

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

**October 4, 2021**

To provide feedback on *Arts and Science Update*, contact College of Arts and Science communications: [artsci.communications@usask.ca](mailto:artsci.communications@usask.ca).



## College of Arts and Science welcomes seven new faculty members

Seven lecturers and professors have accepted appointments to the college in the 2021/22 academic year. They join the Department of Biology, Department of Drama, Department of Indigenous Studies, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and Department of Political Studies.

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### Collaborative USask art project celebrating Indigenous knowledge reaches final step

The project, [\*anohc kipasikônew/we rise/niipawi\*](#), was conceived in the College of Arts and Science as a way to celebrate Indigenous knowledge systems. To highlight the 13 moons of the lunar cycle, it was planned for 13 carved stone steps to be installed on the USask campus over a period of months. The last step was installed on Sept. 21 during a public event at the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery. The installation of the 13th stone coincided with *nôcihitowipîsim*, or “Rutting Moon.”



### CLS employee blends traditional Indigenous knowledge with mainstream science after enrolling in USask’s STEM Accelerator courses

One of the most impactful learning experiences of Bernie Petit’s career took place at the University of Saskatchewan in 2020. Petit, who works at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron on campus, enrolled in 90-level courses offered through the Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways (ISAP) program in the College of Arts and Science.



### USask’s revamped biomedical sciences program proves popular with students

The new [BMSC program](#) was made possible through a [first-of-its-kind partnership](#) at the University of Saskatchewan between the College of Arts and Science and the College of Medicine. “This unique partnership leverages the high-quality instruction and research that is continually taking place in both colleges,” said Dr. Lorin Elias (PhD), vice-dean academic in the College of Arts and

Science. “Revamping the BMSC program through this partnership has enabled us to create new pathways that may pave the way for other degree offerings that are shared between colleges.”

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### **Donor-funded teaching boat enhances USask biology student training**

A new custom-made pontoon boat in the Department of Biology is helping students get hands-on experience studying the lakes of Saskatchewan. Funded in part by donors, the teaching and research vessel is the result of a multi-year fundraising campaign led by Dr. Jeff Hudson (PhD), professor of biology in the College of Arts and Science. Seven students in the undergraduate course BIOL 412 joined Hudson for the first official voyage of the boat in September to learn practical skills in the field of limnology—the study of inland waters.

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### **USask music ensembles to honour health-care workers with free outdoor concerts**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues at home and around the world, musicians at the University of Saskatchewan will pay tribute to health-care workers with a series of free outdoor concerts on Oct. 5 and Oct. 6. **The concerts** are part of the Play it Forward series developed in the Department of Music. Play it Forward was created following a brainstorming session between three ensemble directors: Dr. Jennifer Lang (PhD), of the Greystone Singers; Dr. Darrin Oehlerking (DMA), of the Wind Orchestra; and Prof. Dean McNeill, of the Jazz Ensemble.

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### [New era for quantum computing possible thanks to warped crystals: USask research](#)

University of Saskatchewan mathematician Dr. Steven Rayan (PhD) and University of Alberta physicist Dr. Joseph Maciejko (PhD) have developed a whole new theory of quantum material, based on a non-standard geometry called hyperbolic geometry. Their work points to the possibility of developing a larger class of quantum materials than previously known, opening the door to developing components for wider technological applications and advancements. The highly technical paper explaining their exciting discovery is titled *Hyperbolic band theory*, and was published in the high-impact, prestigious journal [Science Advances](#).

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### [Changing landscape of the family farm inspires USask professor's new book of poetry, short film](#)

Dr. Sheri Benning (PhD) found inspiration in her own lived experiences when she created her new book of poetry, *Field Requiem*. Benning, an assistant professor in the Department of English in the College of Arts and Science, grew up on a family farm in rural central Saskatchewan. This sense of place and the changing landscape of the family farm animate her new collection of poems. A book launch will be held on Nov. 18 at McNally Robinson in Saskatoon.

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### [A step back in time: Amati instruments and rare fashions owned by the late Olive Diefenbaker on display at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre](#)

*Amati Quartet: The Legacy of the University of Saskatchewan*, a new in-house exhibit curated by

the DCC in partnership with the Department of Music, features for the first time the viola, cello, and two violins handcrafted by members of the Amati family in the 16th and 17th centuries. “These unique string instruments are over 300 years old, and represent some of the finest examples of Italian craftsmanship,” said Dr. Véronique Mathieu (DMus), associate professor of violin and David L. Kaplan Chair in Music. “We look forward to introducing them to the community through this exhibit, along with fascinating details about their rich history.”



### **USask commemorates Herzberg Nobel Prize with new international student award**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Gerhard Herzberg’s Nobel Prize this fall, the University of Saskatchewan chemistry department has created a new student award—the Herzberg International Equity Award—which will assist almost 50 students from 20 countries this year. Herzberg was widely

considered the world’s foremost molecular spectroscopist when he won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1971. His work, both at USask and at the National Research Council in Ottawa, revealed the structure of many molecules and the energy they contain—knowledge that has had a major impact in a wide range of fields, from astronomy to zoology.



### **Indigenous Voices Online Learning Modules present knowledge in historical and contemporary contexts**

This is a series of interactive modules that you can do on your own to begin your learning journey. The intent of the modules is to present knowledge of historical and contemporary context, such that you can then participate in the other in-person

programming offered through Indigenous Voices. Each module will take you approximately three hours, and it is recommended you give yourself a few days between each module. You will need time to absorb and reconcile the information.

It is not the intention that taking these modules will replace in-person interaction with Indigenous Voices staff; it is merely the initial step. [Find out more here.](#)

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### By the numbers

**200,000:** The approximate age of a [pair of stone hand axes](#) found in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology that were made by Neanderthals. Some of the oldest human-made objects on campus, the hand axes are brought out each year to be handled by a new group of

students. “It really drives home that sense of awe when you can hold something that someone created so long ago, and just think about all that goes along with it,” said Denise Huynh, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.

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## Upcoming Events



### [Oct. 8 - Dec. 18: Derdie: PLAY](#)

Two University of Saskatchewan graduates are exploring the value of play through a residency and exhibition at the Kenderine Art Gallery on the USask campus. Interdisciplinary artists Derek Sandbeck (BFA’11) and Andie Nicole Palynchuk (BFA’13) are alumni of the College of Arts and Science, earning their Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees after studying studio art in the Department of Art and Art History. Now, years after their Convocation ceremonies, [they are back on campus to produce an exhibition](#) under their collaborative name, derdie. The duo’s residency runs until Oct.

8, and derdie's resulting exhibition, entitled *PLAY*, will open on Oct. 8 and remain on view until Dec. 18.

Oct. 5 - 6: [Play it Forward Concert Series](#)

Oct. 6: [Indigenous Scholars Series: Dr. Simon Lambert \(PhD\)](#)

Oct. 6: [Book launch for \*Girl running\* by Diana Hope Tegenkamp](#)

Until Dec. 18: [Proliferate: works on paper](#)

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## In the Media

CBC Saskatchewan: [Power of incumbency, low turnout may have led to big Conservative win in northern Sask. riding, experts say](#) (with Dr. Daniel Westlake, PhD, Department of Political Studies, Sept. 23)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [Collaborative art project at Gordon Snelgrove Gallery reaches final phase](#) (with Dr. Peta Bonham-Smith, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Science and Professor of Biology, Sept. 22)

Policy Options: [Making the promised Canada Water Agency a reality](#) (with Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace, PhD, Department of Geography and Planning, Sept. 13)

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## Awards and Accolades

**Dr. Emily Snyder (PhD)**, a faculty member in the Department of Indigenous Studies and the Women's and Gender Studies Program, will serve as acting vice-dean Indigenous in the College of Arts and Science for a one-year term. Snyder's appointment began on Sept. 1, 2021, and will continue until Aug. 31, 2022. Her research, teaching, administrative service and engagement work on the USask campus, and beyond, focuses on decolonial feminist work in the area of Indigenous legal studies. Snyder was appointed to the acting vice-dean Indigenous role after the former vice-dean Indigenous, **Dr. Angela Jaime (PhD)**, was appointed as USask's interim vice-provost Indigenous engagement. Jaime's secondment to that role began on Sept. 1.

Six College of Arts and Science researchers have been [awarded funding to support multiple projects](#) that bridge history and social innovation. The funding—Insight Development Grants awarded by Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—is intended to support research in its initial stages for up to two years. The researchers are: **Dr. Cheryl Troupe (PhD)**, from the Department of History; **Dr. Kirsten Fisher (PhD)**, from the Department of Political Studies; **Dr. Alessio Ponso (PhD)**, from the Department of History; **Dr. Angela Lieverse (PhD)**, from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology; **Dr. Romain Chareyron (PhD)**, from the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies; and **Dr. Ashleigh Androsoff (PhD)**, from the Department of History.

Projects focused on improving life for Saskatoon residents will move forward thanks to Research Junction, an innovative partnership between the City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan. **Dr. Debajyoti Mondal (PhD)**, from the Department of Computer Science, has received \$20,000 to work on a project focused on [shaping a more responsive transit system](#). **Dr. Lee Wilson (PhD)**, from the Department of Chemistry, has received \$20,000 to [examine the susceptibility of key aspects of the Saskatoon water treatment process](#) to source petrochemical contamination and study the effectiveness of potential mitigation techniques.

**Dr. John Pomeroy (PhD)**, USask Distinguished Professor, Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, director of the pan-Canadian Global Water Futures program and a faculty member in the Department of Geography and Planning, [has been named the 2021 Walter Langbein Lecturer](#) by the American Geophysical Union.

**Dr. Véronique Mathieu (DMus)**, associate professor of violin in the Department of Music, has been [awarded \\$22,900 from the Canada Council for the Arts](#) to research and develop a set of 12 violin etudes in collaboration with 12 internationally established composers. The funding will enable her to hire USask music students to help evaluate the etudes as they are being composed.

**Prof. Dean McNeill**, head of the Department of Music, has been awarded two Canada Council for the Arts grants supporting the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra: a \$50,000 grant for the Jan. 22, 2022, [Dimensions in Sound](#) concert and a \$38,000 grant for the June 17, 2022, [Gnu High: A Tribute to Kenny Wheeler](#) concert. The Dimensions in Sound



concert is a collaboration with visual artist **Prof. Allyson Glenn** from the Department of Art and Art History.

**Dr. Alexander Moewes (PhD), [Canada Research Chair in Materials Science with Synchrotron Radiation](#)** and a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, has won the Allen Pratt Memorial Award for Community Service. The award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and the Canadian synchrotron community.

**Dr. Bill Waiser (MA'76, PhD'83, DLitt'10)**, a distinguished professor emeritus and one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence, has received the [2021 Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence](#). The award honours a Saskatchewan writer who has written a substantial body of acclaimed literary work and has had a significant impact on writing in Saskatchewan. It carries a prize of \$10,000 and a framed limited edition print of a painting by well-known Saskatchewan artist and fellow College of Arts and Science Alumni of Influence Award recipient Dorothy Knowles (BA'48).

**Diana Hope Tegenkamp's** film poem, *all the words I couldn't say*, based on a poem by Nicole Brossard, was recently selected as an Official Selection for the 2021 International Berlin Art Film Festival and the Toronto International Women's Festival, monthly editions, and the Montreal Independent Film Festival, seasonal edition. Tegenkamp is the office coordinator in the Department of English. Watch the trailer [here](#).

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*Arts and Science Update* is sent to faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Science.

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