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DISTANCE LEARNING DIVISION TASK FORCE **DRIVING CHANGE**

Many cultural shifts have been occurring at the University of Regina and beyond, especially when it comes to program delivery. The University's student body is evolving to include more non-traditional learners who seek flexibility in course and programming delivery. The Distance Learning Division is dedicated to evolving with this shift to satisfy this strong need among students near and far.

From this dedication came the formation of the Distance Education Task Force (DE Task Force) in March 2009. The Distance Learning Division (DLD) and the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) saw an opportunity to advance and develop distance learning at the U of R and create a strategy to respond to the growing needs of students for distance education. With strong support from President Timmons and Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Gary Boire, the DE Task Force was in full swing creating a concrete strategic plan of action to establish the best direction to develop and deliver flexible learning to students.

The DE Task Force's vision is that the University of Regina will support the administration, growth and development of opportunities for non-traditional students in order for them to access courses and full

“Students’ needs are changing. They want off campus options.”

programs through various means of learning such as online, televised, and blended (combination of delivery methods, video/web conference, Prior Learning Recognition, and face-to-face regional

college courses.)

The plan is designed to be implemented in five phases over five years to coincide with the University’s Strategic Plan, 2009-2014:

1. The Inventory Phase (2009-2010)
2. The Organizational Capacity Building Phase (2010-2011)
3. The Institutional Capacity Building Phase (2011-2012)
4. The Full Implementation (2012-2013)
5. The Assessment & “Revisioning” Phase (2013-2014)

These phases are designed to develop and prepare the University to be capable of delivering new distance education options through gap analysis, new infrastructure, technology, staff/responsibilities of Distance Learning and CTL, followed by full implementation in the fourth year.

The goals set out include increasing the number of programs and courses available online, increasing the average course enrolment in online courses, and increasing the number of televised courses offered each year.

Willadell Garreck, Head (Acting) of the Distance Learning Division, said “The U of R currently doesn’t offer full degree programs through distance education. This is something we’re really pushing to change.” This is a necessity when it comes to competing with other universities such as the University of Waterloo which offers a multitude of full degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels through distance education.

The Distance Learning Division currently offers only a small number of full certificate programs. She adds that “Students’ needs are changing. They want off campus options with flexibility.” With only two full certificate programs currently offered through DLD, the U of R needs to catch up with its competitors. The benefits of this strategy reach beyond that of the University’s students. The strategy strives for environmental sustainability by providing strong opportunities to better utilize resources, free up physical space, and make

From the Director

The arrival of spring in Regina leads to thoughts of growth and renewal. Supporting this theme, the University has initiated an ambitious project to create a Campus Master Plan – one that will be bolder, more strategic and responsive to the University’s 2009-2014 Strategic Plan. A key part of this project encompasses new ideas to spur planning for the College Avenue Campus.



The historic College Avenue Campus has long been the home for much of the Centre’s programming and community outreach activity. We look forward to the outcome of this process to provide a vision for innovative future development to improve our campus and renew our presence as a hub for university-based, community focused activity.

A growing number of adults and youth alike have made enrolment in our programs a part of their lives. Whether through the classes designed to stimulate and challenge the older adults at the Lifelong Learning Centre, the wide array of camps, group lessons or private instruction offered through the Conservatory for Performing Arts, or the numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth offered through Business and Professional Development, our students at the College Avenue Campus are realizing their own goals for growth and renewal through continuing education.

Dr. Harvey King
Director of the Centre for Continuing Education

use of innovative technologies.

It is felt that the university can start capitalizing on a great opportunity to brand itself as a campus with learning flexibility and a proactive institution that strives to provide alternative program access.

In order to make this vital strategy a success, it needs the support of the whole university community. The foundation of phase one has been established and the leadership is in place. It's now time to push forward with upgrading the technology needed for course delivery, creating innovative teaching, securing sustainable funding, and getting faculties and key departments on board with the plan.

The Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies (KHS) has been on board and leading the way for some time now. KHS has worked with DLD to offer online, televised, and blended courses and has been very strategic in the planning of these courses for each semester including summer. It does so with its students' needs as a priority to help them complete their program faster or be able to balance work and personal life with their studies.

Dr. Harold Reimer, Associate Dean of KHS says, "Interest in our online offerings continues to increase. Online delivery is becoming a preferred way of taking courses during the spring/summer semester." Dr. Reimer adds, "there's never a lack of enrolment. Some face-to-face courses that wouldn't fly in the past now have healthy enrolment due to using online delivery instead."

Over the past five years, DLD has seen large increases in online course enrolment (2004: nearly 800; 2009: over 1200) and healthy enrolment in televised courses (2009: over 800). It's evident that students have a strong need for these alternatives and the trend points out that this need will continue to grow.

As the demand for more learning alternatives increases in the world of post secondary education, the DE Task Force Plan will play an essential role in the long term academic growth and success of this University by focusing on the development of an innovative teaching and learning culture and taking course delivery to greater heights.

GERRY FOLK, CONSERVATORY, WINS MAYOR'S ARTS & BUSINESS AWARD



Congratulations to Gerry Folk, Head of the Conservatory of Performing Arts for winning the Mayor's Arts & Business Award in the category of Excellence in Arts Management on April 15, 2010.

This award recognizes Gerry's success of developing the Conservatory into a popular, high quality performing arts centre in Regina. Gerry has been with the Conservatory for nine years and has a strong passion for his work and performing arts. He has put vast amounts energy into reating new programs such as Spring and Summer performing arts day camps and the Conservatory Theatre for Young People which provides educational themed professional theatre for school-aged children. All of the Conservatory's programs enrich the lives of children and adults in the community.

Gerry credits his success largely to the great team he leads at the Conservatory who are the reason why he won this award. His highly decorated teaching staff with diverse skills and education in the performing arts drives the Conservatory's programs to high levels of learning and fun for all students. Gerry says "This award brings visibility to the outstanding dedication of the teachers and staff at the Conservatory."

The Conservatory had a strong presence at the Award ceremony. Gerry was joined by two other nominees from the Conservatory. Wilma Bell Wessel, Head of the Voice Department, was nominated for the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts award. She has been essential to the Conservatory, spending over a decade teaching voice. Tracey Frank, a student at the Conservatory currently taking flute lesson, was nominated for the Emerging Artist award.

This award and these nominations mean a great deal as it showcases all the hard work, passion and dedication that everyone has put into the Conservatory. This is what Gerry is truly proud of.

LUNCH & LEARNS **STIR UP** INTEREST FROM REGINA BUSINESSES



“People enjoy hearing about our programs. The audiences had huge ranges from people with high school diplomas to people with two PhD’s.”

Strong emphasis and importance is placed on professionals to continuously upgrade and develop new skill and knowledge for their careers. The Centre for Continuing Education teamed up with Student Recruitment to bring Lunch & Learns to Regina businesses in an effort to promote the Centre’s educational opportunities for employee career development and advancement.

Annette Marche, Program Coordinator of the Credit Studies Division; Jason Grieve, Business Development Consultant of Business & Professional Development; and Darrel Lawlor, Project Manager of the Recognition of Prior Learning Centre, visited a number of businesses early in the New Year.

They met with employees over lunch at 5 companies: SaskEnergy, SaskCentral, Evraz Place, Harvard Developments, and The Co-operators discussing key programs that could provide great benefits to their careers.

Programs highlighted included credit and non credit certificates, customized training, degree programs, The Disney Institute, and credit recognition for experience gained outside of post secondary education. These programs appeal to those who have completed some post secondary education and want to add value to it. Others may want to upgrade their skills to stay current with changes in their field. Marche adds, “The Lunch & Learns get people thinking about completing the programs they started and would like to finish.”

Marche says, “We increased awareness of our educational opportunities available for employees of these organizations.

People like the idea of offering courses right at their business.” This is a great feature that Business & Professional Development and the Credit Studies Division want to offer. “It’s a time and money saver for businesses.” says Grieve.

“We received positive feedback from all the organizations we visited which is very promising,” commented Lawlor. Grieve adds, “We’ve already had some callbacks from interested business.”

“People enjoy hearing about our programs,” says Marche. “The audiences ranged from people with high school diplomas to people with two PhD’s.” Some of those interested were international professionals hailing from Iran, Ukraine, and Russia currently working in Regina.

With such a great response to this coordinated effort to inspire managers and employees to add value to their careers and organizations through programs at the Centre for Continuing Education, more Lunch and Learns may be in the works to make more Regina businesses and their employees aware of the opportunities and benefits of continuing education at the University of Regina.

Grieve primarily looks forward to the opportunity to meet with new people as well as the perks, as he commented, “The ham and cheese was pretty good.”

REGINA FOODBANK LECTURE SERIES ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

The New Year brought more interesting, informative, and entertaining lectures to the Regina Foodbank, linking the University with community.

The first lecture presented ways the University of Regina and our community can work together to make positive social change through research projects and the community service-learning program, Arts CARES.

Yolanda Hansen, Coordinator of the Community Research Unit in the Faculty of Arts, facilitates collaborative community-based research projects and the Arts CARES program through the Faculty of Arts. "All our projects start with a community need," says Hansen, who considers herself to be a match maker for the U of R and the community by finding appropriate university researchers for specific research projects.

Hansen was accompanied by Brennan Schmidt, a second-year Business Education student at the University of Regina, who participated in Arts CARES 2009 in an Interdisciplinary Studies course. Arts CARES gives U of R students the opportunity to incorporate unpaid service in the community into university learning activities. Schmidt says "I was able to apply knowledge in a practical way. We, as people, tend to look at the big picture. Arts CARES lets us see smaller perspectives in our community."

In February, Dr. Jesse Archibald-Barber, Professor, First Nations University of Canada, gave a fascinating lecture about the compelling and powerful poetry of the Métis. He focused on the Red River Uprising and the North-West

Rebellion where several First Nations took up arms against the Canadian government to defend their lands against further western expansion.

Depicting the clear sense of division of national identity between English Canadians and the Métis of that era, much of the poetry he discussed in his lecture was written by Louis Riel, Pauline Johnson, and Charles Mare.

The finale of the Regina Foodbank Lecture Series on March 24 was performed by classical guitar virtuoso Ben Schenstead, Professor, First Nations University of Canada, on the Spirit of the Guitar: From Latin-America to Europe.

Ben featured various classical guitarists and composers such as Antonio Lauio of Venezuela, Brazilian Dilerando Reis, and Augustin Barrios of Paraguay. While playing an array of their compositions, Ben was accompanied by percussionist Ramiro Sepulveda, who performed at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

The unique rhythms of the percussion, complex guitar strumming, and Spanish flare of the music Ben and Ramiro performed charmed and inspired the audience. He also gave everyone a taste of his own upbeat and contemporary Latin style compositions. Ben's captivating performance most certainly gained new fans as he left everyone in awe. Ben certainly wrapped up the lecture series on a high note.

Watch for the next lecture series starting in Fall 2010.



Left: Yolanda Hansen
Right: Brennan Schmidt

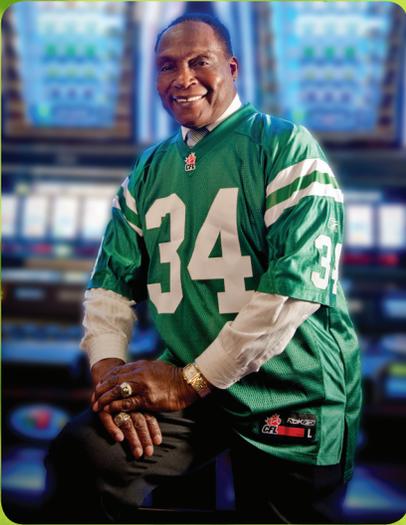


Dr. Jesse Archibald-Barber



Ben Schenstead

GEORGE REED RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN AWARD



George Reed, 2010 DCA Winner
Legendary Saskatchewan Roughrider and founder of the George Reed Foundation for the handicapped.

Saskatchewan Roughrider great, George Reed received the 26th Annual Distinguished Canadian Award, presented by the Seniors Education Centre and Seniors University Group at the award dinner, on May 12th, 2010 at the Delta Hotel in Regina.

Reed has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to the community, most notably for founding the George Reed Foundation for the Handicapped in 1974. The organization is still going strong and raises approximately \$500,000 yearly to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

Reed, who holds an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the U of R, came to Canada to play professional football with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1963. In 1976, Reed was honored by the players of the CFL as the first recipient of the Tom Pate Memorial Award.

The recipient of this annual award is an individual who has shown outstanding sportsmanship, a contribution to his team, his community, and to the Players Association. At the CFL's 1983 Schenley Awards Ceremony, Reed was again honored for his contributions to the League, the Players Association and the community at large.

Many people from the community came to the award dinner to celebrate Reed's accomplishments. Special guests attended to make speeches such as the

Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart and U of R President Dr. Vianne Timmons.

Members of the Saskatchewan Roughriders attended to show their Rider pride and enthusiasm for Reed's accomplishments. This award coincides with the celebration of 100 years of the Roughriders.

"George is the first athlete to receive a Distinguished Canadian Award.," says Kerrie Strathy, Head of the Seniors Education Centre. "He coins a long list of great Canadians including Tommy Douglas and David Suzuki." "We had autographed photos of George at every table and centre pieces that represented cheer-leading pom poms. Everyone had a great time and many got their dinner programs autographed by George."

"George is an amazing person who has done so much to encourage people with disabilities to get involved in sports." commented Kerrie.

Sponsors of the 26th Annual Distinguished Canadian Award are the Leader Post, Sasktel Pioneers and 620 CKRM The Source.

SUMMER UNIVERSITY'S COOL BREAKS

The Summer University campaign promoting credit courses offered May through August kicked off with a welcoming cool break for students. And an especially welcome tuition break for one student.

On March 10th, over 400 students were served ice cream in bright orange Summer University cups in the Riddell Centre. "This is up from the past two years we've hosted this event," says Samantha Lehmnd, Marketing Manager, Centre for Continuing Education. "We've never run out of ice cream before!"

Connie Novitski, Marketing and Communications Analyst, spoke to students while they waited in line. "It was interesting to hear why students were planning to take summer courses. *It was more beneficial to take a class than to work or they wanted to finish their degree faster* were a couple I heard repeatedly."



As part of the campaign, students who registered for a Summer University class (offered in May, June, July or

August) by April 15th were automatically entered to to win the equivalent of one course. "We were trying to encourage students to register sooner," says Lehmnd.

The lucky winner was Trevor Grill, Business Administration student who also works full time. "I had a few classes from just out of high school, but didn't finish and 10 years later, I wanted to get my Diploma, then my Degree," says Grill. "In order to balance with my work schedule, I've been taking two classes each summer for the past two years and have just transferred into the Degree program. I like the convenience of taking calsses all year rather than just fall and winter."

Find out what's new with this year's Summer University campaign in the next issue of CCE Connections.
WWW.UREGINA.CA/CCE/SUMMER

TELL US YOUR STORY...BY ANN BISHOP

Ann Bishop had this to say about her CCE experience...

My story is a simple one. Since I am a believer in life-long learning, I always said that I wanted to take some classes at the Seniors Education Centre after I retired from 33 years of service at the University of Regina in March of 2008.

I did the course work for my BA at the University one class at a time; it was a bit of a struggle being a single parent, working full time, and taking classes, but I persevered. Many days my small son and I did our homework on the same kitchen table together - it was worth it since it opened up opportunities for me at the University I would normally not have had. So when I retired, even though I still work part-time, I had some extra time to learn something new.

Since I was determined to become fit in my later years, I registered and took a T'ai Chi class from David Orban through the Seniors Education Centre. It was great. I did it with a friend and we both enjoyed it so much we took the second level. Now I am registered in the third level and am looking forward to it immensely.

I also volunteered with the Centre to help sort books for the annual book sale. What a sale! The only problem is I wanted to take so many home to read.

When I retire from my part-time job, I am going to take the classes through the centre that allow me to become a literacy coach or teacher. I am looking forward to being able to help others experience what I have experienced as a reader over the years.

-Ann Bishop



Ann Bishop, Student, Seniors Education Centre

"Since I am a believer in lifelong learning, I always said that I wanted to take some classes at the Seniors Education Centre..."

Upcoming Events

SPACE Performing Arts Day Camps Call 585.5830 to register	July 5 - 9 July 12 - 16 August 9 - 13
Urban Municipal Administrators of Saskatchewan's (UMAAS) Conference	June 8 - June 11
Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) National Conference	June 13 - June 15
Conservatory of Performing Arts Celebration of Excellence	June 16
Project Management 5-Day Intensive Call 585.5853 to register	July 19 - 23
Lifelong Learning Festival & Book Sale	September 3 - 4

Farewell to Bertrand Lee

After 4 years as Department Head of English as a Second Language, Bertrand Lee will begin his wonderful retirement on the sunny beaches of Mexico with his wife Darlene starting in July.



Bertrand has been an incredible asset to ESL and has lead the program to great success which we will see continue to grow in the future as a result of his hard work.

He has put a great deal of energy, effort, and passion into the ESL program. He traveled extensively to build strong relationships between the U of R and various institutions around the globe, many of which have added strong value to the experience of International Students on campus.

Bertrand will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best on his retirement in Mexico. We may even visit....staff retreat perhaps?

-Continuing Education Staff

New Staff

Welcome to our new staff members...

Loanne Myrah	Special Program Manager, English as a Second Language
Melanie Vegter	Secretary (Instructor Liaison & General Enquiries), Credit Studies Division
Stephany Ellis	Secretary, Distance Learning Division
Rhys Cardinal	Secretary (Online), Distance Learning Division

Business & Professional Development Presents...

Disney Institute: Inspiring Creativity

September 14, 2010
Queensbury Convention Centre

Tickets:

\$399	past participant in 2009 Disney's Keys to Excellence program
\$425	U of R Alumni
\$450	Individual
\$2,550	Corporate table (6)

To register: www.uregina.ca/business or 585.5853

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

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