

# ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

**April 4, 2022**

*Arts and Science Update* is a monthly newsletter for faculty and staff of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Science. To give feedback, contact the college communications office: [artsci.communications@usask.ca](mailto:artsci.communications@usask.ca)



**College celebrates third “Think Big – Be Bold” Day**

On March 28, the College of Arts and Science held its third annual celebration of Think Big – Be Bold, the college's plan to 2025. The theme of this year's celebration was Put Students First, one of four key commitments in the college plan.

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### **USask galleries welcome Art Auntie to support gender-diverse artists**

The Capacitor project, a new programming channel for transgender, non-binary, Two Spirit and gender non-conforming artists in the province, will be hosted by the USask Art Galleries and Collection for the next year. Jaye Kovach has been hired to serve as the Capacitor project's Art Auntie.

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### **USask, international researchers find modern animal life could have origins in delta**

The ancestors of many animal species alive today may have lived in a delta in what is now China, suggests new research published by an international team including Dr. Luis Buatois (PhD) and Dr. Gabriela Mángano (PhD) of the Department of Geological Sciences.

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### **USask's regional and urban planning program receives national reaccreditation**

USask's Regional and Urban Planning Program recently received national reaccreditation for another five years through the Canadian Institute of Planners, following a 2021 site visit and review by the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada.



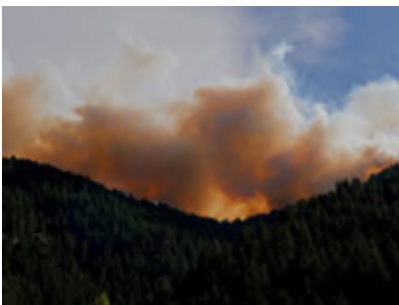
### [USask hosts first Saskatchewan High School Ethics Bowl](#)

On March 26, the Department of Philosophy hosted the first-ever Saskatchewan High School Ethics Bowl. Teams from Saskatchewan high schools examined and discussed ethical dilemmas surrounding important social issues.



### [The state of water security in Canada](#)

Canada is known as a water-rich nation, but we are not a water secure nation. Researchers including Dr. John Pomeroy (PhD) and Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD) of the Department of Geography and Planning discussed the urgent need for a national water strategy.



### [Increased wildfires may slow recovery of Earth's ozone layer](#)

A new study reveals that an expected increase in wildfires due to climate change may damage the Earth's protective ozone layer and slow its ability to recover. Dr. Adam Bourassa (PhD), Dr. Doug Degenstein (PhD) and Dr. Daniel Zawada (PhD) of the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics

are among the report's authors.

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[spencer.smit@usask.ca](mailto:spencer.smit@usask.ca).

### **New Team for Arts and Science staff**

The College of Arts and Science has introduced a new Team within Microsoft Teams for college staff members. This online group will make it easy to connect with colleagues across campus and remotely. For questions or to suggest a new channel, please contact the Team admins at [gail.mckenzie@usask.ca](mailto:gail.mckenzie@usask.ca) and



### **By the numbers**

**15:** The number of [College of Arts and Science students recognized](#) with Indigenous Student Achievement Awards from USask on March 10. The awards are given out annually during Indigenous Achievement Week.

## **Awards and Accolades**

**Dr. Ehab Diab (PhD)**, a faculty member in the Department of Geography and Planning, is the [recipient of the College of Arts and Science's New Scholar Research Award](#) for 2021. Diab's research focuses on systems integration, public transit planning and service operations, and travel behaviour research.

Professor of chemistry **Dr. David Palmer (PhD)** has been [named a fellow](#) of the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC). CIC fellowships recognize members who have made outstanding contributions across multiple areas, including scientific research, management, teaching and public awareness.

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology professor **Dr. Pamela Downe (PhD)** has been [named a fellow](#) of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA). Fellows

are longstanding members of CASCA who have made notable contributions to anthropology in Canada through research, practice, teaching/mentoring or service.

**Dr. Graham George (PhD)**, professor in the Department of Geological Sciences, has been awarded \$250,000 through the Canada New Frontiers in Research Fund. George's team will analyze how X-ray fluorescence imaging can play a role in determining the role of metals in the progression of nerve damage in people with multiple sclerosis.

**Dr. Erika Dyck (PhD)**, professor in the Department of History, is co-principal applicant on a [project awarded \\$390,000](#) from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Dyck and Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine (PhD) will lead an interdisciplinary team studying the wider social and health impacts of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan.

Geological sciences professor **Dr. Yuanming Pan (PhD)** [has been awarded \\$60,000](#) through a Natural Sciences and Engineering Council Alliance Grant to further develop a novel technique he invented for uranium exploration that involves studying radiation-induced defects in quartz and calcite.

*In the Fray* and *Above the Deluge*, two short films directed by Department of Art and Art History associate professor **Allyson Glenn**, continue to perform well on the film festival circuit. *In the Fray* has been selected for the Canadian Film Festival in Toronto and *Above the Deluge* has been selected by the Cinequest Film Festival in California. In total, the two films have been selected for 27 film festivals and received eight awards. The [films were originally created for Dimensions in Sound](#), a collaborative concert with the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra and its director **Dean McNeill**, scheduled for June 17.

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## Upcoming Events



From 4–8:30 pm on **Friday, April 8**, the Department of Art and Art History will host a [Nuit Blanche Eve Augmented Reality Tour](#) in the Bowl on campus. Originally scheduled for September, the tour was postponed until this week. This all-ages contemporary art event will feature 16 augmented reality artworks created by 12 USask students.

Until April 15 [material + time](#)

Until April 22 [Quill Violet Christie-Peters: spilling out, spilling over](#)

Until April 22 [Charlene Vickers: Big Blue Smudge](#)

~~Until April 7~~ (CANCELLED) Greystone Theatre: The Seagull

April 6 [Celebrating the Canoe](#)

April 7 [Capacitor Project Info Session](#)

April 8 [Meshkwajisewin: Paradigm Shift](#)

April 13 [Amati Quartet: Live at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre](#)

April 13 [Literature Matters](#)

April 30 [USask Symphony Orchestra: Serenades for Spring](#)

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## In the Media

**650 CKOM: [Russia-Ukraine war could have significant implications for international order: U of S lecturer](#)** (with Dr. Martin Gaal, PhD, Department of Political Studies, March 26)

**Scientific American: [The Evolving Quest for a Grand Unified Theory of Mathematics](#)** (with Dr. Steven Rayan, PhD, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, March 21)

**The Western Producer: [Research project puts plants under surveillance](#)** (with Dr. Lingling Jin, PhD, and Dr. Ian Stavness, PhD, Department of Computer Science, March 17)

**CNN: [Affection from a dog really is medicinal, according to a new study](#)** (with Dr. Colleen Dell, PhD, Department of Sociology, March 9)

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