

THE SCANNER

Student Newspaper of Saskatchewan Polytechnic

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INTERCULTURAL WEEK

During the week of March 20th – 23rd the Saskatchewan Polytechnic community celebrated their third annual Intercultural Week across all four provincial locations. This proved to be another successful year with many highpoints, increased participation and true appreciation for the diversity that each campus location has to offer.

The theme for this year was *Intentionally International* with the intended goal of going deeper with the events and topics that would be included. While there were still some key events that featured fashion, food and festivities, the committees also held events that would raise awareness in regards to overcoming adversity, inclusion, appropriation, anti-racism and so on.

In Saskatoon the week started off in fine form. Dr. Anne Neufeld, Provost and VP Academic, offered welcoming remarks in the cafeteria. Upon completion there were four talented singers that started the singing of O Canada (quickly joined by the majority of spectators), which transitioned into a flash mob comprised of 26 dedicated staff and student volunteers, which then evolved into a round dance complete with drummers from the Wild Horse Drum Group. It was a truly amazing kick-off to the week, and the full event can be viewed on the Saskatchewan Poly-

technic International Facebook page. Other events included a variety of guest speakers, a film night, interactive workshops, student panels, photo stories and much, much more.

The spirit of the week was truly present during Intercultural Idol, an event where a select number of students had the opportunity to display their talents. This was shared through poetry, song and dance. After the judges tallied the results there happened to be a tie for second place, followed by the quick decision that the students would split the prize amount. Sean Beach, a LINC instructor at the Saskatoon Campus, was present and spontaneously decided that he would personally donate the difference as each student was deserving of the full amount. Needless to say, the crowd went wild in appreciation for his generous contribution.

At the end of it all, I hope we can all walk away having learned something new, experienced a new cultural understanding, met someone new...anything that can add to the unique diversity that Saskatchewan Polytechnic has to offer. A great big thank you goes out to everyone who participated in any and all capacities – a volunteer, participant, spectator or otherwise. We can't wait until March of 2019 to do it all again!

SPSA PRESIDENT YEAR END REPORT

This year has been a huge transition phase for the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association (SPSA). This is the first year in the history of Saskatchewan Polytechnic that all four main campuses are represented by one student organization.

Through the hard work and dedication of all the SPSA Council Members, here are some of the highlights of this year's accomplishments:

Bi-Monthly Meetings with Sask Polytech President and VP Academics/Provost

SPSA President and VP Finance and Internal Operations meet with Sask Polytech President and VP Academics/Provost to talk about strategic opportunities for common goals. These meetings establish open communication between the two organizations.

Increase Student Representation on Sask Polytech Committees

SPSA has been lobbying Sask Polytech for increased representation for committees that affect overall student life. SPSA is grateful to have council members that are committed and engaged on Sask Polytech committees that they are part of. This year, Welcome Week Committee's Term of Reference was amended to have an SPSA Representative as a Co-Chair alongside AVP Student Services, Tobi Strohan. This is thanks to Dallas Burnett, VP Saska-

toon Campus, and his dedication to bettering the student experience. Truly, the informed, business-minded and collaborative approach of the SPSA student representatives is starting to get traction and recognition.

Elected the very first set of Regina and Moose Jaw Campus Councils

The Regina and Moose Jaw Campus Councils were elected during the 2017 By-Election. This is a monumental milestone for the student members of these campuses because this will complete the set of highest governing body of the association. True to its commitment to better serve all the students of Sask Polytech, the SPSA General Council has decided to defer making any substantial changes to its Bylaws and Policies until the newly elected Regina and Moose Jaw Campus Councils has been properly equipped with knowledge and information to fulfill their roles.

Continued Financial Accountability to the student members

SPSA student membership fees are substantially lower compared to other student organizations with comparable size. With services based on student needs and a history of clean audit reports in the past years, SPSA ensures that student members are getting "bang for their buck".

Building Rapport with the Minister of Advanced Education

There has been four different Ministers of Advanced Education that were appointed since Vann Cortez began his term as SPSA President. Cortez has had the opportunity to meet all of them to build open communication. The current Minister, Honorable Tina Beaudry-Mellor, has shared her commitment on a proactive approach for concerns that Sask Polytech students have. She even attended the SPSA Executive Council Meeting on March 21, 2018.

Student Representative for Sask Polytech Board

The last time a student representative has been appointed in the highest governing board of Sask Polytech was for the Academic Year 2015-2016. The appointment of Vann Cortez on the board is a tremendous success to the student members.

As a student organization, the SPSA has come a long way. We have accomplished so many things through the hard work and dedication of the General Council, both current and the past, but there is still much to look forward to. Cortez, as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2018 SPSA Spring Election, is proud to announce that students have elected a diverse Executive Council that will determine the direction of the SPSA in the years to come.

PAINTING THE TOWN FUN

Jesse White
VP Prince Albert

In March, the SPSA hosted a Paint Nite on the Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Regina campuses. The event was a rousing success! Students from different backgrounds and cultures got a chance to come together and have fun creating art. To get involved with events like Paint Nite and our upcoming pub nights, check your local SPSA office for details!



WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE CLEANLINESS OF CAMPUS FACILITIES?

Dallas Burnett
VP Saskatoon

Many students have brought to my attention the extremely poor cleanliness conditions across all Saskatchewan Polytech campuses, especially the Saskatoon campus. The recent privatization of cleaning services by the Ministry of Central Services has created a noticeable difference on the cleanliness and overall appearance of our campuses and we want to see change.

On March 6th, 2018, a letter from myself, VP Saskatoon, on behalf of Saskatchewan Polytechnic students was sent to the Ministry of Central Services to officially bring forward student concerns.

On March 15th, 2018, a response was received indicating that the, "experience to date has been that the contract cleaning staff have been

conscientiously working to meet and uphold our standards for cleanliness at each facility."

Within the letter that I sent on March 6th, 2018, I requested that a site visit be arranged with a ministry representative and Students' Association representatives at each Campus in order for us to provide them with a campus walk through from the student perspective. Unfortunately, this request was denied. The student membership has requested further action be taken by the ministry as the cleanliness is not only aesthetically unappealing, but also affecting the learning environment for students.

I look forward to providing students with an update during the next Student Advisory Council meeting and will be encouraging the ministry to take action on this item, as there has been no noticeable changes over the last two weeks.

UNTITLED

*Brooke Field
Campus Council Director - Prince Albert*

I am an outgoing Director almost finished my term. As a Director, I have learned so much about deadlines, meetings, balancing a busy schedule, talking to strangers and making connections. This position has helped me understand how much time and effort goes into making an organization like Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association (SPSA) thrive. The staff and students in the SPSA work together to help enrich the lives of students and, in the process, enrich their own lives through

fulfilment and pride.

I encourage anyone thinking of stepping up and taking the role of a Director to think the role through thoroughly, but also to go for it. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as a person. Remember, the Bylaws and Policies are your friend. Read up on them! Thank you to all four campuses for giving me a wonderful year!

Thank you to the students who have made my year so fulfilling, without you we wouldn't exist.

STUDENTS AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF U-PASS SYSTEM

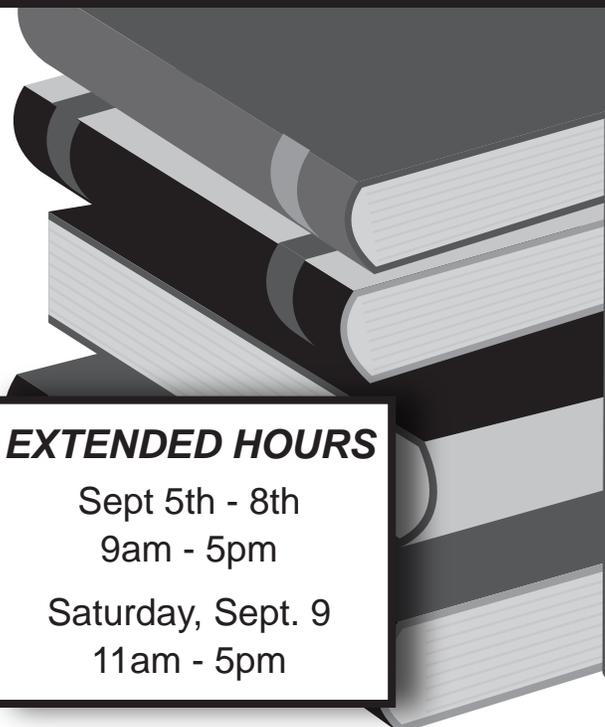
The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association (SPSA) is always working to improve student life at our campuses. One of our recent projects looked into getting a U-PASS system set up. A U-PASS arrangement with local Transit operations would mean reduced bus fares for Sask Polytech students. However, like the Health and Dental Plan, it would require all students to pay a mandatory fee (with some exceptions). The University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina both have U-PASS agreements in place and charge their students a fee each semester of \$80.54 and \$87.60 respectively. The fee at Sask Polytech would likely be in that range.

Because only certain students would be able to opt-out (for example, those living outside of city limits) we wanted to make sure that we

weren't going to be charging a mandatory fee for a service that students were not interested in. We recently sent out an invitation to participate in a U-PASS survey which you likely received in your Sask Polytech email inbox. The results are in, and it appears that overall, students are not interested in a U-PASS.

As of March 22, 834 responses were received from all campuses, Saskatoon (35%), Moose Jaw (21%), Regina (17%) and Prince Albert (8%). Over 63% of the responses were not in favour of a U-PASS. As such, the SPSA will not move forward with the U-PASS project. However, the issue may be revisited in the future or if there is apparent interest in having the survey redistributed.

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SUCCESS

Andrew Pinay
Campus Council Director - Regina

Success. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines success as "the attainment of wealth, favor, and eminence". To those of you reading this, I would like to share with you my road to success.

2007, eleven years ago, I started in the Basic Education program here at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, I was enrolled in upgrading courses. I only had a Grade 10 modified credit math, which means that it was not good enough for any college course I would like to pursue. I did some testing in the Basic Ed program and the testing confirmed what I already knew, my math skills were of a Grade 7 level. My knowledge in math was only of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. I didn't know algebra. I didn't know how to graph and so forth. I had no hope in myself. I thought I was doomed forever with my lack of mathematical understanding. During those 11 years, I dropped in and out of the Basic Ed program. I thought to myself, "I'm sure I got it this time", or, "Alright Andrew, you got this..." I tried, and I tried, and I tried.

11 years ago, I was 19 years old. I was young, I was still a kid. My mind was still developing. In those 11 years, I lived. I learned. I've sustained heartbreak, I got into a few fights, I developed habits and I lost someone who was very close to me from an enemy named "ovarian cancer". I was just 22 when my mother passed and here I was thrown into this big scary world. I learned how to live; I learned how to survive.

In those 11 years, I worked in various places like the oilfield and I drove truck. There was a lot of self-reflection during that time. I'd ask myself, "What am I gonna do? I can't do this forever", I was stuck in a place where drugs and alcohol were of the norm. So I sat down, and thought long and hard.

11 years later, here I am writing to tell you that sometimes we fall, sometimes we fail, sometimes we need help to carry on with ourselves. Just because someone says you can't, doesn't mean you can't. All it takes is hard work and determination.

I started this article with a definition of "success", but to me, no dictionary in this world can define success. There is no definition set in stone that can define success because you are the one who defines success. Either by working hard to provide for your family, learning a different language, or getting up every day to walk to that bus stop to get yourself to school. You are here, you are on the path to something much greater



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than you can imagine.

I worked hard, I studied hard, and I FINALLY achieved my Grade 12 math where, 11 years ago, my math was at a Grade 7 level. I never in a million years believed I could achieve that goal.

I am on the Student Council as a Campus Council Director and my term is up in April. There is a photo that I took last June, which is hanging up in the Regina campus art gallery in the library for everyone to see. I also received word that I am nominated for the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Outstanding Student Achievement Award. All of this is because I know that I am on the path to something much greater than I can imagine. All it takes is hard work.

As I have stated, there is no definition of success. To those reading this article, this is my definition of success. Thank you for reading.

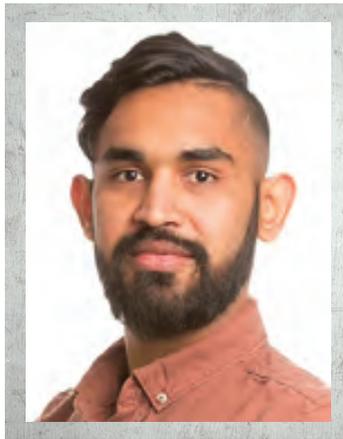


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**SPSA**SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**STUDENT ELECTION RESULTS**

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Chiragkumar Patel



VP Moose Jaw
Arvinder Singh



VP Prince Albert
Anna Lueke



VP Regina
Dustin Hunt



VP Saskatoon
Dallas Burnett

Congratulations to all of our newly elected members!

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BUILDINGS

*Megan Yelland
Campus Council Director - Prince Albert*

There are many obvious differences between the main Technical Building and the secondary Academic Building. The Technical Building is larger, has a higher population of students and faculty, and has access to all services. The Academic Building has the SPSA Canteen, the All Nations Gathering Place, and select services. However, there are many smaller differences that can be an inconvenience to students in the Academic Building.

While we [the Academic Building] do have the Canteen to buy and eat food, we must go to the Technical Building to access most services. We have laptops for class use, but unfortunately the Wi-Fi is spotty which can make accessing information difficult both on school and personal laptops. It also means the school laptops cannot update properly and often will not allow any students to sign on to them, while the Library computers are continually working and the Wi-Fi allows personal laptops to access information. This issue has been brought up both with faculty and in Council meetings. Though this is a Sask Polytech concern, it has been brought up to the SPSA to assist the student body by working with the school to get this issue firmly resolved.

Previous SPSA Councils had little involvement with the Academic Building. There were no info sessions, the Scanner wasn't distributed

and very few students knew about the Scanner or the SPSA. Recent Council has taken the criticisms about lack of inclusion to heart. There have been info sessions (multiple in the last month alone), the Scanner can be found in the Canteen, and SPSA members and Canteen staff inform students about upcoming events; all of which has led to more students from our building participating in SPSA events and meetings.

Yes, the Academic Building is smaller both in size and student population; however keeping students informed of SPSA activities and events, services accessible only in the Technical Building, and of the opportunity to participate in campus life and the way our school operates and interacts with its students should be a priority in both buildings equally. For example, one of only two bathrooms in the Academic Building ran out of paper towel in all the dispensers. Even with the bathrooms being cleaned multiple times per day, it still took two weeks for the batteries to be replaced in the dispenser when there was a note about it the entire time.

It shouldn't be one building or the other. Every student, concern, issue, criticism, and of course every positive comment matters. The only way to better our organization, ourselves, and our school is to include every member. There have been noticeable improvements in including all students in all buildings by the current Council. The question is if it will continue with the next Council. The efforts made by this Council must continue into the following years and across all factions of the SPSA.

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FOR STUDENTS

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STRESSES OF FINISHING SCHOOL: NOW WHAT?

*Marissa Owens
Campus Council Director - Regina*

It has come to that time of the school year where we do finals and graduate from our programs. Now what? What is in store for our future coming out of the classroom and into the work field? We have focused so long on passing all our classes and with the excitement of graduation. We are ready for the "real world".

This moment in our lives is a major transition and many of us feel relieved and excited of our achievements, but others feel the stress and anxiety that the world has put upon us. Feeling stressed is completely normal during a life transition and it is important to know that you are not alone. It is okay not to know what will happen after you leave the campus and enter the work field of your choice. It does create constant anxiety but know that it is okay. It is more than okay not to know the answers. The four major things to take out when you leave is:

1. **Confront the Future.** Take the world into your hands and apply, apply, apply. Just because one place didn't agree does not mean another won't.
2. **Keep things in Perspective.** You are not alone. Most graduates do not have anything lined up for themselves after they graduate and that is okay.
3. **Practice Daily Stress Reducers.** Breathe and find stress reducers that work and comfort you whether it be yoga, meditating, praying, walking or working out, etc.
4. **Stay Happy and Healthy.** A happy mind is a healthy mind. Take care of yourself and do the things you love.

It is normal to be stressed out after you graduate, but driving yourself crazy over it will not help at all. Follow the tips and get to where you want to be. Good luck with finals and congrats to all Saskatchewan Polytechnic graduates.

THE SCANNER

I SPY TO FLY!
PLAY ALONG TO BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$250 AIR CANADA TRAVEL VOUCHER FROM THE SPSA!



Welcome the beginning of Spring with Moose Jaw Campus Council Directors Apoorav Joshi (left) and Tanvir Singh (right). Find both of them in the picture above, circle them, and return your entry to the SPSA Office on your campus. We will draw a winner for a \$250 Air Canada voucher at the end of the academic year.
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