



# U OF R REPORT

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## Conference to feature women in leadership

As part of International Women's Day celebrations this year, the University will feature the experience and knowledge of female leaders with a one-day development conference – *Inspiring Leadership: Realize the Leader in You!*

"The conference has been developed to help women learn from each other by creating opportunities for mentorship which we know is critical to the success of leaders," says Adrienne Nolan, associate vice-president, Donor and Alumni Relations, and co-chair of the conference with Annette Revet, executive director, University Governance.

"We've chosen speakers who will inspire conference attendees to demonstrate their own individual leadership and share their learning by



Betsy Myers, senior advisor for Barack Obama's presidential campaign, is one of the featured speakers for the development conference – *Inspiring Leadership: Realize the Leader in You!*

mentoring colleagues, partners and students in becoming our future leaders. You are going to see topics we think are relevant

to the question of developing leadership and mentoring talent."

The conference, to be held

March 11, will bring together internationally renowned speakers Betsy Myers, senior advisor for Barack Obama's

presidential campaign; Dr. Marla Shapiro, medical consultant for CTV National News and Canada AM; and Sharon Macleod, Dove brand building director for Unilever Canada. Macleod is responsible for Dove's *Campaign for Real Beauty*, an initiative designed to expand society's concept of beauty.

The conference will feature keynote sessions, networking opportunities for participants and a panel discussion guided by local leaders about the importance of mentorship.

The panel will be chaired by Marlene Smadu, associate dean of the southern Saskatchewan campus of the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, and former assistant deputy minister of health and principal nursing

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## President's Awards recognize faculty and staff excellence

Four individuals and a team of 11 employees are being celebrated for their contributions as the recipients of the 2009 President's Awards for Service Excellence.

These awards recognize the significant contributions of employees in both the community at large and the University.

To highlight and share their contributions, experience and knowledge with our readers, the *U of R Report* asked the recipients to answer a question relevant to their area. Their answers follow:

**Service Excellence Award – Brenda Kerr, Human Resources**

Brenda Kerr has been with the University for 18 years. She started in a clerical position and is now a staffing and organizational development consultant who works with a dedicated group of people to provide

human resources administrative services. She is known for having a strong inner compass, an unwavering commitment to client service and a great sense of humour.

**Q:** What keeps you motivated?

**A:** To me, it is the people and enjoying what I do. I am fortunate to work with a great group of people and have the opportunity in my job to meet and deal with a diverse group of people from all across the University.

**Service Excellence Award – Keith Fortowsky, Office of Resource Planning**

Keith Fortowsky has a keen mind, superb technical skills and a genuine desire to help people. Some know him from his work as the manager of institutional research in the Office of Resource Planning, but he also serves the Univer-

sity through a number of committees and in several administrative roles with University Club governance.

**Q:** What is the most interesting part of your job?

**A:** The University has a lot of interesting people doing fascinating things. The best part of my job is that I get to meet and learn more about a lot of them.

**Spirit Award – Joyce White, Financial Services**

Joyce White is the type of person you want in every office. She's the one who is first to lend a hand, the person who decorates your work station when you celebrate a milestone, the person who organizes office lunches, baby pools and birthday cakes. In short, she cares. This is also evident in the effort she has put into serving as a United Way Campaign co-chair



The Canada Foundation for Innovation Outcomes Measurement Study project team was one of the recipients of the President's Awards for Service Excellence. (Seated L to R): Janet Berriman, Meigan Schmidt, Glendon Rolston, Miranda Pearson, Melody Murray. (Standing L to R): Kate McGovern, Marilyn Leier, Sandy Slopinski, Sarah Savage, Jane Uttarakorn Cunningham, Heidi Smithson.

for the past two years.

**Q:** What part of your job (or volunteer work) is the most meaningful for you and why?

**A:** I have been very blessed in my career at the University of Regina. I love my job! Helping students in any way I can to achieve their education

goals. With the support of the Financial Services team, I was afforded the opportunity to volunteer for some great causes. The total quality management training team, the Banner implementation team, Gathering on the Green Faculty and

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# Writ Large

Regina Furkert  
Lecturer  
International Languages

As worldwide celebrations surrounding the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall wind down, I still remember this historical event as if it were yesterday. My thoughts go back to the time when my family was still living in East Germany. One date is always in my mind, the 13th of August, 1961. It was an unusual day, the broadcaster announced that from now on Berlin would be divided into East and West Berlin. At this time, at 11 years of age, I didn't grasp the full meaning of the news. But over the years, the Wall became part of our lives. The East German government made sure that people were well fed, well educated and well entertained, so political unrest was not in the picture for many decades. I lived the normal life of an East German citizen. I finished my education, got married, had children.

As time went by and seniors were allowed to leave the country on a special permit, news from the other side slowly made its way into society. We wondered why we couldn't travel to places we would like to see, couldn't learn another language besides Russian or see our relatives on the other side of the city. And the most important question was, why couldn't we speak our mind without being punished? We knew that in order to change our lives, we had to leave the country. On April 1, 1984 our family applied to emigrate to Canada. From this day on our lives turned upside down. We were stripped of our citizenship, it was impossible to find work, our identification papers were taken away. We were stateless in a state that had been our home country. After four years of waiting we were told to leave East Germany within 48 hours, because we were no longer tolerated there. We had to find somebody to get our passports from Warsaw to us, because stateless citizens could not cross the border.

After arriving in 1988 in Canada our lives changed again. We were already middle-aged, had very limited language skills, no job, no home, but we were free. We learned English, found jobs, finished a university education. I even started teaching German at the U of R. Looking back to the fall of the Wall after living abroad for 21 years. I believe it was a great thing to happen. We frequently visit our relatives in Germany and we still see differences between East and West Berlin. Many former East citizen didn't make the mental transition. Unemployment is very high in the eastern part of Germany, people are very unhappy and not used to it. The cost of living is no longer subsidized by the government. And sadly enough, a large portion of the population would like to see the Wall erected again. As I look back again to my former life and life in Canada, I can answer my own question very truthfully. Despite all the obstacles that I and my family had to overcome to find a new home country, would we do it again? Yes, we don't regret one moment moving to Canada.

*Writ Large is written by campus leaders and is intended to challenge readers to engage with and learn about the various 'parts' that make up the wider University of Regina community and connect us to the world. If you have a topic suggestion for Writ Large, please e-mail UofR.Report@uregina.ca and include your contact information. Please put "U of R Report" in the e-mail subject line.*

– from page 1 *Excellence* Staff Appreciation Picnic, and for the past couple of years as a co-chair with Mark Brigham on the University United Way Campaign. These were all wonderful opportunities to meet and work with some really great people at the University.

**Spirit Award – Kelly Wellsch,**

**Facilities Management**

Kelly Wellsch worked as a custodian in College West for 18 of his 19 years with the U of R. He recently moved to a utility maintenance position for Facilities Management. In that public role, he has always demonstrated hard work, while putting a welcoming face on the University. Wellsch has committed to use the \$1,000 award that comes with the honour to provide honorariums for students in Education to deliver presentations to the children in the University daycares. The goal is to provide practical teaching opportunities for the students and contribute to the educational experience of the children.

**Q:** What does an ideal day at work look like?

**A:** I enjoy every day at work. I have had lots of contact with the U of R from summer sports school in 1970 to being a student in the 1980s to being an employee from 1990 to present. That is why I'm giving my \$1,000 award to the students in the Education faculty to work with the kids in the U of R daycare. The students are the best part of my job. I believe that it is every generation's responsibility to encourage, inspire, and develop the skills and talents of the next generation.

**Distinguished Team Service Award for Innovation – Canada Foundation for Innovation Outcomes Measurement Study (CFI-OMS) project team**

In April, an independent scientific expert panel from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) visited the U of R to assess the outcome of its investment in infrastructure enabling energy research and development. To date, CFI has invested \$3.7 million in energy research and development at the University. The Outcomes Measurement Study was an institutional response to the need to show accountability. It required co-operation and a substantial investment in time and resources from units across the University. The result was a strong endorsement of the University's engagement in advancing energy research and development. Team leader Kate McGovern served as the spokesperson for the team in answering the question.

**Q:** What was the most difficult challenge for the team and how did they overcome it?

**A:** The biggest challenge facing the CFI Outcome Measurement Study team was meeting CFI's substantial and complex reporting requirements within a very short time frame, and doing so without the benefit of prior experience in the study process. These challenges were overcome through the joint efforts of team members from diverse units across campus, as well as through the responsiveness of a whole host of researchers and industry partners engaged in energy research and development at the U of R.



Brenda Kerr



Keith Fortowsky



Joyce White



Kelly Wellsch

– from page 1 *Conference*

advisor for the Government of Saskatchewan. Smadu will be joined by leaders in fields such as politics, education and the arts, including award-winning Saskatchewan playwright and poet Kelley Jo Burke, the 2009 recipient of the Saskatchewan Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Leadership in the Arts, and Kellie Garrett, senior vice-president for Farm Credit Canada.

The forum is a new endeavour for the University initiated by President Vianne Timmons who was recently named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network (WXN).

"The Inspiring Leadership forum will give others an opportunity for the kind of mentorship that I was fortunate to have. I'm delighted to support this exciting event," says Timmons. "Mentorship by leaders has made a real difference in

my life. I'm proud that this forum will give that same opportunity for self-development to others."

This will be the first event in what is planned to be an annual series on leadership hosted by the University. More information about the conference, its speakers and a list of committee chairs can be found at the *Inspiring Leadership: Realize the Leader in You!* website at [www.uregina.ca/inspiringleadership2010](http://www.uregina.ca/inspiringleadership2010).

Director of Communications: Paul Corns  
 Manager of Internal Communications: Therese Stecyk  
 Communications Officer: Shanan Soroachynski  
 Photography: U of R Photography Department  
 Submitted Photo: Meg LaVigne  
 Distribution: Robert Huber

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Promoting responsible management of the world's forests

## Conference to draw global attention

Scholars from around the world will come to the University this spring to discuss themes surrounding one of the aspects that have always made the U of R special – cultural diversity.

The University will host the prestigious 34th annual conference of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature (IAPL) from May 24-30, 2010. The IAPL is dedicated to the exchange of ideas and research within the humanities and its conferences draw hundreds to discuss developments in philosophy, literature and the arts.

“I’ve been looking for an opportunity to raise our academic profile,” says Lynn Wells, associate vice-president (Academic).

“We have such a wonderful campus here and we have such great people doing such great work. But we are – as I’ve said many times – the Canadian academy’s best kept secret. So, how do we put us on the map? Well, this is one way.”

*Cultures of differences: national indigenous historical* is the theme of the event and fits with the University’s strong commitment to cultural studies and relationships with Indigenous and other minority communities such as the Fransaskois community. Hosting the conference also serves as an opportunity to build academic bridges with various faculties and departments in the University, as well as with partners such as the First Nations University of Canada and Institut français.

In addition to numerous panels, there will be organized sessions and roundtables, including a final session on the cultural issue of “reasonable accommodation” for minorities, explored recently by a high-profile commission in Quebec in 2007.

The event will also feature speakers such as Alberto Pérez-Gómez, an architectural historian from McGill University, and Maria Campbell, a celebrated Métis writer.



Scholars from around the world will come to the University this spring for the International Association for Philosophy and Literature’s (IAPL) 34th annual conference, May 24-30.

“I’ve only heard Maria Campbell speak once, at the Saskatchewan Book Awards banquet last year, but she just blew me away,” said Wells. “She has this magisterial presence when she speaks. It’s incredible.”

The event also creates an opportunity to give guests a sense of local culture.

Organizers are planning excursions to the RCMP museum and the Moose Jaw

tunnels as well as artistic fare such as the Cathedral Village Arts Festival, a screening of Mark Wihak’s film *River* and a special production of Joey Tremblay’s one-man play *Elephant Wake*, about a dying Fransaskois community.

“This is going to be a real Saskatchewan event,” says Wells. “People from all over the world are going to take away a book with pictures of our campus and informa-

tion about our university. I’m hoping that the conference is going to lead to research collaborations, long-term relationships for our faculty and our students. Graduate students are going to come here from other institutions and see that this is a decent place to work and live. A lot of long-term benefits will come out of it.”

You can visit the IAPL website at: [www.iapl.info](http://www.iapl.info)

## Morrisseau’s artistic work overshadowed by his myth

By poring over media coverage and tracking down the paintings of the Anishnaabe artist Norval Morrisseau, Carmen Robertson aims to deconstruct the media stereotyping that has eclipsed discussions about his art, an Aboriginal artist known almost as much for his persona as his work.

Morrisseau’s significance in the history of contemporary Canadian art history has been largely overlooked until recently. Robertson’s SSHRC-funded program of research examines the ways people think about the *Mishomis*, or Grandfather, of contemporary Aboriginal art in Canada.

Robertson, an associate professor of contemporary Aboriginal art history in the Department of Visual Arts, also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Norval Morrisseau Heritage Society (NMHS). One of the goals of the non-profit organization is to preserve Morrisseau’s legacy and to create a catalogue raisonné, a book that contains information about each of his known works.

Morrisseau, born in 1932 on the Sand Point Ojibway reserve near Beardmore, Ontario, created contemporary

paintings that drew on Indigenous aesthetics to explore issues surrounding colonialism, spirituality, and politics. A member of the Order of Canada and of the Royal Canadian Academy (RCA), Morrisseau has claimed his fair share of awards. In 2006, he became the first Aboriginal artist to have a retrospective of his work shown at the National Gallery of Canada.

“He was the first contemporary artist whose work was shown in mainstream galleries in Toronto,” explains Robertson. “When you look closely at his work you see some amazing narratives. His work is controversial and it is multi-layered; that is what drew me to Norval Morrisseau.”

Still, Robertson explains that despite the many achievements of this artist, the media has framed Morrisseau through stereotypical noble savage binaries. The press fashioned him as a shaman who was deeply connected to nature yet in the next instance cast him as a drunkard. As a result, Morrisseau emerges in popular culture as just another stereotyped savage.

“Artists can be tortured souls. Think of Van Gogh for

example – that’s part of his mystique. People appreciate that in an artist. But, because of the overlay of being Aboriginal, and the stereotypical baggage connected to him, it became a negative force for Morrisseau. I think had Morrisseau been a mainstream artist he would have been wildly successful.”

Morrisseau wasn’t just manipulated by the press, however. He challenged the stereotypical framing by purposefully manipulating an image of himself that Canadians could identify with. He embraced a shaman identity and capitalized on its romantic associations in popular culture. Many of his art works feature images of himself this way.

“Morrisseau performed the role of shaman so that the press would focus on those aspects,” says Robertson. “He understood that if he played the part of the shaman, Canadians would be intrigued. By manipulating those stereotypical constructions, he then carved out a niche in Canadian popular culture.”

Robertson explains that, ironically, Morrisseau’s work was accepted more readily internationally than in his own country. In France, for



Carmen Robertson stands next to Norval Morrisseau’s painting *White Man’s Curse*. Morrisseau is considered the grandfather of contemporary Aboriginal art in Canada.

example, in the late ’60s, he held an important exhibition attended by both Matisse and Picasso. He was also the only Canadian artist invited to show his work at the bicentennial of the French Revolution art exhibition *Magiciens de la Terre* in 1989.

As part of her research, Robertson will access archives in Paris, Ottawa, Vancouver, and Red Lake, Ontario to com-

plete the NMHS book project.

“I think his importance within Canadian art history has been undermined and underappreciated because of all that racialized baggage; so I believe that my project is an opportunity to rethink his role within Canadian art history, not just Canadian Aboriginal art history. In fact, it is easy to make a case that Norval Morrisseau was Canada’s greatest artist.”

## Intimate partner violence study offers hope

It may be a bold notion but Mary Hampton is adamant violence can be eradicated from our community.

Hampton is the academic coordinator of RESOLVE (Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse), a network that brings university researchers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta together with community groups to address issues of violence including intimate partner violence, family violence, child abuse and elder abuse.

One of the main projects this tri-provincial group collaborates on is *The Healing Journey: A Longitudinal Study of Women Who Have Been Abused by Intimate Partners*.

In 2004, with the help of community groups, the study recruited 216 women in Saskatchewan who had experienced an incident of physical abuse within the past six months. Each province in the study recruited more than 200 people. Participants were then interviewed approximately every six months for the duration of the five-year study.

It's the first study in Canada to follow women over a period of time long enough

to document how they attempt to create violence-free lives for themselves and their families.

The data that has been collected will be used by RESOLVE and its partners to find ways to improve services for people who have experienced intimate partner violence and to provide direction for new inquiries.

The participation of community groups has been an important component of the project.

In Saskatchewan, these collaborators are Regina Transition House, Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women, Tamar's House (Saskatoon) and Family Services Regina.

"Our partnerships with community organizations are really strong," says Hampton. "A lot of people give lip service to it but our community partners are quite involved. All of our analysis – we involve the community partners."

Family Services Regina, for example, provided input into what was measured, offered their expertise in working with victims of domestic abuse and continue to participate in the discussion about the outcomes of the study and next steps.

According to Debra George,

it's a partnership that requires a lot of trust-building to be successful.

George is the coordinator of domestic violence programs and domestic violence victim services programs for Family Services Regina.

"It takes a lot of trust when it comes to referring clients to a research project," says George. "We want to make sure that our clients are not going to be re-victimized, that it is going to be handled with care, that interviews are handled with care, but also that (participants) are going to be made to feel valuable because that's the reason they are doing it. They are taking time out of their day to provide a community service and we want to make sure that they are valued for that."

"All of those things were covered with *The Healing Journey*. There was a great deal of thought put into the questionnaires, how the questions would be asked. And the trainers of the interviewers were familiar with how to recognize somebody that was maybe going into crisis, what to do about that, what resources are available in the city. They also had a plan in place on how the participants would be kept up-to-date and recognized



*The Healing Journey* project recruited more than 200 women in Saskatchewan who had experienced an act of violence, to be interviewed over a five-year period.

for their contribution."

For George, the data that has been collected creates an opportunity to gain information about specific areas of interest and share it with people in her unit to find new ways to improve how they

work with clients.

*The Healing Journey* is a \$1 million study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada through its Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) program.

## Students committed to helping victims of domestic abuse

Students may have contributed to *The Healing Journey* project in different ways, but their commitment to ending violence in our community is the same.

*The Healing Journey* is a five-year longitudinal study that began in 2004 by RESOLVE (Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse). RESOLVE is a network of university researchers and community-based service groups from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta who address issues of violence.



Undergraduate student Kim Zorn will craft her honours thesis from the research gathered during *The Healing Journey* project.

Women who had been abused by an intimate partner were recruited and interviewed every six months for the duration of the study.

Doctoral student Meghan Woods is one of the first students to use the collected data in Saskatchewan. She is researching how sleep may be an essential component in the physical and mental health of domestic violence victims.

For her master's thesis, she examined the answers women gave about sleep problems due to domestic violence. These questions ranged from whether they were unable to sleep due to injuries to whether they could sleep with another person in the room.

For her PhD dissertation, she is now examining the relationship between disrupted sleep due to abuse and women's health.

Cases of insomnia are only one aspect of Woods' research. She has found that insomnia can develop for abused women in part from being in an environment where they feel it is unsafe to sleep. They are not sleeping in order to pro-

tect themselves and, in many cases, their children. However, according to Woods, those poor sleeping habits can carry over to when women are in a shelter or their new residence.

"When I presented my master's work at the RESOLVE Research Days (annual conference) last year, I got some fabulous questions from community members about the implications of my findings for women in shelters and how shelter workers can respond to my findings," said Woods.

"We suggested creating a sleep room because there are rules in shelters that women need to stay in their rooms. But when you stay in the space where you sleep when you are awake, that can contribute to incidents of insomnia. You start to associate your sleep space with being awake. So we suggested a designated space where women can go when they are having a hard time sleeping so they are not conditioning themselves to sleep poorly in their sleeping space. They can get out of the space but still work within how the shelter runs."



Doctoral student Meghan Woods is researching how sleep may be an essential component in the physical and mental health of domestic violence victims.

Kim Zorn is another student who has contributed. She is an undergraduate student who served as a volunteer since September 2008. She was the volunteer co-ordinator for RESOLVE's 2009 annual conference, assists with data entry and is now looking to craft her honours thesis from the research gathered during *The Healing Journey* project. Her study will investigate the eating patterns reported by the study's participants.

"I'm personally interested in research for the purpose of community involvement. I want to deal with issues that can help women, especially women who have been victimized or experienced intimate partner violence," says Zorn.

"Dealing with an issue like eating patterns or disordered eating might lead us to develop better treatment programs for women who have experienced violence."

(endnote)