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editor's note

When we think of conservation we tend to think immediately of our environment, and rightly so. With debates raging over everything from global warming to gas prices, it wouldn't be difficult to argue that conservation is one of the defining issues of our time.

More broadly construed, however, conservation may be understood as a kind of preservationism that encompasses or protects the things we believe matter most – everything from art (which preserves culture) to history (the past) to human health (the body). The stories featured in this issue of the Green & White, in their various ways, are reflective of exactly this kind of conservation.

You’ll meet, among others, Sarah Spafford-Ricci and Tara Feaser who, as conservators, are preserving not only art, but history and culture as well. You’ll meet Ione Langlois, whose strong sense of history and deep connections to Prince Albert National Park have led her to establish the Waskesiu Heritage Museum. You’ll also read about U of S history professor Keith Carlson’s contributions to documenting and rehabilitating history’s account of the lynching of Louise Sams. And in our cover story you’ll meet James Till and Freda Miller, whose work in the field of human health has led to the discovery and practical application of human stem cells.

In the spirit of conservation, I’d like to mention that we’ve now made it possible for you to receive ALL issues of the Green & White electronically. It is our hope that like far too many webpages, this document is set up to view properly on older Windows PCs. Please get into the 21st century by ensuring your web pages use UNICODE for their character encoding.

James Schweimer, BA’60

Just read the online G&W and signed up to save you the price of sending a paper copy all the way to Australia. I do have one problem with the layout, though. Like far too many webpages, this document is set up to view properly on older Windows PCs.

George W. Gerrity, BE’62, MSE’65

There is a nice picture of Mr. Kennedy presenting the “Huskie Men’s Hockey” poster in the online G&W, but no mention of how I could buy the poster and get it shipped down to Ottawa. Any ideas?

Clarke La Prairie, BE’82

(Note: The posters can be obtained by contacting Dave Adolph at (306)966-1031 or via email at dave.adolph@usask.ca.)

Please write to Editor, Green & White, c/o University Advancement or email gw.editor@usask.ca.

$100 million investment in this project speaks to the ongoing significance and relevance of our University in the life of this province.

And our relationship with Saskatchewan and our community is one we take very seriously. Our Foundational Document on Outreach and Engagement recognizes our traditional role of providing extension service to the province and places it in a contemporary context. It clearly identifies the ways in which we can – and should – engage our community, as well as the people across Canada and throughout the world, in our scholarly and artistic works and partnerships.

And we are ever conscious that our students must remain a central focus of our efforts. We have made considerable investment in both graduate and undergraduate scholarships. We are implementing programs to assist our Aboriginal students in making the transition to university life, including a first-year experience program, summer transition courses, and a math and science enrichment program. And the student experience at this University continues to be defined and enhanced by small class sizes and substantial teacher contact.

We are also dramatically expanding our infrastructure, which will enhance the University's teaching, learning, and research environment. The Academic Health Sciences Centre building project, for example, will do much to attract and retain medical specialists, health science researchers, and health science students. These professionals will study and train in an interdisciplinary environment that is second-to-none in the country. The Saskatchewan government’s $100-million investment in this project speaks to the ongoing significance and relevance of our University in the life of this province.

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In this, the City of Saskatoon’s centennial year, we have reaffirmed our commitment to our community and we are meeting these commitments with determination and vigour. I am deeply proud of the fine work being undertaken at the University of Saskatchewan – work that has placed this University prominently on the national and international map, and continues to engender a spirit of excellence that we are increasingly becoming known for here at home.

Peter MacKinnon, President

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U of S Alumni Magazine

letters

I enjoyed the article, “The Sisters of Mercy” (Jan 2006). However, it should be noted that there is also a religious order associated with Saskatoon that is called the ‘Sisters of Mercy’. This can lead to a bit of confusion.

James Schweimer, BA’60

president’s message

T

he University of Saskatchewan continues to inspire those who work, study, and visit our campus. Indeed, we are living the aspirations of the University’s founding president, Walter Murray, who believed unequivocally that this University was destined to have “an honoured place among the best”.

Fulfillment of President Murray’s vision, however, has not come at the expense of our roots. Our programs continue to evolve to satisfy demand from the community. A Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, for example, will be offered beginning this fall – the first new degree in agriculture in 90 years. A Masters of International Trade will also be introduced, building intellectual capacity to capitalize on the export focus of our province. New graduate programs, too, in public health, public policy, and the environment will also be available in the next several years.

And we are ever conscious that our students must remain a central focus of our efforts. We have made considerable investment in both graduate and undergraduate scholarships. We are implementing programs to assist our Aboriginal students in making the transition to university life, including a first-year experience program, summer transition courses, and a math and science enrichment program. And the student experience at this University continues to be defined and enhanced by small class sizes and substantial teacher contact.

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Peter MacKinnon, President

Hold the dates for Reunion 2006, June 22-24. We are welcoming back all college graduates from 1928 to 1945, and Honoured Years of 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966.

If you would like assistance gathering your classmates together for Reunion 2006, please contact Alumni Relations at (306) 966-5186 or toll free at 1-800-699-1907 or e-mail: alumni.office@usask.ca.

June 22-24. We are welcoming back your classmates together for Reunion 2006, please contact Alumni Relations at (306) 966-5186 or toll free at 1-800-699-1907 or e-mail: alumni.office@usask.ca.
A Multi-million dollar expansion to the College of Law will be the first building project on campus to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The LEED advanced construction guidelines will result in an environmentally-friendly expansion that makes optimal use of natural light and passive solar heat, provides greater comfort for occupants, and requires less energy to construct and maintain.

Preliminary drawings show a three-storey expansion that adds about 31,000 sq. ft. to the existing building, new space that will house classrooms, offices, a new student lounge, and the Native Law Centre. The addition is expected to be completed in August 2007.

What’s In A Name?
After a faculty assembly vote on April 12, 2006, the College of Agriculture will be recommending to University Council that the name of the College be changed to “The College of Agriculture and Bioresources.” Council is likely to consider this recommendation in either June or September, 2006.

According to Dean Ernie Barber, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources will continue to broaden its expertise and programming, in collaboration with other colleges, to embrace all renewable resource systems, such as agriculture and forestry, that involve harvesting and processing biomaterials, as well as those that involve conservation and recreation. The College will pay particular attention to human interactions within these systems and especially to rural communities.

The current academic programs will continue under their existing names and the building will continue to be called the “Agriculture Building.”

Griffiths’ Spring Renos
Construction will soon begin on upgrades to the University of Saskatchewan’s Griffiths Stadium. The upgrades are expected to be completed before the first Huskie football home game on September 2, 2006.

The upgrades will include, among others, a new team building, expanded seating on the east side of the Stadium, new javelin, shot put and discus areas, installation of artificial turf and field lighting, and construction of an enhanced entrance gate.

Upgrades to Griffiths Stadium are planned in response to the University’s successful bid to host the Vanier Cup national football championship on November 25, 2006. Funding for the upgrades is being provided through donations to the University.

Medicine Accredited
The cloud of probation has been lifted from over the College of Medicine’s undergraduate program.

Dean William Albritton announced March 2 that the Liaison Committee on Medical Education has decided to restore full accreditation to the program that had been on probation since 2002. The decision comes as a relief to the dean and college faculty, who have worked diligently to remedy shortcomings in 12 areas of the program that were found wanting.

The undergraduate program is required to meet 124 standards, explained Albritton. The areas of non-compliance that resulted in probation included a lack of diversity among medical students, a shortage of library resources, too few professors, and an outdated curriculum. When the probation was announced, the provincial government responded quickly with an injection of $13.2 million to address the shortcomings.

Albritton said the college has been very successful in addressing most of the committee’s concerns. Some $2.6 million was spent upgrading the medical library’s information technology systems, and the college now has Aboriginal students in each of its four undergraduate years. “And just because probation has been lifted doesn’t mean we’re going to stop working in these areas.”

Although probation has been lifted, the accreditation cycle rolls on with the committee’s next visit to the U of S scheduled to take place in 2008-09.

A Writer in Exile
A Pakistani journalist, who had to leave her home country after being hunted by Islamic fundamentalists, will spend the next year at the University of Saskatchewan as part of PEN Canada’s Writers in Exile program – the first placement of its kind for the University. While at the U of S, Ameera Javeria will continue writing In the Line of Fire, her book examining crimes committed against women in Pakistan.

As a journalist, Javeria focused extensively on women’s rights in Islamic societies. Last year, she received the Helman Hammet award from the Human Rights Watch for her courageous work in Pakistan.

PEN Canada is a non-profit organization that works on behalf of writers, at home and abroad, who have been forced into silence for writing the truth as they see it.

A Great Gift
SaskTel has donated $1 million to both the University of Saskatchewan and the Royal University Hospital Foundation to support three projects.

Half the shared funding will support a synchrotron-based research chair in Pharmacy and Nutrition. The remaining $500,000 will be divided equally between the College of Kinesiology’s Building Equipment Fund and an academic clinical and research professorship related to the implementation of a Picture Archive and Communication System based at RUH.
Outreach Document Approved

After an almost year-long process of consultation, revisions, and contention, University Council enthusiastically passed the Foundational Document on Outreach and Engagement at its January 26 meeting. The 34-page foundational document sets out a plan to develop new ways for faculty and students across the U of S to get more involved with the community and for the community to become more involved in the University's academic programs. This will include a new emphasis on the growing trend among universities of “service learning”; more community-university research partnerships; working with communities and industry on applying and commercially developing research findings; promoting continuing education in the community, particularly in the professions; and more collaboration with scholars around the world.

The development of this foundational document, however, was not without its challenges. The Extension Division expressed concern that now no single unit would coordinate support for extension education, that its offerings of non-degree programs to the public would be threatened, and that its focus on the pedagogy of distance learning would be lost. Proponents of the new Outreach and Engagement model countered that, in fact, this kind of extension education has been practiced by many other academic units across campus since the U of S was created nearly 100 years ago. They also said no one central unit was called for to support and co-ordinate all outreach, rather, co-ordination and support should be handled by a combination of existing and new campus offices.

In the document, this includes a Continuing Education Unit, a new President’s Round Table for consultation, a New Learning Centre, and a new Office of University-Community Relations.

Saskatchewan’s New Lieutenant Governor

Former U of S Secretary, Professor of Political Studies, and Alumni Association board member Gordon Barnhart (BA’66, PhD’98) has been appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as Saskatchewan’s newest Lieutenant Governor.

No stranger to public service, Dr. Barnhart has worked on a number of projects with government-supported agencies. In his capacity as a consultant, he trained elected members and public servants in South Africa, led a seminar in Vietnam for 110 newly-elected female parliamentarians, and designed and facilitated workshops for Russian-elected members and public servants.

In addition, Dr. Barnhart also served as the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the Parliaments from 1989 until 1994. Prior to this position, he served for two decades as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

“Dr. Barnhart is an accomplished academic with a laudable record of public service,” said Harper of the appointment. “There is no doubt in my mind that [he] will continue to serve Saskatchewan and Canada with distinction in his new role.”

In his annual address to the Chamber of Commerce, President Peter MacKinnon said that the new model for outreach and engagement is intended “to encourage University participation in areas of community interest where we have much to contribute.”

In his annual address to the Chamber of Commerce, President Peter MacKinnon said that the new model for outreach and engagement is intended “to encourage University participation in areas of community interest where we have much to contribute.”

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In 2006, we celebrate our 30th year as legal advisors to local, provincial and international clients.

These news items are drawn from recent editions of On Campus News, the official newspaper of the University of Saskatchewan. For more past and current U of S news, see On Campus News at www.usask.ca/ocn.
EVOKING IMAGES OF A SIMPLER TIME, THE NEW WASKESIU HERITAGE MUSEUM PROVIDES A TOUCHSTONE TO THE PAST FOR VISITORS TO THIS REMARKABLE RESORT COMMUNITY IN PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK. by Beverly Fast

When alumna Ione Langlois (Scharnatta) (BEd'82) first heard that funding might be available to create a heritage museum in Waskesiu, she didn’t get her hopes up.

“We’d been down this path too many times and for one reason or another, it never got off the ground. I wasn’t going to get excited until I knew we could do it,” she says.

As it turns out, they could – and did. The Waskesiu Heritage Museum opened on July 1st, 2005 and welcomed more than 2,500 visitors in its first 68-day season.

It was a phenomenal response to a one-room display of treasures, artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia from the early days of this resort community’s history, a response that was also welcome vindication for Langlois’s belief that Waskesiu badly needed the museum.

The catalyst was a midnight walk in September 2004. Langlois and Carla Flaman, the park’s director of communications, were strolling back to their cabins after a community meeting. “I remember saying how much we needed a heritage museum and wouldn’t it be nice if we could get funding. I didn’t think much more of it. But in January, Carla said she was pretty sure we could get funding and she had found us space.”

That’s when Langlois, a veteran of the Waskesiu Heritage Group, put her organizational instincts proved on the money, when the museum received a $1,900 grant from the Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund. This helped pay for the design and construction of secure display cabinets.

The Friends of the Park donated a room in their building to house the museum for two years. With additional support from the Waskesiu Foundation Inc. and Prince Albert National Park, “we were well on our way,” Langlois says. “In just six months, we went from an idea to actually opening the museum.”

Staffed by volunteers, the museum preserves the culture and heritage of Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park in a variety of displays and images. There’s Prime Minister Mackenzie King, looking dapper in suit and tie, arriving to give the opening-day speech in 1928; old Doc Sissons standing outside his seashell souvenir shop; fishing boats tied up at the main beach; and shack tents neatly folded and stacked for winter storage.

If you don’t know what a shack tent is, you’re not alone. In the park’s early days, summer visitors were only allowed to erect shack tents – 14’ x 16’ cabins with a wooden floor, wooden walls, and a canvas roof. The canvas roof meant that the cabin could be taken down, folded up and stored through the winter, then re-erected the following spring. For years, this was cabin life at Waskesiu.

The shack tent era is a major focus of the museum, and Langlois would love to be able to put up a shack tent. “Imagine the response from youngsters when they step inside and realize that not only is there no bathroom, but there’s no indoor plumbing or electricity at all.”

“It’s important to honour our past,” Langlois says. “Generations of families have grown up here, their roots are here, and they’re fiercely loyal to Waskesiu.”

Langlois counts herself among them. She and husband Herve (BA’65, BEd’65, MEd’68) bought a cabin here in 1983. Their four children – three of whom are also U of S graduates – grew up holidaying in Waskesiu, and now a third generation is enjoying the family tradition.

For Ione, the family connection intensified a growing sense of urgency she felt about creating the museum. “I think we got this going just under the wire. Young people are taking over family cabins and they don’t always see the value in old newspaper clippings and photos of people they don’t know. A lot has been thrown away.”

It’s a bittersweet pill for committee members. Still, when the museum put out the call for donations of “treasures, artifacts, photos, and memorabilia,” last spring, there was a generous outpouring. By August, they had catalogued more than 940 artifacts, from household items to fishing gear to a mint condition opening-day program. Donations are still coming in, including items from the Aboriginal community. The museum is expanding into a second room this summer, but even more space is needed to display larger items.

If you have artifacts you wish to donate, visit www.waskesiu.org for information.

Black and white photos courtesy of Parks Canada Agency.

Top to Bottom: Ione Langlois (Scharnatta), inside the museum, a block of shack tents in what is now the day-use area c.1948, the main beach c.1950s, shack tents in storage for the winter c.1940s. Photos by Beverly Fast.
Expectations can get raised beyond what is actually achievable in the near future,” says James Till, currently a professor emeritus at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto.

Freda Miller, a senior scientist at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, concedes the possibilities are truly exciting – a topical cream that would allow burn victims to re-grow their own skin, for example, or a cure that would allow paraplegics to walk again. But these are “dream situations,” and the first applications are apt to be more modest.

“In the shorter term, in the next 10 years or so, the application might be something like helping bone healing or cartilage repair – things that are a bit easier to go in and surgically repair,” she says.

Stem cell research was born in the 1960s when Till and collaborator Ernest McCulloch first revealed to the world that the body contained precursor cells capable of producing all three constituents of blood: white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells.

Till’s research career began at the U of S in the 1950s just after Harold Johns and his team had set up the first cobalt-60 radiation therapy machine for cancer treatment.

Johns, Till’s advisor for his Master's degree, found a biophysics program at Yale that matched the young scientist’s interest: the effect of radiation on living cells. Later, after moving to the new Ontario Cancer Institute, Johns offered Till a job.

Here, Till met McCulloch, a physician and researcher who wanted to try experiments on irradiating mice and transplanting bone marrow. He needed a biophysicist to make it happen and Till volunteered, forming a lifetime friendship and a collaboration that would last two decades.

The two set up experiments where mice were exposed to a radiation dose that would kill them within a month. Then they gave them bone marrow transplants from healthy mice. The irradiated mice survived.

“Others had shown that cells in the transplants were responsible for this spectacular result,” Till says. “But little was known about those cells.”

Zeroing in on this question involved irradiating the donor marrow at different doses to determine the radiation sensitivity of the cells that were allowing the mice to survive. It was during one of these experiments that McCulloch noticed something odd.

One Sunday, while dissecting mice that had received relatively small numbers of transplanted bone marrow cells, he found bumps on their spleens. That Monday morning, McCulloch looked for Till.

“He was waving this piece of paper, and saying, you’ve got to see this!” Till recalls.

“This” was a piece of graph paper showing that the bumps matched the bone marrow cells – the more cells transplanted, the more bumps – colonies founded by the marrow cells. Subsequent experiments showed that the colonies stemmed from cells capable of self-renewal, with the ability to differentiate into different kinds of cells. This definition of stem cells still holds true today.

“What our work showed was pretty strong support, at least in the mouse, for a multipotent stem cell,” Till says.

The discovery forged a new field of stem cell biology. In 2005, Till and McCulloch received the Lasker Award, often called “America’s Nobel,” for their work.

Today, adult stem cells have been found in the brain, eye, heart, muscle, intestines, and even fat. All are multipotent: able to differentiate into a few different cell types. There is also a type of stem cell that is pluripotent – able to differentiate into any of the body’s 200-plus tissue types. These are embryonic stem cells, formed mere days after an egg and sperm unite. Typically, such cells come from surplus embryos from in-vitro fertility treatments.

Therein lies the controversy. Under proper treatment and with a little luck, these embryos have the potential to develop into people. But since they are surplus, to be destroyed anyway, is it ethical to use them to help improve the lives of others?
Miller has found an alternative that, at least in part, circumvents this thorny issue: stem cells from adult skin.

A native of Calgary, Miller moved with her family to Saskatoon in time to pursue a BSc in biochemistry in 1979. She returned to her hometown to launch straight into a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Calgary. After completing her postdoctoral training at the Scripps Research Institute in California, she returned to Canada and a faculty research position at the University of Alberta.

Five years later, she moved to Quebec, and a research program at the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University that would make headlines around the world. Miller reasoned that since skin constantly renews itself, it would be a good place to look for stem cells. Also, the skin’s deeper layer, the dermis, contains numerous receptor cells that transmit information about the outside world. As a neurobiologist, she wondered if these cells and nerve cells might have common origins. The team isolated what they called “skin-derived precursors” – SKPs – that can differentiate into blood, fat, various types of skin tissue, and perhaps most exciting, neurons and the glial cells that support them. The research was published in 2001.

“This particular class of very potent precursors exists in adult skin tissue,” Miller says. “The stem cells that help to build the embryo into many things don’t just disappear.”

This spring, Miller was guest of honour and keynote speaker at the U of S College of Medicine for its annual Life and Health Sciences Research Conference. She told the standing-room-only crowd about her research with collaborators in Toronto that showed SKP-derived Schwann cells – a particular type of glial cell – may help heal spinal cord injuries.

Schwann cells are responsible for creating the myelin sheath around nerves, which basically acts as “insulation” around the nervous system’s “wires.” Without myelin, nerves cannot transmit their signals effectively, nor can they determine where to grow. This is a major challenge in spinal cord injuries, where nerves cannot find their way across the damage to heal the break. The result is paralysis.

When Miller and her collaborators treated paraplegic rats with SKP-derived Schwann cells, the animals regained movement in their lower extremities. Subsequent study showed the cells had produced myelin, allowing the neurons to create new connections.

“The work has broad and long-term implications not only for spinal cord injuries, but for the treatment of stroke victims or even people suffering from diseases such as Parkinson’s.

And while adult stem cells can’t match the versatility of the embryonic version, they may just offer a range of exciting benefits of their own. ■

Sarah Spafford-Ricci (BS’84) and Tara Fraser (BFA’96) have the healing touch. From parchments to paintings, Trans- Ams to Tibetan Thangkas, they’ve restored it all.

by Matt Barron

I t was a parchment over two centuries old and bearing the signature of George Washington, yet it looked like a place mat in some diner. The document, laminated at one point in its life, presumably to protect it from aging, ran yellow and cloudy under the plastic.

Before Washington became the United States’ first president, he was the modish-day equivalent of a real-estate agent, and had signed this contract for the purchase of land. But those at the museum in Loudoun, Virginia, in whose collection the indenture parchment now sits, didn’t yet know the details of this contract, since the yellow clouding left it unreadable.

In 1999, the parchment found its way to Sarah Spafford-Ricci and Tara Fraser at their lab in South Surrey, B.C. In an attempt to dissolve the adhesive that had worked itself into the paper, the parchment was immersed in a container of solvent. The restoration proved a success, though, as Fraser later says, “That was one we held our breath over.” After all, unforeseen, the parchment was only worth $50, but, successfully restored, it was worth over $40,000.

This project is just one of many that Spafford-Ricci and Fraser have tackled over the last decade. As conservators, the pair restores and preserves not only art, but also historical and cultural artifacts, the spectrum of which is astonishing. They have restored everything from a Group of Seven painting and a wax replica of Liberace’s hands to 4,000 Canadian nautical plans and 30,000 maps of historical Seattle. Situated somewhere in that spectrum is an unusual National Gallery of Canada art piece: a black Trans- Am with the Book of Revelation beautifully scrawled all over it.

Of course, what unites these disparate objects is the deterioration they face, sometimes through neglect or damage, but mostly through simple aging. Conservators attempt to slow down this inexorable process as much as possible. “We specialize in preservation, in making our cultural history last as long as possible,” says Spafford-Ricci.
Spafford-Ricci discovered art conservation while working at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in 1984, just after graduating from the University of Saskatchewan. Soon thereafter, she enrolled in the art conservation program at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, the first Saskatchewanian to do so.

Around the same time, Fraser was working in an art gallery frame store. One day, she accidentally broke an intricate glass-encased photo. Not knowing who fixed such things, Fraser soon discovered art conservation herself. A couple of years later, Fraser met Spafford-Ricci at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, where Spafford-Ricci worked as conservator. The two kept in touch and in 1997, decided to enter private practice together.

They now run the second-largest art conservation company in Canada, Fraser/Spafford Ricci Art and Archival Conservation Inc. (FSR). Their expansive conservation lab in South Surrey, with its artist easels and fume hoods, looks like a cross between an art studio and a chemistry lab. This is hardly surprising since the profession of conservation, as Spafford-Ricci says, requires the mind of a chemist and the hand of an artist.

The right chemical or cleaning solution must be found – or concocted – and sometimes it can take a long time to find the right treatment. For example, it took FSR a year and the testing of around 150 solutions to finally restore a Tibetan Thangka, a kind of cultural painting. Once found, though, the treatment took only 15 minutes.

“Tibetan Thangka, a kind of cultural painting”

“We specialize in preservation, in making our cultural history last as long as possible. Sometimes it can take a long time to find the right treatment.”

Sustaining yourself through such treatments, Spafford-Ricci says, is easy, as long as there are other conservators to help. “To be a conservator you have to be okay with methodical work. You just have to love that personal trait where you see those small progressions and you’re really pleased with them.”

But since the best restoration just might be the prevention of avoidable deterioration, FSR spends half of its time advising museums and cultural and government institutions on ways to preserve collections. FSR has worked with the International Monetary Fund to assess and help prevent the threat posed to documents, historical coins, and bills by the light, temperature, and humidity found in its Washington, D.C. building. They’ve done the same for the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas, pouring over Mr. Liberace’s collection of pianos, sheet music, and clothing, including the famous 200-pound “King Neptune” costume.

FSR also advised those involved with the 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial mural, painted by Métis artist Roger Jerome and featuring a pastoral Northern Saskatchewan scene. The mural now hangs directly across the legislative building from the Leman mural. Prior to its restoration, the Leman held only 50 per cent of its original quality, partly because of the water damage it had suffered from being mounted against the wall.

“We don’t want what happened to that mural to happen to the Leman,” says Spafford-Ricci, adding that both she and Fraser remember seeing the Leman during class trips to the Legislature. She says during the next Centennial, “it should look very much the same as it does now.”

Epidemic Academics

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Campaign for the University of Saskatchewan

Sponsored by Cameco
Carlson would soon complete his PhD and begin work at the implications.

documented the death of a shopkeeper in Washington, the reports, newspaper stories, and diplomatic cables that ranging from a coroner's inquest to detailed undercover police

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"When Louise Sam was able to get back into Canada, they feared that he was going to receive a translator from the Canadian government and thereby foil their plan," explains Carlson. "They had to do something quickly to prevent that from happening."

The Stó:lō people, pragmatic by nature, endured the punishment of the American vigilantes and the guilty men to the Canadian and American governments. But as Carlson explains, once the threat of a cross-border war had passed, the governments began lying to the Stó:lō people, saying they were still looking into the matter. The Stó:lō, for their part, were patient in waiting for justice to come about. And for more than 100 years, they waited.

Until Carlson's research, the tragic tale of Louise Sam was the stuff of local legend, virtually unknown in Canada beyond the borders of the Stó:lō community. In 1996, however, it was the lynching mob's version of events that prevailed and became historical record.

After Carlson's meticulous reconstruction of the Sam story appeared in the journal B.C. Studies in 1996, it caught on.

Vancouver director David McIlwraith chronicled the story in his 2004 documentary, The Lynching of Louie Sam. Based on Carlson's research, the film blends historical events with interviews and narrative journalism. During the shooting of the film, the Stó:lō community worked together to recreate the tragic events of the lynching and reflected on the lingering impact of the events on their community.

Spurred by the success of the film, word of the injustice spread through the press and people began to call for a public apology.

On March 1, 2006, almost exactly on the 122nd anniversary of Louise Sam's death, amid the echo of drum beats and deep, resonant chants in the Washington State legislative building, Louie Sam was remembered and his lynching redressed. With members of the Stó:lō Nation present, the Washington senate passed a resolution, which Carlson helped draft, stating that both the Washington and B.C. governments of the time "failed to take adequate action to identify the true culprit of the murder and bring the organizers and members of the lynch mob to justice.

"Professor Carlson's research into these events is simply outstanding, and will have lasting impact," says U of S Vice-President Research Steven Franklin. "It is particularly heartening to see how this research is affecting international political events and social justice issues. It has truly made a difference."

"It's unbelievably rewarding to see this happen," says Carlson. "The Stó:lō people deserve this acknowledgment of the injustice to Louise Sam. I hope it will serve to help improve relations and promote healing all around."

Carlson continued reconstructing the story of murder, cover up, international politics, racism, and injustice, eventually publishing a detailed journal article in 1996 and consulting on a documentary film of the story — all the while working with the Stó:lō Nation to convince government to redress this historical wrong and help bring peace to the community.

14-year-old Louie Sam lived just north of the U.S./Canada border in a small Stó:lō community. In February 1884, he had been offered a job in the border community of Nooksack. Upon arriving and finding that there was in fact no work, Sam turned around and headed home. But that same day, Nooksack storekeeper James Bell was shot and his store set ablaze. Sam was accused of the murder and tracked by the local American sheriff. By doubling back through a forest and crossing again into Canada, Sam was able to elude his pursuers and avoid capture.

The next day Stó:lō leaders, convinced of Sam's innocence, turned the boy over to Thomas York, a deputized Canadian constable situated near the border, believing he would be treated fairly.

More than 100 American vigilantes, however, had other plans. Dressed in women's clothes in order to mock the regalia worn by Stó:lō spirit dancers, their faces painted and darkened with charcoal, the mob crossed the border and seized Sam from Canadian custody.

Sam's body was found the next morning hanging from a cedar tree. The discovery almost ignited a cross-border race war.

To help keep the peace, the Canadian government promised to bring Louise's murderers to justice, and British Columbia sent two undercover officers south. The two detectives, working undercover in Nooksack, had no trouble identifying the lynchers, many of whom boasted about their involvement. They returned with statements from witnesses that implicated two Washington men: William Osterman and his brother-in-law David Harkness. Osterman and Harkness had the motive and the means. Harkness was living with shopkeeper James Bell's estranged wife. They were looking to gain custody of Bell's 10-year-old son. Osterman had sided with his brother-in-law against Bell and, coincidentally, was the last person to have seen the shopkeeper alive. The Harkness and Osterman families also stood to benefit financially from Bell's death. Indeed, they profited from the estate, and used the money to open a dry-goods store to replace the void created by the burning of Bell's establishment.

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Carlson, currently completing a book on the subject, notes that suicides among Stó:lō youth, while still of concern, seem to have dropped in recent years.

On a moonlit night in February 1884, an American mob rode north, abducted, and hanged Louie Sam, a 14-year-old boy from B.C.'s Stó:lō Nation. After years of researching the lynching, U of S historian Keith Carlson uncovered a sordid tale of murder and international intrigue.

by David Hutton

F resh out of graduate school with a Masters degree in history and looking for work in 1992, Keith Carlson found a job doing contract research with the Stó:lō Nation, a Coast Salish first nation's people situated along the lower tributaries of the Fraser River in British Columbia. Carlson was originally asked to examine historical changes to traditional leadership practices when one of the people in the Stó:lō office brought to his attention a rash of suicides in their community. Some Stó:lō were concerned that something from their past was unsettled. Oral history surrounding a 'hanging tree' made them believe it might have something to do with a young boy. Louie Sam, who was lynched over a century before. "Elders were wondering, well, perhaps Louie Sam was lynched on this tree! Is this what these suicides are about? Is this his unsentimental spirit causing problems? Perhaps he's not resting and his spirit is what's bothering the youth in this community," says Carlson.

What Carlson uncovered was a treasure trail of documents, ranging from a coroner’s inquest to detailed undercover police reports, newspaper stories, and diplomatic cables that documented the death of a shopkeeper in Washington, the lynching of Louise Sam, and a near race war with international implications. Carlson would soon complete his PhD and begin work at the University of Saskatchewan. But the Sam story, with its intrigue and implications, never left his mind.
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Alumni South of the Border

The weather’s not the only thing that’s warm in California and Texas – the welcomes aren’t too bad either. Heather Magotiaux, Vice-President of University Advancement, found this out firsthand during her late-January visit to the Golden State and her March visit to Texas to meet with U of S alumni and friends.

Vice-President Magotiaux visited San Francisco, Beverly Hills, and Palm Desert in January, and in March found her way to Houston, Dallas, and Austin. “With so much happening at the University,” says Magotiaux, “it’s important for us to connect with all alumni as often as possible.”

And connect she did, meeting with more than 100 alumni and friends by the end of her U.S. visit. Magotiaux focused her message on the University’s tremendous research capacity, the physical transformations happening on campus, and the preparations currently underway in anticipation of the University’s 100th anniversary in 2007.

Toronto Branch
‘Hurries Hard’

Curling may not be for everyone, but don’t tell that to the alumni who attended the Toronto Branch’s curling night on March 23rd. 18 U of S graduates participated, breaking into four teams for an evening of non-competitive curling.

This was just the first of what the Toronto Branch hopes will be a number of alumni activities held in 2006 and beyond. Upcoming events will hopefully include receptions with guest speakers, pub nights, and of course an Argos vs. Roughriders football game.

If you are interested in participating in future events, please contact Nathalie Buadais by email at nbaudais@itransconsulting.com or by phone at (905) 582-0100 ext. 5282.
Survey Says!
In November 2005, the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association and University Advancement invited alumni to participate in an online survey, the purpose of which was to assist the Association and the University to develop the best possible alumni programming for U of S graduates. Over 3,550 alumni offered their input.

Here are some of the highlights:
- The survey indicated that 76% of respondents prefer alumni communication via email. Moreover, 68% would be interested in an electronic newsletter focusing on campus current events. And when asked if interested in an option to receive ALL issues of the Green & White online only, 54% of respondents said they would sign-up today (NOTE: This option is now available at www.usask.ca/greenandwhites). The survey revealed that alumni want to know what’s happening on campus. 63% of respondents indicated that they read the Green & White to hear about campus activities, such as stories focusing on U of S faculty and staff and interesting research initiatives. They also indicated that they are very interested in receiving more regular communications from the colleges and departments.
- Respondents who volunteered for the University of Saskatchewan and/or the U of S Alumni Association in the past indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their volunteer experience. Although most indicated their volunteer involvement was with college activities (30%) or student events (22%), all volunteer activities were represented by the respondents.
- We have more work to do to promote the full array of alumni programs and services. Alumni are interested in access to services such as degree framing, alumni clothing, group travel, and discounts to on-campus facilities. A significant number of alumni have not accessed these services because they have either not heard of them, they are enrolled in a similar service, or they have insufficient information. Alumni expressed an interest in on-line alumni merchandise and U of S memorabilia. In response to the survey, we hope to offer further on-line services in 2006-2007.

If you are interested in reviewing the results of the survey in their entirety, please visit our website at http://www.usask.ca/alumni-surveys/. Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate in the survey and congratulations to our survey winners. We thank you for your participation.

2006 Board of Directors Retreat
On Saturday March 11th, the U of S Alumni Association’s Board of Directors met for its annual retreat – a full-day planning session at which the Board reviews its accomplishments from the past year and sets out its plans for the year ahead.

The Association established a two-year strategic plan in 2005 and this year’s planning session, facilitated by Past President Susan Milburn (BComm’78, MBA’80), focused on reviewing the Association’s progress on fulfilling three main goals: Clarifying roles in relation to the University, building a sense of alumni community, and adding value to the U of S alumni experience.

Given the ambitiousness of the plan, the Alumni Association will extend the two-year plan into 2007. In the meantime, the Alumni Association has achieved significant progress in fulfilling its strategic objectives and will continue to work on building a sense of community and providing opportunities to connect with alumni. Further information on the strategic plan will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for June 15, 2006.

Future of Discovery
The generous support of U of S alumni and friends, Future of Discovery – Annual Fund 2005/06 has set a new record, raising more funds in support of the University of Saskatchewan than ever before. Thanks to over 7,500 alumni and friends, close to $1,150,000 has been raised to support, among other things, student awards, computer/equipment improvements, program enhancements, and library resources. Of course, all Annual Fund program enhancements, and library awards, computer/equipment improvements, to support, among other things, student friends, close to $1,150,000 has been raised before. Thanks to over 7,500 alumni and University of Saskatchewan than ever raising more funds in support of the Annual Fund 2005/06 has set a new record, Future of Discovery – alumni and friends, Candace Savage, noted Saskatchewan-based, award-winning author of more than two dozen non-fiction books, graciously came on board this year as the honorary patron for Title Match 2006 – Supporting Learning, the annual spring campaign exclusively in support of U of S libraries. Title Match launched in early March 2006, and we have high hopes to raise more than $70,000 with the help of our alumni and friends. As always, all gifts to the Title Match campaign will be matched dollar for dollar by the U of S.

To all who supported annual campaigns at the U of S this past year, we offer our sincere thanks. For more information on Future of Discovery – Annual Fund 2005/06 or Title Match 2006, please visit our website at www.usask.ca/alumni/support/campaigns.
In accepting the gift, President Peter MacKinnon said the Grahams, like the more than 25,000 other donors to the campaign, are assisting the University in building for the future by “strengthening our commitment to research and scholarly activities, and creating new and exciting opportunities for our outstanding faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates.”

Heather Mogaliota, Vice-President University Advancement, said the Grahams are an example of the “outstanding support this University has received from people around the world – alumni, business and friends. The fact that we have reached the $110 million mark at this point in a campaign that runs until the end of 2007 speaks volumes to the fact that the University is seen as a quality institution and a national player in both education and research.”

The total in campaign gifts and pledges as of March 31 was $102,016,183.

While campaign donations have been directed to many priorities across campus, Mogaliota said the largest beneficiaries have been student awards and scholarships, research and academic programs, and bricks and mortar projects like the College of Law expansion and Griffiths Stadium.

She added there were more than $100 million in needs and priorities identified when the campaign went public in November 2004, and more have been added since. “This is a very dynamic environment which is why the campaign continues. In fact, there is a sense that the $100 million mark at this point in a campaign that runs until the end of 2007 speaks volumes to the fact that the University is seen as a quality institution and a national player in both education and research.”

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At a special event May 4 on campus, Ron and Jane Graham (BE'62 and BEd'62) were recognized for contributing to the University's $110 million campaign. The majority of the money – $3.27 million – will be used to support technical and professional research and academic programs, and bricks and mortar projects like the College of Law expansion and Griffiths Stadium.

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From Zenon Park, Maxine Thavenon, BMus91, now enjoys an international career as an organist with a repertoire ranging from early 16th-century Spanish works to contemporary works written especially for her. Her performances have taken her around the world—from the Catedral de No Dame in Paris to international music festivals in Brasil, Budapest, Prague, and Vienna. Maxine now resides near the Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was appointed Associate Organist/Choir Director at the Cathedral Church of St. John in September 2005. She graduated May 2003 with a Doctor of Music Performance degree in Organ Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, New York City. She will be performing opening night for the American Guild of Organists National Conference in Chicago at Orchestra Hall this July. For more information on Maxine, visit her website at www.maxinethavenon.com.

Maxine Thavenon

Beverly Anne Holloway, BSV76, has been living in White Rock, BC, since 1970. She worked in Sunshine District Districts 1 and 2 as a Drafting Clerk from 1975 to 1992, as a trustee for the Sunshine Community School Board from 1978 to 1992, as a district champion for the Royal Canadian Legion's Auxiliary from 1978 to 2000, as an elementary school principal until she retired in December 2005. She and her husband, Bill, have been involved in the Pembina Valley Drama and Music Association for many years. Beverly and Bill's daughter, Darlene, resides in Stuart, SK, and her son, Derek, lives in Victoria, BC.

Beverly Holloway

Dr. Linda Roberta Hancock, BA’97, BSW’95(Regina), MA’01, PhD’03(Regina), received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal on January 26, 2006, for her work with the United Way of Regina and District Labour Council.

Dr. Linda Hancock

Professor Emeritus Douglas (Doug) Albert Joseph Thevenot, BMusEd’91, has recently relocated to Santiago, Chile where he is General Manager of Corfo, the Chilean Government’s National Research and Development Corporation. Doug spent the '80's and has done a variety of teaching in Manitoba, India, and recently married fellow classmate Wayne Allen Miller, who lives in Victoria, BC.

Doug Thevenot

Mary Frances (Nancy) Ford, BA’58, MA’71(Regina), has received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal on January 19, 2006, for her leadership as President from 1991 to 1992, her membership in the two-year Killam Research Fellowship. In July 2006, she will be back in California to see her son Henry, as Marshall's Tony Chair in the Department of History and School of Native Studies. Nancy is a freelance journalist based in Calgary. His writing has appeared in numerous books. He is also a columnist for the Rockabilly Hall of Fame (www.rockabillyhall.com/tatra.html). In 2005, he published an article in the Rockabilly Hall of Fame Book, 50 Years of the Spirit of Rock and Roll.

Nancy Ford

Dale Wesley Toni, BSP’69, received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal on February 13, 2006. Dale will be performing opening night at the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in Regina, Saskatchewan, as of August 15, 2006.

Dale Toni

Dr. John Francis (Frank) Roy S.O.M., Dip/Ed’69, BEd’69, was appointed Queen’s Counsel on December 28, 2005. Dr. Frank has been involved in Saskatchewan's educational system for the past 30 years.

Dr. Frank Roy

Professor Emeritus Douglas (Doug) Albert Joseph Thevenot, BMusEd’91, has recently relocated to Santiago, Chile where he is General Manager of Corfo, the Chilean Government’s National Research and Development Corporation. Doug spent the '80's and has done a variety of teaching in Manitoba, India, and recently married fellow classmate Wayne Allen Miller, who lives in Victoria, BC.

Doug Thevenot

Douglas (Doug) Larder Mark Stiff, BSV72, RE75, of Humboldt, SK, received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal on December 31, 2005, due to his work as former Manager of Sales of the Prairie Swine Centre and his leadership in the pork industry.

Doug Stiff

Kathleen Rose Alexander, BAC’91, received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal on January 26, 2006. Kathleen is a freelance journalist and writes for a variety of national, provincial, and local publications. She is also a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News (www.rockymountainnews.com) and is a regular contributor to numerous publications and websites. In 2005, she published an article in the Rockabilly Hall of Fame Book, 50 Years of the Spirit of Rock and Roll.

Kathleen Alexander

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Doug Thevenot
The Alumni Association has noted, with sorrow, the passing of the following faculty:

Orval Lloyd Gamble, BA'39, MComm'45 (Tor), DD'82 (Flavell), BA'36 (1935), KBSc'35, Cert/Pharm'33, of Saskatoon, SK, d. March 13, 2006.

Arie Gillis de Jager, BSc'70, BEd'90, of New Westminster, BC, d. September 4, 2005.

Richard Arnold Burback, BE(CE)'61, MSc'71, of Winnipeg, MB, d. August 6, 2005.

Jacob Taves, BE(EE)'76, of Regina, SK, d. August 20, 2005.


Leland Roger Hippert, BEd'09, of Calgary, AB, d. April 3, 2005.

Richard Joseph Trager, BE'76, of Regina, SK, d. August 11, 2005.

Graham Stewart Simpson, BE(CE)'71, of Ottawa, ON, d. August 20, 2005.


For a complete listing in memoriam, please visit www.usask.ca/greenandwhite
How did you get involved in cross-country sit skiing?

I was involved in wheelchair racing for quite a few years prior to skiing, and a friend, Joe Harison, asked if I wanted to try a sit ski that had been brought over from Europe. I said sure, and I tried it out and thought it was awesome. I’ve been doing it ever since.

Why did you make the jump from wheelchair racing to cross-country skiing?

I like the environment a lot better. You’re out in the woods, and some of the areas we’ve skied have been absolutely amazing. So, mostly it’s the environment and the skills that are required. It’s not pushing something in a circle – hand cycling is just going in a circle – it requires skill and balance and technique to be good at it. It also gives me the same feeling that cross country running gave me, as far as being able to push yourself to the limit. It’s exhausting. It’s actually one of the toughest sports I’ve ever done. Cross country skiing as an able-bodied person is one of the toughest things you can do. And when you’re disabled, you have to work even harder.

What’s your training regimen like?

It depends on the season, but I normally train between five and six times a week. At least three of those days I train twice a day. It’s a lot of hours.

How many different countries have you traveled to this year?

Quite a few. This year alone, we started off with doing the World Cup in Lillehammer, then we went to France for some races, then we skied some races in Switzerland, then Germany. Then we ended up in Italy. That was just this year alone. We were gone for over two months.

Why have you decided to base yourself out of Saskatoon?

I went to university here, and we have the Sport Medicine and Science Centre here with [Athlete Services Director] Bruce Craven. He’s totally awesome at what he does. I worked with him with wheelchair racing and have now connected with him quite a bit this past year with skiing. He’s amazing.

How important is having a solid network of sports experts locally?

It’s definitely a benefit to have it. If you want to be on the top, you need that support...it’s a pretty integrated system. We can access the same amount of experts just as well as any of the able bodied people. We have access to nutritionists, psychologists, and a whole sports science crew.

How have your students reacted to your victory in Turin?

They’ve been really excited. [However], it’s been nice to be able to come back and get into what we’re supposed to be focusing on. I teach part-time, otherwise I wouldn’t be able to do this at all. Even teaching part-time is difficult. It’s demanding.

Is the world starting to acknowledge the legitimacy of the Paralympics?

I think it’s getting better. I’ve definitely seen changes. I’ve been around for a long time, and I’ve seen a lot of changes and a greater acceptance by the media over the years. I think once the media covers an event, people take it a bit more seriously. Once people are able to see the events, they’re more impressed because they see that [disabled athletes] train hard for their events.
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