



U OF R REPORT

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Somers examines mutation mysteries

Biologist Chris Somers spends his days trying to learn more about how humans and wildlife interact, and how animals respond to human-modified environments.

It's an area of research that takes him beyond the classroom and the lab into the field, work that involves students he supervises and other U of R staff.

"My research often combines animal ecology in the field, environmental chemistry, and genetics," explains Somers, an assistant professor of biology and recently named Canada Research Chair (CRC). "There is lots of information available about the kinds of environmental exposures that can cause genetic damage leading to cancer, but very little regarding DNA damage leading to mutations in sperm and eggs."

Mutated sperm or egg cells in animals and humans have



Canada Research Chair Chris Somers about to examine a piece of dissected snake, one of the many animals he studies as a biologist.

the potential to contribute inherited genetic diseases or disorders to new generations, and in the worst case may

limit or end very small populations. Potentially, this type of mutation can affect any trait, says Somers.

His research program attempts to address this information gap by examining mutation frequencies in birds

and other animals that can be passed on from one generation to the next, and relating this to pollution exposure. The research is important not only to support wildlife conservation and habitat protection, he adds, but also to better understand the risks to humans of possible genetic mutations.

Somers' interest in wildlife stems mainly from his father, who took Chris and his sisters to catch frogs and snakes on their camping trips. His realization, at age 10, of the ecological changes that pollution and overharvesting of fish stocks had wrought in the Great Lakes prompted his interest in his current research.

Now, Somers is digging deeper into this area with the help of the honours undergraduate and graduate students that he supervises – one of his favourite aspects of being a university professor.

New lecture series brings business leaders to campus

Helping Paul J. Hill School of Business students gain the edge they need at the upcoming JDC West (Jeux du Commerce) competition is one of the goals behind both a new course and a new lecture series.

JDC West, a prominent competition for business students in Western Canada, presents participants with business-case challenges in areas such as marketing, finance and human resources. Last year, the U of R came in second place overall, while its Finance Team finished first in the individual business case competition.

The leadership course that has been developed – *Leadership Theory and Application* – aims to give students the skills they need to take on different leadership roles. It also gives them the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice by leading a class of business students who

are at an earlier stage in their program.

"The people that have gone through the process of competing, representing the faculty, find it's a nerve-racking experience in and of itself," says Sylvain Charlebois, associate dean of the Faculty of Business Administration. "So experience is key here. And that's why we want to train our students on leadership because it will help them cope with the stress of competition next year in Edmonton. We hope that this class will also help others cope with the stress of competition."

Along with the course, students will benefit from the experiences guest lecturers share with them and with the campus community during an open lecture series.

The first three speakers offer insight into the non-profit sector, government and the

world of business. These include: Fred Titanich, president and CEO of CAA Saskatchewan; Janet Wightman, president and CEO of Victoria Park Capital; and Paul Martin, president of Paul Martin Communications.

"It's going to open us up to their leadership styles – what they do in their business, how they lead their employees, successful leadership styles. It will just add another dynamic to the class," says Jon Di Stasi, a fourth-year business administration student and competitor in last year's JDC West competition.

Tricia Gilliss is also optimistic about what she'll gain from both the lecturers and the course. Like Di Stasi, she is a fourth-year business administration student who competed last year at the JDC West competition.



(L to R) Sylvain Charlebois, associate dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, with business students Tricia Gilliss and Jon Di Stasi. The students plan to use what they learn from U of R guest lecturers at the JDC West business competition in Edmonton.

"It's pushing us out of our comfort zones," says Gilliss. "We also see a greater sense of community built throughout the faculty, especially with the relationships we develop with the professors who are working with us, helping us and taking time out of their schedules to really provide us with that extra assistance. That extra guidance shows that they care

and support us in what we are doing."

The first lecture in the series, with CAA's Titanich, will take place Friday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. in the Education Building, Room 623. Attendance is open to all faculty, staff, students and the community. For more information, call 585-4724 or email URbusiness.Undergrad@uregina.ca



Writ Large

Vianne Timmons
President and
Vice-Chancellor

September has been an exciting month, with close to 12,000 students registered for the fall semester at the University of Regina. We welcome all our students and extend a special welcome also to the 36 new faculty and 276 staff members who have recently joined the U of R community.

Although we call ourselves a community, it is important that we also *view* ourselves as a community – an inclusive group of people who connect and support each other. This has to be a conscious effort, because it is easy to become isolated, focus on our own area, and lose the sense of the connections we have around us.

Community is the theme for my October 18 installation, which takes place as part of Fall Convocation. Convocation is a time for the entire University community to join with our graduates' families to celebrate the achievements of our students. Throughout their time at the University of Regina, our graduating students have demonstrated a tremendous amount of hard work, dedication and sacrifice, all of which culminate with their convocation. My hope is that as they begin their careers both in the province and beyond, our graduates maintain their connection to the U of R, and recognize that we have a shared responsibility to serve our greater community.

The weeks surrounding convocation are filled with activities that highlight the University's motto – "As One Who Serves." You can see, alongside this column, a list of the many events planned to build and celebrate community during this period.

These two weeks will showcase the amazing diversity of our campus and rich activities in which our faculty, staff and students are engaged. I plan to attend every event if possible, and it is my hope that faculty, staff, students and members of the public will also take this opportunity to attend some of the events. When you see me over those two weeks – and of course, at any other time! – please introduce yourself to me, and I would encourage you to send me a message later at greatertogether@uregina.ca to let me know what you thought of the celebration. I appreciate the feedback and want to know more about your ideas for building community both within the University of Regina and together with the City of Regina, the province, and those outside our province and country.

I am thrilled to be part of this amazing university and look forward to seeing it grow and prosper with your support and active involvement. We can only be "great" together, and we need to foster the connections that will allow us to build a strong and inclusive community.

Writ Large is written by campus leaders and is intended to challenge readers to engage with and learn about the various 'parts' that make up the wider University of Regina community and connect us to the world. If you have a topic suggestion for Writ Large, please e-mail communications@uregina.ca and include your contact information. Please put "U of R Report" in the e-mail subject line.

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

greater together with the
community



Tuesday, October 14

Faculty of Business Administration

Breakfast to hear award-winning business writer Diane Francis talk about her new book

Time: 7:15 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Delta Hotel, Trentino Room, Regina

Contact: 585-4435 or <http://www.uregina.ca/admin/DF.pdf> (Tickets are \$15 or \$100 for a table of 8);

Sponsored by CGA Saskatchewan

Campion College

Book launch to celebrate recent publication of three new books by Campion faculty (Dr. Ann Ward, Dr. Allison Fizzard, Dr. George Marshall)

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Student Commons Area, Campion College

Contact: 359-1237

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Office of International Cooperation and Development and International Student Success Office

Reception – Internationalization at the University of Regina

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Rotunda (2nd floor, Institut français)

Contact: 585-5186

Wednesday, October 15

Centre for Teaching and Learning

The Creative Professor: Helping University Classrooms Become Communities of Learners Interactive workshops facilitated by Gerry Hopkirk and Rod Campbell

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. CW 113 (please register)

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. University Club (guests by invitation)

Contact: 585-5285 to R.S.V.P. or pre-register

Faculty of Arts

Arts Together on the Green (music, food and entertainment)

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green

Contact: 585-4226 (Tickets available before October 10 from all Faculty of Arts department offices in order to receive a free lunch)

Faculty of Social Work

Alternatives to Inner City Poverty: Winnipeg's Community Education Approach – Presentation by Dr. Jim Silver from the University of Winnipeg

Time: 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:15 p.m.

Location: Knox Metropolitan Church, 2340 Victoria Avenue

Contact: 585-5238 or social.policy@uregina.ca to R.S.V.P

Thursday, October 16

Bookstore

Meet the author and celebrate the launch of President Vianne Timmons' new book *Voice of the Community*

Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Location: University of Regina Bookstore, College West, Room 139

Contact: 585-5177

Luther College

World Food Day Lunch and Discussion – A simple lunch of soup and bread for the cost of a donation to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Luther College

Contact: 585-5028

Institut français

Rassemblement des unités francophones de l'Université de Regina: résultat d'un partenariat fructueux entre Université et la communauté francosaskoise/Co-location of the Francophone Units of the University of Regina: The Result of a Fruitful Partnership between the University and the Fransaskois Community

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Institut français

Contact: 585-4322

Humanities Research Institute and Centre for Continuing Education

Chinese and the Law in Early Saskatchewan – Lecture by Dr. Ken Leyton-Brown as part of the joint Heritage Lecture Series

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: College Building, College Avenue Campus, Room 106

Contact: 585-5870



UNIVERSITY OF
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Friday, October 17

Dr. John Archer Library

Lasting Images: Anne of Green Gables at One Hundred – Lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Epperly, renowned expert on

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Conexus Arts Centre, Jacqui Shumiatcher Room

Contact: 585-4295

Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies

Women's Volleyball Game – vs Manitoba

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Main Gym, Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport

Contact: 585-4371 (Free Admission)

Faculty of Science

Inaugural Research Gala – Celebration of outstanding research achievements of faculty members and their students, both undergraduate and graduate

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Lab Building Addition, Atrium

Contact: 535-3005 (Guests by invitation, registration required)

Saturday, October 18

Convocation and Installation

35th Annual Fall Convocation and Installation of Dr. Vianne Timmons, Seventh President and Vice-Chancellor

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Conexus Arts Centre

Contact: 585-4956

Sunday, October 19

Faculty of Fine Arts

Concert Band and Wind Ensemble Concert

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: University Theatre, Riddell Centre

Contact: 585-5507 (Tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$7 for students and seniors; no charge for Fine Arts and high school students with ID. Tickets available at the door)

Monday, October 20

External Relations

Campus Community Celebration – Following the Installation of Dr. Vianne Timmons

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Administration-Humanities Building, Main Floor (Pit)

Contact: 585-5628

First Nations University of Canada

Student Lunch – Promoting healthy eating with an organic and earth theme

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Location: First Nations University of Canada Campus

Contact: 790-5950 (2100)

Tuesday, October 21

University of Regina, Luther College and Campion College

Annual Volunteer Fair

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Phillips, Hagar and North Investment Management Ltd. Atrium, Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport

Contact: 585-5221

October 22 - 23

Student Affairs

UR Connected! Campus tour and events for Grade 12 students, parents and high school counsellors

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: U of R Campus

Contact: 585-4791 (Pre-register online at www.uregina.ca/newstudent)

October 22 - 24

Faculty of Education

Saskatchewan Community Schools Association Conference 2008 – President Vianne Timmons Keynote Speaker (Friday, October 24; 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.)

Location: IPSCO Place, Queensbury Downs

Contact: 585-5353

(To pre-register, click on conference link at www.communityschools.ca)

Wednesday, November 5

Faculty of Engineering

What is Engineering? Campus tour and events for Grade 12 students, parents and high school counsellors

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: U of R Campus

Contact: 585-4159 (Pre-register)

Acting Director of Communications: Anna M. Willey
Manager of Internal Communications: Therese Stecyk
Communications Officer: Shanan Sorochynski
Photography: U of R Audio Visual Services
Eagle Thom
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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to communications@uregina.ca, and include "*U of R Report*" in the e-mail subject line.

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First social work PhD to be granted during convocation

Next week Nuelle Novik will become the first student to graduate from the U of R with a PhD in social work.

Novik is one of three social work students whose PhD programs were developed as special cases.

"We have a number of people in the community who are very talented and need to have an advanced education, but are not in a position to pick up from employment and other commitments and move long distances to whatever social work PhD programs that might be available to them," explains David Schantz, dean of social work. "So, when we find a common interest among some faculty and an exceptional student interested in doing a PhD, we customize a program

around that particular student's needs. In doing so we ensure they have a high-quality, focused PhD experience.

"Working with this kind of educational model is a lot of fun for faculty members because when you get to work with a really bright person who is interested in the same ideas and issues that you are, hey, that's just a rush. People get into this [education] because they love working with smart, talented, committed students."

Novik's dissertation focuses on how Ukrainian family histories are transferred through the generations, a topic she was drawn to by her interest in immigration issues.

"I think that this research topic is very important to study," says Novik.

"Ukrainians have been here for a number of generations and have been able to fully integrate into Canadian society, while still maintaining much of their own culture. Over the next 10 years, the population of this country will grow primarily through immigration. I think that there is much to learn from (immigrants) ... many newcomers to this country now are immigrating under circumstances quite similar to the circumstances that brought Ukrainians to Canada."

Novik worked with two supervisors, Doug Durst and Michael MacLean, to complete her PhD. She describes them as being key to the process.

"I found there to be a certain amount of freedom and flexibility to work with my



Nuelle Novik's interest in the experience of immigrants led her to a PhD in social work.

advisers to create the program that was most interesting to me – and one that worked really well for me. It's really exciting to be able to be involved in that part of it. By the same token, this also presented challenges. Because I was not part of an established program, there was no real funding available to me. Thankfully, my advisors and one of my committee members

were able to find small research assistant opportunities for me that generated some funds. Of course, the faculty was also very helpful in that regard by offering me opportunities as a sessional lecturer."

The 2008 Fall Convocation ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 18. For more information, visit: <http://www.uregina.ca/convocation/next/>.

President's Awards honour excellence

The spirit, creativity and innovation of University employees are once again being recognized by the President's Awards for Service Excellence.

The awards were introduced in 2007 as a way to acknowledge the significant contributions of U of R employees, replacing the Awards for Excellence in Administrative and Support Service.

The 2008 recipients – three individuals and a team of 14 employees – were nominated by their peers for contributions to the University and community.

To share their experience, knowledge and a piece of themselves with our readers, the *U of R Report* asked the recipients to answer a question relevant to their area. Their answers follow.

Team Award for Innovation – the Facilities Management Energy Team

The team strives to maximize the efficiency of the campus utility systems and minimize energy consumption. Because of their work, the increase in the cost of utilities at the University has been held to 3.36 per cent since 2003-04. Team leader Emmet Boyle served as spokesperson for the team in answering the question.

Q. What makes the facilities management energy team an effective group?

A. The Energy Team functions well because all the members are subject matter experts with a common interest in energy and a desire to be good stewards of the campus. Our unceremonious style allows us to discuss new ideas and move quickly to implementation. With all the areas of facilities management represented on the team, we are able to take advantage of upcoming maintenance and renovation schedules, and keep customer disruption to a minimum.

Service Excellence Award – Georgia Morgan, Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)

Georgia Morgan is a source of support, inspiration and leadership to her colleagues at the CCE, where she is secretary to the director. In addition to being the Centre's "go-to" person, she shows professionalism and compassion that make a positive difference to the people around her. She is the recipient of one of two Service Excellence Awards presented this year.

Q. What have you learned about yourself in the time you have worked at CCE?

A. I have a tendency to be proactive and I enjoy diversity. I appreciate the fact that there is always an opportunity to learn, not only through academic pursuits but through daily interaction with others. I find that, given the chance, everyone has



The President's Awards for Service Excellence highlight the accomplishments of people from a variety of areas across campus. (L to R) front row: individual award recipients Georgia Morgan, Bonnie Jackson and Mel Babyak. Second row: Energy team members Dwaine Pho, Chris Hone, Nelson Wagner, Larry Couse and Emmet Boyle. Back row: Andy Glavacevic, Rob Kleisinger, Neil Paskewitz, Allin Laycock, Brian McCrady. Missing: Carol Reyda, Jeff Barker, Darrell Agopsowicz, Greg Wherle.

something to contribute, both as an individual and in a team setting.

University Spirit Award – Mel Babyak, Mailroom

Mel Babyak has worked at the University for more than 30 years, spending almost 22 years with Printing Services before moving to the Mailroom. He is best known for his smile and the enthusiasm he brings every day.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job and why?

A. The most rewarding part of my job is meeting the people in the University community on a personal basis. Daily, I am greeted with friendly smiles and a welcoming 'hello' from staff and students while delivering the mail and freight.

Service Excellence Award – Bonnie Jackson, President's Office

During her 30-plus years at the University, Bonnie Jackson has worked in the faculties of Kinesiology, Health & Sport and Fine Arts, and is currently executive assistant to the President. She is also a dedicated volunteer who has given her time to initiatives such as the Building Dreams and Futures fundraising campaign, the U of R Social Club, the CUETS Schmirler Charity Curling Classic and many others.

Q. Why is volunteerism important to you?

A. Volunteerism is very important to me as an individual. I view it as a means to give back to our community and make it a much better

place. There are several venues available to contribute: fundraising for the less-fortunate or those in need; fundraising for scholarships in order to retain our best students; in our home community it can be as simple as collecting garbage around a school; fundraising for playground equipment; or working with the community association to offer programs for our youth. On a work/social note it is important to help build relationships with co-workers. I consider myself blessed in so many ways and fortunate to have the ability to volunteer!

For more information about the President's Awards for Service Excellence visit <http://www.uregina.ca/presoff/vpadmin/documents>

Film about freezing deaths a catalyst for discussion

Sarah Abbott has always been interested in film as a social tool and hopes the forum immediately following the Oct. 25 Saskatchewan premiere of her new film *Out in the Cold* will prompt thoughtful discussion among community members.

The dramatic film is inspired by the freezing deaths of several First Nations men in Saskatoon, allegedly as a result of the non-sanctioned practice of police officers taking people to the outskirts of the city and leaving them to face the elements.

The panel for the Regina forum includes Joy Desjarlais, who is the author of *The Right to Remain Silent: A Night to Remember* and is also the aunt of Darrell Night, a man who survived being abandoned by Saskatoon police in January 2000. Desjarlais will be joined by Troy Hagen, the City of Regina's chief of police; Nick Jones, U of R assistant professor of human justice; and Shauneen Pete, vice-president (academic) First Nations University of Canada.

Isadore Pelletier, a Métis Elder at First Nations University of Canada, will begin the event with a prayer.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Jo-Ann Episkenew, associate professor in the Department of English at First Nations University of Canada.

"I invited these people to be a part of the forum because their work deals with the complexity of these issues. They will be able to engage the audience's viewpoints and concerns. An open discussion like this is a significant opportunity for all people in the Regina community to come together and express their opinions. Speaking is very powerful in itself; I want this event to stimulate change," says Abbott.

For Hagen, participating in the forum is a welcome opportunity to engage with the community and discuss the issues raised by the film.

"I hope that it's an enlightening and respectful conversation that occurs with, I suspect, a variety of perspectives," says Hagen. "Hopefully, the outcome will be some suggestions and ideas that will assist in providing opportunities for First Nations people and effectively improving their quality of life."

Episkenew is eager for the issues raised in the film to



Sarah Abbott sits next to a still from her film *Out in the Cold*, featuring actors (L to R) Gordon Tootosis and Erroll Kinistino of North of 60 fame.

resurface in public dialogue.

"I agreed to moderate this panel because relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are becoming increasingly strained in relation to the justice system," says Episkenew. "Although there is a small, growing group of educated Aboriginal people forming a middle class, there are many people being left behind. These are the people living in poverty and despair, whose children are drawn to gangs because they

see no other place in society. They are at 'war' with the police and mainstream society, who they believe are their oppressors. Governments propose 'getting tough on crime' rather than looking at the social circumstances that have caused these problems. We need to talk more about this, especially with the federal election looming."

The Regina screening of *Out in the Cold* is sponsored by the Humanities Research

Institute and is a part of *mispon: A Celebration of Indigenous Filmmaking*. It will be held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. It will also screen in Saskatoon on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Roxy Theatre.

For more information about *Out in the Cold*, visit: www.uregina.ca/hri/out_in_the_cold.shtml

(endnote)

Course to give film students hands-on experience

A production course offered for the first time this winter will give students the hands-on training they need to make it in the province's growing film industry.

Students accepted into the Advanced Production Project course – Film 480AI – will be part of a professionally run crew that creates a half-hour film over the winter. They will also have an opportunity to job-shadow professionals in the industry.

The project's approximately \$100,000 budget is possible with the support of a variety of Saskatchewan film industry organizations.

These groups include SaskFilm, the Saskatchewan Communications Network, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the Directors Guild of Canada, William F. White Inc., Java Post Production and Talking Dog Post and Sound Studio.

The course expands on a project Department of Media Production and Studies (MPS) assistant professor Sarah Abbott conducted with her Film 301

class in 2006. That year, her students worked as the crew for the short film *Out in the Cold*, which was directed by then playwright-in-residence Colleen Murphy and produced and edited by Abbott.

"One of the reasons *Out in the Cold* was so successful is that the community really supported it and recognized the student development that was going on, and that is why they are very keen on the new course. Students are going to be trained and they are going to know what it's like to work in a professional crew situation," says Abbott. "They will be more familiar with what's expected when they walk onto a set in Saskatchewan and, also, Saskatchewan needs crew members. This is great networking and bridging between our department, the U of R and the local film industry."

The 2006 project gave students such as David McLean a lot of valuable experience. McLean was in charge of continuity on set and observed part of the editing for *Out in the Cold*. He has since been working with local film production equipment rental house William F. White as a grip trainee (lighting and rigging

technician) and lamp operator on a number of projects.

"The new course will give the students first-hand knowledge of what it's like being on a film set," says McLean. "Many students haven't been on professional sets and often underestimate the commitment that they require. This course will give them a taste of that. It will also introduce them to many local professionals, and that can help create connections that may lead to future employment."

Pre-production for the film will start in November, with production to follow in March 2009. Post-production is estimated to take approximately a year.

The film *Out in the Cold* had its world premiere at one of the largest film festivals in the country on October 5 and 6 at the Vancouver International Film Festival. It will also have screenings in Regina at *mispon*:

A Celebration of Indigenous Filmmaking, at *The Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival* and in Saskatoon.

For more information about *Out in the Cold*, visit: www.uregina.ca/hri/out_in_the_cold.shtml



(L to R) Students David McLean and Jeremy LaRose working on the film *Out in the Cold*.



The crew of students and industry professionals get through another bitterly cold day of shooting in the snow.