Its International Access Program, which will help you advance and achieve your career goals. The University has also announced the launch of its new Master of Public Administration degree with a focus on economic development.
The Alumni Association notes, with sorrow, the passing of the following graduates:


(1939) Dr. Kingsley Meadow Mann, BA, BSc(Alt), MSc, of Kelowna, BC, d. December 28, 2004.


(1943) Jose Mauricio Stapleton, BE(ME), Dip/Agri, of Yorkton, SK, d. September 27, 2004.


(1951) Malcolm Stephen Noroskowski, BSc(McG), MScP, of Nepon, ON, d. August 1, 2004.


(1956) Elmer Peter Dyck, BEd, BScP, of Saskatoon, SK, d. April 21, 2004.


(1964) Mary Jean Gayeyes (Swimmer), BEd, BSc(U), of Scarborough, ON, d. August 22, 2004.

(1965) Gertrude Elizabeth Kane, BS(74), BE(74), of Regina, SK, d. December 6, 2004.


(1971) W. Grant Milne, BScA77, of Saskatoon, SK, d. October 25, 2004.


(1975) Elmer Peter Dyck, BEd, BScP, of Saskatoon, SK, d. April 21, 2004.


(2010) Dr. Marcel Altert Balsam, O.C., M.D., DMc, BSc(U), MScP(U), of Saskatoon, SK, d. January 1, 2005.
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