ART HOUSE

YVETTE MOORE: PASSION FOR PRAIRIE LIFE FUELS ARTISTRY AND COMMUNITY WORK

INSIDE

THE DNA OF BEER
Preserving yeast strains ensures future flavours

GIVING BACK
Community work touches the hearts of staffers

WORLDSKILLS-READY
Alumni are gearing up for global competition

LOVING LEGACY
Bursary helps continue a carpenter’s life work
Spring and fall are my favourite seasons in post-secondary: spring, because that’s when many of our students complete their programs and move closer to realizing their career aspirations, and fall, because we have a fresh intake of students eager to learn new skills and acquire new knowledge.

This spring, graduates crossing the stage in our convocation ceremonies are receiving the first-ever Saskatchewan Polytechnic parchments. They are following in the footsteps of the many well-respected graduates of SIAST — the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is building on the very solid foundation established by SIAST as we continue our transformation into a new kind of post-secondary enterprise, one that specializes in student-focused and employer-driven applied learning.

As a polytechnic, we are expanding our scope of programming to include degrees of an applied nature where demand for such programming exists and in fields where we have expertise. We will also continue to meet growing demand for certificate and diploma programs, and for apprenticeship training.

Through our ongoing evolution, we will develop new types of partnerships in support of economic and social growth. This year, for instance, we launched two centres of excellence — the Manufacturing Centre of Excellence and the Centre for Minerals Innovation. Stories about these new initiatives appear on pages 9 and 12 respectively.

We will also continue to expand our applied research activities (see page 28) to help partners find innovative solutions for real-world problems.

Student-focused and employer-driven applied learning and applied research are key elements of what it means to be a polytechnic.

And why do we need a polytechnic in Saskatchewan? Quite simply, because growth drives the economy, business drives growth and people with real-world skills drive business.
NEWS IN BRIEF

MINING SAFETY STUDY TO SAVE LIVES, LIMBS
Sask Polytech is partnering with the International Minerals Innovation Institute and the University of Saskatchewan on a two-year research project that’s examining how safety cultures and safety behaviours in the minerals industry can be improved. Six major mining companies are participating in the $786,000 project, which is expected to reduce workplace accidents and ultimately increase the global competitiveness of Saskatchewan’s minerals industry.

DISTANCE ED LETS STUDENTS JUMP-START POST-SECONDARY STUDIES
This winter, a number of Saskatchewan high-school students tested the post-secondary waters by taking dual-credit courses through Sask Polytech distance education at their high schools. The Sask Polytech courses included CAD Drafting Level I, Applied Trades Measurement, and two courses in Medical Terminology. The opportunity let students earn a high-school credit and a Sask Polytech credit simultaneously, and gave them a better understanding of higher education and how their studies could translate into careers.

HOSPITALITY PROGRAM IN INDIA SUPPORTS IMMIGRATION
Thanks to an agreement between Sask Polytech and the Continental Institute for International Studies (CIIS), students in India can enrol in Year 1 of Sask Polytech’s Hotel and Restaurant Management program in Chandigarh, Punjab State. CIIS will start delivering the program in September, while Sask Polytech will be responsible for the program’s quality assurance. After Year 1, students may be eligible to complete the diploma program at Sask Polytech’s Saskatoon Campus and potentially settle in the province.

CRITICAL CARE NURSING PROGRAM EXPANDS
Sask Polytech recently expanded its Critical Care Nursing program, giving more registered nurses access to specialized education that prepares them for employment in intensive care settings. This year 80 students from across the province are expected to graduate from the advanced certificate program, offered through distance education and including labs and clinical practicums.

GRADS TRAINED IN COMMUNITY SAFETY
In April, 13 students from across the province completed Sask Polytech’s First Community Safety Induction Training program, offered in partnership with Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Justice. The six-week program provides peace officer-level training and includes on-site and online courses on defensive tactics, tactical communication, law, the Criminal Code, traffic, mental health, crisis intervention, investigations and other key subjects.

A STREAMLINED STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Starting this spring, students in Sask Polytech’s S77 online credit courses have the opportunity to connect and communicate through Brightspace, a powerful online learning platform. Students can participate in online discussions and access a huge range of resources. Sask Polytech has offered online learning for 14 years.

BIOSCIENCE, VET TECH STUDENTS FAST-TRACK TO U OF S DEGREE
Saskatchewan Polytech is partnering with the University of Saskatchewan’s Animal Science program and earn a degree after six years of study. Undergraduate students who have completed two agreements allowing Sask Polytech’s two-year BioScience Technology and faculty support during evenings and weekends. A fit with Level 2 and Level 3 apprentices, the program will be extended to Level 4 apprentices later this year.

ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW
15% increase: Program enrolment (over five years)
7% Aboriginal enrolment up 18.5%
20.5% increase: Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT HITS 10-YEAR HIGH
94% new grad employment
90% Aboriginal grad employment
98% satisfied employers

ONLINE OPTION FOR CARPENTRY APPRENTICES
Sask Polytech is piloting a program that allows Carpentry apprentices to attend classes on-campus for three weeks a year instead of the typical seven weeks. The program, developed with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship, and Trade Certification Commission, includes 21 weeks of online training and faculty support during evenings and weekends. A fit with Level 2 and Level 3 apprentices, the program will be extended to Level 4 apprentices later this year.

SASK POLYTECH, U OF R CELEBRATE FIRST COLLABORATIVE NURSING GRADS
Fifty-four grads made history last fall, the first to graduate from the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Sask Polytech began delivering the program along with the University of Regina in 2011. The grads were part of an accelerated option that enabled them to finish about eight months sooner than students in the regular four-year stream.

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC NEWS

MELCHE MONNEX PROGRAM EXPANDS
In partnership with the Minerals Innovation Institute and the University of Saskatchewan, Sask Polytech will offer the new Critical Care Nursing program, which will prepare registered nurses for employment in intensive care settings. The program will be offered through distance education and include labs and clinical practicums.

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

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On average, alumni who have home and auto insurance with us save $725.

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1. Savings based on the home and auto premiums for active policies on July 31, 2014 of our clients belonging to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client’s profile.

2. If your home and auto insurance is with us and you are a student, use term or permanent life insurance to pay tuition costs relating to a postsecondary or alumnus group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client’s profile.

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A WOMAN OF VISION

YVETTE MOORE’S PASSION FOR CREATIVITY FUELS EVERYTHING SHE DOES

Sixteen years ago, Yvette Moore climbed a scaffold for the first time. Her mission was to restore the 1910 heritage building she’d just purchased in Moose Jaw and convert it into an art gallery — in less than three months.

It was a daunting undertaking. Moore’s project team consisted mostly of friends and family. The repairs included not only the removal of the suspended ceiling and original flooring in the former land titles building, but also called for more than a tonne of plaster and 140 litres of paint stripper, which would ultimately reveal solid copper doors and window frames.

The Yvette Moore Gallery of Fine Arts opened right on schedule March 27, 1999, with Saskatchewan’s then-lieutenant-governor, the Honourable Jack Wiebe, cutting a copper wire (in lieu of a ribbon). It was a pivotal moment for Moore.

Up to that point, painting had essentially defined her career. A painter of evocative prairie scenes, Moore painstakingly captures a high level of detail in her artwork.

FAMILY PRIORITIES

Moore started painting in acrylics when her son was a baby, grabbing precious minutes while he napped to work at her easel. Then her three daughters came along.

“The children grew up with me painting — it just became part of their life,” says Moore.

But when her marriage broke up in 1985, she had to take a hard look at her future. “I was living off my artwork, but I couldn’t quite see how I could do it,” she says.

Moore decided to return to school as a mature student and moved from Radville to Moose Jaw. She’d had an interest in building and design since hanging out in her father’s workshop on the farm as a girl, so she enrolled in a two-year architectural engineering technology program at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic).

But when the head of the program met her as she checked out the building where classes were going to be held, he noticed her three- and seven-year-old daughters in tow.

Moore says he shook his head. “It was one of the hardest courses they offered. He just could not see how I could do it,” she says.

She became even more committed to pursuing the diploma program — and her determination paid off. Moore graduated near the top of her class with a high grade-point average, and at convocation, a partner in a Regina architectural firm approached her to line up a job interview.

“I hadn’t even set out to find a job yet,” Moore says. But she earned the architectural technologist position, which came with the flexibility of working at home two days a week.

“It was an interesting turn of events,” she says. “My whole life has been like that. Everything sort of falls together.”

She made the hour-long commute to Regina for a year, but after a stretch of black ice landed her car in a ditch, Moore decided to try going it alone in Moose Jaw.

“It was an interesting turn of events. My whole life has been like that. Everything sort of falls together.”

“...”
Yvette’s work is how she records the books have sold almost half a province. Together with A Prairie Alphabet, and Heartland — A Prairie Sampler. Publishers Weekly hailed “Moore’s Alphabet, by writer Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet, it was ‘cute.’ It had to be realistic.” In less than a year, Moore had completed all 26 paintings. The children’s book went on to be a best-seller and garnered praise outside Canada. Tundra notes on its website that Publisher Moore’s son, Tyler, does custom framing on site. Those are just a few of the achievements of an entrepreneur who does her own bookkeeping, gardens ferociously and delights in receiving power tools as gifts. In March, at an International Women’s Day event, Moore told the women to learn as much as possible. “The more skills you have, the more independent you become.”

“Twenty years ago, Moose Jaw was pretty much in the doldrums,” says Deb Thorn, the city’s economic development officer. “Tourism helped put Moose Jaw on the map. It took the work of a lot of people, and Yvette was a key part of that process. She’s always been involved in the community.”

Because it was ‘cute.’ It had to be realistic. “We’ve already begun to see benefits from the centre in a number of areas, which we anticipate will continue,” says Tom Kishchuk, president and CEO of Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Canada Ltd. and chair of the Saskatchewan Manufacturing Council. “We’re developing current and future leaders, and creating awareness of the sector within broader academia and industry.”

“We’re developing current and future leaders, and creating awareness of the sector within broader academia and industry.”

“What’s really important about Yvette’s work is how she records our present. That’s why it resonates…”

It’s this kind of big-picture, forward-thinking attitude that characterizes Moore’s community work. She’s been a director of the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce for eight years, and has held director roles with Tourism Moose Jaw, South West Tourism, Moose Jaw’s Heritage Advisory Committee, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, Moose Jaw Arts in Motion and the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council.

In 2005, she was named Saskatchewan Woman of the Year and, from 2007 to 2012, was an honorary colonel with the Royal Canadian Air Force’s 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

In 2013, Moore received the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year award, and this April was among 10 recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province’s highest honour.

“Who would have ever thought,” says Jamie Hills, dean of Saskatchewan Polytech’s Architectural Technologies program. “It’s been pretty much a fast-growing industry sector which increased to $16.5 billion in 2014 and is expected to continue on its upward swing for years to come.”

As oil and gas remains a key industry and the mining sector evolves, we need to ensure we have the manufacturing capacity in the province to support them,” says Jamie Hills, dean of the School of Mining, Energy and Manufacturing at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

“Who would have ever thought,” says Jamie Hills, dean of Saskatchewan Polytech’s Architectural Technologies program.

Moores youngest daughter, Sarah, manages the cafe and handles communications, creative and events for the gallery, while Moores son, Tyler, does custom framing on site. The gallery has long been a family affair. Middle daughter Chantelle focused on sales and marketing there for 10 years, although she is now a business instructor at Sask Polytech. Eldest daughter Rynette is an operations director and a Sask Polytech alumna.

Moores son, Tyler, does custom framing on site. Those are just a few of the achievements of an entrepreneur who does her own bookkeeping, gardens ferociously and delights in receiving power tools as gifts.

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SKILLS ON A WORLD SCALE
SASK POLYTECH WAS A LAUNCH PAD FOR TWO MEMBERS OF TEAM CANADA

Carson Gustafson

Q | When you were in school trying to juggle responsibilities, what was your favourite thing to do to relax?
A | Take walks and explore Saskatoon. It’s a beautiful city, and I couldn’t get enough of it.
Q | What song transports you back to your days at Sask Polytech?
A | “Coming of Age” by Foster the People.
Q | If you could spend a weekend anywhere, where would you go?
A | I’d go back to Florence, Italy, and sightsee till my feet hurt.
Q | Who inspires you?
A | My parents.
Q | What book have you read more than once?
A | Ender’s Game (award-winning science fiction novel by Orson Scott Card).

In February, Gustafson and Kanak had to pass an additional nationwide WorldSkills selection trial to make it onto Team Canada. They are paired with trainers who work on their skills for five to 10 hours a week, organize extra classes for them to take and keep them focused and in the competitive spirit.

“Many people may not realize the thought process that goes on behind everything that gets printed — fonts, colour matching, typog- raphy, centre and alignment,” says Kanak, 20, who currently works for WOW Factor Media in Moose Jaw.

“COOL OPPORTUNITY”
Going into skills competitions, participants have no idea of what will be expected from them. On one occasion, Kanak had to create a magazine cover and three inside spreads for a global strike movement. On another, she had to create a logo, letterhead, business card, entry ticket and gift shop bag for a museum in Germany.

“Many people in my life have pushed me to excel in this competition,” says Kanak.

Q&A

ROSANNE KANAK

Q | When you were in school trying to juggle responsibilities, what was your favourite thing to do to relax?
A | Yoga.
Q | What song transports you back to your days at Sask Polytech?
A | Probably anything by Fitz & the Tantrums. I was ready into them while in school.
Q | If you could spend a weekend anywhere, where would you go?
A | Just a weekend? The mountains probably.
Q | Who inspires you?
A | My mom.
Q | What book have you read more than once?
A | A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket (aka Daniel Handler).

Q | If you could spend a weekend anywhere, where would you go?
A | Probably somewhere crazy like New York.
Q | What song transports you back to your days at Sask Polytech?
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A | A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket (aka Daniel Handler).

We’re one of the few post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan that offer the skills to excel in the competition in this category.”

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She is the first student from Sask Polytech’s Graphic Communications program to qualify for WorldSkills.

“IT’s such a cool opportunity, and Sask Polytech has been very supportive. I’m hoping to get recognized on a larger scale in a bigger job centre — maybe even somewhere crazy like New York.”
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CENTRE FOR INNOVATION

Rich in natural resources essential for powering and feeding the world, Saskatchewan is home to a booming mining industry that accounts for 30,000 jobs in the province. From potash and sodium sulphate to gold and diamonds, the earth offers a bounty. But as the mining economy grows, so does the demand for a skilled workforce. To facilitate these evolving needs, the brand-new Centre for Minerals Innovation was established through a partnership between Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII).

Launched in November 2014 and sponsored by a combination of Saskatchewan-based companies and government funds, the centre offers education, training and services specific to the mining and minerals industry.

“We’ll do that in a number of ways,” says centre director Cristal Glass-Painchaud.

A LEADERSHIP ROLE

“Within Sask Polytech, we have 50 existing programs that are putting out graduates qualified to work in the mining and minerals industry. The centre can find out what industry players need, and connect them to what we have available in the institution,” Glass-Painchaud says.

The school can also respond by creating new programming, she says: “We can provide a leadership role in bringing the training wherever and whenever it’s needed.”

The Centre for Minerals Innovation is not a physical building. It’s an operational unit within Sask Polytech — a brokering service driving connections and opportunities between industry and education, Glass-Painchaud says. The centre will provide leadership and management training within the context of continuing education.

Courses will be delivered on-site at Sask Polytech as well as online. “Our set-up allows us to extend our reach for delivery and allow for student access beyond a classroom — especially at the northern mine sites, which are remote,” she says. “I see the centre as a valued resource for industry and students, allowing us to target skills and education needs to foster a workforce that contributes to a strong economy for the province.”
While the sport of blind hockey has been around since the 1950s, the question of what to use as a puck has, until very recently, remained the unsolved Rubik’s Cube of the game. Played by athletes with 10 per cent vision or less, the game uses an adapted puck that is bigger and softer, and makes noise on the ice. Variations that have been tried include a nail-embedded plastic wheel from a toy wagon, a juice can filled with wheel from a toy wagon, an adapted puck that is bigger and softer, and the unsolved Rubik’s Cube of sound speed up. The final electronic prototype was used on the ice at the Courage Canada tournament in February. “The players told us the puck is so far advanced from anything they’ve used in the past. The executive director of Courage Canada told us they’re certainly in it for the long haul to make this puck as accessible as possible,” Voykin says. Simmonds, a comedian and writer who often works blind, is also pleased. “Everybody at the tournament was more than willing to support such a neat project that improves the quality of life of those with vision impairment,” Voykin says. He approached the poly-technic’s applied research office to secure more than $20,000 in funding.

There have been close to 70 puck attempts so far. This one looks like it’s on the right track for sure.

“So far advanced”! Simmonds is the only Saskatchewan player participating in an annual international tournament held by Courage Canada. Hockey for the Blind, a national charity that leads the development of the sport. “We were more than willing to support such a neat project that is interested in supporting Saskatchewan Polytechnic, please contact Alison Matheson at 306-775-7717 or email alison.matheson@saskpolytech.ca.

DONORS INVEST IN STUDENT SUCCESS Gifts from industry and individuals ensure that Saskatchewan Polytechnic students have the support they need to succeed. Seven donors have contributed major gifts of equipment and cash with a total value of almost $4.6 million. The gifts include print media equipment, cars and heavy equipment, along with funding for equipment replacement, facility upgrades, simulation lab enhancements and student awards. Our thanks to SaskPower, Husky Energy Inc., the Estate of John and Helen Lockwood, Crown Investments Corp., North East College and Yara Belle Plaine for their leadership and commitment to Sask Polytech. If you or your organization is interested in supporting Saskatchewan Polytechnic, please contact Alison Matheson at 306-775-7717 or email alison.matheson@saskpolytech.ca.

A LEGACY OF CARPENTRY

Couple donates an enduring gift with tax benefits

DURING the 64 years they were married, Ann and George Mertler were inseparable. When George passed away in April 2012, Ann started thinking about a way to celebrate George’s life, honour his memory and acknowledge his talent as a master woodcrafter. “I’m a giving person. If I help someone else, I feel better. Whenever I needed help, I received it myself — and education is what everyone needs,” Ann says. “George's son, Gord. “The school had to offer and the types of students were inseparable. When George passed away in April 2012, Ann started thinking about a way to celebrate George’s life, honour his memory and acknowledge his talent as a master woodcrafter. “I’m a giving person. If I help someone else, I feel better. Whenever I needed help, I received it myself — and education is what everyone needs.”

As an added bonus, leaving a legacy also made sense for tax purposes. The dividend paid from the shares will be used for bursaries. “When you transfer corporate stocks, you are not taxed on the capital gain and you are also given a charitable receipt for the amount donated,” explains Ann and George’s son, Gord. “The school will take the stocks and provide funds to the students. Over the years as the stocks increase in value, the school can use the capital appreciation of the stocks for equipment or school upgrades. With this arrangement, there is also a benefit to my mother and to the estate. Rather than being hit with a huge capital gain at her death, the funds will be used for the school and bursaries.”

George, who spent his career as a millwright foreman, would have been thrilled to help others pursue a career in woodworking, Gord says: “Dad knew the value of Saskatchewan Polytechnic (then SIAST), as he was getting young fellows working with him in their careers and apprentices. He really appreciated what the school and bursaries.”

“We were more than willing to support such a neat project that improves the quality of life of those with vision impairment,” Voykin says. He approached the poly-technic’s applied research office to secure more than $20,000 in funding.

There have been close to 70 puck attempts so far. This one looks like it’s on the right track for sure. W
T he first in her family to graduate high school, Colleen Charles went on to complete Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Recreation and Leisure Management program. A mother by age 21, she then earned a master’s degree in education and is now planning a PhD.

Meanwhile, several years after completing the Electrician apprenticeship program, Grant Pierce returned to Sask Polytech as an instructor in the same field. These are just a couple of examples of the successes sparked by Aboriginal programming at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Recognizing a need to help increase Aboriginal students’ success, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Plan (ASAP) was established in 2009. It includes 21 recommendations for removing barriers to education ranging from financial and literacy skills to navigating life in a larger city. Sask Polytech has had a consistently high Aboriginal student population, and ASAP seeks to build on that by increasing the program completion rate.

So far, a number of achievements have been accomplished: enrolment of self-identified Aboriginal students is more than 3,200, and the school completion rate for these students is increasing. This is due, at least in part, to supports including Aboriginal advisers, a community coordinator emergency bursary funds and a transition program for new students that starts a month before classes begin.

“Many of our students are the first in their families to embark on a post-secondary education,” says Myrna Yuzicapi, special adviser on Aboriginal initiatives and co-author of the ASAP. “They have a rapidly growing confidence and assertiveness level — they’re head and shoulders above others who didn’t have that opportunity,” she says, adding that 95 per cent of students who take summer transition courses successfully complete their programs.

A new Aboriginal balance scorecard will help identify areas to be further improved, says Jason Seright, Sask Polytech’s director of Aboriginal Strategy. “It’s like a report card looking at areas such as representative workforce, amount of financial resources given, space dedicated to Aboriginal support services and programs, and how many Aboriginal students are employed after leaving their programs. There are also questions that students can answer on how satisfied they are with the services. This helps everyone in the organization play a part in this strategy.”

To ensure the future success of ASAP, Yuzicapi says, the institutional culture needs to be inclusive. “We have a rapidly growing young Aboriginal population,” she says. “We need a better understanding of the history that contributed to our present circumstances, a curriculum that includes Aboriginal ways of knowing and learning, and different teaching and evaluation strategies. This will benefit everyone.”

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GRANT PIERCE, RIGHT

ABORIGINAL STUDENTS ENROLLED AT SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

ABORIGINAL SUCCESS, ASAP

Program is building skills and boosting achievement

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“Many of our students are the first in their families to embark on a post-secondary education.”

Phil Morin’s championship attitude flows from his work to coaching young athletes in the 1990s, he couldn’t find work as an electronics technician. “I had to do something,” he says, so he got his technician’s SA licence and hauled for Northern Resource Trucking to mines in northern Saskatchewan. After starting at Cameco in 2001 as a slurry driver, he hauled high-grade uranium from mine to mill. He had his eye on the company’s industrial mechanic apprenticeship program, but had to earn enough seniority to qualify.

In 2007, he was accepted into the four-year program, which included two months at Saskatchewan Polytechnic (then SIAST) in Saskatoon each year. “I had the same instructor for three of my four terms,” says Morin. “He knew me, and I knew what he expected.” This standard set by that instructor is now something Morin applies to his work, and to his aspiring young hockey teams as well.

Business Furnishings has been serving Saskatchewan’s marketplace for 34 years. With offices in Saskatoon & Regina, our growing family of companies include Precision Moving & Installation and Precision Automotive Systems.
Water is the life-blood of every community — and for Howard Kirby, the most rewarding work is helping the smallest communities, the ones least able to afford technologically advanced water treatment solutions. “We’ve done a lot of work for small hamlets, villages, towns, regional parks and First Nations communities, and renovated over 100 small water plants,” says Kirby, an award-winning business operator and a 1973 graduate of the water sciences technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. “We’ve been able to help small communities that would otherwise struggle through lack of finances,” he says. “If a water-treatment solution turns into a large engineering project, it can end up being beyond their scope, so we try to keep systems small and affordable.”

GROWING BUSINESS

When Kirby first crossed the stage more than 40 years ago to accept his diploma from Sask Polytech (then known as SIAST), he had no idea he would one day help these smaller communities as owner of one of the province’s largest water system distributors. Nor did he expect to be back, four decades later, to accept his second diploma, an honorary award from Sask Polytech in recognition of his numerous achievements in the water industry.

“Who inspires you?”

A | My wife and best friend, Sharon.

Q | What book have you read more than once?

A | The Five Levels Of Leadership by John Maxwell.

Kirby credits his time at Sask Polytech for his success. “My diploma in water sciences technology was an ideal foundation,” he says. “I’ve hired six water sciences grads from Sask Polytech and two are employed currently. Having been through it myself, I am certainly aware of the high quality of the program.”

Amber
Alumni, Medical Radiologic Technology

“Like where I work because my average commute time is around 20 minutes, which means more of a work-life balance.”

We hope we can continue to employ as many people as we do today and keep serving a wide range of customers.

BETTER BALANCE

CONNECT WITH YOUR PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

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healthcareersinsask.ca/contactus
Mike Nord remembers taking an organizational behaviour course at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and thinking, “I will never ever use this class.” The 1994 graduate of the Business Administration program could not have been more mistaken. Today, it’s among the classes Nord uses the most.

“In fact, with every single class I can think back to, I’m using some part of it in my job today,” says the general manager of the Battlefords and District Co-op Ltd., an operation with gross annual sales of $105 million and almost 300 employees.

“The faculty members at Sask Polytech have all contributed to the business world before they came back to teach — that practical experience is very useful, because they can apply it to help us understand. They also care about their students.”

Nord, 43, began his career in co-operative retailing systems as a student working for the Melfort co-operative retailing systems and co-operative retailing systems as an officer at the Hilton Hotel in Tokyo.

There, he learned to speak and write Japanese at a high intermediate level and met people from all over the world. “In Tokyo, you could see something new and amazing every night. Learning about a culture so much older than ours is fantastic if you’re interested in history at all,” Nord says. “You just have to have an open mind and be willing to learn.”

Today, no two days are the same at Nord’s job, which involves overseeing five different areas — human resources, marketing, safety and operations, finances and social responsibility — and making sure they run smoothly.

“Because I have been given so much help from other people in my career, I also enjoy helping our employees achieve their own goals,” he says. “We’re really fortunate to work with people who are passionate about what they do.

“So many of our employees have worked for us their whole lives, and at least seven hold 35 years of experience. What company can say that? Not many!”

Q&A

1. When you were in school trying to juggle responsibilities, what did you do to relax?
   A. I was engaged to my now-wife Glenna, and we loved to have people over for dinner and entertain. We still love doing that.
   B. What song transports you back to your days at Sask Polytech?
   A. “Two Princes” by the Spin Doctors. And our theme song was definitely “Hotel California” by the Eagles.
   B. If you could spend a weekend anywhere, where would you go?
   A. Disney is a brand that always brings smiles to the faces of my whole family. We love Disney World.
   B. What book have you read more than once?
   A. Straight from the Gut, by Jack Welch, the longtime CEO of General Electric.

LEARNING THAT WORKS

Mike Nord’s education was the start of a lasting career.

"The faculty members at Sask Polytech have all contributed to the business world... That practical experience is very useful."
CHANGING LIVES & COMMUNITIES

#ONE
FREE DENTAL CARE TAKES AWAY THE PAIN

For a year, the patient had been unable to chew on the left side of her mouth, and she couldn’t afford the cost of dental care. After undergoing a free-of-charge, tooth-saving root canal worth $1,500, she couldn’t stop crying, which alarmed the volunteers around her until they understood that her tears were happy ones. “She was crying because the pain was finally gone,” says Sask Polytech Dental Hygiene instructor Dean Lefebvre. Since 2012, Lefebvre has spearheaded a one-day community oral health initiative to offer free dental care to low-income, inner-city patients referred by Regina’s Food Bank. Last year, 70 patients were provided with more than $32,000 worth of free dental procedures thanks to generous donations and 100 volunteers. It was the largest volunteer turnout in the history of the one-day dental health event, held every spring, and included dentists, denturists and dental therapists, as well as assistants and hygienists from the program at Sask Polytech.

“Many of the people we saw that day carry stories that resonate,” Lefebvre says. For example, one patient who received a tooth extraction was so relieved to be pain-free that when she got home, she turned around and hopped right back on the bus to bring the dentist a thank-you card. “It’s pretty easy for these folks to choose paying their power bill or buying food over getting a tooth fixed. Getting this treatment at no cost is huge for them.”

The need to provide more extensive care was observed early on at the Dental Hygiene clinic on campus, which offers services at a reduced rate and allows students in their second year of the program to meet clinical requirements. “We started this because of the need we were seeing within the community — patients were coming in with cavities, broken teeth and ill-fitting dentures. And there were so many barriers to acquiring care, such as the costs of transportation and child care, both of which we provide,” Lefebvre says. “At the end of the day, everybody leaves feeling so good. It’s a pretty gratifying experience.”

#TWO
A PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH DEMENTIA EDUCATION

Chemical Technology program instructor Lucie Clark keeps track of every student she has taught in the last 25 years — she’s even Facebook friends with many of them. “Lots of companies are phoning us because chemistry techs are so sought-after,” says Clark, herself a Sask Polytech alumna. “I always keep an eye out for opportunities for my grads.”

Some of Clark’s most significant contributions to the community are through her tireless efforts volunteering and fundraising for the Alzheimer’s Society of Saskatchewan. Clark’s mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s at age 63, and Clark’s husband was diagnosed with dementia at 53. “When my husband was diagnosed with frontal temporal dementia, I was only in my 40s. It rocked my world. It was life-changing,” says Clark, whose daughter, only in Grade 12 at the time, ended up delaying post-secondary to help care for him. “It evolved into us doing a lot of public speaking to raise awareness about this aggressive kind of dementia that hits in people in their 40s and 50s, and can tear apart and financially ruin a family.”

Clark and her daughter have spoken at venues ranging from conferences and care homes to galas and university classrooms. After only four years, Clark’s husband had to be moved to a nursing home. She found one across the street from Sask Polytech, and she feeds him lunch and supper every day. “He’s still my husband, and I’ve made that promise that I would take care of him and be with him,” Clark says. “In five years he hasn’t said my name, but he knows me, he recognizes my voice. It’s not easy some days — I’ll walk in and say, ‘Hi Mike, do you still love me?’ Sometimes he’ll say ‘Yes,’ and I’ll say, ‘Well that’s good, because I still love you.’

“For some Saskatchewan Polytechnic instructors, using their skills to help improve lives is second nature. Here’s a look at two examples.
Allow for lots of time when you're travelling. Many people think the destination is all that matters, but the trip is an adventure in itself.

Get the kids in appropriate car seats. Some seats fit better in certain styles of cars. Try them out in the vehicle, and see how they fit. Check with your local fire hall or ambulance station — they often hold sessions on how to properly fit a car seat into your vehicle.

When children get bored or tired, they tend to make noise, which could impact the safety of your driving. Try playing games with them, like who can spot the most blue cars; give them a map, if they're a bit older, and see if they can follow it and identify the next town. Many rely on video games, but there's a lot you can do without resorting to electronics.

Stop often.
PIKE

With spawn finished up but the main lake temperatures still in the single digits, pike will be searching for the warmest water. This generally occurs in shallow (under two metres), south-facing bays. Not all bays are created equal. Look for narrow openings that allow pike access to the depths while preventing too much of the cold main lake water from getting mixed in. Pike populations will increase as the sun heats up these shallow areas, making afternoons more productive. This will last until the temperatures reach the mid-teens, forcing the giants out. Slow your presentations (how the fly is delivered) as the fish can be lethargic. Consider breaking out the fly rod.

WALLEYE

will also be looking to feed heavily to recover from the stress of the spawn. Key spawning areas are gravel or rocky points, the mouths of inflow creeks and rock-covered shorelines. They will not stray far from these areas. Remember, walleye have eyes that are well suited for low light and will be more active around dawn and dusk. Key in on the wind-blown side of the fishing area as this will pick up the food chain and concentration forage. Keep your baits a bit smaller and closer as much area as possible to find active fish. They are a schooling fish, so if you find one, there will be more.

YELLOW PERCH

are also excellent table fare. Their light schooling behaviour, generous limits, abundant old vegetation and rocky points. Focus on depths in the two-to-five-metre range. These are favourite spawn spots and also provide a place to hide. Once the school is located, drop an anchor. Keep your baits small and watch your rod tip.

TOP LAKE CHOICES FOR YOUR FAVOURITE FISH

1. PIKE - Last Mountain Lake
2. WALLEYE - Tobin Lake, Last Mountain Lake
3. PERCH - Buffalo Pound

RECIPE

BAKED FISH

A fabulous fish recipe from Steve Yanish, professional fishing guide and Natural Resource Technology lab technician at Sask Polytech.

INGREDIENTS

- Boneless fish fillets
- 1 onion, sliced into rings
- Whole mushrooms
- Zucchini slices
- Broccoli or bok choy
- 2 limes
- Cherry tomatoes
- Red/green peppers
- Fresh vegetables of your choice (consider asparagus or yam slices)
- Greek seasoning to taste
- Spicy Thai sauce to taste
- Balsamic vinegar
- Butter
- Cooking spray

INSTRUCTIONS

- Start with two layers of foil large enough to lay the fillets on, with plenty of extra foil to wrap them.
- Spread onion slices on foil.
- Lay boneless fillets on top of onions. This will keep the fish from sticking and burning.
- Sprinkle Greek seasoning to taste.
- Pour small amount of Thai sauce over fish.
- Squeeze juice of one lime over the fish.
- Carefully pick all remaining vegetables on top. Try placing pepper rings down first to stabilize the other vegetables.
- Slice second lime; place slices on top.
- Add more Thai sauce and seasoning to taste.
- Place two more layers of foil over everything; fold edges together to create an air-tight package.
- Place package on grill and set over a bed of hot coals (flames will scorcho the pack.)
- When food begins to cook, the package will puff. Remove it from the heat and let it shrink back down. After about five minutes, place it back over heat. It will puff again within minutes. This will mean it is cooked through.
- Cut package open and enjoy!

FISHY TALES

Saskatchewan has world-class fishing for walleye, northern pike, perch, burbot (the only freshwater member of the cod family), lake trout and rainbow trout, says Steve Yanish, professional fishing guide and Natural Resource Technology lab technician at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Here are some tips to help you catch the meal of a lifetime.

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- Cut package open and enjoy!
CHEERS FOR LOCAL BEER

Partnership with brewery ensures protection of unique flavours

Thanks to a partnership between Saskatchewan Polytechnic and a local brewer, the unique flavours of a regional beer will be permanently preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Last summer, two students worked full-time at Sask Polytech’s BioScience Applied Research Centre to analyze and identify the genetic profile of a yeast used by Saskatchewan’s Great Western Brewing Co. for the production of its beers. The unique culture will then be cryogenically frozen and kept off-site to ensure a backup is always accessible in case of catastrophic damage such as fire or flooding.

The project received funding from NSERC, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, which allowed for the necessary equipment to be acquired and for the two students to be paid for their efforts, says project lead Lance Wall, an instructor in the BioScience Technology program.

“The students used molecular biology to determine the particular strain of the yeast they’re using, and to identify key growth and morphology characteristics as well as ways to preserve the yeast long-term,” Wall says. “At this time, we’re still poring through the data. Once we’ve had a chance to put the report together, we will provide that to Great Western Brewery and hopefully that will lead into another project. Research always yields more questions,” he says.

“This is a great opportunity for students to be applying the skills they learned in the program. Such projects develop their independence and confidence, which they take out into the workforce. One goal of applied research is to add value both to the programs and the students who participate, who can use it as a springboard in their search for employment.”

UNIQUE TASTES

Second-year student Janet Chung, one of the project participants, found it incredibly “complicated and fascinating,” she says. “It was so interesting to discover that different species of yeast are responsible for each unique-tasting beer.”

For student David Thiessen, his previous degree in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Saskatchewan gave him a good foundation with regards to handling and growing yeast. “I’ve always found genetics very interesting so I was excited to work on the project,” he says. “It was exciting to be doing research independently and using molecular biology to discover the answers to important questions. I had to do a lot of thinking on my feet and redesigning of experiments to get results.”

“I am a fan of Great West and their beers. They’ve got a good strain of yeast working for them.”

5 MORE APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

1 EXPERIENCE FIRST DESIGN
Designing the PlayNar application prototype gameplay experience.

2 THE TALKING HEAD
English additional language students’ language assistance tool.

3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Sun Ridge Residential mobile app for new home energy efficiency.

4 FISH SURVEY
Saskatchewan fish survey and collection.

5 RURAL WELLNESS
Centre for Applied Research in Rural Community Wellness.

W hat’s in a name? In the operating room, knowing an instrument’s name could save a life.

Thanks to a new app, the hesitation that occurs when a surgeon asks for an instrument by an unfamiliar name is being reduced in Saskatchewan hospitals.

Designed by a team of nursing, graphic design and computer systems professionals at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the surgical instrument recognition app is accessible from tablets and smart phones. With an annual subscription, students can log onto InsuNMeDics to access rotatable 3-D images, listen to audio pronunciation of each tool name in a Western Canadian accent and access practice exams.

The need for a more interactive, hands-on learning tool became evident in the process of updating the online course taken by registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and medical device reprocessing students to learn about operating room instruments.

CATCHING ON QUICKLY

“In the textbook they used for reference, there would be just a plain picture of an instrument, which makes it difficult to know the scale of it and what to do with it.” says Eil Ahlquist, program head of the perioperative nursing programs in the School of Nursing.

“The textbook was American, so it didn’t have the same names we use in Canada, or what names they would be hearing when going into practice. Students would read the name and pronounce it in their heads a certain way, so when they went into the clinical environment and the surgeon would ask for the instrument, they didn’t always put it together,” Ahlquist says.

“Thanks to this app, from the feedback we’ve been hearing from surgeons, it’s amazing how much quicker the students catch on to the names now.”

It’s not just students who are actively using the app, which has been three years in the making. Ahlquist says a surprising amount of interest has come from industry as well.

“The manufacturers of instruments are using it as a learning tool for their reps, and we’ve also promoted the app at conferences for working professionals.”

EIL AHLQUIST, PROGRAM HEAD, PERIOPERATIVE NURSING PROGRAM

FROM LEFT: DALE LIRVI, GRAPHIC ARTIST; CAROLE CLARKE, FACULTY PERIOPERATIVE NURSING PROGRAM; EIL AHLQUIST, PROGRAM HEAD, PERIOPERATIVE NURSING PROGRAM.

AN INSTRUMENT BY ANY OTHER NAME

New app helps OR nurses select the right instruments

DIFFERENCES CAN BE MANAGED TO CREATE AN INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM SUITABLE FOR ALL. IN THE FUTURE, MENTORS WORKING WITH THE APP CAN BE PROMOTED TO ACT AS APP SUPPORT SYSTEMS.
While trudging down the streets of Moose Jaw in -50°C wind chill, bleary-eyed from working the night shift at Tim Hortons, Gaurav Thakur would keep warm by thinking of the career that awaited him.

A native of Mumbai, India, a tropical city of 12.5 million, Thakur came to Canada in 2011 and was so impressed by the culture, friendly people and plentiful jobs, “I decided to make it my home,” he says. Thakur, 30, holds a master’s degree in management studies from the University of Mumbai and a post-graduate certificate in marketing and business intelligence research from Algonquin College in Ottawa, which was his first stop in Canada. He zoomed in on Saskatchewan as a place to settle when he saw the thriving economy and numerous opportunities.

“I then started my search to shortlist a school or college, and found that Saskatchewan Polytechnic offered a hands-on education, which I wanted to acquire here so local employers would be more willing to accept me,” he says.

After Thakur completed the Business certificate program at Sask Polytech in 2013, he had two job offers on the table. He chose a full-time, permanent position with Scotiabank, and soon was offered two promotions as a small business adviser on top of his role of personal banking manager.

Dealing primarily with agricultural finance, Thakur takes pride in being a key player in the success of the farming community. “I get to interact with the local community and the people who contribute to it,” he says.

Thakur continues to operate a Facebook page he started for Sask Polytech’s international students, which currently has almost 500 members. “I will always be grateful to the people at Sask Polytech,” says Thakur. “My experience there has been remarkable. The instructors were concerned about you — you were never just a number.”

**ADVANCE YOUR CAREER**

Advance your career with Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s flexible learning options including **evening** and **part-time classes** and **online and distance education**. So even with a busy schedule, and even with a family, it’s easy to keep your career growing and improving.

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- certificate and diploma programs
- employer and industry training opportunities
- personal and professional development courses

Register today at [saskpolytech.ca/CE](http://saskpolytech.ca/CE) or 1-866-467-4278.
It may not be on the top of your list, but good insurance is an act of care. It can protect you from those unexpected and challenging times that you never saw coming.

**SGI CANADA Auto Pak**
For as little as $5 a month, you can decrease your deductible, get a car while yours is being fixed, and even replace your income if you can’t work because of an accident.

**SGI CANADA Tenant Pak**
You found a great place to live, but your landlord’s insurance doesn’t cover you and your belongings. A Tenant Pak is an easy and convenient solution, tailored to meet your needs.

**SGI CANADA Toolbox and Trades Paks**
Make sure your tools and supplies are covered so you can get back to work fast.

Care for you, your loved ones, and your future with SGI CANADA insurance.