



# On Campus News

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## Art dealer

**Michael Peterson, a familiar face in the Department of Art and Art History, is co-owner of a new Saskatoon art gallery that caters to emerging artists, including U of S students. Read more about void gallery and its efforts to help artists learn professional practices and establish a sales history on Page 6.**



KRIS FOSTER

# Centre construction set to begin

## Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will be a hub for services

MEGHAN SIRED

After almost two decades of planning, construction of the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan will begin in June.

The centre, designed by world-renowned architect Douglas Cardinal, will be a hub for Aboriginal student services, including the Aboriginal Students' Centre and Indigenous Students' Council, with additional space for learning, gathering and ceremonies.

"I look forward to seeing the new centre rise in the core of our campus on Treaty 6 land," said Ilene Busch-Vishniac, U of S president and chair of the project's steering committee. "Over time, I hope this centre will become a symbol of student support, success, learning and cultural understanding—the centre is intended to be so much

more than just a building."

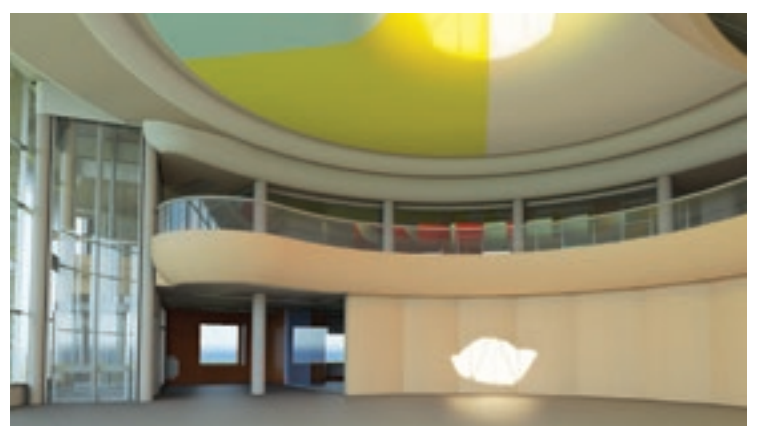
The student centre will be located in Wiggins Court between the Arts Building and the Murray Building with connections to both the Arts Tunnel and the Health Sciences Building. The 17 elm trees that will be removed to make room for the centre will be incorporated into the design of the central gathering area inside the building.

Private ceremonies with members of the Gordon Oakes family, local Elders and university and community leaders will be held before the public groundbreaking. The date for the public groundbreaking ceremony has yet to be finalized.

The contract for construction of the building is expected to be awarded shortly, according to information provided by

the steering committee. The approved project budget is \$17 million. More than \$12 million of that total has been raised so far with \$4.7 million of that total coming from private donors and the rest from internal sources including parking revenue, the Academic Priorities Fund, year-end surpluses from previous years and investment income.

Busch-Vishniac said she is confident that the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will help Aboriginal students feel supported at the U of S as they pursue their educational and personal goals. For many Aboriginal students, the university campus is the biggest community they have been a part of, she added. More than 1,700 U of S students have voluntarily self-declared as Aboriginal.



Rendering of the student centre's main interior space

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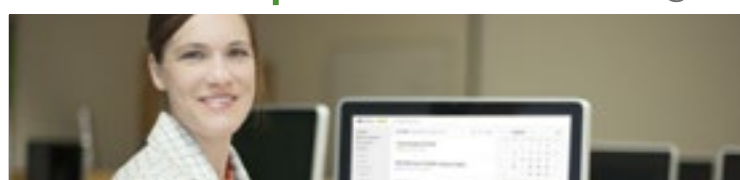
"The U of S Students' Union has one of the largest numbers of First Nations and Métis members of all student unions in Canada and we take pride in that," said Max FineDay, USSU president who is also a member of the steering committee. "The placement of the centre in the

heart of campus is a great first step in showing First Nations and Métis students that they are valued and recognized at our university." ■

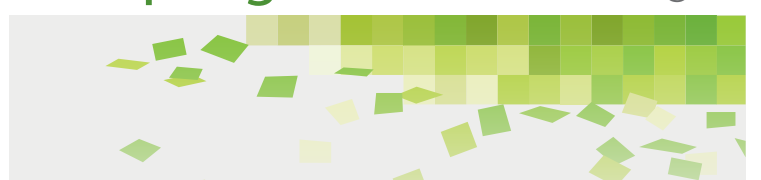
*Meghan Sired is communications co-ordinator in Student and Enrolment Services Division.*

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# Gallery caters to emerging artists

by LANA HAIGHT

A new art gallery with University of Saskatchewan connections is all about accessibility for those creating the art and those wanting to purchase it.

"We don't show work that we couldn't afford ourselves," said Michael Peterson, one of three owners of the new gallery called void. "It's not free but it's accessible in concept and in price."

Peterson graduated from the U of S in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking and again in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. He has worked in the Department of Art and Art History in a number of positions including as a printmaking technician and sessional lecturer.

Peterson recognizes how difficult it is for emerging artists to find an inviting space in Saskatoon to show their work.

"How do you get a gallery to sell your work without a sales history and how do you get a sales history unless you get a gallery to sell your work? The commercial

“We help the students learn professional practices that would be required by a commercial gallery. We're a soft landing space for them.

Michael Peterson

galleries want to know they're going to be able to make sales," said Peterson.

"We decided that we can start showing the works and selling the works and help (students and other emerging artists) establish a sales history while at the same time we help the students learn professional practices that would be required by a commercial gallery. We're a soft landing space for them."

Because Peterson, along with his partners Kris Kershaw and Nelson Fraser, want art to be accessible to the general public, they have also established off-site

galleries in some Saskatoon businesses. Peterson said it is less intimidating for art buyers who may not be comfortable going to an actual gallery and it provides the artists greater exposure.

And he loves working with Saskatoon's emerging artists.

"They have so much energy. A lot of exciting and interesting work is coming out of (the U of S) program."

The main gallery's current exhibition, *Fair & Square*, features new works by Ink Slab Printmakers. The month-long show runs until June 2 with a reception May 24 from 7 to 9 pm. Most of



Michael Peterson, co-owner of void gallery

KRIS FOSTER

the members of the printmakers collective are current or former University of Saskatchewan students who no longer have access to university equipment. Last year, they established their own studio with a printing press so they can continue creating art.

Located at the corner of 8th Street East and Clarence Avenue,

void is open Thursdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm, and by appointment. Off-site galleries include the Little Market Store at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market. ■

Lana Haight is a Saskatoon freelance writer.

# Wheat alliance aims to improve crop yields

by KIRA GLASSCOCK

The U of S will play a key role in the effort to improve wheat quality and productivity with the announcement of a new partnership made May 16 on campus.

"Each partner brings a unique area of expertise to the table," said President Ilene Busch-Vishniac of the new Canadian Wheat Alliance. "Combined, these complementary areas of knowledge—in wheat breeding, genomics, biotechnology and pathology—set the Canadian Wheat Alliance up for long-term and continued

success."

As part of the alliance, the U of S will work to improve Canadian yields by developing new and improved varieties of wheat that are resistant to disease and extreme weather conditions, such as drought, heat and cold. University of Saskatchewan researchers will work with experts from the National Research Council of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure global competitiveness of Canadian wheat farmers and

boost the value of the Canadian farm economy by a cumulative total of \$4.5 billion by 2031.

Busch-Vishniac explained that there is already extensive research being done at the U of S to improve crops. Researchers will continue to develop more high-yielding crops that allow producers to grow more food on the same amount of land. They are also investigating how wheat can address health and diet issues.

"One focus is carbohydrates, a major source of calories in the

human diet," she said. "Our research aims to improve the profile of slow-digestible carbohydrates in cereal and pulses. Such carbohydrates provide protection against diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

The federal government will invest nearly \$85 million and make in-kind contributions to the alliance. The provincial government has committed an additional \$10 million to support wheat research in Saskatchewan over the next five years. Busch-Vishniac

indicated that the alliance would aid the university in continuing to develop and share knowledge with the agriculture and food industries.

"We are working to strengthen Saskatchewan's agricultural leadership with new science, technology and policies to help feed a hungry world adequately, safely and sustainably," she said. ■

Kira Glasscock is communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources

## Notice of U of S Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting

Date. June 19 / Time. 6:30 pm / Place. Convocation Hall

Volunteer recognition and reception to follow the meeting  
Reports and agenda will be made available online at [alumni.usask.ca/association/agm](http://alumni.usask.ca/association/agm)  
RSVP online at [alumni.usask.ca/events/registration](http://alumni.usask.ca/events/registration) or call 1-800-699-1907.

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