

President's Message – February 2012

The first month of the semester has been a productive time at the University of Regina. January seems to have come and gone very quickly, and February and March are already shaping up to exciting months on campus.

At the beginning of February, UR International will partner with a number of community organizations to host International Development Week. Starting on Monday, February 6, International Development Week will feature a series of events which this year are aimed at empowering women and girls. Some highlights include a faculty discussion panel on the role gender plays in development, and “UR Powerful: What we are doing to make change,” a discussion involving Daughters of Africa. These and many other presentations will take place over the course of the week, and a full schedule of events can be found at <http://www.uregina.ca/international>.

February's International Development Week activities will lead nicely into the Inspiring Leadership Forum, which takes place on at Evraz Place, Queensbury Centre on Wednesday, March 7 - one day prior to International Women's Day. The Inspiring Leadership Forum, whose theme this year is “Inspiring Leadership. Influencing the World,” provides an opportunity for people from Saskatchewan and beyond to hear the inspirational stories of internationally-renowned women.

This will be the third year that the University of Regina has hosted the Inspiring Leadership Forum. For me this event is a highlight of each year, because I am continually impressed by the calibre of presenters who share their insights into moments that have made a difference in their lives. This year's speakers include:

- Roberta Jamieson, CEO and President of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and a conflict and resolution expert;
- Dr. Samantha Nutt, Founder and Executive Director of War Child Canada and physician at the Women's College Hospital in Toronto; and
- Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, author of *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* and a contributing editor-at-large for Newsweek and The Daily Beast.

In addition to presentations from the featured speakers, a panel discussion including lawyer Susan Barber, Q.C., jewellery designer Rachel Mielke, and journalist Alanna Mitchell will provide participants with the opportunity discuss leadership with women of influence who have varying experience and diverse achievements. The panel will be moderated by Pam Klein, President of the Phoenix Group, and will allow participants to exchange ideas, inspire and be inspired to promote better leadership for a changing world.

It will be a true honour to be in the presence of such inspiring women at this forum, and I encourage all University of Regina employees to take the opportunity to attend this year's event. For more information and to register, visit: www.uregina.ca/inspiringleadership/2012.

We are so fortunate to work and study at an institution that provides us with so many opportunities like these. As 2012 continues, I hope to see all of you at different University-organized events – both here on campus, and across the province.

Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor