On the cover:
Dr. Maurice Exner and the team of scientists at Focus Diagnostics are involved in groundbreaking research on some of the world’s deadliest infectious viruses.
Photo: SoCalSunshine Productions
When I endeavoured to publish a research issue of Campion's Brag, I was not sure where it would take us. Small liberal arts colleges are not generally looked upon as leaders in the area of research. This designation is often reserved for much larger post-secondary institutions. However, even with a complement of only 21 professors, Campion faculty have made significant contributions to the level of research taking place on this campus. In the past five years alone, Campion faculty have published 22 books, numerous articles, and are responsible for bringing over $800,000 in research funding to this university campus.

A strong research component is advantageous to students, who benefit from either direct involvement in collecting and analyzing data, or the transfer of knowledge within the classroom. A number of students have also been inspired to pursue graduate studies and, through their own research, enhance our understanding of cultural, environmental and health issues, to name a few. In this edition of Campion's Brag, you will meet four Campion alumni, Dr. Maurice Exner, Dr. Carrie Bourass, Megan Morrison and Ryan Fisher, who are making significant contributions on a national and international scale through their research.

This issue of the Brag just scrapes the surface of what our faculty, students and alumni have accomplished. The contributions from this small Jesuit college to the larger community are plentiful and will continue for years to come.
Campion College celebrated its 95 graduates at the University of Regina Spring 2010 convocation ceremonies by hosting a special celebration to honour its graduates and Reverend Gerald F. Lahey, S.J. Prize recipient, Justin Schwark.

The Reverend Gerald F. Lahey, S.J. Prize is awarded to the year’s most outstanding Campion College graduate. A mathematics major, Schwark graduated with a Bachelor of Science High Honours.

Four Campion students also received U of R convocation awards at the university’s convocation ceremony:

- Jannel Marie Untereiner, recipient of the Ambassador of Switzerland Book Prize
- Petrina Claire Christoffel, recipient of the Barbara Gleiberman Prize in Religious Studies
- Michelle Alice Urbanski, recipient of the Society of Chemical Industry, Canadian Section, Merit Award in Chemistry
- Benjamin David Harack, recipient of the Sadie and Norman Ratner Prize in Physics

At the convocation ceremonies, Campion students received 95 degrees and certificates, including 66 in Arts, five in Fine Arts, 22 in Science, and two in Pastoral Studies.

Robert Allore, S.J, is presenting a science and faith lecture at Campion College this November. The lecture is part of Campion Controversies, an annual lecture series initiated by the Regina Jesuit Vocation Committee to highlight the variety of ways in which Jesuits live out their vocations, "finding God in all things." Allore’s lecture, entitled Stem Cells and Genome Projects: Science and Religion in Conversation, will address issues of science and society, and science and religion. Allore says that “one of the myths of our age declares that there is a war between the traditions of science and religion [but that] far from being at odds with religious traditions, the customs of science can actually promote an attentiveness to experience that can serve to encourage our religious sensibilities.”

Allore is a research scientist at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto and a member of the Jesuits in English Canada. He received a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Ottawa and a PhD in immunology from the University of Toronto. He also studied philosophy and medical ethics at the University of Chicago.

While studying theology at Regis College, Allore became interested in the role of religion in science and technology. He is currently teaching at the University of Toronto in the human biology program.

The lecture will take place in the Campion College Riffel Auditorium on Monday 15 November 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and parking will be available in designated areas.


**CHAPEL RENOVATIONS**

Thanks to the generosity of our annual campaign donors, the Campion College chapel underwent substantial renovations this summer.

The centerpiece of the renovation project was the installation of two dalle de verre stained glass windows. The windows, which consist of four panels each, were originally designed and made by Paul and André Rault of Brittany, France in 1958 for the St. Joseph convent in Forget, Saskatchewan. In 2006, the college acquired the windows from Father Hervé Vallée of the Diocese of Prince Albert. Fr. Vallée had preserved these works of art after they were removed from the convent in 1964.

“We are very grateful to our generous benefactors who have made this project possible. Installing these windows in the chapel has enhanced the worship space and advanced the devotion of those who use the chapel for prayer,” said Rev. Benjamin Fiore, SJ, Campion College president.

Also included in the renovation project was the replacement of existing exterior windows and frames, upgrading the interior lighting, and repainting of the interior.

**STAFF APPOINTMENTS**

Campion College is pleased to make the following announcements regarding new appointments.

Chelsea Low (BA ’10) has been appointed to the new position of high school liaison as of 5 July 2010. Chelsea is a recent Campion graduate, having just completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and political science this past spring. As high school liaison, Chelsea will work with the U of R student recruitment department in promoting the college and university within Saskatchewan high schools and at various recruitment events on and off campus.

Kimberly Lawrence joins the Campion College finance department in the position of administrative clerk effective 5 July 2010. Kimberly graduated from the University of Regina in 2005 with a Bachelor of Education degree and is currently enrolled in the Saskatchewan Certified General Accountancy Program.

Heather Antonini (BA ’00) has been appointed assistant registrar. Heather holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Campion College, and has been a member of the college staff since 2002. During that time, she has worked in several capacities in the Campion business office, has provided IT support to our faculty and staff, and has provided relief coverage to the registrar’s office.

Denis Jakubowski has joined the Campion registrar’s office as entrance and career advisor. A former guidance counselor in the Regina Catholic Schools Division, Denis has served as Campion’s entrance counsellor for the past 10 years.

Campion welcomed 140 first-year students at the Headstart Orientation on 7 September 2010.
years. In his new role, Denis will be providing entrance counseling for new and prospective students and guidance to current students on determining their career path.

Shauna Hebert (BA ‘07) has been appointed enrolment services specialist effective 1 July 2010. In this new position, Shauna will take a leadership role in the planning of recruitment and retention related events and will serve as the primary liaison with the Regina Catholic schools. Prior to this appointment, Shauna served as the college communications officer.

Cindy Lewans, PM, (Pastoral Studies ‘09) returns this September in the role of campus ministry support. Cindy has been a tremendous asset to the Campus Ministry team, bringing a youthful energy and enthusiasm to the planning and implementation of Campus Ministry programs. Cindy will continue to support Campus Ministry in the delivery of programs and activities for the campus community.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Campion College welcomes Jan Purnis as assistant professor in English as of 1 July 2010.

Coming to Campion from the University of Toronto, Purnis is very excited to be joining the faculty at Campion. Purnis chose the college because of “Campion’s emphasis on the development of the whole person and genuine concern for the learning experience of students—promoted through such things as small classes and a variety of college events.”

Academically, Purnis is looking forward to putting together a course focusing on representations of cannibalism and turning her thesis, Digestive Tracts: Early Modern Discourses of Digestion, into a book. She is also very excited to get to know Regina.

Purnis’ passion for teaching runs deep as both of her parents were high school teachers. She looks forward to teaching Shakespeare and bringing his plays to life for her students. She also finds teaching introductory courses on critical reading and writing very rewarding because they “allow an opportunity to cultivate a love of literature in students by encouraging them to appreciate nuances of language, and they allow time to concentrate on developing important skills like formulating arguments.”

Purnis completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph, where she started out in the agriculture program, but transferred into English to pursue her love of literature. After completing her BA, Purnis and her husband travelled and lived in Asia for four years where she taught English literature and English as a Foreign Language. Purnis obtained an MA in English from the University of Toronto and, inspired by a course offered by Mary Nyquist called Discourses of Cannibalism in the Early
Modern Period, decided to pursue a PhD in early modern literature.

**Nash Lecture**

The 32nd Annual Nash Memorial Lecture will be held on 10 March 2011 in the Campion College Riffel Auditorium. This year’s lecture will feature Dr. John McCarthy, SJ, speaking on the re-enchantment of nature as the Word and beauty of God.

**Academic Notes**


Dr. Katherine Arbuthnott, professor of psychology, and Jamie I.D. Campbell co-authored *Effects of Mixing and Cuing Simple Addition and Multiplication*, which was recently published in the *European Journal of Cognitive Psychology*, 22, 422-422.

Dr. Katherine Robinson, associate professor of psychology, and Jamie I.D. Campbell presented *Developing the Reverse Association in Children’s Multiplication and Factoring at the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Sciences conference in Halifax, June 2010*. At the same conference, Robinson also presented, with Jo-Anne LeFevre, a paper titled *Adults’ Conceptual Understanding of Arithmetic: An eye Movement Study*.

Dr. Ann Ward, associate professor of philosophy and classics, and political science, presented *Oedipus and Socrates: Philosophy and Poetry on the Quest for Self-Knowledge at the 12th International meeting of ISSEI in Ankara, Turkey, August 2010*. Ward also presented at the congress of Social Sciences and Humanities in Montreal, June 2010. The paper is entitled *Moral Strength and Moral Weakness in Aristotle*.

Dr. Tom Phenix, assistant professor of psychology, presented *Examining Retrieval-Induced Forgetting Across Episodes in Children* at BASICS 2010 in May 2010.

Jacoba Kuikman, associate professor of religious studies, presented *Haredi Opposition to Zionism: A Locus of Resistance to Jewish Colonization* at the International Association for the History of Religion conference in Toronto.
Although Dr. Carrie Bourassa (BA Hons. ‘95) and Megan Morrison’s (BA Hons. ‘07) research focus on very different segments of society, they have similar goals. Both want to find ways to help individuals move into the final stages of life with respect and dignity and they want to help support loved ones who are dealing with impending loss.

As a professor of Indigenous Health Studies, Bourassa has spent the last few years researching health care for Aboriginal people in their final days. “There’s really a gap in the literature that shows Aboriginal families at end of life are not receiving culturally competent care,” she says. “There are a lot of issues.”

For Bourassa, that gap lies in how Aboriginal culture is understood by health care practitioners and the institutions in which they work. Common Aboriginal traditions, such as smudging with sweetgrass or preparing a special meal, are not usually allowed in health institutions, which Bourassa says further traumatizes friends and families at a time of grief.

Bourassa says everything from cultural misunderstandings to racism plague Canada’s health care system. Rituals and procedures common in non-aboriginal culture, such as a priest offering a patient his or her last rites are accepted, but a visit from an Aboriginal elder—who is not a blood-relative—is often prohibited, says Bourassa.

“I think, personally, I’ve seen too many loved ones that didn’t die well. They had a hard death.”

It was the death of her grandfather that convinced Bourassa, who is Métis, to look into the care of dying Aboriginal patients.

“My grandpa had a hard death. To me, the hospital experience wasn’t pleasant for any of us and it wasn’t particularly pleasant for him.”

She said subtle acts of prejudice made her grandfather uncomfortable. “It was more around looking at him and making assumptions based on the colour of his skin and that really bothered me.”

Bourassa and a team of researchers consulted with community elders who decided an educational video for health care workers could help improve end of life care for Aboriginal people.

The last stages of a person’s life are incredibly difficult, especially for family and friends. That’s why two Campion alumni are engaged in research that hopes to enhance the experiences of those approaching death.
The video is called Completing the Circle. Elders share their frustrations with the health care system and they explain certain cultural practices that some might want during the last few days of their lives.

“I really feel that health is a holistic concept and that even people who are dying, and know they’re dying, can still do so with grace and dignity—if they are allowed to. And I feel that some populations don’t have that opportunity and it’s frustrating,” she says.

Bourassa said the video has been very well-received and small changes have started taking place within the health care system. Already, hospitals are working to find spaces where Aboriginal patients and their families can conduct ceremonies. But the number one request of the elders is to be treated with respect.

“The elders feelings are that you don’t need to understand everything that we’re doing. You don’t have to understand why we smudge and you don’t have to believe in it. But if you respect and honour it, then our family members that are dying are going to pass on in a good way. And that’s what they are looking for,” says Bourassa.

Aboriginal peoples tend to experience multiple, and often traumatic, losses making it even more important to offer respectful and culturally-sensitive care, says Bourassa.

“They continue to have the highest morbidity and mortality rate. If your loved one is dying and you want to smudge them then you should be able to go and smudge them and not have to deal with the system and the bureaucracy and the attitudes that are there. You should be able to do with ease because everything else is so hard.”

Both Bourassa and Morrison take a community-based approach to their research. Every step of the way is lead by community members, so it is their needs and vision that are met.

Morrison’s research focuses on patients living with dementia and Alzheimer’s. As a student of Women’s Studies, Morrison wanted to look for the stories that were no longer being told by women because of how the disease was impacting their memory. “How many stories are forgotten just because these women are forgetting them?”

Like Bourassa, it was an experience with a family member that helped shape Morrison’s research project. Both Morrison’s grandmothers have dementia and that changed how Morrison was able to interact with each of them.

“I felt like I had lost her. I felt sad when she couldn’t remember certain things. I corrected her when she said them differently,” she recalls after her last visit to see her maternal grandmother.

Morrison says traditional forms of communication are often lost in the final stages of dementia, which is incredibly hard for loved ones. She says it is important to find new ways to communicate with loved ones so their stories are not forgotten.

Morrison wanted to find ways for people to openly discuss the affects of the disease.

“No matter where I am, everyone has a story about someone they know who has either had Alzheimer’s or dementia. This is something that we...

A portion of the wall display created by Megan Morrison.
don’t have a lot of spaces to talk about with our families and it can be really exhausting. I think there’s a lot of research that needs to be done just on how we can be a part of the process of creating more positive spaces for elderly people and to create spaces for people to talk about it as well.”

Morrison spent many months with residents at a care home. Then she interviewed their husbands and daughters, slowly piecing together the women’s stories.

Morrison says what may have seemed like eccentric behaviour was a way for a woman to articulate a story. For example, one woman would walk, pointing her finger up high as if counting items on a shelf. Her husband later told Morrison that they used to own a store and her job was to count the inventory. Morrison says by re-enacting this task, this woman was able to still feel like she was contributing to society.

Morrison wanted to incorporate something artistic into the project. Her belief is that art creates a space for people to talk about the challenging aspects of the disease.

Her legacy at the care home is a series of pictures she created and phrases that articulate some of the stories heard from the women and their families. The final item that will be installed at the home is a set of bronze hands that residents will be able to walk by and touch. Morrison says residents often communicate with loved ones by simply taking their hands. Morrison funded the legacy project herself.

Morrison is also a jazz singer and has incorporated stories about dementia into her performances.

This fall, Morrison will begin a PhD program at Memorial University in the field of community health. Her goal is to research ways to better support the loved ones who have lost someone to dementia or Alzheimer’s. “I want to help the people who are left behind,” she says. “The partners or family members who now have to renegotiate their lives as a single person.”

Both Morrison and Bourassa’s research is timely. Demographics in Saskatchewan point to an aging population and a boom in the Aboriginal community.

“It’s all of our future,” says Morrison. “If we don’t start now then we’re going to have a bigger crisis when the larger population is looking to be aging in a healthy way.”

“Trying to come to terms with grief and loss is important,” adds Bourassa. “You want to make the process of losing someone easier. You don’t want extra barriers there.”

Leisha Grebinski is a Campion graduate from the University of Regina School of Journalism. She is currently on leave from CBC Radio Saskatchewan to pursue a master’s degree.
Camplion College is pleased to announce the recipients of the fourth annual Alumni of Distinction Awards, which will be presented at a special dinner on Friday, 5 November 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hotel Saskatchewan.

Dr. Carrie Bourassa (BA Hons. ’95), associate professor, Department of Science, First Nations University of Canada, Mr. J. Robert Currie (BA ’80), director of education, Regina Catholic Schools, Ms. Rose Mary Hartney (BA ’71), teacher and vice-principal (retired), Vanier Collegiate, and Mr. Lloyd Timothy Young (HS ’72), general manager, Young's Equipment Inc., will be awarded Camplion College Alumni of Distinction Awards for Professional Achievement. Rev. Msgr. Kenneth Eugene Miller (HS ’57), a retired parish priest and diocesan administrator, will receive the Camplion College Alumni of Distinction Award for Humanitarian and Community Service.

The Alumni of Distinction Awards are presented to college alumni and former students who have distinguished themselves in their profession and their community.

The Alumni of Distinction Award for Professional Achievement recognizes individuals who have excelled in their profession and have demonstrated the values, mission, and philosophy of Camplion College in their professional and personal actions.

The Alumni of Distinction Award for Humanitarian and Community Service recognizes individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving their community and the lives of others through exceptional volunteer activity or humanitarian service. Recipients will also have demonstrated the values, mission, and philosophy of Camplion College in their actions.

The awards were established in 2007 as part of the 90th anniversary celebrations, with the purposes of increasing the awareness of the array of successes and the breadth of influence of Camplion College alumni, and promoting the tradition of excellence of Camplion College.

Tickets for the Alumni of Distinction Awards dinner are $75 and can be purchased by calling 586-4242.
Msgr. Kenneth Miller - Humanitarian & Community Service
A retired parish priest and diocesan administrator, Rev. Msgr. Kenneth Miller has dedicated his life to helping those in need.

Miller has provided the constituents of the Archdiocese of Regina with many years of caring and compassionate service. He has served as a parish priest throughout the archdiocese in rural and urban parishes, most recently St. Martin De Porres and St. Anne's parishes in Regina. Miller was also chaplain at Miller High School from 1971 to 1975, where he operated a youth drop-in centre and was directly involved in fundraising efforts for the Catholic Youth Organization.

Always willing to answer the call to serve, Miller has taken on numerous administrative positions within the Archdiocese, serving as vicar general, diocesan administrator, and, most recently, as the archbishop’s delegate for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Archdiocese of Regina.

Even in retirement, Miller continues to serve as chaplain at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, Pioneer Village, and Pasqua Hospital.
Dr. Carrie Bourassa - Professional Achievement

Dr. Carrie Bourassa is a leading researcher in the area of Aboriginal health, and is dedicated to helping others develop a better understanding of First Nations and Métis people. Bourassa’s community-centered approach to research has made a positive impact on the treatment of and care for Aboriginal people in the health care setting. As a professor, she is a role model and inspiration to her students.

An associate professor in the Department of Science at First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv), Bourassa has played a key role in the growth of the science department and was recently awarded a $150,000 research grant from the Canadian Foundation of Innovation (CFI) to build community-based research labs at FNUniv.

Bourassa is very active in the community. She is the nominated principal investigator of the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Center (IPHRC), serves on a number of committees, is a volunteer at the Regina Métis Sports and Cultural Center, and is also a member of the Riel Métis Council of Regina (RMCR).
Mr. Robert Currie - Professional Achievement
Rob Currie began his teaching career in 1985 with Regina Catholic Schools. After seven years in the classroom, Currie was appointed acting principal of St. Matthew School. He went on to become vice-principal of St. Dominic School, and then principal of St. Catherine Community School, Ecole St. Mary, and Sacred Heart Community School. In 2006, Currie was appointed supervisor, school operations, and, in 2008, was appointed as director of education for the Regina Catholic School Division. Throughout his career, Currie has proven to be a man of integrity and vision, and has been innovative in his approach to finding new and meaningful ways to enhance student education.

Currie has a personal commitment to be involved in activities that enhance the personal well-being and growth of people of all ages. This is evident in his volunteer work within St. Martin’s Parish, as a director of the One Life Makes a Difference Foundation, for the 2005 Canada Summer Games Management and Legacy Committees, and, over the last 30 years, as coach and executive member for the Regina Rowing Club and the Saskatchewan Rowing Association.
Ms. Rose Mary Hartney - Professional Achievement
Rose Mary Hartney has played an instrumental role in building community and developing young minds as a teacher and vice-principal at Vanier Collegiate in Moose Jaw, where she worked for 38 years before retiring this past summer. From offering 7:30 a.m. classes to accommodate student schedules, to sitting on the executive of the athletic association, Hartney's dedication to her students and school community goes far beyond her professional obligations. Hartney has taken a very active role in the overall development of her students, having served on the various committees and volunteering for a number of activities within the school community.

Hartney has also made significant contributions to the Moose Jaw community. She serves as an educational advisor for the Moose Jaw Warriors, is an active participant at Church of Our Lady parish, is the chair of the Providence Place Foundation, and secretary for Moose Jaw Crime Stoppers.
Mr. Timothy Young - Professional Achievement

Tim Young is the co-founder and general manager of Young’s Equipment Inc., a full-service Case IH farm implement dealership based in Regina. Under Young’s leadership, the company has grown significantly over the years and is listed by Saskatchewan Business magazine as one of Saskatchewan’s top 100 companies. Both Young and the company have received numerous awards, most recently, the 2009 Dealership of the Year Award by Farm Equipment magazine for “outstanding financial performance, demonstrated commitment to employee training and development, innovative employee recruitment techniques, unique management practices, and renowned customer service.”

Young has donated his leadership and business skills to benefit the larger community, having served the Ranch Ehrlo Society for many years in various capacities, including board chair, and has played a significant role in the development of the Regina Prairie Fire Rugby Club.
Most recently, Exner led a team of scientists in developing the first commercially available test for the H1N1 virus—the swine flu pandemic that spread worldwide in 2009, causing over 17,000 deaths.

It was the first test to qualitatively detect the RNA molecule of the pandemic flu virus in a patient's nasal or nasopharyngeal specimens. The test was also the first commercial lab test to be granted an emergency use authorization by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Exner’s test was launched in May 2009—one month after the virus was first described.

The test, which targets two separate regions of the hemagglutinin gene of the H1N1 virus to differentiate the presence of the pandemic virus from the seasonal influenza A virus, was eventually developed so it could have results in about 20 minutes, when previous influenza test results would take up to seven hours.

As the manager of research and development for his previous employer, Quest Diagnostics, he helped create over 90 new medical tests, including the first available tests for the SARS virus and the avian flu. He also developed multiple tests to help enable the early detection of potentially fatal infections in transplant patients, along with the most sensitive test available to detect Hepatitis C.

“Nothing is ever the same,” says Exner about being the scientific director of clinical research and development at Focus Diagnostics.

In July this year, California was hit by the worst whooping cough epidemic in over 50 years, resulting in several infant deaths. Developing new tests around the whooping cough quickly became one of Exner’s top priorities following H1N1.

“It’s not that we’re sitting around hoping for new diseases to take off.
There always seems to be something,” says Exner.

Becoming a lead researcher in California was a long road for Exner, who grew up in Regina, making the University of Regina the obvious choice for his post-secondary studies.

He enrolled in Campion because he liked the more personal approach to higher education that Campion offers.

“I always enjoyed sitting on the couches outside the library, eating my lunch,” recalls Exner.

In addition to his school work, Exner also played for the Regina Rams, long before the team partnered with the University of Regina. Even so, the team was primarily made up of university players.

“It was definitely a challenge to keep up with my school work and play football, but I did it,” says Exner, adding that he also taught guitar lessons back then. “There were a lot of long days and nights.”

Exner was with the Rams when they won two consecutive national championships in 1986 and 1987.

Today, Exner still keeps up with Canadian football via Internet radio, even though he now lives in Cypress, which is about a half-hour drive from Los Angeles, traffic depending.

“Listening to the last Grey Cup was painful,” says Exner, referring to the Riders’ loss after being penalized for having too many players on the field, giving the Montreal Alouettes a second chance at a field goal that would win them the game.

In addition to keeping up with the Riders, Exner often returns to Saskatchewan to visit his family. “I haven’t missed a single Christmas yet, although it might be smarter to come home in the summer and avoid the cold weather,” says Exner.

Back while he was working on his bachelor degree, Exner had plans to attend medical school.

It was his professor Dr. Rod Kelln, now the acting vice-president of research at the University of Regina, who sparked Exner’s passion for research.

As a student, Exner had the opportunity to work with Kelln on trying to develop a toxic gene that would kill grasshoppers.

“It was very intellectually stimulating,” says Exner.

His work with Kelln inspired him to apply for graduate studies at the University of British Columbia through the department of microbiology and immunology.

At UBC, in the 1990s, Exner began working with a professor who was looking at the best way to treat bacteria that caused stomach ulcers. The research was so cutting edge that most people would have thought him mad to even believe that bacteria caused stomach ulcers.

After finishing his PhD at UBC in 1997, Exner earned a spot as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine, one of America’s most elite medical schools.

“My first week in Los Angeles was kind of scary,” says Exner.

Moving from Regina to a city of over three million people was overwhelming. And Exner had been warned he would have to exercise caution in what he was told was a crime-ridden city. In reality, Exner has found the city to be an enjoyable place to live.

While at UCLA, Exner worked on researching possible vaccines for Lyme disease and syphilis, before leaving the academic world to pursue a variety of jobs in commercial laboratories.

Exner served as the director of assay development at HandyLab Inc., working on rapid infectious disease diagnostic testing using automated microfluidic systems.

He joined Focus Diagnostics in 2007 and, currently, leads its research and diagnostic team in innovation efforts, prioritizing project portfolios and evaluating new technology.

In academia, Exner found grants were competitive and funding hard to come by. Commercial laboratories, on the other hand, make money that, in turn, supports Exner’s future research. “But our first priority is always helping patients,” said Exner.

The tests Exner develops at Focus Diagnostics are sold to hospitals around the world, and Exner has travelled the globe to teach other medical professionals how to use the tests. Recent trips have taken him to India and Mexico. Exner said people would be surprised by the top-notch laboratory facilities in these developing nations.

“They’re just a little behind in some of the technology, which is quite expensive,” says Exner, whose world travels also take him to conferences to give presentations about the new tests Focus Diagnostics have developed.

In the very near future, Exner has plans to travel to Columbia, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Australia, and China.

Although busy, Exner has authored more than 20 publications and holds 10 patents.

He is currently a board member of the Southern California Branch of the American Society of Microbiology, which organizes workshops and continuing education opportunities for medical technologists.

Kelly-Anne Riess is the author of To End a Conversation and the Saskatchewan Book of Everything. She graduated from the University of Regina’s School of Journalism in 2004.

Thank you to Megan Henken for her assistance with arranging the photography for this article, and to the staff at Focus Diagnostic who generously gave their time and talents to assist with the project.
Conceptualizing the Impact of Medium on Meaning

by Jaime Speed

Dr. Christian Riegel (English) and Katherine Robinson (psychology), professors and leading researchers at Campion College, have developed a collaborative program that has received national and community support.

Riegel, Robinson and Dr. Sheila Petty, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Regina, were awarded a $75,000 Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant to create the Interactive Media, Poetics, Aesthetics, Cognition, and Technology (IMPACT) lab, which will be constructed on the University of Regina College Avenue campus. Support for the project will also come from the University of Regina’s Faculty of Arts and Fine Arts, as well as Campion College.

The IMPACT research network is investigating the outcome of ubiquitous computing, that is, textual expression through digital technologies. Riegel and Robinson noticed that electronic technologies were being increasingly implemented in academic and corporate contexts.

Robinson notes, “Handheld technology was developing at a rapid pace and was being adopted widely not only by individuals but also in institutional settings.” Furthermore, Robinson adds, “There was little understanding of how language is processed cognitively when it appears on devices such as iPhones or small cell phones.”

The study explores the effects of language presented through digital technologies. As Riegel puts it, the lab strives to understand “how we process language on these devices and how language can be modified for specific cognitive effects.”

Robinson reports that studies conducted thus far by the lab “indicate that certain types of language patterns that are frequently found in poetry, alliteration, for example, can speed up or slow down readers, can aid or hinder recall, and can affect depth of processing.”

Robinson articulates that further research in the lab aims “to develop research capacity in the cognitive processing of language and visual elements in ubiquitous computing contexts—handheld devices, virtual surround worlds, etc.”

The study integrates the humanities and social sciences with innovative technologies. Riegel reports that the IMPACT Lab also plans “to develop interdisciplinary and collaborative research methodologies and practices.”

As a collaborative program, the lab is comprised of two partners: IMPACT-R (Regina) and IMPACT-C (Carleton). Riegel and Robinson are the team leaders of IMPACT-R, which includes the work of two University of Regina colleagues: Petty and Dr. Luigi Benedicenti (software systems engineering). Riegel explains that the team’s goal is to “collaborate on the study of language and aesthetics on ubiquitous devices, as well as on developing methodologies on newly emerging technologies.”

IMPACT-C combines the expertise of Riegel and Robinson with Carleton University’s Drs. Jo-Anne LeFevre (Centre for Applied Cognition and Research) and Chris Herdman (VSIM – Visual Simulation Lab). According to Riegel, this team will “collaborate on the studies that examine the cognitive processing studies of poetic and literary language on ubiquitous devices.”

Both the IMPACT Lab and Regina stand to significantly gain from this synthesis with Carleton University. Robinson states that the lab aims “to use the high tech knowledge and research practices of the $30 million VSIM facility at Carleton to train students from Regina.”

The lab will certainly be a substantial attribute to the University of Regina, Campion College, and their students. Robinson explains that “we will equip the lab with advanced data collection equipment, will train students in collaborative interdisciplinary methodologies, and will conduct research studies here.”

The researchers will further transfer their knowledge to the Saskatchewan community, heightening our understanding of the significant effects on textual comprehension in a digitally-dominated culture.

Jaime Speed is currently working on an MA in English in Regina, where she works, learns, and plays.
The birds are hard to spot and rarely do humans stumble upon a ground nest. But if people do not start paying attention to Sprague's pipits, the tiny prairie songbird could disappear for good.

Pipits are brown with no distinctive markings, and, when fully grown, weigh no more than twenty-four grams.

Coincidentally, pipits do not get much fanfare. Even scientists admit pipits have a reputation of being the least known bird in North America.

But as the population of the prairie songbird dwindles at an increasingly rapid rate, University of Regina PhD student Ryan Fisher (BSc '02) is making pipits his priority.

In his doctoral project, Fisher is trying to change that. He is focusing on the disappearing habitats of pipits and the circumstances that are contributing to the bird's decline on the prairies.

Traditionally, pipits live on prairie never altered by humans. The land could be grazed by cattle, but otherwise, never broken, planted or plowed. Unfortunately, agriculture and oil developments have altered the prairie landscape, with most of the change occurring in just the last decade.

Fisher says the pipit population has dropped at a rate of four per cent per year between 1966 and 1996. As such, pipits are 'a species-at-risk', meaning they are just one step away from being added to the endangered species list.

“These species have been around for thousands of years, but we have changed things so drastically they are disappearing.”

Eighty per cent of the world’s pipits live in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and a small sliver of Manitoba. They thrive in native grasslands, but only 20 per cent of Saskatchewan’s grasslands remain in scattered pockets across the province.

“It is a bit depressing when you see across the board that birds, mammals, and insects are on the decline simply because we have removed a ton of habitat for these species. It’s less than the percentage of rain forests left in the world, yet, it doesn’t seem to be on the radar,” says Fisher. “People just aren’t aware.”

Fisher says conservation efforts to save grassland species have been minimal compared to other conservation efforts. “I guess researchers were focusing on more colourful and charismatic species,” he says.

Without the tiny, plain brown songbird though, he says, the prairie eco-system would be disrupted. “If pipits disappear it proves that Saskatchewan’s native grasslands are in a devastating state.”

If the native grasslands continue to shrink, pipits will have to nest somewhere else. One of Fisher’s main research questions asks whether or not pipits can survive, maybe even thrive, elsewhere on the prairies.

To explore that question, Fisher needed to uncover some basic characteristics of pipits—what they eat, where they build nests and how they care for their young.
Fisher and a team of researchers head out in early spring to an area of conserved grasslands near Nokomis called the Last Mountain Wildlife Area. At that time, pipits are making the journey from Mexico and Southern Texas, north.

The research team sleeps in small cabins but spends every minute of daylight outside, listening for a pipit's call.

“What's kind of cool about pipits is the males will do this kind of aerial singing display that kind of sounds like a UFO landing,” says Fisher. The male birds will fly about 100 feet in the air until they are just tiny dots in the sky. “We listen for them and then we try to spot that little speck.”

They count the number of birds they hear and, once they locate a nest, Fisher and his team attach small little backpacks that weigh less than 10 grams to the baby pipits. The backpack holds a tiny camera that lets the research team observe the behaviour of the bird, everyday, until the transmitter falls off.

Once Fisher knows the bird's basic habits, he can determine whether or not pipits can survive in areas that have been planted with exotic grasses. His hypothesis is based on hope that planted fields could serve as conservation fields for pipits.

“So far it's not looking good,” he says.

According to Fisher, pipits are initially drawn to these human-altered landscapes to breed, but the birds do not seem to survive long.

That is why Fisher says conservation efforts need to be improved to preserve what native grasslands are left, and the close to 900,000 birds that call it home.

Fisher's supervisor and biology professor Steven Davis says Fisher's research is essential in not only saving pipits, but also numerous native grassland species.

“For me, the pipit is an indicator of prairie health. It is sensitive to disturbances; it is intolerant of converting grassland to cropland. But it is able to cope with some level of disturbances that we humans do to the prairies,” says Davis.

“We can gain an understanding of where the thresholds might be. Then we can figure out what an acceptable level of degradation is.”

Davis hopes that Fisher's initial research is the groundwork needed for landowners, scientists, and politicians to make more informed decisions regarding oil development, road construction, and agriculture. The belief is that in saving pipits, one can save many of the other creatures that thrive on native grasslands.

“There is intrinsic value of keeping a species around that has been here forever and I really think that it's a reflection of how healthy the prairies are if we can keep these different species around,” Davis adds.

Currently, the goal of conservationists is to bring pipit numbers up to where they were in the 1970s. But considering the rapid rate at which pipits are decreasing, Fisher says pertinent work needs to be done in the next two or three decades.

“[The] oil and gas industry is coming into Saskatchewan fast and furiously and you have to build roads to get to the well pads and roads to explore. It needs to be balanced with the needs of the critters that are relying on these areas.”

Fisher says education is key to protecting pipits and native grasslands. He says awareness of the devastating effects of removing native habitats from species will help slow down rapid developments in these areas.

Right now, Fisher and Davis note that any longevity in pipits can be attributed to grazing cattle that replaced the buffalo. When pastures are properly managed, pipits are able to flourish. As such, Fisher's long-term goal is to see continued cooperation from Saskatchewan's livestock producers.

The bottom line, according to Fisher and Davis, is that exotic grasses do not provide a suitable habitat for pipits. If their habitat continues to be disrupted, pipits will die.

“It's definitely a little bit depressing,” says Fisher. “But you have to be optimistic. We know you have to produce these cereal crops and people make their livelihood from the oil and gas industry. But the angle I come from is you have to strike a bit of a balance.”

Fisher expects to complete his dissertation in November.

Leisha Grebinski is a Camphon graduate from the University of Regina School of Journalism. She is currently on leave from CBC Radio Saskatchewan to pursue a master's degree.
The focus of this year’s annual campaign is the development of a fund to support international service learning initiatives.

International service learning is a way for students to participate in volunteer projects in developing countries. Partnering with established organizations such as InterCordia Canada, Campion will provide students with the opportunity to make meaningful contributions in a community radically different from their own. Students will not only learn first-hand the challenges and social justice issues faced by many in developing regions, but also experience what it means to be a global citizen.

“Ever since I came to Campion, it has been my goal to develop a means of encouraging and supporting student participation in overseas projects among the very poor and destitute,” says Rev. Benjamin Fiore, SJ, Campion College president.

Over the years, Campion students have undertaken such endeavours on their own, volunteering in areas such as Kolkata (Calcutta), Peru, Ecuador and Kenya. For many, it is a life-altering experience and the lessons learned cannot be taught in a classroom environment.

Serena La Posta, a second-year student, knows the benefits of an international service learning experience. La Posta spent several weeks in Kolkata this past winter as a volunteer for the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order founded by Mother Teresa.

“I learned that love is emitted in the simplest of actions. Mother Teresa’s words ‘Do small things with great love’ have such powerful meaning. I look at the Missionaries of Charity and what they have accomplished, and it is astounding to witness the result of this universal call to love—people from all cultures and religions have responded to this call.

One thing I valued most about the experience was being able to work directly with the Indian people—specifically the disabled children at my assigned volunteer home, but also the daily, casual encounters we had on the street, in restaurants, on the bus, etc. This made my trip to Kolkata such an intimate and personal experience: an experience of culture, lifestyle, and personalities. I think that real human connections are so important,” recalls La Posta.

With the money raised by the 2010-2011 annual campaign, Campion College plans to establish a fund that will provide financial support for students participating in service learning opportunities and help cover the institutional cost of establishing and maintaining international service learning programs at Campion College.

“Through the establishment of the International Service Learning Fund, we will be able to incorporate real world experiences into the academic program, therefore, providing our students with a more well-rounded education,” says Fiore.

Previous annual campaigns have allowed for the creation of two new classrooms, the Tutor Mentor program, the Writing Centre, renovations to the chapel, a revitalized main floor entrance and cafeteria, an improved and expanded third floor to better facilitate student administration services, refurbishment of the Campion library, the establishment of the Father Peter Nash, SJ, Chair in Religion, and funding for scholarships.
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Elemer Jerkovits, BA ‘86, has been umpiring baseball for 35 years and currently serves as the director of umpires for Regina on the Saskatchewan Baseball Association’s Umpire Committee. Over the past 15 years, Elemer represented Saskatchewan at 10 National Baseball Championships, including the 2009 Canada Summer Games. This summer, Elemer was selected by Baseball Canada’s Umpire Committee to be Canada’s umpire at the World University Baseball Championship in Tokyo, Japan, where he umpired seven games, including the Gold Medal Championship game between Cuba and the United States. Elemer is currently employed by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Corporation (SGI) as a commercial property underwriter.

Victor Lau, BA Adv. ‘94, and his wife Heather Lau own and operate Purrs and Paws Pet Services in Regina. Previously, Victor worked at the east end Superstore as a corporate trainer and Heather worked at Groovy Mama (a baby needs store) before becoming business owners.

The feature film I Heart Regina (13 stories from the centre of the universe), executive produced by Mark Wihak, BFA ’90, and Vanda Schmockel, made its debut at the 34th annual Montreal World Film Festival in August. The film showcases the vibrant filmmaking community that has emerged in Regina over the past 25 years. Public screenings of I Heart Regina will take place in Regina at the RPL Film Theatre October 21-24, and at Saskatoon’s Broadway Theatre in early November, and the producers are planning other screenings in the province throughout the fall. The production was originally scheduled to air on SCN in 2011 and the producers are optimistic that this will still happen.

Rhonda Helman (née Collins), BA, Hons. ‘04, married Chris Helman on 12 June 2010, at Holy Child Parish in Regina, Saskatchewan. Rhonda is an editor at Farm Credit Canada and working on her MA in English at the U of R.

Jaime McGrane, BA ‘08, recently completed her master’s degree in English from Queen’s University, and is now working in collaboration with a grassroots organization in Bungoma, Kenya, to assist in monitoring sustainable strategies for communities to handle HIV/AIDS-related issues. McGrane’s internship is part of an ongoing partnership between the Coady International Institute and its Kenyan partner, Community Research in Environment and Development Initiative (CREDIS). The Coady International Institute’s Youth in Partnership Program gives Canadian university graduates experience working with development organizations in their field of study. The program helps them increase their understanding of global development issues while contributing to the Coady Institutes overseas partnerships. She began her six-month internship at the end of August.

IN MEMORIAM:
John Douglas Robinson (BSC ’83), 9 March 2010.

Brag A Bit:
We want to hear from you! Send your Brag a bit information to Alumni Affairs, Campion College, University of Regina, 3737 Wascana Parkway, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2, or campion.college@uregina.ca.
When Joseph Laszlo set out for Victoria, BC, this summer, he had no idea of the adventure on which he was about to embark.

A third-year arts student and aspiring lawyer, Laszlo was looking for a summer job that would provide him with skills that he could transfer to his career goal of working with people in developing countries. His search lead him to join the naval reserves.

In Victoria, Laszlo joined 90 other junior officers on a course that is designed to develop leadership and teamwork skills. The course consisted of basic training, simulated United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, emergency exercises, and orientation into naval life. The arrival of a cargo ship carrying 490 Tamil refugees in August provided Laszlo the opportunity to put his training to work.

The ship, boarded by naval and RCMP personnel and steered to CFB Esquimalt, attracted the attention of the Canadian public and gave Laszlo a new perspective of the Navy’s role in Canada.

“Being on course is distant because you are not involved in operations. Dealing with the arrival of the Tamil refugees made real for me the importance of the Navy,” says Laszlo, adding that the lessons learned from this experience will help guide him in the future.

“Seeing up close, seeing the people coming off the boat, being here, you have the realization that there is a need to help people [in these situations].”

Aside from the excitement on Canada’s west coast, Laszlo also had the opportunity to sail to San Diego on HMCS Protecteur and witness first-hand an American Navy Seals training mission.

“The experience has been unreal. It was nothing I expected. Our perception [of the military] is controlled by what we see in the media. This is not the military you see in the movies,” says Laszlo.

Once Laszlo completes his undergraduate degrees in history and economics, he plans to go on to graduate school overseas and then to law school in New York, where he hopes to have the opportunity to learn from faculty who work with international organizations such as the UN and World Health Organization (WHO).
“Campion College is a Jesuit Catholic community of learning, federated with the University of Regina. It provides a liberal arts education dedicated to the development of the whole person intellectually, spiritually, socially for service within contemporary society.” Mission Statement, Campion College, University of Regina