

August President's message

Summer has finally arrived in the province after a very unusual and unpredictable period of spring and early summer weather. My thoughts go out to all those who were adversely affected by the intense weather that ravaged many communities across Saskatchewan.

Compared to the frenzy that typically exists at the height of the fall and winter semesters, the middle of summer finds a different kind of energy around the University of Regina. From May to August there are fewer students attending classes, our athletic teams are between seasons, and many of our faculty members and staff are taking some well-deserved time away from work.

That doesn't mean, however, that there is nothing happening during the dog days of summer. On the contrary, there is plenty going on. There are classes scheduled during the spring and summer term and many of our students are taking advantage of the offerings to pick up an extra class or two. As the fall semester is just around the corner, our faculty members and instructors are busy preparing for the start of fall classes on September 8. Just as importantly, many of our faculty members are putting in long hours on their different research projects.

But that's not all that's been happening at the University this summer.

A major theme of the University of Regina's strategic plan is engagement with the community. One very vivid illustration of that theme can be seen in the hundreds of youthful, enthusiastic faces that descend on the campus at this time of year. These youths are drawn to the University because of the outstanding art, science, and sports programs taking place throughout the summer months, and they bring a great energy to campus.

Summer Performing Arts Creative Experience Camp, MSI Computer Camp, Summer Sports School, Educating Youth in Engineering and Science Camp, or any of the other summer programs – these are all ways the University engages the larger community. The camps also employ many university students and provide them with valuable teaching and mentorship experience.

I know the experiences of the young campers are rich, and I hope that the educational experiences enjoyed by these young people this summer are not their last at the University of Regina. It would be my hope that these young people go on to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the University of Regina as part of their development into productive, contributing citizens. Who knows? Maybe one day they will send their own sons and daughters to a summer arts, sports or science camp at the University of Regina.

Wherever this message finds you, I hope that summer gives you the opportunity to rest, relax, enjoy the outdoors and visit family and friends before we launch the fall semester.

Happy summer!