

Degrees

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

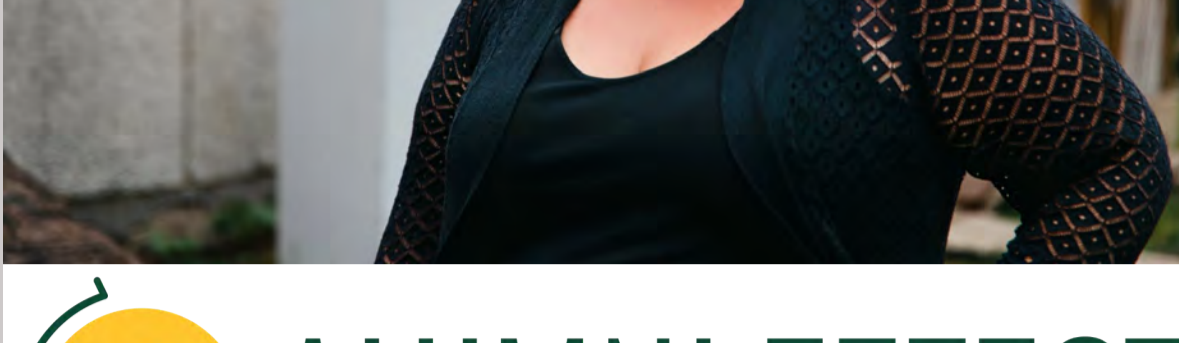
Q+A with Guy Vanderhaeghe BEd'78 (Great Distinction), S.O.M., O.C.



Celebrated Saskatchewan writer Guy Vanderhaeghe BEd'78, S.O.M., O.C. is the author of six novels and four collections of short stories, and has been the recipient of many awards, including the Governor General's Award (three times), the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In January, he was awarded the 2nd annual **Glen Gairy Book Award** for his most recent novel, *August Into Winter*, which is set in small-town Saskatchewan on the brink of World War Two. Vanderhaeghe spoke with Degrees about how looking at history can help to make sense of the present, how teaching informs his writing, and the importance of applying oneself to the job at hand.

[Read this story and more in Degrees](#)

Experience the Alumni Effect with Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen BEd'02



The ALUMNI EFFECT

SPEAKER SERIES

Get ready for another instalment of the Alumni Effect. This month, we're joined by **Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen BEd'02**.

Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen has led the YWCA Regina since 2015, and is the youngest CEO in the organization's 110-year history. She was the recipient of the 2022 ACA Humanitarian and Community Service Award, and credits her time at the U of R for preparing her for her current role as CEO of the largest and longest-serving women's organization in Regina. Melissa stands as a reminder that women's voices must not just be heard but amplified.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023
12 - 1 p.m. via Zoom
Program begins at 12:10 p.m.

[Learn more and register here](#)

Coming soon: Go Far, Together — a new podcast from the University of Regina



Coming soon! On **March 28th** tune in to the U of R's new podcast, **Go Far, Together**, and meet some of our University's brightest thinkers.

From outer space to Reconciliation, from first-responders' mental health, to the connection between cannabis and the NFL, this podcast will explore how our researchers are changing the world and how we understand it — right here on the Prairies.

We'll share more info in the April alumni newsletter — but keep your eye on social media on March 28 for links to the podcast!

Kwayskahstahsôwin: Setting things right

Join us for this new lecture series intended to advance conversations on issues and topics critical to reconciliation — how to set things right in Saskatchewan and beyond.

Hosted by U of R Associate Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement, Lori Campbell, these free public events will be presented in **Regina, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, and Swift Current**, bringing together young Saskatchewan Indigenous Leaders to share their stories and take part in a moderated conversation. The goal is to demonstrate the hope they represent for the future, while also identifying, naming, discussing, and tackling historical and contemporary injustices facing Indigenous People in Saskatchewan.

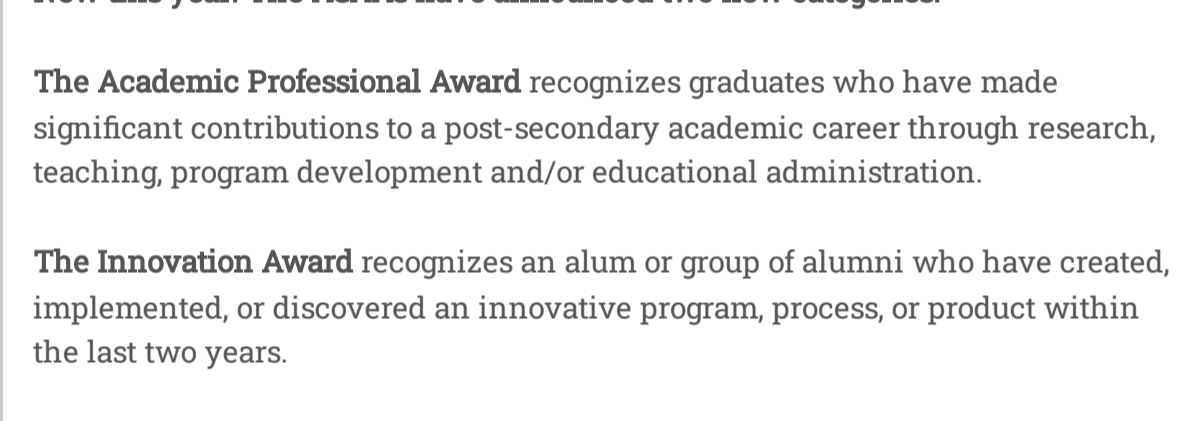
April 4 | Treaty 4 | Moose Jaw | Moose Jaw Library Theatre
April 11 | Treaty 4 | Yorkton | Yorkton Library Programming Room
April 19 | Treaty 4 | Regina | Location: TBC
April 24 | Treaty 4 | Swift Current | Lyric Theatre

Use the links below to register for a session near you:

- [Moose Jaw](#)
- [Yorkton](#)
- [Regina](#)
- [Swift Current](#)

This speaker series is made possible through the support of the [South Saskatchewan Community Foundation](#).

Deadline to nominate is coming soon: March 31, 2023



The deadline to nominate an outstanding alum is just around the corner! Help us celebrate the inspiring achievements of U of R alumni through the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards.

New this year! The ACAAs have announced two new categories:

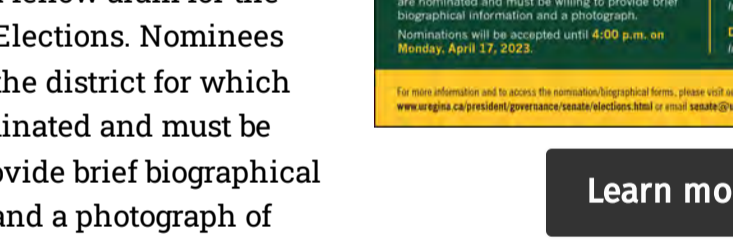
The Academic Professional Award recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions to a post-secondary academic career through research, teaching, program development and/or educational administration.

The Innovation Award recognizes an alum or group of alumni who have created, innovated, or discovered an innovative program, process, or product within the last two years.

Nominate outstanding alumni for the 2023 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards today!

[Learn more about the ACAAs and nominate!](#)

Alumni Benefits



As an alum and member of the University of Regina Alumni Association, you can now enjoy special group rates on a wide range of insurance plans from Manulife.

If you've been thinking about getting insurance or simply looking to supplement any coverage you may already have, be sure to check out your alumni benefits first.

[Learn more!](#)

Call for Nominations: Deadline April 17

Consider volunteering or nominating a fellow alum for the 2023 Senate Elections. Nominees must live in the district for which they are nominated and must be willing to provide brief biographical information and a photograph of themselves.

Nominations will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

[Learn more](#)

Alumni in the News

Alika Lafontaine
[The Power List: Alika Lafontaine is working to make life better for all doctors - Macleans.ca](#)

Jennifer Francis BA'22 DICA'20
[CBC Indigenous receives 2023 DICA awards for CAJ awards | CBC News](#)

Sawyer Buettner BA'22
[TPS overseas: Sawyer Buettner playing football in France | 980 CJME](#)

Ammanda Zelinski BA'18
[Acceptance, not awareness, key to fostering inclusivity in the arts | CBC News](#)

Caitlyn Buchanan BBA'14
[New and notable appointments at SAS Ireland, Bank of Ireland, McCann, Flit Gerald, Kearney, Law Group, MyClub, HEINIKEN Ireland, Esri Ireland and Logicalis UK&I - Business & Finance | Business & Finance \(businessandfinance.com\)](#)

[Read more about UoR alumni making news!](#)

Upcoming Events



Indigenous Engagement Strategic Plan Virtual Session

The Office of Indigenous Engagement, led by Lori Campbell, Associate Vice-President, is developing an Indigenous engagement strategic plan that builds on the collective history of the university, endeavours to mend relationships with Indigenous communities, acknowledges truths, and advances teaching and learning excellence for all.

Four virtual sessions for the University of Regina alumni have been scheduled. Registration is free through EventBrite. **Please register for one of the sessions.** You can register by clicking the date below that you would like to participate. Once you have registered, an email containing the link to the virtual session will be provided. A reminder email will also be sent prior to the event.

Indigenous Engagement Strategic Plan Virtual Sessions are presented online via Zoom.

- [Wednesday, March 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, March 22 at 7 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, March 23 at 6 p.m.](#)
- [Friday, March 24 at 12 p.m.](#)



Archer Book Club: Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

Taken from their families when they are very small and sent to a remote, church-run residential school, Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of detention. Alone and without any skills, support or families, the teens find their way to the seedy and foreign world of Downtown Eastside Vancouver, where they cling together, striving to find a place of safety and belonging in a world that doesn't want them. The paths of the five friends cross and crisscross over the decades as they struggle to overcome, or at least forget, the trauma they endured during their years at the Mission. [Read more...](#)

[Join the Archer Book Club](#)



AlumNIGHT

AlumNight Paint Night with Natasha Witte BA'18, CPR'18

Save the date, and plan to get creative with us on Wednesday, April 5 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Lazy Owl!

Tickets are \$25 per person, and include a private paint night class with all materials (and a drink for sipping while you paint).

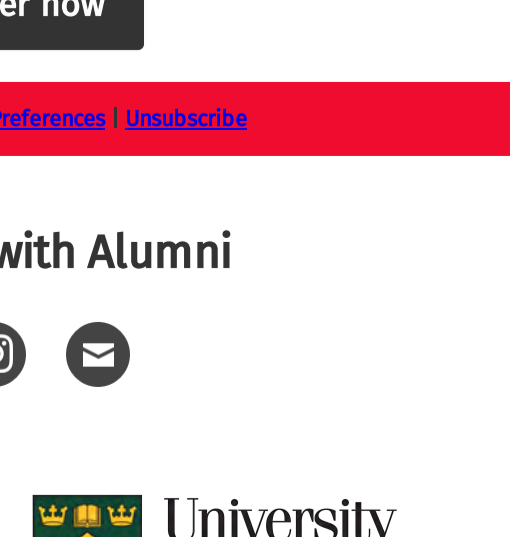
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