

KINNECTION



Alum Ken Volden (BSPE'90), TSN Executive Producer, led the network's coverage of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.



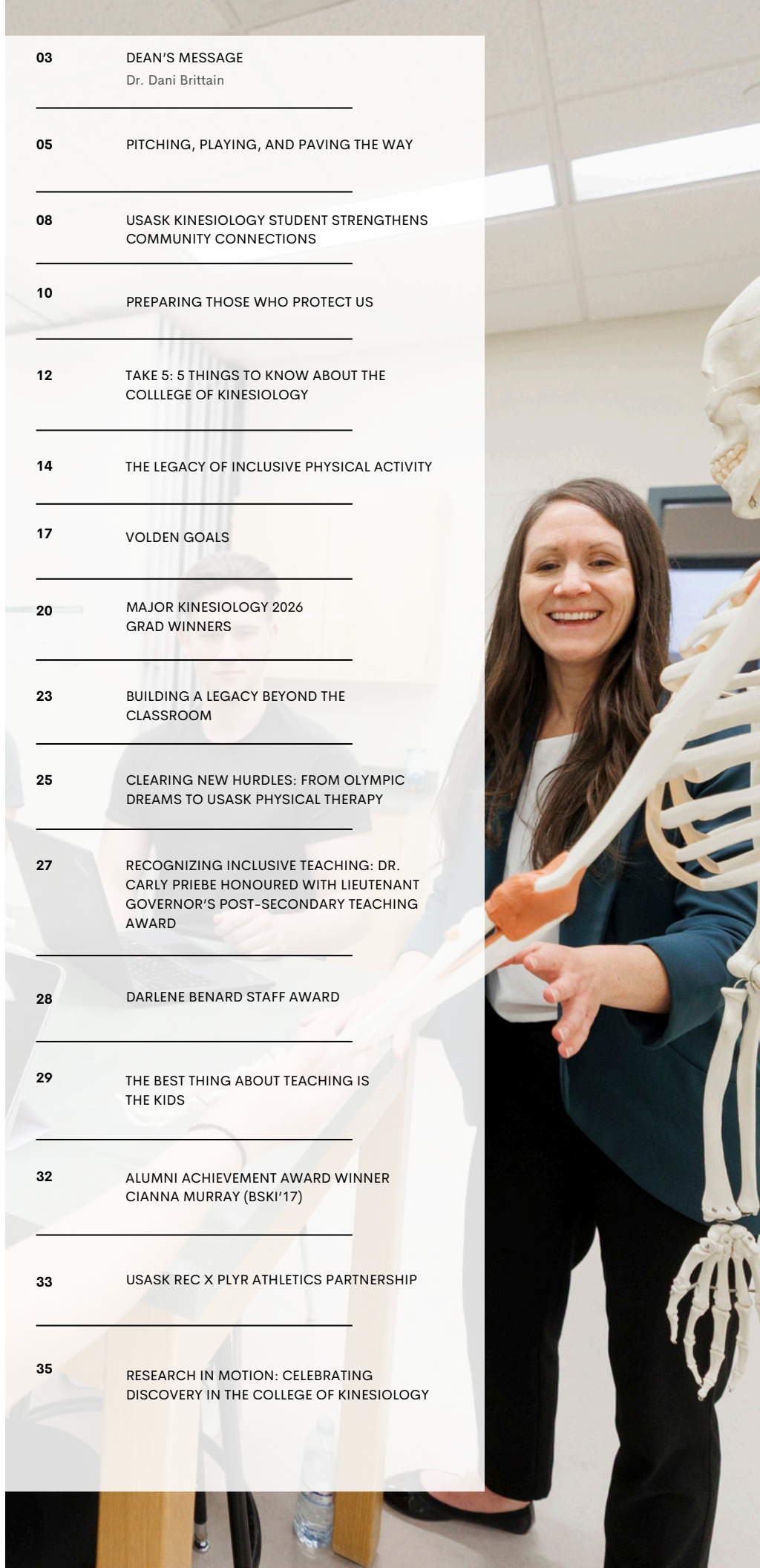
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Editor: Alyssa Wiebe
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Dr. Dani Brittain

2026

Every year, this magazine provides an opportunity to reflect on the people who make the College of Kinesiology such a special community. As I read the stories in these pages, I am reminded that while the accomplishments themselves are impressive, what truly stands out is the impact that our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and friends have on the lives of others.

Across our College, we see individuals who are leading, serving, discovering, and giving back in countless ways. What makes our community so remarkable is a shared commitment to improving the lives of others, particularly through movement, physical activity, sport, recreation, education, and health. That commitment is woven throughout every story featured in this issue.

You will read about students who are developing knowledge and skills while making meaningful contributions in the community. You will learn how faculty members are advancing understanding in areas related to health, performance, and well-being, while also creating welcoming environments where people from all backgrounds can learn, grow, and thrive.

You will meet alumni who continue to make a positive impact through leadership, service, and professional excellence in communities across Canada and beyond. You will also discover the important role donors and supporters play in helping make many of these opportunities possible. At the heart of every story is a common thread: people helping people.

In our classrooms, laboratories, and learning spaces, faculty and staff are preparing future leaders who will make meaningful contributions in a wide range of professions. A Kinesiology degree provides a strong science-based foundation while fostering critical thinking, leadership, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. As our understanding of human movement, health, and well-being continues to grow, so too does the value of these skills. Our graduates leave the College prepared to make a difference in a diverse range of careers and sectors, bringing evidence-informed knowledge and a commitment to helping others wherever they go.

I am also encouraged by the continued engagement of our alumni. Through mentorship, advocacy, partnership, volunteerism, and philanthropy, alumni remain deeply connected to the College and play an important role in shaping its future.

Deans Message

Their successes reflect the strength of our programs, while their ongoing involvement creates valuable opportunities for current students. Many of the ideas, innovations, and initiatives highlighted in this magazine have been strengthened by alumni who continue to invest their time, expertise, and energy into our community.

As you read the stories in this issue, I hope you will see not only individual achievements, but also the collective impact of a community working together toward a common purpose. Together, we are advancing knowledge, improving health and well-being, strengthening communities, and helping create a better future.

And while you are exploring the stories in this issue, I encourage you to learn a little more about the College through our Take 5 feature. It offers a glimpse into our history, who we are, what we value, and the impact we continue to have through our teaching, research, service, and community engagement.

Thank you for being part of our story.

With gratitude,

Dani Brittain
Dean, College of Kinesiology

Pitching, Playing, and Paving the Way

In life, few competitions are as fierce, or as meaningful, as those between siblings. As sisters, Judi Garman and Lorraine Klippel (BSPE'68) grew up competing against one another in sport, it helped pave the way for them to become Hall of Famers.



Born in the United States, Judi and Lorraine made the move to Kindersley, Saskatchewan as young children and quickly discovered their love of sport on the prairies. Self-described as “tomboys”, the pair played every sport possible.

“One of my favourite photos is of me pitching to Lorraine outside our house in the middle of prairies,” said Judi, who lives with her partner in Colorado. “Mom loved softball, playing in her long skirt and no glove, at church picnics.”

At nine years old, they were invited to play on the Kindersley women’s softball team. From there, Judi landed a pitching role on the local boys Little League team until, at a tournament, their opponent refused to play against her team because the pitcher – Judi – was a girl.

When the sisters reached their teenage years, the family relocated to Saskatoon. Lorraine enrolled at Mount Royal Collegiate, and Judi attended Rosthern Junior College until grade 12, eventually moving into the city to join her sister and train under an experienced physical education teacher.

After graduation, the two sisters had different goals as they headed to university. “I always knew I wanted to be a physical education teacher,” Lorraine explained. “I briefly considered teaching math, but a high school teacher told me, ‘You’ll never last, you should go into phys ed.’ So that’s what I did.”

Both enrolled in the College of Physical Education (now Kinesiology) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), where they excelled academically while competing in multiple sports including field hockey,

basketball, volleyball, and track and field. While balancing academics with a single sport is challenging on its own, they took it a step further, committing to several sports simultaneously while managing the demands of their education.

"You just made time," Lorraine said, "for classes, studying, practices, games, and even a little fun."

Their time in the College of Physical Education was especially rewarding because of the people. Both credit their professors' example as a major influence. "They were so supportive and genuinely involved with students," Judi recalled. "They helped students become the best they could be"—an approach both women carried into their own sports careers.

Judi remembers her dream of coaching as a student-athlete.

In her college years, Judi played with the Saskatoon Imperials, winners of the Canadian Senior Women's Fastball championship in both 1969 and 1970. She said she learned a great deal from coach Bob Stayner, who was a basketball coach for the Saskatoon Aces. Judi spent time on the bench and ensured she sat next to Bob at games to learn all she could taking many notes.



"After graduation, it amazed me that the school paid me to stay on for the next year to teach physical education activity class with lots of supervision and feedback. It was the best training I could have had," said Judi.

Judi enrolled at the University of California Santa Barbara for a master's in sports psychology. "Softball was just starting as a college sport at that time" and after graduation, she first went to Golden West College before moving to California State Fullerton in 1979.

There, she built the softball program into one of the most successful in the U.S. In 1993, she was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and when she retired in 1999, Judi was the winningest coach in softball history.

In 2020, she moved to Italy to coach the Italian national women's team. "We made it to the world championships in 2002 at Gordie Howe Field in Saskatoon, the field I used to play on. Being introduced and walking onto that field was a thrill." Judi links her coaching success to the fact "I never stopped learning. Because softball was so new when I started, I went to every baseball and basketball coaching clinic I could find, and I always came away with one or two new things I could try for our team."

After graduating from USask, Lorraine returned to Pennsylvania, where she spent four years teaching physical education in Pennsylvania schools. It was during this time that she discovered a new passion in sport: golf.

"Going to the University of Saskatchewan shaped me as an athlete and gave me a top-notch education," Lorraine reflects. When she began working on her Master's in Biomechanics, she quickly recognized the strength of her academic foundation. "I realized just how much more advanced the education at the U of S was," she says.

Her knowledge was so well-developed that she was able to take PhD-level coursework, having already mastered the concepts typically delivered at the graduate level.

After a year of play on the golf course, Lorraine transitioned into teaching at a local golf club, where she found the perfect intersection of her biomechanics expertise and her growing love for the sport. "It just made sense," she explains. "I used what I had learned in biomechanics to analyze golf swings and applying that knowledge to coaching became very clear."

What kept her invested, she says, was the sport's endless pursuit of improvement. "No matter how good you got, you could never completely master it," she shared.

"It's always a challenge," Lorraine adds, "but the physics of it made sense to me. I wanted to see how good I could get, and how far I could push myself." She became so skilled that she had the opportunity to play on the LPGA Tour. "But that wasn't what I wanted," she said. "I knew I could compete at the professional level, but teaching was my true passion. The best part was using my education to quickly identify one or two ways to help someone improve their game—and getting paid to do it."

In addition to her induction into the LPGA Hall of Fame, Lorraine was twice honored as the organization's Professional of the Year. She was a trailblazer who would become the first woman in the U.S. to custom-make golf clubs and alongside her business and life partner, the first woman to build, own, and operate a dedicated golf teaching and practice facility, which remained open until 2022.

Reflecting on their successful careers, the sisters are grateful they grew up in Saskatchewan. "As girls, we had opportunities in sport that our U.S. cousins never had," Lorraine said.

They remain close and plan to vacation together later this year—where Judi expects to get "a whole bunch of free golf lessons." Of course, they still enjoy teasing each other. Lorraine's favorite line is that Judi "picked the easy sport because the ball is bigger."

"Yeah, right," Judi shoots back.

"Softball is easier to play, but not to coach."

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BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



USask kinesiology student uses art to strengthen community connections

For Martin Ugwu, a student in the College of Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), a passion for sport first sparked his academic journey.

Today, that curiosity about human performance has evolved into a broader commitment to community well-being through his student-led initiative, Art4Others.

As a high school athlete, Ugwu admits academics sometimes took a back seat to sport. But his interest with physical activity and performance gradually led him to wonder how the body functions during exercise and how athletes can improve physically.

"I spent a lot of those years infatuated with sports and physical activity," he said. "Over time, questions about how the body worked during physical exertion and how I could improve at my sport from a physical performance standpoint really sparked my interest."

Those questions ultimately brought him to study kinesiology at USask, where he could explore the science behind movement, performance, and health.

While studying in Saskatoon, Ugwu also began thinking about the importance of connection within the community. Together with co-founder Angelena Wu, they launched Art4Others, an initiative focused on bringing people together through art and creative expression.

"I founded Art4Others as a gateway to spread love and connections throughout the diverse communities of Saskatoon," Ugwu said. "Our goal was to create something that could bring people of all age groups together, whether young or old."

Art4Others organizes events and programs that encourage creativity while creating opportunities for people to build relationships and support one another. The initiative aims to provide a welcoming space where individuals can connect and find moments of joy and fellowship.

"At Art4Others, our mission is to harness the impact of art and creative expression to connect and include diverse communities of all ages across Saskatchewan, fostering unity and shared understandings," Ugwu said.

Ugwu believes art plays a unique role in bridging cultural differences. In a multicultural city like Saskatoon, where many cultures are represented, including his own Igbo heritage, creative expression provides a universal way for people to communicate and connect.

"What remains the same between each culture is an appreciation for beauty through artistic forms of music, drama, illustration, and more," he said. "It's a way for people to express themselves while remaining universal in its understanding."



His kinesiology education has also shaped the way he approaches community programming. Ugwu says the discipline emphasizes the interconnected nature of physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual well-being.

"In kinesiology, you learn about the spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical parts of an individual," he said. "Those sectors play a role not only in athletic performance, but also in maintaining good health and well-being."

Since launching the initiative, several milestones have stood out to Ugwu. In 2024, Art4Others raised more than \$700 during a Canada Day fundraiser. The funds were used to support the organization's programming and to purchase female hygiene products for the Young Women's Christian Association in Saskatoon.

Another highlight has been establishing a partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities at Royal University Hospital, where the organization hosts weekly arts and crafts activities for children staying there.

"Seeing kids arrive tired or sometimes in a melancholy state and then leave with the biggest smiles on their faces has been one of the most heart-warming experiences of my life," Ugwu said.

Running a community initiative while pursuing a university degree has not been without challenges. Early on, Ugwu said he sometimes found it difficult to gain support from organizations that doubted the ability of a young student-led team.

"Some people assumed we were too young or inexperienced to execute our vision," he said. "But we kept pushing forward and learning along the way."

Balancing academics, research, leadership responsibilities, and extracurricular involvement, including the Black Student Mentorship Program at USask, continues to be a work in progress.

"To be completely honest, it is still something I struggle with," Ugwu said. "But I've improved my time management and I'm continuing to grow."

Looking ahead, Ugwu hopes Art4Others will continue expanding its reach across the community and beyond.



"I hope Art4Others becomes a well-known place of refuge for kids and adults in this city," he said. "An organization that stays audience-centred and focused on serving the community."

He also hopes to eventually extend the initiative to rural communities outside Saskatoon, recognizing that the need for connection and creative outlets exists beyond city limits. For other students hoping to start meaningful initiatives of their own, Ugwu encourages them to focus on the impact even small efforts can have.

"Any little impact you make on an individual can go a long way," he said, referencing a quote from counsellor De'leon Martin, "Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person."

PREPARING THOSE WHO PROTECT US

For more than three decades, the USask Rec and Saskatoon Police Service have built a partnership grounded in trust, integrity, and a shared commitment to public safety.



Police Sargeant, Ken Kane and Jason Weber(BSPE'99). (Photo: Alyssa Wiebe)

What began over 30 years ago as applicant fitness testing has grown into a respected, province-wide standard for occupational performance evaluation. Today, USask Rec provides applicant testing not only for the Saskatoon Police Service, but also for the Saskatoon Fire Department, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Highway Patrol, and the Saskatchewan Sheriffs' Office.

Each year, approximately 300 applicants move through the occupational testing program, though that number fluctuates depending on hiring cycles. Behind each participant is a goal to serve and protect their community, and behind each test is a commitment to fairness, precision, and safety.

"The partnership between the Saskatoon Police Service Recruiting Unit and the Occupational Training Program for Police Officer Physical Abilities Test(POPAT) training through USask Rec ensures applicants are physically prepared for a successful POPAT time," said Sargeant Ashley McLeod, who is a part of the Recruiting Unit with the Saskatoon Police Department. "Together, we help future recruits build on the foundation of physical readiness, confidence and resilience needed to excel in a policing career."

Policing and emergency response are physically demanding professions. Officers and firefighters must be prepared to sprint, lift, drag, push, pull, and make rapid decisions under stress. Occupational



testing ensures that prospective recruits possess the physical readiness required to perform essential job tasks safely and effectively.

“At USask Rec, we offer weekly training sessions that focus on the key components of each agency’s test,” said Jason Weber (BSPE’99), Strength and Conditioning coach for USask Rec. “Participants can practice in our full-course setups, to gauge their readiness, identify performance gaps, and build confidence before their official assessment. This approach not only improves outcomes but reduces injury risk and sets candidates up for long-term success.”

Providing independent, third-party testing removes any perception of internal bias and strengthens transparency in the hiring process. Candidates know they are being evaluated fairly and agencies know their recruits meet an objective and standardized benchmark.

At its core, this partnership reflects a shared responsibility of preparing individuals to serve Saskatchewan communities safely and effectively. The collaboration ensures long-term sustainability, consistent standards, and efficient service delivery for all.

“USask Rec is proud to support police, firefighter, and emergency response agencies across Saskatchewan through physical testing that helps ensure those serving our communities are prepared, while also providing meaningful learning experiences for our students,” said Cary Primeau, Director of USask Rec.

For over 30 years, USask Rec and the College of Kinesiology have partnered alongside Saskatchewan’s policing and emergency services, not just testing applicants, but supporting the development of capable professionals ready to answer the call.



Five things to know about USask's College of Kinesiology.

1 USask Rec is part of the College of Kinesiology.

USask Rec is an integral unit within the College of Kinesiology, positioning the college to have a direct and active role in shaping campus life through recreation and fitness. This means students, faculty, and staff aren't only studying movement, health, and sport, they're also influencing how recreation is delivered across campus and in our community. From intramurals to fitness programming and recreation spaces, the college helps create opportunities for thousands of students and community members to stay active and engaged each year.

2 The college has had nationwide influence through ParticipACTION and InMotion.

The college has played a significant role in shaping how Canadians understand physical activity through initiatives like ParticipACTION and InMotion. These programs were designed to encourage everyday movement and promote healthier lifestyles across the country. Their impact extends far beyond campus, helping shift national conversations around inactivity, health promotion, and community wellness.



3 The college is known for internationally recognized bone health research.

The college is home to two of the most influential ongoing bone health research programs in the world: the Saskatchewan Growth and Development Study (started in 1963) and the Saskatchewan Bone Mineral Accrual Study (started in 1991). Both programs became internationally known under the leadership of faculty member Dr. Don Bailey. This work continues today because of the hard work of Kinesiology faculty who continue to focus on understanding how bones develop, strengthen, and change across the lifespan, with a strong emphasis on osteoporosis prevention and healthy aging. The research has had long-term impacts on medical understanding and public health approaches to skeletal health globally.



4

The college is a pioneer in physical education in Canada.

What is now known today as the College of Kinesiology started as one of the first three Schools of Physical Education in Canada (at McGill University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Saskatchewan), building a foundation for what would become modern kinesiology. In 1929, Dr. W.C. Murray, the former president of USask, recruited educator Ethel Cartwright to lead the development of a girls' school of physical education at USask, one that mirrored the school she had created at McGill University. Her work helped define standards in physical education teaching, curriculum development, and professional training at a time when the field was still emerging nationally. Under her leadership, women's sports at the university flourished and received autonomous recognition with the establishment of the Women's Athletic Directorate. Today, the Huskie Athletics Female Athlete of the Year award is named in Cartwright's honour.



5

5. The college supports Campus Recreation and active living on campus.

The college plays a key role in managing and supporting many of USask's sport and recreation facilities across campus. This includes the Physical Activity Complex (PAC), a central hub for fitness, wellness, and recreation programming that welcomes more than 300,000 users annually, including more than 8,000 aquatics participants and 8,500 Campus Recreation students.

The college also oversees recreation spaces within the Education Building, the outdoor K.W. Nasser Courts, and all outdoor sports fields used for Campus Recreation programming, including sport clubs, instructional learn-to programs, and intramural leagues.



THE LEGACY OF INCLUSIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Jim and Vicki McClements would be the first to deflect attention from themselves, but the legacy they helped create through the Physical Activity for Active Living (PAAL) program is impossible to overlook.



For more than three decades, PAAL has quietly transformed lives by providing inclusive and fun, physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities while giving University of Saskatchewan (USask) students invaluable, hands-on experience that has shaped how they approach sport, movement, and community for the rest of their careers.

The program's success didn't happen by chance. In the mid-1970s, Jim McClements, then a faculty member teaching adaptive physical education, faced a familiar challenge on how to give students meaningful experiential learning opportunities while balancing teaching, research, and other responsibilities.

This was one of those ideas that takes shape in coffee rooms," said Jim McClements. An idea that would evolve into PAAL, bringing together students, faculty, and the community to create an inclusive space where people of all abilities could learn, grow, and thrive through physical activity.

"I was teaching adaptive programming courses, but I didn't have time to manage the students' practical experiences because of graduate students, research and other teaching responsibilities," said Jim. Aiming program tailored specifically for older adults in Saskatoon.

The goal was to leverage the school's expertise in physical activity to create a program that not only served people with disabilities in the community but also offered students a unique, hands-on learning experience. "PAAL was for the undergraduate students," he said, highlighting the program's dual impact on both participants and future professionals.

As parents of a child with a disability, Jim and Vicki deeply understood the value of physical activity, not just for skill development, but for social connection and enjoyment. PAAL began with a small, dedicated committee that included the McClements, gymnastics coach Kelly Thompson, aquatics director Kelly Lendsay, and dance instructor Joan Krohn. With the college generously providing facilities at no cost, the program offered Jim and Vicki a unique opportunity to bring together their professional expertise and personal passion for inclusive physical activity.

Throughout their lives, Jim and Vicki have been involved in both special needs programming and elite sport. While these two levels have often been viewed as distinct, both share a common focus on recognizing an individual's strengths, challenges, and unique needs.

This understanding formed the foundation of what has made the PAAL Program a valuable educational opportunity for undergraduate students.

Even today, the program is still centered on this understanding, and the result has been the building of undergraduate students' capacity to work meaningfully and professionally with children with special needs, through the delivery of high-quality inclusive programming.

"The PAAL program was foundational in shaping my understanding of disability inclusion—not as a concept, but as a lived experience grounded in relationships and community," said Karen Dommett, a volunteer of PAAL as a student and currently the executive director of the 2026 Grey Cup. "It gave me an early awareness and confidence that has carried forward into my work in major sporting events, where inclusive design and accessibility must be intentional. That experience ultimately set the direction for my ongoing commitment to advancing equity and advocacy in sport."



Vicki, a 1966 USask physical education graduate, went on to complete a master's in recreation administration in Minnesota before taking a position as a sports consultant with the Alberta government in Edmonton. Her path crossed with Jim's in an unexpected way. While representing the government at the national speed skating championships in Red Deer, she noticed Jim officiating on the ice.

Though they didn't meet that weekend, fate intervened when Jim, then a University of Alberta student, was staying in the basement of one of Vicki's colleagues. That connection eventually led to marriage in 1968, marking the beginning of a lifelong partnership that would later support their shared vision for inclusive physical activity.

Jim earned a degree in physical education from the University of Manitoba before moving to Edmonton to complete a master's and PhD in cognitive psychology applied to physical education. Alongside his academic pursuits, he built a distinguished career as a long-track speed skating coach and official, ultimately officiating at 18 world championships and the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, an achievement that earned him a place in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame and recognition as Saskatoon Sportsman of the year.

In 1971, the couple moved to Toronto, where Jim joined the University of Toronto's School of Physical Health and Education. They later returned to Saskatoon, where Jim completed his career at USask, retiring in 2005. Meanwhile, Vicki focused on raising their children, ensuring they were active and fully included whenever possible. She also contributed professionally, supporting special needs students with Saskatoon Public Schools and running the pool program at John Dolan School where the work reflected her lifelong commitment to inclusive, skill-building physical activity.

"Vicki has a special talent in working with people with special needs," said Jim. "It's kindness, gentleness and, at the same time, she's firm. Believe me, I know."

When the first PAAL programming came together, Vicki acted as a resource person, bringing a wealth of personal and professional experience while Jim encouraged students to volunteer to help them fully understand inclusiveness in sport, a passion that informed his professional life.

For the McClements, PAAL has always been about giving back and creating opportunities that outlast them. As Jim reflects, "Even though our daughter never participated, we've seen the difference these programs make—not just for her, but for countless people with disabilities. It's a reminder that the work we do today can open doors and shape lives for generations to come."

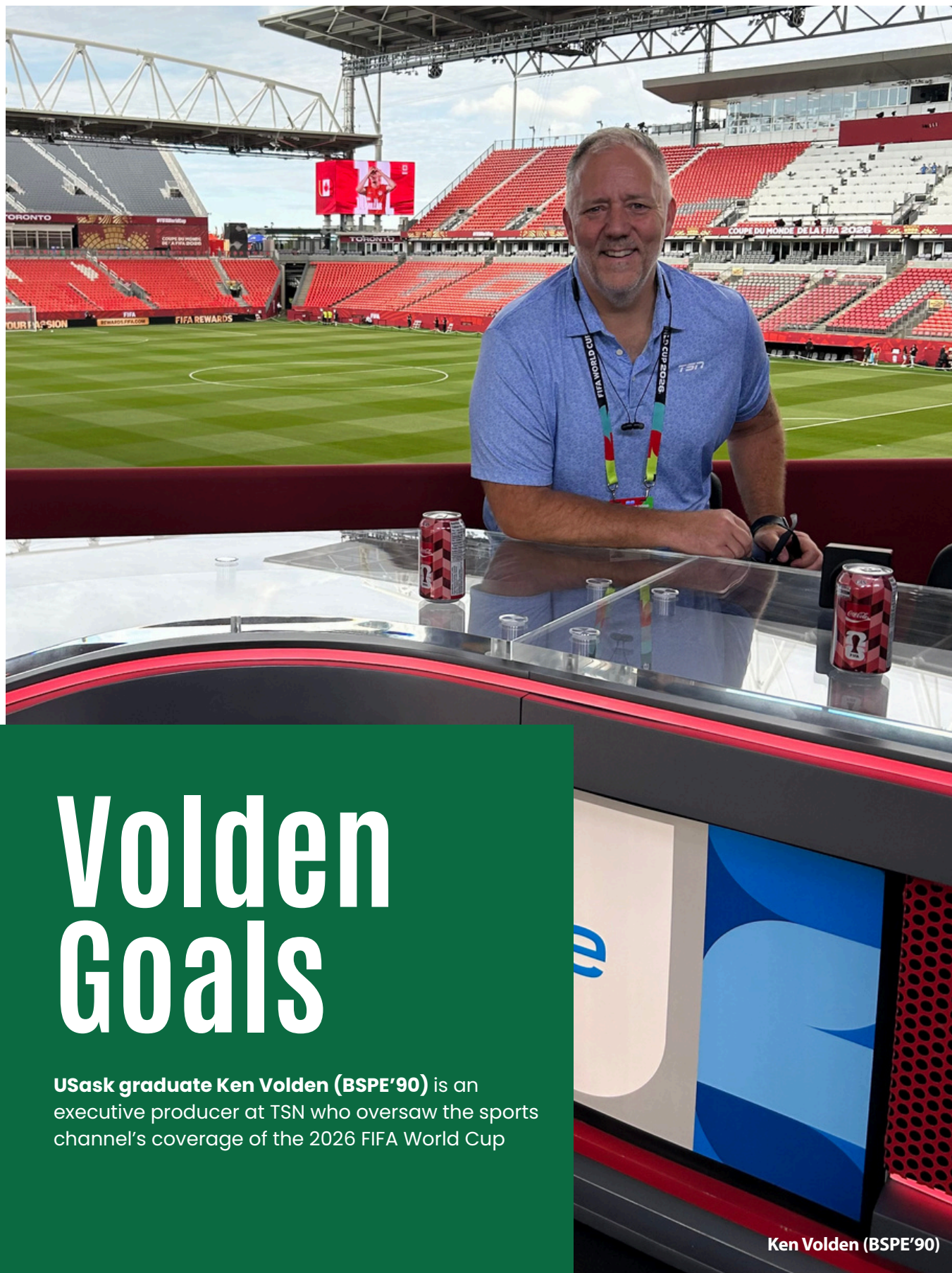


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Volden Goals

USask graduate Ken Volden (BSPE'90) is an executive producer at TSN who oversaw the sports channel's coverage of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Ken Volden (BSPE'90)

University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Kinesiology (formerly the College of Physical Education) graduate Ken Volden (BSPE'90) has spent more than three decades at The Sports Network (TSN), where he has helped shape the coverage of some of the biggest sporting events in the world, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and its flagship highlight program, SportsCentre.

Volden recently served as executive producer for the soccer tournament. He spoke with the Green&White about leading a major broadcast operation, storytelling in sports, and how his home province and his alma mater still influence his work today.

G&W: The FIFA World Cup is one of the largest sporting events in the world. What goes into preparing coverage of an event on that scale?

Volden: We really started prior to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Once Canada qualified and we hosted on-site there, that became the beginning of our planning for the 2026 tournament.

Three years out, we were already making decisions. We knew Toronto and Vancouver were hosting. We knew Canada would likely play two matches in Vancouver, so we started making decisions about staffing, where our talent would be located, how much coverage we'd provide around Team Canada, and what kind of programming we wanted to produce. Then we're setting budgets, working with sales, booking facilities, booking travel, and building the team. Once the Final Draw happened, which sets the tournament groups and matchups, things became very intense. By then, we were moving from planning into execution mode. The last few months have really been about putting everything into action.

G&W: What would surprise viewers most about broadcasting an event like the World Cup?

Volden: People are always surprised by the amount of work. It takes years of planning and an incredible amount of detail. We go to these glamorous events, but a lot of the time producers and directors are sitting in a little truck in a parking lot watching the game through monitors.

There are so many people involved and so much work happening behind the scenes that viewers never see. That's true whether you're covering the World Cup, the Olympics, or any other major event.

G&W: The performance of the Canadian Men's National Team captured the imagination of the country, including more than 11 million tuning in for both the historic victory over South Africa and the subsequent loss to Morocco in the knock-out round. Why do events like the World Cup resonate so strongly, even with casual viewers and people who don't normally watch the sport?

Volden: Sports is about emotion. When you have your country involved, people immediately become invested. They want to see how those athletes perform, and they want to share in their successes and disappointments.

Our job is to tell those stories in a way that helps viewers connect with them. That's why major events like the World Cup or the Olympics can bring in people who don't normally watch sports.

Everybody understands hope, disappointment, pressure, and achievement.

G&W: What stands out most when you reflect on this World Cup and your role in it?

Volden: A lot of it is about the people. I've worked with many of these people for years. You hire them, you watch them grow, and then you get to see them succeed on one of the biggest stages in sports.

My role as executive producer is sort of like a general manager. I'm not in the trenches in the same way my senior producers are, but I get to see all these talented people do extraordinary work.

Getting to do something this significant with people you've worked alongside for decades is probably what I'll remember most.

G&W: You earned a Bachelor of Physical Education degree in what is now the College of Kinesiology and originally considered teaching. How did you end up pursuing broadcasting?

Volden: I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I always knew I was interested in media, but there wasn't a broadcasting school in Saskatoon and my family didn't have a lot of money, so I wasn't quite sure how I was going to make it happen.

I thought about teaching, but my mom pointed out that I didn't have much patience. Looking back, she was probably right.

I started volunteering at Telecable 10 in Saskatoon and got some experience there. Then my wife, Rayna (BE'91), got a job in Edmonton, and I was hired at ITV as a production assistant. I worked my way up through news production and eventually joined TSN as an associate producer more than 31 years ago. From there, I just kept working my way up.

G&W: Why did you gravitate to sports broadcasting?

Volden: Sports is a great palette to tell human stories. I loved sports growing up, but the storytelling is what really attracted me. Whether it's the Olympics, the World Cup, or the Grey Cup, you're talking about people who have invested years of their lives chasing a goal.

Then you get to see what happens. Sometimes they achieve it. Sometimes they don't. That's compelling television because people connect with those stories.

G&W: Did you ever consider an on-air role?

Volden: I tried it. When I was working at Telecable 10, I co-hosted a local show. I saw myself on air and thought, "I don't want to do this."

I realized pretty quickly that I wanted to be behind the scenes. I liked producing. I liked organizing things. I liked making decisions.

I've always enjoyed building something with a team more than being in front of a camera.

G&W: You've spent much of your career leading teams. How would you describe your leadership style?

Volden: Treat people fairly. Be upfront with them. I'm a direct person in general, so people usually know where they stand with me.

Leadership is really about people. One of the great privileges of this job is hiring talented people, watching them grow, and seeing them succeed.

When I think about the World Cup, I think about the producers, directors, reporters and broadcasters who worked incredibly hard and delivered something special. I take a lot of pride in my people.

G&W: In your three-plus decades at TSN, what significant changes and evolutions have you observed?

Volden: When I arrived at TSN, I was surprised by how small it was. We had one channel. The company was much smaller. Over time, we've expanded dramatically. We've added more properties, more coverage, and more content.

I watched things like the IIHF World Junior Championship grow into the massive event it is today. I watched the network expand and evolve. Then we became part of Bell, which brought both opportunities and changes in culture.

The scale of everything is probably the biggest difference.

G&W: How did growing up in Saskatoon shape your sensibilities?

Volden: My Saskatchewan roots absolutely influenced me. I have a Saskatchewan tattoo on my arm. Those roots are deep. Work ethic was ingrained in me growing up there.

One of my sayings is basically, "Get to work." That came from Saskatchewan. It came from my family. It came from the people who influenced me growing up. After all these years, the province is still very ingrained in me.

G&W: What stands out when you think about your time at USask?

Volden: I'm really proud to be a USask graduate. What I remember most are the people. I think about professors who were kind, straightforward, and genuinely invested in their students. As you get older and become a leader yourself, you start thinking about how those experiences shaped you and how you apply them to your own career.

I certainly think those experiences stayed with me.

G&W: After a career in which you covered the Olympics, Grey Cups, and now the once-in-a-lifetime World Cup on home soil, is there any dream event you haven't had the chance to work on that you would like to?

Volden: A lot of the events I dreamed about, as a young producer, I've been lucky enough to experience. Now it's less about checking off a specific sporting event and more about the experience. I'd love to see Wimbledon or the French Open. I enjoy the opportunity to experience different places and different cultures.

MAJOR KINESIOLOGY 2026 GRAD AWARDS: RADICS AND JAROTSKI



Kate Jarotski and Ava Radics stand with Dean Dr. Dani Brittain ahead of taking the stage at the 2026 USask Convocation.

Each year at the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Spring Convocation ceremony, the College of Kinesiology recognizes its Most Outstanding Graduate and Dean's Medal Recipient. This year, the college is proud to award the Most Outstanding Graduate to Kirstyn Robertson and the Dean's Medal to Spencer Dmytruk.

The most outstanding graduate must demonstrate leadership and participation within the college, on campus, and in their community, with academic performance also taken into consideration. Making a difference on campus, in her college, and in the community, earned Radics the honour for 2026.

"I feel very honoured and grateful to be named the most outstanding graduate of 2026," she said. "From the second I stepped foot in the PAC on my first day as an undergraduate, I knew I was right where I was meant to be. To be recognized by a college that I have always been so proud to be a part of, with a mission that I am very passionate about feels very special."

Radics was born and raised in Saskatoon, and chose to pursue a degree in kinesiology because she has a passion for movement and for helping others be able to move and achieve their greatest physical potential.

"Movement and the ability to be active is something that can be taken for granted, and growing up I had people who taught me to always appreciate this ability I had to move around and do the activities I love," said Radics.

Throughout her time in the College of Kinesiology, Radics immersed herself in leadership, mentorship, volunteerism, and hands-on learning opportunities. She served four years as a class representative with the Kinesiology Students' Society, where she helped plan community events, attended weekly student council meetings, and participated in monthly meetings with college leadership.

Through this role, she strengthened her confidence as a leader and advocate for student experiences within the college.

"My time as a student has been filled with opportunity and support. There were countless opportunities available for me to grow, from getting to be involved with the Kinesiology Student Society Council, to becoming a peer mentor, to getting to be a student trainer, to becoming an honours student and having the opportunity to work with dedicated faculty who guide you through the research process."



As a third- and fourth-year student, Radics took on the role of Huskie Health student-trainer with the Huskie women's basketball team, dedicating more than 660 hours of service. Through the experience, she developed valuable leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills while applying the knowledge she gained throughout her kinesiology degree. Her time with the program also led to opportunities to represent the college at the national level on two occasions, including a national championship this past season.

"Where there are opportunities, there are also faculty and mentors there to help support you along the way. I am so grateful for the professors, faculty, and physical therapists that I have been able to learn from and that have supported me throughout my time spent in the college."

One of Radics' most meaningful experiences outside the classroom came through volunteering with the Physical Activity for Active Living (PAAL) program, in which her sister is an active participant.

Through PAAL, she became involved with Spirit Flyers, an inclusive dance program that creates opportunities for individuals with cognitive and/or physical impairments to participate in dance and be celebrated for their abilities. That experience later introduced her to Wheels in Motion, a wheelchair dance program designed specifically for dancers who perform in wheelchairs.

The second kinesiology award presented at Spring Convocation is the Dean's Medal, awarded to the graduating student with the highest grade-point average. Jarotski was thrilled to be this year's recipient.

"I feel extremely honoured to be awarded the 2026 Dean's Medal and am incredibly grateful for all the support I have received throughout my academic journey," she said. "Receiving this award reflects not only my own work, but also the encouragement of my family, friends, classmates, and professors who have helped me along the way."

Jarotski grew up in Saskatoon, and as a dancer, was looking for a program that would support her interest in health and movement. She had heard great things about the College of Kinesiology as an academic program but also, its tight-knit community and extensive learning opportunities.

"The friends I've met have been a true highlight and I will always cherish the times we've spent together chatting between classes, working on group projects, or getting together outside of school is one of my favourite memories."

Her time in the college has been defined by the knowledge she has gained and the strong community of people she has come to know. Through her involvement in various classes, the Kinesiology Student Society, the Honours program, and volunteering with different initiatives, she has had the opportunity to work alongside incredible individuals who have all contributed to her positive social experience within the college.

"These relationships have also fostered my understanding and application of course materials, as collaborating with my peers and learning from my professors has been integral to helping me grow academically."

Her time in the Honours program and the opportunity to conduct a research project under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Spink (PhD), alongside Radics — her Honours partner — was especially meaningful to her. The experience allowed her to explore her research interests, gain a deeper understanding of the research process, and work closely with a wonderful team of individuals who made the experience even more rewarding.



Her advice to incoming students: “There are so many opportunities available to you through this college, so try to take advantage of as much as you can. You’ll never know what might interest you until you try it, so get involved, make connections, and approach each experience with curiosity and an open mind.”

And to her fellow graduates, “Congratulations! We’ve all worked incredibly hard to reach this moment and we should be very proud. I’ve truly enjoyed getting to meet and work with so many of you throughout our time together in this college. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.”

After graduating in June, Jarotski will begin her studies at USask’s College of Medicine in the fall of 2026, having already been accepted into the program.

Being involved in these programs was incredibly meaningful to me. They reminded me of the importance of inclusion, community, and creating spaces where everyone feels valued and supported.”

Looking back on her university experience, Radics said the relationships and opportunities she found within the College of Kinesiology will stay with her long after graduation.

Next fall, Radics will be entering her first-year in the USask Physical Therapy program.

“I have a special interest in neuroscience and aspirations to work in neurological rehabilitation in the future, so I am looking forward to all of the things I will get to learn in this next step of my journey.”

If she could tell incoming freshman one thing it would be, “Do not to be afraid of being uncomfortable. Putting yourself in situations that you feel uncomfortable in sometimes is what you need to grow, so don’t shy away from opportunities just because you feel like you won’t be good at them right away.”

BUILDING A LEGACY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Donna Bailey's connection to the College of Kinesiology is a testament to how deeply a place can shape a life, even from the sidelines.



Though she was never a student or staff member, the College became a constant presence in her world, offering a lifetime of friendships, purpose, and experiences she never could have imagined.

At the centre of that connection was her husband, Dr. Don Bailey. A respected professor and internationally recognized researcher, Don spent more than three decades as a faculty member from 1959 to 1994. He passed away in 2023, leaving behind not only a remarkable academic legacy, but a shared life filled with opportunity and adventure.

"Don was a wonderful partner," Donna reflects. "And then you add all the experiences we could never have planned. I count my blessings every day."

Today, Donna honours that shared journey through her continued support of the College. She is a proud contributor to the Don Bailey Lecture Series, an annual event that highlights leading-edge research while celebrating the curiosity and innovation of students. Her generosity also extends to the Dean's Fund, which helps the College explore new ideas, build collaborations, and respond to evolving needs in health, wellness, and prevention.

"The support we've received from Donna has been impactful beyond words. She has created spaces of opportunity that simply would not exist without her—and Don's—extraordinary generosity and commitment to building a lasting legacy," said Dean of the college, Dani Brittain, PhD.

Don and Donna's story began years earlier at Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon. While they first knew each other in high school, it wasn't until university that their relationship truly took shape. Don pursued studies in Physical Education, while Donna studied Home Economics. As Don prepared to leave for Ohio to complete his master's degree, they made a life-changing decision together.

"I knew it was going to be a very long engagement," she said with a smile.

Instead, Don and Donna married in 1957, beginning their life together with a honeymoon that doubled as a road trip to Indiana, where Don would go on to earn his PhD. Donna spent that time teaching Home Economics and general science in a small country school, laying the foundation for a partnership defined by shared ambition and support.

In 1959, they returned to Saskatoon, where Don began his long career at the university. His research, particularly in child growth and development and bone mineral density, would take him around the world. Donna was determined not to miss any of it.

"Don started travelling, and I wasn't going to stay behind," she says. "I heard him speak so often, I probably could have given his lectures myself."

Their travels became a defining part of their lives. A sabbatical in 1970 took the family of five to London, England, for what Donna describes as "a wonderful adventure."

Another adventure soon followed in California in 1978. In 1986, a guest lectureship in Perth, Australia, led to an ongoing role at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, one that continued even after Don's retirement.

Through it all, the College remained a steady thread, connecting their personal and professional worlds. Looking back, Donna sees that connection clearly. "My association with the College, the friendships, and the travel, it absolutely defined my life."



Donna Bailey remains connected to the college as a major supporter of student engagement and success.

CLEARING NEW HURDLES: FROM OLYMPIC DREAMS TO USASK PHYSICAL THERAPY



From ballet shoes to starting blocks, Nicole Ostertag's athletic journey — defined by movement and perseverance — led her to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Originally from Saskatoon, Ostertag left home at 13 to train at ballet schools including Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto and the American Ballet Theatre in New York City. In the summer before Grade 12, she stepped away from ballet, leading her to explore a new sport: track and field.

Having grown up in a family of athletes, she was well-supported in pursuing a new athletic endeavour. Although she had little training, she won three medals in her first provincial high school track and field championship and was recruited to join the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Huskies track and field team.

"Early on it became clear that I was a strong all-around athlete," she said.

This well-rounded athletic background made her a perfect fit for the heptathlon, comprising seven events including the 100-metre hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump, javelin and 800m. As a USask kinesiology student, she won two Canadian championships and represented Canada. After completing her undergraduate degree, Ostertag spent two years training for the Olympics and world championships. Unfortunately, a series of serious injuries and illnesses kept her from competing.

Retiring from the heptathlon wasn't an ending but a new beginning—starting the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program and returning to compete as a Huskie athlete in her favourite event—hurdles.

Her decision to study physical therapy was strongly influenced by her experiences as an athlete. Having faced numerous injuries, her rehabilitation was guided by exceptional physical therapists who left a profound impact. In some of the most discouraging moments of her recovery, they offered hope, helped her rebuild trust in her body, and ultimately supported her to return to the sport she loves.

"I want to help people return to the activities that are meaningful to them, whether that's playing with their grandchildren, returning to work, or training for the Olympics," she said. "Through my own journey, I've learned how challenging injury and recovery can be, and I hope to use those experiences to better understand and support the people I work with."

Balancing the demands of a graduate program with the responsibilities of being a student-athlete requires intention and discipline. She has discovered that academics and athletics often complement each other more than they conflict. After long days immersed in lectures, labs, or studying, returning to the track offers her a much needed mental reset—a chance to shift her focus, move her body, and reconnect with the sport that energizes her.

For her, success lies in compartmentalization. When she trains, her attention is solely on track; when she's in class or studying, she's fully committed to her academic work; and when she's with friends or family, she strives to be entirely present. That

mindset helps her stay grounded and prevents her from becoming overwhelmed by the competing demands of her schedule.

A crucial part of her ability to thrive in both worlds is the support system around her.

"I'm incredibly fortunate to have a village of people supporting me," she said. "My family has always been supportive of my goals and are truly my biggest cheerleaders."

She also leans on her classmates, who keep her updated on coursework whenever she's away for competitions. And, of course, her teammates play a vital role, bringing joy and camaraderie to training, which makes the balancing act not only manageable but deeply rewarding.

The 2026 season has been one of remarkable success. She earned gold in the 60m hurdles at both the USPORTS nationals and the Canada West championships, contributed to the Huskie women's team's eighth straight conference title, and set new Canada West and all-time Huskie program records, surpassing the previous mark held by Olympian Michelle Harrison.

Although she is still discovering which area of physical therapy she hopes to specialize in, Ostertag's rich blend of athletic, academic, and rehabilitation experiences has laid the foundation for her to excel in any path she chooses.

RECOGNIZING INCLUSIVE TEACHING: DR. CARLY PRIEBE HONoured WITH LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S POST-SECONDARY TEACHING AWARD

What is the Lieutenant Governor's Post-Secondary Teaching Award?

This award recognizes post-secondary educators who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and provide exceptional student experiences through innovation, reconciliation, and leadership. The award, established in 2023, recognizes post-secondary educators in Saskatchewan who have displayed excellence in teaching, primarily at the undergraduate level.

What does this award mean to you?

I hope it's a reflection that students in the classes I teach are experiencing more equitable and accessible environments. I feel passionate about this area as I know there are small things we can do that make a big difference in supporting students. Ultimately, I aspire to influence students to go on and be advocates in the world to create more equitable and inclusive environments wherever they work.

How do you continue to grow and integrate different teaching methods such as universal design for learning?

The Gwenna Moss Centre has been very helpful. I've taken some of the resources that they have created on universal design for learning and tried to include those principles in the classes I teach. I also have engaged in learning off campus and within the College of Kinesiology related to diversity and inclusion, and integrated [some of these principles] into my teaching. The Gwenna Moss Centre has something called the equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) Flower. The flower includes specific outcomes. I've reflected on how they fit within the classes I teach.



How does student success influence the way you teach?

Success looks different for everyone, but for me it is about creating a base where students can have the opportunity for success. Some may need some more supports. For example, first generation university students may need a little bit more help in navigating the campus. If we can do little things in terms of how we frame content, I think that can also be helpful. For example, providing choice in assessment gives students the opportunity to demonstrate success in a way that is most authentic to them.

Is there anything that students have taught you?

Yes, students have taught me so much. Every year I try to change things that I'm doing, with the attitude that it's never finished or perfect. I'm always learning from students about the type of teaching strategies that works best for them. Students have shared stories or provided reflections that informed how I can teach the next year. Reading their reflections can be inspirational. Understanding that the class has an impact in their lives motivates me to grow to make it the best experience I can.

Darlene Benard Staff Award



The College proudly presented the inaugural Darlene Benard Staff Award to Kim Jones, recognizing her outstanding dedication and lasting contributions to the College community.

Named in honour of Darlene Benard, whose 45 years of service were defined by kindness, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to supporting students, faculty, and staff, the award celebrates individuals who embody those same values.

As the first recipient, Kim Jones exemplifies Darlene's legacy of care, leadership, and service. Throughout more than 30 years with USask Rec, Kim has made a profound impact through her leadership in aquatics, lifeguard training, instruction, and the Physical Activity for Active Living (PAAL) program. Her commitment has strengthened not only the College and the University of Saskatchewan, but also communities across the province.





'The best thing about teaching is the kids'

USask alumnus Howard Sproat (BSPE'74, BEd'75), one of this year's Golden Grads, looks back at his award-winning career as a canoe instructor and physical education teacher

When University of Saskatchewan (USask) alumnus Howard Sproat (BSPE'74, BEd'75) reflects on his career as an educator, one word continues to come to mind: fun.

"I just had fun with the kids," Sproat said in a recent interview with the Green&White. "I got to teach phys ed—most of the kids really loved phys ed—and I got to do outdoor education, and they liked that, so I had fun with the students. The next thing you know, I was retired."

Sproat's long and successful 32-year career as a physical education teacher can be traced back to his time at USask. In the 1970s, Sproat earned two degrees at USask—a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education in 1974, followed by a Bachelor of Education in 1975—which launched his rewarding career teaching in Saskatoon public elementary schools.

"The best thing about teaching is the kids," he said. "No. 1, if you like kids, then you've got what it takes to become a good teacher, as far as I'm concerned. All the rest will come and fall into place."

Sproat earned his Bachelor of Education degree 50 years ago, making him one of this year's [USask Golden Grads](#). He encourages others to pursue post-secondary education, because he has experienced firsthand how "it opens doors" in one's life. For Sproat, who grew up as the middle child in a family of five boys in the small community of Milestone, Sask., moving to Saskatoon and studying at USask was a life-changing opportunity to grow personally and professionally.

"Looking back, when I first started here (at USask), I came from a small town—population of 500 people—and I didn't really know much about the city and city life, and I had a lot of things to get used to. I started and gradually got a little more confident," he said. "That was probably the biggest thing I got out of university, was the confidence that I developed in myself."

Today, Sproat is known as one of the most experienced canoe instructors in Canada. His credentials go back to the 1970s when he taught canoeing in the Canadian Armed Forces, following years of involvement in Canada's Army Cadets program. Through Army Cadets, which focuses on physical and outdoor activity, he became an instructor in the watermanship program in Banff, which ultimately fostered his lifelong passion for whitewater canoeing and camping.

Those formative outdoor experiences eventually led Sproat to consider enrolling in USask's Bachelor of Science in Physical Education degree program. In the early 1970s, Sproat and one of his brothers travelled to Saskatoon to check out the possibility of attending USask, where Sproat soon learned that he had missed the application deadline for admission into the College of Physical Education and that he could only be accepted into classes through permission of the dean.

"I didn't even know what 'dean' meant. I had a brother named Dean," Sproat joked.

Sproat soon met with Howard Nixon, who became the first dean of the College of Physical Education at USask in 1972. Nixon asked Sproat why he wanted to enroll in the college, and Sproat talked about his passion for sports and outdoor activities.

"We talked a little bit, and (Nixon) said, 'Well, you know, I have to let somebody with the same (first) name as me in my college.' So that's how I got in," Sproat recalled with a laugh.



Sproat went on to enjoy his time as a student in the College of Physical Education, taking "every recreation class that there was." He assumed he was going to pursue a career in recreation post-graduation, but when he didn't find a job soon after he decided to return to USask to study for a second degree.

"At that time, with only one year extra, you could become a teacher," he said. "So, I did the after-degree program. Until Christmas was classes, and then after Christmas was an internship."

Sproat was inspired to become a teacher because of his Grade 9 teacher and hockey coach, whom he describes as a "hero." Sproat soon learned that his passion for athletics would complement his career as an educator.

"The phys ed part really prepared me because I ended up teaching physical education," he said. "There was a big push at that time for phys ed—they called it the Lighthouse project—and every student was to get 30 minutes of physical activity every day. So, I was hired, and I had lots of fun with the kids, and the next thing you know my career was over."

Sproat's first teaching job was at McNab Park School in Saskatoon, which was originally established as the Air Marshall Curtis School for military families and was renamed McNab Park School when it was transferred to the Saskatoon Public School Board in 1965. The school, which was located near Saskatoon's airport, was permanently closed in 1985. Sproat fondly remembers teaching baseball to students at the school while the Canadian Forces Snowbirds were practicing and flying overhead.

"Finally, we just laid down on the ground and watched them doing their stuff," he said.

Sproat's subsequent career as a physical education teacher was steeped in outdoor education and canoe programming. He demonstrated significant leadership in developing risk management and safety guidelines and specialized in delivering teacher training for both canoeing and first aid.

In total, Sproat taught at six Saskatoon elementary schools throughout his career, including teaching in the Voyageur programs at Wildwood and

Silverspring schools, and spent a year on exchange in Dumfries, Scotland. For a decade, Sproat also served as a Jump Rope for Heart coordinator. His coaching responsibilities included speedball, soccer, cross-country running, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, and field hockey. In 2004, Sproat was honoured with the Paul Renwick Award, which is presented annually for outstanding contributions to physical education in Saskatchewan.

“The best part of my teaching was the out-of-school stuff; that was where I got the biggest bang for the buck, was taking kids on outdoor education—winter camps, fall camps, bike camps, canoe clubs. I spent lots of time with kids there,” he said. “A lot of them don’t remember my math class, but they remember when it poured rain on Kingsmere Lake or whatever it was; they remember that.”

While Sproat is now retired as a physical education teacher, he continues to stay active as a canoe instructor with BHK Outdoor Experience, which he runs with his friends, fellow canoeists, and USask alumni Bill Morris (BA’63, BEd’63) and Kim Archibald (BEd’81, MEd’97). They teach introductory canoe lessons, Paddle Canada canoe courses, and private paddling lessons from May through September.

Sproat has been recognized as a certified canoe instructor for the Red Cross, the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, and Paddle Canada. For many years, he acted as the recreation director for the Saskatchewan Canoe Association (SCA).

He also taught canoeing for the Saskatchewan Physical Education Association (SPEA) conferences, as well as served as a member of the executive. In addition, he has co-taught an outdoor education class at USask, as well as movement education classes for the University of Regina.

Sproat’s wife, USask alumna Merrill Bulin (BEd’77, MEd’84), also pursued a career in education, working for 41 years with Saskatoon public schools as an educator and an administrator. Together they raised three children, USask alumna Dr. Allison Sproat (BSc’13, DVM’17), USask alumna Sarah Sproat (BSN’16), and Evan Sproat, who studied at USask before earning a degree at Emily Carr University in 2018.

The couple continues to stay connected to their alma mater by watching football, basketball, and hockey games at USask. Sproat is a proud Huskies fan.

“It doesn’t get better. Seriously—it doesn’t get better. The students, those young athletes, put it all out there and I just thoroughly enjoy it,” he said. “Go Huskies!”

As Sproat reflects on his influential teaching and canoeing careers, he has some advice for current USask students and young alumni who are just starting their careers: “Find your passion, and then time will go by very, very quickly.” “Find your passion and make it a part of your life sharing it with others,” he added.



CIANNA MURRAY (BSKI'17, BED'18) | **ONE TO WATCH**

ONE TO WATCH AWARD

CIANNA MURRAY

(BSCK'17, BED'18)

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has announced the 2025 recipients of the Alumni Achievement Awards, one of the university's highest honours.

The One To Watch Award recognizes a young alumnus/alumna who is making significant personal and professional contributions in society, resulting in a demonstrable betterment of their community, and setting an example for fellow and future alumni to follow.

Cianna Murray (BSKI'17, BEd'18) is an accomplished international ice hockey referee whose career has been defined by excellence, leadership, and a lasting impact on the growth of the game. Beginning her officiating journey at just 12 years old, Murray has since become one of Canada's top officials, representing the country at multiple Olympic Winter Games and IIHF Women's World Championships.

Murray grew up in Cudworth, Sask., and earned two degrees at the University of Saskatchewan (USask): A Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2017 and a Bachelor of Education in 2018. Currently teaching Grade 7 in

rural Saskatchewan, Murray is committed to education and to community, bringing her passion and dedication from the rink into her work as a teacher in the classroom. Beyond her elite officiating career, she has dedicated time to mentoring young officials, particularly girls and women, through clinics, camps, and one-on-one guidance, helping to create inclusive pathways in a traditionally male-dominated sport. Her volunteerism also extends to local hockey programs and schools in Saskatchewan, where she shares her experiences and inspires young people to pursue their dreams.

Murray is reaching her own dreams by consistently breaking barriers in the sport, becoming one of the first women to referee in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) and the second female official in the Western Hockey League (WHL), while also earning assignments in elite professional leagues such as the American Hockey League (AHL) and the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL). Murray represented Canada at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics in women's hockey, including being selected as the head official for the gold medal game, and has officiated five consecutive IIHF Women's World Championships (2021–2025), including the gold medal game in 2024. She has also worked at other prestigious international events, such as the Winter Youth Olympic Games and the Rivalry Series between Canada and the U.S.

A leader within the officiating community, Murray's work with young officials in the Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association to improve the diversity and integrity of hockey is a noteworthy accomplishment. She has embraced being an ambassador for the Hockey Saskatchewan Officiating Development Program (ODP) and she is always willing to take interviews, answer questions, or provide support in any way she can.

In her various roles, Murray is described as a constant professional who can adapt between the different versions of the playing rules she needs to know based on the multiple leagues she officiates, and she has been lauded for the respect she shows to all participants. In 2025, she became the first female referee in Centennial Cup history, further cementing her legacy as a trailblazer in the sport. Through her professionalism, resilience, and commitment to giving back, Murray is well positioned to continue to elevate the standard of officiating while serving as a powerful role model and advocate for the advancement of women in hockey.

USASK REC × PLYR ATHLETICS



USask Recreation and the College of Kinesiology are proud to strengthen their connection with the local community through a new five-year relationship with PLYR Athletics, a Saskatoon-based business with strong ties to the University of Saskatchewan.

This relationship reflects a shared commitment to supporting the USask community and creating meaningful connections between the University, its alumni and local businesses. As part of the agreement, PLYR Athletics has made a significant gift to support USask Recreation and its ongoing efforts to provide quality recreation opportunities and experiences for students, staff and the broader campus community.

The gift is an example of how local businesses and USask graduates can come together to support the University while building relationships that benefit the community as a whole.

“A gift more than financial support—it is a partnership built on shared values, community connection, and mutual success. When PLYR decided to support the College of Kinesiology, they knew that they were investing in the next generation of students, strengthening opportunities for learning and growth, and contributing to the vitality of our community,” said Dani Brittain, Dean of the College of Kinesiology. “Our relationship with PLYR is especially meaningful because this is a company founded and led by University of Saskatchewan graduates. Together this partnership creates a stronger connection between alumni, students, and our College, while also demonstrating the lasting impact of a USask education.”

PLYR Athletics has built a reputation for producing high-quality apparel while supporting athletes, teams, and organizations across the province. Their commitment to excellence, innovation, and community makes them a natural fit for USask Rec as we continue to grow and enhance our programs and services.

We are incredibly grateful to PLYR Athletics for their generous gift and support of USask Recreation. Their contribution will help support the many programs, camps and recreation opportunities offered to students, staff and the broader USask community.

We are especially appreciative of PLYR's commitment to giving back to the community and to building a meaningful relationship with the University of Saskatchewan", explained Cary Primeau, Director of USask Rec. "By working with a Saskatchewan-based company, USask Rec is able to keep resources local while benefiting from cost efficiencies that help reduce apparel expenses across our programs. These savings can be reinvested into recreation opportunities and services, helping keep programs accessible and affordable."

Over the next five years, this generous contribution will bring a refreshed lineup of USask Rec apparel,

providing our staff, students, and patrons with quality clothing that reflects the pride and spirit of our recreation community.

"This generous support reflects a shared commitment to investing in student wellbeing, community connection, and the power of recreation to positively impact lives," said founder Chase Porter. "As a Saskatchewan-based company and proud USask alumnus, I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back. We hope this partnership helps create lasting benefits for the people and programs that make recreation accessible, welcoming, and meaningful for our community."

USask Rec is excited to work with a company that shares their commitment to community, participation, and supporting active lifestyles. We look forward to what the next five years will bring and are excited to share what's ahead.



LIFESTYLE & ATHLETIC APPAREL

USASK ALUMNI OWNED

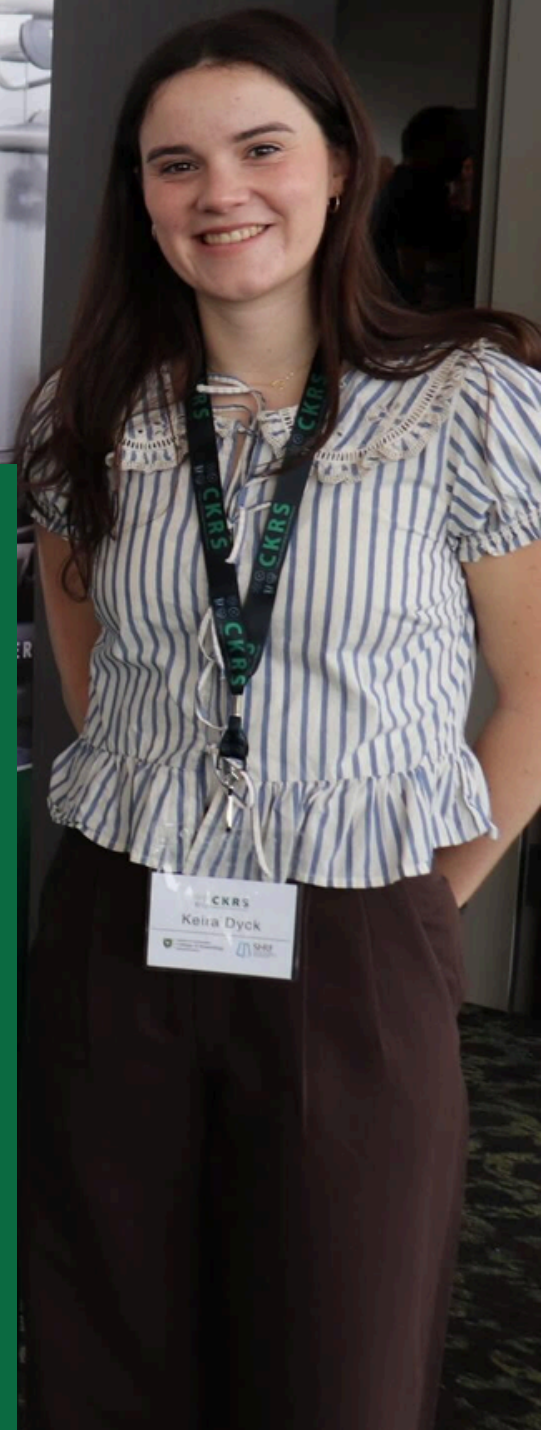
PROUD PARTNER OF USASK REC



Research in Motion: Celebrating Discovery at the College of Kinesiology

Curiosity, collaboration and a passion for improving human health and performance came together at the College of Kinesiology's Research Showcase.

The event brought students, faculty, researchers and members of the university community together to celebrate the research taking place across the College. From human movement and physical activity to health, sport and performance, the showcase highlighted the questions researchers were exploring and the potential impact their work could have on people and communities.



A highlight of the event was the 2026 Don Bailey Lecture Series, which featured Dr. Mary Jung as the featured presenter. Her presentation provided an opportunity for attendees to learn from her expertise and engage with important research and ideas shaping the field of Kinesiology.

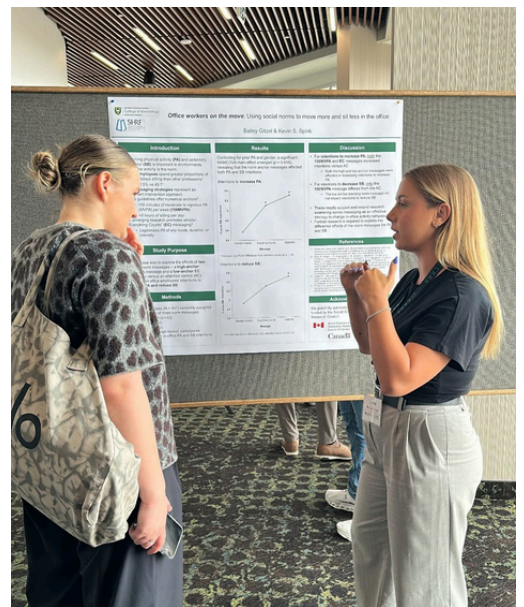
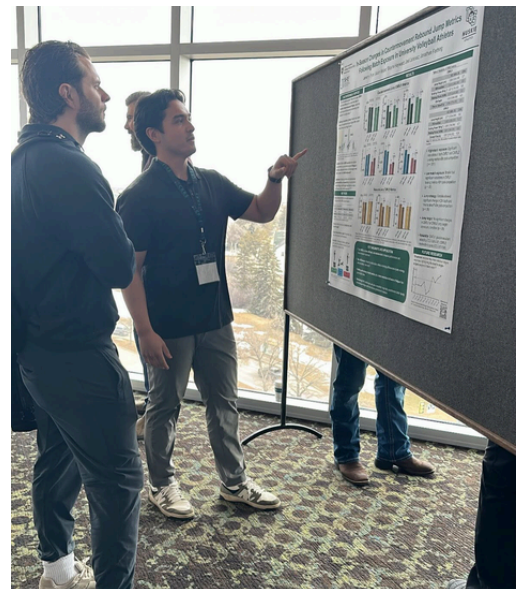


Dr. Mary Jung and Dean Dr. Dani Brittain

For students, the showcase provided an opportunity to step beyond the classroom and share their research with others. Presenting their work allowed them to develop valuable skills in communication, critical thinking and collaboration while connecting with researchers and peers who shared their curiosity.

The event also served as a reminder that research was not simply about finding answers. It was about asking better questions, challenging what was known and exploring new ways to help people move, perform and live healthier lives.

At the College of Kinesiology, research is always in motion and the 2026 Research Showcase celebrated the people who were helping move it forward.



College of Kinesiology - University of Saskatchewan
87 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B2



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