



Extending educational opportunities with technology

It's been almost five years since post-secondary education institutions in the province and Saskatchewan Learning implemented the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) program. The program is designed to enhance the quality of distance education offerings in the province, and to extend learning opportunities for students in rural, urban and aboriginal communities.

The University of Regina is working on TEL in partnership with the other post-secondary institutions (First Nations University of Canada, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the regional colleges, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research), and in a new partnership, Campus Saskatchewan. Campus Saskatchewan provides students access to adult and postsecondary education and training via the Internet, television and video, independent study, off-campus courses or a mix of delivery formats, all through one portal.

"The TEL program has enabled the U of R to develop courseware (digital or multimedia resource material developed to supplement teaching and learning) and online distance education courses," says Brian Campbell, director of the distance learning division at the U of R. "This has really increased our distance education offerings and improved access for rural students," Campbell adds.

TEL also helps teachers in their professional development, as they learn how to use technology more effectively in their teaching. It also includes support for online learners, who may be first-time distance

education students.

Today, Campus Saskatchewan is concluding a two-day conference addressing two specific student support service areas: counselling services and technical support. The conference, held in Saskatoon, included keynote speakers from Canada's online university, Athabasca University. It also featured presentations from two U of R staff members - the Centre for Continuing Education's Darrel Lawlor spoke on counselling services and Robert Keys, a WebCT administrator, talked about technical support for online learners.

The U of R's web services help desk and WebCT administrator assist online learners with solutions to computer problems. (WebCT is an e-learning application that enables instructors and students to hold classes online as though they were in the same room. Students either phone or email the help desk for assistance.)

"It's important to provide the same level of service to students who are off-campus," Lawlor says. "Technical support contributes to the success of any online course. The U of R also provides counselling services, which encompass everything from academic advice to personal counselling, plus other services such as tutoring and where to look for scholarship information. Students may seek out help with workload, time management or study habits," Lawlor adds. "The aim is to provide services that will help students succeed."

Counselling is done face-to-face, over the phone or by email. Information is also provided on the Campus Saskatchewan website. Lawlor told conference delegates how faculty advisors



Through traditional face-to-face courses taught throughout Saskatchewan, televised classes broadcast live via SCN and online courses accessible anywhere through the Internet, distance education is giving today's students unparalleled delivery choices.

U of R photo by AV Services

arrange telephone sessions with students who live at a distance from Regina, about the benefits of providing student support on the website and about the first-rate services provided by coordinators at the regional colleges.

"Putting information on a website is good for some students, but not for all," Lawlor observes. "For students who are not familiar with using websites, the best service is provided face-to-face at a regional college or SIASST campus."

The forum is important, Campbell says, because it enables staff who are involved with the two student support services at the various post-secondary institutions to exchange information, and to plan and coordinate services. That includes a possible action plan for Campus Saskatchewan's role in providing learner support, Campbell adds, including recommendations for implementation.

You can learn more about Campus Saskatchewan at:
<http://www.campusask.ca>

Unique collaboration enhances teaching skills

Educational institutions, like other organizations, are preparing for the ebb tide as waves of baby boomers soon head off into retirement. Large numbers of educators with decades of experience will have to be replaced by a new generation of teachers. That's part of the impetus behind the Faculty Certificate Program (FCP), a unique collaboration between the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST) and the Saskatchewan

Instructional Development Research Unit (SIDRU) at the University of Regina.

"As the boomers leave, we're going to need people who are able to take their place," says Ann Hrabok, who coordinates the program for SIASST. "One of the ways an institution like SIASST can ensure student success is by having educators in place who can deliver quality learning to students and clients. This program," she adds, "sends a message that we're prepared to do that."

The FCP is sponsored by SIASST, and was developed in partnership with SIDRU, the research arm of the Faculty of Education at the U of R. The main goal of the program is to help new SIASST instructors become effective adult educators. To do that, they're going back to school themselves.

The program, which is three years in duration, includes two sessions at a summer institute, six U of R credit courses and the completion of a professional development plan by each

instructor. The program was launched this past summer with 15 instructors participating in the first summer institute, which included a U of R education class. Another intake of instructor-students will begin next summer, likely with a slightly larger number of participants.

"The average age of these students might be around 25," says Hrabok, "and we've placed a high priority on those who have taught at SIASST for an year. You couldn't ask a totally new person to begin the program," she adds.

Ann Curry, assistant director with SIDRU, says the program combines innovative adult learning concepts with instruction in practical techniques for teaching. All instruction is coming from U of R and SIASST instructors.

One of the anticipated benefits of the FCP was that participants would have opportunities to learn with colleagues from various programs, occupations and backgrounds. That has turned out to be the case. The first class includes instructors in plumbing, carpentry, corrections, auto body, medical diagnostics, nursing and

continuing nursing education. It also includes two librarians. There's also the benefit of the participants meeting colleagues for the first time, as they gather from SIASST's four campuses across the province.

"Being geographically dispersed is one of the challenges for SIASST," says Hrabok, "so it's good to hear the participants talking about getting to know their colleagues at the other campuses."

While many post-secondary institutions offer programs on how to teach, the FCP is unique because of the close collaboration involving the two institutions, Curry explains.

"This was not just about adding some courses," she says. "It involved creating the components for the entire program. The courses from the adult education unit in the Faculty of Education were adapted to be relevant in the SIASST context, and processes developed to support the instructors as they progress through the program," says Curry. "We look forward to other joint ventures, because this collaboration brought out the best in both of us."

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Thurs., Oct. 21 - 7:30 p.m.
Dr. John Steinecker Memorial Lecture
Ms. Brooks will trace her life's journey as a writer, and read from her work-in-progress
Speaker: Martha Brooks
Education Auditorium
Info: 585-4117

Thurs., Oct. 21 - 7:30 p.m.
Social Policy Research Unit Lecture
"The Community-based Tradition: the Case of Sweden"
Speaker: Sébastien Chartrand
Rm., 560, Education Bldg.
Info: 585-4117

Fri., Oct. 22 - 3:00 p.m.
Philosophy and Classics colloquia
"Ascetic Ecstasy: The Beauty and the Thrill of It!"
Speaker: Annabel Robinson
Rm., 348, Administration-Humanities Bldg.
Info: 585-4332

Mon., Oct. 25 - 8 p.m.
46th Annual Basterfield Lecture
"The Mars Exploration Rover Mission"
Speaker: Dr. Larry Matthies
Education Auditorium
Info: 337-2541/585-4632

Tues., Oct. 26 - 4 p.m.
Latin American Interest Group Seminar Series
"Anecdotal Portrayals of Selves, Virtues and Vice among Muiñane People (Colombian Amazon)"
Speaker: Carlos David Londono Sulkin
Rm. 130, Language Institute
Info: 585-4113

Wed., Oct. 27 - 7 p.m.
Campion College lecture
"The Land, The Gun, The Blood, The Cross America - The Western Hero: is it the Saintry Shane or the Clint Eastwood of the (Book of the) Apocalypse"
Speaker: Marc Genvais
Riffel Auditorium, Campion College
Info: 359-1244

Thurs., Oct. 28 - Noon
Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy Armchair Discussion Series
"The Role and Impact of Continuing Education on Rural Revitalization"
Speaker: Marilyn Miller
Window Room, Gallery Bldg., College Ave. Campus
Info: 585-5869

Sun., Oct. 31 - 8 p.m.
Best of Baroque Concert Series
Lutheran Reformation-themed concert featuring the Luther Bach Choir
Tickets are \$5 - available at the door
Rex Schneider Auditorium, Luther College
Info: 791-9160



The early autumn snowfall has transformed the entire campus into a winter wonderland - including the Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green which is now, well, white. The academic green is the oval, grass-covered space at the campus' centre and is named for the University's second president. It's lined with 81 linden trees planted 20 years ago, during Barber's tenure.

U of R photo by AV Services



46th Annual Basterfield Lecture



Dr. Larry Matthies
Supervisor, Machine Vision
GroupJet Propulsion Laboratory

"The Mars Exploration Rover Mission"

Monday, October 25th, 2004
8:00 p.m.
Education Building Auditorium
University of Regina

All are Welcome - No Charge for Admission

For more info, check the Faculty of Science website: <http://www.uregina.ca/science>

We want to hear from you!
Tell us what you think of the U of R Update page
E-mail your comments to communications@uregina.ca

PLUG INTO

The Information and Communications Technology Networking Forum
in Regina's Research Park

Want to know what's happening in Regina in the fields of engineering, computer science and new media? Come discover how Regina's vibrant research community and local businesses are working together to develop exciting, innovative products and services.



Thursday, November 4, 2004
3:00 - 6:00 PM
Registration begins at 5:00
Retunda, 10 Research Drive
For information and RSVP
Ravi Jain at 585-4984 (Ravi.Jain@uregina.ca)

Partners: University of Regina, University Industry Liaison Office
National Research Council, Industrial Research Assistance Program
Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, Regina Research Park



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Award-winning Canadian author Martha Brooks will be speaking on

Thursday, October 21, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
Education Auditorium
University of Regina
Free Admission
Free Parking in Lots 14 and 17

Don't know Why I Thought This Would Be Easy?

Ms. Brooks will be presenting the Dr. John Steinecker Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Arts Education Program. Her humorous and lively talk will concern her life as a writer, and will be of interest to everyone who writes, or who is fascinated by the organic processes of making art.



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