

WINTER 2014



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

College of Law

# OF NOTE

COLLEGE OF LAW MAGAZINE

## IT'S COMPLICATED:

the relationship between  
law and happiness

- Dwight Newman awarded  
Canada Research Chair
- In law and in "law"ve
- A CLASSIC example of  
generosity



Published by the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, *of NOTE* contains news and updates from the college as well as information relevant to our alumni and all of our college community.

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# Dean's Message

It was another great fall semester here on campus at the University of Saskatchewan. I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season surrounded by friends and family. As I reflect on 2013, I have a long list of things to be thankful for, including you, our alumni. From coaching moot teams, to attending college-based events, to providing scholarships for our students, I want to thank you for all you do to support the ongoing success of the College of Law.

It probably won't come as a surprise, but I have a lot of great news to share with you in this message including information about new scholarships for entering students, alumni contributions and other important developments at the college.

## New ways to welcome our students

On Sept. 12, the college officially greeted more than 120 students during the second annual First Year Welcoming Ceremony presented by Burnet Duckworth & Palmer LLP. Family, friends, alumni, faculty and staff were in attendance to watch each first-year student receive an academic robe symbolic of their journey through law school. You can watch the full ceremony on our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/collegeoflawusask](http://youtube.com/collegeoflawusask).

In addition to the welcoming ceremony, we also launched a new first-year initiative to further increase the sense of community amongst our students. The incoming class was divided into groups of five and matched with a faculty member who was not teaching any of their first year courses. Each participating professor took his or her students out for lunch or dinner once in the first semester and will do so once again in the second semester. The idea is that students will now have another contact at the college whom they will feel comfortable approaching with questions or concerns. Evidence also suggests that these small group experiences tend to enhance the

feeling of connectedness between students and their school.

## Dean's Advisory Council

I am pleased to announce the formation of the College of Law Dean's Advisory Council, consisting of 25 College of Law alumni and friends. These individuals will provide advice and assistance relating to the activities and strategic direction of the College of Law. Read more about this remarkable group of individuals on page 3.

## Alumni events

We are in the midst of planning a number of College of Law alumni appreciation receptions this spring and summer. At these receptions, we hope to introduce you to members of the newly formed Dean's Advisory Council from your region.

Calgary, Alta. – April 10, 2014  
Toronto, Ont. – May 15, 2014  
Vancouver, B.C. – June 11, 2014  
Regina, Sask. – June 24, 2014  
St. John's, N.L. – August 15-17, 2014  
(in conjunction with the Canadian Bar Association National Conference)

We hope you are able to attend one of these receptions, so be sure to save these dates in your calendar. And please spread the word to your fellow U of S alumni— the more the merrier!

## Renewable entrance scholarships

In September, for the first time ever, we awarded six College of Law Academic Excellence Scholarships for Entering Students. These scholarships, worth \$7,500 each, were awarded based on academic standing and are eligible for renewal provided students maintain a B- average. New academic excellence scholarships were also awarded to second- and third-year students who weren't eligible for this renewable scholarship in their first year of enrolment. The addition of these scholarships means that the total value of entrance awards given to incoming law students this fall was \$89,500—more than double the amount awarded in 2012.

## TransformUS

If you've been following headlines about the U of S, you've probably heard about TransformUS—the prioritization process that is currently taking place on campus. So far, the process has included a comprehensive review of all academic programs and academic and administrative support services that use university resources. This review was completed by two task forces that placed each program in one of the following quintiles: (1) candidate for enhanced resourcing, (2) maintain with current resourcing, (3) retain with reduced resourcing, (4) reconfigure for efficiency/effectiveness or (5) candidate for phase out,



subject to further review. All of the support service programs associated with the College of Law were placed in quintile two, with the exception of the Estey Centre, which was placed in quintile five (please note that the centre is already slated for closure). On the academic side, the JD program was placed in quintile two, the LLM and research programs were placed in quintile three and the Native Law Centre was placed in quintile four.

The reports made by the task forces are helping to initiate conversations between the college and central administration pertaining to the future of the programs. The LLM program and the Native Law Centre are going to be the obvious focal points of discussion as far as the College of Law is concerned. I am interested in hearing from our alumni pertaining to these matters and I encourage you to contact me with your thoughts, suggestions and ideas.

**Generosity of alumni and friends continues**

I am pleased to announce the creation of the Justice John Klebuc Access to Justice Scholarship in recognition of the Honourable John M. Klebuc, the former Chief Justice of Saskatchewan from 2006 to 2013, and his commitment to the administration of justice. Proceeds from the former Chief Justice's retirement gala as well as a lead donation of \$20,000 from Justice Klebuc himself, will be used to fund awards that will remain in existence for a minimum of 10 years. The scholarship will be open to students who are graduating from the JD program at the college and will be based on a nomination by a faculty member attesting to the student's commitment to access to justice.

Gerald Tegart, QC, and the Honourable Madam Justice Georgina Jackson of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal generously donated \$5,000 to the Wunusweh lecture in Aboriginal Law. This gift is another in a long line of gifts made by these two distinguished College of Law alumni and their support is very much appreciated.

The Calgary law firm of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP provided a gift of \$5,000 to the Gary and Tammy Bugeaud Centennial Entrance Award in honour of Mr. Gary Bugeaud, a U of S alumnus and member of the Dean's Advisory Council. Gary is retiring from the firm after serving 16 years in the

securities group and five years as managing partner.

The Program of Legal Studies for Native People recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Initiatives Fund. This grant will assist in defraying some of the costs of the program with a view to keeping the tuition costs as low as possible for students.

The class of 1983 gave more than \$2,000 to the Centennial Student Enhancement Fund. This money was raised in excess of expenses related to their 30-year reunion that took place in Saskatoon in July 2013.

The college received a \$5,000 donation from the Beatrice Stevens Memorial Foundation Inc. For a number of years, the foundation has made a number of significant gifts to the law school. This year's donation will be directed to the Estey Chair in Business Law.

Another substantial donation to the Estey Chair in Business Law was recently received from Bill Cooper who generously donated \$9,890.65 to the endowment.

Roy Phillion (LLB'58) has donated \$25,000 towards the endowment of the Roy A. Phillion Fund to assist with travel expenses for moot court teams. Each year at least one award will be given to a member of a college moot team to cover travel and accommodation expenses.

Friend and long-time supporter of the college, Ms. Jacqui Shumiatcher, has donated framed original prints associated with the book, *Man of Law*, written by her late husband, Morris Shumiatcher. Mr. Shumiatcher was one of Canada's most distinguished lawyers, authoring the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights and serving as counsel to Premier Tommy Douglas.

The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Fellowship was recently created in order to provide one tenure-track or tenured faculty member teaching relief, student research assistant funding and other resources while they partake in a research project. The Law Foundation has committed to provide \$10,000 per year over the next five years for this fellowship. The Law Foundation has also agreed to provide \$40,000 worth of scholarship funding per year for five years. This funding will be available to incoming LLM students on the basis of academic merit and potential, with priority being given

to students who are not eligible for other significant sources of funding.

Last but not least, I am proud to announce the new Merlis Belsher Access to Justice Fund. This fund established by alumnus and Dean's Advisory Council member, Merlis Belsher (BComm'57, LLB'63), will support clinical experiences for students through CLASSIC, and could also support a variety of other access to justice initiatives at the college in future years. Read the article about Mr. Belsher's most generous gift on page 20.

**CBA Legal Futures Initiative**

In September, myself, along with Professor Dwight Newman, attended a session hosted by Fred Headon, president of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), to discuss the CBA Legal Futures Initiative. This multi-phase project will serve to assist the legal profession in successfully adapting to future changes in the practice environment for Canadian lawyers. I encourage all of you to get involved in this critical conversation. To learn more, please visit [www.cbafutures.org/About-the-Initiative](http://www.cbafutures.org/About-the-Initiative).

**Saskatchewan Law Review online**

Beginning with Volume 77(1), the *Saskatchewan Law Review* will be available electronically, for members only, through the Law Society of Saskatchewan's website. This method of delivery will allow access to entire volumes as well as individual articles.

The new electronic method of delivery will replace the present practice of mailing individual copies of the *Saskatchewan Law Review* to all Law Society members. If you would like to continue to receive the *Saskatchewan Law Review* by mail, please send your mailing address to [sask.lawreview@usask.ca](mailto:sask.lawreview@usask.ca).

As always, I look forward to your feedback and encourage you to contact me if you would like to further discuss any matters related to the College of Law.

Sincerely,

**Sanjeev Anand, QC**  
Dean, College of Law

## Dean's Advisory Council

Dean Sanjeev Anand is pleased to announce the formation of the College of Law Dean's Advisory Council, consisting of 25 College of Law alumni and friends. The following individuals will provide advice and assistance relating to the activities and strategic direction of the College of Law.



**Merlis Belsher  
(Saskatoon)**

Following graduation from the colleges of law and commerce at the U of S, Merlis received his chartered accountant designation and became a member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. As president and owner, he devoted much of his career to Weldon's Concrete Products, a precast concrete manufacturing business in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Merlis gives much credit to the U of S for providing the strong foundation and principles necessary to sustain existence in a competitive industry. Outside of business he continues to enjoy serving on corporate boards and being involved in not-for-profit organizations, sports activities, farming and philanthropy.



**Brad Berg (Toronto)**

Brad Berg is a partner at Blake, Cassels and Graydon LLP and leads the litigation group in Toronto. He has a broad practice, including international arbitrations, and is a board member of The Advocates' Society. Both Brad and his spouse Brian Rolfe are proud graduates of the U of S College of Law. Brad also has a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto and taught trial advocacy for six years at Osgoode Hall Law School.



**Gerda Bloemraad  
(Calgary)**

Gerda Bloemraad was born and grew up in the Netherlands. She graduated in 1968 with a Master of Laws from the University of Leiden and worked for a while for the Dutch ministry of justice. After living in Spain, Thailand, England, Greece and Toronto, Gerda and her family moved to Saskatoon in 1981, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at the U of S. At the

age of 45, she was accepted into the College of Law. After graduating in 1993 and her call to the bar in 1994, Gerda worked in private practice in Saskatoon, but moved in 1996 to Toronto where she was an in-house counsel for a gold mining company. She retired in 2006 and relocated to Calgary where she has been an active volunteer with several non-for-profits and was president and chair of the board of the Calgary Immigrant Woman's Association for five years.



**Gary Bugeaud (Calgary)**

Gary Bugeaud is the former managing partner of Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP. He received both his Bachelor of Commerce (1990) and his Bachelor of Laws (1991), from the U of S. Along with his past role as managing partner, Gary has served as corporate secretary to a number of oil and gas production or services companies. He is also a member of the board of trustees for the Alberta Cancer Foundation.



**Jody Busch (Saskatoon)**

Jody Busch received both her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the U of S, graduating from the College of Law in 2007. She was involved in founding Community Legal Assistance Services For Saskatoon Inner City Inc. (CLASSIC) and is thrilled with the ongoing success of that organization. Jody articulated with, and is still employed at, the Department of Justice Canada, working mainly on solicitor files involving reserve land or land that will become reserve land.



**Tamela Coates (Calgary)**

Tamela (Tammy) Coates is a senior litigation and dispute resolution partner in the Calgary office of Dentons Canada LLP. She also sits on the firm's global

risk management committee. For the past two years, she was the managing partner of the Calgary office. Tammy was called to the bar in 1989 and has spent her career with Dentons (Calgary). Over the years, she has represented clients in a wide variety of commercial and risk management disputes. Currently, her practice focuses on clients in the energy, telecommunications and financial sectors regarding complex claims involving commercial, environmental and intellectual property issues and risk and reputational management. She also routinely provides counsel to charities on a volunteer basis.



**Brent Cotter, QC  
(Saskatoon)**

W. Brent Cotter, QC, is a former dean of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. He obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree with honours from the U of S and both his bachelor and master degrees in law from Dalhousie University. From 1992 to 1997 Brent served as deputy minister of justice and deputy attorney general for the Province of Saskatchewan. In July 1997, he was appointed deputy minister of intergovernmental and Aboriginal affairs, as well as deputy provincial secretary. Brent is a current member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.



**Kurt Dahl (Vancouver)**

Kurt Dahl is an entertainment lawyer and professional musician. He wrote his Master of Laws thesis in 2009 on the future of the music industry, and has practiced entertainment law in Vancouver since 2010. He tours the country regularly with his band One Bad Son, working with some of the biggest names in the music business. He recently launched his website, [www.LawyerDrummer.com](http://www.LawyerDrummer.com), and practices law at Murphy and Company in Vancouver.



**Harry Dahlem, QC  
(Saskatoon)**

Harry Dahlem is a long-time member of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan (LFS),

joining in 1974. He held the position of vice-chair for 12 years and chair for eight years. In appreciation for his work, the LFS established the Harry Dahlem Scholarship and the Harry Dahlem Prize in International Law. Harry also served as the honorary chair of the College of Law's very successful new building campaign. Besides his involvement with law Harry is an accomplished singer, having performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and as a soloist at various concerts throughout Saskatchewan.



**Bill Estey (Toronto)**

Bill Estey has practised law with Torys LLP since 1974 and has been a partner since 1980. He practised corporate/commercial and securities law from 1974 to

1981, in which year he founded Torys' research and opinions group. As a member of that group, Bill's practice involves conducting or supervising legal research, and writing and reviewing legal opinions and memoranda in a wide range of areas, including corporation law, contracts, commercial law, securities law, secured transactions and conflict of laws. In addition, he is regularly involved in advising on the structuring of complex corporate and commercial transactions. Bill has worked extensively with Torys' litigators on major commercial cases over the years, providing legal research and strategic assistance.



**Shelley Gavigan (Toronto)** is a professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. Following graduation from the College of Law, U of S, she articulated in a rural-

based community legal clinic, was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1976, and continued to practise in Saskatchewan, as a legal clinic lawyer. A faculty member of Osgoode Hall Law School since 1986, she has held appointments as associate dean and as academic director of Osgoode's Intensive Program in Poverty Law at Parkdale Community Legal Services. Professor Gavigan's areas of research and teaching include criminal law, family law, children and law, law and poverty, legal history and clinical legal education.



**Tim Gitzel (Saskatoon)**

Tim Gitzel was appointed chief executive officer of Cameco on July 1, 2011 and has extensive experience in Canadian and international uranium

mining activities through more than 20 years of senior management and legal experience. Tim was born and raised in Saskatchewan, graduated from the U of S College of Arts and Science in 1986 and received his Juris Doctor degree from the College of Law at the U of S in 1990. Tim currently serves as chair of the World Nuclear Association, is on the board of Washington-based Nuclear Energy Institute, is a governor with Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan, and is a member of the Edwards School of Business Dean's Advisory Council.



**Michele Hollins, QC (Calgary)**

Having grown up in Saskatchewan, Michele graduated with her Bachelor of Science from Texas Christian University

in Fort Worth, Texas in 1987. She returned to Saskatchewan and obtained her Bachelor of Laws from the U of S in 1992. After clerking to the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, she began her articles and then worked as an associate at McCarthy Tétrault in Calgary, Alberta. In 2001, Michele joined the firm of Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP where she became a partner in 2004 and received her Queen's Counsel designation in 2008.



**Nancy Hopkins, QC (Saskatoon)**

Nancy Hopkins practices business law with an emphasis on taxation law and corporate governance. She is a member of the

boards of public, Crown and non-profit corporations and has extensive experience in corporate governance issues including as chair of audit, governance and human resources committees. She received a Bachelor of Commerce (1977) and a Bachelor of Laws (1978) from the U of S, was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1979 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992. In 1997, she was granted honorary membership in the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan.



**Holli Kuski Bassett (Regina)**

Holli Kuski Bassett's practice focuses on civil litigation in all areas and aspects including commercial and

contractual disputes, insurance defence, estates, and administrative proceedings. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Regina in 2007 and a Bachelor of Laws from the U of S in 2008. She is currently a member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) and the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association. She co-chaired the CBA Young Lawyers Sask. South section in 2011-12 and served as the vice-president of the Regina Bar Association in 2012-13.



**Eileen Libby, QC (Regina)**

Eileen Libby acts as counsel to employers in the full range of labour relations and employment law matters, including collective bargaining

negotiations, arbitrations, restructurings, labour relations board matters, human rights proceedings, and occupational health and safety matters. Eileen also practices extensively in the areas of professional regulation and health law. Eileen has appeared before all levels of courts in Saskatchewan, the Canada Industrial Relations Board, the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board, boards of arbitration, human rights tribunals and professional regulatory bodies. She has served as a hearing officer under the Saskatchewan Police Act.



**Matthew Lindsay (Calgary)**

Matt Lindsay is a 1989 College of Law graduate. He is a partner in the Calgary litigation firm Rose LLP and is a former partner

and Calgary managing partner of a national law firm. He has had a long association with the college after graduation, including as one of the creators of the college's annual negotiation competition. He is also the executive director of ICC Fraudnet, a specialized international lawyer network established under the International Chamber of Commerce.



**Thomas Molloy, OC, QC  
(Saskatoon)**

Over the three decades that Tom Molloy has been negotiating, he has been instrumental in numerous Aboriginal settlements

across Canada. He was the Chief Negotiator for Canada with the Inuit of Nunavut. The Agreement led to the creation of the Territory of Nunavut. He has negotiated treaties with the Nisga'a Tribal Council, the Sliammon First Nation and the Inuit of Northern Quebec. Tom has also worked with private sector firms ranging from mining companies, investment and pension funds to public utilities on First Nations and Inuit matters.



**Laurie Pawlitz (Toronto)**

Laurie Pawlitz is a partner at Torkin Manes LLP in Toronto. Her litigation practice focuses on family law matters. Between 2010 and 2012, Laurie was

elected as the 63rd treasurer (president) of The Law Society of Upper Canada. Laurie writes and speaks regularly for legal audiences on issues relating to family law, professionalism, legal education and women's issues in the profession in Ontario, nationally and internationally. Laurie has been honoured with awards from Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, the Women's Law Association and with the Zenith Award.



**Martel Popescul, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)**

Chief Justice Martel Popescul obtained a

Bachelor of Arts from the University of Regina in 1976 and an Bachelor of Laws from the U of S in 1979. He was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1980. He was appointed Queen's Counsel (Canada) in 1992 and Queen's Counsel (Saskatchewan) in 2000. He served as a benchler with the Law Society of Saskatchewan from 1998 to 2003 and was president in 2001. Chief Justice Popescul was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan in 2006 and was appointed Chief Justice in 2012. He resides in Saskatoon. Chief Justice Popescul has previously

presented at numerous legal education seminars. He has also been on the faculty of the Trial Advocacy Workshop for more than 12 years. Chief Justice Popescul has presented on numerous occasions at both the bar admission course and the Canadian Centre for Legal Education (CPLED) program. Chief Justice Popescul was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Legal Education Society Inc. (SKLESI) Outstanding Volunteer Award (North) in 2005 and SKLESI's Award of Excellence for Legal Education Development in 2008.



**Robert Richards, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan (Regina)**

Chief Justice Richards received a Bachelor of Commerce (1975) and Bachelor of Laws (1979)

from the U of S and a Master of Laws from Harvard University (1982). He worked as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada (1979-80), a parliamentary intern in the House of Commons (1980-81), an associate lawyer with Gowling and Henderson (1982-84), chief of staff to the Right Honourable Raymon Hnatyshyn (1984-85), director of constitutional law in the Saskatchewan Department of Justice (1985-90) and a partner at MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman LLP (1990-2004) before his appointment to the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan. He was appointed Chief Justice of Saskatchewan in 2013.



**Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond (Victoria)**

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond is a judge on leave from the Saskatchewan Provincial Court, currently serving as British Columbia's

representative for children and youth. She worked as a criminal law judge in youth and adult courts, with an emphasis on developing partnerships to better serve the needs of young people in the justice system, particularly sexually exploited children and youth, and children and youth with disabilities. She holds a Doctorate of Law from Harvard Law School and a master's degree in international law from Cambridge

University. Ms. Turpel-Lafond is a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and active in her First Nations community.



**Jeffrey Vicq (Vancouver)**

Jeffrey obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the U of S in 1998, and a Master of Laws from the University of Ottawa in 2007. A partner in the Vancouver-based

business law firm Clark Wilson LLP, Jeffrey's practice focuses on intellectual property and technology law matters, and he frequently speaks and lectures on these topics. In a peer selection process, Jeffrey was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in Canada in Technology Law and Information Technology Law. Jeffrey was a member of the Board of Directors of the U of S Alumni Association for many years, serving as president in 2006.



**Donald Worme, QC (Saskatoon)**

Donald Worme is a member of the Kawacatoose First Nation, Treaty #4, and credits his grandfather with teaching

him Cree philosophies, traditions and spirituality as he was growing up. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree at the U of S in 1985. Since then, his legal practice has focused on how Canadian laws and legal institutions impact Aboriginal people. Mr. Worme is a founding member of the Indigenous Bar Association in Canada.



**Stephanie Yang (Regina)**

Stephanie Yang obtained a Bachelor of Commerce in marketing from the U of S in 2004 and a Bachelor of Laws from the U of S in 2007. She was called to the

Saskatchewan bar in 2008 while articling at MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman LLP and recently joined the Brandt Group of Companies as in-house legal counsel, primarily dealing with immigration, civil litigation, and labour and employment law. In 2013, Stephanie was honoured to receive the Saskatchewan Young Lawyer Pro Bono Award and the National Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Young Lawyer Pro Bono Award.

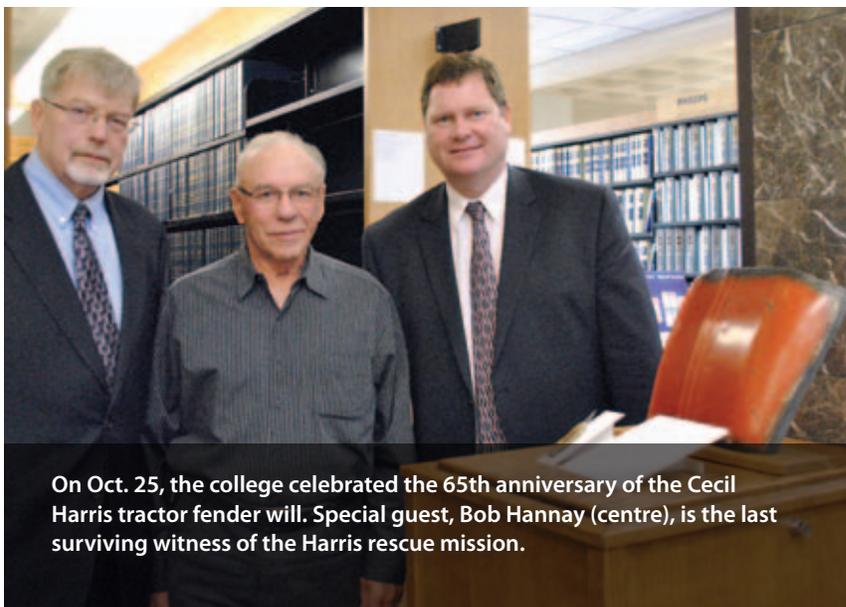


## Around the College

The Showcase of Saskatchewan Firms was held at the college on Nov. 13, allowing students to network with representatives from a number of firms in the province.



Elizabeth May was a keynote speaker at the Power in Law conference that took place at the college on Nov. 7-8.



On Oct. 25, the college celebrated the 65th anniversary of the Cecil Harris tractor fender will. Special guest, Bob Hannay (centre), is the last surviving witness of the Harris rescue mission.



Sylvia McAdam (right) and Sheelah McLean (left), co-founders of the Idle No More movement, present at the Power in Law conference on Nov. 8.



During a student to Moose Jaw in October, a group of law students met with a number of practitioners, toured the Moose Jaw provincial court, and went on a walking tour of downtown. The trip was made possible by financial support from CBA Saskatchewan.



The Class of 1983 held their 30-year reunion on July 19-21, 2013.



## College hosted two major conferences in 2013

The Canadian Association of Legal Ethics (CALE) held its Eighth Symposium on Legal Ethics at the College of Law on Oct. 24-25, 2013. It was CALE's largest symposium, featuring presentations and papers on legal ethics teaching scholarship by nationally renowned leaders in the field. In view of a major decision on conflicts of interest rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada, Professor Brent Cotter, the chair of CALE, also convened a well-attended seminar on conflicts of interest, open to the legal profession, faculty and students. The seminar featured leading commentators Professor Richard Devlin, Professor Alice Woolley, Malcolm Mercer, a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and ethics counsel from McCarthy Tétrault (Toronto), and Greg Walen, QC, past president of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

On Nov. 7-8, 2013, the College of Law hosted the Power in Law Conference, an event to discuss issues related to achieving equality, emotional wellbeing and social change in and through law. Themes including the current status of diverse groups, conditions that impede equality for people within the legal profession and the power of law to promote social change were explored through plenary and small-group sessions. Speakers at the event included Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party of Canada, and Sheelah McLean and Sylvia McAdam, co-founders of the Idle No More movement. Videos of all presentations from the conference can be found on the college's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/collegeoflawusask](http://youtube.com/collegeoflawusask).



Cyndie Knorr, courtesy of Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition

## Law student becomes grand master fiddler

By Sarah Trefiak

As if working towards a law degree wasn't enough, James Steele can now add Master Fiddler to his résumé; Steele was named the grand master at the Canadian Grand Master Fiddle Championships after placing first in the competition Aug. 24 in Saskatoon.

Fiddling has been an important part of Steele's life since he was a child. After beginning with classical violin when he was just seven, he switched to fiddle and began lessons with Everett Larson, a well-known fiddle teacher, who happened to live just a few houses away. Wishing to stay in his hometown after graduation, Steele came to the University of Saskatchewan and completed his undergraduate degree in history. He then decided that his next challenge would be law school.

"Law appealed to me as a challenging and intellectually stimulating career, especially because it requires such skills as writing, reasoning and oral persuasiveness," he said.

But during the national fiddling event, Steele let his musical skills do the persuading. He said the win was especially rewarding because the competition was held in his hometown, meaning many of his music friends could attend. "It's an incredible honour in every way. Many of the past winners of this competition have been musical idols of mine."

So how does Steele find the time to perfect his fiddling skills while also meeting the rigorous demands of law school?

"It can be somewhat complex at times, and I usually engage in fewer music events during periods such as final exams," Steele said he finds, however, that performing once a week which only takes a few hours of his time, is an ideal way to rejuvenate him and provides a brief reprieve from the demands of law school.

Steele is quick to point out that he's not the only one who excels at extra-curricular activities. "Many law students—and students university-wide—are known for distinguished athletic, artistic or musical careers, which they have maintained during their post-secondary studies. I myself wonder at people who keep up outside interests in addition to academic commitments, but also in addition to full involvement in things like college government or college groups," he said.

Steele's advice to those wondering if they can balance involvement with extra-curricular activities like music, dance or sports is to "keep organized. Once you keep an organized schedule, and always arrange things to make sure school doesn't suffer, things go smoothly."

Following his studies at the College of Law, Steele will article with the Robertson Stromberg LLP law firm in Saskatoon and hopes to continue with his fiddle performances on weekends and evenings whenever possible.

"Fiddling is certainly a part of who I am, and something I mean to continue."



## The growing Aboriginal legal community starts here

By Tanya Andrusieczko

Sometimes when a career in comedy doesn't pan out, the alternative is a career in law.

April Cook (LLB'01), a Saskatoon-based Métis lawyer, had once considered a career in standup comedy, but when she realized she "couldn't remember the joke, had terrible comedic timing and always messed up the punch line," she started to think about a career she would truly succeed in. "I knew I wanted to be in a profession where I could actually make a difference in someone's life ... I wanted a career that would be intellectually stimulating and it was important to me to have flexibility and to put the needs of my family first." A career in law met Cook's requirements.

Having spent some time as a pharmacy technician, Cook was "nervous to enter a professional college after so many years of being out of academia." The Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP) though, was her ticket to a successful transition into law school. Over eight weeks in the PLSNP, Aboriginal students study property law and learn the skills they need to succeed in law school.

"The PLSNP offered many components that would allow me to ready myself to take on law school. I am thankful every day that I was given the opportunity to attend," said Cook. Today, she practices at Cuelenaere Kendall Katzman & Watson and is a part of the vibrant community of Aboriginal lawyers, which she insists must continue to grow, both locally and nationally.

Aboriginal people are not yet proportionally represented in the legal profession, but they are an important component of the legal corps. Ryan LaRose (JD'10), currently general counsel and manager of corporate compliance at First Nations Bank of Canada, explained, "I believe Aboriginal people are best served by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal lawyers have an understanding of their Aboriginal clients and can communicate and provide legal services in a way non-Aboriginal counterparts often struggle with."

Cook elaborated, "Unless you truly understand Aboriginal customs, spirituality and everyday way of life, you cannot understand the reasons behind whatever issue may arise and cannot fully understand why certain choices are made. To affect positive change, we have to have Aboriginal people in positions of importance as role models to guide others and show them that the goal is not unattainable."

Aboriginal lawyers like Cook and LaRose are certainly inspiring a new generation of ambitious Aboriginal law students, including Cook's daughter Jasmine Hatfield, who attended the PLSNP in 2012. Hatfield is now flourishing as a second-year law student and is actively involved in the student community; she was recently chosen to be one of four law students from the University of Saskatchewan to attend the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted conference.



PLSNP students listen to a customary law lecture during a field trip to Fort Carlton.

**"To affect positive change, we have to have Aboriginal people in positions of importance as role models to guide others and show them that the goal is not unattainable."**

Hatfield's peer Alyssa McIntyre sees that "having more Aboriginal lawyers will help other Aboriginal people get involved in the legal system." In her own path to becoming an Aboriginal lawyer, McIntyre, like Cook and LaRose, first attended the PLSNP. "I felt that the program was one of the best decisions I ever made. The PLSNP provides a great environment for Aboriginal students to learn."

She mentioned that the cooperative spirit and collegiality among the students as well as the support of the professors made the experience a valuable one. It provided her with a strong foundation to one day contribute to the growing community of Aboriginal lawyers in Canada and inspire other young Aboriginal students to pursue law.

This past summer, the University of Saskatchewan College of Law became home to the 41st class of the Program of Legal Studies for Native People. Of the 46 students from across Canada who arrived

in Saskatoon to learn property law and the skills crucial for a successful first year of law school, 14 started their first year of law school at the University of Saskatchewan.

To PLSNP Director Ruth Thompson, the fact that the PLSNP is in its fourth decade speaks to the enduring interest in legal education among Aboriginal students. She stresses that there is a continued need to provide support to Aboriginal students and improve the representation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian legal community.

LaRose is excited to see the sea change in the legal landscape. "Aboriginal people are becoming more proactive in ensuring their collective voice is heard. This keeps me optimistic that Aboriginal title and rights will survive from generation to generation."

## Law student Nahachewsky turns tragedy into triumph

By Sarah Trefiak

U of S law student Julian Nahachewsky knows what it's like to face adversity.

He also knows that hard work pays off.

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Nahachewsky attended Holy Cross High School—a story thousands of people can relate to. But following a snowboarding accident in 2009 that paralyzed him from the waist down, his story took a different turn. After dealing with the initial feelings of shock and anger, Nahachewsky realized that he still had a life to live and began hand cycling and wheelchair racing.

In 2012, he competed in his first triathlon, the Craven-Genki at Pike Lake, Sask. Completing the race made him the first paratriathlete in the province to do so. This past summer, Nahachewsky competed in London, England at the 2013 Paratriathlon World Championships where he competed with some of the best athletes in the world.



Nahachewsky trains 10 times per week for paratriathlon competitions

Nahachewsky crossing the finish line at the Craven-Genki triathlon in Pike Lake, Sask.



"My experience in London was great. The course was challenging and the level of competition was awesome—world record holders for various distances of triathlon were there."

Nahachewsky has raced in Europe a few times, and it has easily become one of his favourite places to compete. "After the 2012 Paralympics, London became a hotspot for para-sport and so a lot of people come to watch—it's pretty cool," he said.

Immediately after the competition in London, Nahachewsky returned to begin his first year of law school at the University of Saskatchewan. "I love Saskatoon. I completed my bachelor of commerce here and enjoyed the education I received, so studying at the College of Law seemed like a great opportunity." He knew studying law at the U of S was the right decision, but he admitted he was surprised at just how accommodating the college has been. "It's been great to see some of the professors take interest in my sport and life," he explained.

One of those professors is Glen Luther, who said he has an appreciation for what Nahachewsky has accomplished. "You have to admire him, all the while being in awe of all that he has gone through."

Nahachewsky said he plans to continue to race after he completes his law degree and has even set his eyes on the big show—the Olympic Games. "After I finish my JD I will continue to race and hope to find a flexible career. I really want to compete in the Olympics."

With that goal on the horizon, Nahachewsky is already busy training for the upcoming season (up to 10 times per week). He's not yet sure which events he will be participating in this year, but he does hope to travel internationally to represent Canada. "I love what I do—law school and racing. They both require a lot of work, but they are both worth the sacrifices."

## LLM News

**Keir Vallance** successfully defended his thesis, *Lest You Undermine Our Struggle: Sympathetic Action and the Charter*, on June 17, 2013.  
Supervisor: Beth Bilson

**Melanie Hodges** successfully defended her thesis, *Back to Where We Started? The Expansion of the Saskatchewan Justice Alternative Measures Guidelines as an Opportunity to Explore Program Delivery Issues*, on Nov. 14, 2013.

Supervisor: Michaela Keet

On Dec. 5, 2013, **James Dickson** successfully defended his thesis, *On the 'Honour of the Crown' Precept, Fiduciary Obligations, and the Fundamental Reconfiguration of Crown/Aboriginal Law in Canada*.

Supervisor: Dwight Newman

**Benjamin Omoruyi** successfully defended his thesis, *Taking Suffering Seriously: A Robust Approach to Enforcing the Right to Nationality of Stateless People*, on Dec. 13, 2013.

Supervisor: Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu

On Dec. 18, 2013, **Mark Ebert** successfully defended his thesis, *Weaving, Sawing and Houses: A Trans-Systemic Aboriginal Rights Framework*.

Supervisor: Sakej Henderson

## Correction notice

In the last issue of *of Note*, news about one of our 2012/13 moot teams was inadvertently omitted. The mediation advocacy moot team consisting of Nathan Grzebinski-Fry, Leah Hayes and Margi Mataj, along with coach Kathy Ford, QC, took part in the International Academy of Dispute Resolution competition in Dublin, Ireland, on March 12-15, 2013. The tournament gave the team the opportunity to learn about various forms and techniques used in mediation, as well as the opportunity to practice their mediation skills in friendly competition with other students from around the world.



FEATURE:

# It's complicated: the relationship between law and happiness

By Sarah Trefiak

It was the last day of classes in the fall semester—a day that is usually highly stressful in any college on campus. But in the Stewart McKercher boardroom at 15 Campus Drive, the mood was quite different.

David Stobbe

The eight or so students who gathered to complete their course evaluation for Law 498.3, otherwise known as Law and Happiness, seemed relaxed. As they finished putting down their thoughts about the class, one student commented, "This is definitely the first time I've run out of room in the comments section of a course evaluation." Without hesitation, the rest of the students agreed.

Rewind to September when the College of Law began offering Law and Happiness, a seminar class born of Assistant Professor Marilyn Poitras' research in human interest and motivation. The purpose of the class would be to explore how the law affects field workers, lawyers and judges while students offered their own theories about what a balanced life means and if law and happiness is, in fact, an oxymoron.

While the class itself was new to the college, the idea had been forming in Poitras' mind for quite some time. "I have been doing research on what makes people tick for most of my adult life. As a young adult, I worked in the criminal justice system and saw people at their lowest," she said. She also worked closely with professionals who worked with vicarious trauma victims. Such experiences, combined with her interest in positive psychology and alternative health, got her thinking about how criminal lawyers might deal with the horrific stories they are made privy to on a daily basis. Her research ballooned from there.

"I started looking into the stats and they weren't good. Depression, suicide and divorce rates in the legal profession are high." Her research showed that the upward slope in these rates begins in law school—and they don't tend to go down. "The average rate of depression in pre-law students is nine per cent. By Christmas time in the first year of law school, the rate of depression among law students is 30 per cent. By the end of first year it's 40 per cent and that rate carries through to the legal profession.

These staggering rates, along with the rates of women and minorities leaving the profession, motivated Poitras to dig deeper into the connection between the health

of the justice system and the health of a lawyer. While interviewing a medical doctor at Royal University Hospital about the health of legal professionals, the term “lawyer’s liver” was one of the first words out of his mouth. Poitras was shocked. “It’s a real thing and we’re not talking about it, or at least not talking about it early enough.”

She said while the medical and other professions may have similar issues, there may be more outlets for people in those professions, such as medicine, to talk about those issues. “Lawyers are trained to strip away everything but the legal issue at hand, which is great for the profession, but not so great when it comes to dealing with issues at home. There is evidence that when you numb yourself to emotions you deal with at work, you can’t selectively numb yourself to those feelings in other situations,” she explained.

As an upper-year elective, Law and Happiness is taught in seminar format. In its debut, 14 students enrolled. One of those students was Keith Pratt, a second-year law student with an interest in positive psychology. “To be honest, I took the class because I wanted to learn to become a happier person,” he said. “I also wanted to take time to learn how to build strong mental fortitude to deal with the stress of being a law student and in the future, working in the legal profession.”

For Carly Romanow, a third-year law student from Regina, the reason for taking the class was Professor Poitras herself. After taking classes with Poitras in first and second year, Romanow didn’t think twice about enrolling in Law and Happiness. “During one of her lectures in first year, I had that moment where I thought ‘this is what law school is all about.’ Her teaching techniques allow me to really think about the material and challenge us to view concepts from different perspectives.”

During the first month of the class, Poitras introduced the class to the research she had been doing on wellbeing and issues in students’ lives and legal professionals. While the students were a bit quiet in the first few classes, it didn’t take long before they were actively participating in discussions. “By about the third class, students really started



Above: Students chat with Professor Poitras about the final assignment in “Law and Happiness.”

**“Being able to take the time to reflect on the reasons why I came to law school, what I want out of it and what I want out of a legal career was invaluable to me. Most importantly, I was taught to trust myself, know that I’m good enough, and know that I have the capabilities to pursue my passions and to succeed in my future career.”**

to open up about their experiences in law school.” Poitras suggested that while students come to law school with an idea of who they are and why they want a law degree, those feelings dissipate and switch to thoughts like “I hope I get a job. I hope I get an articling position. Should I be panicking?”

Along with learning about the different types of tools that can be used to deal with depression, alcoholism and family breakdowns, students were required to submit weekly journal entries. Each student was also given a research assignment that needed to cover the topics of happiness, career choice and law. They then presented their research over a span of four classes, concluding with a 15-minute presentation

that was recorded on video.

“Once the students started sharing their research, they lit up like Christmas trees,” said Poitras. “They began complimenting each other and cross-referencing each others’ research, saying things like ‘oh wow, I never looked at that issue like that before,’ and through it all, the students created an atmosphere of comfort and trust.”

If you ask Romanow, trust was not only formed between students, but within herself. “Being able to take the time to reflect on the reasons why I came to law school, what I want out of it and what I want out of a legal career was invaluable to me. Most importantly, I was taught to trust myself, know that I’m good



The Law and Happiness students presented Professor Poitras with this frame including notes about their most memorable moments during the class.



enough, and know that I have the capabilities to pursue my passions and to succeed in my future career.”

For Pratt, the biggest takeaway from the class was what he learned about the benefits of practical techniques for dealing with stress such as regular exercise, personal hobbies, gratitude and in particular, meditation. Throughout much of the research presented in class, the helpful effects of meditation kept popping up and so Poitras arranged for her students to attend a meditation class off campus. “The meditation class by the professional meditation instructor taught me how to focus on the present moment and pay more attention to the casebook in front of me. Let me tell you, in the age of YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and mass media, honing this skill can be very helpful,” said Pratt.

In the future, Poitras would like the class to look more broadly at the psychological state of not only students and lawyers, but judges as well. She would also like to invite more guest lecturers and would want students to hear from legal professionals who are dealing with, or have dealt with, wellbeing issues. Furthermore, she would like to see the students in Law and Happiness work with the law school to develop services or programs that could be implemented to

improve happiness while they are pursuing their law degree. “Even the smallest initiatives can make a difference,” said Poitras, “including yoga or meditation classes, social options for students that don’t include alcohol, or just a place to openly talk about problems without feeling ashamed.”

While she feels there is much work to be done, Poitras is encouraged by the amount of research that is happening and the discussions that are starting to take place on the topic of wellbeing in the legal profession. “I don’t know where it’s coming from, but I’m glad it’s happening.” She hopes her class will help increase the momentum of what she calls the “mindfulness movement”, and although she’s not sure of the exact effect it will have, she hopes it will have an impact on the justice system. “I know it wouldn’t be a bad thing.”

It may indeed be too early to see the effect this class offering will have on the legal profession, but for now Romanow and Pratt are pleased with how it has helped prepare them for their legal careers. “Now I’m aware of the realities of what the legal profession will bring, but I’m also optimistic that the legal profession can change,” said Romanow, “and I can have a fulfilling and meaningful

career that allows me to also have a family and life outside of work.”

“This class has made me more aware of how important it is to have work-life balance, so I’m going to make sure I have clearly defined and measurable goals for both my personal and professional life,” explained Pratt, adding that he won’t be scared to look into potential workplaces to see what kind of measures they have in place in order for their employees to achieve work-life balance.

“Students want to know that they matter—that their feelings and wellbeing matter,” said Poitras. It’s safe to say she achieved that because during the last Law and Happiness class, students presented Poitras with an album in which they had each written a note of thanks. The gift moved her to tears. “I couldn’t read it in front of them,” said Poitras, who began to tear up just talking about it—a sign that the students probably meant just as much to her as she did to them.

“Professor Poitras shared her thoughts of not fitting in, the pressures of practice and her own feelings of inadequacy and rejection. Her courage, allowed us to be courageous,” noted Romanow. “She will be forever my most influential and inspiring educator.”

Pratt went as far as to say it was the best university class he has ever taken. “I loved being around all that positive energy and hearing each students’ research related to their pursuit of happiness each week.” He believes it helped that Professor Poitras was so open with the class about her own formula for happiness, one that includes meditation, regular exercise, good sleep, perspective and gratitude. For that, Pratt will always be grateful. “She has given us each a running start on building our own unique recipes for happiness.”



## Dwight Newman awarded Canada Research Chair

By Michael Robin

From the Idle No More movement to anti-fracking protests in New Brunswick to the fledgling Saskatchewan oilsands industry, Aboriginal peoples are making their voices heard both on the streets and in the courtrooms and according to law professor and the U of S's newest Canada Research Chair Dwight Newman, it's time for non-Aboriginal society to listen.

"Many Indigenous rights protect things we should all care about," he said, "things like people being able to maintain their communities and rebuild community and family structures, or being able to live securely knowing they can benefit from responsible resource development. Things like people being able to reconnect with lands sacred to them, or communities being able to develop in ways that further opportunities for everyone."

Newman studies Indigenous rights within the context of Canadian and international law, providing insights to guide Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to mutual agreement. His 2009 book, *The Duty to Consult: New Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples*, reviews how lower courts, businesses, governments and indigenous organizations apply the concept. To date, his

research has helped bolster numerous legal arguments and has been quoted in dozens of judgments, including three Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

"We're trying to understand how courts, policy makers and all stakeholders can work together to create a framework that enables responsible resource development while respecting Indigenous rights," he said.

The matter of Indigenous rights is complex, with provincial and national jurisdictions overlapping with the interests of numerous First Nations and those of private industry. Newman explained that Indigenous communities are looking for greater respect for and protection of their cultural and spiritual traditions, or greater participation in—or protection from—resource development within their territories.

While each situation demands its own analysis, he said one principle remains the same: start early.

"It will often be helpful to everyone if governments and corporate project proponents engage early on with Aboriginal communities in a manner going above bare-minimum legal requirements so as to find win-win solutions."



Professor Dwight Newman was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Rights in Constitutional and International Law.

Newman noted that while there has been much progress in law with regard to Indigenous rights, this progress is not always visible in people's lives. Many misunderstandings on all sides remain. Translating recognition of rights into real results continues to be a challenge.

"Universities have a big role to play here. Rigorous research, ongoing engagement with communities and a commitment to solid knowledge-sharing all have vital contributions to make, and the University of Saskatchewan's commitment to excellence in this area is something that can stand out and make a contribution to the province, to the country and to the world."

*This article was originally published in On Campus News.*

## Faculty Notes

Professor **Dwight Newman** was awarded the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Indigenous Rights in Constitutional and International Law on Nov. 14, 2013.

**Siobhán Wills** delivered the Sallows Lecture on Nov. 25, 2013, entitled "Problems and Challenges for the Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti." She completed her six-month term as chairholder of the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights on Dec. 31, 2013.

Assistant Professor **Clayton Bangsund** was awarded the President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction from the University of Alberta as well as the Vanier Canada Graduate



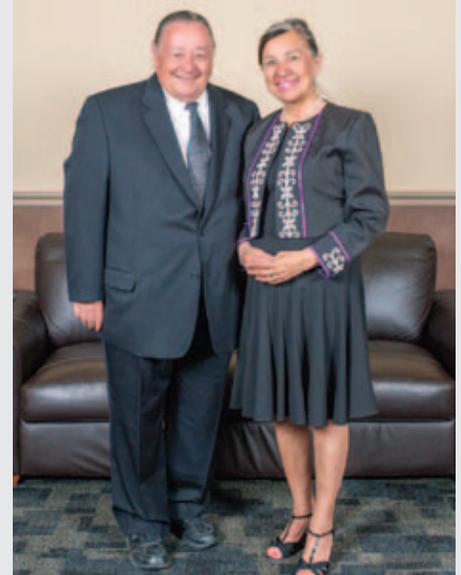
Assistant Professor Bangsund

Scholarship for demonstrating a high standard of scholarly achievement during his graduate studies.

On Nov. 15, 2013, **Sakej Henderson**, research director of the Native Law Centre of Canada, was inducted as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada—one of Canada's highest academic honours.

Assistant Professor **Sarah Buhler** received a President's SSHRC grant for her project entitled "The Impact of Clinical Legal Education on Clients and Communities".

Sakej Henderson and spouse Marie Battiste. © Victor Hamm.





Siobhan Wills

## Human rights chair shines spotlight on UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti

By Sarah Trefiak

It's time to take a good look at the rules governing the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), said Siobhán Wills, visiting scholar and holder of the Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the College of Law.

Since arriving at the college in July 2013, Wills has been digging deep into the controversial peacekeeping mission, as well as the United Nations (UN) charter, and uncovering some important questions along the way.

As of Oct. 31, MINUSTAH consisted of more than 6,000 troops, 2,400 police as well as international civilian personnel, local civilian staff and United Nations volunteers from more than 20 countries including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and the United States. MINUSTAH was established in 2004 after Haiti's President Bertrand Aristide was exiled in the aftermath of an armed conflict that spread to several cities across the country.

At that time, the mandate of the mission was to support the transitional government to ensure a secure and stable environment within which the constitutional and political process in Haiti could take place. Since then the mandate has been updated several times, including after the devastating earthquake in Jan. 2010.

Despite MINUSTAH's recovery efforts following the earthquake, the mission is widely unpopular among Haitians, said Wills, who traveled to the Caribbean country this past October. "There has been a breakdown in the relationship between MINUSTAH and the people of Haiti, especially those in slum areas," she explained, noting that the



Wills delivers a lecture to law students covering her research and recent trip to Haiti.

strain has developed for a number of reasons including, a cholera outbreak which has been blamed on MINUSTAH troops; allegations that MINUSTAH personnel have stood by and watched people being killed; allegations of heavy-handed suppression of protest; and because Haitians feel peacekeepers are acting at best as tourists spending all their time at beaches and in bars, and at worst as de facto occupying forces

Perhaps the biggest reason that the operation is unwelcomed by residents of the earthquake-scarred country is the concern that MINUSTAH officers are overstepping their bounds when it comes to using force. In fact, many people Wills talked with during her visit raised complaints about the excessive use of violence applied by the UN peacekeepers.

One such complaint came from a local resident in the poverty-stricken neighbourhood of Cité Soleil who gave Wills a first-hand report about an incident involving pepper spray. It occurred when UN troops told residents to wait in line for "something." After waiting in the hot sun for between two and three hours, they were informed that they would be given five water-purification tablets. The witness told Wills that when one woman in line refused to take the tablets, she was pepper-sprayed by MINUSTAH officers. "Incidents such as this are doubtless due to panic and inexperience on the part of some MINUSTAH personnel," said Wills, "but violent albeit

non-lethal attacks on people who present no threat undermine any possibility of a co-operative relationship between MINUSTAH and the residents of areas such as Cité Soleil and Solino."



A woman collapses after being pepper-sprayed near Cité Soleil.

Although Wills never felt unsafe, she said there is definitely a mood of frustration in Haiti, both with the political situation and MINUSTAH. Which is why Wills believes that it's worth taking a look at why excessive force is being used and what laws within the UN charter are allowing it.

One of the principles peacekeeping is guided by is the non-use of lethal force, except when mission personnel are in a state of self-defense. MINUSTAH has used this caveat when defending their violent actions, including in 2005 when allegations surfaced that civilians were targeted and killed during a raid in Cité Soleil. In response to that event, the special rapporteur for the mission stated that during the raid MINUSTAH was "in a state of self-defense throughout the day and made use of their weapons only in circumstances when it



was proportional and necessary, in accordance with the rules of engagement." The problem, said Wills, is that MINUSTAH's rules of engagement refer to "relevant principles of international law" but they do not state which principles are relevant. "If the rules of engagement do not make clear what rules are relevant, it is difficult to hold personnel accountable for failing to uphold them. That's a huge problem for human rights lawyers. The legal regimes must be defined in a situation where there is no armed conflict."

Some of Wills' initial recommendations for change are making the rules of engagement public, regularly reviewing those rules, and clarifying what rules of engagement should apply in situations when there is no armed conflict (like in Haiti). She also stresses that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN needs to stop referring to the Chapter VII rules of engagement. "They simply don't exist," she stated.

Unfortunately for the College of Law, Professor Wills' term at the U of S came to a close at the end of December. She has now joined the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland as a professor where she plans to continue her research into the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

And while she will be leaving the continent, Wills still believes that it is important for Canadians to continue learning about MINUSTAH and their role within it. "It's important for Canadians to be aware of this issue because it's a mission in which Canada is heavily involved." She added, "It's my role as a legal academic to draw attention to this issue, in particular, the legal aspects of it."

## Faculty publications and presentations

### PRESENTATIONS

On Nov. 22, 2013, Professor **Ken Norman** delivered a Pitblado lecture to the Law Society of Manitoba entitled "A forecast for human rights commissions and tribunals: Overcast with a chance of furies."

Visiting Law Foundation of Saskatchewan chair, Professor **John Wade** presented on the topic of judicial mediation at the Judicial Dispute Resolution Conference at the University of Calgary on June 21, 2013. He also presented on a number of topics related to negotiation during the 2013 Negotiation Breakfast Series at the Saskatoon Club.

Professors **John Wade**, **Brent Cotter**, **Michaela Keet** and sessional lecturer, **Glen Gardner**, presented "Negotiating with Difficult People" at the Canadian Bar Association Annual Meeting in Saskatoon, on Aug. 18, 2013.

**Sakej Henderson** presented "Idle No More and Media" at the Cultures of Reconciliation Conference on Sept. 26, 2013, and "The Royal Proclamation and the Honour of the Crown: 250 Years Later" at the Indigenous Bar Association Fall Conference on Oct. 9, 2013.

Assistant Professor **Robin Hansen** was a speaker on the panel entitled "Non-State Actors and International Law: Methodological Challenges" at the annual Canadian Council on International Law conference on Nov. 16, 2013.

Associate Dean Academic **Doug Surtees** presented:

- "Euthanasia in Canada" at the International Elder Law Conference With A Veterans' Focus hosted by the University of Hawaii Elder Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law on Nov. 13, 2013
- "Digital Assets" to attendees of the World Study Group organized by the Canadian Centre for Elder Law 'CCEL' in Vancouver, BC, on Nov. 11, 2013
- "Data After Death: Who has the right to your data after you're gone?" during the Canadian Bar Association Annual Meeting in Saskatoon, SK, on Aug. 20, 2013.

Assistant Professor **Patricia L. Farnese** presented:

- "Regulating for One Health: A Comments on Ethics and Justice" at the second Global Risk Forum One Health Summit, held on Nov. 17-20, 2013, in Davos, Switzerland.

- "Contagion and Extinction" at the 31st Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, held on Feb. 28-March 3, 2013 in Eugene, Oregon.

- "Conserving Africa's Wild Fauna and Flora: The Role of International Agreements" at the 14th Annual International Wildlife Law Conference in Buea, Cameroon on Dec. 6-7, 2013.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Clayton Bangsund**, "But I Didn't Mean To: The Role of Intent in U.S. and Canadian Anti-Preference Law" (2013) 50(4) *Alta. L. Rev.* 815-842.

**Lucinda Vandervort**, "HIV, Fraud, Non-Disclosure, Consent and a Stark Choice: Mabi or Sexual Autonomy?" *Criminal Law Quarterly, Volume 60, Issue 2, October 2013*, pp. 301-320.

**Dwight Newman**, *Natural Resource Jurisdiction in Canada* (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2013).

Shelagh Day, Lucie Lamarche & **Ken Norman**, eds., *14 Arguments in Favour of Human Rights Institutions*, (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2014)

Donna Goodridge, Elizabeth Quinlan, Rosemary Venne, Paulette Hunter and **Doug Surtees** "Planning for Future Serious Illness by the General Public: A Population-Based Survey," *ISRN Family Medicine* (forthcoming).

Mansfield Mela and **Glen Luther** "Law and Psychiatry Seminar: An Interprofessional Model for Forensic Psychiatric Training", (2013) 37(6) *Academic Psychiatry* 421.

Mansfield Mela, Krista Trinder, **Glen Luther** and Marcel D'Eon, "Law and Psychiatry Seminar: An Advanced Intervention in Interprofessional Education for Attitudinal Improvement" (2013), 3.2 *Journal of Research in Interprofessional Practice and Education* [JRIPE] 1.

**Patricia L. Farnese**, The Prevention Imperative: International Health and Environmental Governance Responses to Emerging Zoonotic Diseases, *Transnational Environmental Law* (forthcoming in spring 2014).

**Patricia L. Farnese**, Searching for Wildlife: A Critique of Canada's Regulatory Response to Emerging Zoonotic Diseases, (2014) 39(2) *Queen's Law Journal* (forthcoming in spring 2014).

**Ron C.C. Cuming**, *Secured Creditors' Non-Statutory Remedies: Unfinished Business*, (2013) 91 *Canadian Bar Review* 243.

**Ron C.C. Cuming**, "The Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment: When it Applies and with What Consequences, Published in *Secured Transactions in Personal Property: Cases, Text and Materials*, A. Duggan and Jacob Ziegel, (6th ed., Emond Montgomery, Toronto, 2013) 643.

**Ron C.C. Cuming**, "Australian Personal Property Securities Law – A book for All Reasons" – book review; (2013) 54 *Canadian Business Law Journal* 307 (10 pp.).

**Michael Plaxton**, John Gardner's *Transatlantic Shadow* (November 8, 2013). *Queen's Law Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2014.

**Michael Plaxton** and Mathen, Carissima, *Purposive Interpretation, Quebec, and the Supreme Court Act* (October 23, 2013). (2013) 22:3 *Constitutional Forum* 15-26.

**John Kleefeld**, "Book Review—*OSCOLA: The Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities by Dolan Nolan and Sandra Meredith, eds*" (2013) 36 *Dalhousie Law Journal* 269.

**Heather Heavin** and **Michaela Keet**, "Skating to Where the Puck Will Be" Exploring Settlement Counsel and Risk Analysis in the Negotiation of Business Disputes, (2013) 76 (2) *Sask. L. R.* 191.

**Ibironke T. Odumosu-Ayanu**, "South-South Investment Treaties, Transnational Capital and African Peoples" (2013) 21 *African Journal of International and Comparative Law* 172-201.

**Ibironke T. Odumosu-Ayanu**, "Foreign Direct Investment Catalysts in West Africa: Interactions with Local Content Law and Industry-Community Agreements" (2012) 35 *North Carolina Central Law Review* 65-94.

**Ibironke T. Odumosu-Ayanu**, "International Investment Law and Disasters: Necessity, Peoples and the Burden of (Economic) Emergencies" in David Caron, Michael Kelly and Anastasia Telesetsky eds., *The International Law of Disaster Relief* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) 374-401.



## Call to donors: Please confirm your information

The new major gifts officer, **Brian Nickel**, is in the process of updating the donor wall on display in the foyer of the College of Law building. In order to make room for new donor names, titles, designations and nominatives will be removed.

To ensure your information is correct, please visit [law.usask.ca/give/Our-Donors.php](http://law.usask.ca/give/Our-Donors.php). If you see any errors or omissions, please inform Brian at [brian.nickel@usask.ca](mailto:brian.nickel@usask.ca) by March 30, 2014.

## Staff news

### Shirley Cuschieri

Shirley joined the College of Law on Nov. 4 as a clerical assistant. She will be providing administrative support to the college's faculty, sessional lecturers, students, programs as well as receptionist duties. Shirley was formerly the assistant to the director of human resources for the University Library and prior to that, she worked as an executive assistant for Bank of Montreal, York University and Bijoux Terner in Ontario.



### Brian Nickel

On Nov. 26, Brian Nickel began his role as the major gift officer at the College of Law. He will be working to obtain philanthropic

support from donors and prospects in order to enhance various college initiatives. Brian received his Masters of Business in Administration degree in the fall of 2013 from the Edwards School of Business. Prior to that, he attended the Juilliard School at the University of Toronto to study opera. He lived in Italy for a number of years, raising funds for the fine arts and working as an operatic performer, classical singer and business consultant.

## Starting a new chapter: Law library's Lily Chin looks ahead to retirement

By Sarah Trefiak



After 40 years of books, carrels and catalogues, Lily Chin is retiring from the law library at the University of Saskatchewan. Many former students and faculty will remember Lily as a very active and involved member of the law school, always making an effort to immerse herself in college activities and always finding new ways to brighten someone's day.

After obtaining her teaching certificate in 1973, Lily applied to the U of S library. "I said to myself, 'I'll work two or three years to put my husband through school and then quit.' But 40 years later, I am still here," she laughed.

Starting out as a front desk clerk, Lily held various positions in the main library including stack supervisor, reserve supervisor and circulation supervisor before making what she said was the "best move of her career"—accepting a position in the law library, where she has been employed since 1990. "In my earlier years at the law library, I immersed myself in law student activities including baseball games, first-year banquets, Legal Follies and graduation... I almost felt like one of the students," she explained.

She still keeps in touch with many former students, but the personal contact has dwindled in recent years, mostly due to technological advances in the field of library research. "It used to be we knew most of the law students by name and now, only a small percentage regularly visit our circulation desk."

On the flip side, she was happy to see the library introduce wireless internet and electrical outlets for student laptops. "We've become a user-friendly library and our students are happy campers."

Looking back over the past 23 years at the law library, Lily cited politician appearances, evil fish decorations and sneaking naps in the old faculty lounge at lunchtime as some

of her favourite memories. And while exam time is often the least favourite time for students, she will certainly miss it. "It was most interesting to see third-year students all line up on the balcony, clapping and cheering on the first years prior to their first exam." She also fondly remembers holding up a sign for students that read "Good luck on your exam" as they streamed into the library to write their finals. "It was wonderful seeing their faces light up as they thanked us for caring."

If there is one thing that surprised Lily about her career at the U of S it was just how quickly her retirement day came.

"Funny, when attending others' retirement parties I would always say that I wish I was doing the same, but now I have mixed emotions," she said. "I will miss my colleagues, the students, and the welcoming relationship with the College of Law, Native Law Centre and faculty members. I will miss my daily routine of opening up the Library in the morning and interacting with everyone throughout the day, and I will miss the get-togethers during special occasions."

If you know Lily, it won't be a surprise to you that she doesn't plan to sit back in retirement (although she said she may sleep in the odd time). "I want to check out gym memberships to find the right workout programs for me and also register for more activity classes. I plan to spend more time with my new grandson, do more volunteer work and of course dance, dance, dance," she explained. "Wow, so many options. Life is short and I want to make the most of it."

By the sounds of it, we are very sure she will.

***The College of Law would like to congratulate Lily Chin on a distinguished career and wish her all the best in retirement.***



## Alumni Notes

**Ron MacIsaac (JD'48)** was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws at Vancouver Island University's spring convocation on June 4, 2013.

**Joseph Dierker, QC, (LLB'60)** was given the 2013 Credit Union Canadian Central Hall of Fame Award.

**Kirby Burningham (LLB'86), Emanuel Sonnenschein (JD'63) and David J. Brundige, QC, (JD'83)** were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Ken Lewis, ACTL, QC, (LLB'74)** was named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

**The Hon. Don Morgan, QC, MLA (LLB'78)** was appointed Minister of Education for the province of Saskatchewan.

**Nancy Hopkins, QC, (LLB'78)** was named to Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 by the Women's Executive Network (WXN).

In November 2013, the Law Society of Saskatchewan elected **Miguel Martinez (LLB'79)** as president and **Robert Heinrichs (JD'84)** as vice-president for 2014.

**Susan Barber (LLB'87), Nancy Dilts, QC, (LLB'88), Laurie Pawlitzka (LLB'83)** received the national 2013 Lexpert Zenith Award, celebrating women leaders in the legal profession.

**Michele Hollins, QC, (LLB'92)** won the 2013 WILL Award for Leadership in the Profession (Broader Roles). **The Hon. Alison Redford, QC, (LLB'88)** won the 2013 WILL Lifetime Achievement Award. The WILL Awards celebrate and recognize the outstanding contributions of female members legal profession in southern Alberta.

**The Hon. Alison Redford, QC, (LLB'88)** was named one of "The 50 Most Important People in Canada" by *Maclean's* magazine.

**Bryce Pashovitz (LLB'95) and Therese Koturbash (LLB'87)** co-authored the second edition of *Law Professionals Guide: Investigating Impaired Drivers*. **Gregory Koturbash (JD'92)** was the originating author of the book. Find out more at [www.lawprofessionalguides.com](http://www.lawprofessionalguides.com).

**Tim Gitzel (JD'90)** was elected to the board of directors for The Mosaic Company.

**Todd Rosenberg CA, FCA, (LLB'94)** was appointed councilor of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan.

**Gregory Liakopoulos (LLB'97)** joined the Calgary office of Bennett Jones LLP as a partner.

**Kylie M. Head, QC, (LLB'98)** of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, Civil Law Division, was elevated to president of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Bar Association for 2013-2014. She also received the national 2013 Lexpert Zenith Award, which honours women leaders in the legal profession.

**Submissions:** Send your news for our Alumni Notes column to [law\\_ofnote@usask.ca](mailto:law_ofnote@usask.ca).



## Nominations for Alumni Achievement Awards now open!

The Alumni Achievement Awards are presented to U of S graduates who advance the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan and the Alumni Association. Award recipients are chosen for their outstanding achievements and innovation; commitment to excellence; community engagement and leadership; and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society.

**For information or to nominate an alumnus, visit [alumni.usask.ca/achieve](http://alumni.usask.ca/achieve)**

## Queen's Counsel appointments

The following College of Law alumni from were honoured with Queen's Counsel appointments in Saskatchewan on Dec. 16, 2013:

- Danny Anderson (LLB'83)
- Kim Anderson (LLB'88)
- Jennifer Bailey (LLB'77)
- Kylie Head (LLB'98)
- Kearney Healy (LLB'80)
- Peter Hryhorchuk (LLB'76)
- Darcy McGovern (JD'86)
- Alan McIntyre (JD'79)
- Randy Sandbeck (LLB'84)
- William Shaw (LLB'72)
- Leslie Sullivan (LLB'74)
- Evert Van Olst (LLB'82)
- Foster Weisgerber (LLB'96)

## More ways to connect online



**LinkedIn**

Join the "University of Saskatchewan College of Law Alumni" group



**Youtube**

[youtube.com/CollegEOFLawUsask](http://youtube.com/CollegEOFLawUsask)



**Twitter**

@usasklaw

FEATURE:

# Where are they now?

# In Law and in "Law"ve



Deborah and John today.



Deborah and John on their wedding day in 1979.

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## Deborah Fry (JD'80) and John Clarke (JD'79)

**Wedding date:** March 10, 1979  
**Current place of residence:** St. John's, N.L.

**Why did you decide to attend law school?**

**John:** To get a law degree.  
**Deborah:** My husband has quite a wit!! I went to law school to change careers with the objective of finding one that allowed independence of thought and action.

**Tell the readers about how you met.**

**John:** We met at the law school. We were in some of the same classes together and studied near each other in the library. First date was a squash game—I dislocated her shoulder. Not sure I've ever been forgiven.

**Deborah:** He has it mostly correct. He forgot to mention the trip to the hospital to deal with the dislocated shoulder followed by a beer at the Sutherland Bar.

**Who had better grades in law school?**

**John:** She did.  
**Deborah:** He's right.

**Currently, where do you work? What is your position there?**

**John:** I am an arbitrator/mediator in practice at The Centre for Innovative Dispute Resolution in St. John's. I left private law practice about eight years ago from a firm with whom I had practiced for about 25 years.  
**Deborah:** I am a Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**What is the best part of being married to a legal professional?**

**John:** You can understand some of the frustrations and highs that they go through at work.  
**Deborah:** Having someone to have a conversation with about the rule of law when no one else cares.

**What is the most difficult part of being married to a legal professional?**

**John:** They have frustrations and highs at work.  
**Deborah:** Scheduling far enough ahead to do things together.

**What is your favourite College of Law memory?**

**John:** Friday afternoon curling and a few drinks with classmates and professors at the local bars, especially the Sutherland, after a night of hard work.  
**Deborah:** Working on Legal Follies and making friends that last a lifetime.

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## Chris (LLB'91) and Leanne Andree (LLB'91)

**Wedding date:** May 18, 1991 (Just a few days after our law school convocation)  
**Current place of residence:** Waterloo, Ont.

**Why did you decide to attend law school?**

**Chris:** I had an uncle who was a lawyer. When I was 11, I visited him. He lived in a nice house and drove a cool car. When I went to his office and saw the books there, I assumed he knew everything in all of those books. I thought he was the smartest guy I'd ever met and he lived a great life. I wanted to be like him.  
**Leanne:** I decided to attend law school because I wanted a career that would always be intellectually challenging. I wanted to practice family law and advocate for children.

**Tell the readers about how you met.**

**Chris:** We were in the same small group so we were in the same classes starting from the first day of law school.  
**Leanne:** We met during the first week of first year law school. I remember talking to Chris during Professor Flannigan's first-year contracts class and then again during a first-year reception during the first week of law school.

**Who had better grades in law school?**

**Leanne:** Him—what a painful reminder!  
**Chris:** (no answer)



Chris and Leanne today.

Chris and Leanne's wedding photo (1991).



**Currently, where do you work? What is your position there?**

**Chris:** I'm a partner and the national practice group leader for employment and labour law at Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP. I practice in our Waterloo region office. We have seven offices across Canada.

**Leanne:** I recently left my role as assistant vice president and senior counsel at Sun Life as well as the practice of law and have joined Global Resolutions as a mediator. I currently mediate insurance and financial disputes on a full-time basis.

**What is the best part of being married to a legal professional?**

**Leanne:** The best part of being married to a legal professional is always having someone who truly understands the professional challenges, stresses, pressures, highs and lows of practicing law. Being married to a lawyer means that we are each able to discuss legal issues, ethical issues and the challenges of the business of being a lawyer with someone whom you trust more than anyone else in the world.

**Chris:** Agreed.

**What is the most difficult part of being married to a legal professional?**

**Leanne:** The profession is often very time consuming. As we also have three children, balancing family life and professional commitments has been and continues to be the most significant challenge.

**Chris:** Agreed.

**What is your favourite College of Law memory?**

**Chris:** The many good times spent with fun and highly intelligent people—Legal Follies, Western Canada Law Hockey tournaments, ski trips, intramural hockey, evenings at the pub and laughs in the law library. While the workload is intense and the exams are stressful, it was the most satisfying time of my life. And I shared it all with the woman I've been married to for almost 23 years.

**Leanne:** Friends. I have so many memories of the friendships made which I will cherish forever.

**Chantelle Lefebvre (LLB'09) and Ryan Armstrong (LLB'09)**

**Wedding date:** May 9, 2009

**Current place of residence:** Lloydminster, Alta. (acreage outside of Lloydminster)

**Why did you decide to attend law school?**

**Ryan:** I always wanted to be a lawyer.

**Chantelle:** I also always wanted to be a lawyer. I applied to law school a couple of years earlier than planned, on a whim. I ended up getting in and here we are.

**Tell the readers about how you met.**

**Ryan:** We met at a first-year keg party. She was talking a lot about hockey.

**Chantelle:** We met at a first-year keg party. When people ask, we just say "law school," haha.

**Who had better grades in law school?**

**Ryan:** Chantelle did.

**Chantelle:** It probably depended on the class.

**Currently, where do you work? What is your position there?**

**Ryan:** I work at Robertson Moskal Sarsons as an associate

**Chantelle:** I work at Martinez Meunier Sholter as an associate

**What is the best part of being married to a legal professional?**

**Ryan:** The best part is having someone who understands your job, your stress levels, your frustrations, and your successes.

**Chantelle:** Having someone to bounce things off of.

**What is the most difficult part of being married to a legal professional?**

**Ryan:** Taking home said job, stresses and frustrations.

**Chantelle:** It's law talk all the time...

**What is your favourite College of Law memory?**

**Ryan:** Hosting the Law Games in January 2009.

**Chantelle:** Attending Law Games in 2008 and other social functions.



Ryan and Chantelle with their daughter, Genevieve (2), and their dog, Peyton.



Ryan and Chantelle were married in 2009.



FEATURE:

## A CLASSIC example of generosity: Belsher funds access to justice initiatives

By Sarah Trefiak

The Merlis Belsher Access to Justice Fund has been established following a donation of more than \$500,000 to the College of Law from Mr. Merlis Belsher (BComm'57, LLB'63). The fund will support a variety of access to justice initiatives at the college including supporting clinical experiences for students through the Community Legal Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC) and facilitating the engagement of students in other experiential learning opportunities, such as conferences related to access to justice issues.

Sharing has been a part of Belsher's philosophy since he was very young. Raised on a farm near McCord, Sask., Belsher was aware of the importance his parents, his mother in particular, placed on education and community involvement. "My mother was a teacher at a young age and was extremely interested in education and volunteer work. She was involved in the community, church and on the local school board."

Following his parents' tragic death when Belsher was only 15, he was accepted into Regina's Luther College as a dorm student where he completed his high school education. A combination of his strong work ethic and the structured academic program at Luther allowed Belsher to achieve grades that landed him at the College of Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan. There he completed his accounting degree and later became a Chartered Accountant (CA). He paid his way through university by picking up jobs at Atlas Lumber in Edmonton and Hudson's Bay in Saskatoon.

After receiving his CA designation, Belsher had his eye on a new goal—a law degree. He started a small accounting practice to finance his way through law school, knowing that the combination of education in both accounting and law would broaden his choices for a career. However juggling the two was a challenge. "I did find the commitment of law

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**"I have had the privilege to visit the CLASSIC office and see in person what good work they do with the passionate support of the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Law, the dean, professors, law students and the volunteer commitment from lawyers."**

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school heavy as I had ongoing responsibilities for my accounting clients."

The hard work paid off. Shortly after being admitted to the bar, Belsher was able to purchase Weldon Concrete Products, a precast concrete manufacturing business.

“My education qualifications made bank borrowing possible and also allowed me to exercise discretion in my business decisions,” he explained.

Over the years, Belsher grew his company. He sold it in 2008, while still retaining some equity, but in 2013, the entire enterprise was sold. During that time, Belsher began to look for opportunities where he could assist those in need. Jennifer Molloy, the college’s development officer at the time, introduced him to CLASSIC and it struck a chord. “I have had the privilege to visit the CLASSIC office and see in person what good work they do with the passionate support of the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Law, the dean, professors, law students and the volunteer commitment from lawyers.”

The CLASSIC office works to deliver two programs: a walk-in advocacy clinic and a legal advice clinic. The walk-in advocacy clinic provides clients with legal information and/or basic legal services. Law student advocates under the supervision of practicing lawyers assist clients in areas that include landlord-tenant issues, social assistance issues, labour standards, Canada Pension Plan benefits, immigration matters and more. The legal advice clinic is available to clients who have legal issues in the areas of criminal, family, civil or employment law. These clients, who do not have legal counsel and are self-represented, can book 30-minute appointments to discuss their issue with a practicing lawyer.

Sanjeev Anand, dean of the College of Law, said that Belsher’s gift is two-fold. “It ensures that legal services will be provided to the residents of the inner city, but it also helps to secure the future of the clinic so that our students can have a place to acquire essential experiential learning opportunities.”



above: (l to r) Professor Glen Luther, Professor Sarah Buhler, Dean Sanjeev Anand, Merlis Belsher, U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Brian Nickel, major gifts officer, Chantelle Johnson, executive director of CLASSIC.



left: Belsher speaks with Dean Anand and President Busch-Vishniac during a visit to CLASSIC.

Belsher hopes that his gift will change the lives of students and the people who use CLASSIC’s services, but was humble and hesitant to accept praise. “The people and institutions that deserve the credit are what I call the ‘foot soldiers’—the students, the faculty and the volunteers. A great deal of administration is necessary to make the process work.”

For Belsher, the need to help those in society who rely on CLASSIC was obvious. “Investment in the program can benefit everyone. The University of Saskatchewan supporting this community initiative through the College of Law and their professors provides a great service to this segment

of society. CLASSIC also provides real-life learning experience to law students.” He added, “Law Society of Saskatchewan members also devote many hours of pro bono legal work to CLASSIC on an ongoing basis and the organization itself is a strong supporter of CLASSIC.”

Belsher takes great pride in the professional associations he has been a part of and felt they were key to his success. “The best advice I could offer to someone starting out in a profession is to never stop learning. And keep up with professional development. Honesty, integrity, humility and ethics must always be top of mind as a professional.”

## In Memoriam

It is with sorrow that we note the passing of the following College of Law alumni:

### Harvey Grier

(BA’50, LLB’54), d. July 1, 2013

### Leonel (Gordon) Jahnke

(LLB’59), d. Jul 16, 2013

### Hon. Peter F. Foley

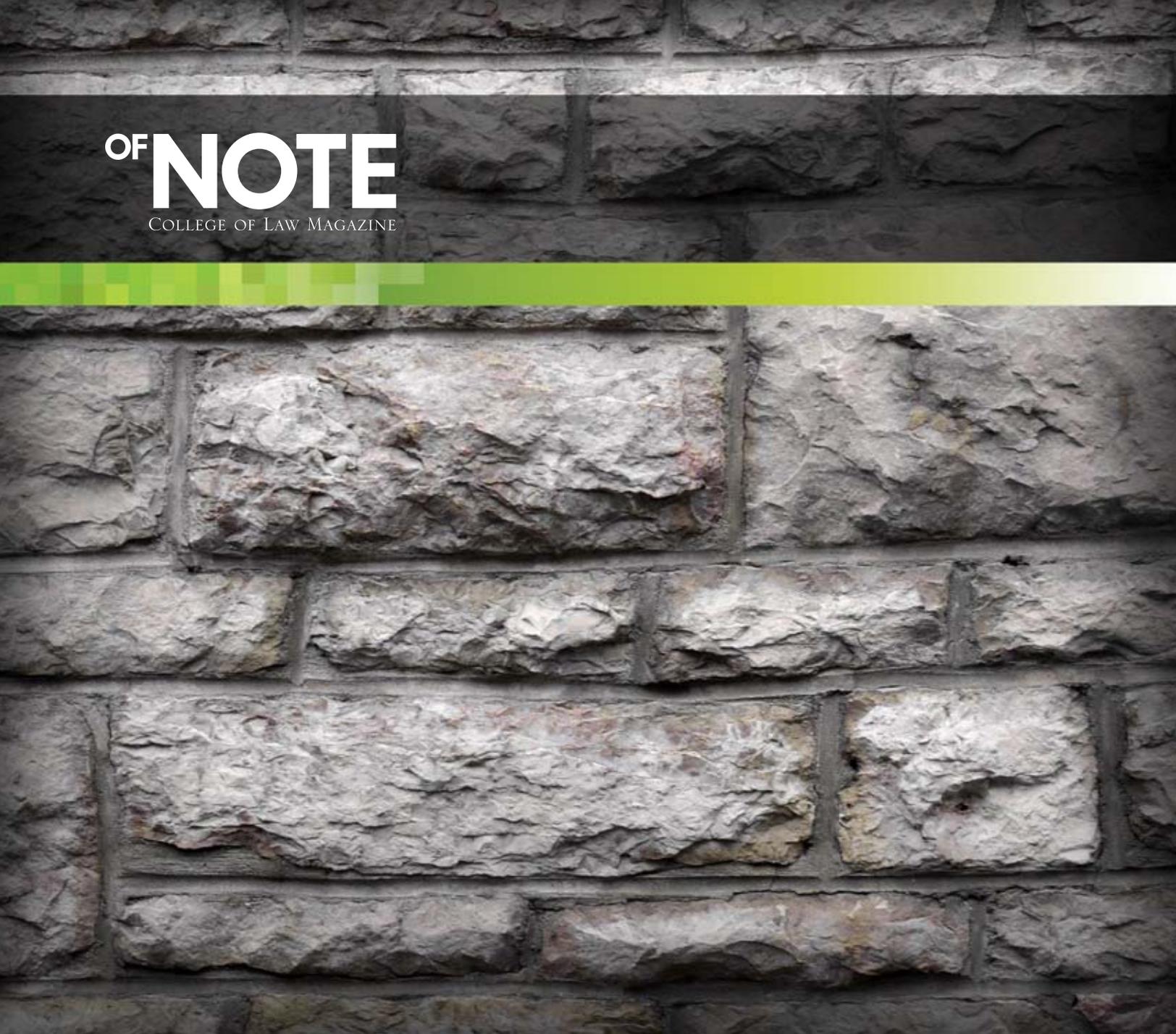
(BA’64, LLB’69), d. Aug. 12, 2013

### Hon. Judge William R. Campbell

(LLB’84), d. Dec. 19, 2013

### Cody Woitas

Third-year law student, d. Jan. 8, 2014



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