



Gail Shivak, Associate Director, Special Projects (University Advancement) and Joan Tilk, Director of Sponsorship, Congress 2007

Congress 2007 Garner Overwhelming Sponsorship Support

With five weeks to go, the Congress 2007 sponsorship committee has already well surpassed its initial target and could set a national record for Congress sponsorship.

The Province of Saskatchewan has stepped up with a major contribution and will be recognized as a full partner in hosting Congress 2007.

In addition, donations from a growing list of corporate and private donors, along with contributions from University of Saskatchewan colleges and senior administration, have raised a total of commitment of more than \$180,000.

Recently, the City of Saskatoon agreed to provide free public transportation to all Congress delegates throughout the event – a major in-kind donation that marks one of the most recent and significant in-kind contributions received by the Congress 2007 sponsorship committee.

“I’m confident we’ll have more announcements to make in the weeks ahead and will be able to provide the U of S with unprecedented support for Congress 2007,” says sponsorship committee director Joan Tilk.

She stresses the most personally satisfying aspect of the Congress sponsorship committee’s work was not the dollars raised, but the support

and commitment from the Province, the City and the campus community.

“What has impressed me most is the amazing level of commitment from all the volunteers involved with this committee, as well as the truly overwhelming support we’ve seen right across campus, including the remarkable show of significant contributions from senior administration,” she said.

Tilk acknowledges that the initial prospect of raising \$88,500 for Congress was daunting. And never before had a host institution worked with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to develop a formal structure for sponsorship levels.

The collaboration resulted in a sponsorship program with six levels: Presenting Sponsor; Premier Sponsor; Gold Sponsor (\$10,000), Silver Sponsor (\$5,000); Bronze Sponsor (\$2,500); and Congress 2007 Friend (\$500).

Other members of the committee include: John Cornwell, Susan Fillo, Richard Florizone, Martin Gonzalez de Souza, Lynn Guina, Gail Shivak, Gwen Toole, and Hans Michelmann.

A partnership between the U of S and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Congress is expected to draw more than 5,000 delegates and bring in an estimated \$3.5 million to the local economy.

The core U of S organizing committee comprises Hans Michelmann, Paul Bidwell, Lynn Guina, Kathryn Warden, Joan Tilk, and Susan Fillo. The executive sponsors are Rick Bunt and Lea Pennock.

• For more information about Congress 2007, visit <http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2007> or contact the U of S Congress Office at: 966-1918.

• For enquiries about this newsletter, contact: research.communications@usask.ca

• Check out other issues of Road to Congress at: <http://www.usask.ca/research/communications/congressnewsletter.php>



Road to Congress

Croquet Anyone? Cultural Events Abound at Congress

By Deborah Leiter

From film series and art exhibits to Amati Quartet performances, from drama performances to an Alice-in-Wonderland croquet game in the Bowl, the U of S campus will be bursting with cultural events during Congress 2007.

“You can’t have any conference without having fun, but this is a humanities and social sciences conference... cultural events are what we do,” says Congress co-convenor Paul Bidwell, explaining there’s good-natured rivalry among Congress host campuses to see which events people will remember the most.

The Alice-in-Wonderland croquet game is sure to be such an event, with a cast of celebrities in authentic costumes from the drama department and trumpeters supplied by the music department.

A benefit for READ Saskatoon, the chaotic croquet game re-enactment will be interactive: delegates and community members will be invited to don sandwich board costumes, pick up their flamingo mallets, and pound hedgehog-stickered croquet balls.

The game is an event of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). Other academic societies will also host exclusive cultural events alongside the “umbrella” events open to all delegates.

The Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC), for example, is hosting an Edvard Grieg concert at Convocation Hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Norwegian composer’s death.

The Amati Quartet will give two performances. The rare 17th century Amati instruments, acquired by the university in 1958, were also played during the 1959 Congress, the first hosted by U of S.

Many events have a Saskatchewan flavor. For instance, “Songs of a Prairie Girl,” a drama featuring the music of Saskatchewan native Joni Mitchell, will be presented. And Tasha Hubbard, recent Master’s graduate in English, will be



Hans Michelmann, Michael Atkinson, Jennifer Webber, and Paul Bidwell
Photo credit: Liam Richards for Research Communications

on hand for a showing of “Two Worlds Colliding,” her Gemini-winning documentary about Aboriginal deaths in Saskatoon.

Among other events:

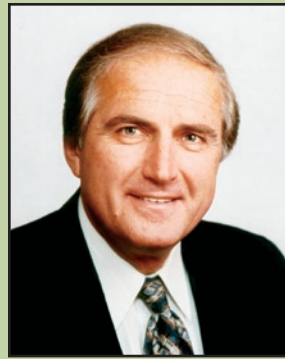
- An Aboriginal film series at the Neatby-Timlin Theatre that will include Christine Welsh’s “Finding Dawn” (a film about missing women in Vancouver), two films by Mohawk cultural anthropologist Dawn Martin- Hill, and “The Lynching of Louie Sam” (based on U of S historian Keith Carlson’s research)
- Performances by U of S music professor Dean McNeill’s jazz combo
- Exhibitions of Saskatchewan paintings at three on-campus venues
- A photographic exhibit of the muralized traffic control boxes created by Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) and located on downtown Saskatoon streets
- “Scattered Leaves”, a display of medieval manuscript pages at the Snelgrove Gallery

For more information about programming, including cultural events, visit: <http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2007/programs/highlights.php>

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COUNTDOWN TO CONGRESS: *only 35 days until Congress 2007!*

This just in . . . The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences announces that Roy Romanow, former Saskatchewan premier and current Senior Fellow in Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan, has been selected to present one of two distinguished Research in Society lectures. Romanow, who headed the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care, will speak on "Canada's Shared Destiny and the Future of Medicare." More information on Congress 2007 speakers is at: <http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2007>



Registration for Congress 2007 is well on track – already there are more than 3,200 delegates, which is on par with York University's tally at this point last year. More than 750 delegates will stay in campus residences and most rooms are booked. Booth space at the book fair has sold out so a dozen more spaces have been made available.

Across campus, plans are in full swing right down to the last detail – signs are being made, flowers beds are being developed, student workers are being interviewed, biodegradable utensils made of potatoes are being tested, flamingo mallets and mechanical dancing gophers are on order for the Alice in Wonderland croquet game, and the Lillium martini invented for the President's receptions is being tested and approved.

"With the whole campus engaged, this is sure to be the best Congress ever," said Congress academic convenor Hans Michelmann.

Aboriginal Research and Culture to be Highlighted at Congress

By Deborah Leiter

Six teepees will be erected in the U of S Bowl for Congress, symbolizing the relationship between the university and the Aboriginal peoples of Saskatchewan.

Six major Aboriginal linguistic groups in Saskatchewan—Cree, Métis, Dakota, Dene, Nakota, and Saulteaux—will display their cultures to the general public and delegates, allowing them to learn more about these significant Saskatchewan groups.

"This is a golden opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal peoples and research in this province," says Roger Maaka, U of S native studies department head who is taking the lead in organizing Aboriginal events at Congress.

The May 30th Round Dance in the Bowl will be one of the most inclusive ways to celebrate this achievement. Congress delegates and community members will be invited to join in the dance with members of Saskatchewan Aboriginal groups in honoring 2007 Aboriginal graduates.

A "Celebrating Aboriginal Research" display in Upper Place Riel will focus on the scope and diversity of U of S Aboriginal research projects.

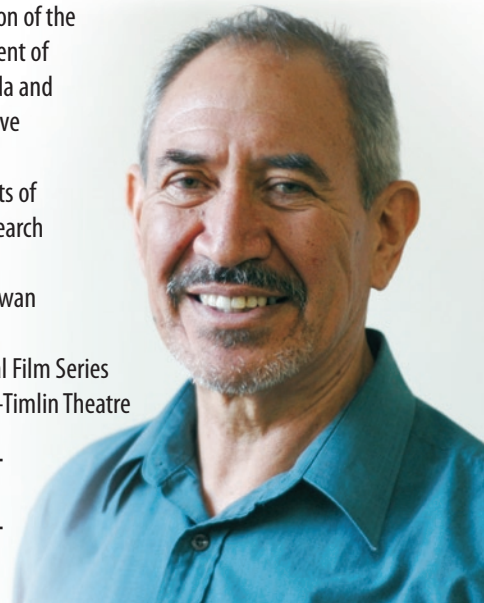
"An impressive amount of Aboriginal research is done here, and no one's ever collected it (in one place) before," said Maaka. "People will get a chance to look at the intellectual capital we've built in Aboriginal research at this university."

A concentrated Aboriginal day was once in the works, but since delegates and community members with day passes won't all be in attendance on a single day, Maaka and other organizers have now spread out the Aboriginal events throughout Congress.

Other Aboriginal events include:

- "Buffalo Boy's Wild West Peep Show – The Colonial Cabaret," a one-man performance piece created specifically for Congress 2007 by Adrian Stimson, Aboriginal Curator-in-Residence at the Mendel Gallery
- May 26th Native Studies Graduate Students' Conference
- "West Side Stories: The Métis of Northwestern Saskatchewan" an exhibit based on collaborative research, open daily at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre from May 26th to September 30th
- May 30th to June 1st symposium on the food of Indigenous peoples
- May 29th cross-disciplinary Aboriginal research symposium "What is Community for the Purpose of Research?" hosted jointly by the Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association (CINSA) and the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC)
- Address by Rauna Kuokkanen, a Sami woman from Finland who recently did post-doctoral work at McMaster University, who will speak to a joint session of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada and the Canadian Indigenous/Native Studies Association
- Panel featuring grant recipients of SSHRC-funded Aboriginal research projects
- Performance of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company
- Three-day, five-film Aboriginal Film Series to be presented in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre

Roger Maaka, Congress Aboriginal events organizer. Photo by OCN



Congress Goes GREEN

Can a clean, shiny white floor also be green? Yes, if the floor wax is environmentally friendly.

All floors in public access areas on campus will be shiny for Congress using environmentally friendly floor wax, says Lonnie Harder, associate director of building services with Facilities Management Division (FMD).

The plan, Harder says, is to have a broad range of green-certified products and initiatives in place by May 1, 2008.

Some products are 30 to 80 per cent more expensive than products the university uses now, so products are being selected based on factors such as ease of use, results, skin irritation, and unpleasant smell. Congress is a testing ground for a few products, such as the floor wax.

Using environmentally friendly cleaning products is one of many sustainability initiatives planned for Congress 2007 by areas such as building services, food services and the office of sustainability. Other initiatives include:

- **Plastic reusable mugs** will be on sale for \$2 each at all food outlets, with an option for delegates to return them for reuse or recycling. Delegates are also encouraged to bring their own reusable mugs. As an incentive, anyone who purchases a coffee mug from the University Bookstore during Congress can receive a free cup of coffee at any University Food Service cash outlet.
- **Additional recycling stations** will be available in all classrooms and in and around the Bowl.
- **Disposable products at food outlets** such as stir sticks will be more biodegradable.
- **Cardboard reuse and recycling** will be available at the book fair in the PAC.



Congress Highlights Growing Importance of the Social Economy

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) is a successful and innovative business with a social agenda -- to foster cultural understanding and Aboriginal role models through the arts, while providing training and jobs for young people.

This blend of enterprise and social advocacy defines the social economy, an under-recognized sector that is vitally important to the social and economic well-being of many Canadians.

So important, in fact, that on May 31st, Congress will focus on this economic sector. And fittingly, the day's activities will be capped with an evening performance by the SNTC.

"Organizations in the social economy conduct economic activity, but this activity is linked to social objectives," said Lou Hammond Ketilson, a commerce professor and director of the U of S Centre for the Study of Co-operatives which was awarded a \$1.75-million SSHRC grant in 2005.

The social economy also includes co-operatives and credit unions which are democratically run with local input and which provide services of value in the local community.

"The profitable side of their enterprise enables them to do this other important work," said Hammond Ketilson. "They are reinvesting in the communities in which they and their members live."

Social economy theme activities at Congress include:

- John Helliwell, UBC professor emeritus of economics, "The More We Get Together the Happier We'll Be," on the importance of building 'social capital' in a healthy community
- Nancy Neamtan, president of Chantier de l'économie sociale, "The Social Economy:

Finding a Way between the Market and the State" – a look at the vibrant network of social enterprises that contribute more than \$4.3 billion to the Quebec economy

• Two June 1st tours -- one to social enterprises within Saskatoon and the other to social enterprises in rural communities. Both groups will meet in the community of Meacham for an evening of conviviality, food and entertainment. With a population of just 90, Meacham has developed a thriving arts scene and epitomizes the social economy.

• A May 28th event will introduce graduate students to community-based research methodology.



Lou Hammond Ketilson
Photo: courtesy the Diefenbaker Canada Centre