



It's summer time and the faculty's delving

Public relief and private charity in Saskatchewan during the Great Depression; cultural values reflected on stage during the first "financial revolution" of the 1700s; British colonial influences in Canada and India; questions about who gets to perform in live theatre. These are just a few of the subjects being explored by U of R faculty members this summer.

While some instructors and students are busy with Summer University courses, for many faculty members summer is a time for putting the final touches on papers they'll be presenting to their peers, or digging deeper into their research projects without the demands of classes and meetings that are common during the rest of the academic year. It's a chance for faculty members to think more about the knowledge they've gathered, and to exchange knowledge with like-minded colleagues around the world. Here's a sampling of the work being done.

Noel Chevalier, an assistant professor of English at Luther College, will present a paper examining ideas about the moral use of money in comedies performed in English theatres in the 18th century.

"The shift in cultural values taking place during that period was reflected

in the comedies I'm studying, much as our values are reflected in films and on TV," says Chevalier. "An even more interesting question is how much do we adjust our own selves to resemble our TV incarnations?"

Chevalier's paper will be presented at an interdisciplinary conference on the history of the financial revolution Britain experienced from the late 17th to the mid-18th century. It will be hosted by the University of Regina. Associate professor of economics Richard Kleer is one of the main organizers of the conference, which will explore the origins of banking, paper money and government debt, and their influences on social values.

"We've asked our participants to write papers that are accessible to a general audience and to focus on the big issues in their area," Kleer says. "We're hoping that in being exposed to the approaches of disciplines other than their own, conference participants will learn things that are relevant to their work, but which they might not have come across in a lifetime of working in their own areas."

Later this summer Chevalier will present a paper at Hyderabad, India, to the International Association for Commonwealth Literatures and Language Studies, which meets every

three years. He will also present a paper prepared by his colleague, Dorothy Lane.

"My paper examines the intersection of Christian missionary work and colonialism in Canada and India, two diverse areas of the former British Empire," Lane says. "My argument is that the ideas embodied by mission work and secular, commercial interests often conflicted with one another."

Professor of History James Pitsula will soon be off to Winnipeg to deliver a paper to the Canadian Historical Association. Pitsula has been researching how five Saskatchewan cities handled the distribution of relief to the poor during the Great Depression.

"The prevailing wisdom is that private charity failed during the Depression, prompting governments to create the welfare state," Pitsula observes. "What I've found suggests the story is much more complex - a mixing of public and private systems distributing relief and charity. I'm interested in learning how those power relationships worked. This may relate to the changes we've seen in the development of the welfare state since the 1980s, and may provide a better understanding of various models for

the delivery of social services."

Wes D. Pearce, an associate professor of theatre, is preparing a paper and organizing a panel for a conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, being held in Toronto. Pearce's paper - and the panel - will be part of a focus group on gay and lesbian theatre, one of 23 groups within the conference for many of the 6,000 attendees sharing interests in specific areas of theatre.

"In the paper, I talk about expectations and the reality of being gay in professional theatre, and at an academic institution," Pearce says. "The fact is that most drama departments are filled with curricula and production choices that stifle and silence the voices of queer students and faculty. There are cultural assumptions about who 'performs' theatre, and when we begin to challenge those assumptions, we find a whole other world."

Pearce believes participating in national and international conference benefits the various departments represented, and the University of Regina. Several factors help to make a department's reputation, he notes, and for the theatre department, "having faculty members who work in both studies and studio practice can't hurt."

Summer University responds to growing demand

Some are working people, aiming to complete a course quickly by attending classes two evenings a week. Some are regular full-time students looking to lighten their fall or winter course loads, to accelerate their program or to take a missed course. There are hundreds of them, and they're all attending Summer University at the University of Regina.

The idea began to take shape in 2003, when a handful of credit courses was offered. The response was encouraging.

This year the Credit Studies Division of the Centre for Continuing Education decided to launch Summer University as a major new program, expanding the offerings to 34 day and evening courses. The response is proving that the demand is there. Many of the May-June courses are completely

full, or even oversubscribed. The July-August courses are filling quickly, says Christine Crowe, head of the Credit Studies Division.

"If you'd like to register for a course, call soon!" Crowe recommends. "Almost 900 students have already registered for the entire Summer University program, which runs from May through August. That's nearly 75 per cent of the total spaces filled."

Crowe is delighted, but not surprised by the response to Summer University.

"There is a definite trend toward year-round programming at universities across Canada," says Crowe. "Summer, evening and weekend classes help all kinds of students - day, evening, full-time and part-time - reach their educational and career goals."

Student evaluations and feedback

from Summer University 2004 will be used to fine-tune the program and plan for next year's offering. One Summer University student, John Murney, attests that he's having the time of his life.

"Everything you do is accelerated. You really have to focus, and I enjoy the fast pace," Murney says. "I enjoy working with the instructor, and I have great classmates."

Murney is a full-time student who returned to school in January after spending 13 years working in the media. He's taking three classes this summer towards a certificate in administration. He also plans to earn a degree in economics and administration. For Murney, "Summer University came along at just the right time, because I plan to take classes

straight through."

Summer University is a collaborative effort involving the Credit Studies Division and various faculties at the University. The division sends requests to faculties for summer course offerings. Faculties choose the courses and the instructors, and the division organizes the offerings into Summer University. Many of the courses are first and second-year arts courses, common electives, prerequisites and other courses in high demand.

"We're serving both evening and daytime students," Crowe says. "Summer University offers both groups access to courses that would not be available otherwise."

For more information see: http://www.uregina.ca/cc/c/certificates/weekend_u/SummerU.htm

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Fri., May 28 - 1 p.m.
3rd Annual Rams Golf Tournament and Steak Dinner
Individual and team prices; shotgun start
Emerald Park Golf & Country Club
Info/tickets: 585-5883

Mon., May 31 - 1 p.m.
9th Annual Luther Alumni Classic Golf Tournament
Individual and team prices; shotgun start
Royal Regina Golf Club
Info/tickets: 337-2463

June 7-9
Spring Convocation
Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts
Info: 585-5158

Tues., June 8 - 11 a.m.
U of R Alumni Association Spring Convocation Brunch
Doris Knight Hall
Info/tickets: 585-4838

Tues., June 8 - 3 p.m.
Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy Scholarship Series
"Managing Complexity: The Lessons of Horizontal Policy-Making in the Provinces"
Speaker: Ian Peach
Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
Info/RSVP: 585-5869

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



Canadian actor and social activist Shirley Douglas - pictured here with Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert - received the Distinguished Canadian Award May 20 from the Seniors Education Centre at the University of Regina. The award - which recognizes Canadian seniors who are doing outstanding work - was presented 20 years earlier to Douglas's father, former premier Tommy Douglas.

U of R Photo by A/V Services