

President's Message – December 2010

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the holiday season, and the end of what has been a most eventful 2010 for those of us associated with the University of Regina. At this time of year it's especially appropriate to look back and reflect on the year that was. While I can't mention all the things that made this year so memorable, I would like to touch on a few things that stand out. No matter which way you look at it, it's been another busy year for the faculty members, students and staff who teach, study and work at the University of Regina.

The excitement began early in the new year as many Canadians, myself included, anticipated our country once again hosting the world – this time at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. In the lead-up to the Games, the Olympic torch made its way to Regina and our own University of Regina Chamber Singers performed the official song of the Olympic torch relay at a ceremony in the city.

It was with great pride that I was able to participate in a University of Regina alumni reception at the Saskatchewan pavilion during the Games. The city was abuzz with Olympic fever and it was especially enjoyable to meet so many of our alumni at the most popular non-sporting venue at the Olympics – talk about Saskatchewan hospitality!

As the excitement of the Olympics began to fade, the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Saskatchewan government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the continued operations of First Nations University of Canada. The MOU outlined a new operating relationship between the partners and expanded the relationship, with the University of Regina helping provide oversight and management of the administrative and financial affairs of First Nations University.

In health studies news from the year, the University formalized the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. The program will be offered starting in the fall of 2011 and will accommodate 350 students who will go on to help Saskatchewan meet its health care needs well into the future.

In other news, Dr. Paul Bruno was appointed the new Chiropractic Research Chair in Neuromusculoskeletal Health. The position is housed in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies and expands the current complement of health research clusters at the University. As well, Dr. Rick Ruddell, a University of Regina graduate who has extensive experience in academia and the criminal justice system, was named the new Research Chair in Police Studies.

This fall we once again took our show on the road in our annual Community Connections tour. This is a special opportunity that takes us off campus to visit communities around the province. The first stop was in Melville where the Faculty of Education brought its "Talkin' About School and Society" series and some engaging discussion about technology in the classroom to area residents. Our second visit was to Estevan where the Faculty of Science hosted an event profiling oil and gas research.

I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction from visiting cities and towns around Saskatchewan. Community Connections provides me with an opportunity to meet our alumni and speak with people about the University of Regina. The tour will continue into 2011 – a most significant year for the University of Regina.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the University of Regina's formal relationship with China, a history of partnership that no other Canadian university can claim. The relationship began in 1981 and has grown to include more than 50 Chinese institutions and resulted in many joint programs, exchanges and innovative research projects. Today, the vast majority of our international students hail from China.

But there's another milestone next year.

One hundred years ago, in 1911, a small high school was established in Regina by the Methodist Church. Regina College, as it was known, was the predecessor of the Regina Campus of the University of Saskatchewan, the institution that in 1974 became the independent, degree-granting University of Regina.

Throughout the decades, the University of Regina has become the *alma mater* of 56,000 people from Saskatchewan and around the globe. Our alumni continue to contribute to the betterment of society in countless ways, and the centennial of Regina College will provide us with the opportunity to celebrate those achievements. We are currently readying plans for numerous special projects and events that will bring us all together next year to celebrate a century of excellence in education.

Reflecting on the past 12 months has brought back some special memories, but I would like to invite you to explore an even older history – that of the University of Regina. Please take a few moments to take a look back at our 100-year history in the special holiday e-card linked to this email.

On behalf of my family, I wish you and your family all the best of the holiday season.

Vianne Timmons

[Looking Back on 100 Years of Excellence in Education.](#)