



UNIVERSITY OF
REGINA

Update

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Saturday, May 10 – 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Meeting of the Queen City Muggles

Location: College Avenue Campus, University of Regina

Celebrate J. K. Rowling's seven-book saga of "The Boy Who Lived." All who are interested in Harry Potter books, films and commentary are invited to attend the academic presentations and Harry Potter activities for children taking place throughout the day.

Pre-register by e-mail to Loanne.Myrah@uregina.ca or by calling 585-5870.

Wednesday, May 14 – 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Food Bank Lecture Series

"The Aboriginal Student Centre - a link to student services at the University of Regina."

Speaker: Sabrina Sparvier

Location: Regina and District Food Bank, 425 Winnipeg Street.

Manager of the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Regina, Sabrina Sparvier will discuss the services provided by the Aboriginal Student Centre which include pre-admission counselling for Aboriginal students entering the University, access to Aboriginal Elders to assist and support students, and access to support services such as faculty advising and students awards and scholarships.

Lunch is provided at no cost to all attendees.

For more information contact Loanne Myrah at 585-5870.

Monday, May 21

Victoria Day

The University of Regina is closed.

Tuesday, June 3 – 12:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Leaders in Actions: A Keynote Luncheon and Seminar

Speakers: Carrie Bourassa, First Nations University of Canada professor and Joan McCusker, Olympic gold medalist

Location: Ramada Hotel

Be inspired to apply leadership knowledge and skills to your organization and daily life.

Tickets:

\$79 + GST each

\$590 + GST Corporate table of eight (includes buffet lunch).

To register, visit www.uregina.ca/cce/business or contact Business & Professional Development at 585-5853.

Wednesday, June 4 – Friday, June 6

2008 Spring Convocation

Location: Conexus Arts Centre

For more information, www.uregina.ca/convocation/

For a complete calendar of events at the University of Regina, visit our website at www.uregina.ca

Update photos by A/V Services

Why choose the U of R?

- Unique programs! Specialized programs are offered in a number of areas including journalism, social work, media production and studies, actuarial science, petroleum engineering, fine arts, software systems, education, police studies, health studies, public policy, business administration, and many others.

- Work experience! A co-operative education program – the first in Western Canada – is available in arts, business administration, engineering and science (computer science, physics, chemistry and biochemistry, and mathematics and statistics including actuarial science internships). An Aboriginal co-operative education program is also available in each of these areas.

Numbers present University's biggest challenge – and opportunity

As he enters his final weeks as president and vice-chancellor of the University of Regina, Jim Tomkins' commitment to strengthening the U of R during a time of transition is constant. Tomkins, in a year-end interview, speaks of the opportunities and challenges facing the University and some of the U of R's priority projects.

The University's balanced budget for 2008-2009 sums up the major challenges and opportunities facing the U of R in the foreseeable future. The provincial government has increased operational funding, including additional dollars earmarked to operate the Lab Building Addition. There's also money from the province to maintain the tuition freeze for another year. At the same time, the budget also accommodates a reduction in tuition and course fee revenue resulting from declining enrolment.

"The problem financially is falling enrolment," says Tomkins. "If it had not fallen during the last two years the U of R would have more than three million dollars in additional revenues."

While the number of high school students has peaked and is expected to decline for the next 10 years, Tomkins notes there is evidence that the strong economy is currently the prime factor affecting enrolment numbers. Many high school graduates are opting to join the workforce, or are balancing a job with post-secondary studies.

"We've noticed that the number of students registered with us has dropped more slowly than the number of classes they are taking," he says. "That likely means they are holding down jobs and instead of taking three classes they're taking two."

Tomkins says the biggest single initiative the U of R has undertaken this year has been to develop a



: U of R President, Jim Tomkins speaks of the opportunities and challenges facing the U of R in a time of transition. Tomkins completes his term as president this summer when Dr. Vianne Timmons takes over the role.

strategic enrolment management plan to begin to address enrolment.

"We have spent a great deal of time and effort developing a plan to attract more students and doing a better job of retaining them. It will be left to the incoming president and the executive to implement the plan," he says. Tomkins completes his term as president this summer when Dr. Vianne Timmons takes over the role as seventh president and vice-chancellor of the University of Regina.

Tomkins notes that the U of R has also launched a branding exercise to position the University as a great place to study, teach and work. Branding that identifies the U of R's many strengths ties naturally into recruitment and retention activities, not just for students, but also for faculty and staff, he adds.

"It's stunning, the quality of the

people we're getting, but the number of PhDs being created in Canada is barely enough to meet the needs of the universities, let alone industry and government. It's also difficult to find professional staff in certain areas. The branding exercise will last about another year, and will reinforce the idea that this is a great place to study and teach," he says.

One of the positives that the U of R is becoming known for, he adds, is its research activity in all disciplines. Grants from the three national research councils have increased significantly, which reflects well on the quality of the work being done and the value of the research projects being undertaken.

"Many of the projects are interdisciplinary and collaborative, and many of them involve students in the research, which enhances their scholarly experience," Tomkins says

**FACES
ON
CAMPUS**

Dan Perrins was drawn to a career in public service by the appeal of finding solutions to real problems. It is one aspect of the profession he hopes to convey to students enrolled in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy as an executive-in-residence.

Perrins joined the Government of Saskatchewan in 1972 as a social worker. In the 35 years that followed he held senior social policy and program management positions in the Departments of Social Services, Health, Education, and Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training and was appointed deputy minister to the premier in 2001.

"Being a child protection worker I didn't think I would end up where I did, but that is one of the things I encourage people to think about. The great thing about the public service is there is such a broad-based delivery. Don't limit your sights because the opportunities are as many and varied as you want them to be if you are attentive and want to learn."

There is a place for people with a wide variety of disciplines in the public sector. For Perrins, what will assist students, whether they come to public policy with a professional designation in psychology, journalism, pharmacy or even marine biology, is academics.

"Academic preparation is important coming into the

workforce. People can come in with many different qualifications and start in many different places. This can be greatly enhanced by opportunities to learn how government functions, the nature of how policy is developed and training in administration."

As an executive-in-residence Perrins will teach classes, conduct research and assist in the creation of executive development programs to engage public servants.

"Dan is a valuable resource both to our students and faculty," says Ken Rasmussen, director of the Johnson-Shoyama School.

"He has a wealth of experience, having worked at every level including being the most senior public servant. His career is that of a classic public servant who starts off in a department and works his way to the top based on ability and hard work. He has provided advice to students about their careers, and also on how government works. He is also writing a number of papers with faculty members based on his experience and his desire to transfer some of this knowledge to the next generation while also contributing to the scholarly literature."

Perrins continues to serve the Saskatchewan government. At the end of May, he will travel to Namibia for six days as part of a provincial project to assess the country's governmental systems.

When Namibia separated from South Africa, Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), initiated two five-year arrangements with the country to share knowledge and experience in public administration. The upcoming trip will determine whether further work is needed.

ASK U of R is for future and current university students who have questions about admissions, tuition, transfers, registration, residences, student life, services and more.

www.uregina.ca/ask

Visit us at **www.uregina.ca**

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