



## New graduate program in gerontology launched

It's a truism that age catches up to all of us, and that is certainly the case in Canada. In 1900 about four per cent of the country's population was composed of people 65 years of age or older. By 1998 the percentage had more than doubled, to over ten per cent. Saskatchewan has the highest proportion of people 65 and older in all of Canada, at 14.8 per cent.

Our aging population is drawing increasing interest from researchers and policy-makers, but oddly enough, there is no graduate gerontology (the study of old age) program in Saskatchewan. Currently, there's only one graduate gerontology program in the Prairie provinces. However, this is changing.

The Centre on Aging and Health (CAH) at the U of R has launched a master's degree in gerontology involving three University faculties: arts, social work and kinesiology and health studies. The interdisciplinary program will allow students to work toward either a master of arts or master of science degree, depending on the nature of their thesis research.

"The University of Regina is a good institution to launch such a program because most of the resources are already here," says

Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, professor of psychology and director of the CAH. "Most of the necessary courses are already offered, and the program fits well with one of the University's areas of emphasis, health. The demand is there, also. Since the Centre on Aging and Health was announced, I've received many calls from health professionals and members of the public inquiring about opportunities for graduate education in gerontology."

The program coordinator, John Barden, is a researcher in biomechanics and neuroscience. He's also received expressions of interest from potential students, including some from outside Saskatchewan. One inquiry came from a student currently at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

"I expect the interest will increase as we get closer to the application deadline of March 31 for the fall 2005 term," says Barden, who teaches in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies.

The CAH initiated and will coordinate the master's program. Hadjistavropoulos expects the program will attract two types of applicants: nurses and other health professionals who want

to upgrade their skills with research training, and students with undergraduate degrees who would like to pursue research and academic careers in fields relating to aging.

"The program includes required courses on both the social and biomedical aspects of aging, as well as on research methodology," says Hadjistavropoulos. "Students are also required to complete a master's thesis directly related to aging."

Barden describes the program as fairly broad, giving students exposure to many areas of knowledge, all tied together under the topic of aging. Students will acquire knowledge and skills related to whichever option they choose, either arts or science.

"All students completing the program will be trained researchers, so they can take that further if they want to pursue a research career in gerontology," Barden says. "In addition, if they choose the master of arts/social work path they'll focus more on the social sciences, while the master of science option will give them more knowledge about the biomedical sciences as they pertain to aging."

"Bringing together three faculties within the program likely meant more meetings and



Thomas Hadjistavropoulos

U of R photo by A/V Services

more work, but it really adds to the scope of the program," Barden continues. "Students will be exposed to more issues, and I hope that they'll participate in seminars where they report on the research they're doing, contributing to the work of the Centre on Aging and Health."

### CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Feb. 24-Apr. 8  
**First Year Services Student Success Seminars**  
Various student seminars such as library orientation, mid-term exams, resume and portfolio building.  
Info: 585-5376  
www.uregina.ca/fys

Feb. 21-25  
**Mid-term break**  
No classes

Thurs., Feb. 24 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Coffee House Controversies series**  
"Christianity and 'Family Values': Ancient Texts and Modern Sex"  
Speaker: Bill Arnal  
Chapters  
Info: 585-4226

Feb. 25  
**University holiday**  
University closed

Feb. 25-26  
**Men's Hockey Canada West Quarter Finals**  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, MB  
Info: 585-5199

Feb. 25-26  
**Canada West Women's Basketball Final Four**  
Hosted by Simon Fraser University  
Feb. 25 - U of R vs. UBC  
Feb. 26 - Bronze medal game at 6:15 p.m.,  
Gold medal game at 8:15 p.m.  
Info: 585-5199

Feb. 25-26  
**Men's Basketball Great Plains Divisional Finals**  
Brandon, MB  
Info: 585-5199

Feb. 25-26  
**Canada West Track & Field Championships**  
Hosted by the University of Regina  
Feb. 25 - 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Feb. 26 - 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sportflex Fieldhouse  
Info: 585-5199

Wed., Mar. 2 - 4 p.m.  
**Sociology seminar**  
"The Present as History: Aboriginal Rights, "Race" and the "New Right Agenda: Where is it Going?"  
Speaker: Ron Bourgeault  
Rm. 420, Classroom Bldg.  
Info: 585-4443

Wed., Mar. 2 - Noon  
**Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar**  
"Searching Citizenship: Social Studies and the Tensions of Teaching"  
Speaker: Jennifer Tupper  
Rm. 215, Education Bldg.  
Info: 585-4309

Wed., Mar. 2 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Playwrights Reading Series**  
Readings from her most recent writings for the stage.  
Speaker: Yvette Nolan  
First Nations University of Canada Atrium  
Info: 585-5517

Thurs., Mar. 3 - 3 p.m.  
**Luther College lecture**  
"Taoist Culture and Modern Life"  
Speaker: Qing Xitai  
Rm. 100, Luther College  
Info: 585-4859

Wed., Mar. 9 - Noon  
**Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar**  
"Teaching Artists/Artistic Teachers"  
Speakers: Ann Kipling Brown, Norm Yakel, Meredith Cherland, Dan MacDonald, Denise Morstad and Donna Patterson  
Rm. 215, Education Bldg.  
Info: 585-4309

Thurs., Mar. 10 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Coffee House Controversies series**  
"Tibet At Issue"  
Speaker: Dongyan Blachford  
Chapters  
Info: 585-4226

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

## Taking teaching out of the classroom

Every year during the winter semester, U of R students studying to be secondary education teachers hit the road for some out-of-classroom experiences. It's an opportunity for the students to learn from a variety of people in different locations around the province, and add their experiences to their course work and study in the Faculty of Education.

The program is called Off-Campus Residential Experience (OCRE) and until recently, when the program outgrew its traditional home, was headquartered at the Echo Valley Conference Centre near Fort Qu'Appelle.

The organizing committee for OCRE, led by professor of education Beryl Bernard, planned the program with smaller numbers of students grouped together according to subject areas. Faculty members also worked with other members of the University community and representatives of the Regina Public School Board and the Qu'Appelle Valley School Division to develop procedures regarding student safety during their travels.

"With the changes in venue and format this year, it might better be called the off-campus reality experience," suggests professor Carol Fulton, a member of the organizing committee. (Other members of the committee included Val Mulholland, Kathleen Badali, Jennifer Tupper and Rick Seaman.)

OCRE 2005 featured five groups: mathematics and science; health, outdoor and physical education; music, social studies and English language arts; business education; and French. Each group developed and followed very different programs, and their experiences were, literally and figuratively, all over the map.

For example, students in the HOPE (health, outdoor and physical education) group spent two and a half days immersing themselves in the Lakota culture. They went to Carry The Kettle First Nation's

Camp Flinthorn, about 100 kilometres east of Regina, to meet with elders, band leaders and community members. Together they explored "different cultural ways of knowing and teaching," says Bernard, who accompanied the group. "Now they're taking what they experienced out there and bringing it back to what they will use in the classroom."

All of the groups participated in activities and experiences related to First Nations. This is in line with Saskatchewan Learning's emphasis on cross-cultural education and its direction to include aboriginal perspectives, where possible, in all areas of the curriculum.

"We were looking at how teachers look at the curriculum, and how to include information about Indian and Métis culture appropriately," says Mulholland. "If you do that in a ham-handed way, it could be harmful, so we were looking at ways information could be included sensitively."

Some of the locations visited by the various groups included Wanuskewin Heritage Park, the Western Development Museums at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, the EcoVillage at Craik, and Government House, RCMP Depot, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the First Nations University of Canada in Regina.

Fulton observed that in their post-OCRE survey comments the students noted how every story has multiple perspectives, and that getting out of the classroom to hear the different perspectives is essential. Her students, she added, also valued the opportunities to get to know each other and their instructors better.

If there was an unexpected benefit from OCRE, it was that the experience brought faculty members closer together, says Seaman. "I think it's important for faculty members to work together as colleagues, and because of experiences like OCRE, we're seeing the importance of working together. That makes us a stronger as a faculty with respect to both our programs and research."

**Fourth-year sociology student Tanya Lovrich takes advantage of this week's smaller-than-usual crowds at the Dr. John Archer Library to get in some extra study. Most students have found off-campus pursuits during the mid-term break. Classes resume on Feb. 28.**

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