

CCE Connections



Centre for Continuing Education
at the University of Regina

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the 8th Gerontology Institute

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The Changing Nature of Administration in Rural Municipalities



All across Saskatchewan, rural municipalities (RMs) are bracing for an onslaught of retirements which will change the face of administration in rural Saskatchewan. A recent questionnaire by the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA) estimates that forty-six administrators will retire in less than three years; sixty more will retire in three to five; and an additional fifty administrators will retire either in or very soon after 2015. Thus within six years, an estimated fifty-three percent of administrators in rural Saskatchewan, 156 people, will leave their profession.

There are two people in Saskatchewan helping to co-coordinate efforts to fill the dozens of administrator positions which will soon become vacant. Dr. Christine Crowe, Head of the Credit Studies Division at the University of Regina which offers the province's only Local Government Administration (LGA) program, and Mr. Kevin Ritchie, Executive Director of the RMAA, both conclude that the problem facing recruiters is not disinterest in the profession of RM administration, but rather the absence of awareness.

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From the Director



2010 brings a special sense of anticipation and excitement as the new decade begins. It is the time of year when we reflect on achieving new goals and new dreams. The Centre for Continuing Education wants to be part of these plans as we strive to deliver the type of lifelong learning opportunities that educate, delight and serve the needs of our learners.

Last year more than 17,000 adults, youth and children took advantage of our programs, courses and events! This year we look forward to increased attendance as we provide new and exciting access to our courses through UR NOW! Nights Online Weekends and have expanded our distance learning course offerings. Our new and revamped Certificates in Public Relations, Project Management and Marketing & Sales Management continue to be popular choices.

Our English as a Second Language program is running at full capacity with eager students excited to learn English and later on pursue higher learning at the U of R. The Conservatory Theatre for Young People looks forward to welcoming more than 2,700 children, youth and their teachers with three professional theatre presentations this winter.

So whether our students are setting new personal or professional goals, the Centre for Continuing Education hopes to offer the diverse and enriched programming that will allow them to realize their dreams in 2010!

“...it is a job in which one can do ‘700 different things in a week’ and all are challenging, intriguing, or interesting in some way.”

Mr. Ritchie observes that recruiting new administrators has been “an ongoing struggle” and that is particularly true where young people are concerned. Dr. Crowe explains that young students “have absolutely no idea that this career exists, that they can walk into a job” after graduating University. She refers to the profession as “one of the best kept secrets in Saskatchewan.”

Best kept secret might be an understatement: statistics affirm that (in addition to social work), there is a healthy interest in the local government course generally, if not the administrator position specifically. Dr. Crowe notes that registration in the LGA program has been running at full capacity each year since 2005 and the surprising thing (or not) is that the majority of the students are women. Twenty years ago, most RM administrators were likely male, but in an apparent reversal of roles, recent statistics show just one man enrolled in the course for every eight women. In fact, since 2005 eighty nine percent of the LGA graduates have been women.

Also surprising, many people entering the course come from the 40-plus age group. In 2007, for example, just twenty-five women between eighteen and twenty-four years of age enrolled compared to eighty-one women over the age of forty. Likewise in 2006: fifteen women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four enrolled compared to eighty-four women over the age of forty. Louis Genest, a twenty-four year old male, and Administrator for the RM of Britannia, is bucking the gender trend and he is certainly aware of it: he recalls attending his LGA course with just one other young male. The element of the job that appeals to Mr. Genest is the diversity: it is a job in which one can do “700 different things in a week” and all are challenging, intriguing or interesting in some way.



Louis started working in the RM of Harris when he was seventeen as part of a high school work program. At twenty-four years of age, he is now the administrator of one of the wealthiest RMs in the province. When asked why he chose his profession, Mr. Genest’s first response was to say that he “grew up in a small town and wanted to stay in a small town” and administration offered him that chance. Dr. Crowe has also seen evidence of the impulse which motivated Louis. At University job fairs, some students and recent grads have indicated that they would like to return to their hometowns or the regions in which they grew up and she notes that administration offers them the opportunity to do just that.

*Excerpt from article written by Curtis McManus

Conservatory Students Bring Home Silver



The Conservatory of Performing Arts hosted the Royal Conservatory of Music's Silver Medal Awards for Saskatchewan on December 5th. This is the eighth consecutive year the Conservatory has been selected to host this prestigious provincial awards celebration.

Each year, music students across North America write theory and practical exams with an RCM examiner. The Silver Medal Awards are then presented to the top scoring students in each grade for the categories of piano, voice, strings and orchestral instruments in each region.

Six out of thirty-four Saskatchewan Silver Medal Award recipients were Conservatory of Performing Arts' students. "This year was special for the Conservatory and the University," says Gerry Folk, Conservatory of Performing Arts Head, "our students and teachers worked extremely hard and we are very proud of our six Conservatory medalists."

"It's an achievement to have six medals awarded to students from one centre," says Peteris Zarins, Chief Examiner of Training and Development from the RCM, "it speaks to the calibre of teaching."

Simone Ma, fifth grade violinist, has been studying at the Conservatory of Performing Arts with Carolyn Lowther for seven years. She was awarded her first Silver Medal. "My teacher wanted me to take the tests," says Simone, "She was very encouraging."

Simone was happy and surprised to receive her Silver Medal Award, but admits she had to study on weekends and pass on some activities for practice time. "Simone works hard for Carolyn," explain her parents, "It's been fantastic working with Carolyn and the Conservatory."

Simone plans to keep playing the violin and studying with Carolyn at the Conservatory.

"We look forward to hosting the RCM Silver Medal Awards again next year," says Folk, "it's very rewarding to see our students and teachers' hard work and talent recognized by a national organization."



*Simone Ma
silver medalist*

Congratulations to the Conservatory of Performing Arts Silver Medal Award Winners

Student	Grade/Instrument	Instructor
Kara Marice Seno	Grade 2 Violin	Andrea Hedlund
Simone Ma	Grade 5 Violin	Carolyn Lowther
Yuki Landry	Grade 7 Violin	Rudolf Sternadel
Megan Zak	Grade 8 Viola	Jonathon Ward
Leanna Williams	Grade 3 Violin/Cello	Barbara Fitzpatrick
Derek Stevenson	Grade 8 Flute	Marie-Noelle Berthelet

Teaching and Learning Project Underway

Attending university in another country taking courses in a foreign language is a challenge for many International Students. The University of Regina is taking action to help students overcome this challenge.

English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor Simone Hengen was appointed as a President's Teaching and Learning Scholar in fall 2009. Simone has been given a grant to work on a project called Enhancing Discipline-Specific Vocabulary Learning at the University of Regina.

Simone explains, "The goal of the project is to help ESL students become more familiar with vocabulary that they will encounter in their discipline so that they can be successful in their University of Regina classes."

The project will create a workshop for graduate students from areas with high numbers of ESL graduates through combining insights from research of discipline-specific vocabulary and higher learning teaching. "The goal of the workshop is to give the grad students knowledge and skills to create vocabulary," says Simone.

Simone is very enthusiastic about her opportunity. "I am excited to be working on this project. I think it will enhance not only the ESL students' success in their classes, but also give the grad students teaching skills that they could use if they pursue an academic career."

UR Accelerating! New Dual Credit Option

Eager and excited high school students have a new opportunity thanks to the Credit Studies Division and their new dual credit option as part of UR Accelerating! The dual credit policy gives students the ability to earn up to three “special project” credits on their high school transcript and nine University of Regina credits.

The dual credit program became possible through the Ministry of Education which supports and encourages special projects for secondary students and, as a result, revised its policy to allow students to attain up to three credits in this manner and to include post-secondary courses as an option for attaining credits.

“We are very excited about this change in the Ministry’s policy to allow students to gain credit for completing a University course while in high school,” says University of Regina President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Vianne Timmons. “The University of Regina’s high school accelerated program provides a positive transition for students interested in pursuing post-secondary study.

It offers exciting learning options for students who are ready for additional academic challenges, and encourages them to explore areas of academic interest not available through the high school curriculum.”

“The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to continuous improvement and accountability within the provincial education system,” says Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, Ken Krawetz. “Ensuring the learning success and achievement of our young people is vital to moving our province forward while preparing our youth to meet the challenges of the future.”

“Accelerated programs don’t just give high school students a chance to try on academic life; they also offer those students an unusual opportunity to build up the momentum to carry them to University success,” says Dr. Susan Johnston, associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Regina. “I’ve always been really impressed by the discipline and commitment of those accelerated students, and I know from experience that they

have translated those early experiences into the kinds of success at University we want to model for all our students.”

University of Regina student Joe Van Os had a positive experience in his accelerated course. “The High School Accelerated class is an awesome eye-opener for high school students. I know when I took an accelerated class it helped ease the transition into the university mindset. It not only allowed me to take a class towards my degree, but I was able to interact with university students and see just how unique University of Regina classes will be.”

There are many benefits high school students can gain through this program. They will be able to engage in unique research and academic exploration at the University of Regina. They will experience a taste of what research is like at a post secondary level in the university environment. And ultimately, it will help their transition from high school to university and accelerate their future at the University of Regina.



“The High School Accelerated class is an awesome eye-opener for high school students...”



Elder Abuse, Hot Topic at the 8th Gerontology Institute

Elder abuse has long been a taboo topic, the unspeakable. This view is now changing and people are speaking out about this serious issue more openly.

Keynote speaker Charles Keple spoke about “Elder-Use and Abuse” at the 8th Gerontology Institute held on November 26th, 2009, hosted by the Seniors Education Centre and sponsored by the U of R Centre on Aging and Health. “There’s a large number of elders at risk for abuse. It’s viewed as a family issue and elders are reluctant to get authorities involved. These elders are often reliant on those who abuse them and can’t just walk away.” says Line Le-Ruyet, Program Coordinator of the Seniors Education Centre.

The Gerontology Institute engaged over 100 participants, most of whom are health care professionals who work with elders (nurses, extended care professionals and health administration professionals.)

Other topics presented covered nutrition for older adults, the caregiver experience and advanced care planning.

The Seniors Education Centre’s goals for the Institute were to raise awareness and educate people on these serious and important issues that elders face, particularly elder abuse.

Seniors Education Centre Awarded Funding to Target Elder Abuse

The Government of Canada is taking action against elder abuse. In early 2009, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) provided the Seniors Education Centre with \$193,980 over the next three years for research, training and education to get the message out about elder abuse and prevention in our community. This project is one of 18 approved across Canada and only one of two in Saskatchewan.

“The support from HRSDC’s New Horizons for Seniors Program will make it possible for us to train volunteers to work with others throughout Saskatchewan to help eliminate elder abuse,” says Kerrie Strathy, Head of the Seniors Education Centre. “The program will recognize the valuable contributions being made by older adults in this province.”

Elder Sylvia Obey kicks off 5th Food Bank Lecture Series

Elder Sylvia Obey, Cultural Advisor at the University of Regina’s Aboriginal Student Centre, was opening lecturer for the Nourishing Thoughts at the Food Bank 2009-2010 lecture series. A capacity lunch crowd gathered to hear her message connecting Language, Life and Education. Building on her own experiences and journey through life, she emphasized how critical education is for today’s aboriginal youth. “First Nation language retention is a key means to engage Aboriginal youth to reconnect to their culture and traditional ways,” Obey observed.

Elder Sylvia Obey is from the Piapot First Nation and was raised within the First Nation traditions of her family. She is a strong advocate for First Nation Language retention as fundamental to engaging Aboriginal youth with their culture and traditional ways. In addition to her role at the Aboriginal Student Centre, she currently works with the Regina Public School System, and the Paul Dojack Youth Facility.



The Food Bank Lecture series was launched five years ago as a collaboration between the Centre for Continuing Education, First Nations University of Canada and the Regina and District Food Bank. Its purpose is to highlight work being done through University of Regina educational programs and to encourage sharing of knowledge and experience amongst University professors, Food Bank staff and students, and the general public.

Upcoming Food Bank Lectures

- Feb 24th Dr. Jessie A. Barber “Métis Poetry”
- March 24th Dr. Ben Schenstead “Global Music”

All lectures are held at the Regina & District Food Bank at 12 - 1pm.



English As a Second Language Graduation: Celebrating International Student Success

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program held its Graduation Ceremony on December 4th, 2009 at the Delta Hotel to celebrate 46 graduates' successful completion of the highest level of the ESL program in front of a crowd of 400.

The grads are a diverse group of students coming from countries all over the world including Russia, the Ukraine, China, Yemen, Colombia, Saudi Arabia and more.

"The ceremony is a culmination of one or many semesters' work in ESL for the students," says Therese Gerrond, ESL Instructor, "to come and learn another language in a foreign country develops a facet of their personality they were otherwise unaware of." Caroline Lourenco, class valedictorian from Brazil, spoke to the significance of this unique milestone in their education.

International Success in China

Bertand Lee, Head of English as a Second Language Program (ESL), recently trekked around parts of China late November promoting the U of R ESL Program to parents, students, teachers, principals and Chinese university faculty.

Lee says, "A key part of the trip was meeting with contacts whom Dr. Rod Dolmage, Director of the Centre for International Education and Training, also Professor for the Faculty of Education, has built over a number of years. We have been working to provide access to tertiary education at the U of R for students who do not do well enough on the National exam to enter a Chinese university of their choice. Many of these students will require English training to obtain proficiency to study here."

"I think the trip was successful," says Lee, "in that we were finally able to get agreements signed and putting faces to names."

A newer addition to the ceremony program has been a slideshow put together by the students of their time in Regina. "This time there were over 300 pictures. It's a big hit with the students and why not? It's them up there!" explains Gerrond.

Awards were presented to outstanding students like Peng Zhang who received the Penthes Rubrecht Bursary, named after the founder of ESL at the U of R, covering a half semester of International Student tuition fees. The ESL Prize in the amount of \$250 was presented to Fatimah Masiri for his academic achievements and leadership qualities.

The bright futures for many of these grads include bridging into a U of R undergraduate program, while others plan to return home and enrol in university programs locally, taking their Regina experiences with them.

His visit to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing was very beneficial in obtaining useful information on visa processes and procedures that facilitate doing business with Chinese institutions.

Lee's trip to China has helped strengthen the University of Regina's relationships with government and post-secondary institutions in China. "We expect more students from China [at the University of Regina]," says Lee, "significantly more from the looks of things."



(left to right) Joy Du, Terry Sun, Qingming Xu, Dr. Rod Dalmage, Bertrand Lee, and Mark Cai (meeting with Shanghai International Studies University)

TELL ME A STORY...

Congratulations to Kristen Lowe who is one of the Centre for Continuing Education's "Tell me a story..." winners of 2009...

"My story begins ten years ago when I started taking a business diploma at Mount Royal College in Calgary. I took one semester and found it too difficult and dropped out to go to trade school. Ten years later I found myself married with 2 kids and a stay at home mom. I have always regretted the decision to drop out and finally decided to do something about it. I enrolled in the Certificate in Administration and started last spring. I am finding this go around very interesting and terrifying. Walking into a class with so many young students was very intimidating until I realized they are all feeling the same as I did ten years ago. I appreciate my schooling now as an adult and am now going to be transferring to full time status to get my degree in business. Had I not taken the first step to go back, I never would have had the confidence to continue on. Thank you Centre for Continuing Education!"



"I appreciate my schooling now as an adult... Thank you Centre for Continuing Education!"



Welcome New Staff!

Our new permanent staff members are...

Connie Novitski returns to Continuing Education as the Marketing & Communications Analyst.
Bettina Welsh is the new Learner Support Coordinator in the Distance Learning Division.
Laura Elsaesser is back as the English as a Second Language Centre Administrator.
Rod Creer joins the College Avenue Campus as part of the Custodial Services crew.
Peco Nagai has taken on a new role in ESL as the Student Advisor & Counsellor.
Terri Allard returns to the Coordinator position at the Distance Learning Division.

Our new temporary/term staff members are...

Doug O'Brien is filling the role of Recruitment & Marketing Officer at ESL.
Amy Snider has returned ESL as a term instructor.
Dilia Hasanova has joined ESL as a new term instructor.
Binsu Shen is a new term instructor for ESL as well.

Our new Co-op and practicum students are...

Joe Van Os is a new program assistant for the Credit Studies Division. (co-op student)
Chelsea Bannman is working with the Director's Office. (co-op student)
Ryan Seal is Instructional Design Assistant for the Distance Learning Division. (co-op student)
Melanie O'Neill has joined the Seniors Education Centre. (practicum student)
Jason Folk has joined the Seniors Education Centre. (practicum student)

Congrats Kathy Waithman!



After nearly 30 years working at the Centre for Continuing Education, many of those years spent at the Distance Learning Division, we would like to thank Kathy for all her hard work and dedication. Over the years, she has helped make DLD what it is today, a strong and thriving department that reaches out to many communities, giving people the opportunity for higher learning. We want to wish Kathy a happy and blessed retirement.

*CCE Team

Upcoming Events

- February 10, 2010 **History & Folklore of College Ave.**
6:30pm - 9:30pm, \$49 + GST
Contact: 585.5853 or visit www.uregina.ca/cce/business
- February 25 - 26, 2010 **CAUCE Deans and Directors Meeting 2010**
Ottawa, Ontario
- February 23, 2010 **Conservatory Theatre for Young People presents...**
Beneath the Banyan Tree
- March 19, 2010 **Shape of a Girl**
- April 13, 2010 **Jake's Gift**
All showtimes: 10:00am & 1:30pm, Darke Hall, College Ave.
Call 585.5830 or visit www.uofrconservatory.ca
- February 18, 2010 **Seniors Education Centre Noon Hour Forum Series...**
The Hijras: India's Third Gender
- February 25, 2010 **My Trip to Spain**
- March 18, 2010 **Saskatchewan Labour in the 1930's**
All forums held at the Seniors Education Centre, GA 106
Call 585.5816 or visit www.uregina.ca/cce/seniors
- March 1 - 6, 2010 **Adult Learners Week**
Bring a friend to your SEC class this week!
Call 585.5816 or visit www.uregina.ca/cce/seniors
- March 11, 2010 **Inspiring Leadership, Realize the Leader in You!**
www.uregina.ca/inspiringleadership2010
- April 5 - 9, 2010 **SPARK Young Performers Spring Break Day Camps**
Kindermusik, Drama, puppetry, music
Call 585.5830 or visit www.uofrconservatory.ca
- April 26 - 28, 2010 **TLt 2010 Conference**
Teaching and learning to the power of technology
www.tlt2010.ca
- May 12, 2010 **Distinguished Canadian Award Dinner**
Call 585.5816 or visit www.uregina.ca/cce/seniors

Some Upcoming Courses

Digital Photography Intermediate

Friday, February 19
9:00am - 12:00pm,
Seniors: \$40, Adults: \$65
Contact: 585.5816

**Traditional Chinese Medicine
as an Alternative to
Western Medical Practice**

Monday, February 22
1:30pm - 3:00pm, \$5
Contact: 585.5816

Kindermusik Village: DewDrops

Tuesdays, March 16 - May 11
Saturdays, March 20 - May 15
9:30am - 10:15am
\$88 + \$40 materials fee
Contact: 585.5830

Join the Social Networking Trend

Tue & Thu, March 30 - April 1
6:30pm - 8:30pm, \$59 + GST
Contact: 585.5853

Writing for Young Adults

Thursdays, April 15 - May 6
6:30pm - 8:30pm, \$99 + GST
Contact: 585.5853

Spanish Beginner

Mondays, April 19 - June 28
6:30pm - 9:00pm, \$150 + GST
Contact: 585.5853

**Business & Professional
Development presents...**
Disney Institute: Inspiring Creativity

September 14, 2010
Queensbury Convention Centre
Call 585.5853
www.uregina.ca/cce/business

For information on any of the programs and courses mentioned in CCE Connections:
www.uregina.ca/cce - 306.585.5801 - cce@uregina.ca

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