



## Entering the iPhone era



An iPhone displaying the new iUSASK application.

✍ MARK FERGUSON

A crowded room of curious onlookers gathered in the Thorvaldson Building recently for a sneak peek at the newest version of iUSASK – the new U of S application for the iPhone that will be the first of its kind in Canada.

About 15 people were involved in the development of the application and most of them were on hand for the demonstration June 26. Chad Jones, one of the developers, said the idea to create the iUSASK application seemed logical, given what was already happening in the Department of Computer Science.

“We offered iPhone workshops during the year and they were extremely popular,” said Jones. “We thought, why don’t we develop a real application for students?”

The popular iPhone by Apple has sold more than 21 million units since it was introduced in 2007. The iPhone uses touch screen icons or applications, known as ‘apps’, that can be downloaded from Apple’s online App Store. Apps can range from poker games to restaurant reviews to music players to Facebook. Some apps cost a few dollars but many of them, like the iUSASK app, are free.

Stanford University was the first to offer an iPhone application for students. About a year after it was made available on the online Apple App Store, nearly 20,000 people had downloaded it – more than the student population of its campus. Jones said this certainly raised curiosity about the potential for an iUSASK application for this university.

The iUSASK app features a number of different buttons that link

See Application, Page 6

## An expression of interest in isotopes

U of S joins search for production solution

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

The University of Saskatchewan has joined a provincial working group set up to explore how Saskatchewan might provide a solution to the current shortage of medical isotopes in this country.

The working group, co-chaired by Richard Florizone, vice-president of finance and resources, and Iain Harry, Crown Investment Corporation

vice-president, was announced by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall in early July. Its mandate is to prepare an expression of interest for Natural Resources Canada’s Expert Review Panel

“With this expression of interest we want to make sure the federal government understands what we would potentially bring to the table.”

Richard Florizone

on Medical Isotope Production recommending establishing a national nuclear studies centre of excellence at the university. The expression of interest will include building a nuclear research reactor for both isotope production and neutron science. For Florizone, the centre is a natural fit for the university.

“There’s a national issue that Saskatchewan is pretty well posi-

tioned to address. The university has a history of nuclear science that goes back to the cobalt bomb (the Cobalt-60 Beam Therapy Unit developed in 1951 for the treatment of cancer), we have a track record for delivering major science projects, we have a set of interested faculty and we have

See Research, and related story, page 2



McCreath

## McCreath appointed to board

Grit McCreath, a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan who has been widely recognized for her work as an educator and in the not-for-profit sector, has been appointed to the university’s Board of Governors.

McCreath will serve as the university’s Senate representa-

tive on the board for a three-year term.

“The University of Saskatchewan is privileged to have Grit McCreath join its Board of Governors,” said President Peter MacKinnon. “With the knowledge and insight she acquired over her career in the

education sector, and with her life-long commitment to this institution, Grit will be a much valued member of the board.”

After earning a Bachelor of Education degree from the U of S, McCreath worked as a teacher, teacher-librarian and administrator for over 30 years

in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario.

Outside of school, McCreath has served on a number of boards, was named one of Calgary’s Women of Distinction and has received the Conference Board of Canada Royal Bank Partners in Education Award. ■



Inside



Engaging with youth Page 7



Sharing stories Page 11



The team of developers from Dept. of Computer Science who worked on the iUSASK app for the iPhone include, back row from left, Ralph Deters, Dave Bocking and Seth Shacter, and, front from left, Sadie Swanson, Guus van de Velde, Cary Bernath, Chad Jones, Ken Sailor, Eric Neufeld, Merlin Hansen and Shane Doucette. Missing: Greg Oster and Colleen Hansen.

MARK FERGUSON

## Application will link students to services

From Page 1

to U of S sites and services. The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) was the first group on campus to jump at the opportunity to have a button on iUSASK to keep students updated on USSU activities and Place Riel construction. Jones expects 16 buttons by fall. Other buttons include a real time map, news feeds and even a button where students can check their grades.

The momentum from the iUSASK application has prompted the department to offer a class on developing iPhone applications. Teaching the class will be Jones, Department Head Eric Neufeld and Associate Professor Ralph Deters.

"We wanted to demonstrate that, right here at the U of S, we have the same kind of vision for the student experience and the technological prowess to implement it as Stanford," said Neufeld.

The application will be available for download from the Apple App Store by August, assuming approval from Apple. But Jones, who worked for the computer giant for three years in Silicon Valley, says the U of S should have the inside track and there should not be any

snags getting approval.

Jones said he enjoyed his time with Apple where he worked as a code developer. Perhaps his fondest memory was eating lunch in the same room as Steve Jobs, the famous Apple CEO. "He's a very messy eater," says Jones laughing. ■

## Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by Campus Safety Department. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 966-5555.

### May 25-31

- Damage was done to a fridge in the Ag Buffateria in an attempt to break in.
- Unknown culprit(s) damaged a window in John Mitchell Building by throwing a rock through it.
- A male was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle without a valid license and no registration for his vehicle. He was then turned over to city police to be processed on outstanding warrants.
- A male subject was arrested for spraying the contents of a fire extinguisher at the main entrance of the Edwards School of Business Building.

### June 1-14

- A vehicle was broken into at Innovation Place.
- The Bistro in Place Riel was broken into.
- A vehicle in Lot 4 was damaged in a hit and run accident.
- A bicycle was stolen from Place Riel.
- Two males are being investigated for tampering with the gate arm in Lot 1.
- As a result of a routine stop, a male was arrested for outstanding warrants.
- A plant was reported stolen from the Small Animal Clinic.
- A female was arrested for being intoxicated in public.
- Personal items were stolen from an unlocked locker in PAC.
- A male was arrested for being intoxicated in public.

### June 15-21

- As the result of a vehicle stop, a male was arrested on two outstanding warrants.
- Officers attended two medical calls for assistance.
- As the result of a routine vehicle stop, one person was arrested on outstanding warrants.
- As a result of responding to a broken gate alarm in Stadium Parkade, a driver was issued a 24-hour suspension and a ticket for having open liquor in a motor vehicle.

### June 22-28

- A female was arrested for being intoxicated in public and transported to the Brief Detox Unit.
- One male was arrested for violating his probation.
- A male was arrested for outstanding warrants and drug paraphernalia was seized.
- Damage to a vehicle in U lot was reported. Damage was minimal and no entry was gained.
- A female was arrested for breach of probation after she was found drinking in a vehicle on Weir Road.
- A backpack was stolen in lower Place Riel after it was left unattended on a table.
- Officers towed a vehicle from Lot E when it was found displaying improper plates.

### June 29-July 5

- Graffiti was spray painted on the Canadian Light Source Building and on the PAC.
- A male was arrested for causing a disturbance at the PAC. He was charged with breach of probation.
- A vehicle in Lot U was damaged by culprit(s) smashing the windshield and passenger windows. There are four suspects in this matter and the file is still under investigation.
- A male was arrested on outstanding warrants and charged with operating an unregistered vehicle.
- Officers attended one motor vehicle accident. There were no injuries.
- Officers attended a disturbance at RUH parking lot. Several males were fighting. Three males were arrested.

### July 6-12

- A male was arrested for being intoxicated in public.
- Damage was done to a stop sign near the Administration Building.
- Officers attended two medical calls for assistance.
- Officers located six vehicles in Lot U that had been broken into or tampered with.

## U of S News Briefs

### Grants for grad students

The Canadian Northern Studies Trust recently awarded several competitive research grants to students at the University of Saskatchewan. The recipients are:

- Carissa Brown, PhD candidate in biology, received the Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research (Doctoral), valued at \$40,000.
- Ross Phillips, master's candidate in hydrology, was awarded the Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research (Masters), valued at \$15,000.
- Deanna Kimbley, master's candidate in native studies, received the Northern Resident Award for Graduate Studies, valued at \$10,000.

### Cameco chair in aboriginal health

The Board of Governors approved the creation of the Cameco Chair in Aboriginal Health in the College of Medicine at their meeting June 25.

The role of the new chair is to enhance research, education and clinical programs dedicated to disease prevention, identification and treatment for aboriginal people. The chair will also facilitate aboriginal community-initiated research and support health care responsibility in aboriginal communities. Cameco has stepped forward as a major donor, which helped the College of Medicine secure sufficient funding for the position. The Saskatoon Health Region will also provide office and administrative support.

Background material provided to the board said the new chair advances the college's commitment to enhance aboriginal programming and scholarship in the health sciences. Its creation provides an opportunity to profile the need for improved aboriginal health care services and to attract aboriginal physicians to academic positions at the university.

University Council approved the chair on June 18. Recruitment for the new position was scheduled to begin in July.

### Sled Dogs finish 12th

The Sled Dogs ¼ Scale Tractor Team finished 12th in a field of 23 competitors at this year's American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design Competition in Peoria, IL.

According to a College of Engineering media release from June 1, the Sled Dogs won the best appearance award and placed fifth in the written design report. They finished ahead of the only other Canadian team, Quebec's Université Laval, which placed 16th overall.

### Partnership in adherence

Each year, patients failing to take prescription medication as directed cost Canadians \$10 billion. A new partnership with the U of S College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is hoping to change that.

According to a U of S news release from June 15, Saskatchewan Health, AstraZeneca Canada, Merck Frosst Canada and Pfizer Canada have joined the college in supporting a \$1.7 million Joint Venture on Patient Adherence program. The venture will create an academic chair in adherence research to oversee the program's research and educational activities. Pharmacy, medical and nursing professionals will work with the chair to collect first-hand patient information and improve patient adherence to drug therapy.



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