



U OF R REPORT

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The ATLAS Collaboration

In ancient Greek mythology, the Titan who held the heavens on his shoulders to keep them separated from the earth was named Atlas. It's appropriate, then, that the titanic 35-country ATLAS project researching the nature of the universe should bear the same name. It's also appropriate that the University of Regina's participation in ATLAS rests mainly on the shoulders of one person – physics professor Kamal Benslama.

Benslama, whose passion for the ATLAS project is readily apparent, maintains a more modest view of his involvement in the experiment.

"One person is really responsible for the fact that the U of R was accepted in October 2006 as a member of ATLAS – Dean of Science



(back row, left to right) Kamal Benslama, Katherine Bergman and Randy Lewis are excited about ATLAS and the possibilities it holds for the U of R. Ph. D student Gia Khoriali (bottom left) and post-doctoral fellow Meng Wang (bottom right) are two U of R researchers who will be working with data generated by ATLAS.

Katherine Bergman," he says. "Because of Dr. Bergman's commitment, faculty and stu-

dents at the U of R can now take part in the largest experiment in the history of the

physical sciences."

But what exactly is this international research project?

The ATLAS experiment involves 35 countries, 164 institutions and close to 2,000 scientists. It is based at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a new particle accelerator located near Geneva, Switzerland at CERN – the world's largest particle physics laboratory. The \$9.5 billion LHC is located 100 metres underground in a 16-mile long circular tunnel which runs under the Franco-Swiss border.

Inside the LHC tunnel, two particle beams will be accelerated to extremely high energies, and then crashed into each other forty million times per second. The resulting conditions will correspond to those which existed approximately 1/10,000,000,000 of a

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Keeping up with John Boan

Just going down the list of his activities and accomplishments is enough to weary the average person. Dr. John Boan, U of R Professor Emeritus of Economics, recently completed more than six years as co-chair of the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel. He's also a founder and board member of the University's Group for Refugees, founding member and Secretary-Treasurer for the U of R Academic and Administrative Pensioners' Association since 1988, and a member of the Editorial Board for the Saskatchewan Encyclopedia. He remains active researching and teaching Economics, especially as it relates to health care.

Beyond the campus, Boan's involved with the Regina Early Learning Centre, Regina Coalition for Refugees, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, and Justice Ministries with his church; "Filling holes I think need to be filled," he says. For good measure, he sings with the Living Skies Barbershop

Chorus and the Regina Philharmonic Chorus.

Boan's career with the U of R spans 44 years, 23 of them in retirement, if you can call it that. Asked about his tenure as a professor emeritus, Boan points to fellow economist John Kenneth Galbraith as someone he chose to emulate. "Galbraith retired, but he just never stopped," he observes. And while Boan lives the U of R motto, "As One Who Serves," he is ever the receptive student. "I learned a lot during my time with the Rate Review Panel. It was a pretty darn positive experience," he says.

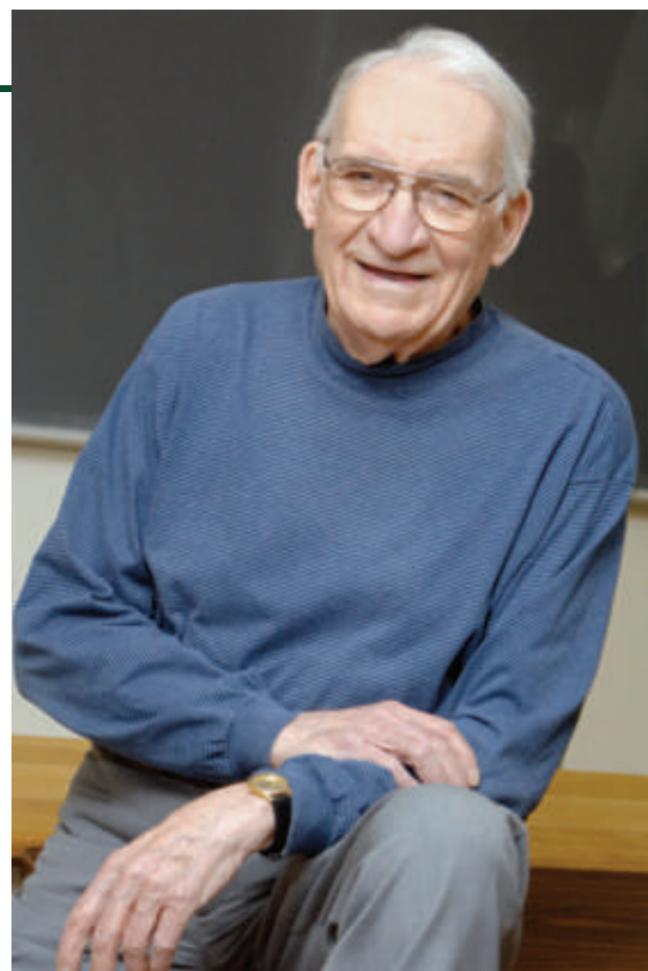
Some recognition and rare honours came Boan's way in 2006. At the Spring Convocation he received the U of R Board of Governors Distinguished Service Award; the first recipient in 16 years, and only the fifth recipient since the award was created in 1980. While that award is important to him, he says he was "bowled over" when he

was approached to deliver the Hall Memorial Lecture, named in honour of Justice Emmett Hall, and administered by a charitable foundation. Boan had a hand in creating the foundation in 1997.

"I was so flattered I blurted out 'OK'," Boan recalls. "Only five people before me had delivered this lecture, and they were all big, home run hitters. I felt like they'd sent out a midget to the plate."

In typical fashion Boan put a lot of thought and effort into his lecture, which dealt with Justice Hall's landmark Report on Health Care, medicare and its future. An audience of 1,000, plus another 600 watching on closed circuit television, gave him a standing ovation. "Oh, you wouldn't believe it" he says, describing his feelings.

Looking forward Boan already has a to-do list for 2007 that includes subbing for other professors in a few classes and preparing papers for conferences - filling holes that need to be filled.



John Boan has spent the past 23 years of his retirement researching and teaching at the U of R.



Writ Large

Dr. Lynn Wells
Professor of English
Faculty of Arts

One of my favourite poems to teach around Valentine's Day is Margaret Atwood's "Variations on the Word Love," which begins "This is a word we use to plug / holes with." She goes on to suggest a number of ways that "love," as a ubiquitous cultural signifier, can be used to market pretty well anything, from Valentine's cards to magazines

to cookbooks ("you / can cook with it too"). Whenever I ask students to respond to this poem, they dutifully tell me what they think I want to hear--that love has become commercialized and only a fool would take it seriously anymore.

It is little wonder that young people might think so. In our late capitalist world,

courtship has been replaced by "dating," which takes place between incognito strangers over the internet or on "party lines," with fees, contracts and money-back guarantees. Compatibility has become the product of algorithmic computer programs, a dance of pheromones, virtual, telephonic and physical. Beauty, available for sale from hucksters and physicians alike, is now a source of both attraction and morbid suspicion. The air-waves are swimming with "Girls Gone Wild" videos, and, as Sheryl Crow put it, "all our pop stars look like porn." There are the well-publicized travesties of Brittany Spears, with her clenched teeth smile, as she brazens out the public boxing-match of her divorce, so inevitable as to breed bore-

dom. Despite the linguistic amalgams of celebrity marriages—Brangelina, Bennifer—no one really expects them to last until the movies that spawned them have come out on DVD. Divorce, once a great social tragedy, is now bathetically common; everywhere, marriage rates are down, people are remaining single. Even children, those erstwhile symbols of lasting romantic union, have become designer commodities that can be cooked up by science or picked up cheap by the rich and famous in developing nations, all without benefit of "love."

Yet despite having all this to be cynical about, the young people I teach are still madly in love with romance as an idea. They avidly follow the

stylized fairy tale of Tom and Katie, secretly horde bridal magazines, cry at chick flicks. When I ask them why they continue to be entranced by romance when they see so much falseness, they're unsure what to say. Could it be that real love, with its faithful commitment, self-sacrifice, deep compassion and caring, is too powerful a fantasy to be destroyed completely by capitalism? Atwood ends her poem by saying "This word is not enough but it will / have to do. . . / You can / hold on or let go." On this Valentine's Day, I urge us all to hold on to whatever foolish romantic notions we have left.

Writ Large is written by campus leaders and is intended to challenge readers to engage with and learn about the various 'parts' that make up the wider University of Regina community and connect us to the world. If you have a topic suggestion for Writ Large, please e-mail communications@uregina.ca and include your contact information. Please put "U of R Report" in the e-mail subject line.

— from page 1 *ATLAS* second after the "Big Bang," when the temperature was 1,000,000,000,000,000 degrees Celsius. The *ATLAS* detector will electronically register these conditions, allowing physicists to analyze the reactions that created them.

The experiment, which has been 15 years in the making, will begin collecting data this summer. As a project collaborator, the University of Regina is one of only 11 Canadian universities that will have access to the data.

"*ATLAS* opens up a new and exciting era for the U of R," Bergman says. "High Energy Physics tries to answer fundamental questions such as how the universe began and how it all fits together. The U of R is now an integral player in this project, and the potential is there for our researchers to be part of some truly important discoveries."

Randy Lewis, head of the U of R physics department, agrees.

"I have a dozen books on my shelf about the Standard Model of Particle Physics, and I expect that all of them will need to be rewritten as *ATLAS* explores the frontier of elementary particles. Through the work of Benslama and his team, vital pieces of this revolution are happening right here at the U of R."

Blue Cross funds disease prevention program through BDF

When Al Barabash had his annual physical last summer, his doctor told him there were a couple of readings that were "not where they should be." Besides changing his diet, Barabash decided further corrective action was needed, so he began a risk reduction program at the Dr. Paul Schwann Centre two days a week. "I made some commitments to myself," says Barabash, "and the results are coming. My blood pressure is down already."

Many individuals have benefited from the Schwann Centre's program for cardiac rehabilitation for the past 25 years. However, the move into the Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport provided opportunities to serve more people at risk of cardiovascular disease. A \$100,000 donation from Saskatchewan Blue Cross to the University's Building Dreams and Futures campaign provides the resources. The expanded offering — the Blue Cross Chronic Disease and Risk Reduction Program —

combines education sessions with exercise programs tailored to meet the needs of each participant.

"We began looking for funding for risk reduction programming as soon as we moved into CKHS," says Phyllis Bend, who coordinates the program. "When Blue Cross expressed interest, we were able to move ahead."

Risk reduction is important, Bend explains, because some of the risk factors associated with many of the chronic diseases can be modified. For example, smoking is the greatest risk factor related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Obesity is related to Type II diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. The program offers a combination of education sessions and regular exercise aimed at making lifestyle changes and reducing risk factors. A \$100 fee covers an initial assessment, setting up a personalized program, and 36 exercise sessions.

Barabash certainly believes in the program. To him, it's



Saskatchewan Blue Cross President and CEO Arnie Arnott, praises the Dr. Paul Schwann Centre's program.

important to get out of the house. Otherwise, "It's too easy to break the commitment. Being at the University is a positive," he continues. "It's a place to go because you want to be better."

Saskatchewan Blue Cross President and CEO Arnie Arnott describes the program as a perfect match for its corporate objectives. Saskatchewan Blue Cross is a not-for-profit company covering more than 200,000 people in the province with its health benefit plans.

Barb Pollock, the University's Vice President of External Relations, said the U of R is pleased that Saskatchewan Blue Cross chose to establish the ground-break-

ing prevention program through Building Dreams and Futures. "The health research and disease prevention work being done at the University is essential to help reduce human suffering and health care expenses," she added.

Meanwhile, there is room for more clients in the chronic disease and risk reduction program. Anyone with two risk factors (for example, smoking, high blood pressure) need only get a referral from a doctor to join the program, Bend says. "There is certainly a need for this kind of primary prevention program, before events like heart attacks and strokes happen."

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Business leaders connect with students

Senior executives are at the head of the class in the Faculty of Business Administration executive-in-residence program, giving students access to industry leaders and creating an important connection between the University and the business community.

"We continuously move between practice and research," said Faculty of Business Administration Dean Garnet Garven. "We are out in industry talking to CEOs and vice-presidents about the challenges they face in the business world and we are back in the classroom discussing the dynamics of this."

"It's not just a question of professors going to study this at university and teaching out of a book. We are teaching applied, reflective, learning model we are trying to embrace," said Garven.

Currently, there are three executives-in-residence bringing their business acumen to students. David Hurst served as an executive vice-president of a large North American industrial distributor. In addition to operational line

responsibilities, Hurst handled the group's management development and management information services. He also speaks extensively to audiences around the world, does consulting work, has been published in several leading business publications and has written two books. He is now teaching a business leadership course for Executive MBA students.

Eber Hampton, who completed a 14-year term as president of the First Nations University of Canada, was an associate dean at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks, was director of the American Indian Program at Harvard University and has held numerous teaching and management positions at universities, colleges and government organizations. He now serves as a member of the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business advisory board and works with both undergraduate and graduate business students. He also assists in curriculum design and research in areas including business ethics, management education and aboriginal business and

economic development.

William Shupe, a finance lecturer in the faculty, is president of W. Shupe & Company, which provides investment advisory services to businesses, governments and individuals. Shupe also served as president and CEO of Crown Life Investment Management Inc., was vice-president of corporate finance for Pemberton Houston Willoughby and served as assistant deputy minister of finance for the Government of Saskatchewan.

"No one in this faculty teaches in any kind of isolated way," said Shupe. "The more that we can extend our reach beyond the ivory tower, academia, into the business community and government organizations and other community organizations, then so much the better. I think most people would say that is the kind of role that a business school should be able to fulfill."

This connection is evident in initiatives such as the establishment of the Centre for Management Development. The Centre's main focus is to harness the faculty's resources



CEO William Shupe is one of three executives-in-residence bringing their business acumen to students.

to provide a consultative service to both government and the business community, said Shupe.

"I see my role as executive-in-residence very much as also trying to help that initiative. And we're doing some very exciting projects."

This includes a recently inked agreement to provide a financial management training

program for SaskTel's senior executives, incorporating them in the faculty's executive learning model. Other initiatives connecting the faculty to the business community include customized management development training for several organizations and partnerships with business to provide research opportunities for students.



School of Journalism professor Gennadiy Chernov is analyzing the impact of business interests on editorial policy.

Can meaningful journalism survive in an environment influenced by money and power?

It's a question that professor Gennadiy Chernov, a former broadcast journalist for the state broadcasting company in Volgograd, Russia, is studying as a professor at the U of R's journalism school. Chernov is

looking at the impact of media ownership and business interests on television news and editorial policies.

"Sometimes commercial influence comes at the expense of good journalism and, simply, it leads to the exclusion of certain topics which might eventually be harmful for revenue," said Chernov. "This is

Media ownership presents journalistic challenges

not for the intentional purpose of degrading journalism but it's a side product of growing competition."

The melding of business interests with editorial decisions can also lead newsrooms and individual reporters to avoid controversial material and produce pieces appealing to the lowest common denominator, such as entertainment features instead of political coverage. Journalism students are taught to resist this kind of pressure, whether it's from internal or external influences.

"We teach the students that journalism is first of all a serious responsibility. It's a profession which ideally is supposed to serve public interests."

For Chernov, high ethical standards are imperative to good journalism.

He hopes that the education students receive now will help them make difficult, but ethically right choices in the future. He is personally very familiar with these kinds of choices through his own experience in Russian broadcasting.

"Back in my country, there were tough times in the '90s, not because of governmental pressure but because of business pressures. The businesses in Russia were seriously criminalized, so threats for journalists were just part of the picture. It wasn't happening rarely; it happened to nearly every journalist I knew as soon as they touched a sensitive issue for certain business institutions."

In 1999, Chernov left his job as a journalist to explore some of the larger issues affecting his profession and earned his masters at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and ABD from 2002-06 in journalism and communication at the University of Oregon at Eugene. He was also involved in the BBC World Service training program in 1996 and had an internship with CNN's International Desk in Atlanta in the summer of 2000.

When he returned to Moscow he had realized a passion for teaching.

As an academic he is able to influence the profession in new ways.

"I'm very happy when I see tangible outcomes, when my students achieve something, either in terms of their assignments or in terms of their success in the internship program."

"Teaching may seem less exciting than practical journalism but there are intrinsic rewards with this type of work. I get a better knowledge of the students and my colleagues. I (also) get understanding and appreciation for my work, which I like a lot."

Later this year, Chernov and co-authors of his latest study will present their findings to scholars, and business leaders at the American Academy of Advertising conference. These findings indicate that the influence of sales departments on editorial policy is growing, and some participants might not be comfortable with these facts.



Wellness: Make it a part of your day

It is more than just a means to lose weight. Integrating physical activity and wellness into your daily routine at home, work and play promotes good health, and the University community has plenty of options to help achieve this goal.

According to Karen Fahlman, Fitness and Lifestyle Centre (FLC) manager and UR Fit co-ordinator, the key to making activity and wellness

part of your lifestyle is commitment and good planning.

It can mean setting a specific time to exercise each week, packing healthy snacks, drinking more water, or even trying a new activity.

The University community was recently introduced to some of the activities available to it through the UR Fit program during a sample day highlighting boxercising, spinning, stability ball, hip hop, salsa and Kathak (north Indian dancing) classes.

Outside of signing up for a class, there is also swimming and intramural team sports such as curling and floor hockey offered through Campus Recreation.

For a tour of the FLC, contact Fahlman at 585-4814 or Karen.Fahlman@uregina.ca. To find out about Campus Recreation programs, go to www.uregina.ca/recservices/ and for UR Fit options, www.uregina.ca/recservices/urfit/.



(endnote)