

of NOTE

COLLEGE OF LAW MAGAZINE

SPRING 2020

- Simulating the real world: Medico-legal negotiations
- Alumna finds purpose in international journalism
- College of Law and CLASSIC honoured with international award

Inspiration in the Arctic



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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.



This issue was prepared prior to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Please note there may be reference to future events hosted by the College of Law. Those events have been postponed and we will notify you when they have been rescheduled.

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The Honourable Georgina Jackson and Gerald Tegar, QC

Couple named USask Alumni Achievement Award recipients

To submit information or articles for *of NOTE*, or to send us your latest news, whether personal or professional, please contact:

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We acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Cover image by Serena Ableson. Sculpture by John Sabourin. This sculpture was presented to the Nunavut Law Program as part of the Arctic Inspiration Prize.



Simulating the real world

Law and medicine students
practice negotiations



University-Community Partnerships

College of Law and CLASSIC
honoured with international
award



Annie Hylton

Alumna finds purpose in
international journalism

DEAN'S MESSAGE



As the academic year wraps up, I want to start by sending a message of gratitude to all of you who have participated in the life of the college over the past several months. Whether you coached or judged a moot, made a donation, or simply kept up with the activities of the college through social media or reading this magazine – thank you. Our success is due in large part to a supportive and connected community, working together to make sure our students have the best opportunities to prepare for a career in law.

Our community is constantly evolving. And now, thanks to our involvement with the Nunavut Law Program, has grown to include partners and

organizations across the north. In early February, I was honoured to meet many of those partners during a trip to Iqaluit where we hosted a Career Fair for the students. My visit was capped off with a stop in Ottawa to accept the Arctic Inspiration Prize – an incredible achievement that serves as a testament to the hard work of our NLP students and director, Stephen Mansell. Read more about the ongoing success of the NLP on page 6.

While we expand our connections in the Arctic, our students and alumni are also making connections and real impact in many other parts of the world. This issue features a trio of stories about individuals who have not let borders stop them when it comes to learning, teaching and working—they most definitely exemplify the University of Saskatchewan's new motto of being "what the world needs," and we hope you find their stories inspiring.

Speaking of inspiring individuals...

Earlier this year, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ted Hughes (LLB'50). In my opinion, Ted was one of the greatest graduates in the 108 years of graduating classes that have graced the College of Law. Ted was a man of great integrity, a fearless defender of the rule of law and held a deep compassion for those less fortunate. Each fall at orientation I talk to incoming students about the ethos of the College of Law as being "lawyer as public servant." Ted Hughes was the epitome of that ethos and I cannot think of a better role model for our current students.

I would also like to recognize the inspiring members of our tax moot team. Graham Fuga, Anna Lekach, Will Hampton, Madison Miller and Brooke Sittler (coach), were crowned champions of the Donald G.H. Bowman National Tax Moot in Toronto! More to come on this victory in a future issue of *of NOTE*.

As always, I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at our upcoming alumni events this year. If we won't be holding an event in your neck of the woods, then I would encourage you to connect with us in any way you see fit. Maybe you'll attend your class reunion this summer, or maybe you'll send us a note to let us know what you're up to. Either way, we look forward to making a connection and continuing to build on the community we are known for.

Keep in touch...

Sincerely,

Martin Phillipson
Dean, College of Law



1 The Class of 2009 reconvened at the College of Law in September 2019 for their 10 year reunion.

2 Thanks to the generosity of alums Ed Ratushny, QC (LLB'65) and The Hon. Mdm Justice Lynn Ratushny (LLB'67) (centre), Nunavut Law Program students Tagalik Eccles (left) and Emily Karpik (right) attended the annual Indigenous Bar Association conference in Ottawa in November 2019.



3 The annual Career Forum provided a venue for students and potential employers to meet in early January 2020.

4 Martin Phillipson (Dean of Law) congratulates Pam Kimber on her retirement from the college in Dec. 2019.

5 First-year students were officially welcomed to the college at the BD&P ceremony in September 2019.

6 More than 50 people attended the Calgary Alumni Reception on Jan. 21.

7 The Class of 1974 held a reunion in September 2019.

8 Members of the Class of 1979 during their 40 year reunion in August 2019.

MCKERCHER LLP LECTURE SERIES:

Fall 2019 highlights



John Lande (University of Missouri) visited the college on Sept. 23.

The 2019/20 Mckercher Lecture Series kicked off with a special screening of *Angry Inuk*, a documentary covering the campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting. The screening, held at the Remai Modern Art Gallery was followed by remarks from Aaju Peter, a central figure in the film.

On Sept. 23 the college welcomed John Lande, Professor Emeritus at the University of Missouri School of Law, for his presentation, "The law can be hazardous to your clients' health – and yours too."

Patrick Keyzer, Research Professor of Law and Public Policy at Latrobe University presented "Comparing access to constitutional justice in Australia and Canada" on Oct. 7. Keyzer visited Saskatoon as part of the Global Ambassador program from Oct. 2-13 and also held a lecture at the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy during his stay.

As part of Saskatchewan Access to Justice Week, guest speaker Lisa Eisen presented "What a legal coach can do for you" in both Saskatoon (Oct. 20) and Regina (Oct. 22).

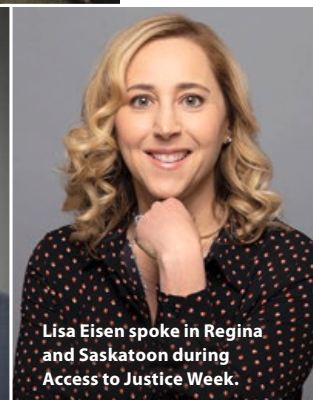
The 21st annual Saskatchewan Law Review lecture was held on Oct. 21. The review board was proud to welcome the Honourable Justice Russell Brown of the Supreme Court of Canada for his presentation, "Some reflections on Access to Justice."



Aaju Peter spoke following a screening of *Angry Inuk* at the Remai Modern Art Gallery on Sept. 10.



Patrick Keyzer



Lisa Eisen spoke in Regina and Saskatoon during Access to Justice Week.

The series concluded with the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Lecture, "Discarding old prejudices: Judicial precedent and Aboriginal title," presented by the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair, Kent McNeil.

Videos of past lectures can be found online at law.usask.ca/events/mckercher-llp-lecture-series.php.



Justice Brown with students from the Common Law in French program.

SIMULATING THE REAL WORLD: MEDICO-LEGAL NEGOTIATIONS



Students had the ability to video-conference with individuals off-site.

By Sarah Trefiak

Medicine, nursing and dentistry students are not the only groups benefiting from the Health Sciences Building completed in December 2019. In an ongoing cross-college collaboration, USask College of Law students have been able to utilize the space and technology in the Clinical Learning Resource Centre (CLRC) to simulate medico-legal disputes.

As part of the negotiation and dispute resolution course, Professor Michaela Keet from the College of Law worked with Dr. Susan Hayton (MD) from the College of Medicine to co-ordinate an assignment involving students from both colleges. The assignment looked at a tort action currently in litigation where statements of claim and defence had been filed and the litigation was in the discovery stage. Each law student was assigned a medicine student as a 'client' and was tasked with interviewing and preparing with them. The second phase of the assignment was to negotiate on camera at the CLRC, followed by a review of the video, and a discussion and evaluation of the strategies taken.



Madeleine Chauvet, Dani Nichols and Benson Tam negotiate in a room at the CLRC.

Co-ordinating 33 groups to meet and be recorded is no small task, but it was all made possible thanks to the CLRC's 24 clinic exam rooms equipped with web conference and recording software.

Malcolm Whyte, a simulation technology specialist at USask Health Sciences, oversees the technical aspects relating to health-care simulation on campus and said the rooms are set up to simulate a primary care clinic such as a family doctor's office or a walk-in clinic space.

"It was excellent to see the Colleges of Law and Medicine collaborate for this course in our space designed for interprofessional learning,"

he said, adding that he anticipates these types of collaborative assignments will only increase in number.

For law students, the chance to participate in a simulated negotiation scenario was found to be deeply beneficial.

"Representing actual medicine students made the experience seem more real," said second-year law student Madeleine Chauvet. "I felt an added layer of responsibility and didn't want to let him down."

And while very few people enjoy watching themselves on video, it proved to be a valuable tool for improvement.

"I had the opportunity to watch my negotiation video and it was extremely helpful to identify areas of improvement and also to analyze my body language and tone of voice,"

said law student Dani Nichols.

Medicine student Benson Tam said the experience helped him gain a better understanding of the integration of law and medicine.

"As medical students, we really focus on learning the heart of medicine, but we forget about

how many different systems work together to ensure the safe practices for us and our patients," he explained.

According to Dr. Sheryl Mills (PhD), associate director of academic programs and interprofessional education at USask Health Sciences, providing opportunities in university-professional settings for students to practice skills, receive feedback and make changes in their practices is critical to the development of collective competence.

"Any time our learners have an opportunity to connect with colleagues from other programs, it is beneficial," she said. "Professors Michaela Keet and Dr. Susan Hayton have created a great opportunity. It's an initiative I can imagine expanding moving forward."

INSPIRATION IN THE ARCTIC: NEWS FROM THE NUNAVUT LAW PROGRAM



l to r: Stephen Mansell, Martin Phillipson, Jessica Shabtai, Nuka Olsen-Hakongak, Aaju Peter and Lorraine Thomas (nominator).

Degree program adds to record of success with Arctic Inspiration Prize

A \$140,000 prize will allow students in the College of Law's Nunavut Law Program (NLP) to participate in an array of professional learning opportunities, including a circumpolar exchange program.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) program was one of five finalists in the AIP category of the 2020 Arctic Inspiration Prize. Winners were announced at a ceremony held as part of the Northern Lights Business and Cultural Showcase in Ottawa on Feb. 5.

Martin Phillipson, dean of law, was on hand to accept the award along with Stephen Mansell, director of the Nunavut Law Program, and two current law students, Jessica Shabtai and Nuka Olsen-Hakongak.

"We are enormously privileged to be named a recipient. This award will significantly enrich our students' educational experience and we are grateful to the organizers and funders of the Arctic Inspiration Prize," said Phillipson.

"Our success in receiving this award is a testament to the students' hard work and dedication to their communities and their studies," he added.

The college plans to use the prize to provide the Nunavut Law Program students based in Iqaluit with experiential learning opportunities, academic support, cultural activities and financial assistance. A proposed exchange program with the University of Lapland in Finland will help students learn about other Indigenous legal traditions and to share knowledge and legal insight with other Arctic law students.

"These opportunities will help to further the College of Law's goal of graduating highly knowledgeable and engaged legal professionals who will serve their communities, incorporate Inuit Traditional Knowledge into their practice, and be strong advocates for access to justice in Nunavut and across the Arctic," said Phillipson.

Connecting employers and students in the north

On Feb. 4, one day prior to winning the Arctic Inspiration Prize, the College of Law hosted a student-employer reception in the Department of Justice's boardroom in Iqaluit. The event provided an avenue for students and employers to become acquainted with one another, for employers to present on the hiring potential within each of their



Stephen Mansell (director) and students at the Nunavut Court of Justice during first-year moot court event.

organizations, and for students to ask questions about those opportunities.

Phillipson, Mansell and the college's Student Professional Development Strategist, Shari Thompson, were also in attendance at the event. While in Iqaluit, Thompson had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with students to review their career development plans. Over the next year, NLP students will continue to have access to Thompson and career development resources to assist them in securing articles. The resources include access to the college's online Student Career Portal, individualized support via phone or Skype with Thompson in the Career Development Office, as well as cover letter, resume and interview preparation resources.

Staying close to home

For students, the ability to study close to home throughout the program has been instrumental in their success. In an interview



Members of the Nunavut Law Program in March 2020.

with the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* earlier this year, NLP student David Lawson said being able to stay in the north means that his young children will continue to be surrounded by their culture and language.

"It would have been nearly impossible to have them speak Inuktitut if we had to go south for law school," he explained.

Another student, Tagalik Eccles, told the *StarPhoenix* that it is the friendships formed with her classmates that helped her the most when she dealt with a family illness last year.

"Coming back and having the support I needed to continue—to finish and keep getting good grades—just showed me how supportive the program is and how lucky we are to have it here, to be close to family when we need it," she said.

"Being from the same territory where they intend to practice also means that these future lawyers will better understand the culture and unique challenges faced by Nunavut's majority Inuit population," said Mansell. "Which is so critical if we want to close the cultural and access to justice gap when it comes to the bar in Nunavut."

Looking forward

With a little over a year before Nunavut Law Program students graduate with their Juris Doctor degrees, there is plenty of legal material to cover. Thanks to the financial boost from the Arctic Inspiration Prize and funds from the Government of Canada, students can also look forward to exchange opportunities, participation in national and international moot competitions, and other experiential learning opportunities which aim to cultivate cultural and legal competencies.

Plans are already underway for a special convocation ceremony to celebrate the Iqaluit cohort. At the event, planned for June 2021 in Iqaluit, graduating students will be presented with Juris Doctor parchments and be welcomed into the University of Saskatchewan's family of more than 159,000 alumni living in 120 countries around the globe.



Nunavut Law Program: Laureate of the 2019 Arctic Inspiration Prize



Artwork by Timothee Haggstrom, Ervin Ariaee, Abby Holtslander, Jacques Toupin-McGillis and Jaxon Flaman as part of a Kwayeskastasowin course assignment.

Indigenous Law Centre update

The Native Law Centre is going through some changes. We are in a dreaming process to discover the best way to transform justice by growing Indigenous Knowledge. Our very strong, almost half-century, history, of ensuring access to legal education for Indigenous students and our contribution to Aboriginal law via our publications is going through a growth spurt. We see the writing on the wall for the recognition and practice of Indigenous Law in a much larger space and we will be redesigning our programming and our publications to continue to lead and engage in the transformation of laws and the education of legal participants.

Our revisioning will include a new name—the Indigenous Law Centre—and we are in the process of finalizing this name officially with the University of Saskatchewan. It will include growth of the internationally

known Summer Program with an expanded role in courses on Indigenous and Aboriginal law. The revisioning will also include a new and exciting journal, new virtual legal education, and an increased information footprint.

We have begun to diversify our work on and off campus and we are reaching out to our sister colleges across the country to build a national network of knowledge sharing and legal supports. We encourage university partners and community members working on Indigenous legal issues to access our Centre as we create an Indigenous legal design lab to innovate and co-create laws and legal processes with community. Please do not hesitate to stop by the Centre while we are in the midst of these changes and help us think out loud, visit and engage.

- **Marilyn Poitras**, Associate Director, Indigenous Law Centre

College of Law and CLASSIC honoured with international award

In August 2019, the College of Law and CLASSIC (Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc) were named co-recipients of the 2019 Sir David Watson Award for Community University Partnerships.

CLASSIC was founded in 2007 by three law students at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and is the only community legal clinic in the province. The clinic serves more than 1,100 individuals per year—with a commitment to Indigenous people—through three key programs: a walk-in advocacy clinic, legal advice clinic and special projects that address systemic issues.

The Sir David Watson Award, created in memory of the former University of Brighton vice-chancellor, recognizes the combined efforts of community and university partners

towards making a difference to the shared lives of people in their shared community.

The award was presented to representatives from USask at the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) annual conference in December in Bristol, United Kingdom.

“CLASSIC has been an integral part of the student experience, and our community, for more than a decade,” said Martin Phillipson, dean of law. “We are extremely proud of our partnership and the work that has been done, and are thrilled to be recognized with this prestigious award.”

Law students from the College of Law assist low-income clients with legal matters under the direct supervision of lawyers staffed at

CLASSIC. Students represent clients in a wide range of legal matters including criminal law, housing law, prison law, immigration and refugee law, human rights law and more.

As part of CLASSIC's special projects, law students undertake research—often in partnership with other community organizations—on topics aimed at addressing systemic barriers to justice.

“Our international advisory board was delighted to give this award to the CLASSIC project at the University of Saskatchewan,” said David Wolff, director of the University of Brighton's Community University Partnership Programme and convenor of the award.

“CLASSIC is very well established and has provided substantial benefits to disadvantaged communities whilst enriching the academic life of the university. This kind of mutual benefit was a key principle for David Watson in successful community university partnerships and the University of Saskatchewan is to be heartily congratulated for its work.”

In 2018, CLASSIC provided legal representation to more than 750 low-income clients and helped another 250 obtain government-issued identification.

 University of the West of England

**I to r: Martin Phillipson (Dean of USask Law),
Professor Tara Dean (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Brighton),
and Associate Professor Sarah Buhler (USask Law)**



RESEARCH-A-THON EXPLORES MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By Sarah Trefiak

Law students at USask joined their peers across Canada last fall to take part in a one-day research event to tackle climate change.

The national event, kickstarted by students at Osgoode Hall and the University of Windsor, took place on Nov. 18, 2019. Throughout the day, students focused on exploring legal solutions for municipalities to consider when dealing with climate change.

Representatives from the Saskatchewan Association for Environmental Law (SKAEL)

joined forces with Green Legal—an environmentally-focused student group—to organize the USask event, which included open discussions, reading through academic papers and online research on municipal processes and bylaws.

Taylor-Anne Yee, USask College of Law alumna and president of SKAEL, said it's important to give students the opportunity to showcase their passion and skills in environmental advocacy.

"I've always thought the students at the College of Law have a lot to offer the environmental law field," said Yee. "The energy from Green Legal and the 2019 environmental moot championship are clear indications of that."

USask participants in the research-a-thon were tasked with researching what empowered cities to act on energy- or water-related issues. This involved questions of jurisdiction, legal sources of authority, causes of action, and opportunities for collaborating with other entities who may have other legal powers of use. Research and results from the national research-a-thon will be posted to the websites of Windsor Law Cities and Climate Action Forum and Osgoode Hall's Environmental Law and Sustainability Clinic.

Despite having only a few days to organize the event, Yee was happy with the results.

"One might ask, 'What can you accomplish in five hours?' But a lot of great ideas and work can come from simply filling a room with a bunch of like-minded people and giving them a single goal to work towards," she said.

She was also impressed with the dedication and energy of the students.

"It's unfortunate that the next generation has to solve problems they did not create, but that level of humility and dedication makes me hopeful that the future will be brighter," she said.

Following the event, Jason MacLean assistant professor at USask Law and one of the supervising faculty at the event, indicated that there was strong interest among participants and other students to host another research-a-thon in the near future.

"I think that along with showcasing the college in an innovative and progressive light, future events like this could provide an opportunity for our students to work alongside municipalities to break down the barriers to climate action," he said.



Law students conducted online research and held open discussions on the municipality-based solutions to climate change.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Sarah Buhler received an internationalization travel grant from the USask International Research and Partnership Office Internationalization Fund in 2019 for her project "Justice, Housing Law, and Clinical Legal Education - Liverpool John Moores University."

Sarah Buhler was the recipient of a Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies Faculty research development grant for her project, "Locked Out: Exploring 'Illegal Act' Evictions in Saskatchewan."



News-in-brief

In September 2019, the Government of Canada announced funding in the amount of \$1.6 million to address sexual harassment in Saskatchewan workplaces. A coalition of local stakeholders, including the College of Law and CREATE Justice are responsible for the allocation of those funds in Saskatchewan.



Heather Heavin will collaborate with Alan Rankine, a lawyer with the City of Saskatoon Solicitor's Office, to examine three high-volume, city-appointed tribunals (Board of Revision, Development Appeals Board, and License Appeal Board). The goal is to promote efficient and reliable city-appointed tribunals.

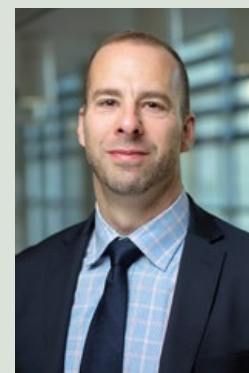
This is one of five USask projects that has been awarded a total of \$100,000 through the Research Junction Development Grant program.

Michaela Keet, Heather Heavin and **John Lande** (University of Missouri) released "Litigation Interest and Risk Assessment: Help Your Clients Make Good Litigation Decisions" in January 2020.



FACULTY NEWS

Jason MacLean was named to the President's Advisory Circle on a USask Sustainability Strategy. The Circle is a body comprised of sustainability leaders and champions with the primary purpose to advise and counsel the President on the creation of a strategic and integrated sustainability plan for the University of Saskatchewan.



Barbara von Tigerstrom is a co-applicant on a research grant project led by Dr. Kumanan Wilson of the Bruyère Research Institute titled *Canada's response to Covid-19 in the context of the IHR(2005) and its opportunity to lead in global health security: a policy analysis*. The

Government of Canada is providing the funding for this research through a number of research centres and organizations.

USASK LAW PROFESSOR AND FORMER DEAN, BRENT COTTER, QC, APPOINTED TO SENATE OF CANADA



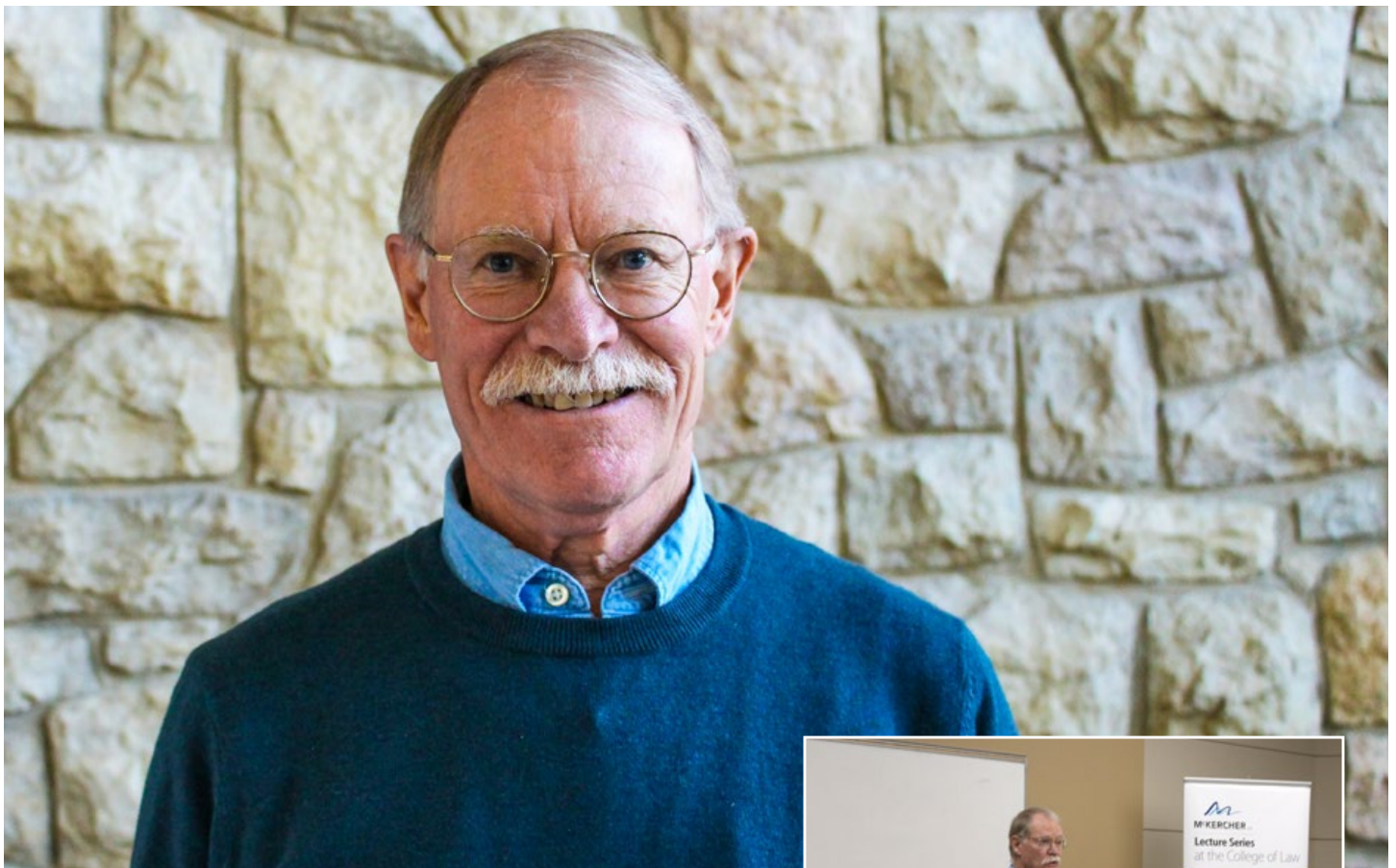
Cotter graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from USask in 1971 and served as dean of the College of Law from 2004 to 2010.

W. Brent Cotter, QC, a distinguished University of Saskatchewan (USask) graduate and College of Law professor, was appointed a member of the Senate of Canada on Jan. 31, 2020.

Cotter has a long history of service to the province of Saskatchewan and the university. From 1992 to 1997 Cotter 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. In 2004, Cotter was appointed dean of USask's College of Law, a role he held until 2010.

"It is a challenging time for the Parliament of Canada, but as a member of Senate I hope to do good work that helps to build and strengthen Saskatchewan and Canada, for all of its people." Cotter said in an interview with USask News.

Cotter was sworn in to the Senate on Feb. 4, 2020.



Professor McNeil delivers the 2019 Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Lecture on Oct. 28, 2019.

KENT MCNEIL RETURNS TO USASK AS LAW FOUNDATION CHAIR

Dr. Kent McNeil (DPhil), a College of Law alumnus and 1979 gold medallist, recently returned to the University of Saskatchewan after nearly 40 years to take on the role of Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair from July to December, 2019.

Filling the chair was a homecoming of sorts for McNeil, who grew up in Regina and began his legal career in Saskatchewan, articling in the Attorney General's department. From 1980 to 1982 he worked at the Native Law Centre, first as a research associate and then as research director.

"This was like coming home," said McNeil. "I have retained strong connections with Saskatchewan and the College of Law and Indigenous Law Centre. I have many friends here, with whom I have been able to

reconnect, as well as making new friends. Everyone has been so helpful and welcoming."

While at the college, McNeil taught a course on Indigenous Rights in Four Settler States and conducted research on Indigenous rights in Canada and Australia. He also organized and hosted a workshop on Indigenous Voice, Cultural Appropriation, and the Place of Non-Indigenous Academics in October 2019. Attendees included academics at various stages of their professional careers from Ontario to British Columbia.

"We discussed opinions on the meaning of Indigenous voice and cultural appropriation, personal experiences with these issues, and thoughts about inclusive ways in which these matters could be approached with sensitivity and respect," explained McNeil.

McNeil, together with Dr. John Borrows (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria, will edit a collection of papers on participants' thoughts on the theme of the workshop.

McNeil has served as a faculty member at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto since 1987.

The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair was established in 1989 under an agreement between the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan. The chair was renamed the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair in 2014 in honour of H. Robert (Bob) Arscott, F.C.A., who served as secretary of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan from 1973 until his retirement in 2013.

The Honourable Georgina Jackson and Gerald Tegart, QC

2019 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Honourable Madam Justice Georgina Jackson and Gerald Tegart, QC, are two of five USask alumni who were named 2019 Alumni Achievement Award winners. Selected by their peers of more than 158,000 USask graduates scattered around the globe, they were recognized for contributions that go above and beyond.

Born in Yorkton, Sask., Jackson has been a trailblazer for women in the legal community since graduating from the College of Law in 1976. After serving as a partner at the law firm MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman, she

was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan in 1991, one of the youngest people ever to be named to that court. She also served as Saskatchewan's Master of Titles, overseeing the provincial land registration system.

Born in Wadena and raised in rural Saskatchewan, Tegart graduated from the College of Law in 1976 and spent 37 years as a provincial Crown prosecutor and as an adviser to multiple government agencies, and also served as a legal manager, including four years as the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy

Attorney General. He is a lifelong volunteer in Regina, serving as a board member with multiple community services agencies.

Both have never forgotten the USask College of Law, a place where they have shared their legal experiences and provided philanthropic support.

The pair were honoured at the 41st annual Alumni Achievement Awards on Nov. 8, 2019 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Bessborough in Saskatoon.




L to r: Kelly Strueby (Chair, Alumni Advisory Board), Madam Justice Georgina Jackson, Gerald Tegart, QC, and Peter Stoicheff (USask President).

Elsie Hall:

100 YEARS SINCE FIRST FEMALE LAW GRADUATE AT USASK



 Photo: University Archives

Elsie Hall may be a well-known name to those who have walked the halls of USask Law, yet surprisingly, it is difficult to find an abundance of information on the first female to enrol and graduate from the college.

On the 100th anniversary of her graduation, we wanted to recognize her accomplishment as a pioneer in Saskatchewan law and thanks to the assistance of University Archives, part of her story can now be pieced together.

According to records, Hall was born in Gloucester, England on February 14, 1897 and landed in Canada—more specifically, in Swift Current, Sask.—in 1914.

A profile on Hall was featured in a 1920 yearbook. It read:

“Due, perhaps, to a sense of the fitness of things, Elsie chose the new world—and particularly our progressive province—in which to prepare for her life-work. Not content to follow the usual professions open to women, she determined to walk in paths yet untrodden by her sisters. Hence, to her belongs the distinction of being the first lady law-student to enrol in Saskatchewan University.”

The article goes on to mention that she played on the university basketball team and

was an excellent swimmer and tennis player.

“We regard Elsie’s future as a bright one with hope. Especially do we think that she may be able to render unique service to her sisters who are called to tread the humbler paths, for we know she has our cause at heart.”

Little is known about Elsie’s career after she left USask, but a letter from one of Elsie’s former friends, Eileen Holden, states that Elsie lived in Hampstead, London, during the 1930s, and during the war worked for the Ministry of Pensions in St. Anne’s-on-the-Sea in Lancashire.

Miss Hall died on May 31, 1975 in Victoria, B.C.

NICKNAME:

JUDGE

FAVOURITE HAUNT:

THE LAW LIBRARY

FAVOURITE SAYING:

LET’S DO IT, GIRLS.

Upcoming Alumni Events

The events listed here have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch for future news of rescheduled events.

TORONTO ALUMNI RECEPTION POSTPONED

VANCOUVER ALUMNI RECEPTION POSTPONED

CLASS OF 1985 35TH REUNION POSTPONED Kelowna, BC

CLASS OF 1970 50TH REUNION CANCELED Saskatoon, SK

CLASS OF 1980 40TH REUNION POSTPONED Vancouver, BC

CLASS OF 1960 60TH REUNION POSTPONED Vancouver, BC

CLASS OF 2010 10TH REUNION CANCELED Saskatoon, SK

For more information, call us at 306-966-5658.

ALUMNI NOTES

Edward Ratushny, QC (BA'64, LLB'65) received the 2019 Nation Builders Award from The Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Saskatchewan.

Gary Drummond (BA'72, LLB'73) was the recipient of the University of Regina's 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards ceremony in October 2019.

Betty Pottruff (JD'77) was awarded the 2019 Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal for Excellence in Public Administration.

Derek (Roger) Arnold (BComm'82, LLB'85) received the Association of Fundraising Professionals Saskatoon Chapter Honoured Supporter Award on Nov. 15, 2019.

Karen Janke-Curliss (BComm'84, JD'85) of Saskatoon, SK was appointed a Senior Justice of the Peace for the province of Saskatchewan in June of 2019, having retired as a Senior Counsel with the Department of Justice (Canada) in January 2017.

David Weyant, QC (JD'89) was appointed Chair of Alberta Health Services on August 16, 2019.

Mark Rudoff (JD'90) was awarded the Ronald and Susan Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award by the Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences. He was recognized for work on musical interpretation that integrates interpretive practices from law and the humanities. Mark has been professor of cello and chamber music at Ohio State since 2008.

Dennis (Scott) Banda (BA'86, LLB'90) was appointed to the Huskie Athletics Board of Trustees on Dec. 12, 2019.

Cynthia (Cindy) Yelland (LLB'92) was named City Solicitor for the City of Saskatoon in August 2019.

Erin Peters (Slobodzian) (LLB'93) recently completed an MSc in Psychotherapy and is now living in Vancouver, working with mental health and the legal profession. Read more about Erin at <https://erinpeterscounselling.com>.

Rick McHardy (BComm'90, LLB'93) was appointed Executive Chairman of Spartan Delta Corp. on Nov. 21, 2019.

Bryce Pashovitz (LLB'95) recently edited the 4th edition of a book originally authored by **Greg Koturbash (JD'92)** entitled *Law Professional's Guide To: Investigating Impaired Drivers*.

Owen Falquero (JD'00) was appointed as Director, Town Registry and Legal Affairs, for the Town of Brome Lake, Québec.

Randall Chatwin (LLB'04) was appointed to the board of Calibre Mining Corp in January 2020.

Ashley Smith (LLB'07) was named the recipient of the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Award and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Recognition Award for her work on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in August 2019.

Alexandra Fox (JD'13) received her Master of Laws degree from York University, Osgoode Hall Law School. Since 2017, she has been working for BeesMont Law Limited as a Corporate Attorney in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Breanna Needham (JD'15) was a recipient of one of the inaugural Precedent Innovation Awards for her robing room campaign.

Karissa Kelln (BComm'11, JD'16) was named an Associate with Harper Grey LLP in Vancouver, BC on Aug. 28, 2019.

Judicial Appointments

Thomas Healey (LLB'94) was appointed a judge to the Saskatchewan Provincial Court in Prince Albert on Aug. 2, 2019.

Michael Segu (BA'96, LLB'97) was appointed judge to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in Meadow Lake on Nov. 29, 2019.

Lua Gibb (LLB'05) was appointed a judge to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon on Jan. 31, 2020.

Kevin Dale Hill (LLB'98) was appointed a judge to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in North Battleford on Jan. 31, 2020.

2019 Queen's Counsel Appointments (SK)

Frances Alice Atkinson (LLB'79)
Merlis Milton Richard Belsher (BComm'57, LLB'63, LLD'18)
Peter Timothy Bergbusch (LLB'95)
Amber Adelene Biemans (BA'00, LLB'05)
Sheila Elizabeth Caston (LLB'96)
Cory John Furman (BA'91, LLB'94)
Amanda Marie Quayle (BA'93, LLB'97)
Susan Elizabeth Ross (BA'86, LLB'86, LLM'00)
William Alfred Selnes (BA'74, LLB'75)
Sheldon Melvin Stener (BA'87, LLB'90)
Scott David Waters (BA'97, JD'00)
Janet Lee Whitridge (BA'88, LLB'92)

In memoriam

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

Terrance W. Ocrane (BA'67, LLB'72)
 d. February 2018

The Hon. Ken Binks (LLB'52)
 d. Sept. 14, 2018

Joanne Klauer (BADMIN'69, LLB'93)
 d. Feb. 8, 2019

Keith O. Saddlemeyer (LLB'56)
 d. May 6, 2019

Jack F. Pecover (LLB'63)
 d. May 18, 2019

Gregory S. (Greg) Noval (LLB'81)
 d. May 25, 2019

Catherine A. Milligan (LLB'80)
 d. June 2, 2019

William F. Ready (BA'48, JD'50)
 d. July 8, 2019

Marcel A. Simonot (JD'59)
 d. Sept. 26, 2019

Donald G. Campbell (BA'79, LLB'86)
 d. Sept. 28, 2019

William (Bill) J. Klebeck (BA'78, LLB'81) d.
 Nov. 29, 2019

Gerald McGeough (BA'57, LLB'57)
 d. Dec. 29, 2019

Edward (Ted) N. Hughes (BA'48, LLB'50) d.
 Jan. 17, 2020

Kenneth Jerrett (LLB'96)
 d. Jan. 20, 2020

Peter Dielschneider (LLB'53, BA'54)
 d. Feb. 21, 2020



Benjamin Ralston began his PhD studies at the College of Law in September 2018.

USASK LAW PHD STUDENT AWARDED \$105,000 BY SSHRC TO RESEARCH SPATIAL DIMENSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Lawyers and judges in Canada regularly grapple with the legal consequences of large resource development projects and their impacts on constitutional rights—particularly Indigenous rights.

What lies beneath these difficult legal analyses are often even more complex spatial conflicts over specific territories, resources, impacts, and rights.

In July 2019, Benjamin Ralston, a PhD student at USask College of Law, was awarded a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for his thesis work surrounding that very topic.

Ralston is examining how Canadian law has recognized a central role for environmental impact assessment processes in the overall legal framework for the protection of Aboriginal and treaty rights. Aboriginal and treaty rights are relatively unique among the constitutional rights recognized in Canadian law, in terms of their complex material and spatial dimensions.

“For example, the content and scope of Aboriginal and treaty rights tend to be unique to each Indigenous nation and they tend to be constrained by the geographic boundaries of each nation’s traditional

territories,” said Ralston. “Likewise, the constitutional protection of these rights has obvious material implications for how the environment and natural resources are protected and allocated.”

Ralston is also exploring how geographically explicit tools have been devised for the assessment of impacts to these constitutional rights within environmental assessment processes, as a response to their spatial and material complexity, such as traditional land use studies.

“I am tremendously grateful and humbled to receive this generous funding award for my doctoral studies through SSHRC,” said Ralston.

The Bombardier scholarship is worth \$105,000 and was awarded to Ralston by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

“I am tremendously grateful and humbled to receive this generous funding award for my doctoral studies through SSHRC,” said Ralston. “I am particularly thankful for the Saskatchewan advantage that I have through the steady support of the College of Law and the brilliant scholars on my supervisory committee: Dwight Newman, Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu, Bram Noble, and Felix Hoehn.”

Ralston began his PhD studies at the College of Law in September 2018. Prior to that he was an assistant professor for the college’s Nunavut Law Program where he further developed an interest in the links between geography and law while teaching courses on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

“Continuing to develop these research and teaching interests through this doctoral program is a natural next step for my academic career and this award will go a long way in supporting my studies,” he said.

LAW STUDENT HEARS FROM SURVIVORS OF RWANDAN GENOCIDE ON TRIP TO AFRICA

By Sarah Trefiak

Joelle French has never been afraid to mix learning with travel. Growing up in Edmonton and then Calgary, she decided to move to Nova Scotia for an undergrad degree and is now in Saskatoon pursuing her law degree at USask.

"My grandma told me when I was five that I should be a lawyer because I had a lot to say," said French. "I would have never come to Saskatoon without being accepted to USask, but so far I've really enjoyed it."

In 2019, French travelled to Africa to learn about the Rwandan Genocide after seeing the opportunity advertised on a poster in the law building. While she raised most of the funds for the trip herself, she also received a \$200 travel award through the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC).

While speaking with French, it was apparent that she had learned a great deal, not only about the Rwandan Genocide, but about the culture and history of the country. Her 16-day trip included listening to first-hand testimony from genocide survivors and rescuers as well as visitations to memorials.

French remembers the visit to the Murambi Genocide Memorial Centre as the most impactful part of the trip.

"The history behind the memorial was that it was going to be a technical school," she said.

"They built it with dorms and classrooms and it was beautiful—situated on top of a hill surrounded by more hills."

In 1994, the would-be technical school turned into a mass grave for more than 40,000 Tutsi people.



Joelle during a visit to UN Women Rwanda

"The second thing is, hate is learned. No one is born hating another person. It's learned. It's taught."

Seeing skeletons and mummified bodies during a tour of the memorial was an eye-opening experience for French.

"You could still see pieces of their clothing, their facial expressions," she recalled. "These

were human beings who were killed for nothing, only because of who they were."

During a visit to the University of Kibungo, French's tour group had the chance to speak with student survivors.

"Their one request was to go back to Canada and just talk about it. Just tell people 'this is what happened,'" said French. "So, I guess if I get through to one person, I can achieve that."

When asked what she would want of *NOTE* readers to know about the Rwandan Genocide, she emphasized two things.

"First, it is important not to just take things at face value," she said. "There's a deep-rooted history behind the genocide. The way it's sometimes portrayed is that people all of a sudden went crazy and started killing their neighbours. There's so much more history and influences of colonialism behind it."

"The second thing is, hate is learned. No one is born hating another person. It's learned. It's taught."

French recalled how the reaction she received when talking about her trip upon returning to Canada was not always positive.

"I was once told I sounded like a rich little white girl who was trying to solve the world's problems," she said. "But, I didn't go to try to find a solution, or give a solution, I went there to listen. I just want to try to attempt to understand a lived experience and bring attention to it."

The trip has also caused French to approach her education differently. She now better understands how each situation has many perspectives. Something she now considers when looking at the Genocide Convention, for example, is who was sitting at the table when that convention was written.

"It's not about thinking there's a right and a wrong," she said. "It is living more in a gray space and considering different influencing factors."

Following graduation from the College of Law, French hopes to article internationally and eventually land her dream job as counsel for the United Nations. But first, she has two more trips planned this summer. The first is an immersion learning course on the Holocaust that will take her to Berlin and Prague, as well as Krakow and Lodz in Poland. The second, will be a return trip to Rwanda. This time, she will act as a facilitator for a new group of students wanting to learn about the genocide.

"Some people asked 'why would you go to Rwanda?'" she said.

Her answer is simple: "I really just want to learn as much as I can. It's one thing to learn about it in books and movies, but to actually go and see it with your own eyes, hear the stories, and listen to people's experiences, it gives another layer of learning that I don't think is otherwise possible."

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TAKES LAW STUDENTS TO HELSINKI LEGAL TECH LAB



Melissa Craig (left) and Allyse Cruise (right) in Helsinki.

In the fall of 2019, USask's Melissa Craig and Allyse Cruise travelled to Finland to complete a semester of their legal studies at the University of Helsinki Faculty of Law. While there, they completed research at the Helsinki Legal Tech Lab, an interdisciplinary hub that examines and experiments on legal technology and digitization of legal practices.

"As the leading Finnish institute of legal research and education, it was an outstanding place to study," said Cruise. "Finland itself is such a beautiful country with much to offer its visitors."

Cruise and Craig's interest in legal tech stems from their involvement with the Dean's Forum for Access to Justice at the College of Law. As part of a Dean's Forum and through a CREATE Justice project, the pair worked with a team of students and justice stakeholders on increasing access to justice in Saskatchewan through technology.

"We both worked in science and technology prior to entering law school, so we were excited to utilize our past experiences," said Craig.

While in Finland, the pair also had the opportunity to connect via FaceTime with

Andrew Arruda, USask Law alumni and founder of ROSS Intelligence (an artificial intelligence-based legal research service).

"We were inspired by Andrew's unique focus on improving legal technology and access to justice," said Craig. "After the Dean's Forum, we were really inspired to consider how legal tech can improve access to justice, and so we reached out to Andrew to see if he was willing to provide some mentorship and he kindly agreed."

Cruise said she would recommend an exchange to any student interested in travelling abroad.

"Without a doubt, go. While you may not practice the law that you learn on exchange, your time at a different institution will provide you with unique perspectives and an adjusted lens through which you can view your future work," she explained.

"You might just sponsor a student who brings back concepts that transform our legal system for the better."

Both students were recipients of a \$1,000 Global Engagement Scholarship from the International Student and Study Abroad Centre at USask. Funding for scholarships like this and exchange bursaries provided by the College of Law depend heavily on the support of donors. Cruise and Craig are very aware of that and are quick to express gratitude.

"The scholarships were incredibly helpful in covering costs," said Craig. "A donation to scholarship funds that cover the cost of exchanges can help ensure that the best ideas from around the world have the opportunity to be learned by USask students."

Added Cruise, "You might just sponsor a student who brings back concepts that transform our legal system for the better."

LAW STUDENT WINS MOOT WHILE ON EXCHANGE AT UNIVERSITY OF OSLO



Justin Okerman (centre) with teammates Vera Mohr (left) and Terval Boben (right).

Justin Okerman, a second-year USask law student, was a member of the championship team at the 2020 Helsinki Information Law Moot Court Competition.

Okerman, who completed an exchange at the University of Oslo in Norway, worked with teammates Vera Mohr and Terval Boben to submit written statements in November to qualify for the moot finals. On Jan. 27, they competed at the offices of Bird and Bird in Helsinki, Finland and came away with the Ada Lovelace Award for Best Team.

"The opportunities I have been given are invaluable, and I know that the skills and

experiences I have gained will influence my future career to a significant extent," said Okerman, adding that he is grateful for the work of the College of Law and the International Student and Study Abroad Centre in making his exchange possible.

PAM WATSON PRESENTED WITH INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Pam Watson receives the Award For Community from Associate Dean Doug Surtees.

Pam Watson, a second-year student at USask Law was presented with a Community Award during the University of Saskatchewan's Indigenous Achievement Awards held at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre on Feb. 6.

Watson is a part of the Chacachas Band and raised on the Ochapowace First Nation. She obtained a Bachelor of

Indian Social Work in 2006 and a Master's Certificate in Public Management in 2012. Before attending law school, Watson spent many years working for Indigenous peoples across Canada. Along with attending USask's College of Law, she is a crisis response worker and student representative on the Indigenous Bar Association's Board of Directors.



University of Saskatchewan College of Law Alumni



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