

ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

Feb. 1, 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



[USask scientist becomes first Canadian to win Royal Astronomical Society honour](#)

Dr. Kathryn McWilliams (PhD), a professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics and principal investigator of SuperDARN Canada, has been awarded an honorary fellowship from the Royal Astronomical Society of the United Kingdom.



[Digital replica of birch bark canoe on view at Rемаi Modern through USask partnership](#)

An augmented reality version of a traditional birch bark canoe is part of a new art exhibition at Saskatoon's Rемаi Modern. USask's Shared Spaces team digitized the canoe, which was repatriated to its home community in 2020 by the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Rемаi Modern exhibition, titled *Canoe*, also [features about 50 pieces](#) from Scott and Grit McCreath's private art collection.



[USask researcher wins international paleontology medal](#)

Dr. Luis Buatois (PhD), a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences, has been awarded the 2022 Raymond C. Moore Medal for Paleontology from the Society for Sedimentary Geology—one of the most prestigious international awards in paleontology.



\$500,000 in federal funding awarded for Canada Research Chair at USask

Dr. Eric Price (PhD), an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded \$500,000 in funding through the federal government's Canada Research Chair renewal program to support new insights into the development of "smart" radioactive

pharmaceuticals.



Disrupting COVID-19 with potential new treatments

A USask research team has discovered insights into the structure of the virus that causes COVID-19, possibly leading to new treatment options. Contributors to the research included Dr. Nataliya Dolgova (PhD), Dr. Ingrid Pickering (PhD) and Dr. Graham George (PhD) of the Department of

Geological Sciences.



USask graduate student aims to improve space travel through plasma research

Department of Physics and Engineering Physics PhD student Arash Tavassoli is aiming to combine physics and computer science to help designers of plasma thruster engines enhance the capability and efficiency of the machines.



By the numbers

98.86: The percentage of University of Saskatchewan faculty and staff who have [reported being fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 as of Feb. 1, 2022. In January, USask announced a new expectation for faculty, staff and students to obtain their COVID-19 vaccine booster.

Awards and Accolades

Dr. Chris Phenix (PhD), assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, was presented with an [Early Career Impact Award](#) from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) on Jan. 19. The award recognizes the achievements and impact of a past SHRF Establishment Grant recipient.

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking's (DMA) term as associate dean student affairs in the College of Arts and Science has been extended for one year, until June 30, 2023. Oehlerking's academic appointment will continue to be in the Department of Music.

Department of Indigenous Studies assistant professor **Dr. Robert Henry (PhD)** is co-editor of [*The Arts of Indigenous Health and Well-Being*](#), a new book from University of Manitoba Press. Co-edited by Dr. Nancy Van Styvendale (PhD), JD McDougall, Henry, and Dr. Robert Innes (PhD), the book draws attention to the ways in which creative practices are essential to the health, well-being and healing of Indigenous peoples.

Events



Charlene Vickers: Big Blue Smudge

This exhibition presents recent paintings and new large-scale sculptural works by Charlene Vickers, an Anishinaabe artist based in Vancouver. Vickers' practice explores memory, healing and embodied connections to ancestral lands. Curated by Leah Taylor, [the exhibition can be viewed](#) at College Art Gallery 1 **until April 22**.

Until April 15 [material + time](#)

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

February TBD [Greystone Theatre: Paradise Park](#)

Feb. 3 [CANSSI Saskatchewan Health Science Collaborating Centre Webinar](#)

Feb. 4 [Conference: Armed Conflict & Protection of Future Generations](#)

Feb. 10 [CANSSI Saskatchewan Health Science Collaborating Centre Webinar](#)

Feb. 18 [Literature Matters: A Tribute to Lee Maracle](#)

Feb. 19 [Elixir Ensemble: Two Tales of Russia](#)

Feb. 23 [CANSSI Saskatchewan Health Science Collaborating Centre Webinar](#)

Feb. 28 [FARLS: Opera, As In: Writing One](#)

In the Media

CTV News: [Sask. researcher first Canadian to be awarded Royal Astronomical Society honour](#) (with Dr. Kathryn McWilliams, PhD, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Jan. 27)

The Conversation: [Should university instructors disclose mental health conditions? It's complicated](#) (with Dr. Jan Gelech, PhD, Department of Psychology and Health Studies; and Dr. Simonne Horwitz, DPhil, Department of History, Jan. 18)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [Sask. researcher hopes new technology will create better cancer treatment](#) (with Dr. Eric Price, PhD, Department of Chemistry, Jan. 16)

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

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