

New Interim Associate Dean

Dr. Karim Tharani has been appointed interim Associate Dean, Research and Collections, effective 1 January 2023. This one-year appointment allows the library to define and align its strategic and operational responsibilities.

Dr. Tharani's experience in the USask library includes serving as the Information Technology Librarian, Head of Library Systems & Information Technology, and most recently as the library Digital Metadata Librarian. He also has previous experience working in the IT private sector. During his one-year appointment, the Dean will work with the library leadership to determine how best to fill this role on a more permanent basis with the goal of appointing a more typical five-year term by January 2024.



Charlene Sorensen completed her term as Associate Dean at the end of 2022. During her six years in that role, Charlene served twice as interim dean. Her leadership was critical in guiding the University Library successfully through the pandemic.

Your donation to the University Library will enable students to access library collections, awards, and a wide range of services and programming that will help them succeed in their journey at USask.

Thanks to your support, the University Library will remain a vital resource for our campus community.

To make your gift today, visit give.usask.ca/students

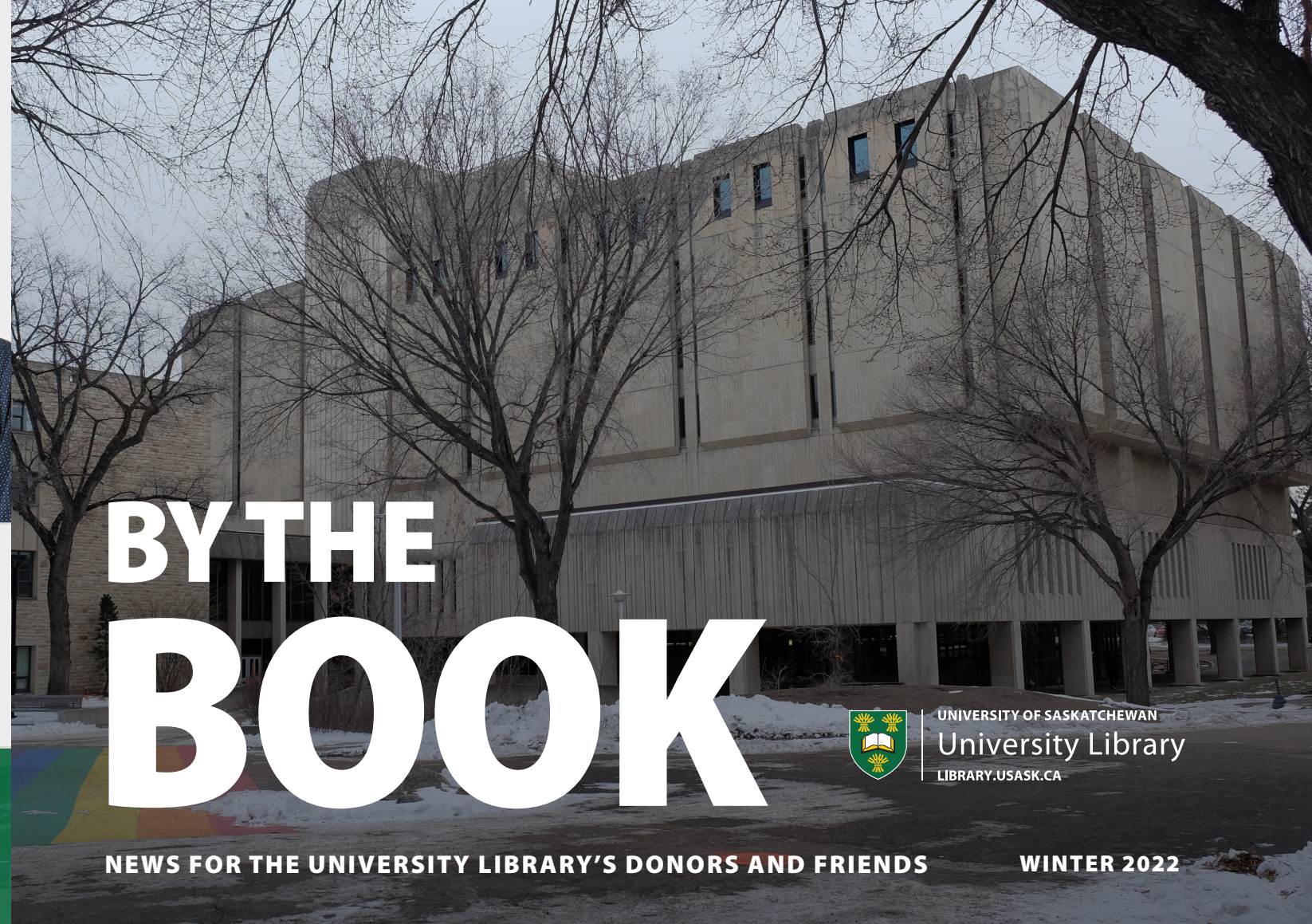


For more information on how you can support the University Library, contact:

Luke Muller,
Director, External Engagement
(306) 966-1192
luke.muller@usask.ca



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
University Library
LIBRARY.USASK.CA



Dean's Message

I think it's fair to say that I'm a punctual person – I'm rarely late and, in fact, almost always run a few minutes early. This year, however, I find myself in the unusual position of writing this introduction to our Winter 2022 newsletter during the first weeks of 2023. We usually send *By the Book* to our donors and friends before the holidays, but this fall and winter was particularly busy and it's only now finding its way out the door. But, in our defense, we've been running late for all the right reasons.

With the world starting to resemble something of its pre-pandemic self, I have once again resumed my professional travels, representing our library

at professional associations across the country and the United States. We've been initiating new library programs, like our collaboration with Huskie Athletics that you'll read more about in this issue. We've also continued to make progress on our major renovation to University Archives and Special Collections, which will find its new home on the redeveloped 5th floor of the Murray Library by 2024.

And, of course, I've been continuing conversations with many of our donors and friends. This is perhaps the most rewarding part of my work as Dean. As the world continues to become more open and travel is easier, I look forward

to visiting you where you live in the months ahead and talking more about the projects and programs underway at our University Library.

So, as they say, better late than never – I do hope you enjoy your slightly delayed Winter 2022 issue of *By the Book*, and I hope to see you sometime soon in your neck of the woods. ♥

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Just
Dean, University Library

Huskie Athletics Partners with USask Library to Deliver Community Literacy Programming

In the latter part of 2021, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies traded in their Green and White jerseys to participate in a University Library-led service-learning program in support of a local Saskatoon community organization. As part of a partnership between the University Library, Huskie Athletics, and Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan (formerly READ Saskatoon), several Huskie student-athletes took part in Foundations' *Spark Program*, an eight-week child literacy program.



Student athletes volunteered as 'reading guides' working with school-aged children in core neighbourhoods in grades 2-4 over eight weeks. As part of the program, USask students had an opportunity to reflect on their volunteer experience through facilitated learning activities guided by university librarians, learning specialists, faculty, and community members. Specifically, students examined their own positionality and agency while gaining a deeper understanding of their broader community and the social, economic, and cultural factors influencing literacy and information privilege.

"The opportunity to partner with Huskie Athletics came about during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic when student athletes had more time to consider volunteering as a way to engage with community," said Jo Ann Murphy, Assistant Dean, Learning and Curriculum Support – University Library.



Jo Ann Murphy

"It is important that these students reflect on and gain an understanding of their responsibility, as privileged individuals, and university members, to give back to the local community through volunteering and active citizenship."

This library pilot program was creatively framed around the USask Learning Charter's Learning Pursuits – encouraging student-athletes to explore how literacy and the privileges associated with it, help shape their understanding of good citizenship and principles such as service, diversity, and equity. The library is currently considering offering the program again in the 2023-24 academic year with the potential to include working with other colleges. ♥



Eli Bornstein and USask President Dr. Peter Stoicheff pose together for a photo in front of a display of Roald Nasgaard's book.



The cover of Eli Bornstein's book, *Eli Bornstein: Arctic Journals, 1986 and 1987*

The Artful Life of Eli Bornstein Literacy

It's not every day you celebrate someone's 100th birthday in the University Library. But that's exactly what happened on November 1st when a small group of friends and former colleagues of artist Eli Bornstein gathered to recognize his extraordinary life. Dr. Bornstein turned 100 on December 28, 2022.

"It was a privilege to host this gathering and celebrate one of the university community's longest-serving members," said Dr. Melissa Just. "We're also extremely grateful that Mr. Bornstein chose the University Library to be the recipient of many of his personal papers, documents that shed light on a significant time of artistic development at USask."

Dr. Bornstein arrived in Saskatoon in 1950 from the United States and was named

the head of the department of art and art history. In 1960, he founded the international art journal, *The Structurist*, which focuses on ideas in architecture and the arts.

Upon his retirement from teaching in 1990, he was awarded an Honorary Degree – the highest honour that USask can bestow on an individual. And in 2018, Dr. Bornstein received the Order of Canada for his contributions to the art community, and in particular for his ability to blend art and science and shed light on environmental issues.

Last year, Dr. Bornstein collaborated with author and curator Roald Nasgaard to publish his book entitled, *Eli Bornstein: Arctic Journals, 1986 and 1987*. The book, which was funded in part by library do-



Roald Nasgaard

nors, is a personal reflection on his life and is a tribute to the Canadian North.

The book is available for purchase through the USask Bookstore. ♥