

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ABORIGINAL INTERNSHIP

The University Library at the University of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce **Ms. Jessica Generoux** as the University Library's inaugural Aboriginal Intern.

Jessica earned her Bachelor of Arts in Geography in 2006 from the First Nations University of Canada in Regina, SK. After convocation, Jessica began working with inner city Aboriginal youth at the YMCA of Regina. In this role Jessica supervised the Urban Aboriginal Leadership Program where she assisted in developing young leaders in conjunction with the YMCA of Regina mandate and Aboriginal values and knowledge. She developed a resource manual based on the Medicine Wheel Teachings that would offer a different perspective to youth leadership development. While in this role, Jessica progressed her studies on a second undergraduate degree in Human Justice with the University of Regina where she interned with the Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program. While assisting victims of intimate partner violence during the critical days following abuse, Jessica gained a deep appreciation for connecting others to their resource needs.



In 2007, Jessica joined the Regina Public Library (Albert Branch) as a Library Assistant. During her seven years with the Regina Public Library, Jessica developed a strong passion for children's programming. Her responsibilities included coordinating Aboriginal-based programs made possible through the Aboriginal Library Services Grant '*Information is for Everyone.*' Jessica worked with the Regina Public Library's eight branches in establishing Aboriginal-based programming to bring Aboriginal teachings, traditions and protocol into public library spaces.

While developing and performing puppet shows for years with the Regina Public Library, her interest and curiosity grew in connecting Aboriginal stories and legends with the art of puppetry. Now, Jessica pursues puppetry projects through a collective of artists called La Luna Iskwew Puppetry. Past collaborative projects include *The Legend of Qu'Appelle Valley*, a short shadow puppetry film featured at Regina's 1<sup>st</sup> International Puppetry Festival in April 2013, and *Wetigo Psychosis* with White Crow Media Collective as well as a current independent shadow puppetry project based on the seven sacred animal teachings that will produce a short film, performances and workshops with inner city youth. Jessica volunteers for the arts community, where she is a part of community gardens, film festivals and art shows and workshops. She spent years supporting *mispon: A Celebration of Indigenous Filmmaking* as a board member in fundraising and cultural teachings.

Jessica has gained valuable experience with the Regina Public Library through community engagement, collaboration and facilitation of cultural teachings into a public library spaces. This is a strength she looks forward to bringing to the Internship. Through the Internship, Jessica's goal is to expand upon her experience and knowledge of library science and to apply this within First Nations/Aboriginal Communities.

The internship will commence on October 20, 2014, with online studies for a Master in Information and Library Science degree from the University at Buffalo (Graduate School of Education) commencing in January 2015. Background on the University Library Aboriginal Internship is attached.

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For inquiries, contact:

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"Prophecy," Courtney Milne, photographer. University Archives and Special Collections, Milne fonds (MG410), image 049-140S, 1982.

## University Library Aboriginal Internship

The University of Saskatchewan envisions our university to be one of Canada's most distinguished, with a global impact in selected areas of academic pre-eminence. The university's Third Integrated Plan, *Promise and Potential*, describes university-wide strategies we will follow over the next four years to advance our academic priorities. This Plan articulates four areas of focus: knowledge creation; Aboriginal engagement; culture and community; and innovation in academic programs and services. Pervasive throughout the Plan is the impetus to promote, develop and enhance our institutional strengths in Aboriginal outreach and engagement.

To support the university's strategic directions, the University Library's Strategic Plan has identified several strategies to engage with and support the Aboriginal community, one of which is centered on growing the pool of Aboriginal people qualified as information / knowledge managers in the province.

The University Library Aboriginal Internship is envisioned to provide a unique educational and experiential opportunity for an Aboriginal person (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) in the field of knowledge management, broadly understood as the process of strategically and critically defining, protecting, classifying and disseminating information within an organization to facilitate richer understanding and decision-making.

An Aboriginal university graduate will have the opportunity to work at, and learn about the complexities of, an academic library while pursuing a fully-funded Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) or a Master's in Knowledge Management (MKM).\*

Features of this three year internship include:

- A part-time salaried position, undertaking various duties within the University Library, including research and relevant project work.
- Tuition paid for an online Master's degree program.
- Mentorship by selected library employees.
- The opportunity to learn about the work, culture, and complexities of information management in an academic library.
- Opportunities to engage the wider community in research and experiential activities.

Outcomes of the University Library Aboriginal Internship include:

- The intern will acquire a Master's degree\*\*, as well as valuable professional experience, positioning him/her to be successful in obtaining work in the field of information management.
- The intern will build and enhance his/her own competencies through mentorship provided by the University Library.
- Through his/her work and studies, the intern will engage the wider university and Aboriginal communities in conversations about librarianship and information management.
- The internship will raise the profile of Aboriginal programming on campus.

*\* Knowledge Management (KM) comprises a range of strategies and practices used in an organization to identify, create, represent, distribute, and enable adoption of insights and experiences. Knowledge management efforts typically focus on organizational objectives such as improved performance, competitive advantage, innovation, the sharing of lessons learned, integration and continuous improvement of the organization.*

*KM includes courses taught in the fields of business administration, information systems, management, and library and information sciences. More recently, other fields have started contributing to KM research, including information and media, computer science, public health, and public policy. Many large companies and non-profit organizations have resources dedicated to internal KM efforts, often as a part of their business strategy, information technology, or human resource management departments.*

*\*\*There are several accredited North American universities offering MLIS studies at a distance; the Master's program will be selected by the Dean of the University Library and the intern.*

Information about the Internship can be directed to:

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