

**INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR CULTURE
AND CREATIVITY (ICCC)
STATUS REPORT**

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/iccc/>

Vision: Realizing capacities for creativity is vital for the upholding of communities. Working collaboratively and reaching outward, the Humanities and Fine Arts discover avenues to such realization.

Mission: The ICCC fosters creative communities that involve the Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Saskatchewan. This Centre encourages graduate and undergraduate programming across departmental boundaries. It increases the potential for research collaboration and funding success. It improves the University's capacity to connect with external partners. Pursuing these goals, it carries out its mission to attract and sustain students, visiting scholars and artists, and faculty. The ICCC supports projects envisioned by those for whom vision and social responsibility in the broadly defined areas of cultural and creative work are crucial.

Goals and objectives of the centre: The ICCC invites and sustains innovative, timely research projects. It supports the development of inspiring, widely available courses and programs. It welcomes visiting scholars and artists who share a commitment to transformative connections. The theme for this year's events and projects at the ICCC is *Encouraging Creativity*.

Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate:

Programs

1. The Centre is committed to developing and supporting graduate courses of foundationally interdisciplinary value. To this end, INCC 801.3, *Reading French*, has been instituted in the Centre: to conduct research, graduate students in the Humanities and Fine Arts need the skills to find, read, and translate sources not available in English; this course acknowledges the status of French in Canada—not least as a language of research in the arts—and helps usher graduate students into an international community of scholarship.

As well, the Associate Director has negotiated joint sessions in the 990 courses being offered by various graduate programs in the Division; on the horizon is a joint course in Research Methods for students in the Division's graduate programs.

2. The Centre's proposal for an MFA in Writing has been accepted by the University Council. To achieve this goal, members of the province's writing community worked with faculty in the Humanities and Fine Arts to develop a broadly-based, well-rooted, distinctively innovatory program. Students in this two-year MFA will practice writing in a variety of forms, from shorter and longer poetry and fiction to, for instance, biography and science-writing. Students will work with mentors from the University faculty and the wider writing community who are distinguished practitioners of their chosen kinds of writing.
3. The BA program in Women's and Gender Studies has been transferred to the Centre. Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that explores gender and sexual diversity, masculinities and queer studies, practices of representation and cultural production, popular culture, and critical transnational feminisms. Drawing on innovative conceptual frameworks and interdisciplinary methodologies, our undergraduate curriculum addresses intersections of embodiment, identity, community and knowledge politics in arenas that span the intimate and the international.
4. The Centre has initiated discussions with the University Learning Centre regarding the maintenance and development of INTS 298.3, *Dynamics of Community Involvement*. Another undergraduate course supported by the Centre in 2009–10 is Drama and Art 398.3, *Spectacle: Practices in Art and Drama*.

Research

1. In the fall of 2009, the ICCC called for proposals for new interdisciplinary projects. Interdisciplinary scholars and artists were asked to plan and initiate research or engage in other scholarly exchanges. Its Working Groups Grants competition elicited nine applications, of which two were successful: *Digital Culture and New Media* (Allison Muri, English; Terry Wotherspoon, Sociology; Susan Shantz, Art and Art History; Frank Bulk, eMAP) and *Aboriginal Historical Consciousness and Voice* (Keith Carlson, History; Kristina Fagan, English). Each group received a grant of \$3000 for the year, with the possibility of a further year's extension.
2. In 2010, the ICCC met with researchers and librarians, including Vicki Williamson, Dean of the Library in order to discuss ways to explore and celebrate the University Library and Archives' internationally significant holdings in documents and

publications relevant to Sexual Diversity. Based on these meetings, the ICCC secured USTEP funding for *The Queer Archive*, an initial survey of select holdings. A goal of this work is to hold an international conference on the University's holdings.

Outreach

The Division of Humanities and Fine Arts has a well-established series of community consultations known as *I2I*. The goal of the *I2I* series is to bring the needs of potential municipal, provincial, and community partners to the attention of university faculty in order to promote and support community-university partnerships. This series has come under the aegis of the ICCC. In 2009–10, the Centre held two *I2I* sessions, the first on Cultural Leadership (22 March 2010; led by Jeremy Morgan, Saskatchewan Arts Board) and the second on Sherbrooke Community Centre as a Centre for Creativity (6 May 2010; led by Patricia Roe and Jeff Nachtigall of the Sherbrooke Community Centre, and Anne Simpson, Writer in Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library).

Events

In addition to supporting various College, University, and departmental visiting lectures, the ICCC sponsored a Visiting Lecturer in the fall of 2009: Ross King (author of *Brunelleschi's Dome* and *The Judgement of Paris*). The ICCC also worked with the Gail Appel Lecture Series to bring Sir Ken Robinson to the University in October 2009. It has made preparations for a Visiting Lecturer in August–September 2010, Shauna McCabe (CRC in Cultural Theory, Mount Allison University).

Partnerships

In addition to sustaining and developing collaborative connections with the academic units and public organizations mentioned above, the ICCC maintains close ties with the following units on campus: the Digital Research Centre; the University Art Gallery; the Museum of Antiquities; and the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus.

Governance:

1. The ICCC Advisory Committee provides oversight and support for the planning and budget of the Centre. It offers guidance on the annual thematic focus for the Centre's activities. It provides advice on the activities prepared by the Director and Management Committee. It gives a year-end review of the Centre's projects and initiatives.

In its first year, the membership of the Advisory Committee included the Vice-Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts (Peter Stoicheff), the Director (chairing) and Associate Director of the ICCC (these three all *ex officio*), a representative of Communications, Development, and Alumni Development in the College of Arts and Science (Jami

Young), a faculty representative of the Division (Mary Longman, Art and Art History), three representatives of extra-divisional units of the University (Ken van Rees, Soil Science; Nazeem Muhajarine, Community Health and Epidemiology; Peggy Schmeiser, President's Office), and two members of the wider community (Gerry Klein, Saskatoon Star Phoenix; Jeremy Morgan, Saskatchewan Arts Board).

Although the terms of membership are being staggered initially to assure an even turnover, members will normally serve on this committee for two years. This committee meets three times a year, including an annual joint meeting with the ICCC Management Committee. The quorum for the meetings of the Advisory Committee is six. The minutes of the Committee's meetings are published on the website of the ICCC.

2. The Management Committee ensures the success of the ICCC by overseeing the operations of the Centre, including advising the Director on issues related to research directions and activities, programmatic and student concerns, and budgetary decisions. This Committee draws on expertise within and beyond the Humanities and Fine Arts to identify new interdisciplinary opportunities involving students, visiting artists and scholars, programming collaborations, research partnerships, and emerging trends. Members of the Management Committee participate as needed on subcommittees adjudicating applications for Working Groups, Research Chairs, Research Fellowships, and Visiting Scholars/Artists.

In the Centre's first year, the membership of the Management Committee included the Director (chairing) and Associate Director of the ICCC (these three all *ex officio*), the incoming Program Coordinator for Women's and Gender Studies (Marie Lovrod, WGSt), the acting Coordinator for the MFA in Writing (Bob Calder, English), and the Director of the Digital Research Centre (Jon Bath). This Committee will include student representative at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Members serve on this committee for two years (except for students who will serve a one year term), with the possibility of an extension. This committee will meet monthly, including one annual joint meeting with the ICCC Advisory Committee.