

ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

June 6, 2022

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



Students learn on the land at First Nation in new USask course

In a new Department of Geography and Planning course this spring, university and high school students at the community of Mistawasis Nêhiyawak teamed up to study health and environmental issues.



Pride: A place to be your authentic self

June is Pride Month at USask, across Canada and in a number of countries around the world. Several initiatives are underway across campus to celebrate the occasion.



Patrick Bulas, Barbara Reimer win Dean's Distinguished Staff Awards

Two technicians in the Department of Art and Art History are the winners of the 2022 Dean's Distinguished Staff Awards from the College of Arts and Science. The awards recognize employees of the college who have distinguished themselves through excellence in work performance and quality of

service.



COIL teaching enhances USask students' global awareness

Studying abroad was impossible during the pandemic, but USask music professor Dr. Veronique Mathieu (DMus) and political studies lecturer Dr. Martin Gaal (PhD) successfully brought the world to their students through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects.



USask-led study finds a high-fish diet may not be bad for you

A new synchrotron-based study shows that the chemical form of mercury found in the brains of people who ate a lot of fish over a lifetime is completely different from the mercury form found in the brains of people who were poisoned. Dr.

Graham George (DPhil) and Dr. Ingrid Pickering (PhD) of the Department of Geological Sciences are part of the team behind the research.



Digital and extended media professor wins USask teaching award

Lisa Birke, assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art History, is this year's winner of the Provost's New Teacher Award from USask.



Women's and Gender Studies Program celebrates 30 years

The Women's and Gender Studies Program in the College of Arts and Science celebrated its 30th anniversary in May. Graduates reflected on the impact the program has had on their lives.



By the numbers

1,141: The number of College of Arts and Science students who applied to graduate at the University of Saskatchewan's Spring Convocation. Ceremonies for Arts and Science are on Tuesday, June 7 at Merlis Belsher Place. [Read stories about some of our graduating students.](#)

Staff Updates

With Leah Brodie leaving her position in the College of Arts and Science in late April, [Andrea Hala](#) will serve as the lead for development in the college while a search is undertaken for a director of advancement.

The Undergraduate Student Office has undergone some changes, as Blair Pisiso has left the university for another opportunity. In the immediate short term, [Renee Penney](#) will assume most duties covered by the manager of undergraduate student services. The plan is to appoint an interim person to take over the manager's responsibilities in late June/early July, with a comprehensive assessment of roles and responsibilities within the leadership of the UGSO.

With regards to questions/allegations surrounding academic misconduct, instructors are asked to do the following:

- Informal allegations should be forwarded to the associate dean student affairs and Melissa Teed: associatedean.studentaffairs@usask.ca, melissa.teed@usask.ca.
 - Formal allegations should be forwarded to associate dean student affairs and Amber Vey: associatedean.studentaffairs@usask.ca, amber.vey@usask.ca.
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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Amy Gerein, Office Coordinator, Department of Drama / ASG

Q: When did you start working in the College of Arts and Science?

I started with the College of Arts and Science, and the Department of Drama, on May 10, 2021.

Q: Using two sentences, how would you describe your work in the college?

Well, my boss has described the office coordinator role as writing emails and going to meetings, and she's not wrong. But my department also requires some specialized things that happily fit right into my skillset, like creating promotional posters, playing with graphics and videos, and taking in awesome donations to the department, like swords.

Q: What activities do you enjoy outside of work?

Honestly, I seem to collect hobbies, but the primary things that I do outside of work include hanging out with my horses, my bird, or my sister's rabbit, making some sort of art or crafting, and in every other spare moment, I have my nose stuck in a book!

Q: What is something people may find surprising about you?

Since it takes a bit for me to warm up to people and tell them weird things, there is potentially lots that people might find surprising. Kind of a basic one, given my involvement in the arts community (both through work and outside of work), is that my degree is actually in animal bioscience. Something more surprising (or potentially less surprising given my department?) is that I used to teach belly dance and have performed on the street at the Fringe Festival with five swords balancing on my head.

Awards and Accolades

A research team led by **Dr. Philip McLoughlin (PhD)**, professor in the Department of Biology, [has been awarded \\$1.87 million](#) for an interdisciplinary project to study complex environmental changes occurring in Western Canada's Boreal Plains and help mitigate the consequences. The five-year Alliance Grant from NSERC is the largest ever awarded to USask.

Faculty and students of the Department of History won [numerous awards](#) at the 2022 annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association (CHA). These included assistant professor **Dr. Allyson Stevenson (PhD)**, winner of the the Clio Prize in Prairie History for her book *Intimate Integration: A History of the Sixties Scoop and the Colonization of Indigenous Kinship*. Associate professor **Dr. Benjamin Hoy (PhD)** won three awards: the Best Book in Political History Prize and the Best Scholarly Book in Canadian History Prize for *A Line of Blood and Dirt: Creating the Canada-United States Border Across Indigenous Lands*; and the CHA Teaching Prize.

Department of Mathematics and Statistics associate professor **Dr. Raj Srinivasan (PhD)** was invited to deliver the inaugural address at Sri Sairam Engineering College's Mathophilia 2022, a one-day intercollegiate mathematics contest in Chennai, India, held on May 19.

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking (DMA), associate professor in the Department of Music and interim associate dean student affairs, conducted the [30th annual National Youth Band of Canada](#) in Toronto from May 10–15. The Canadian Band Association chooses a renowned Canadian conductor each year to lead the national band, which brings together young instrumentalists from across the country.

Assistant professor of drama **Shannon Blanchet**'s production of *Evelyn Strange* runs at the Varscona Theatre in Edmonton from May 26–June 12. The show is Blanchet's [directorial debut](#).

Dr. Raymond Spiteri (PhD), professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, served on the Expert Panel on Artificial Intelligence for Science and Engineering for a report from the Council of Canadian Academies titled [Leaps and Boundaries](#). The report explored opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence.

Dean McNeill, head of the Department of Music, was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from MacEwan University on April 29. The award honours individuals whose achievements have demonstrated excellence and leadership within their field or service to the community.

Dr. Colleen Dell (PhD), professor in the Department of Sociology, has been promoted to the level of an Officer of the Order of St. John within the Canadian

Honour System. Dell was previously appointed a member of the order in 2017 for her research and community work involving animal-assisted interventions.

Diana Tegenkamp, office coordinator for the Department of English, has been shortlisted in the published poetry category of the 2022 Indigenous Voices Awards for her book *Girl running*. Recipients of the awards will be announced on June 21.

Upcoming Events



skodenstoodis, a major solo exhibition by College of Arts and Science graduate Wally Dion (BFA'04), focuses on new and recent artworks, including large-scale, site-specific neon sculpture, recent painting and drawing, and a selection of circuit board assemblages. It runs until Aug. 26 at the College Art Galleries.

Until Aug. 30 Julie Oh: sesame, open yourself

June 8–9 Prairie Workshop on Languages and Linguistics VI

June 17 Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra: Dimensions In Sound

In the Media

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [We have always been here: Historians search for LGBTQ2S+ stories in rural Sask.](#) (with Dr. Valerie Korinek, PhD, Department of History, May 27)

CJWW: [New materials making quantum computers even more evolved](#) (with Dr. Steven Rayan, PhD, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, May 21)

Northeast Now: [Cumberland House students learn hands-on about water quality with U of S ambassadors](#) (with USask science ambassadors, May 19)

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

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