



Event will examine the heavy hand of Saskatchewan history

Next week, the University of Regina will be the site of a day-long event examining Saskatchewan's 100 years of history, and the province's prospects for the future. The event is called "The Heavy Hand of History: An Analysis 100 years in the Making," and it features a morning seminar and an afternoon town hall forum. The event will take place Friday, Jan. 14.

Greg Marchildon, professor in the Faculty of Administration and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Economic History, originally conceived the event as a gathering of academics reviewing the last 100 years of Saskatchewan's history. He says the idea grew as he realized there were several people working on different aspects of the province's history, examining historical trends that are still relevant and that will influence the province's future.

"Rather than solely focusing on the past with an academic audience," Marchildon says, "I approached SIPP (Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy) to see if we could reach a broader audience on the issue of the province's future. SIPP came up with the town hall format, and suggested having a journalist (Stefani Langenegger of CBC Radio) moderate the forum. I think that was a brilliant stroke."

The morning seminar will be limited to 40 registrants. The main topic will be: What are the developments and decisions in the past that

have shaped this province and continue to influence our future? Joining Marchildon in examining the question will be Bill Waiser, professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan and author of the province's centennial history book; David E. Smith, author and professor emeritus in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan; and Dale Eisler, former journalist and now assistant secretary to the federal cabinet, who is currently finishing a book on Saskatchewan.

In the public town hall forum these speakers will be joined by Murad Al-Katib, CEO of Saskcan Pulse Trading; U of R Professor of political science Joyce Green; Regina lawyer Harold MacKay, who chaired a federal task force examining financial services in Canada; and Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, a former constitutional adviser to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and now a Provincial Court judge in Saskatoon.

Advance comments from the panelists suggests it will be a lively exchange of ideas.

David E. Smith suggests that fixed election dates, currently favoured by some politicians, might have made a huge difference in the electoral success of the CCF and NDP. A heavy emphasis on policy, he notes, sometimes conflicts with the parliamentary timetable and four-year time horizon for elections.

Dale Eisler will argue that Saskatchewan

was founded on false expectations that resulted in the rapid creation of an unsustainable economy and society. "The quest to attain that greater future has been a driving force in the political discourse of the province throughout much of the 20th century and remains so today," Eisler adds.

Bill Waiser says that in 1905 Saskatchewan was convinced it would become a powerhouse within Confederation. A century later agriculture is no longer the mainstay of the provincial economy, the population has slipped below one million, and we are looking for ways to work with Aboriginal peoples, who were left out of the province-building equation one hundred years ago.

"These people bring very different perspectives," Marchildon observes, "but they all demonstrate a strong commitment to Saskatchewan. I asked each of them to provide a 1,000 word text to be published by SIPP and made available to the public, and to speak for a maximum of five minutes at the beginning of the town hall forum," he continues. "I hope the speakers will act as a catalyst, and that the forum will be a dialogue as much as a debate. I hope it will open peoples' minds to what the province's future might be, or could be," says Marchildon.

Complete details on the seminar and forum can be downloaded at: www.uregina.ca/sipp



Greg Marchildon - examining the heavy hand of Saskatchewan history

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Thurs., Jan. 6
2005 winter semester and lectures begin

Tues., Jan. 11 - 6:30 p.m.
SIPP/Institut français Lecture
"Living in Interesting Times: The political dynamics of a minority government in Ottawa"
Speaker: Gilles Dupeppe
Education Auditorium
Info: 585-5863

Tues., Jan. 11 - 4 p.m.
Humanities Research Institute, Profiling Scholarship series
"Searching for the Historical David: The Human Reality behind the Traditional Stories"
Speaker: David Barnard
College West 215
Info: 585-4304

Wed., Jan. 12 - noon
Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit Seminar
"What's Critical in the Manufacturing of Road-Smart Squirrels?"
Speaker: Ali Sammel
Ed. Bldg. 215
Info: 585-4309

Fri., Jan. 14
Centennial Seminar and Town Hall Meeting
"The Heavy Hand of History: An analysis 100 years in the making"
Seminar - 8:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg. 514
Town Hall Forum - 2 p.m., Riddell Centre
Info: 585-5865 or 337-2391

Tues., Jan. 18 - 7 p.m.
2005 Woodrow Lloyd Lecture
"Effects of Climate Warming on Water Supplies of the Western Prairies"
Speaker: Dr. David Schindler
Education Auditorium
Info: 585-4758

Wed., Jan. 19 - Noon
Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit Seminar
"CSSÉ New Faculty Writers' Retreat"
Speaker: Scott Thompson
Ed. Bldg. 215
Info: 585-4309

Police, justice studies programs focus social justice commitment

Recently the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan announced a \$750,000 donation to establish a chair in police studies at the University of Regina. The donation is for seven years, with the possibility of endorsing the chair permanently.

The police studies program is one of the most popular and rapidly growing programs at the U of R. Its growth is a reflection of the need for police officers who are able to deal with the complex social and justice issues they encounter today.

The establishment of the chair is one of the research priorities of the University's Building Dreams and Futures campaign. The donation also highlights the U of R's commitment to social justice, and to teaching and research focused on justice issues.

The police studies program has its origins in the relationship between the U of R and the Saskatchewan Police College, which has operated at the U of R for almost 30 years. The college provides basic training for recruits to municipal police services around the province. Over the years the police college worked with the Faculty of Arts to develop and deliver a four-year BA in police studies.

In 2003 the Faculty of Arts created the Department of Justice Studies, bringing the human justice and justice studies programs together with police studies. This grouping

allows for an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research on justice issues. In partnership with the Canadian Institute for Peace, Justice and Security - also located at the U of R - the department began offering master of arts programs in justice studies and police studies in September 2004.

"We've had many inquiries for graduate work in justice for several years," says Sandra Pearce, who chairs the department's graduate studies committee. "The interest in both programs is strong, because they are unique in Canada."

Both programs require students to take five classes and complete a thesis. Pearce says students appreciate the interdisciplinary focus of the MA in justice studies program because it allows them to explore their areas of interest, such as criminal, social or international justice, or human rights. The MA in police studies, on the other hand, has a mid-career focus, aimed at police officers who want to build on their day-to-day policing experience.

"The justice studies students will develop strong research skills that they can apply in most justice settings in government, or in non-governmental organizations that are creating community change," Pearce says. "The police studies students are researching areas that are relevant to policing issues. Both programs also

set the stage for students who want to move on to the PhD level."

City of Moose Jaw police chief Terry Coleman is one such student. Coleman is now working on his MA in police studies after receiving his master of human resource management degree from the U of R in 2002.

"Those studies gave me more knowledge and insight into human resource issues," Coleman observes, "and since personnel make up at least 80 per cent of any policing budget, it makes sense to improve your understanding of human resource issues."

Coleman is also working on a proposal for a PhD, while serving as president of the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, sitting on the advisory board for the police studies program and helping to develop an online justice studies course. Coleman is doing his master's thesis on ways to measure the organizational effectiveness of police services, and will likely continue his research in that area at the PhD level.

"It's only when you stop to think about it that you realize how every day you use what you've learned through these studies," Coleman observes.

For more information on justice studies at the University of Regina go to: www.uregina.ca/arts/justice-studies/index.html.



BENCH STRENGTH: Winter had a free hand in the Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green during the holiday break at the U of R.

U of R photo by A/V Services



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