UNIVERSITY OF REGINA Update

CAMPUS CALENDAR

November 15-20

Academic and Professional Development seminars
The Student Development Centre will help you to learn interview techniques, improve writing skills, build your portfolio, etc
For times and dates: http://www.uregina.ca/sdc/seminars.pdf Info: 585-5376

November 15-23

University Club art exhibition
"Let Them Eat Cake"
Artist: Antoinette Hérivel
Rm. 215, College West Bldg.
Open Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info: 585-4747

Wednesday, November 15 – noon

Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar
"Saskatchewan Adult Education and Training System Review: One Year Later"
Speaker: Brian Banks
Rm. 215, Education Bldg. Info: 585-5142

Thursday, November 16 – noon

Music recital
Shu-Box Theatre, Riddell Centre Free admission. Info: 585-5532

Thursday, November 16, 2006 Noon – 1:15 pm

Seniors Education Centre forum - Understanding Alzheimer Disease
Room 106, Gallery Building, College Ave and Cornwall Street
Admission: $5 **Information: 585-5816**

This presentation will provide an overview of Alzheimer Disease, including information on warning signs, diagnosis and coping strategies for families and caregivers of people suffering from the disease. Theresa Mura, a student in the Faculty of Social Work currently doing her practicum with the Alzheimer Society, will give the presentation.

"There is so much information that all I can do in an hour is give an overview, and direct people to where they can learn more about the disease," says Mura. "For example, making a diagnosis can be a lengthy process because warning signs such as memory loss can also be caused by other treatable conditions. I'll also mention that if people want to learn more, there are many good information resources available in the library at the Alzheimer Society office."

Thursday, November 16 – 4 p.m.

Humanities Research Institute Research Fellow lecture
"Drinking and Its Culture among the Yi People in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture"
Speaker: Yuan-Fu (Clark) Zhu
Rm. 114, Education Bldg. Info: 585-4226

Friday, November 17 – 3:30 p.m.

Philosophy and Classics colloquium
"Self Deception and Music: Listening to Music with Wittgenstein and Penelhum"
Speaker: Bela Szabados
Rm. 418, Classroom Bldg. Info: 585-4332

Friday, November 17 – 3:30 p.m.

Biology seminar
"The spatial structure of polar bears in the Canadian Arctic: implications for conservation"
Speaker: Francois Messier
Rm. 128, Classroom Bldg. Info: 585-4145

Wednesday, November 22 – noon

Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar
"Leadership from a Pre-Service Perspective: The Leadership Consortium (SIDRU, SELU, SPDU, and SaskLearning"
Speaker: Nick Forsberg
Rm. 215, Education Bldg. Info: 585-5142

Wednesday, November 22 – 8 p.m.

Jazz band performance
Conductor: Chris Jacklin
University Theatre, Riddell Centre Cost: $5 Adult, $3 Senior, Free for Middle School, High School and University Students with ID
Info: 585-5532

Thursday, November 23 – 7:30 p.m.

Coffee House Controversies
"Does history matter? Health and healing in Aboriginal communities"
Speaker: Carrie Bourassa
Chapters, Southland Mall Info: 585-4226

Friday, November 24 – noon.

New Music Ensemble performance
Conductor: Alain Perron
University Theatre, Riddell Centre Free admission. Info: 585-5532

Friday, November 24 – 12:10 p.m.

Computer Science seminar
"Open Source Software: Not just for starving students anymore"
Speaker: Brad Henry
Rm. 623, Education Bldg. Info: 585- 5210

Friday, November 24 – 3:30 p.m.

Biology seminar
"Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function in Freshwater Zooplankton Communities"
Speaker: Charles Ramcharan
Rm. 128, Classroom Bldg. Info: 585-4145

For a complete calendar of events at the University of Regina, visit our website at www.uregina.ca
Update photos by A/V Services

U of R welcomes students from Kazakhstan

For a dozen students from Kazakhstan, beginning their studies at the U of R this semester was far from a sure thing. It took a lot of behind-the-scenes work to make it happen. Sel Murray, who manages the U of R's International Student Success Office, was approached by a colleague at another school who suggested the University would be an ideal choice for student placements sponsored by the Kazakhstan government.

Although the U of R does not yet have a formal agreement with the Kazakhstan government in place, Murray and Alain Boutet of the University's Office for International Co-operation and Development managed to clear the hurdles and arrange for the students to register for their courses this fall.

"In the past, Kazakhstan sent its students to the United States," Murray explains. "Now it has decided to diversify by sending them to many countries, including Canada." In fact, each year the Kazakh government supports 3,000 of its best and brightest to study abroad through its International Presidential Scholarship Program. The program is also named "Bolashak", which means "future", signifying the government's drive to upgrade the public service and business leadership in the Central Asian country. Kazakhstan was a republic within the former USSR. The government has established policies to diversify the economy away from reliance on the oil sector, foreign investment and foreign expertise.

Besides the eight students studying for their master's of public administration (MPA) degrees over the next two years, three will be working toward undergraduate degrees in petroleum engineering and one in biology. In a recent conversation, three of the MPA students, Assel Taibuldinova, Damir Akbusov and Assel Uvaliyeva, talked about their studies, their impressions of the U of R and future plans. All three converse in English with little difficulty, since English is considered one of the basics of a post-secondary education in Kazakhstan. Taibuldinova, for example, learned English and French while specializing in Canadian and US economics and politics. "I also gained experience as an intern at the United Nations," she says. "After completing my MPA, I would like to work for an international organization, perhaps the UN."

Akbuzov specialized in international law while earning a degree in international relations from Kazakhstan National University. He worked for a law firm and in the local office of an international oil and gas company before applying to study abroad.

Clockwise from left: Assel Taibuldinova, Kuat Karsybayev, Bauyrzhan Primkulov, Damir Akbuzov, Noira Nigmatova, Zhuldyzay Baimyrza, and Assel Uvaliyeva are among 12 undergraduate and graduate students from Kazakhstan studying at the U of R.

Taibuldinova and Akbusov nod in agreement when Uvaliyeva praises their course instructors. "They are so helpful in class, and follow up with emails to make sure we understand."

Expect to see more Kazakh students on campus and in the community once the U of R concludes an agreement with the government, Murray states. "We have the capacity to accept about eight to 10 MPA and MBA students each year, but we could also welcome more in areas like petroleum engineering and biochemistry."

CMA Canada (Saskatchewan) recently donated $100,000 to the University's Building Dreams and Futures campaign, in support of the Faculty of Business Administration's Excellence Program Scholarships. University of Regina President Robert Hawkins (right), presents Betty Hoffart, chief executive officer of CMA Canada (Saskatchewan) (middle), and Moyez Somani, first-vice president (left), with a plaque recognizing the society's generous support and long-term partnership with the faculty.

FACES ON CAMPUS

Nelson Wagner began working in the U of R's Physical Plant department a few months ago, and he has a simple explanation for the work that goes on there: "Virtually everything you can see – and a lot that you can't see – we monitor, fix or maintain."

Nelson Wagner

In fact, there a little more to it than that. In his role as associate vice-president of facilities and planning, part of Wagner's responsibility is to look to the long-term future of the University. This includes examining issues such as sustainability and growth, something he's familiar with from his previous position as executive director of the facilities branch for two provincial departments, Saskatchewan Learning and Advanced Education and Employment. Every significant construction or renovation project proposed by any publicly funded educational institution in the province is evaluated by the facilities branch.

Regarding sustainability, Wagner says the campus has made great strides in improving its energy efficiency by retrofitting older buildings and building new ones to very high standards. "Part of the new Lab Building roof will be a green roof (using soil and plants as insulation), which will give faculty and students opportunities to examine and gather data on new forms of sustainability," he notes.

As for campus growth, there are no plans for a major expansion just yet, but the U of R holds a 99-year lease on land north of SIAST, on the other side of the Number One Highway. "If and when we need it, there's enough land there to virtually double the size of the current campus."

Every two weeks, the U of R Update will bring you news on events, programs, people and research at the University of Regina.