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GDI (1980-2017)

Proud Past, Bright Future



GDI Communicator

The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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SUNTEP Regina Holds its 35th Graduation Ceremony

By Janice R. Thompson

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina held its 35th annual graduation ceremony on May 5, 2017 in Regina. This year's graduation theme is *Gee mochikhtawnawn sur li shmaen d'icole. Lii boon choer kee wiichihiwewuk* or "Celebrating the Road to Success, with Kindness Along the Way." The well-attended event celebrated the achievements of the graduates Taylor Frei and Venus Kay.

With unprecedented weather surrounding us, the graduates shared stories about their academic, community and personal experiences during their journey to earning Bachelor of Education degrees. The graduates paid tribute to those who have supported them along the way including their cooperating teachers. The evening's guest speakers included Chelsie Sinclair, a SUNTEP Regina alumni and current teacher with Regina Catholic Schools.

Heart-warming were the reflective memories of Taylor Frei's journey to reclaiming his Indigeneity. Equipped with knowledge and resources through the kindness of others, Taylor spoke of the Métis community, and the experiences of developing lifelong relationships with an array of peers and community

members. Taylor shared how "the high expectations and standards held in the SUNTEP Regina program encouraged him to constantly push [him]self to become a better person, and for [his] students, and within the community." Taylor's gratitude is a testimony to the importance of SUNTEP, connecting past, to present, and into the future. Currently, Taylor is waiting a callback with Regina Public Schools for the fall; all the best on your next road to success.

Venus Kay also shared her lived experiences. With a box of Kleenex nearby, Venus spoke of how proud she was to be in the program. How the unwavering kindness of her peers during her pre-service teacher training remained her fondest memories. Through her tears, Venus reflected on her experience as full-time student and mother of eight. "I had many late nights and many early mornings. Sometimes I wouldn't even sleep. I had to go-go-go. Many times I thought to just give up and do something else, but I didn't. My peers told me I was an inspiration to them. This drove me to push forward, to be where I am today!" Simply put, confirmation of the SUNTEP 'family' support, contributing to student success. Venus is currently awaiting callbacks from school divisions in Saskatoon and area.

As the evening flowed, smiles, laughter, and tears remained ever present. Family members, guests, dignitaries, students, and staff shared congratulatory sentiments. Speakers included GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Board of Governors representative Collette Robertson, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Regina Dr. Jennifer Tupper, and Métis Elders Norma Welsh and Joe Welsh.

Special awards were presented to the students and graduates. These included the Lebrez Métis Cultural Days Scholarship to Year One student Brandon Cardinal; the Spirit of SUNTEP Award was presented to Taylor Frei; and the David Amyotte Award to Venus Kay.

Entertainment was provided by Métis fiddler Nathaniel Baker, Thom Collegiate High School First Nation Drum Group, Napewsak; and Seven Stones Jigging Group, led by SUNTEP Regina alumnae Alison Kimbley and Cassie Fisher.

As the evening drew to a close, we all felt the sense of pride for our graduates. Hugs, handshakes, and tears dominated the end of the program. Once again, reminding us, that "Celebrating the Road to Success, with Kindness Along the Way" remains foundational in SUNTEP Regina program.



SUNTEP Regina Graduation



Taylor Frei (right) presented with the Spirit of SUNTEP Award by Joe Welsh

Office Administration Students' Career Paths

By Tracy LaPrise and Dr. Elizabeth Majocho

The Dumont Technical Institute Office Administration program held its graduation ceremony this month. The graduates included Annette Melnychuk, Cindy Peters, Michelle Gardiner, Amanda Mossman, Ashley Fleury, Jessica Parker, Chet Montgrand, Sara Belair, Kelsey Hignett, Shivon Tinker, Gail Parker, and Fiona Robertson.

The twelve-student cohort 2017 is eager to commence the opening of a new chapter in their lives. Indeed, eight will begin their career through Aboriginal Career Start (ACS) program offered through University of Saskatchewan in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). The partnership on ACS program began in January 2016 with a meeting between Dumont Technical Institute's Tracy LaPrise, Brett Vandale, and Dr. Elizabeth Majocho, and the University of Saskatchewan's Diversity and Inclusion Consultant Elizabeth Duret and Recruitment Specialist Paul

Sayers (with assistance from other notable individuals from both institutions). The ACS program offers job placements to the Office Administration graduates across the University of Saskatchewan. Other partners in the ACS program include GDI Training & Employment, Saskatoon Tribal Council, and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

Having successfully impressed Ms. Duret and Mr. Sayers with their résumés and interviews, eight office administration students were invited, along with Tracy LaPrise and Dr. Elizabeth Majocho, to attend the ACS: Soft Launch in April 2017 and had an opportunity to network with administrators (who attended the gala event) from various departments within the campus. The following participants will begin their ACS training on June 1: Ashley Fleury, Michelle Gardiner, Chet Montgrand, Gail Parker, Jessica Parker, Cindy Peters, Fiona Robertson, and Shivon Tinker.

Four office administration students had their practicum placements with employers arranged: Sara Belair, International Indigenous Speakers Bureau; Kelsey Hignett, CAMPONI; Amanda Mossman, Saskatoon Public School Division; and Annette Melnychuk, Corrections Canada. It is their hope that they will attain permanent full-time employment following their respective practicums.

The ACS program involves a two-week training course to acquaint participants on the etiquette and policies of University of Saskatchewan. The program prepares participants holistically for their chosen career path at the university. Upon successful completion of the ACS program, each participant will work in specific departments throughout the campus under the mentorship and supervision of Paul Sayers and with the assistance of GDI Training & Employment wage subsidies.

Continued on Page 5.

SUNTEP Students Attend Conference in California

By John MacDonald

John MacDonald is a Lecturer at SUNTEP Regina

In the early morning of March 29, ten Year III students from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina, and myself set off on our way to Los Angeles, California to attend the National Science Teachers Association annual conference. We were eleven among the 12,000 attendees at this conference which drew participants from across the world. Over the next three

days we attended a wide variety of sessions that included a presentation by Bill Nye "The Science Guy" (see his YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheRealBillNye>); touring the hundreds of displays and picking up free materials from publishers and suppliers; driving a hydrogen powered vehicle; and enjoying the sun at the beach.

The science education professional development trip was an eye-opening

experience as the SUNTEP students met and interacted with thousands of current and future teachers who were interested in improving their knowledge and teaching skills, as well as enhancing science education in their classrooms. This afforded our students the opportunity to speak with teachers from very diverse settings and backgrounds. We were, however, shocked by the absence of Indigenous content in the sessions.

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Lori Amyotte (right) presents The David Amyotte Award to Venus Kay (Please see Page 1)

Photos by Brenna Pacholko



Saskatoon Softball Field Renamed After Joe Gallagher

By James Oloo

This month, the Gordie Howe Fastball Field in Saskatoon was renamed Joe Gallagher Field. Joe Gallagher (June 1932 - March 2016) played and coached softball in Saskatoon for over 50 years. He was the grandfather of Amy Briley, Program Coordinator, Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation.

On April 13, 2016, Bryan Kosteroski, the Chairperson Friends of the Bowl Foundation, submitted a request on behalf of the Foundation to the City of Saskatoon Naming Advisory Committee to rename Gordie Howe Fastball Field to Joe Gallagher Field. The Field is owned by the City of Saskatoon. The request was granted and on May 17, 2017, Gordie Howe Fastball Field became Joe Gallagher Field.

In 1964, Gallagher helped raise money to equip the

Gordie Howe Fastball Field. He played on the same field for many years.

Gallagher was proud of his Métis heritage. He played in the first Canadian Native Fastball Championships. At one point, he played alongside both his son and grandson.

Gallagher was a man of many talents. He was a musician and an educator. GDI Training and Employment Director Lisa Wilson fondly remembers him as a teacher: "Joe was my cooperating teacher in Native Studies when I did my internship for my bachelor of education degree. He was great at gently teasing students into learning. That was quite a skill." Gallagher was part of the team that created the first Native Studies curriculum in Saskatchewan.

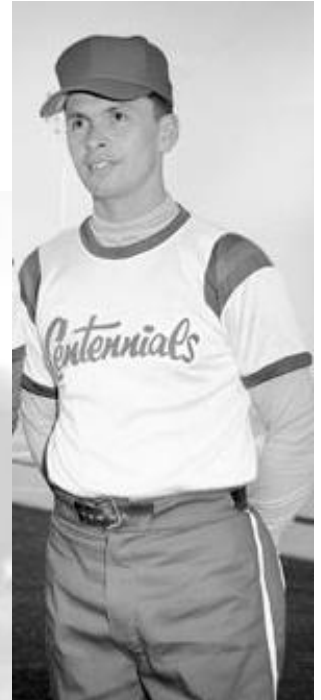
In a media release, the Saskatoon Amateur Softball

Association Communications Director stated that "Like the field newly renamed in his honour, Joe Gallagher was also a big part of local softball history and his name will deservedly live on, along with this field." CTV Saskatoon (May 11, 2017) described Gallagher as "A man key to fastball community."

In a CBC Radio *Saskatoon Morning* interview, Bryan Kosteroski noted that Joe Gallagher "worked with kids of all ages and adults of all ages ... and his wife Vera would sew team uniforms for children who could not afford them."

The naming of Joe Gallagher Field is a fitting tribute to a man who touched many lives in his hometown of Saskatoon. For more information about the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association please visit

www.sasasoftball.ca/



Joe Gallagher
Saskatoon Centennials
Fastball Club, 1967
Photo courtesy of
Saskatoon Public Library.

June is
National Aboriginal History Month.

2017 Statutory Holidays and Christmas Break

By Jim Edmondson

There have been questions asked regarding exact dates when Gabriel Dumont Institute will close in celebration of Canada Day, Remembrance Day, and Christmas break in 2017. Please be advised of the following. July 1 falls on a Saturday, so as per requirements, the Canada

Day statutory holiday moves ahead to Monday July 3, 2017. Remembrance Day will be on Saturday November 11, 2017. However, because Louis Riel Day (Thursday November 16) is in the following week, the Remembrance Day statutory holiday will move back to Friday November 10, 2017. The Institute will be closed during

these statutory holidays. As well, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board has determined that Gabriel Dumont Institute will be closed from December 21, 2017 and re-open on Wednesday January 3, 2018 (That is, December 22, 2017 - January 2, 2018 inclusive). Keep safe and enjoy the holidays. 🌐

SUNTEP Saskatoon Holds Graduation Ceremony

By Sheila Pocha

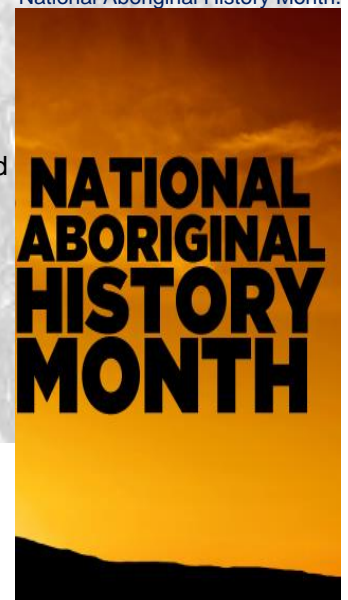
The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) held its graduation ceremony on May 6, 2017 at TCU Place. The Class of 2017 included Jordan Adilman, Ali Baker, Raelyn Fee, Kyla Morin,

Shannon Aubichon, Karlee Climenhaga, Shania Hounsell, Makenna Johnston, Rylee MacKenzie, Brit Meyers, Jessie Pilon, Zondra Roy, and Rachel Simes.

The heartwarming event was filled with excitement and

stories of humility, resilience, and thanksgiving. The graduates received their well-earned Bachelor of Education degrees, and gifts including Métis sashes from SUNTEP Faculty Bruce Sinclair and Sheila Pocha.

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Remembering and celebrating
stories and triumphs of
Indigenous peoples across
Canada.



The 6th Annual Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament was held on May 26, 2017 at Moon Lake Golf & Country, Saskatoon

The Tournament was very successful, raising a record \$41,715



Lukas Nicolas



Photos courtesy of Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation.

SUNTEP Saskatoon Holds Graduation ... *Continued from Page 3.*

The ceremony was memorable for many reasons. The graduates were treated to a surprised performance by *Lii Pchii Daanseur Di La Prayrii* (Michif language for Little Prairie Dancers/ Steppers) from Westmount Community School in Saskatoon. The Steppers performed some traditional Métis jigging with father-son duo Phil and Dallas Boyer. As well, fiddle music piped our graduates into the hall as they were individually called in to join their family at their designated tables.

The graduating class and their families, SUNTEP Faculty and Alumni, as well as special guests from the Greater Saskatoon School Division, Saskatoon Public School Division, Gabriel Dumont Institute and the College of Education University of Saskatchewan were all present to listen to Maria Campbell as she said Grace to the assembly in a very reflective and eloquent way. Our graduates chose Dr. Campbell because of her many accomplishments as a writer, thinker and speaker; they were very pleased to have her among us all.

We were delighted to watch a performance by SUNTEP Saskatoon first year student

SUNTEP Students Go To California ... *Continued on Page 5*

So perhaps, we in Saskatchewan have something to offer the rest of the world in science education. Everyone came away with ideas and materials for their future classrooms.

There were other opportunities that contributed to making the trip a success. SUNTEP students and the secondary science students from the

Tawnie Kotyk. Tawnie received a standing ovation and prolonged applause for her rendition of a song by Lady Antebellum. Rachel Simes of the graduating class was given the opportunity to give a toast to the whole assembly with regards to the graduates, teachers, families, and guests. It was heartfelt and reflective of the years they all spent on campus.

Later, in the evening, the grads received words from their keynote speaker, Murray Hamilton and he spread joy/humor among the crowd relating stories of the students during their years at SUNTEP. The graduates also received words from their two class valedictorians; Rylee MacKenzie and Zondra (Zoey) Roy. Rylee's speech was well presented and made good sense as he thanked the program and the teaching academy on campus for helping him and his colleagues earn their degrees. Zoey's speech was presented in spoken word form to which she penned, titled, 'Voyageurs'. This poem was well presented and spoke of our Métis people, the Voyageur, past and present.

We, at SUNTEP enjoy working with our students. Seeing them

in action in the schools and on campus gives us a great sense of joy. The annual graduation exercises culminate the times our students grow from student teachers to teachers in a very good way. We celebrate with them and encourage them to enjoy their teaching careers and come back to Graduate Studies in their futures.

Five of the thirteen graduates have teaching contracts and the other eight are already substitute teaching in Saskatoon school divisions and in northern/southern communities; we are very proud of this years' group!

SUNTEP graduates are renowned as teachers, administrators, and role models. Their training combines a sound academic education with extensive classroom experience, and a thorough knowledge of issues facing students in our society. Our students are enriched with a great emphasis on Métis culture, history and language. We are very proud of all our graduates and congratulate this years' group on their achievement and accomplishments during their time on the university campus and our program!

University of Regina met and formed relationships that might not have otherwise occurred. It served to illustrate another positive of this trip that we should all be aware of and try to prevent ourselves from becoming too isolated in our teaching world. Hopefully, this experience will translate into a lifelong attitude of engaging with other educators, seeking out new materials and ideas to

better educate our future students.

We would like to thank all who made this professional development activity a success: UR International, University of Regina Students' Union, Education Students' Society of the University of Regina, and Gabriel Dumont Institute.



Office Administration Students *... Continued from Page 2*

They will also have the opportunity to apply for full-time positions at the university.

The ACS program provided placements for our 2016 Office Administration graduates with full-time permanent employment at the University of Saskatchewan: Vanessa Montgrand, Clerical Assistant, Undergraduate Recruitment-SESD; Deana Thunderchild, Graduate Administrator, Biochemistry, College of Medicine; Sharon Robertson, Travel and Expense Administrator,

Connection Point; Connie Dodge, Service Agent, Connection Point; Kristen Debray, Clerk, College of Medicine; and Cheyenne Jones, Clerk, Dean's Office, University Library. These students have set the bar of high standard of excellence for others to emulate. Further, the fact that the Class of 2016 got permanent jobs and Class of 2017 are in the program speaks to ACS success and effectiveness.

The staff at Dumont Technical Institute, and indeed the whole Gabriel Dumont Institute family,

is immensely proud of the achievements of our office administration students. They have taken a proactive process of gaining relevant knowledge, skills, and experience, as well as discovering their strengths and interests, and learning from others. The success of our students speaks volumes in their determination and tenacity to succeed amongst the day-to-day challenges they each are faced with. They are role models for future office administration contenders. Congratulations Dumont Technical Institute Office Administration graduates! 🌍



SUNTEP Regina 2017 graduates
Taylor Frei and Venus Kay
Photo by Brenna Pacholko

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, June 2017

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student June 9 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for June 15 Payday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for June 23 Student Payroll			Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student June 23 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for <u>June 30 Payday</u> Cutoff @ 4:30 for July 7 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.

MRTS due by the 15th of every month, and employee contracts are due prior to payroll cutoff date.

If received after the cutoff date, the employee will be paid on the following pay period.



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can be obtained at:

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index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

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GDI Mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research