



Teaching with technology – conference will explore changes

Saskatchewan contains roughly three per cent of Canada's population, and spreads it unevenly across about 6.5 per cent of the country's land mass. We are not densely populated.

Among the many implications to be drawn from that pair of facts is that the residents of the province have a stronger-than-average interest in distance education and e-learning. A growing number of students in the province are taking delivery of post-secondary courses from providers who combine face-to-face and online instruction.

Interest in technology enhanced learning, or TEL, will be encouraged next month when the University of Regina hosts a two-day conference on Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning. The conference, called Riding the Crest of Change, is sponsored by Campus Saskatchewan, a partnership of post-secondary institutions that provide TEL. Campus Saskatchewan supports development of technology enhanced learning by its member institutions and helps them make courses and services available to students. The current members of Campus Saskatchewan are the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, First Nations University of Canada, SIAST, the

province's eight regional colleges, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

"The conference will be an opportunity for everyone working within Campus Saskatchewan to share their expertise, and learn what other people are doing," says executive director Philip Cameron. He's also a member of the committee organizing the conference. "Campus Saskatchewan is not yet well known, so the conference helps people understand what it is and what it does."

Brian Campbell, the head of the U of R's Distance Learning Division, says the conference's theme focuses on change because teaching with technology is a fundamental change for some people.

The conference will focus on three areas of distance education and e-learning: research, instruction and design, and practical applications. A keynote speaker for each area will lead off a series of sessions held over two days.

Terry Anderson of Athabasca University will deliver the keynote speech for the conference's research stream. He holds a Canada Research Chair in distance education and is co-editor of a popular book

on the theory and practice of online education (available for download on the Athabasca University Web site).

"I'm going to talk about the lack of funding for educational research and its real impact on educational practice," says Anderson. "It's minuscule compared to what we spend on health or high tech research. On top of that, much of the research has very little effect in classrooms or with online education," he continues. "I'm going to suggest a new approach to research that is collaborative, and looks at how educational innovations and changes really happen."

Zane Berge of the University of Maryland will deliver the keynote speech on instruction and design. Berge is an associate professor in training and development graduate programs and has edited two books on distance training.

Rick Schwier of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan will lead off the practical applications stream.

"As part of my research program, and also as part of our graduate program at the U of S, we've been trying to use a number of fresh approaches to distance learning, and make sense of the experiences," Schwier says. "Along the way we've managed to make some

lucky discoveries and some colossal blunders. I'll share both with equal humility. The talk will consider some principles we've learned from the experience."

In addition to the keynote addresses, the conference will offer six blocks of concurrent sessions on the themes, and two large panel sessions. A unique feature of the conference will be electronic poster sessions, which will allow presenters to demonstrate and discuss their latest projects and works in progress. Poster sessions will be held in computer labs, and will be self-explanatory, so conference participants can view them when it fits their schedule.

For more information see the conference Web site: <http://prometheus.cc.uregina.ca>.

Distance learning vs. e-learning

What's the difference between distance learning and e-learning? There are likely several definitions, particularly because the technologies change so quickly. Here's an attempt at a simple definition.

Distance learning is defined as providing education where there is a physical separation between the instructor and learners. E-learning is a subset of distance learning, which also includes television, audio, video and traditional paper-based correspondence courses. E-learning is network enabled and supported learning.

UR Ready provides orientation with a personal touch

"I've been accepted to attend university. Now what do I do?" That question is asked by graduating high school students every year. The answer, for those who have been conditionally accepted to the University of Regina, is to attend a UR Ready workshop. In the workshops, high school students learn about the next steps on the road to becoming U of R students.

"UR Ready, along with first year orientation, helps students become well-informed, and eases their way into first year," says Naomi Deren, school liaison officer with the Marketing and Student Recruitment Office at the U of R. "It helps them be prepared for and feel confident about university."

UR Ready presentations began more than two weeks ago and continue until May 5. Deren helped create the presentation and along with a co-worker delivers it to aspiring university students at Regina and area high schools. This year, for the first time, a co-op student from her office and another from the Residence Office are taking UR Ready on the road. They'll be talking with students in Melfort, Kindersley, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Yorkton. "This will be an experiment as far as response from the districts around these centres goes," Deren says. "I expect we'll see students driving in from as far away as an hour or so to attend the workshops."

In the workshops students are advised to make an appointment with an academic advisor and to choose their classes as soon as possible. They're also clued into what Deren calls university lingo. "Not everyone understands what a credit hour is," she explains.

The presentation also provides information about the services available on campus, including the residences, food services, bookstore and the like. One of her favourite parts of the presentation is a talk given by a volunteer student ambassador, a current student who provides advice and unbiased opinions based on his or her experiences at the U of R.

Deren says the student ambassadors are keen and knowledgeable, and always get lots of questions. "We both answer questions, and if there are some we can't answer, I find the answers when I return to the office, and contact them. They appreciate the personal touch," she says.

What are the most common questions? "They want to know what the entertainment scene is like," Deren says with a laugh. "Actually, they do worry about getting into classes they want, and fitting courses into their schedule."

Deren describes the audiences for her UR Ready presentations

as very attentive. She gets satisfaction from that, because she feels she's helping people.

"I wish there had been something like this six years ago," says Deren, who came from a small town to attend the U of R. "I had no clue where anything was, so giving these students a campus map may seem like a small thing, but it's important."

UR Ready Workshops

For times and room locations call 1-800-644-4756

April 22	O'Neill High School
April 23	Campbell Collegiate and Queen City Collegiate
April 26	Miller Comprehensive High School and Cumberland College Campus, Melfort
April 27	Prairie West Regional College Campus, Kindersley and Greenall High School, Balgonie
April 28	SIAST, Kelsey Campus and Cypress Hills Regional College Campus, Swift Current
April 29	Thorn Collegiate
April 30	Rifled High School
May 3	Lumsden High School
May 5	Parkland Regional College Campus, Yorkton

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Apr. 20-23
UR Ready Workshop
Workshops about the U of R for new students attending in the fall semester
Winston Knoll Collegiate, A.E. Peacock Collegiate, Martin Collegiate, University of Regina, O'Neill High School, Campbell Collegiate, Queen City Collegiate
Info: 1-800-644-4756

Apr. 26-30; May 3; May 5
UR Ready Workshop
Workshops about the U of R for new students attending in the fall semester
Miller, Cumberland, Prairie West Regional, Greenall, SIAST Kelsey, Cypress Hills Regional College, Thorn Collegiate, Rifled, Lumsden, Parkland
Info: 1-800-644-4756

Fri., Apr. 23 - 7:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Riddell Lecture
"Waging Peace Through Theatre in Times of War"
Speaker: Rahul Varma
University Theatre
Info: 585-5562

Apr. 23-25
Theatre conference
"The 4th Wall: Aesthetic Distance and Community in the 21st Century"
A conference exploring theatre at the dawn of the new millennium
University of Regina
Info/registration: 585-5562/
www.uregina.ca/finearts/conferences/heyndf/confindex.htm

Tues., Apr. 27 - 1:15 p.m.
Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy seminar
"READY OR NOT...Privacy Legislation Compliance in Saskatchewan"
Speaker: R. Gary Davidson, D.C. Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
Info/registration: 585-5569

Tues., Apr. 27 - 7:30 p.m.
Faculty of Arts information night
Meet faculty, staff, students; learn about programs, new residences and sign up for an advising appointment
University Theatre, Riddell Centre
Info: 585-4367

Thurs., Apr. 29 - 11 a.m.
Conference seminar
"Campus Activities: Creating Intentional Connections for Student Learning"
Learn about the evolution of campus activities and what they mean for students
Rm. 186, Education Bldg.
Info/RSVP: 585-53767/ 585-4076

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



Geese aren't the only creatures that return in the spring. Runners stretch after their noon hour migration through the pathways of the U of R campus and the Wascana Centre. Left-to-right Ken Rasmussen, assistant dean, Faculty of Administration; Gail Leibel, assistant registrar, Campion College; Bob Moore, psychology professor, Campion College.

U of R Photo by A/V Services

Faculty of Arts

Faculty of Arts

All interested students & parents are invited to attend the Faculty of Arts

Information Evening

at the University of Regina

Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 7:30pm

University Theatre, Dr. William Riddell Centre

University of Regina

Presentation and Reception

- Enter to win free tuition for one course & other door prizes
- Meet with faculty members, staff, and current students
- Learn more about the Faculty of Arts programs
- Sign up for an advising session to register in courses
- Receive more information on the new residences

Faculty of Arts

For more information contact:
Faculty of Arts Student Services Office
Phone: (306) 585-4137
Free parking available in the "M" area of Lot 15

Faculty of Fine Arts

2004 Riddell Lecture

Waging Peace Through Theatre in Times of War

Rahul Varma
Artistic Director
Teesri Duniya Theatre

Friday, April 23, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.
University Theatre, Riddell Centre

Everyone Welcome/Free Admission
Parking Available in Lot 15 in "M" sections only
Paid parking underground Riddell Centre and Lot 8

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

HEY Saskatchewan YOUTH

Do you care about the future of Canada?
Are you interested in public affairs and Canadian federalism?

YOU CAN take part in an exciting opportunity to meet Canada's premiers at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario this summer. The Council of the Federation is sending two eager young thinkers to a Youth Forum as part of Canada's Premiers' July meeting. Youth reps. from across Canada get to meet with premiers and influence the discussion about issues facing young Canadians. / DEADLINE: May 15, 2004 /

To enter you must be between the ages of 19 and 22 and a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Download more information about the entry form and essay question from:

www.uregina.ca/sipp