

ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

August 2, 2022

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



USask approves policy on Indigenous membership/citizenship verification

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has approved a new policy on Indigenous membership/citizenship verification, the result of ground-breaking work by a task force led by Indigenous Elders and leaders. “This new policy approved by our Board of Governors reflects USask’s commitment to transformative decolonization and

reconciliation,” said USask President Peter Stoicheff. “This work on Indigenous membership/citizenship verification is imperative and timely. I am particularly grateful for the leadership and guidance of our Indigenous partners without whom this policy work could not have been successfully undertaken.”



[USask Canada Research Chairs to use Indigenous knowledge, stories to create social impact](#)

Two USask researchers have been awarded a total of \$1.2 million in funding through the federal government’s Canada Research Chair program to support new insights into Indigenous storytelling and Indigenization in engineering programs. Newly appointed Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Storytelling and full professor in English, Dr. Kristina Bidwell (PhD), will investigate how stories—both written and oral—create meaning and influence actions within intercultural collaborations and conflicts.



[Reconstructing volcanic eruptions to help scientists predict climate risks: USask research](#)

University of Saskatchewan researcher Dr. Matthew Toohey (PhD) and University of Bern researcher Dr. Michael Sigl (PhD) were part of the research team that developed an updated, more accurate reconstruction of volcanic eruptions that can help scientists understand future climate risks.



[USask archeological research digs into evolution of dog diets in new study](#)

Most people know their dogs as the furry friend who greets them at the door after a long day's work, but dogs have an interesting and complex history all their own. A new study published in the journal *Science Advances* examines the ancient lives of dogs and the ecological impacts of their diets.



[Film starring USask drama prof to premiere at major festival](#)

One of Europe's most prestigious film festivals will feature a USask connection this summer. Shannon Blanchet, a USask assistant professor of drama, has a prominent role in *Before I Change My Mind*, a Canadian film making its [world premiere at this year's Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland](#).



[Studying rheumatoid arthritis in modern-day patients may shed new light on disease's past](#)

A USask graduate student is studying specimens from knee replacement surgeries in modern patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to better understand the history and progression of the disease in the past. "If we can establish a set of criteria which would make it easier to identify RA in archaeological populations, it would allow us to glean unique insight into how the disease progressed and presented throughout time," said Taylor Eagle, who is pursuing a master's degree in archaeology under the supervision of Dr. Angela Lieveise (PhD) and Professor Emeritus Dr. Ernie Walker (PhD) in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.



[USask researcher tackles issue of shrub encroachment in Saskatchewan grassland ecosystems](#)

A USask researcher is exploring why shrubs are encroaching on grassland ecosystems in the province—an important issue that ranchers, scientists, rangeland managers and others are eager to better understand. Irini Soubry, who is writing a PhD thesis under the supervision of Dr. Xulin Guo (PhD) from the Department of Geography and Planning, said shrub expansion into grasslands can cause numerous negative effects, such as a reduction in the quality and quantity of grass available for cattle to eat.



[Studying modern-day dog bones may deepen knowledge of ancient dog-sledding activities](#)

A USask archaeology student is studying modern-day dog specimens in an effort to shed new light on Indigenous dog-sledding practices of the past. “Though the importance of Indigenous dog sledding is well known, its history and development remain poorly understood,” said Jessica Sick, who is pursuing a master’s degree under the supervision of Dr. Tatiana Nomokonova (PhD) and Dr. Angela Lieveise (PhD) in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.



Arts and Science Student Hub to open in former tuck shop/post office location

A newly renovated space dedicated to serving College of Arts and Science students is scheduled to open in September on the first floor of the Arts Building.

The new Arts and Science Student Hub will focus on student services and study abroad programming. It will be located in the former tuck shop/post office space that was formally allocated to the College of Arts and Science in 2019. Planning and design work began immediately at that time to create a student services hub for Arts and Science students; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, construction did not begin until June 2022. The space is now scheduled to open in September 2022.

With its central and accessible location, the Arts and Science Student Hub will provide general information for all students in the college. It will also serve as the front-office reception area for the Undergraduate Student Office and will provide opportunities for individual and group advising as well as student meeting space. The Student Hub will also be the new home of the college's study abroad programming and will provide international student support and advising.



By the numbers

26,155: The number of students who attended USask between May 1, 2021, and April 30, 2022, an overall increase of 0.8 per cent from the previous year. This set a new record; for the first time in the institution's history, enrolment reached and then passed 26,000. During the 2021-22

academic year, enrolment increased in the four major areas of study at USask: undergraduate (0.6 per cent increase), graduate (1.5 per cent increase), non-degree (0.3 per cent increase) and medical residence (2.3 per cent increase).

In the Media

Science: [Massive undersea eruption filled atmosphere with water](#) (with Dr. Matthew Toohey, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, July 27)

CJWW: [International project involving University of Saskatchewan aims to predict flooding](#) (with Dr. John Pomeroy, Department of Geography and Planning, July 19)

CJME: [‘Fewer people are getting married’: Sociologist breaks down rise in common-law partnerships](#) (with Dr. Laura Wright, Department of Sociology, July 13)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [Q+A: Conference aims to make Saskatoon 'world's bison capital'](#) (with Professor Emeritus Dr. Ernie Walker, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, July 13)

Awards and Accolades

Professor Emerita Dr. Priscilla Settee (PhD) has been [named acting vice-dean Indigenous in the College of Arts and Science for a one-year period](#), effective July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. This is a 0.5 FTE appointment. The vice-dean Indigenous role is a key member of the college’s leadership team and is a key liaison with the office of the interim vice-provost Indigenous engagement.

Dr. Lee Wilson (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry, has been named a [member of the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research \(Leadership Circle\)](#). This group will advise the presidents of Canada’s three federal research funding agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—and the Canada Foundation for Innovation on the implementation of the interagency strategic plan [Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada 2019-2022](#). Dr. Wilson was also [featured in a July 15 article published in University Affairs](#).

Dr. Romain Chareyron (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies, is the editor of a new book titled *Trans Identities in the French Media: Representation, Visibility, Recognition* (Lexington Books). *Trans*

Identities in the French Media "explores the representation of trans identities in contemporary French society, with essays in fields as wide-ranging as translation studies, women's and gender studies, film studies, and comics studies," [according to a description of the book.](#)

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

Visit artsandscience.usask.ca/news for the latest news and events.
