



Weekly Bulletin for Department & Program Heads

Number 16 – Tuesday 4 March 2008

Academic searches

Here, in tabular form, is the status of our searches as of this morning.

Department	Search	Status
ANTH	Tenure-track	Candidate has accepted terms; formal appointment in process
ECON	Tenure-track	Candidate has accepted terms; formal appointment in process
ECON	Tenure-track	Search continues
ECON	Tenure-track	Search continues
ENGL	Tenure-track	Candidate has accepted terms; formal appointment in process
ENGL	Tenure-track	Candidate has accepted terms; formal appointment in process
JRN	Tenure-track	Candidate recommended
JS	Tenure-track	Candidate recommended
PSCI	Term	Shortlist pending
RLST	Tenure-track	Formal appointment has been offered
SOC	Term	Formal appointment has been offered
SOC	Term	Formal appointment has been offered



Great news for the NSI

Richard MacLennan, along with **Ben Cecil**, **Julia Siemer**, **Rozzet Jurdi**, **Don Sharpe** and **Joe Piwovar**, have been successful in securing \$150,000 from SSHRC's Strategic Programs and Joint Initiatives Division on the results of the Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics - Data Training Schools competition. This infusion of funds will make it possible for the National Summer Institute for Statistical and GIS Analysis for Statistics Canada Data to continue for another three years.



Calling all polymaths

Brien Maguire, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Science, has been telling Science students that they should think seriously about getting two degrees, one in Science and another in Arts or Fine Arts. He makes a good case that this would be beneficial for students (not least because employers would value someone who demonstrates breadth of learning and ability) and points out that it isn't that hard for students to do. Given the structure of the typical Science and Arts degree, it would require no more of them than the one extra year (30 additional credit hours) that the University of Regina requires in any event for students to be eligible for a second degree. If you're interested, Rick can send you a spreadsheet that will demonstrate this for the case of student wanting to graduate with both a BSc in computer science and a BA in psychology. Brien asks that we start making Arts students aware of this attractive possibility from our side of the fence.

Departmental academic advising

Thus far five departments have contacted **Kevin O'Brien** (in the Arts Student Services Office) with the name of a person appointed to specialize in academic advising in their discipline. Please give some thought to whom this person should be in your area and forward a name to Kevin as soon as possible.

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Ad Hum asbestos removal

Physical Plant wants to start the asbestos removal in the area around and above the AH pit in March. The earlier-than-planned date will ensure that the work is completed by August. This will require scaffolding to be set up in the north/south ends on the main floor and then on the second floor, etc. The main concern would be the School of Journalism, but we have been assured that there will basically be a tunnel that is set up around the scaffolding to still allow for entrance to the J-School. When the scaffolding is set up on the 3rd floor, access from the front to the English Dept and the classroom next door (318) will be restricted, but both have a second entrance in the back. When the north area is worked on, the opening of the lounge over the pit will be somewhat blocked off but this should not affect any use of the lounge itself. When the work is being completed around the 4th floor the student rooms for French and Philosophy/History will not be accessible for several weeks.

We do not know when all this work will be completed. Please be assured that the that asbestos removal will be done in compliance with Saskatchewan Labour Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and by trained and qualified contractors in a controlled environment.

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Major SHRF grant

Thomas Hadjistavropoulos is the leader of a team of researchers from U of R, U of S, U of Manitoba, McMaster, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, the Saskatoon Health Region and the Saskatoon City Hospital that has just been awarded nearly \$2.5 million over 5 years by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for the *Research and Community Alliance for Quality of Life in Long Term Care*. Please congratulate Thomas on this major achievement.

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Campus digital archive again

In last week's bulletin, Rick mentioned the Library initiative for creating an online, searchable digital archive of University-related electronic documents. The Dean's Office will soon be using the archive to post copies of all Arts policy and committee documents (which as a result may no longer be circulated individually via email). Departments are invited to join in this initiative and supply Rick, as soon as possible, with a list of the electronic documents they plan on making available through the archive. Online periodicals, public-domain peer-reviewed work, and working-paper series will be particularly welcome; but the archive can also be a home for your department's administrative documents (access to which can be restricted as departments see fit).

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Philosophy Café series

The Philosophy Café series continues to generate real interest among members of the community. Last week's session (by David Elliott on ethical issues flowing from stem cell research) garnered good coverage in both the *prairie dog* and the *Leader-Post* (for the latter, see the next page). Apart from their intrinsic value, these presentations assist in bringing the professional expertise and research work of our colleagues to the attention of a wide cross-section of people, and generally raise the profile of the Faculty of Arts in the community. Congratulations to Philosophy on this initiative.

PHILOSOPHY CAFE

Debating stem cells and ethics

By *BARB PACHOLIK*

Leader-Post

At one end of the debate is the potential to fix failing bodies and minds, and at the other is a tiny cluster of cells posing a big ethical question.

University of Regina philosophy professor David Elliott weighed in on the subject of stem cell research Tuesday night as part of the faculty of arts Philosophy Cafe, which presents an opportunity to sip coffee and ideally stir up discussion about ideas.

Stem cells have the unique ability to be converted into almost any type of cell found in the body and can renew themselves over a long period of time, explained Elliott. That makes them very valuable in the field of "regenerative medicine," potentially using stem cells to treat everything from a severed spine or failed heart to diseases like diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The debate stems from the most promising source of the "pluripotent" cells (those which can morph into a variety of other body cells) — early human embryos.

"To extract these cells, you have to destroy the embryo," said Elliott, describing embryonic stem cells as the "most therapeutically useful and morally controversial." (So-called "adult stem cells" are also found in the human body, but don't have the same pluripotency.)

Elliott said the bulk of embryonic stem cells used in research originate with "leftover embryos" from fertility clinics. The other two sources are existing embryonic stem cell lines and cloning. In Canada, current guidelines allow for research funding if the cells are taken from leftover embryos, but researchers cannot produce embryos specifically for the purpose, Elliott told about 30 people gathered for the discussion at a Cathedral-area cafe.

"There's a range of moral problems," he said. While many of the questions revolve around human biology, philosophy plays a role in that understanding.

In looking for answers, philosophers ask, "Do embryos have moral status?" explained Elliott.

There have been two main approaches to answering that thorny question. The first approach considers that a human being means one has moral status, while the other suggests being human isn't enough, rather one has to be a person — "personhood versus humanity."

Elliott said the humanity view suggests a human being begins when an egg is fertilized, or at 14 days after fertilization since that is when embryonic cells begin to differentiate, forming specific types of cells — a view Elliott favours.

The personhood view argues moral status is obtained when a being is sentient, and able to experience pain and suffering.

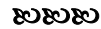
One woman from the audience suggested the debate surrounding stem cell research has missed the mark.

Instead of spending the money to save a few, it could be used to spare many from disease by providing such basics as food and proper housing.

"There is a basic question of justice here," agreed Elliott, who noted "the commercial interest (in stem cell therapy) is enormous."

Arts representation on Executive of Council – deadline tomorrow

The 5 March deadline for nominations for seats on Executive of Council is quickly approaching. We are short two nominees for the social sciences. Please help ensure that Arts is fully represented on this body by allowing your name to stand, and encouraging colleagues in your area to do the same.



Calendar of upcoming events

Date	Time	Place	Event
MARCH			
Friday 7	3:00	LBA Main floor commons	INTL ST – Reception for students (all Arts members welcome)
Friday 7	3:30	CL 408	PSCI series – Shadia Drury (PSCI/PHIL) on demonizing the enemy
Wednesday 12	2:30	AH 527	Faculty Council
Wednesday 12	7:30	Education Auditorium	Minifie Lecture (JRN) – Carol Off on the Canadian narrative
Thursday 13	7:30	Campion Auditorium	Nash Lecture (Campion) – Dan Coleman on reading, spirituality, and cultural politics
Thursday 13	7:30	Chapters Southland Mall	Coffee House Controversies – Rozzet Jurdi (SOC) on Arab women and contraception
Thursday 13	7:30	Terrace Building Rotunda	CPRC Press book launch – new titles by Andy Stubbs (ENGL) and Jim Pitsula (HIST)
Friday 14	3:30	CL 408	PHIL/CLAS, PSCI, and WMST talk – Margaret Ogrodnick (UMan) on Simone de Beauvoir
Friday 14	3:30	AH 348	Murad Academic Discussions – Scott Wilson (ENGL MA candidate) on Chuck Palahniuk
Wednesday 19	3:30	CK 185	HRI – Cindy MacKenzie (ENGL) Dickinson book launch
Wednesday 19	3:30	CL 408	PSCI series – Jenn Ruddy (MA candidate) on feminist activism in the Saskatchewan NDP
Thursday 20	10:00	Riddell Centre Shu-Box Theatre	Leslie McCurdy performs her one-woman play on Harriet Tubman – free performance for U of R employees and students – classes are welcome – co-sponsored by Arts, Education, Fine Arts, Depts of Justice Studies, Sociology, and Women’s Studies
Thursday 20	7:30	Education Auditorium	Stapleford Lecture – Lynda Haverstock on citizenship, governance and duty
Thursday 20	7:30	Café Orange 2136 Robinson St	Peter Campbell (PHIL) on “shopping for metaphysics”
Tuesday 25	4:00	Campion Auditorium	HRI talk (rescheduled)—Dan Coleman, Nick Ruddick, and Lynn Wells on research culture in the humanities

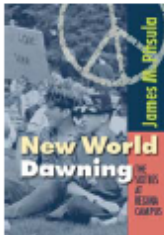




CANADIAN PLAINS
RESEARCH CENTER

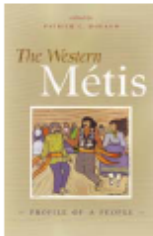
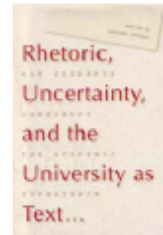
The Canadian Plains Research Center
University of Regina
cordially invites you to a
Spring Book Launch
Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Rotunda, the Terrace Building
10 Research Dr.
Regina

Please join us as we celebrate the publication of



New World Dawning: The Sixties at Regina Campus
by James M. Pitsula

***Rhetoric, Uncertainty, and the University as Text:
How Students Construct the Academic Experience***
by Andrew Stubbs



***The Western Métis:
Profile of a People***
edited by Patrick Douaud

Payepot and His People
by Abel Watetch
with a new Introduction by David R. Miller



After a short program, refreshments will be served.
Free Parking at the rear of the Terrace Building.
For more information, please call 585-4758

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