

# Degrees

volume 29, no. 1 | spring/summer 2017

The University of Regina Magazine

**Barbara Woolsey  
finds her voice**

University  
of Regina





It was selfie heaven in the packed halls of the Riddell Centre in late January as a large and enthusiastic crowd welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to campus. Trudeau is the first prime minister to visit the University of Regina since Lester Pearson in the 1960s. Taking the selfie with Trudeau is Usama Ahmad, a Palestinian-born Engineering and Applied Science student who came to Canada via Syria. At left is Lucas Campbell and Jasmine Holowaty admiring their photo with Trudeau.

Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.

*Degrees* magazine and its predecessor, *The Third Degree*, have been entertaining and informing University of Regina alumni and friends since 1989. In those 28 years, we have brought you thousands of stories of the talents, adventures and triumphs of people associated with the University of Regina. For close to three decades, we have shone a brief spotlight on individuals who, in their own ways, are making the world a better place every day.

The magazine is the mirror that reflects an amazing community made up of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Regina. I also like to think that it brings us all a little closer together.

Unfortunately, today's fiscal realities and the escalating costs of production are challenging us like never before. The magazine has arrived at the fork in the road that we have seen coming for some time.

The fact is, the magazine is the University's most costly communications tool. Twice a year we print and mail more than

40,000 copies of *Degrees* to mailboxes around the world. The fixed costs associated with the magazine are growing beyond what our budget can manage. And, those costs continue to rise with every graduating class, adding some 2,000 new subscribers every year.

We are not facing this dilemma alone. *University Affairs*, the Canadian industry publication devoted to the post-secondary sector, ran a column almost a decade ago with the foreboding headline "The uncertain future of alumni magazines."

In the same issue was the announcement that Western Ontario's *Alumni Gazette* was cutting its print version from three times a year to just once a year. In a note to readers, the magazine's editor said the *Gazette* is "taking a new and greener approach to the delivery of our publication" by moving the other two issues each year exclusively online.

The greener approach has also been on our minds. Each issue, we mail out more than 6,000 kilograms of magazines.

That's about the weight of an average African elephant, the largest land mammal on the planet. One of the overarching themes of the University's strategic plan is sustainability. As we look for ways to make our campus and our world more sustainable, *Degrees* can no longer escape that scrutiny.

The venerable newsmagazine *Maclean's* started following a similar strategy, reducing its printed publication from weekly to monthly in January. The print reduction has been offset by digital content on the [macleans.ca](http://macleans.ca) website and available through the magazine's app. *Chatelaine* and *Today's Parent* had a similar print decline and the Canadian magazines *Flare*, *Sportsnet*, *MoneySense* and *Canadian Business* are now only available on the web and through apps.

We know from a 2016 alumni engagement survey that older alumni prefer the magazine while younger alumni favour digitally delivered content. The magazine has become unsustainable, but at the same time it's one of our best ways to keep in touch with you and let

you know about all the terrific things that are happening in the U of R world. We remain committed to *Degrees*, just not in its current form.

So what to do? That's where you, our readers, come in. We want your direct feedback. What do you want the new *Degrees* mix to look like? Totally digitally based? A combination of print and digital? Would you give up your delivered copy? Do you want to see a *Degrees* app? Let us know.

You can send your thoughts to [uralumni@uregina.ca](mailto:uralumni@uregina.ca).

I, for one, remain optimistic for the future. I hope to continue to tell stories about fabulous people associated with the University of Regina. To imagine being able to tell those stories in an even more dynamic manner is truly energizing.

I will share those comments in the next issue of *Degrees* when we will be that much closer to knowing what the future holds.

I trust you will enjoy this issue.

Greg Campbell BFA'85, BJ'95  
Editor

# Degrees

Editor  
**Greg Campbell BFA'85, BJ'95**

Manager, Strategic Communications  
**Erin Limacher BAJ'06, MA'16**

Alumni Association Board 2017-18

President  
**Kaytlyn Barber BBA'12**

First Vice-President  
**Bert Yakichuk PGDGC'S'73, MEd'77**

Second Vice-President  
**Aadon Fieger BA'10**

Past-President  
**Brian Hillier DDA'04, BA'04,  
 MBA'09, MHRM'11**

Directors  
**Scott Cheston CA'05, DIPBA'06, BBA'08, MCert'10, MBA'13**  
**Nora Findlay BA'75, BEd'83, MEd'06**  
**Bob Friedrich BA'76, CPSTST'07**  
**Joel Graham BBA'09, BEd'13**  
**David Keene CLGAJ'85, DAA'92, CA'92, CCE'92, CDP'99**  
**Emily McNair BBA'11**  
**George Smadu BEd'74, BA'80, PGDEA'88, MEd'91, PHD'08**  
**Lana Vindevoghel BAET'06**

Ex-Officio Members  
 University of Regina Senate Representative  
**Gwen Keith BEd'74, MEd'77, PGDEA'83, MEd'84**  
 University of Saskatchewan Senate Representative  
**Lynda Browning BEd'69**  
 University of Regina Students' Union Representative  
**Jermaine McKenzie**  
 Alumni and Community Engagement Director  
**Peggy MacDonald MBA'06**

Contributors  
**Terina Abrahamson**  
**Bill Armstrong**  
**Judy Bird BA'93, BJ'97**  
**Shane Eason BFA'01**  
**Laird Harrison**  
**Tribby Henderson BAJ'05**  
**Trevor Hopkin**  
**Dale Johnson**  
**Todd Korol**  
**Diane Mullan BA'78**  
**Warne Noyce**  
**Craig Pulsifer**  
**Colette Schlamp**  
**Barbara Woolsey BAJ'11 (Luther College)**

All photos by The University of Regina  
 Photography Department unless otherwise noted.  
 Original design by Bradbury Branding and Design.

*Degrees* is published twice a year by External Relations at the University of Regina. The magazine is mailed to alumni and friends of the University. Ideas and opinions published in *Degrees* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the Alumni Association or the University of Regina. Letters and editorial contributions are welcome. Advertising inquiries are invited.

#### To reach us:

##### Editorial/Advertising/Letters

*Degrees*, External Relations  
 210 Paskwāw Tower, University of Regina  
 3737 Wascana Parkway  
 Regina, SK S4S 0A2  
 Ph: (306) 585-4402 Fax: (306) 585-4997  
 E-mail: Greg.Campbell@uregina.ca

##### Address Change/Alumni Relations

210 Paskwāw Tower, University of Regina  
 3737 Wascana Parkway  
 Regina, SK S4S 0A2  
 Ph: (306) 585-4112 Fax: (306) 585-4997  
 E-mail: uralumni@uregina.ca  
 Toll-free: 877-779-4723 (GRAD)  
 (in Canada and the U.S.)

University of Regina homepage  
[www.uregina.ca](http://www.uregina.ca)

Publication Mail Agreement Number 40065347  
 Return undeliverable magazines to:  
 External Relations  
 210 Paskwāw Tower, University of Regina  
 3737 Wascana Parkway  
 Regina, SK S4S 0A2

ISSN 0843-7092

## The University of Regina Magazine

spring/summer 2017  
 volume 29, no. 1

On the cover: Barbara Woolsey BAJ'11, a fresh new voice in international media circles.  
 Photo by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department.



## Features

### Honorary Degree Recipients

A businessman and philanthropist, a former RCMP commissioner, and a corporate leader; meet this spring convocation's honorary degree recipients.

### The U of R Senate - Window on the World

Because of its broad public representation, the Senate has been described as the University's "window on the world." Take a look inside the body that oversees the University's academic welfare.

### A quantum leap of faith

Many are expecting this year to be the grand coming out party for a functional quantum computer. If so, its supercomputing power will revolutionize life as we know it. Alumnus Chad Rigetti leads one of a handful of startups competing with the likes of Microsoft, IBM and Google on a mission to build the world's most powerful computer.

### Polishing an old gem

A \$60-million project to renew College Avenue Campus is well underway. When the project is completed in early 2018, Regina will have one of the most exceptional educational and cultural venues in the country.

### No direction home

On any given night in Canada, 35,000 homeless people sleep in shelters, in cars, under overpasses or in vacant doorways. Despite the alarming numbers, there are some optimists who believe just a little political will could make homelessness a thing of the past.

## departments

Feed Back	2
President's Note	4
Around Campus	5
Spot Light	11
Focal Point	16
Alumni President Message	32
Class Notes	33
360 Degrees	34

## President's Note

Over the past few years, it has become a tradition for me to deliver an annual presentation to the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce. This "State of the University Address" is a wonderful opportunity to provide the business community, and others, with an update on activities at the University of Regina and report on our most recent contributions to the community. In January, I was honoured to present this year's address, entitled "From Rugged Brat to Community Leader," in front of about 300 people, many of whom I am pleased to say were our alumni.

While many in the audience assumed that I was the "rugged brat" mentioned in the title, that wasn't the case! The title came from a speech delivered by one of the most respected leaders in our institution's history. In the early 1970s, Dr. John Archer, the principal of the University of Saskatchewan – Regina Campus, said: "The Regina Campus is still a question mark in some people's mind. This, too, will pass. Regina will be proud of this rugged brat that squats so starkly in the southeast environs of the city. Reginans have reason to be proud of it now, were they to consider seriously the great progress made in a scant ten years."

The progress made in those ten years was indeed noteworthy, but what we have achieved in the decades since is truly extraordinary. The presentation I delivered was designed to illustrate one thing – the remarkable transformation that has taken place at the University in the past five decades.

I reminded the audience that in 1966, we were still the University of Saskatchewan – Regina Campus and we called some 2,250 students our own. Some of the landmark buildings on our campus – the Classroom and Lab Buildings and the Library, for example – had just been built or were in the process of being planned and constructed. Many areas still lacked sidewalks, and students walked from building to building on wooden planks to avoid getting bogged down in our famous "Regina gumbo."

By comparison, our student population is now about 15,000 strong, and we have constructed 1.5 million square feet of new space in the past 23 years – including sidewalks, of course! Dr. Archer would be hard-pressed to recognize his old campus.

To demonstrate the homogeneity of our student body at the time, I showed a photo of the 1969-70 Faculty of Administration graduating class. There were 26 graduates – all male and all of European ancestry. I then showed a photo of the graduating class of last year's Faculty of Business Administration. There were 340 graduates from around the world – students from a multitude of ethnic backgrounds. Just as important, more than half of them were women. That's quite a change!

I also emphasized our tradition of innovation by recounting how, in 1969, we established the first Co-operative Education program in Western Canada. I reminded the audience that we are still a leader in the area. In 2016, we had 772 students in

co-op placements, and those students earned more than \$9 million in salaries.

The presentation also included discussion about the University's first forays into the areas of Indigenization and internationalism. Indigenization began in earnest in 1976 under the leadership of Dr. Lloyd Barber with the establishment of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now First Nations University of Canada), the first institution of its kind in Canada. I relayed that the number of self-declared Indigenous students at the University, and Federated Colleges, has grown by 84 per cent since 2009 and now makes up 13 per cent of the student body – one of the highest percentages in the country.

I noted our long history of working with international partners, and how the University of Regina was the first university in Canada to formalize relationships with Chinese institutions – again through the vision of Dr. Barber. I emphasized our continued commitment to internationalism and spoke with pride about our increasingly diverse student body. Approximately 70 per cent of our students come from outside Regina and originate from more than 100 countries around the globe – something few could have envisioned 50 years ago.

Those are but a few of the highlights of my presentation to the Chamber of Commerce. I know from feedback that the audience truly appreciated the story of how far the University has come. I also know how much our contributions are appreciated by members of our community.



With the approval of our Board of Governors, at this time next year I will begin my third term as president of the University of Regina. I can't begin to tell you what an honour it is to continue serving our University in this way.

I am more committed than ever, both to the University and to the work that I do on its behalf. Simply put, the University of Regina is my life. I love this institution, and I love my work.

I am also looking forward to my third term as president of the University of Regina because I love taking on new challenges. The most recent challenge for us all is the one posed by the nearly \$7 million in provincial government cuts we have experienced since November 2016.

Despite the challenges these cuts present us, I am confident about our future. It is my vision for us to become more engaged with the community, to elevate our research enterprise to even more acclaim, to engage our Indigenous and international communities to an even greater extent, and to help our students achieve even more success.

Together, we can continue building on the work of leaders like Dr. Archer and Dr. Barber. Our alumni – some of whom witnessed first-hand the uphill struggle faced by our "rugged brat" in its early years – will always play an important part in this. Thank you for your continuing support of your University.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Vianne Timmons**  
President and Vice-Chancellor

Left: David Senkow  
Centre: Andrea Sterzuk  
Right: Jacqui Shumiatcher



### Donor news

**An anonymous donor** has gifted \$1 million to help restore historic Darke Hall. The donation brings the University closer to its goal of raising \$3 million to bring the performance hall back to its former glory while ensuring it meets today's technical standards. Announced in 2011, the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project is the University's priority capital fundraising project. It is aimed at restoring and preserving the historic College Avenue Campus, enabling it to continue as an economic, educational and cultural hub for the city of Regina. (See related story, page 24)

### Comings and goings

**David Senkow**, associate dean (Academic) and associate professor (Accounting), has been appointed acting dean of the Faculty of Business Administration for one year, effective July 1. Senkow holds a PhD in accounting from the University of Minnesota. He joined the University of Regina in 1992. Since 2008, he has served the Paul J. Hill School of Business and the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business as associate dean (Academic). Senkow's research and teaching is in accounting, including management accounting and accounting theory. During the summer months, he can be found competing with his Super Gas race car at drag racing tracks in Western Canada and the United States.

**Andrea Sterzuk BEd'97**, associate professor of Language and Literacy Education, has been appointed acting dean of Education for one year, effective July 1. Sterzuk holds a PhD in second-language education from McGill University. She joined the University of Regina in 2007. Prior to her academic career, she worked as a public school teacher in rural Saskatchewan and in the Canadian Arctic. She enjoys gardening and learning languages. During the summer months, she can be found participating in cycling, running and swimming, and competing in local triathlons and road races.

**Bruce Anderson** will leave the position of associate vice-president (Development) in External Relations to return to the Paul J. Hill School of Business and the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business effective July 1. Anderson will return to his teaching duties as well as assume the role of the faculty's executive lead, Outreach. Anderson will play a critical role identifying partnerships that advance the faculty's strategic goals, creating advocates for its programs and helping assess support for a new business building.

**Kim McKechney** has been appointed to the new role of associate vice-president (External Relations) for a two-year term, effective July 1. McKechney will provide executive leadership in communications and marketing, as well as oversee

the alumni, development, donor relations, and finance and administration functions of External Relations.

**Erin Limacher BAJ'o6, MA'16** will assume the role of director of Communications and Marketing for a two-year term. Limacher has been with the University for more than 10 years and served in a management role within External Relations since 2010. She brings to the position a unique combination of knowledge of the University, expertise in communications planning and development, and enthusiasm for promoting the achievements of faculty, staff and students.

### Accolades

In mid-May, **President and Vice-Chancellor Vianne Timmons** received an honorary degree from Mount Allison University. Timmons was recognized for her work in three areas: advocacy and empowerment of women leaders; internationalization; and disabilities and inclusion. The award was special for a couple reasons: Mount Allison was where she earned her first degrees in English and Psychology; and her honorary degree was presented to her by Mount Allison's chancellor, the CBC's Peter Mansbridge. Earlier this year Timmons was awarded CTV Regina's 2016 Citizen of the Year.

Honorary degree recipient **Jacqui Shumiatcher LL.D (Honorary)'02** was awarded

the most recent President's Community Award in recognition of her commitment to the community and support of the arts. Jacqui and her late husband, Morris Shumiatcher, have been supporters of the arts and community organizations for decades. They each received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit; Morris in 1997 and Jacqui in 2001. The Shumiatchers have also contributed to the University of Regina over the years. They have funded student scholarships and donated to fine arts programming, including a generous contribution to create the Shu-Box Theatre. In 2014, Jacqui supported the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project through a unique gift of more than 1,000 pieces of their personal art collection valued at approximately \$3 million.

United Way Regina has recognized the University's commitment to the community by awarding it the **Farm Credit Canada Commitment Award** for its achievements and the success of its record fundraising campaign in 2016. Thanks to the work of campus volunteers, this year's campaign raised more than \$108,000, the highest amount ever for the University's United Way campaign.

The University of Regina is one of three Canadian universities to make the **Times Higher Education Young University Rankings** as one of the world's best 200 universities under 50 years old. Compared to last year, the

University scored higher in four categories: teaching, citations, international outlook and industry income.

Biology student **Shelby Bohn** finished runner-up in a national video contest called "Science, Action!" put on by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Bohn, a master's student, is studying how bats on the Prairies interact with their environment. She is exploring the habitat that silver haired bats use during the summer, when females gather together in small groups to raise their babies in hollow trees.

A team of students from the **Paul J. Hill School of Business** received the School of the Year award at the JDC West Business Competition held at the University of Alberta in January. JDC West is a student-run competition providing opportunities for business students from 12 Western Canadian universities to achieve excellence in academics, social responsibility, sporting and social competitions. The Hill team also placed: first in the categories of social, participation, volunteer hours, finance and international business; second in marketing and debate; and third in accounting and athletics. This was the ninth year that a Hill team has placed in the top three for the School of the Year award, which is more than any other school in the competition's 12-year history. The Executive of the Year award was presented to the Hill team co-captains **Cari-Lynn Schoettler BBA'17** and **Danielle Lane BBA'17**. The award is based on strong leadership, selflessness and the portrayal of true JDC West spirit.

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science students **Derek Grain BASc'17**, **Zachary Hass BASc'17** and **Michael Taylor**

**BSc'16** received second prize at the 2017 James Ham Safe Design Award Competition for their innovative rapid attachment interchange system for forklifts. The system helps reduce workplace injuries when changing forklift attachments. The award was presented to the trio on May 3 at a national safety conference in Mississauga, Ontario. The system is now in use at Parkland Carpet One in Regina.

**Janessa Fox**, a student at the Paul J. Hill School of Business, recently received first-class treatment when she met Air Canada CEO Calin Rovinescu. Fox, a third-year accounting student, joined nine other business students from across Canada to meet Rovinescu at an event honouring him as CEO of the year. Each student received a scholarship for \$7,500 in recognition of their academic leadership and extracurricular activities.

**Livia Castellanos**, associate vice-president (International) and chief international officer at UR International, was honoured with the Education award by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute in Regina. The award was presented at the Institute's annual Friendship Dinner and Award ceremony in March. The Intercultural Dialogue Institute is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote respect and mutual understanding among all cultures and faiths through partnerships with other communities, and cultural, religious and inter-religious organizations.

**Bruce Walsh**, director of the University's publishing house, U of R Press, is one of 11 accomplished Canadians named as a 2017 mentor by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. As a

mentor, Walsh is paired with promising doctoral students known collectively as Trudeau scholars. The mentors share their knowledge with the students in the social sciences and humanities. U of R Press was launched in 2013 under Walsh's leadership. Since then, it has produced six national bestsellers, two of which are scholarly titles, a rarity in academic publishing.

**Ross King BA'83, MA'86, LL.D (Honorary'12)** is the winner of this year's RBC Taylor Prize for his book *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. The prize was announced at a gala luncheon in Toronto by Noreen Taylor, founder of the prize and chair of the Charles Taylor Foundation. The RBC Taylor Prize is given to a Canadian author whose book best demonstrates superb command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception. In 2006, King won the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction for *The Judgment of Paris: the Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism*. He was a University of Regina honorary degree recipient in 2012.

**Jack Boan**, professor emeritus in economics, was the recipient of the Lifelong Global Citizen Award by the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation. The annual award recognizes Saskatchewan residents who make significant contributions to international development, cooperation, peace and justice. Boan, who is 99 years old, has been connected to the University for more than half a century. He started teaching at the University in 1962 and retired in 1983. After retirement, he remained active in the University community and

taught a graduate course in health-care economics until the age of 80. A student award has been named in his honour — the Dr. Jack Boan Medal in Economics. He's a strong advocate for refugee students and helped start the U of R Group for Refugees, which has helped dozens of refugees to receive an education at the University of Regina.

**Pat Patton**, the University's director of Security and Operations, has been named Security Director of the Year in Canada by *Canadian Security* magazine. The magazine cites her accomplished security career and instrumental role in the development of the sexual violence awareness program, Man Up Against Violence. Patton has been with the University for 20 years. She also received the Outstanding Alumni Award — Professional Achievement from Mount Royal University in Calgary.

Three members of the Cougars women's hockey team were part of the silver-medal-winning Team Canada at the Winter Universiade in Almaty, Kazakhstan in January. **Kylie Gavelin**, **Alexis Larson BSNU'16** and **Jaycee Magwood** brought home second-place medals from the world's biggest stage for university sports. The event features athletes from around the world and is organized by the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire. About 2,000 athletes were in Kazakhstan for the games.

#### Briefly

On Friday, January 13, **Howard Letyon-Brown**, an integral part of the University of Regina's Conservatory of Performing Arts for more than 60 years, died at the age of 98. The Australian-born violinist has taught hundreds of students, including





Left: Jack Boan  
Centre: Pat Patton  
Right: Howard Leyton-Brown

several who have gone on to international stardom. He immigrated to Canada in 1952 and became head of the string department of the Regina Conservatory of Music, a position he held until his retirement in 1987. He served as director of the Conservatory from 1955 until 1986. He also served as the conductor of the Regina Symphony Orchestra from 1960 to 1971, and as its concertmaster from 1978 to 1989. Leyton-Brown was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1944 for his service as a bomber pilot. He was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 1986, received the Lifetime Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1991, Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 1996 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

Efforts to end sexual assault and violence at the University of Regina received a major boost with the release of the **Gender-based Violence Prevention Needs Assessment Report** and the establishment of a new position responsible for leading the University's Gendered Violence Prevention Strategies. **Roz Kelsey BPAS'98, BEd'00, MSc'05** will serve as the University's first director of Gender Violence Prevention Strategies and will take the lead on implementing the report's recommendations to address gender-based violence. Kelsey is a professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies who established, and is chair

of, the Man Up Against Violence movement at the University. A copy of the report is available at: <https://www.uregina.ca/ursafe>.

Once again, University of Regina students stepped up for the annual **5 Days for the Homeless**. Five students spent five nights camped outside the Riddell Centre entrance to raise funds for and awareness of homelessness. **Paige McNabb, Siobhan Neary, Joshua Exner, Sasha Shupe and Rebecca Perigny** raised \$51,353.27 for Carmichael Outreach, a Regina-based charity that provides a variety of services for people in need. That significantly exceeds last year's total of \$37,000 and surpasses the fundraising totals of similar campaigns at 19 universities across Canada. (See story, page 28)

#### Research

Early this year, the University launched its **Strategic Research Plan 2016-2021**, which will guide the University's research endeavours over the next five years. As stated in the document, the plan's vision is that the University of Regina "develop and maintain a supportive and diverse research environment and a culture of excellence for all scholars."

**A team of 14 researchers from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan** is studying issues related to establishing small nuclear

reactors. The \$1.1 million multidisciplinary project, led by Esam Hussein, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Regina, is being funded by the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. The project will help Saskatchewan graduate students develop expertise in the engineering, geological, geographical, regulatory and economic factors of building small modular nuclear reactors, which will inevitably play a role in the clean-energy mix.

The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation is also collaborating with the University of Regina's Department of Physics on a project that has the potential to revolutionize plant research. The **PhytoPET** is a real-time imaging detector used to detect how plants respond to a number of environmental stresses, from drought to infections to insect infestations. The project is the first of its kind in Canada, and has been made possible thanks to a \$1.45 million contribution from the Fedoruk Centre, which is funded by Innovation Saskatchewan.

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness **Ralph Goodale BA'71** announced \$1,123,815 in federal funding for **Mohan Babu**, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry who is working to understand and combat

antibiotic resistance. Those understandings will translate into critical health-care advancements in Canada and around the world. The support comes from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, a federal funding agency.

Two projects in the Department of Biology received funding of almost \$900,000 to acquire cutting-edge tools needed to conduct world-class research. The projects are led by biology faculty members **Chris Somers, Richard Manzon, Christopher Yost** and **Andrew Cameron**. The funding was made available by the federal and provincial governments, the University of Regina's Faculty of Science and participating vendors through both cash and in-kind donations. The Somers and Manzon project focuses on freshwater fisheries. Cameron and Yost will use the funding to create a new functional microbial genomics laboratory for the University of Regina's Institute for Microbial Systems and Society.

Droughts on the Prairies could become more frequent, more severe and longer lasting in the years ahead, according to a new book edited by University faculty members. The book, *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Drought*, is co-edited by three Department of Sociology and Social Studies faculty members: **Harry Diaz, Margot Hurlbert BAdmin'86**, and **Jim Warren BA'80, BEd'82, MA'85, PhD'14**.

# Spring 2017

## honorary degree recipients

A former RCMP commissioner, a corporate leader and a businessman and philanthropist, are the most recent honorary degree recipients.

By Dale Johnson and Greg Campbell BFA'85, BJ'95



Photo by Craig Pulsifer

### Beverley Busson

Beverley Ann Busson didn't realize the long-term impact of being in the first class of female RCMP members training in Regina in 1974.

"When I look back, my troopmates and I were, I believe, naively unaware that what we were undertaking would be looked upon as groundbreaking, or that we were trailblazers for the next generations of female members or others in

traditionally male roles who came after us," she says.

Busson went on to break a lot of ground during her career with the RCMP, culminating in being named the first female Commissioner in 2006.

A big reason for her success is her belief in – and practice of – lifelong learning. Busson earned an education degree and worked with children with special needs in the early 1970s, before her RCMP training. During the 1980s, she studied criminology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. She then earned a law degree at the University of British Columbia in 1990.

"I have long believed in the value of continuous learning and feel strongly that the professionalization of policing rests on fostering learning and the critical thinking that comes from learning throughout one's life," she explains.

Busson clearly remembers when she first arrived in Regina to start training with the RCMP. "Regina in 1974 was a very interesting place for a young woman from Nova Scotia. My troop arrived in September, just in time for winter. Need I say more?"

During her training, Busson encountered the University of Regina, which had become an independent institution just a few months earlier. "I recall that at least one of our courses on diversity was co-instructed by

a number of professors from University of Regina. They made a huge impression on all of us," she says.

As a new RCMP officer, she was posted to a number of detachments in British Columbia, where she worked in a variety of areas.

Busson became the first woman in the RCMP to be promoted to inspector when she took over responsibilities in North Battleford in 1992. She was later transferred to Vancouver and, in 1998, she was named the RCMP's first female commanding officer, and returned to Saskatchewan.

Although she is now retired from the RCMP, Busson is well aware of the leading-edge work the University is doing in the field of law enforcement.

"My son-in-law is one of many members of the RCMP that has studied and graduated from the University of Regina and is presently pursuing a masters in Police Studies there. I have always encouraged those around me to make formal learning an important part of their professional development. The University of Regina has been a leader in facilitating an environment that combines academic study together with life experience to create learning applicable to the real world and its challenges. This is especially evident in the policing field in this new and complex world."

As she reflects on her career with the RCMP, she says times have changed for the better.

"I now routinely meet with members, both male and female, who work together and do so with respect, yet [they have] little recognition of how different it was just 40 some years ago. I take great pride in the number of female police officers and police leaders in the force and how their role is accepted without a blink. That is real progress – and how it should be."

Busson will receive her honorary degree on Friday, June 9.

"I was very surprised and humbled to be named a recipient of an honorary degree. I have made it my life's work to try to make a difference and, in my journey, had the opportunity to do it at many different roles within the RCMP," Busson says.



Photo by Todd Korol

## Tim Hearn

Tim Hearn, retired chairman, president and chief executive officer of Imperial Oil Limited, credits his career success to growing up in Regina.

“That is where a lot of my personal characteristics and values were developed, which were hugely influential and beneficial throughout my life,” says Hearn.

Hearn was born in Regina. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science.

“While Saskatchewan was a great place to grow up and develop, unfortunately at that time if you weren’t going to work in agriculture or public service, there were not a lot of other opportunities for young graduates. So many of us left to pursue new horizons elsewhere,” he explains.

Fresh out of university, Hearn joined Imperial Oil as a marketing representative and was promoted to increasingly senior positions over the years. He says growing up in Regina helped him develop the skills he needed to climb the corporate ladder.

“Some of the important characteristics that were ingrained in that environment were: diligence and dedication to all important tasks; encouragement for creativity; ingenuity, but underpinned with a strong element of pragmatism; commitment to honesty; and integrity in everything one did. And all of this was reinforced by maintaining a strong element of humility in all aspects of life,” he says.

Hearn held a variety of positions in marketing, logistics, and systems and computer services. He was named vice-president of Marketing Retail for Imperial in 1986 and vice-president of Marketing Retail and Commercial Business in 1990.

He later served as vice-president of Human Resources at Imperial Oil’s parent firm, Exxon Mobil Corporation. He was worldwide vice-president of Intermediates for Exxon Chemical Company and later became president of Exxon’s Asia-Pacific operations, based in Singapore.

Although his career took him to several countries, his fondness for his native province never left him.

“It is truly extraordinary how many people from Saskatchewan went on to be highly successful in other parts of the country and in numerous walks of life. A significant number of other energy company CEOs also came from Saskatchewan. I again attribute this to the character and culture of the province,” Hearn says.

Since retiring from his 41-year career with Imperial Oil, Hearn has served on a number of boards, including the C.D. Howe Institute, the Calgary Homeless Foundation, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (now Business Council of Canada) and the Royal Bank of Canada. He has also been a director with Tuckamore Capital Management Inc. (now ClearStream Energy Services) and Viterro Inc. He is currently a director with ARC Resources Ltd. and CGI Group Inc.

In addition to his work on corporate boards, he serves as a member of the advisory board at the University of Calgary for the School of Public Policy and, previously, the Cumming School of Medicine Advisory Board. He was a member of the joint committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and currently serves as chair of Hearn and Associates.

“In accepting this award, for me it is truly an acknowledgement that much of my success in career and life directly emanates from my Saskatchewan roots and upbringing,” he says.



Photo by Todd Korol

## Ken Levene

When Ken Levene learned from President Vianne Timmons that he was receiving an honorary degree, his first reaction was “Why me?” Since then, he has come to see the honour as a family one.

“I am honoured and humbled by this honour,” Levene says. “It not only honours me but it also honours my mother and father and my grandparents and the influence they had on me. If my grandfather hadn’t left the old country, none of

this would have happened. I share the honour with my predecessors.”

In many ways, Levene’s story begins with the story of David, his immigrant grandfather, who left the oppression of his native Russia in 1911 for a better life in North America. He said his goodbyes to his parents and siblings and also to his young wife and baby daughter, with whom he would be reunited as soon as he found a job.

Levene’s grandfather arrived in New York and began working as a presser in a dry cleaning shop. He soon concluded that toiling on his feet for 12 hours a day in 35 degree heat was not his vision of a better life. He wrote a friend from Russia who was living in the small town of Plum Coulee, Manitoba. Before long, David was on his way to Canada.

Although he spoke little English, he obtained a horse and wagon and began peddling dry goods and other assorted items to the surrounding area. Soon, he earned enough to bring over his wife and daughter. After a few years, he could afford to buy a general store in Southey, Saskatchewan. In 1929 he pursued a new business opportunity in Regina and founded Crescent Furniture.

Eventually, he built larger and more modern premises, which were completed just before his untimely passing in 1943.

Ken Levene’s father, David, entered the business and was later joined by his brother-in-law Joe, who had returned home after serving overseas with the Canadian Army. Together, they added branches in Swift Current and Moose Jaw.

While supporting many Jewish causes, Levene’s parents also stressed the importance of contributing to the general community in which they lived. Levene’s father served as president of the Regina Rotary Club and chaired the Salvation Army fundraising drive. His mother was on the executive of the Regina branch of the National Council of Women.

Levene earned a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University and an MBA from the Harvard School of Business. Upon his father’s passing in 1962, Levene, with the valued help and support of his mother Margery, became the third generation operator of Crescent Furniture. In 1984, they decided to close the business, ending 55 years of continuous family operation.

“I’m proud to say we had a good reputation all those years in the business,” he says. “We treated our customers and employees right. One thing I did with the new owners was have them sign a letter that I gave to each employee guaranteeing they wouldn’t lose their jobs or suffer a pay cut.”

In 2005, Levene made a \$4-million donation to the University to establish the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business.

So, how did the establishment of the school come together?

“It started with my suggestion to Donor Relations’ Darlene Freitag that I give a scholarship to a business student,” says Levene. “That was followed some time later with a lunch meeting in Calgary with Darlene and then dean Garnet Garven. It was then that I proposed the creation of a graduate school of business at the University in my name. After some resistance to the designation of the word ‘School,’ my suggestion was accepted and an agreement was finalized with then president David Barnard.”

As part of the gift agreement, Levene established an advisory board, of which he is a permanent member.

“It’s very pleasing when a graduate comes up to me and thanks me,” he says. “That’s part of giving back. What I like about the gift is that it’s not like putting your name on a building. This is a continuing, living entity that goes on. It’s also very satisfying personally to be involved as an advisor to the school.”

Levene is retired and lives in Calgary.

“I made my gift for three reasons,” Levene says. “The first was to honour my parents for what they did for me. The second was to give back to the community. The third reason was to create something that would continue to drive the success of Regina and Saskatchewan and create a climate of opportunity for others.”

Last year, **Moe Mathieu** accepted a job as Luther College's food services manager. That may seem like an odd career move for a man who has worked in three Michelin-starred restaurants and once turned down a job at The Fat Duck, which is, according to *Restaurant Magazine*, the best restaurant in the world. But Mathieu's a guy who doesn't let grass grow under his feet. He likes adventure and challenge. His culinary career started auspiciously – peeling potatoes for his mother's catering business. Soon he was graduating with honours from the Canadian Culinary Institute and later earned his Red Seal, Canada's highest gastronomic certification. Mathieu started the popular Regina restaurants Beer Bros. and The Willow and most recently taught in Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Professional Cooking program. Today's special: peri peri, Mafe stew with fry bread, feijoada with pita chips, Baba ghanoush, akara and jollo.



**D** Why did you want to manage a university cafeteria?

*Working for my alma mater (Luther High School) was on my bucket list so when the opportunity came up I jumped at it.*

**D** What are your hopes for the Luther College cafeteria?

*I hope we can elevate the game a little, put a few more smiles on faces and give people more food experiences.*

**D** What is your favourite dish to cook?

*Tourtiere! It a family thing. We make it every Christmas and it is special every time we make it. We made it part of our program at Luther last Christmas and when the flour cleared we sold over 100 meat pies.*

**D** We live in an age when chefs are celebrities. What explains this?

*People gravitate towards people with skills, passion and drive. Chefs seem to have these things in droves, so yeah, it is fun to watch them. I used to like cooking shows, but now I find the food celebrities are more food enthusiasts rather than gritty chefs.*

**D** For the average person who has not experienced the height of culinary excellence, tell us about an occasion you had with food that blew your mind?

*Alinea, in Chicago. The restaurant is too much. One of the dishes used a balloon filled with scented air to rest the plate on and as you ate the dish you "tasted" the air that was slowly flowing out of the balloon. Even me trying to explain this is nuts. Just such cool food they build there.*

**D** You earned a wrestling scholarship to the University of North Dakota State. Are there any similarities between wrestling and being a chef?

*Training hard and getting beat up.*

**D** What would you say to people who are intimidated to take on an ambitious recipe?


*Recipes are guidelines for the most part. If you think you like the food because of the picture or can taste the food by reading the ingredients, then you are on your way to success.*

**D** Describe the satisfaction you get from people appreciating your food.

*It's all about the food reminding people of something. I made a cheesecake for a menu once that was caramel popcorn flavoured. It reminded a bunch of people who enjoyed it about going to carnivals and fairs as kids and going to the movies and enjoying crackerjacks. This is a total win for me because that's what it is all about.*

**D** In your mind, does Saskatchewan have a quintessential dish?

*So hard to say one thing but perogies come to mind as it is part of many cultures' celebratory menus. It seems like a lot of people make this part of their meals. Don't we have a drive-thru perogy restaurant?*



The Senate has a variety of duties and powers that help it ensure the academic welfare of the University of Regina. Most of the broader issues of academic policy are reserved for its approval. Concerning academic affairs, it's the ultimate court.

**By Bill Armstrong**

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted. Senate photo courtesy of University of Regina Archives and Special Collections.

# The U of R Senate – **window** on the world

Jim Tomkins, Judy Cormier and Bob Krismer took very different paths to become members of the University of Regina Senate, but they share a common belief that their work contributes to the well-being of the University. Senate is big – Tomkins, Cormier and Krismer are among nearly 100 members who contribute their perspectives to decisions determining the University’s academic direction.

Tomkins is serving his second three-year term as chancellor of the University of Regina, which automatically makes him a member and chair of Senate. His experience also includes his time as the University’s vice-president (Administration) from 1998 to 2005 and as president and vice-chancellor from 2007 to 2008. (He was a Senate member in those positions as well.) With the depth and breadth of his experience, he is the ideal person to explain Senate’s role and the singular features that set it apart.

The responsibility of a senate at almost all universities – including at the University of Regina – is to be the senior academic decision-making body for the institution, Tomkins explains. The senates at the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan are unique in Canada because of their broad-based membership. Most other universities have a senate comprised of faculty members.

While the senate at the U of S has delegated more of its powers of academic approval to the Faculty Council, the



The University of Regina Senate has been a long-standing fixture since the *University of Regina Act* came into effect in 1974. Shown on the opposite page is a 1984 Senate meeting. Above: Jim Tomkins is Chair of Senate by virtue of his role as University of Regina Chancellor.

U of R Senate casts a much wider net. Its membership encompasses the experience and viewpoints of senior executives, faculty members, the heads of its federated and affiliated colleges, deans and academic directors, representatives of the student body, alumni elected by their peers, the minister and deputy minister of Advanced Education, the present and past Chancellors of the University, and representatives put forward by about 40 professional and occupational organizations in the province. The reasons for this unique configuration go back to Saskatchewan’s early years, when people were flooding into the newly created province.

“In 1907, just two years after Saskatchewan was created, the population was growing rapidly, and people thought, ‘We should have a university,’” explains Tomkins. “However, there were few people with any experience or background in higher education, so the legislation creating the University of Saskatchewan in 1907 tried to draw in some of those experienced people by including representatives from their professional and occupational organizations on the Senate. And, until about 10 years ago, the section of the *University of Regina Act* regarding Senate had not changed much since the 1907 legislation. The wording has been updated, but the original idea remains.”

The legislation also provided for elected representatives from districts across the province. The drafters recognized that a university in what was then a predominantly rural and agrarian province would benefit from having residents represented on Senate.

Saskatchewan has changed dramatically since then: the province’s population is concentrated in cities and towns, and the University of Regina – after a period as a satellite campus of the University of Saskatchewan – has become an independent institution. The University of Regina now has about 70,000 alumni represented on Senate by 14 graduates from 12 electoral districts in the province.

“With the growth in student enrolment numbers – including First Nations and international students – we are a provincial university, and our alumni representation needs to reflect that,” says Tomkins, who chairs Senate and also sits on the 11-member Board of Governors, which is responsible for administrative matters.



University Secretary Glenys Sylvestre is overseeing a project to institute an electronic voting system in time for the fall Senate election.

One further change is in the works. Previous district elections have been conducted by mail, with information, nomination forms and ballots all on paper. University Secretary Glenys Sylvestre BAdmin’94 says her office will switch to electronic voting by fall 2017, reducing the cost of distributing information and administering the district elections. She also expects that managing the vote electronically will improve the response rate for nominations and balloting, as it has at other universities that have adopted the practice.

“We are hoping to encourage alumni who want to continue their relationship with the University to be involved,” Sylvestre says. “In the future, Senate could be making decisions about expanding the University’s reach, such as new community-based programs, or master’s programs delivered at a distance. These are the kind of initiatives where the outside perspectives of the district representatives are very helpful.”

Elected Senate members serve three-year terms and can be re-elected for a second term. Senate meets three times a year: in February, and just before the spring and fall convocations. Matters coming to Senate for consideration originate from many areas within the University, and include: the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates; establishment or changes to faculties, departments and courses; admission requirements and academic standards; establishment of new research institutes or centres; student discipline and student appeals. Much of the groundwork on

these matters has been delegated to the faculties and council executive before they reach Senate for a final decision, Tomkins explains.

“Senate meetings last about three hours, and it may seem like a lot of the issues dealt with are rubber stamped. Those issues have already received a great deal of scrutiny at various levels before arriving at Senate” he says. “There are occasions, though, where the unique perspectives of external representatives are very useful, often through their work on committees.”

Judy Cormier BEd'84, PGDC&I'91 and Bob Krismer are two such representatives. Cormier is one of two members elected to represent Regina, while Krismer was elected to represent the district that encompasses North Battleford and Prince Albert. Both grew up in small town Saskatchewan: Cormier at Glenavon, southeast of Regina, and Krismer at Ardath, northwest of Outlook.

Cormier took classes at both the College Avenue Campus and what was then called the “new campus” from 1967 to 1969, qualifying for a teaching certificate. While she taught at schools in rural Saskatchewan, she took night, summer and off-campus classes and completed her Bachelor of Education degree in 1984. She then earned a Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction following the same routine of part-time study, before pursuing post-graduate degrees out of province.

“I am so grateful that, as the University of Regina was establishing its

identity as separate from the University of Saskatchewan, it reached into rural southern Saskatchewan, providing opportunities for part-time students to achieve their educational goals,” Cormier says. “After my convocations, I was pleased to continue this legacy by being a sessional lecturer for the University of Regina, teaching courses in rural communities. I agreed to let my name stand for election to Senate because I wanted to contribute and support both the academic community and the broader community,” she says.

Bob Krismer received his arts and education degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, but attended a summer session at the University of Regina that helped him complete his physics major and his arts degree. He wears many Senate hats, having served as the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation representative to the University of Regina Senate from 2002 to 2008, prior to being elected to two terms representing the North Battleford-Prince Albert district. He has also served on the U of S Senate for six years.

“Having been a teacher for 32 years, I am keenly interested in education and the programs and course offerings for our graduates at both our universities,” Krismer says. “Not only do I represent my community, but I also have learned how complex governing a university is as it works to deliver on its mission and vision.”

As you might expect with such a large body, many elected Senate members

find they are able to make their most significant contributions – and gain their richest insights into the inner workings of the University – through committee work. Elected members can serve on Senate, joint Senate-Council and Faculty Council committees. Now in her second three-year term, Cormier has served on several committees, including the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

“It is committee-level discussions that I find interesting,” says Cormier. “They provide an insight into how the University is adapting. For example: how courses are changed, discontinued or added in the context of changing needs; how bylaws are formalized to reflect changing practice; [and] how students experience due process in terms of discipline.”

Krismer concurs, noting that committee work enables elected Senate members to have some initial influence on decisions that may end up at the Senate table. “Discussions at the committee level are generally full and lively,” he notes. He is particularly concerned that first-year students face obstacles to their success because they enter university lacking some basic skills – specifically math and English skills. He helped initiate a review of the issue, and looks forward to hearing results from the review. Krismer also thinks the University of Regina is on track to realize many innovations in the field of the environment, global warming and carbon capture, and in the area of digital and technical advances.

“The University of Regina has also done a great deal to accommodate a diverse population, not only with our Aboriginal community, but also to a large immigrant and overseas population,” Krismer says. Cormier agrees and hopes that the current reduction in funding from the province will not compromise the range and quality of offerings at the University of Regina. “I feel it is coming into its own on a provincial, national and international stage,” she states.

*For more information on Senate, please contact Lana Jankowski at 306-585-4436 or [lana.jankowski@uregina.ca](mailto:lana.jankowski@uregina.ca) or visit the following link: <https://www.uregina.ca/president/governance/senate/index.html>.*

*Bill Armstrong is a Regina freelance writer and amateur photographer with a strong interest in Saskatchewan history.*



Photo by Warne Noyce

**Left: Judy Cormier is one of two elected Senators representing Regina. Bob Krismer is the Senate representative of the North Battleford-Prince Albert district.**



The University of Regina boasts the best employment rates for young graduates of all post-secondary institutes in Saskatchewan.

Source: *2014 Graduate Outcomes Study Report*, Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education



To learn more, visit [uregina.ca](http://uregina.ca)



University of Regina

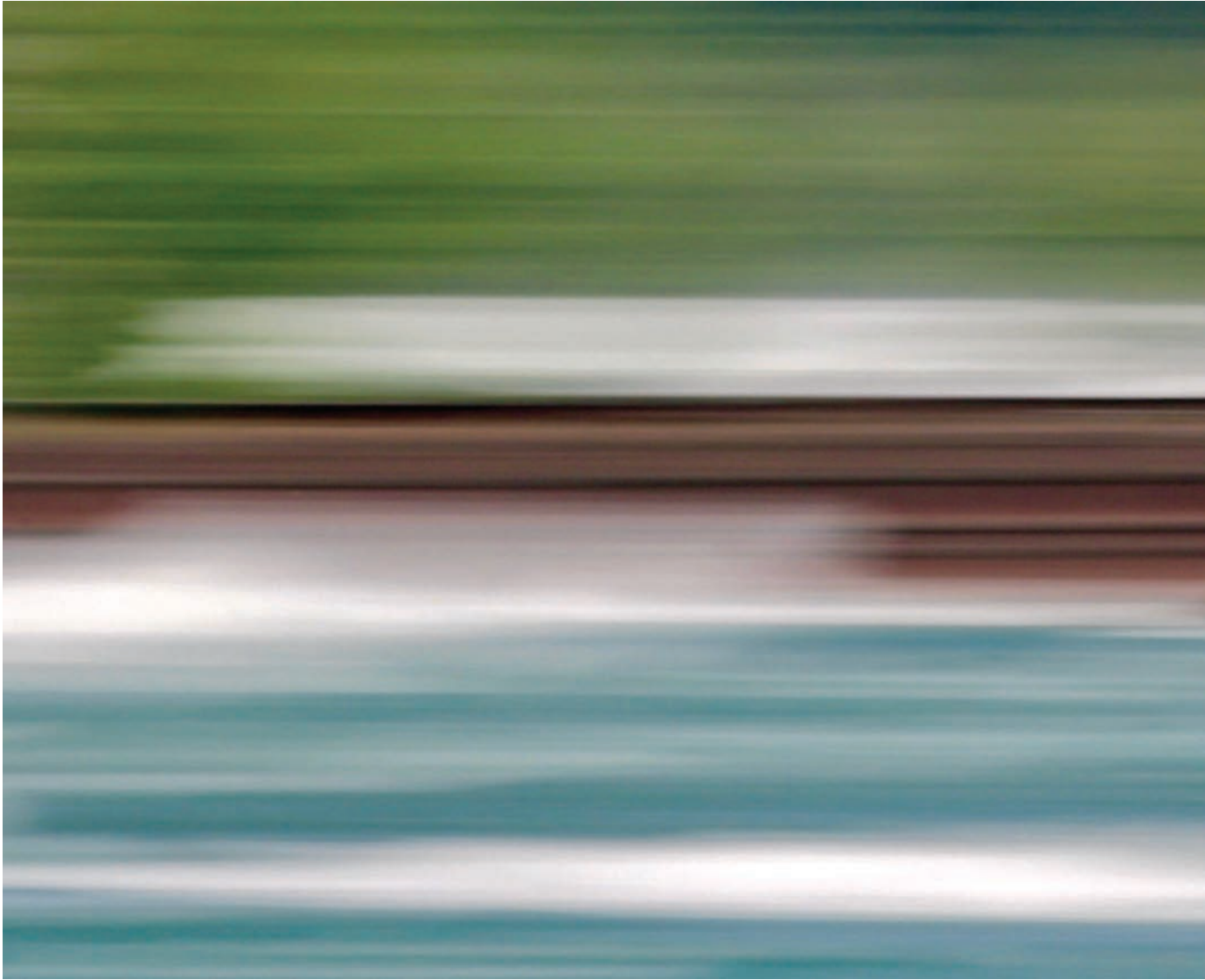
Congratulations graduates!  
Welcome to the U of R alumni family.

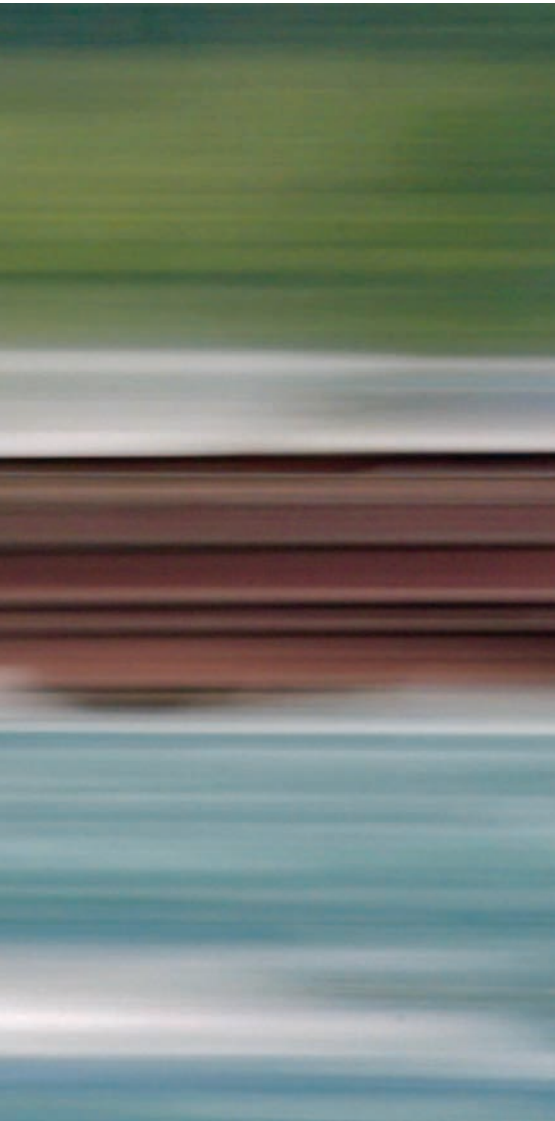


UNIVERSITY OF  
**REGINA**  
**ALUMNI**

[www.uregina.ca/alumni](http://www.uregina.ca/alumni)

Ross Keith BA'67 Susan Keith BEd'74, BSW'80 Robbie Keith IPSE'16 Courtney Keith BA'04 Colin Keith DIPBA'11





### **Shane Christian Eason BFA'01**

*Shane Christian Eason is an assistant professor and multimedia production coordinator for the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies at Florida Atlantic University. Eason specializes in experimental and documentary film, expanded cinema, media installation and film curating. His formal experimental and documentary films are conscience studies in the discourse of abstraction, memory and identity. His films have been screened, exhibited and awarded nationally and internationally at a number of peer recognized film festivals, art galleries and alternative exhibition spaces. His latest film project "PAPA," recently awarded Best Story and Best Editing of a Documentary at the Madrid International Film Festival, is a feature documentary that chronicles the Ernest "Papa" Hemingway look-alike contest annually held in Key West, Florida.*

*Personal website: [www.shanechristianeason.com](http://www.shanechristianeason.com) or [www.BlackIronFilms.com](http://www.BlackIronFilms.com).*

*Still images on these pages from Ascend + Descend  
(8 min. | Color | 2.1 Sound | HD 1080p | 2015)*





*Still images on this page from Rocket's Red Glare*  
(75 min. | Color | 5.1 Sound | HD 4K | Projected Completion: 2018)



*I often condition my work as experimental and documentary film forms, but also bridge the two into a sustained hybrid. I'm influenced by a number of disciplines including: philosophy, media theory, visual aesthetics, principles of metaphor, memory, and the dynamic tactility of the medium. I vigorously endorse and defend these characteristics in my filmmaking, adjacent artwork, surrounding research, and academic instruction. I feel that these concepts, along with a strong supporting substance such as "the medium," provide a foundation for all of my film work and its ongoing development.*

**- Shane Christian Eason**



*Still images on this page from PAPA  
(89.5 min. | Color | 5.1 Sound | HD 1080p | 2016)*



If you believe the hype, 2017 will be the year for the unveiling of a new kind of supercomputing that will revolutionize life on planet Earth. Quantum computers store and process information using quantum mechanics, enabling computers to tackle a whole new set of problems that were previously unsolvable. Microsoft, IBM, Google and a handful of startups are racing to be the first over the quantum computing finish line. Lots of people in the know are betting that alumnus Chad Rigetti BSc Hons'02 will end up in the winner's circle.

**By Laird Harrison**

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.

# A quantum leap of faith

**C**had Rigetti once thought he'd grow wheat for a living. After all, his grandfather quit school in sixth grade to become a farmer. That life was good enough for Rigetti's father and brother, too. In fact, growing up on the family farm 15 minutes outside of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, it was sometimes hard to glimpse other possibilities. Rigetti certainly didn't see himself telling an audience in Silicon Valley that he hoped to cure cancer and stop global warming.

But there Rigetti stood on a fall day in 2016, just a few miles down the road from Apple headquarters, setting goals that make that celebrated company look trivial in its ambition.

"We're on a mission to build the world's most powerful computer," Rigetti said, "to solve humanity's most pressing problems."

This year, Rigetti's startup company, Rigetti Computing, plans to launch a machine that will exceed the power of any computer its size by making use of quantum mechanics – phenomena so baffling that they seemed far-fetched to Albert Einstein.

In fact, one of the most important problems a quantum computer might solve is how to understand quantum mechanics. That was the problem that propelled Rigetti from Moose Jaw to Yale University, and started him on a path through IBM to the helm of his own startup in Berkeley, California.

But before all that, he had to graduate from the University of Regina – a big

enough step for someone who had received poor evaluations from his high school teachers.

Sitting in a conference room at his company, the 38-year-old Rigetti radiates an air of confidence. A five-o'clock shadow makes his chiseled features look nonchalant, and his calm voice contradicts the intensity in his sapphire eyes. His attire is Silicon Valley casual – a down vest over a blue pinstriped shirt, and blue sneakers. But he's careful about what he discloses, strict in observing time and deliberate in his movements.

His success seems to stem not so much from some manic genius, but consistent application of intelligence. As a child, he showed sparks of this approach, most often in the context of sports. His mother, Nola Ayers, remembers watching him as he tried to invent a new kind of fish hook or design a golf course. Once, he announced that he was working on an algorithm to predict the performance of baseball players, much like the ones that the movie *Moneyball* later made famous.

Ayers often drove Rigetti long distances to soccer or wrestling matches, showing him as a mother can that she valued his passions – even if his teachers didn't. "He probably stood out as being a bit argumentative in school," she says. "I credit that to the fact that he was curious, and he was challenging the teachers. Teachers don't particularly like to be challenged."

Even if it didn't show up on his report card, young Rigetti's determination made him stand out as a high school wrestler –



University of Regina head wrestling coach, Leo McGee.

enough that Regina wrestling coach Leo McGee came knocking.

Rigetti was built for the sport, "like a thoroughbred," McGee says. But above all, it was Rigetti's work ethic that made McGee think the farm boy could succeed. "He was on the tractor from morning to night," McGee says. "In the sport of wrestling, talent is as cheap as table salt. If you don't work, you're not going to be successful."

For years Chad fought for a place on the wrestling team's starting lineup. "He was talented," recalls teammate Taryn Naidu BAS'01 (Luther College). "He was a very, very hard worker, never intimidated to get up at 5 a.m. for a run, always in the weight room." Naidu, now the founder of Rightside, a leading



Opposite: University of Regina graduate Chad Rigetti outside the Rigetti Computing headquarters in Berkeley, California. (Photo by Charles Barry) Left: Rigetti's mother Nola Ayers and a young Rigetti on the family farm near Moose Jaw. (Photo courtesy of Nola Ayers) Right: Rigetti was part of the 1996-97 University of Regina wrestling team that posed with former premier Roy Romanow on the occasion of the team's national championship. Rigetti is in the back row, third from the right. (Photo courtesy of Leo McGee)

provider of domain name services based in Seattle, Washington, says wrestling forces you to rely on yourself, which may be one reason why both he and Rigetti went on to start their own companies.

But despite his skill, Rigetti was hobbled by a torn anterior cruciate ligament from a high school accident and gradually came to realize that wrestling would not be his future. The dead end turned out to be a blessing. Rigetti found himself getting more and more interested in academics. In particular, he wanted to understand both computing and quantum mechanics.

Computing is by far the easier of the two to understand. The computers that most people use work by reducing all information to binary conditions: up or down, left or right, on or off, 0 or 1. Each of these is equal to one bit of information. In the counting system known as base 2, these digits can represent any number, just as 9 digits can represent any number in base 10.

Using transistors, computers can convert any problem in logic to a math problem, and with the right data and enough time, they can solve it. For example, mapping the quickest route from your house to a grocery store is only a matter of measuring the distances on all possible routes, dividing them by your rate of speed and comparing the answers.

But classical computers run up against their limitations when they have to consider too many options. What if you want to know the fastest route to visit both the dry cleaners and the grocery store, and you don't care which one you visit first? The computer then has to calculate all the possible routes from your house to the grocery store, from your

house to the dry cleaners, and between the grocery store and the dry cleaners.

That challenge, known as the Travelling Salesman problem, rapidly becomes harder as more destinations are added. To optimize a traveller's trip among 10 cities requires testing 180,000 possible combinations. With enough destinations, a classical computer doesn't have time to compare all the possibilities before you need the answer.

While at the University of Regina, Rigetti quickly became fascinated with such questions. Since he didn't focus on physics until his junior year, he had some catching up to do, and extended his time at Regina to six years for his bachelor's degree. That included a year he spent as an exchange student at Arizona State University, where he worked with Stuart Lindsay, a leader in the study of nanotechnology, which explores how to work with really tiny things.

Making things very small matters a lot in computers. The world's most powerful computers take up rooms the size of basketball courts. One of the most powerful, the Tianhe-2 in China, occupies a space half the size of a football field and consumes about 20 megawatts of electricity – enough to power Moose Jaw, as Rigetti likes to point out. If engineers can't keep cramming more circuits in the same amount of space, then our phones and laptops will either stop getting more powerful, or they'll have to get so big we can't fit them in our pockets and on our laps.

Already, engineers are working with circuits so tiny they can envision the day when they will be manipulating individual atoms. But when that happens, they will run into a serious problem. The particles that make up atoms – electrons in particular – don't behave the way larger pieces of metal and silicon behave. Sometimes they don't act like particles at all; their movements more closely resemble waves.

Stranger still, an individual particle can be in more than one place at one time. In the landmark double slit experiment, for example, a single photon fired at a screen with two slits in it, creates wave patterns emanating from both slits on the other side. One consequence of these properties is that electrons can pass through barriers that would contain them in the macroscopic world.

In fact, their behaviour is so different from what we experience in the world through our senses that even quantum physicists struggle to grasp it. "I think I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics," Richard Feynman, one of the leading quantum mechanics theorists once said.

But if their weird behaviour makes subatomic particles unsuited for the circuits of classical computers, it creates new possibilities. Just as subatomic particles behave as if they are in more than one place, they also behave as if they are in more than one condition. Instead of simply being "off" or "on," they can be "off," "on," or simultaneously "off and on," or somewhere on a continuum in between these states.

As a result, the bits they can process, known as quantum bits, or qubits, contain more information than ordinary bits. A two-qubit computer can do four calculations at once. A three-qubit computer can do eight, a four-qubit computer can do 16, and so on with the amount of computing power increasing exponentially with the number of qubits.

This allows quantum computers to consider multiple possibilities simultaneously. They could theoretically solve problems like the Travelling Salesman much faster than classical computers. They could also factor large numbers, which might eventually enable them to solve certain kinds of encryption.

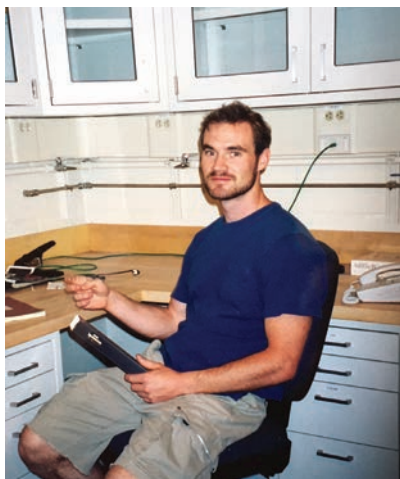
They could simulate the effects of combining molecules to make new drugs or fertilizers, or to extract carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere – which is why Rigetti thinks they might cure cancer or solve global warming.

Quantum computers could quickly compare patterns and learn by trial and error, so they would excel at artificial intelligence challenges like facial recognition.

They could also model the interactions of subatomic particles, giving us new familiarity with the bizarre world of quantum mechanics. "It's going to change the way we think about ourselves," says Thomas Schenkel, group leader of the Ion Beam Technology Group at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

Such notions fired Rigetti's imagination. After graduating from the University of Regina on the Dean's Honour List, armed with a letter of recommendation from Lindsay, Rigetti was admitted to the doctorate program in applied physics at Yale University. There he found himself struggling to acclimate to life far from home and on the outskirts of a major metropolis. "I'm an introverted farm boy and that adaptation was very, very tough," he says.

But the culture shock was worthwhile because at Yale Rigetti eventually got to work with Michel Devoret, one of the world's leading quantum computing theorists. "[Devoret] instantly became the most influential person in my life," Rigetti says.



Rigetti cut his teeth in the Yale University physics lab. Shown here in 2003. (Photo courtesy of Nola Ayers)





Rigetti and quantum engineer, Alexa Staley, at Rigetti Computing. (Photo by Charles Barry)

Subatomic particles can be so squirrely that Devoret was working on an alternative approach to building a quantum computer: getting macroscopic materials to exhibit the same behaviour as subatomic ones. Using highly refrigerated superconducting silicon chips with thin films of aluminum, Devoret discovered a way to create a kind of artificial atom that could be used to make qubits that are easier to manipulate than those made from subatomic particles.

The work with Devoret put Rigetti on the cutting edge of quantum computing, but he realized he didn't want his work to stay within the walls of the university. "I wanted to combine the rigour and depth of academics with a focus on positive impact and changing people's lives," he says.

For a while, he thought that opportunity might lie with IBM where he worked for three years after obtaining his doctorate. But gradually, the vision of a dedicated quantum computer company crystallized in his head. A small startup could move faster than a large, established organization, he decided. "It's like GM versus Tesla," he says. "You can do amazing things by building an organization from scratch."

After leaving IBM, Rigetti had to convince others that he could realize his vision of a small company winning the race to build the first commercially viable all-purpose quantum computer. (One competitor, D-Wave, is already selling a machine capable of quantum computing, but only for one specific category of problem.) "People think it's impossible, but somehow I never doubted it," Rigetti says. He estimates

he was rejected by 100 investors before signing a few. In 2013, he had enough money to begin. By the end of March 2017, he had \$69.2 million.

If that sounds like a lot of money, consider that IBM, Google, Microsoft and multiple startups around the world are also competing to make the first commercially viable quantum computer.

Adding to the challenge, Rigetti had to become a manager – which is a completely different skill set than what he'd used to win a wrestling match or get published in a leading physics journal. "I've learned on the job," he says. "With time and attention, you can learn almost anything."

The company has facilities in both Berkeley and Fremont. The main office, in Berkeley, is a rapidly changing, cavernous, cement-floored warehouse, with new conference rooms recently added to meet the needs of a workforce that has doubled in less than a year.

Rigetti never seriously considered starting the company anywhere but the Bay Area. "There is no other place on the planet that this company could exist," he says. "The ecosystem of Silicon Valley has the best attributes. It's tightly connected, but completely welcoming to new people."

Like any Silicon Valley-style startup, there is plenty of free food. Also like a Silicon Valley startup, people work long hours. But Rigetti tries to make sure his 60 employees also have personal lives – even he found time to marry his wife, Susan, another "physics nerd," in February.

Rigetti's quantum chips take up a small space inside a couple of refrigerators about the size and shape of propane tanks set on their ends. Their lowest temperature reaches 10

millikelvin ( $-469^{\circ}\text{F}/-274^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), which is colder than deep space. This condition must be maintained to achieve the necessary superconducting. Each of these canisters contains about two chips with eight qubits each.

By comparison, IBM recently made a five-qubit quantum computer available for public use through the cloud. But near the eight-qubit computers at Rigetti Computing stands a similar, slightly larger refrigerator that will – if everything goes well – soon contain about 50 qubits. For perspective, a 70-qubit computer would be more powerful than the most powerful supercomputer ever built. A 100-qubit computer would be more powerful than a classical computer the size of the universe.

And whoever achieves such computational power first will secure a decisive advantage in this transformative technology. Will it be Rigetti?

"There are a lot of people out there making commitments to the field right now," says Seth Lloyd, who helped develop one of the first quantum computers in his lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "A lot of different technologies are coming to the fore. Nobody quite knows which ones, if any, are going to succeed."

Having visited Rigetti Computing, Lloyd thinks the company has as good a chance as any. But there are difficult problems in physics and engineering to overcome. Experts like Lloyd stand ready with tests, such as factoring very large numbers, to see if machines like Rigetti's really can outpace the biggest supercomputers.

Rigetti, meanwhile, seems to thrive on the challenge. Maybe there's something about growing up on a farm where your true competitors are the elements themselves. It builds a toughness that farm boys don't see in themselves until they're out in the world. "Almost everyone who comes from Saskatchewan has an inferiority complex," says Rigetti. "It's amazing when they realize they can compete." **D**

*Laird Harrison writes about health and science. His work has appeared in magazines (TIME, Audubon, Discover, Men's Fitness, Health) and newspapers (San Francisco Chronicle, Chicago Tribune, Detroit Free Press); and on web sites (Salon, Reuters, MSNBC, CNN.com). He has produced video for Web sites including Smithsonianmag.com and audio for KQED and WUNC public media stations. His novel, Fallen Lake, tells the story of a powerful attraction between two couples and how it affected their children.*

# Polishing an old gem



**A \$60-million project to renew College Avenue Campus is well underway. Renovations will include a new addition on the west side of the College Building, a new structure on the east side of the College Building, a new north entrance built into the Tower Building and a south entrance connecting the site to Wascana Park. When the project is completed in early 2018, Regina will have one of the most exceptional educational and cultural venues in the country.**

**by Greg Campbell BFA'85, BJ'95**

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department. Architectural renderings courtesy of P3 Architecture Partnership.



“This is a very large rehabilitation project and major commitment by the University. It requires a lot of effort to move forward but the results, I feel, are going to be spectacular.”

Those are the words of Donald Luxton, the head of Western Canada’s foremost cultural and historical management company and the consultant working on the University’s College Avenue Campus Renewal Project. The two-year project will see renovations to the College Building, Tower Building and Conservatory. In a subsequent phase, Darke Hall will be restored.

On March 15, Luxton and a host of others were on hand for the unveiling of the project design that will bring the campus buildings, some of which date back to the early 20th century, into the modern age while maintaining the site’s historical integrity.

“This is actually a very unique site and the College Avenue Campus is one of the more historically significant sites in Western Canada. Many people have amazing connections to the campus,” says Luxton. “Sites like this really tell us about the people who lived here before we did and they tell us about the potential for the future. It gives us some deeper meaning

in our cities. I think these are all things that are crucial about maintaining historic landmarks.”

The \$60-million construction project began last fall and is financed in part by a \$27.6 million contribution from the Government of Canada’s Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund. Further funding of up to \$8.25 million will come from a Conexus Credit Union donation and generous support from the community.

“This also really connects the University to the city’s downtown in a way that’s very profound,” says Luxton. “We look forward to seeing that new connection and the old campus back in the public consciousness.”

A 2015 engineering report on the site determined that the Conservatory and the Gallery Building (original home of the MacKenzie Art Gallery) were in conditions too perilous to save. Fortunately, the Conservatory façade was salvaged and will remain a signature feature of the site.

“The Conservatory was in a very precarious state and it could not be saved in its entirety,” says James Youck, the project’s director of design and a principal with P3A, the architectural firm entrusted with the design and oversight of the renovations. “It was very important to the design team that we retain the north front elevation so when people drive by they will still see the historic, original façade.”

The renovation includes three major structural changes to the site – an addition on the west side of the College Building that sits behind the Conservatory façade, a new structure on the east end of the College Building that adds a subtle counterpoint to the existing tower (a design feature that refers to a planned east tower that was never built) and a new front entrance built into the Tower Building.

“It was critically important that we come up with a plan that would allow the public to enter into the building and flow throughout the building in a very safe and intuitive way,” says Youck. “The original plan for the tower was as a porte-cochère, which if you’ve been to Harvard or Oxford, are the open entrances to the colleges’ internal courtyards. The original sketches for the tower show it to be exactly that. It was only later that it was filled in. We’ve introduced that as the

main entrance to the new addition and to the existing College Building and it will allow people to walk north to south and reinforce the connection to the lake, as well as providing us with a new principal entry on the south side of the building.”

To accentuate the connection between the campus and the park, large glass panels will punctuate the brick façade of the addition. When lit at night, they will emulate a lantern in the park. As well, a pedestrian plaza is planned for the space between Darke Hall and the west addition that will serve as a gathering place for the public and attract park-goers. Youck says that the new additions on the east and west sides of the College Building will improve safety, access and service to the campus while preserving the existing Gothic Revival architecture of the site.

“It’s very important to understand that when you are doing an addition to a heritage property, mimicry is not the right answer,” Youck says. “What people will see as they drive past the building is a modern interpretation in a red brick that is very similar to the existing buildings, but in a very modern expression.”

In addition to giving the site a new lease on life, the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project will provide an enhanced educational experience to the approximately 8,000 learners who call the campus home each year.

The campus also hosts dozens of community and cultural events that contribute \$18 million in gross domestic product annually to the Saskatchewan economy and support nearly 500 full- and part-time jobs. The project is expected to generate some 400 jobs during the construction phase and have an impact of more than \$40 million during the development phase.

Once construction is completed in late 2018, the buildings’ tenants, which include the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Outreach and Training, Centre for Continuing Education, Lifelong Learning Centre and Conservatory of Performing Arts, will be able to move back and resume their regular programming.

While many of the interior features will have to be replaced with modern equivalents, a surprising amount of original features will be preserved. Those antique interior features – trim moulding, doors, doorknobs, etc. – will help retain the character of a bygone era.



**Previous spread: Architectural rendering of the renovated College Avenue Campus highlighting the new addition being constructed south of the existing Conservatory façade. The illustration also shows the new pedestrian plaza planned for the space between the addition and Darke Hall. Left: Donald Luxton, heritage consultant working on the University’s College Avenue Campus Renewal Project, shows off renovations at Darke Hall. Right: Director of Design James Youck is a principal with P3A, the architectural firm overseeing the project.**



**Illustration of the new south side of the College Building showing the new addition and the new south entrance that connects the building with Wascana Park.**

“There’s a unique 1912 lecture hall that survives in the College Building that has not been used for decades,” says Luxton. “It just doesn’t meet current codes and can’t be used in the current configuration. The intent is to turn it into a recital hall that, in terms of acoustical performance and its ability to support different uses, will be the equivalent of anything in the country.”

Another feature that has aged well over the past century is the College Building windows, which will be preserved.

“The windows in the College Building are exceptionally interesting,” says Luxton. “They’re original steel windows, manufactured in England in 1912, and they’re still very functional. They are the equivalent of a modern double-glazed system in that there’s an interior set of wooden storm windows that form an air buffer system that is actually very functional and gives us really good thermal performance.”

Luxton says that, over time, there has been a shift in thinking about preserving heritage buildings across Canada. In the early 1960s, a time when the University’s current campus was taking shape, the popular thinking was that newer and shinier was better – the desire was to create new spaces rather than put money into the old.

That thinking started to change with the historic conservation movement in the 1970s and 1980s, and spread across the country in the 1990s. It culminated with the 2003 introduction of Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, the first benchmark for conserving Canada’s historic places.

Even though the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project won’t be completed until early in 2018, both Luxton and Youck don’t have any trouble envisioning a revitalized campus when that day comes.

“What we will see when the project is complete are kids playing, drum lines practising, outdoor performances, receptions and really an enhancement of the cultural life and the cultural heartbeat of the city,” exclaims Youck.

“What we’re going to see when this project is finished is a new standard of heritage conservation,” adds Luxton. “In addition, we’re going to see new vibrant uses in these buildings and we’re going to also see activity back on the site that we haven’t seen because the buildings could not be used to their full potential.” **D**

*For more information on the College Avenue Campus Renewal Project or to watch animated flyovers of the new design, go to [www.uregina.ca/cac/college-building/index.html](http://www.uregina.ca/cac/college-building/index.html).*

*Greg Campbell has been fortunate to be the editor of Degrees magazine since 2006. When he’s not busy telling the interesting stories of people associated with the University of Regina, he likes to reminisce about his two favourite occasions at College Avenue Campus – watching the 2005 Saskatchewan centennial fireworks with his children atop the College Building and embarrassingly having to draw a nude model in an introductory art class in a studio in the same building in 1980.*

# No direction home



**In a 2014 Statistics Canada study, approximately 2.3 million Canadians reported that at some point in their life, they were temporarily homeless. The number of Canadians living in homelessness every year is estimated to be 235,000. On any given night, 35,000 homeless people sleep in shelters, in cars, under overpasses or in vacant doorways. Despite the alarming numbers, there are some optimists who believe just a little political will could make homelessness a thing of the past.**

**By Judy Bird BA'93, BJ'97**

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department unless otherwise noted.

**O**ne night in May 2015, the YMCA, with the help of 100 volunteers, conducted a survey of homeless people in Regina – a snapshot of those accessing shelters or living outside. That night, 232 people sought refuge in shelters in the city. About 75 per cent of people using the shelters were of First Nations descent and every person sleeping outside was Indigenous. Those people who are using shelters or living on the street are living in absolute homelessness. Unfortunately, that's just the tip of the iceberg as countless others face a homelessness that's concealed, whether they "couch surf" at the homes of friends and family members or sleep in their cars.

In Regina, those people who struggle with chronic homelessness are often hidden from society's sight. Many live on the streets for years and some have died there. Some University of Regina faculty, alumni and students are part of a group of forward-thinking advocates committed to raising awareness of homelessness and how it affects each of us, and ending it once and for all.

"I think sometimes people don't want to see homelessness because it's a window on our collective soul," says Marc Spooner, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education. He believes that our tendency is to blame homeless people for their situation. "That's a lot easier than looking deeply at our own communities and how we allow it to even take place," he explains. Spooner has been principal investigator for federally and municipally funded research on homelessness for the past decade and is recognized by the Canadian Senate as an expert on the issue. His findings have been published in government reports, peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and magazines, as well as presented to national and international audiences.

"I think the biggest eye-opener for me and other researchers is that this can happen to anyone," Spooner says. "Homelessness doesn't discriminate. We are all a divorce, poor decision or economic downturn away from homelessness."

"It's a condition of poverty," he continues. "Add to that racism, sexism, ableism, ageism – all of the different ways that people are marginalized – and they add up." A wide gap between the rich and the poor makes conditions worse for everyone, he notes.

"It doesn't just affect those who find themselves without a home, but it affects the whole community and it creates stress on everybody. There are parts of the city people might avoid, or there becomes higher costs associated with policing and medical support. The inequality creates a worse life satisfaction."

Homelessness is often characterized as a spectrum. At one end of the spectrum is absolute homelessness, a situation that includes those living on the street or in emergency shelters, often long term. Relative homelessness includes people without a place of their own who often couch surf with different friends or family members or stay temporarily in a car or in inferior shelter like a dilapidated house, backyard shed or parking garage.

Regardless of the state of homelessness, Spooner and others say that the only solution is one that first provides housing and

Photo by Chris Young/The Canadian Press



**Left: Marc Spooner, associate professor in the Faculty of Education, is recognized by the Canadian Senate as an expert on homelessness. Right: University of Regina Human Justice graduate Tyler Gray B.H.J. '13, the public relations officer for Carmichael Outreach, a Regina-based charity dedicated to overcoming the challenges of poverty and homelessness.**

second addresses the underlying issues. Without a housing first approach, people are less likely to escape homelessness because of the desperate state in which they find themselves. Immediate needs become the priority: When will I eat again? Where will I sleep? How will I stay warm? Research has proven that the constant stress of poverty limits the brain's capacity for long-term planning and privileged rationality.

"If I took anyone and put them in that crisis situation, all of a sudden they're not going to be able to think in terms of weeks or years," Spooner says. "You're not able to make the best decisions because your world has shrunk into minutes and hours. It's all about survival. The things you need to do for survival when your timeframe is minutes and hours are very different than the kinds of decisions [you] can make when you're thinking about weeks and months ahead of time."

For over 25 years, Carmichael Outreach has helped to alleviate the effects of poverty in Regina. The community-based charity offers many unique services and programs to assist and engage those in our community who are most directly affected by poverty. Services include addictions and mental health support programs, a clothing boutique and a housing support program. The agency also offers a hot lunch program that regularly serves 175 to 185 people. Last year, the program provided 64,000 meals to those in need.

Tyler Gray B.H.J.'13 is Carmichael's public relations officer. He first became involved with the agency while completing his justice studies practicum focused on homeless veterans.

"You hear their stories of what homeless people are going through and you understand why some people experience the challenge of addictions, or what those things are that have haunted them for the period of time they've experienced homelessness," Gray says. "In Saskatchewan, the legacies of colonization, residential schools and systemic racism are significant contributors to the time that people spend on the streets."

Each February, university students from across Canada participate in 5 Days for the Homeless, a campaign to raise

funds and awareness for the issue of homelessness. Sponsored students live in tents, sleep outdoors and depend on the charity of others for their food and monetary needs for five days. The money raised supports local agencies that help homeless people. Last year, University of Regina students raised \$51,353.27 for Carmichael Outreach — the most money raised by the 19 participating universities and more than double that of the second-place institution.

Benefits go beyond the funds raised each year to include sobering lessons for the students. Gray recalls the eye-opening tale a homeless person told him a couple of years ago.

"I remember one of the people telling me she was going to go with the students to help the kids get their PhD or panhandling degree."

Gray asked her what that meant and was stunned by the answer. "She said 'I will tell them that no matter how cold it is, you should sit outside without gloves and without a toque because people are more likely to give to you if your hands are bleeding.' The thought that I had was: do people have to find a way to suffer more to receive compassion? You hear a story like that and it forces you to give pause about how we're treating people in our community."

Compassion moved Lisa Workman B.Ed.'97 to start Project People, a support network of volunteers, donors and agencies for those struggling with homelessness and hunger. Workman had previously worked to combat homelessness in her job but grew increasingly frustrated because there was a lot of talk, but no action. "I wanted to be more impactful, where I could see more change," she says.

Workman has seen individuals or groups come forward to try to take the lead to end homelessness, but then efforts fizzle out when they become frustrated with how long it takes to make a difference. Although this cycle takes a toll on the helpers, she feels that some progress is being made. "The change I've seen is that there are a lot more people aware of homelessness in Regina. There was a time when people wouldn't necessarily believe you, but nowadays, I think people



are a little more aware. Still, there is a lot more work to do around relative homelessness,” she says.

Project People holds annual events like Christmas in July, where they feed people a turkey dinner, and have giveaways and activities for kids. Another initiative, Community for Connections, is an agency fair that provides information and direct services like flu shots or haircuts to people dealing with homelessness. About 200 people come each year. Workman also organizes a Friday Night Social, which provides a safe, comfortable place for people to get together and visit.

“It’s an alcohol-free time when we get together, play games, have coffee,” she says.

Agencies and groups like Carmichael Outreach and Project People are invaluable and provide much-needed relief. Yet for those seeking respite, the problem of homelessness prevails.

“The causes of homelessness are as old as society itself and some of those are not easy to overcome, but what we can do is not force people to live outside,” says Shawn Fraser BA’07, the senior director of Partnership Initiatives with the YMCA. Fraser is a former executive director of Carmichael Outreach. He also served one term on Regina City Council.

In 2016, the YMCA took the lead on implementing the federally funded Housing First program to address homelessness in Regina. People in need complete a two-hour survey to assess barriers to finding housing; those with the greatest need are given housing first. Since its inception, more than 30 people have received help; some have left Regina, ‘graduated’, or, unfortunately, passed away. As of May 2017, 24 people were receiving services from the program.

“Some people’s stories have been living on and off the streets, or in and out of detox, or prison, or the emergency room for years and years, and just to see the change in their eyes is so heartening,” Fraser says.

Gray has seen transformation too.

“It’s a very overwhelming experience. When it’s been a chronic 14- to 15-year experience with homelessness, you are essentially trying to help someone rebuild a life that they don’t

remember,” he says. “We’ve had occasions when somebody wouldn’t take their coat off for a week because they were convinced their place was going to disappear. We’ve had people that have slept on their own floor for a month because it was a way to transition. They’d have a bed in the place but it was too much too soon. You have to teach them that it is actually theirs. What is really powerful is the level of gratitude that people have,” Gray adds.

Regina was the last major city in western Canada to implement Housing First. Medicine Hat, Alberta, has ended homelessness through the initiative.

“In the Medicine Hat case, whether they find you on the street or you show up at a shelter, they will house you within 10 days. It’s an amazing program and it’s something every community in Canada should aspire to,” says Spooner. “The City of Regina is one of the laggards in this area. We don’t have a five-year plan or a 10-year plan to end homelessness,” he notes.

In Spooner’s opinion, “It shouldn’t be that difficult, in a province and country as rich in resources and administrative services as Saskatchewan and Canada, to just say it’s unacceptable for us to have homelessness and we’re going to guarantee that people have a place to stay. It just takes a little political will.”

Funding for Regina’s Housing First initiative in the 2017-18 year has doubled, but Spooner, Gray, Workman and Fraser agree that the province and municipality need to help fund this life-changing and life-saving enterprise.

“There’s a tremendous amount of strength and resiliency in the people that we’re working with,” says Gray. “Homelessness is not an example of someone’s deficiencies as much as it is a reflection of the deficiencies of resources around them. When people stop thinking about how they’re going to survive every day, people start to dream about their life again. You start seeing people having dreams for themselves and they’re able to accomplish some pretty incredible things,” he adds. **D**



**Left: Lisa Workman BEd’97, the founder of Project People, a support network of volunteers, donors and agencies helping those struggling with homelessness and hunger. Right: Shawn Fraser BA’07, the senior director of Partnership Initiatives with the YMCA. Fraser is a former executive director of Carmichael Outreach. He also served one term on Regina City Council.**

## Alumni Association President's Message



As I near completion of my term as president of the University of Regina Alumni Association (URAA), I find myself contemplating the future role of the URAA and its impact on the University. Alumni have historically been, and continue to be, a critical component of the University community.

Alumni have served as:

- champions, building our University's reputation at home and abroad;
- advisors, providing valuable perspectives related to the University's vision, mission, values and objectives;
- volunteers, living the University motto "As One Who Serves," supporting the student experience, building alumni networks and connecting the University and its broader communities;
- donors, providing vital financial resources to continue to grow the University to meet current and future student needs;
- recruiters, encouraging the next generation of students, both young and experienced, to make the University of Regina their institution of choice;
- employers, selecting University of Regina graduates for the knowledge and experience gained in part through their time at the University;

- faculty and staff, seeking to expand their impact by choosing the University to dedicate all, or part, of their career;

- mentors, engaging with current students to enhance their experience and provide guidance through transitions into and out of University;
- fans, visiting the campus to attend sporting events, theatre performances, lectures, student events, etc. and continuing to play a part in vibrant campus life.

As the University evolves as an institution, so must we as alumni. Although key components of our role may remain constant, how we achieve and deliver on that role is in the midst of change. The Association faces critical challenges and opportunities in the upcoming years, notably the introduction of Canada's anti-spam legislation requiring us to be more innovative in how we communicate with an increasingly diverse base of members.

The Association also needs to focus its limited resources on the highest value activities for members. This is especially important considering our growing international alumni base and the dispersed geographical locations of our alumni. We need to provide sufficient support for expanding alumni branches and chapters focused on specific regions and shared interests.

The Association is currently contemplating strategies to respond to these opportunities, including reviewing our current Board structures and committees and continuing to concentrate on our relationship with the University Alumni and Community Engagement Unit. We welcome your feedback and ideas, which can be emailed to [uralumni@uregina.ca](mailto:uralumni@uregina.ca).

Thank you for your continued commitment to our University in the variety of roles each of you play. During more challenging fiscal times, our role as alumni becomes increasingly important. Each time we speak about the University, we have an opportunity to enhance or detract the value of each of our degrees, certificates and diplomas. I hope that you continue to promote the University, its importance in our community and your role as a key component of its future. Your fellow alumni, and the next generation of students, are counting on us to celebrate successes, build pride and continue to enhance the student experience for those that follow.

**Kaytlyn Barber BBA'12**  
**President**  
**University of Regina Alumni Association**

### Upcoming Alumni Events

#### Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Join us for the 2017 Alumni Association Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 7 in the Research and Innovation Centre Atrium. Details to come.

#### The Owl's 50th Anniversary Alumni Party

Come back to The Owl on Saturday, October 21 for live music, food, fun and old friends. We'll send you an invitation soon.

#### Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards

Celebrate outstanding alumni success at the 2017 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards dinner on Thursday, October 5. Save the date for what promises to be an inspiring evening with University of Regina alumni, friends, faculty and staff. Registration opens in August 2017.

Be sure we have your current contact information so we can send you the details about these events and other alumni activities. Update your information online at [bit.do/ur-update](http://bit.do/ur-update).

**Questions?** Contact us at 1-877-779-4723 or [uralumni@uregina.ca](mailto:uralumni@uregina.ca).

### Chapter and branch contact information

**Regina:** Dan Danforth PGDC&I'94, CESED'92 – [regina.alumni@uregina.ca](mailto:regina.alumni@uregina.ca)

**National Capital Region (Ottawa):** Joanne Pomalis BSc'86  
[ncr.alumni@uregina.ca](mailto:ncr.alumni@uregina.ca)

**Toronto:** Leah Morrigan BFA'96 – [leah@transformyourself.ca](mailto:leah@transformyourself.ca)

**Saskatoon:** Richard Kies BAdmin'93, CPR'03 – [richard.kies@redcross.ca](mailto:richard.kies@redcross.ca)

**Calgary:** Stuart Quinn BAdmin'81 – [stuartq@shaw.ca](mailto:stuartq@shaw.ca)

**Edmonton:** Brad Rollins BAdmin'78 – [bradjrollins@gmail.com](mailto:bradjrollins@gmail.com)

**Levene Graduate School of Business Alumni Association:**  
Robb Elchuk MBA'09 – [levene.alumni@uregina.ca](mailto:levene.alumni@uregina.ca)

## 1968–79

**Mervin Pentelichuk BA'68** and **Susan Pentelichuk MVTEd'02** moved from Canmore, Alberta to Lloydminster last fall.

After 23 years, **Dennis Paddock BAsc'68** retired as the executive director and registrar of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan.

**Jim Hoffman BEd'71** was selected as a WorldSkills Expert for Graphic Design and will be attending the 2017 WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**David Sax BA'73, BAHC'78** retired as the executive director of Catholic Family Services of Regina after 21 years. Sax also worked in British Columbia from 1991 to 1996 as a mental health worker. He will be moving to Nanaimo, British Columbia to be close to his family.

**Charles Rook BEd'74, BA'78** retired from teaching in 2007.

## 1980–89

**Judith M. Dunlop BSW'81** retired as professor emerita from the School of Social Work at King's University College, Western University, London, Ontario. In 2016, she published a book with Michael J. Holosko from the University of Georgia entitled *Increasing Service User Participation in Local Planning: A How-To Manual for Macro Practitioners*.

**Eric Langager PGDEP'86** is currently teaching Rhetoric and British and American Culture at the China Youth University of Political Studies.

**Joni V. Avram BA'87** of Calgary, Alberta was recognized with a SABRE Awards North America 2016 for superior achievement in measurement and evaluation for leading Alberta's province-wide #IBelieveYou campaign, an initiative to promote a positive, empathic response to survivors of sexual assault. #IBelieveYou was selected from over 300 campaigns and 2,000 entries across North America. The campaign was also presented at the Global Health and Innovation Conference at Yale University in April, 2016.

## 1990–99

**Don Wren BA'95, BA'00 (Indian Studies), ACETC'10, MCERT'13** was recently appointed as a trainer in Business Sales at SaskTel. He continues his work as a member of Unifor Prairie Regional Council's Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Standing Committee.

**Christina Johnson-Quan BEd'97** finished a master's program in Educational Psychology with a specialization in Special Education from the University of Saskatchewan in 2014.

## 2000–09

**Sheldon Lachambre BPAS'03** co-founded, led and then sold a major North American brand and marketing conference held in Banff, Alberta called The Gathering, an annual coming together of the world's most coveted brands. Lachambre recently co-founded an event with Hillberg & Berk's founder and CEO Rachel Mielke. The conference will bring a major women's empowerment and leadership conference to Regina in 2018.

## 2010–17

**Blake Leverington PhD'10** is currently working at Heidelberg University, coordinating construction of part of a novel new tracking detector within a large European collaboration for the LHCb-Upgrade at CERN, which will be installed in 2019-20.

**Dan Shier BA'12** has been helping organize Regina's Queen City Pride Festival, a celebration of Regina's LGBTQ community, since 2011. This year marks Shier's sixth festival in which he has played a role in planning and organizing.

**Ashton Wiebe BBA'13** is currently in her second year of a law at Western University in London, Ontario.

**Rakesh Rajopalan PhD'14** successfully completed three years as a sessional lecturer at the University of Regina.

**Shulang Lei MSc'15** reports that he received a job offer from HSBC after graduation.

**Travis Sentes BBA'16** wrote "You never realize how important it is to develop connections during your time in school until you graduate and have no real 'ins' into your desired field of work."

University  
of Regina

Women

The University of Regina Women's Club invites female graduates of the University of Regina to join our club.

Our "Welcome Back" event is on September 20th.

For more information, please contact the president, Alison Hayford, at [alison.hayford@uregina.ca](mailto:alison.hayford@uregina.ca) or

Norma Millard at [and.millard@accesscomm.ca](mailto:and.millard@accesscomm.ca)

www2.uregina.ca/urw



# Finding her **voice**

**School of Journalism graduate Barbara Woolsey BAJ'11 (Luther College) has travelled to over 30 countries and interviewed everyone from senior politicians and hotel maids, to gang members in Caracas, Venezuela and artisan food producers across southern India. Her byline has appeared in such respected media outlets as Reuters and The Guardian. Despite her professional acumen and confidence, she wasn't always comfortable with her own cultural identity.**

**By Barbara Woolsey**

Photos by Trevor Hopkin, University of Regina Photography Department and courtesy of Barbara Woolsey.

I grew up in Regina often contemplating my cultural identity. As the only child of a Filipino immigrant and a first generation Canadian whose parents came from Scotland and Ireland, the understanding of my heritage was for a long time limited to dots on a map.

Coming from a bicultural, biracial background was often bewildering. I had a hard time reconciling those different existences. I knew I was Canadian and felt Canadian, but I also couldn't ignore that I had an entire family on the other side of the world that I had never met, and whose language I could barely speak.

In the family I did know, I was the only Asian. With my mom and her friends, I ate *adobo* and *pancit*. At big family dinners we ate roast beef and mashed potatoes with margarine, not butter, because my uncle was a canola farmer. I was aware of how I looked; sometimes I wasn't sure if it was the truest reflection of who I was inside. Not that it was a bad thing – I was just often puzzled by questions of where my race and ethnicity became me.

It only got more confusing the first time I travelled to the Philippines at age 13 to meet my mother's family. The tiny island where she comes from became more than just that dot on a map, but a real place overflowing with dozens of cousins, aunts and uncles, who all knew me. I grew up very privileged compared to them. We communicated as much as possible given the language barrier. I

knew I didn't fit into their world either – yet, at the same time, I realized it was a big part of me.

That's when I began to fall in love with the beauty that is cross-cultural communication. We could only communicate with what the Germans call "talking with hands and feet." One of my fondest memories of that trip was sitting on my 80-year-old grandmother's lap in her little treehouse for hours. Neither of us said a word, but in those moments, we flawlessly understood each other. She brushed my hair gently and put back the tresses with pins. I still have them as a keepsake of the only time I would spend with her, as she passed away not long after.

I was an avid reader and writer of fantasy and adventure books at a young age, but started getting into biographical and autobiographical works as I got older. From the Tudor dynasty to Malcolm X, Anne Frank and Hunter S. Thompson, I loved how the truth could be so much stranger than fiction. I wrote for my high school newspaper, then *The Carillon*, the University of Regina student newspaper. I became passionate about getting to know the real people behind statistics and numbers. Journalists will tell you that one of the heaviest parts of the job is being trusted by somebody to tell their story. The pressure to get it right is immense.

At the University's School of Journalism, we explored this responsibility, and interviewing became

like an art form to me. Less than a year later, I was plunged into the deep end: reporting in Bangkok. I was the first of many U of R interns at the *Bangkok Post*, Thailand's leading English daily.

I was 20 years old and, outside of the trip to the Philippines, had never been out of North America. The internship was a wake-up call. I was covering stories in Malaysia, Cambodia and the southern Thai islands. I was entrusted with representing the newspaper at important press conferences and events – from opera premieres to award ceremonies where the crown prince of Thailand and the queen dowager were in attendance. I knelt down with my audio recorder before an enlightened Buddhist monk, talked to a world-renowned orchestra conductor, interviewed women working in the sex industry, and, through translators, interviewed Cambodians whose livelihoods were being devastated by a border dispute over a sacred temple.

I learned from and spent time with a motley crew of Thai and foreign editorial staff who took me in as one of their own. There were journalists from India, the UK, Germany, the U.S., and even another half-Filipino like me. They were all expats on the edge of divergent cultures, each one happily living in their own melting pot – coming from here, having studied there, now living in Thailand and so on. I came to realize there was a very different world from what I knew – many worlds in fact – and, somehow, I could fit within all of them.



Opposite page: Journalism graduate Barbara Woolsey returned to the University of Regina campus earlier this year for a visit. Left: Woolsey exploring the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland for a travel guide she was writing. Centre: Filming a Buddhist monk ordination ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand. Right: Interviewing a graffiti artist in the Caracas, Venezuela slum, Antímano.



**Left:** Children eat 'walkie talkie' or chicken feet in the Cape Town, South Africa township of Langa. Woolsey was there to research a story about slum tourism. **Right:** Woolsey takes a break during her and her partner's 3,500 kilometres motorcycle trip across southern India. Photo taken in Kerala, one of southern India's most beautiful states, while travelling to Bengaluru.

Perhaps I was destined to be an expat. After graduating and working at the CBC in Regina, I ended up moving to Bangkok. Since then, I've travelled to over 30 countries, and have been extremely lucky to work in a profession that combines my passions for travel and meeting new people. Over the years, I've interviewed everyone from senior politicians and hotel maids, to gang members in Caracas, Venezuela and artisan food producers across southern India. From the mountain guide in Malaysia to the recovering drug addict undergoing controversial treatment in Koh Phangan, I've learned that there is so much we have in common. Despite all our differences – lifestyle, religion, politics – most of what we all crave in the end is basic necessities and assurances such as love and acceptance.

Better communication and better storytelling is what I strive for in my profession. I moved to Germany four years ago and have since learned German fluently. It constantly astonishes me how the new language has opened up so many new opportunities, friendships and experiences. It is now a big part of my little melting pot and has helped to cultivate a bond with the local culture that goes beyond words – and for a

writer whose job it is to find words for everything, that says a lot.

It's even inspired me to go back to my roots and learn the Philippines' national language, Tagalog, which I'm plugging away at in a German-Tagalog course book. My dream is to go back to the Philippines soon and get in touch with that side of my identity. Not because I still don't feel a part of it. On the contrary, because I've never felt more connected.

I'm finally comfortable with my cultural identity and now realize that it doesn't need to be defined. After all, it's more confusing than ever – speaking German with a Canadian accent, having Asian eyes and skin, being born and raised in a city called Regina, Saskatchewan, etc.

The truth is that anyone can expand his or her cultural horizons. Travel and seeking cross-cultural communication is more accessible and easier than ever thanks to the Internet. Depths of information is available, and connecting and staying in touch with people and finding affordable means of getting around is all possible. Travelling does make my heart heavier in that I feel like I can't have all the things I love at once, from people to places. But it's a fair trade for all the beauty I've experienced.

I firmly believe that discovering new places is a fantastic means of personal growth, especially when it's done in a way that doesn't harm natural and cultural environments or negatively impact local life. You can learn a lot from getting outside of your comfort zone and off the beaten track. When out on an unknown road (or lack thereof) relying purely on instincts and problem-solving, you have no choice but to be true to yourself and more open to new people and all kinds of new and exciting cultural elements.

Seeking out genuine local experiences, and not just tourist attractions, is what makes people more open-minded and empathetic. These are traits not just valuable for journalists, but for all human beings. And in the post-truth world we live in, where fake news and misguided populism run rife, understanding each other is more important than ever.

*In 2010, Barbara Woolsey BA'11 was the School of Journalism's first student to intern at the Bangkok Post. Before that, she had only been outside of North America once, and has since travelled to over 30 countries, largely on work assignments. She worked as a TV host and columnist in Bangkok and is now based in Berlin, freelancing for media outlets including Reuters, USA Today, The Guardian and Vice.*

**TD Insurance**  
Meloche Monnex

Take advantage of your alumni privileges.

Get preferred rates and coverage that fits your needs.

You could **save big\*** when you combine your alumni preferred rates and bundle your home and car insurance.

Recommended by



Supporting you ... and University of Regina.

As a University of Regina Alumni Association member, you have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program. This means you can get preferred insurance rates on a wide range of home and car coverage that can be customized for your needs.

For over 65 years, TD Insurance has been helping Canadians find quality home and car insurance solutions.

Feel confident your home and car coverage fits your needs. Get a quote now.

HOME | CAR

Get a quote and see how much you could save!  
Call 1-888-589-5656  
Or, go to [tdinsurance.com/uregina](http://tdinsurance.com/uregina)



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario, and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address: 50 Place Cremazie, 12th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H2P 1B6. Due to provincial legislation, our car and recreational insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. \*Nationally, 90% of all of our clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us and who insure a home (excluding rentals and condos) and a car on October 31, 2016, saved \$625 when compared to the premiums they would have paid without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile. Savings vary in each province and may be higher or lower than \$625. All trade marks are the property of their respective owners.

© The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

**University  
of Regina**

### Disclosure and acknowledgement of consent

The University of Regina maintains a database of all its students, alumni and friends that is used for University alumni relations purposes, information and activities; news about the University; electronic newsletter; and requests for support. The database is also used by the University and Alumni Association's third-party business partners that offer benefits to alumni and students through insurance, credit card, financial and other services.

You acknowledge and consent to the use and disclosure of database information relating to you (such as name, mailing address, phone number, degree(s) and year of graduation) for the aforementioned purposes unless otherwise indicated below.

Complete the following and return by surface mail. I do **not** wish to receive the following:

- Degrees Magazine     Alumni E-newsletter     Affinity partner information     Alumni Association information  
 Event notices     Any communications from the University of Regina

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to: University of Regina – External Relations  
3737 Wascana Pkwy, 210 Paskwāw Tower  
Regina, SK, Canada S4S 0A2

By e-mail: [alumni.relations@uregina.ca](mailto:alumni.relations@uregina.ca)  
By fax: +1 (306) 585-4997

To access and update your preferences online, please go to:  
[www.uregina.ca/alumni/uyi.htm](http://www.uregina.ca/alumni/uyi.htm)

İLLA·ŞDÇ' e eŞD\* ŞŞŞŞŞŞŞŞŞŞ

## mâmwinitotân nanâtohk-ayisiyiniwak

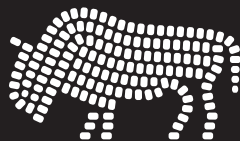
The University of Regina is proud to host the 2018 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Congress 2018 theme, "Gathering diversities," honours Regina's storied history as a rich buffalo hunting grounds and a sacred meeting place for multitudes of Indigenous peoples.

The theme not only celebrates our past, it speaks of who we are today and what our collective futures hold. The University of Regina has a rich tradition of inclusivity – we have earned our standing as a place where diversity gathers. And from May 26 - June 1, 2018, we invite members of our communities, alumni and friends to gather with us.

From academic programming that sparks debate on critical issues to cultural programming that showcases Saskatchewan's deep artistic talent – we invite you to join us for the largest gathering in Regina's history.

[www.congress2018.ca](http://www.congress2018.ca)



**congress 2018**  
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Gathering diversities

**congrès 2018**  
DES SCIENCES HUMAINES  
Diversités convergentes

May 26 mai – June 1 juin | Regina, Saskatchewan



Join the conversation on Twitter by following @UofRegina. #Congressh



FEDERATION FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | FÉDÉRATION DES SCIENCES HUMAINES

University of Regina