

BY THE BOOK



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
University Library
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NEWS FOR THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S DONORS AND FRIENDS

WINTER 2023

Dean's Message

It's a pleasure and a privilege to introduce this issue of By The Book as the University Library's interim dean. As many of you will know by now, Dr. Melissa Just, who served as library dean since 2017, has accepted a new position leading the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries. I know this was not an easy decision for her, and that she will dearly miss everyone she has come to know during her time at our library, especially our donors and friends.

I look forward to advancing the priorities and initiatives that Dr. Just so passionately championed during her time at USask, particularly those that support our students. You will read more about one such library program in the pages ahead – a University Library-led initiative focused on building a supportive community around creative writing.

You will also read more about the work we've begun in support of the university's broader commitments to Indigenization, including a story about renaming an important Indigenous research collection and our selection of this year's Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence, a completely donor-funded initiative now operating in its 4th year.

While this newsletter only allows me space to mention a small fraction of the work currently underway in the University Library, it provides an important opportunity to acknowledge, on behalf of all of us in the library, our deep appreciation for the support of all our donors and friends; we simply couldn't accomplish all we do without you.♥

Until the next issue....



Sincerely,

Charlene

Charlene Sorensen
Interim Dean, University Library



Farewell to Dr. Melissa Just

In November, Dr. Just left her position at USask to take on a new role as the *Valerie and Ronald Sugar Dean's Chair of the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries*, a move that enables her to return to USC, her alma mater, where she earned her Doctor of Education degree and where she started her academic librarian career.

She has served the university community for the past six and a half years, first joining USask as Dean, University Library in February 2017. She also served in other key leadership roles, including Interim Deputy Provost (February 2021 to July 2021) and Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic (May 2020 - January 2021). Notably, she provided her expert leadership during the intensity of the global pandemic. ♥

Getting Creative in the Library

"Coming together to work on your writing with other writers can not only inspire your creativity, but it can help build community and personal connection among our students," says Helen Power, the university's Engineering and Science Librarian and a novelist in her own right.

Power and the University Library have been offering what are known as 'write-ins', which are events that bring creative writers together from both on and off campus to work on their own writing. The act of sitting together at a designated place and time not only provides motivation to writers to engage in their craft, but also offers them an opportunity to share ideas – and advice.

"These write-ins are building a community of practice, a space where writers can inspire one another to get energized and creative in their work," Power says.

Students from the university's MFA in Writing program, which was established in 2011, have also been encouraged to attend and contribute to the sessions by the director of the program, Dr. Jeanette Lynes.

"Writing is difficult and too often a solitary activity," says Lynes. "These write-ins give participants an opportunity to build connection with like-minded creative writers in an environment in which they feel supported and safe sharing their ideas."

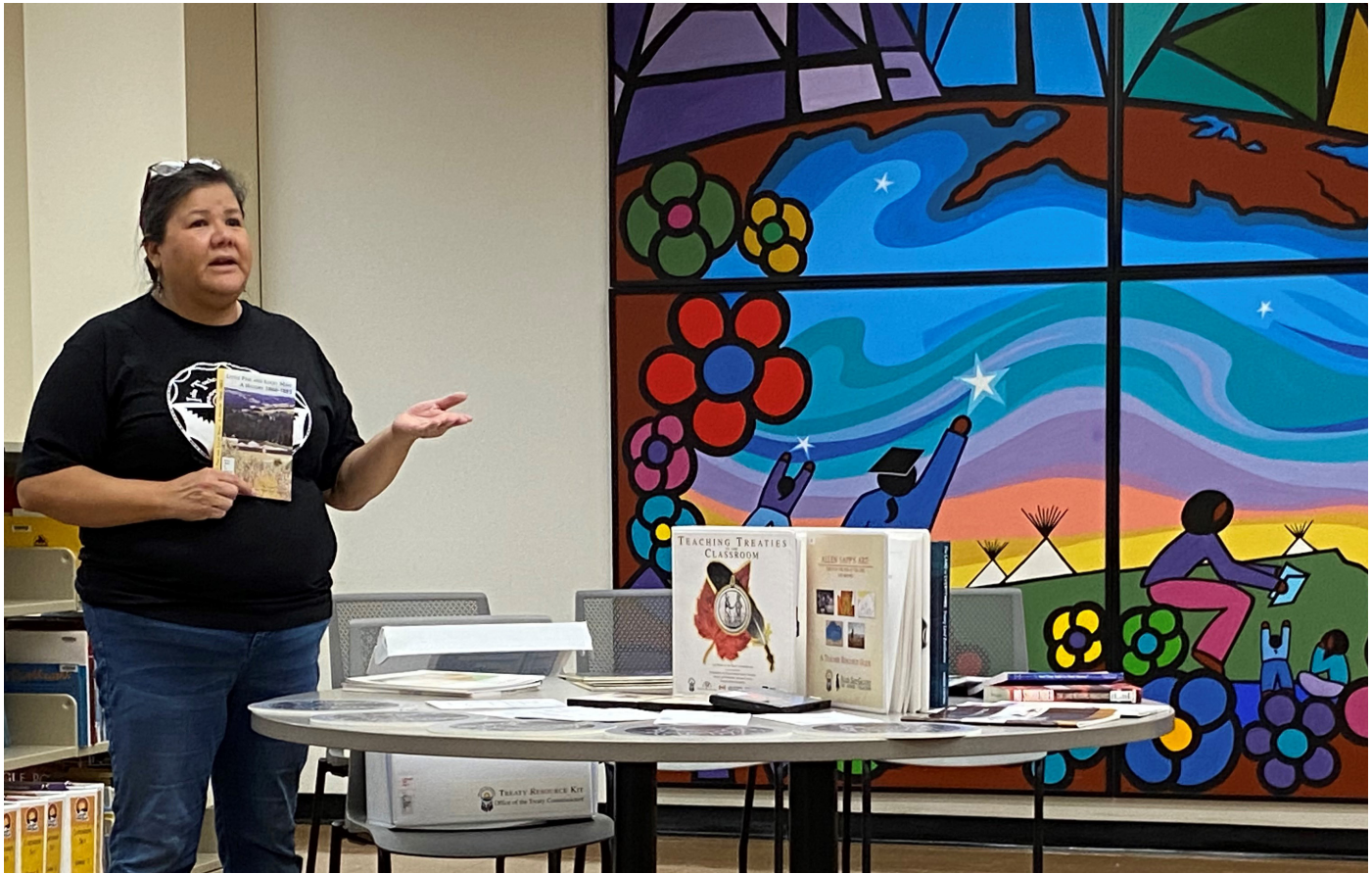
The write-ins will continue to be offered monthly within the library, alongside creative-writing workshops featuring guest speakers from across campus and the broader community. These events are open to everyone. ♥



Helen Power



Dr. Jeanette Lynes



Lori-Ann Daniels, an ITEP Mentor/Instructor, talks about the impact of the Indigenous Education Collection in the classroom.

What's In A Name?

"I'm not sure Shakespeare got it completely right," says Dr. Maha Kumaran, Education and Music Librarian. "Naming can be significant even sacred, particularly in Indigenous cultures, where it can relate closely to identity and tradition."

This was, in part, the thinking behind the new name of an important collection of Indigenous resources in the Education and Music Library. Formerly known as the "Aboriginal Education Collection," these resources will now be officially called, the "Indigenous Education Collection."

The collection itself consists of more than 4,000 Indigenous resources, including Treaty resource kits, Indigenous language

materials, dictionaries, Kakwa artifacts (replicas), musical recordings, scholarly resources, and curriculum materials including teacher guidebooks, picture books, graphic novels, and folklore.

"This collection is a significant one and is available to everyone across campus," says Kumaran. "It's currently used heavily by students and faculty from the College of Education, particularly by students and instructors in ITEP and SUNTEP programs."

The adoption of the word 'Indigenous' is not arbitrary; it not only reflects a broader movement away from using the term 'Aboriginal,' but it is derived from the Latin word *Indigena*, which means 'sprung from

the land'. This underscores Indigenous peoples' deep and historical connections to the land, while reinforcing land claims and territorial acknowledgements.

"The University Library is committed to decolonizing its collections and services," says interim dean Charlene Sorensen. "This is important work that includes making sure we're using appropriate language throughout the library, language that is both accurate and culturally relevant."

"While renaming this collection is significant," Sorensen says, "we acknowledge there's more work that needs to be done throughout the library."♥

2023-24 Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence Announced

Award-winning poet and photographer Tenille Campbell (BA'07, MFA'12) has been selected as the library's next Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence for a twelve-week residency beginning January 1, 2024.

Following last year's performance-based residency with Bruce Sinclair, Campbell's selection as the 2024 Storyteller-in-Residence supports the residency's aim of uplifting Indigenous voices and promoting intercultural understanding and story-sharing between and among Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

The Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence is made possible through the generous support of University Library donors. ♥



Tenille Campbell

A collage of various images representing different fields of study and campus life, including students, a scientist, a farmer, and a researcher. The central text reads "TOGETHER WE WILL BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS". At the bottom, it says "THE CAMPAIGN FOR USASK" and "give.usask.ca". The University of Saskatchewan logo is also present.

TOGETHER WE WILL
BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR USASK give.usask.ca

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

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