



## Lecture series makes inspiring figures available

Connections between the war on terror, war in Iraq and election year in the United States; a critical look at Sigmund Freud and literary criticism - these are among the big issues being addressed this month in events sponsored or co-sponsored by the University of Regina's Humanities Research Institute (HRI).

"It's been said that while the sciences can save lives, the humanities are what makes those lives worth living," observes Nick Ruddick, who serves as director for the HRI. "In fact, many of my humanities colleagues prefer the term 'scholarship' to the more scientific-sounding 'research.'"

Ruddick says a central part of HRI's mandate is to make inspiring figures in the humanities available to the public. The institute has had considerable success working with agencies on and off-campus to attract high-profile speakers, as shown by

this month's schedule.

On September 24 retired professor of English Frederick Crews will speak on "Deep and Easy Knowledge: The Freudian Temptation." Early in his career Crews was an enthusiastic advocate of Freudian psychoanalysis. He gradually changed his mind, becoming one of the best-known critics of the Freudian tradition. Among the 12 books he has authored are two hilarious satires, *The Pooh Perplex* and *Postmodern Pooh*, which mercilessly skewer various branches of literary criticism, including psychoanalysis. The Faculty of Arts is the main sponsor of this event.

On September 29 noted author and syndicated columnist Gwynne Dyer will speak on the connections between the war on terror, the war in Iraq and the upcoming U. S. presidential election. Dyer, who holds a PhD in war studies from the

University of London, teaches, lectures and writes an internationally syndicated newspaper column. In a recent column Dyer observed, "Neither President George W. Bush nor Democratic challenger John Kerry will talk about a US pull-out now, but the flimsy link that Mr. Bush made between the 'war on terror' and the invasion of Iraq was destroyed by the report of the 9/11 Commission. When the going gets really rough for the US in Iraq, that will be what tips the scale."

Dyer's lecture coincides with the publication of this latest book *Future: Tense: The Coming World Order* and the release of a new edition of his best-selling *War*.

"The University of Regina was both creative and farsighted when it founded the HRI in 2002," says Ruddick. "Good humanities scholarship adds enormously to an institution's international prestige and

reputation, making it more appealing to good students and top scholars. I expect strong public interest in these events," Ruddick says. "For a culturally vibrant but relatively isolated city like Regina," he adds, "the U of R is the natural forum for the exchange of ideas that is the lifeblood of the humanities."

Crews' lecture will be held in the Campion College Auditorium, Friday, September 24, at 3:30 pm.

Gwynne Dyer's lecture will take place Wednesday, September 29, at 8:00 pm, in the Education Auditorium.

For information on events involving the HRI, or to subscribe to the HRI email newsletter, see: [www.uregina.ca/hri](http://www.uregina.ca/hri)

There is free evening parking in M area, Lot 15, and in Lot 17. Paid parking is available in Lot 8.

## Lectures, seminars engage with public policy issues

How does Saskatchewan stack up as a place to live, work and invest? What are some of the lessons to be learned from the failed Meach Lake and Charlottetown Accords? These are just some of the topics being presented this semester by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP) at the University of Regina.

"The Institute sponsors and co-sponsors lectures, presentations, seminars, discussions and policy papers on a wide variety of public policy issues," says Andrea Geisbauer, who is its communications and project officer for SIPP.

"We strive to engage government, business, academia and the non-profit sector to support the exchange of ideas and the development of creative and innovative solutions to today's policy challenges."

For example, this month SIPP has hosted lectures comparing Britain's national health service with Canada's health care system, and New Zealand's decade of experience with proportional representation in its electoral system. In addition, SIPP research director Ian Peach has just issued a public policy paper on Canada's constitutional reform process, titled *The Death of Deference: National Policy-Making in the Aftermath of the Meach Lake and Charlottetown Accords*.

"I think the tragic flaw of both accords," says Peach, "was the lack of openness to democratic debate in the negotiations among governments, and the participation of new interests on the intergovernmental scene, such as Aboriginal peoples and territorial governments. The fate of the accords demonstrates that public involvement and accountability are musts when dealing with important national policy issues," Peach adds.

On November 5, as part of its investigation into options for democratic renewal in Canada, SIPP will present a public policy seminar with Jack Blaney, who is chairing British Columbia's Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Electoral reform and democratic renewal are on the public agenda these days, with voter participation in elections declining across the country, and citizens' faith in our democratic institutions waning. Five provinces and one territory are currently investigating options for reforming their electoral systems, but none have gone as far as B.C.'s Citizens' Assembly. The Assembly was created by the B. C. government in 2003, with unanimous support in the province's legislature. One hundred and sixty randomly selected citizens have been asked to examine the province's elec-

toral system and recommend whether changes should be made. If changes are recommended, they will be put to a province-wide referendum next year.

In his talk, Blaney will shed light on the work of the Assembly, the consultation process it has followed, the key issues it has identified and the influence it has had in re-newing democratic debate and engaging citizens in policy-making.

On November 2 SIPP will host a presentation by the Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan called "Saskatchewan Check Up 2004." Each year the CAS uses a range of indicators to assess the province as a place to live, work and invest, and to report on changes in the three categories over the past year and the previous five year period. This annual event is closely watched by politicians and policy makers.

In a related initiative, SIPP has begun research into measuring well-being through a genuine progress index (GPI). "Gross domestic product (GDP) is the traditional measure of growth," Geisbauer explains. "The GPI is an accounting framework being developed to account for the value of productive activity that the GDP ignores, such as voluntary labour, and activity that reduces well-being in the community, such as the costs of crime. Our aim is to give a more accurate picture of Saskatchewan's overall welfare," she adds.

Most SIPP events are free, although seating is limited and early registration is encouraged. There is a \$75 charge for the seminar on Democratic Renewal with Jack Blaney on November 5. The seminar runs from 9 am to Noon.

<http://www.uregina.ca/sipp/index.html>  
<http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/>

### CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Thurs., Sept. 16 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy seminar**  
"Mixed Member Proportional Representation"  
Speaker: Kerry Howe  
SIPP Window Room, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus  
Info: 585-5869

Fri., Sept. 17 - 3 p.m.  
**Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy lecture**  
"Quebec by Example" - the social economy as it exists in Quebec  
Speaker: Nancy Neamant  
SIPP Window Room, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus  
Info: 585-5869

Wed., Sept. 22 - Noon  
**Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar**  
"Publishing and Promotion"  
Speakers: Margaret McKinnon, Kathy Nolan, Kathleen O'Reilly-Scanlon and Bernard Laplante  
Rm. 312, Education Bldg.  
Info: 585-4309

Thurs., Sept. 23 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Luther Lecture**  
"Sex and the City (of God): Augustine on the Resurrection Body"  
Speaker: Margaret Miles  
Education Auditorium  
Info: 585-5041

Fri., Sept. 24 - 9:30 a.m.  
**Computer Science seminar**  
"From Associations to Inferences"  
Speaker: Choh Man Teng  
Rm. 317.18, College West Bldg.  
Info: 585-4633

Fri., Sept. 24 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Arts Lecture**  
"Deep and Easy Knowledge: The Freudian Temptation"  
Speaker: Frederick Crews  
Campion College Auditorium  
Info: 585-4332/4226

Fri., Sept. 24 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Luther Lecture**  
"Tasteful Historical Stories and the History of Christian Thought"  
Speaker: Margaret Miles  
Luther College Auditorium  
Info: 585-5041

Tues., Sept. 28 - 9 a.m.  
**Careers Day 2004: Survivor Regina**  
Opportunity to meet employers  
Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts (Doris Knight Hall)  
Info: 585-5221

Wed., Sept. 29 - Noon  
**Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar**  
"Resistance and Reception to Anti-homophobic Education"  
Speakers: James McNinch, Marilyn Totter, Scott Thompson  
Rm. 341, Education Bldg.  
Info: 585-4309

For a complete Calendar of Events at the University of Regina visit our Web site at [www.uregina.ca](http://www.uregina.ca)



Business (the Faculty of Administration) combined with pleasure (pancakes) on campus Sept. 8. Faculty members (l-r) Bill Bonner and Glenys Sylvestre serve up for students Brandon Wright and Joel Graham.

U of R photo by A/V Services

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](mailto:communications@uregina.ca)

You are cordially invited to attend the launch of Gail Bowen's new mystery novel



## The Last Good Day

Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

in the Shu-Box Theatre Riddell Centre, University of Regina

Please join us as we celebrate one of Canada's Literary Treasures