



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS Woodland grad honours students

Augmented reality software developer, real estate executive to be recognized

June 10, 2010 – Augmented reality software developer René Dufour-Contreras will meet his instructors for the first time at the SIAS Woodland Campus graduation ceremony tomorrow. The New Media Communications online graduate is receiving the SIAS Student Innovation Award. Prince Albert real estate executive and mortgage broker David Koester will be recognized with a SIAS honorary diploma. Also being presented are two Governor General's Academic Medals and a SIAS Student Outstanding Citizenship Award.

The **SIAS Student Innovation Award** recognizes a student or team for achieving a high standard of excellence on an innovative project or for demonstrating innovative methods within a program of study. This year's recipient is René Dufour-Contreras from the New Media Communications program. Dufour-Contreras chose an alternate programming assignment for his final project in order to take advantage of an industry opportunity. The specialized programming was far beyond anything expected of a first-year Flash programmer.

Under tight timelines Dufour-Contreras first had to learn the software and then managed to complete the project, a 3D pool game in Flash. This earned him a job at a media studio on another specialized project in augmented reality. The programming is a mix of real and virtual reality using web cams that allows visitors on a website to test drive products such as watches, hats and clothes on themselves.

This past January, Dufour-Contreras was hired by SIAS to teach an entry-level online Flash course for the New Media Communications program. His accomplishments were all completed through two years of online study.

A **SIAS honorary diploma** will be awarded to David Koester, a member of Prince Albert's business and professional community for more than 35 years. Koester owned and managed an appraisal and mortgage brokerage and a real estate office, and was a licensed insurance broker. He provided advice to the City of Prince Albert on the land assembly project for the Forestry Centre and the new city yards properties. Koester has been a long-standing member of the Prince Albert Real Estate Board, and served as a director and chairperson of the legislative committee. He is also a member of both the Saskatchewan and Canadian Real Estate associations. In 1980, he obtained the Fellow in the Real Estate Institute of Canada (FRI) designation. A former SIAS board member, Koester provided support and guidance on development of the first SIAS student housing project, located at SIAS Woodland Campus.

The **SIAST Student Outstanding Citizenship Award** recognizes commitment to the SIAST community beyond the responsibilities of program requirements. This award will be presented to Jaelyn Willness, who is graduating from the Geographic Information Science for Resource Management certificate program. Willness has shown great leadership and commitment to her fellow students and a passion for SIAST. She served two terms on the SIAST Students' Association for Kelsey and Woodland Campuses as director of recreation in 2008-09 and vice-president for finance and internal operations in 2009-10. Willness's commitment to student life at Woodland included assisting in securing funding for the men's and women's volleyball teams to compete in the Prairie Athletic Conference. Willness also holds certificates in Welding and Professional Cooking and has a diploma in Integrated Resource Management.

The prestigious **Governor General's Academic Medals** will be presented to Chad Hanson and Chase Davies by Dr. Robert McCulloch on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. Hanson, a graduate of the Adult 12 Basic Education program, will receive the Governor General's Bronze Medal. Davies, a graduate of the Forest Ecosystem Technology program and recipient of the Saskatchewan Forestry Expo Entrance Award, Saskatchewan Forestry Expo Achievement Award and SIAST Achievement Scholarship, will receive the Governor General Academic Collegiate Bronze Medal.

Ralph Boychuk, SIAST board member; Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO; and other dignitaries will be on hand for the presentations.

Media are invited to attend:

Date: Friday, June 11, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts
Prince Albert, SK

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 14,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 30,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAST served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAST operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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