GENERAL REMARKS

Many of you will be tracking the actions of universities across Canada and will have seen that some have moved to a delayed start of term in January. The concept of a delayed start simply means that classes start later than original planned whereas staff and faculty begin their work when the university opens. Delaying the start of winter term classes has the benefit of giving students more time to recover from the intensity of the fall as well as hopefully providing faculty and instructors time for a break over the holiday season alongside additional time to prepare for delivery of the academic program in January. In late November, we were able to canvas all of the colleges and schools to identify where it might be possible to delay the start of classes for winter without causing unintentional harm to an academic program. As a result of these discussions, a number of colleges and schools will commence winter term classes on Monday, January 11th. Colleges and schools that were not in a position to delay start without compromising the integrity of programming will stick to their original start dates.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL UPDATES

College of Kinesiology
The College of Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan proudly launched the inaugural Don Bailey Lecture Series on November 5th, 2020. The Don Bailey Lecture Series honours and commemorates the work of Dr. Don Bailey, an internationally acclaimed visionary. As a University of Saskatchewan faculty member and researcher, Don worked at the cutting edge of science and technology in the area of health sciences. Amongst many of Don’s achievements, four ground-breaking projects stand out as having a major impact on health: The Saskatchewan Growth and Development Study, ParticipACTION, the Lifestyle Inventory Fitness Evaluation and the Bone Mineral Accrual Study.

The lecture series will feature kinesiology-related topics of interest to students, the public, and scholars. This year’s lecture took place virtually on November 5 and saw over 150 participants remote-in to hear from the inaugural speaker, Dr. Joe Eisenmann. As a donor-funded initiative, the lecture series is open to the public and offered free of charge.

College of Arts and Science
Dr. Valerie Korinek, Vice Dean Faculty Relations, has created a new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee in the College of Arts and Science. The committee includes faculty representation across the disciplines, and includes women and men; Assistant, Associate and Full Professors; Indigenous and racialized faculty; and 2SLGBTQ+ scholars who will work together for actionable changes within our college.
College of Education

Webinar Event with Dr. Max Eisen
On Thursday, November 19, the College of Education, along with University Relations, had the honour of hosting a conversation with Holocaust survivor, author, historian and 2020 Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient Max Eisen. Held via WebEx, over 60 faculty, staff and students were privileged to hear Dr. Eisen’s powerful story—a story marked by tragedy, courage, survival and a promise to educate society about this appalling chapter in our shared history. Judge David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and Jewish community leader Heather Fenyes (BEd’89) joined Dean Michelle Prytula in providing remarks that stressed the critical role education has in ensuring global citizenship and the eradication of racism.

Strategic Plan Fall 2020 Update
The College of Education has released its Fall 2020 Strategic Planning update which outlines key milestones and contributions in our collaborative journey in becoming The University the World Needs. The college is fulfilling its commitments by engaging in the development of interdisciplinary programs and partnerships, increasing enrolments, prioritizing peer-reviewed funding, rising in academic rankings, enhancing alumni engagement, and continuing its role as a leader in Indigenization.