

ARTS & SCIENCE



Cree narratives take centre stage in art exhibition

An app that teaches healthy eating

Alumni look back at the pandemic year



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Arts and Science

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On the cover:

Artist Ruth Cuthand (BFA'83, MFA'92) is a 2021 USask Alumni Achievement Award recipient.
Photography by David Stobbe

BY THE NUMBERS

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AT USASK



10,557

STUDENTS

9,531 UNDERGRADUATE
1,026 GRADUATE



1,389

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



1,532

SELF-DECLARED INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



50

DEGREE PROGRAMS



53,919

LIVING ALUMNI



312.8

FACULTY MEMBERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT



\$4.2M

GIFTS FROM DONORS LAST YEAR



11 STOREYS

HEIGHT OF THE TALLEST BUILDING

THE ARTS BUILDING - IT
WAS ONLY SEVEN STOREYS
UNTIL 1965



34 YEARS

AGE OF OLDEST KOI FISH

BUBBLES RECENTLY
RETIRED TO
INNOVATION PLACE



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Photography by David Stobbe

A little over one year ago, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to radically rethink nearly every aspect of our daily lives. At the University of Saskatchewan (USask), campus buildings closed and we moved the majority of our teaching and learning online. Around the world, the lives of our alumni were upended just as dramatically.

We were separated, but not isolated; our distance only underscored the importance of working together. And working together is what all of us in the College of Arts and Science do best.

I have been continually inspired by the compassion and resilience shown by our community throughout this difficult time. Our alumni, donors, faculty, staff and students rose to the occasion, supporting each other and finding creative ways to improve the places in which we live and work. You will find some of their stories in the pages of this magazine.

Our students who graduated last spring and fall entered a world of unprecedented uncertainty. But it was heartening for me to know that as graduates

of the College of Arts and Science, they are uniquely equipped to face this challenge. Like you, they have the foundational knowledge and skills they need to adapt to a lifetime of change—to attain the jobs and opportunities that have yet to be imagined.

Now, as the rollout of vaccines continues around the world, there is light at the end of this tunnel. We anticipate a significant increase in our in-person, on-campus instruction this fall. As we enter the post-COVID world, our focus in the College of Arts and Science turns once again to the future.

Over the next decade, we see potential for transformative change in our college: opportunities to make greater investments in our students, to further empower our researchers, and to make USask, more than ever, the university the world needs. All of this will happen with help from you, our alumni and donors, and I am eager to share more with you soon.

I hope that you and your families are healthy, safe and looking forward to a brighter tomorrow. ♥

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peta Bonham-Smith'.

Dr. Peta Bonham-Smith
Dean and Professor, College of Arts and Science

We acknowledge that we live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Dr. Mitch Weegman

Ducks Unlimited Canada endowed chair the first of its kind in the country

A rising star in conservation science has been hired as the Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Endowed Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation in the College of Arts and Science's Department of Biology.

Avian ecologist Dr. Mitch Weegman will teach and mentor University of Saskatchewan (USask) students while delivering research that addresses some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. The first of its kind in Canada, the new endowed chair is the result of a partnership between DUC and USask.

"We're thrilled to have someone of Mitch's talent leading, challenging and inspiring the next generation of conservation scientists who will help ensure our natural environment is safeguarded now and into the future," said Dr. Karla Guyn (MSc'94, PhD'01), chief executive officer for DUC and one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence.

DUC and USask have launched a \$5-million fundraising initiative to support the chair and its work. Learn more online at ducks.ca/endowedchair. ♥



Dr. Allyson Stevenson (BA'00, MA'04, PhD'15)

Photography by Kelsey Victoria Kerr

New research chair to explore history of the Métis

Dr. Allyson Stevenson (BA'00, MA'04, PhD'15) wants to record the untold story of the Métis in Western Canada.

On July 1, 2020, Stevenson was appointed the Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies in the College of Arts and Science. The new chair was created through a partnership between the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI).

With support from GDI, Stevenson will work to build research and teaching capacity in Métis studies at USask. She is currently partnering with communities to work collaboratively on documenting the Métis history of Cumberland House and river lot settlements in northeastern Saskatchewan.

"It's a really unique history, a really important history that has yet to be written," said Stevenson.

GDI and USask also provided funding for new graduate student scholarships in Métis studies. The first of these scholarships will be awarded in 2021. ♥



Dr. Angela Jaime

New vice-dean Indigenous ready to redefine the role

Dr. Angela Jaime began a five-year term as vice-dean Indigenous in the College of Arts and Science on July 1, 2020.

Jaime, a member of the Pit River and Valley Maidu Tribes of northern California, was recruited to the University of Saskatchewan from the University of Wyoming. Her research and scholarship focus on anti-racism, anti-oppression, and the experience of Indigenous women and students in higher education.

As vice-dean Indigenous, Jaime will be responsible for all matters relating to Indigenous engagement within the college. Her goals for the coming years include supporting the success of Indigenous students, staff and faculty, strengthening partnerships with the community and creating a new Centre for Indigenous Scholarship.

"I am looking forward to working with the Indigenous community, both on and off campus, to support and create ways we can all provide healthy, encouraging and safe spaces for Indigenous students, staff and faculty," Jaime said. ♥



Pictured is the empty food court in Lower Place Riel on the USask campus.
Photography by David Bindle

USask introduces community-driven COVID-19 digital archive

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has launched a COVID-19 Community Archive to document life in Saskatchewan during the global health crisis.

“We want to help capture the everyday experiences alongside the formal responses to COVID-19,” said Dr. Erika Dyck (BA’98, MA’00), a College of Arts and Science history professor and Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine.

As a community-driven initiative, the digital archive will include submissions from residents that chronicle individual or collective experiences. This includes photographs, social media posts, videos, creative projects, email, blog entries, journals and personal reflections.

Through web archiving, interviews and other initiatives, the project team will also gather documentation such as

news releases, policy changes, essential services declarations and the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) response.

The purpose of the archive is to provide valuable source material for researchers—faculty, students, journalists, historians and writers—studying how the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the university and the province at large.

The project is a partnership between faculty in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Science and units in the University Library, including University Archives and Special Collections and the Digital Research Centre.

The COVID-19 Community Archive content can be viewed and submitted online at covid19archive.usask.ca. ▾

Researchers track online hate directed at Asian community

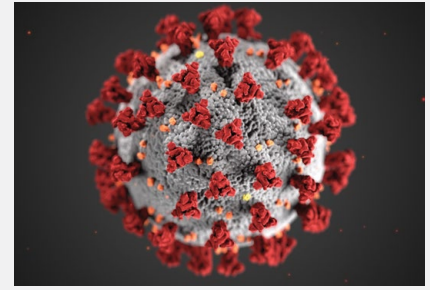
What makes a social media post racist and how does that hatred spread? These are some of the questions University of Saskatchewan researchers are tackling, measuring how social media hatred directed at the Asian community has risen dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

USask linguistics researcher Dr. Zhi Li, partnered with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, has been awarded almost \$25,000 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to lead a team in tracking the causes of online hate on Twitter directed at Asian people.

“We will not only track the pattern and

trend of anti-Asian xenophobia but also analyze the social and linguistic factors contributing to the development of such xenophobia in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Li, a faculty member in the College of Arts and Science. “Ours is the first interdisciplinary data-driven study to measure this.”

Li will work with USask sociologist Dr. Hongming Cheng and USask adjunct computer scientist Dr. Roy Ka-Wei Lee, now a faculty member at Singapore University of Technology and Design, as well as two graduate students and one undergraduate student. ▾



HIST 237: History of Infectious Diseases and Vaccination kicked off in January 2021.
Photography by CDC from Pexels

New USask course looks at infectious diseases from interdisciplinary perspectives

As people around the world wait to receive one of several COVID-19 vaccines developed to help end the coronavirus pandemic, a timely new University of Saskatchewan (USask) course is exploring interdisciplinary perspectives on infectious diseases and inoculation.

The course, HIST 237: History of Infectious Diseases and Vaccination, kicked off in January 2021. The course is taught by two medical historians from the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Simonne Horwitz and Dr. Erika Dyck (BA’98, MA’00), alongside Dr. Scott Napper (BSc’94, PhD’99), a professor of biochemistry, microbiology and immunology in the College of Medicine who serves as a senior scientist at VIDO.

Horwitz said the new co-teaching collaboration will demonstrate to students from various disciplines that complex issues such as COVID-19 can’t be solved by the sciences, social sciences or humanities alone.

“When we think about dealing with infectious diseases and pandemics, we immediately think about the scientific solutions, vaccines and medical cures—but one look at how the COVID-19 pandemic is playing out tells us that that is only one part of the story,” she said. “Context, history and human behaviour matter. We will not be able to deal with this pandemic with science alone. We need to understand how epidemics can highlight social tensions, the ways in which race, class, gender and where you live all affect mortality and morbidity—these are the lessons of history and the humanities.” ▾

Bursary established in memory of Randi Nelson

A new bursary for students in the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Music will honour the memory of a beloved teacher and musician.

Randi Nelson performed as principal flute and artist-in-residence with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra for 47 years and taught flute at USask for more than 30 years. When she passed away in July 2020, after a long battle with cancer, Nelson's family established the Randi Marcel Nelson Memorial Bursary in her memory.

Nelson loved teaching, said Terry Sturge, her husband of 33 years.

"She found ways to fire students' imaginations. I think she felt one of the great things about teaching was when you



Randi Nelson taught flute at USask for more than 30 years.

really connected with a student and were able to inspire that student to do more and dream bigger dreams."

USask continues to accept donations to the Randi Marcel Nelson Memorial Bursary fund. Gifts to the fund can be made online at donate.usask.ca. ♥

USask alumnus creates travel fund for students

For Dr. That T. Ngo (BSc'69, SC'70, PhD'74), studying abroad was a life-changing experience. It's an opportunity he wants more students to have.

Ngo recently established the That Ngo Fund for Study Abroad in the College of Arts and Science. The endowed fund provides support to students who participate in international learning experiences.

"It is my way of giving back to the university. It's a way to express my sincere gratitude and deep appreciation toward a university that I guess you can say took a chance on me," said Ngo.

Ngo, one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence, left his home of Indo-



Dr. That T. Ngo (BSc'69, SC'70, PhD'74)
Photography by Errol Higgins

nesia in 1966, during a period of increasing racial discrimination toward Chinese-Indonesians. He was accepted into the University of Saskatchewan, where he completed an honours degree and a PhD in biochemistry. Ngo would go on to a successful career as a research scientist and president/CEO of several biotechnology companies.

Ngo was recognized for his outstanding commitment to students with a 2020 National Philanthropy Day award. ♥

Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways supported through NIB Trust Fund

Layne Daniels is grateful for the Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways (ISAP) program at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

"I strongly recommend looking into Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways. I have made great connections with the coordinators, my professors, student mentors and classmates. This has helped me so much, being new to this learning environment but also new to the university," said Daniels, a student in USask's College of Arts and Science.

Established in 2012, ISAP welcomes First Nations, Inuit and Métis students to the College of Arts and Science through academically grounded programming that builds confidence, knowledge and skills, while connecting students to one another and to the larger campus community.



Through ISAP, students connect with Indigenous faculty members, staff, alumni, Elders and peers through academic and co-curricular programming.

Photography by Christopher Putnam

The value of ISAP has been recognized by the NIB Trust Fund, which recently contributed \$100,000 to support the program. The goal of the NIB Trust Fund is to help First Nations and Métis

people, organizations and communities address the long-lasting impacts of the residential school system, and to support education programs aimed at healing and reconciliation. ♥

YOUR LEGACY IS WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Dr. Elaheh Khozeimeh Sarbisheh (PhD'17), a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Chemistry, would like to see more women pursue degrees in science.

Thanks to the generosity of legacy donors like Dr. Wilma Elias (BA'47, MA'50), more women will have the financial support they need to go after their ambitions and educational goals in science.



Wilma Elias

A pioneer in her field who earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from USask and who went on to be the first woman—ever—to earn a PhD from the University of British

Columbia, Dr. Elias' legacy lives on through a gift in her will to establish the Wilma E. Elias Scholarship, supporting women in chemistry to develop and share their talents with the world.

You can make a significant difference in a student's life and help change the world around them by leaving a gift in your will.

usask.ca/giftplanning



"If we want to be successful in different fields of science, we need diversity, we need inclusion—otherwise we will miss many aspects of science. It is not possible to achieve the diversity goal without including and supporting women in science."

DR. ELAHEH KHOZEIMEH SARBISHEH (PHD'17)

For more information, contact:

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**“When you’re
in a position
of influence,
you have the
opportunity
to inspire and
impact others
to think and
act with
intention.”**

**TINA VARUGHESE (BA’90,
BCOMM’93)**

REAL TALK

BY LESLIE-ANN SCHLOSSER

Tina Varughese (BA’90, BComm’93) was named one of
Canada’s 10 Notable Speakers by Ignite magazine.
Photography: Submitted

If you're ever lucky enough to find yourself at a conference when Tina Varughese (BA'90, BComm'93) is on stage, you will quickly discover why the sought-after presenter was named one of Canada's 10 Notable Speakers by *Ignite* magazine.

By mixing personal stories and humour, her larger-than-life personality draws in a crowd. She cleverly tackles hot-button issues, like diversity and inclusion, with a fierce confidence.

Tina Varughese (BA'90, BComm'93) has made a career making people comfortable getting uncomfortable

"The humour piece came naturally for me; it's my secret sauce," she says with a laugh.

But being a public speaker is not all fun and games. Varughese notes that being an entrepreneur, especially during a pandemic, has its challenges. Being an inclusion and diversity public speaker in today's racially complex climate also comes with difficulties.

Nevertheless, dealing with challenges is not new for Varughese and she isn't afraid to broach the tough topics.

"I don't take an approach where I talk about theory or concepts. I really encourage people to get very comfortable with being uncomfortable," she says.

Varughese's parents immigrated to Canada from India more than 60 years ago. The couple ended up in Saskatoon, which is where Varughese grew up and eventually became a student and graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

"Being someone who speaks throughout Canada, the minute people find out I am from Saskatchewan, there is a kinship," she says.

After university, she moved west to Alberta, where she worked in sales and several levels of government. During this time, she worked extensively with the immigrant community, which serves as the backbone to her familiarity with inclusion and diversity.

"It was definitely the first time that I really recognized and realized how privileged I was to be born Canadian. You don't really appreciate our country until you meet with people who have chosen to live here," she says.

It was an experience at work that first ignited her love of public speaking. She was asked to conduct a training session for her colleagues and realized she would rather be at the front of the room than sitting in the audience. From there, she started her own company, tWorks, with the hope of bringing her knowledge about multiculturalism, inclusion and diversity to different corporations and organizations.

"I recognized there was a huge gap. When we're looking at Canada, we're looking at a 20 per cent foreign-born population and I realized there was some challenges and opportunity that organizations can benefit from if they understood more about the cultural difference that people could bring to the table," she says.

Varughese's stage presence and charisma chartered her through the early years of her career as a public speaker and eventually

her brand started to flourish.

Speaking on difficult issues can be challenging, especially today when Black Lives Matter and systematic racism are topics on many people's minds. Being a person of colour, Varughese notes it is a humbling experience to be able to address such important matters at such a pinnacle point in history.

"It is really important for me to use my platform. And, when you're in a position of influence, you have the opportunity to inspire and impact others to think and act with intention.

"I will admit it was sometimes emotionally exhausting, especially during a pandemic," she says.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 was a worldwide pandemic, Varughese was finishing a speaking engagement in Fredericton, N.B., where she received a standing ovation that she now recalls as a bittersweet moment.

"When I came home, I had a slew of postponements and cancellations in my inbox," she recalls.

Varughese focuses on presenting in front of large audiences, so having the world forcibly unable to meet together in large groups was very daunting at first. However, her self-proclaimed pity party did not last long. She almost immediately got a call from a client asking if she was interested in presenting to her team virtually. Varughese jumped at the opportunity.

"I was forced to build a home studio in my basement. I will admit I look like a YouTuber down there," she says with a laugh.

Varughese says she not only pivoted, but adapted to the environment. No longer could she bring her audience in with her physical presence, but she found ways to engage them through virtual interactivity such as polls and questions.

Slowly, but surely, the phone was still ringing with inquiries and speaking opportunities. Varughese says it's a

testament to those groups who still found the benefit in investing in their employees, even in a pandemic.

One of those calls Varughese received during the COVID-19 pandemic was from Hockey Canada, reaching out to inquire about inclusion training for their athletes, staff and coaches.

"(Hockey) has a bit of a culture that they really wanted to address. They wanted to be able to use their own platform to be able to address some of the discrimination and racism that may occur on and off the rink," says Varughese.

The whole experience was new for her. Not only would it all be delivered virtually, but the athlete demographic was only 16- to 20-years-old, much younger than Varughese's typical audience.

Nonetheless, she came equipped with her signature keynote "Unconscious bias: Making a first impression in 7 seconds or less" and delivered the four-week training course mid-July with the same enthusiasm that she would live.

"It's been very well received from everyone involved," said Hockey Canada senior vice-president of national teams Scott Salmond in an interview with TSN's Glenn Schiller.

In the interview, Salmond admitted that inquiring about the training was going into the unknown, but it is important to address the systematic racism that is apparent in hockey culture.

"(We want to) make hockey a safe place for everyone who wants to participate," he said in the interview.

Varughese has nothing but positives to say about the experience, noting the athletes involved were open, vulnerable and willing to learn.

"I was so inspired by these young athletes because they were so vulnerable and they were very open. Most importantly, they were willing to use their own platforms to influence and inspire change in a positive way," she says.

Varughese's career has taken her many places. She has travelled internationally to speak collectively to thousands of people. While the future is unknown for many people dealing with COVID-19 restrictions, it's clear to her that she will keep spreading her knowledge as long as she can, however she can.

In the meantime, she looks forward to spending time with her family. When asked what she is most proud of, she notes that being a mother while pursuing her dreams has been the most rewarding experience in her life.

"I am most proud of the fact that I am able to be working on my own terms so that I'm the mother that I wanted to be," she says. ♥

The USask Art Galleries and Collection presented a survey exhibition of artwork by Ruth Cuthand.

Photography by David Stobbe



CREE NARRATIVES TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN BEADS IN THE BLOOD

Survey exhibition showcases work of award-winning artist Ruth Cuthand (BFA'83, MFA'92)

BY SHANNON BOKLASCHUK (BA'00, MPA'14)

Felicia Gay and Ruth Cuthland first met each other in 1999, when Gay was a student in a First Peoples art history course Cuthand was teaching at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

Since then, over a period of more than 20 years, the USask alumni have worked together on several occasions—most recently on *Beads in the blood*, a survey exhibition of Cuthand's artwork guest

curated by Gay. The show, which opened on Jan. 22, 2021, was on display in College Art Gallery 1 and 2 on the USask campus until April 10, 2021.

Cuthand (BFA'83, MFA'92) said she was "really excited" when she first heard the concept for the exhibition, developed by curator Leah Taylor (BFA'04) and director Jake Moore of the University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries and Collection,

and the idea of asking Gay (BA'04, MA'11) to guest curate it.

"Felicia's great to work with—I've worked with her quite a bit—and it was really exciting to bring together a major overview of the work that I've done. I didn't realize there was so much of it," Cuthand said in a recent interview.

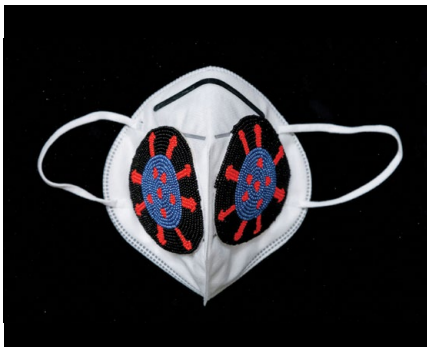
Cuthand, one of Saskatchewan's leading artists, is well known for creating intricate

beaded images of diseases—such as smallpox, cholera and tuberculosis—that reference colonization and trading, and their impacts on Indigenous people. She uses her work to explore social, environmental and historical issues, such as contaminated water and living conditions on First Nations, disease, colonialism and relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Born in 1954 in Prince Albert, Sask., Cuthand decided to become an artist at the age of eight when she met artist Gerald Tailfeathers. Her first art materials included the 18-inch squares of orange paper that were thrown out in the processing of the Polaroid chest X-rays that students received during routine tuberculosis screenings.

Over the years since, Cuthand has built up a large body of work in a wide variety of media, including drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and video. In 2013, she was awarded a Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award and, in 2016, she was recognized as one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence. In 2020, she was named one of the winners of the prestigious Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. Earlier this year, she was named a 2021 Alumni Achievement Award winner at USask.

Gay, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History in USask's College of Arts and Science, is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Regina and is the first Curatorial Mitacs Fellow at the Mackenzie Art Gallery. In



Ruth Cuthand, "COVID-19 Mask No. 3", 2020, Glass beads, mask, thread, backing. Collection of The Mann Art Gallery.

Photography by Carey Shaw

2018, she received the Saskatchewan Arts Award for leadership for her work with curation and advocacy for creating space with Indigenous art and artists. In 2020, she served as a guest curator for *borderLINE: 2020 Biennial of Contemporary Art* at Remai Modern in Saskatoon.

As curator of Cuthand's latest exhibition, *Beads in the blood*, Gay drew inspiration for the show's name from her and Cuthand's shared cultural heritage.

"Both Ruth and I are Cree and Scottish from different territories in Saskatchewan. We share an understanding that originates from our Cree worldview. In our language, words are contextualized as animate and inanimate beings, which points to our embodied understanding of who we are in relation with. Beads are animate in our language, meaning they are alive," said Gay.

"Ruth's work is speaking to colonialism and its effects on the Indigenous bodies, which can take the form of trauma and mental illness or introduced virus and disease through contact. The bead is the medium in which she signifies these concepts; whether it is trauma or otherwise, it physically resides in our blood. The bead is alive and is storied."

Prior to *Beads in the blood*, Cuthand and Gay worked together on an artistic venture at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. They also collaborated when Gay was artistic director of The Red Shift Gallery, a small Indigenous-led artist-run centre in Saskatoon. Gay curated *Dis-Ease*, which was the first showing of Cuthand's *Trading* series in 2010 and her first solo exhibition since 1999.

Gay described Cuthand as "an important figure in the development of Indigenous art discourse and history in Saskatchewan."

Cuthand, who lives in Saskatoon, has inspired many students and future artists at USask, where she recently served as Indigenous artist-in-residence through a new program of the University Art Galleries and Collection. While in residency on campus, she introduced students, alumni, faculty, staff and others to beading through informal drop-in lessons in various USask locations, including the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, the Arts Building and the Health Sciences Building.

Currently, buildings on the USask campus, including the art galleries, are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so Cuthand has not been connecting with students in person since the onset of the health crisis. However, she continues to interact with them online, such as through the virtual beading event *Beadin' 2021*, which was held during Indigenous Achievement Week in February. She said she likes to have a presence at USask, her alma mater, where the number of Indigenous students continues to grow.

"I can kind of understand what they're going through, you know? And I love doing beading with people, or even just chatting with them," Cuthand said.

In the interview, Cuthand noted that she



Ruth Cuthand, "Surviving: COVID-19 No. 1", 2020, Glass beads, thread, backing. Collection of the University of Saskatchewan.

Photography by Carey Shaw

has been very busy since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and she has been repeatedly beading the coronavirus.

Some of Cuthand's other new work is focused on brain scans, stemming from her interest in talking about mental health. Her artwork portrays a physical representation of what occurs in the brain when people are living with mental illness, using glow-in-the-dark beads that shine in neon colours under black light.

"To me, that's a real highlight of my work," she said.

Five brain scans were showcased in a room with black light in the USask gallery, enabling viewers to see which parts of the brain are animated when dealing with conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"Ruth mentioned to me that most Indigenous folks suffer from PTSD because of the intergenerational effects of colonialism," said Gay, noting that she "sought to utilize Cree story and narratives" in collaborating with Cuthand on the exhibition.

"The stories Ruth and I shared with one another are in the show for people to experience," she said. "In my work I am seeking ways in which to do my work that validates and expresses the Swampy Cree ways of knowing within institutional settings like the gallery space. Ruth is an artist I trust and admire as a mentor. In my opinion, her work will be talked about for generations because of her critique and counter-narrative to colonial metanarratives and her generosity and support to her community." ♥

REFLECTING ON THE PANDEMIC YEAR

It's been said many times that 2020 was an unprecedented year in recent history. In light of this, we asked our 2020 College of Arts and Science Alumni of Influence Award winners about their reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic and the year that was.

"It strikes me that ever since the ability to share our lives with others was so drastically curtailed, we found ways to do it anyway, be it banging pots to support frontline workers, Zoom cocktail hours, drive-by birthday parties or singing Ukrainian Christmas carols under my mother's second-floor balcony on a freezing cold December evening. We need each other. That will never go away. The world is a friendly place."

Anthony Bidulka is an award-winning author of mystery, suspense and thriller novels. A great believer in community involvement, Bidulka has sat on the boards of local, national and international organizations, including Persephone Theatre, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, AIDS Saskatoon, Crime Writers of Canada and The Word On The Street Saskatoon. In 2008, Bidulka co-founded Camp fYrefly Saskatchewan, an educational, social and personal learning retreat for sexual and gender minority youth.



ANTHONY BIDULKA
(BA'83, BED'91, BCOMM'91)



SIGNA DAUM SHANKS
(BA'92)

"When I think of some of the circumstances that seem more like a drudgery, or more alone than I wish they'd be, I always hope that I'll hear a story, or remember a story, that is about someone else who's having more difficult times. If we think of our grandparents or great grandparents, I'm sure they'd have events that could compete with the isolation a lot of us feel or the difficulties we are encountering. Alternatively, in other parts of the world, there are probably many locations where we would not want to be right now. So I think a daily exercise of perspective, in wondering who I could help or who would wish to be with me today, is a way to give our heads a shake and put a smile on our face, and maybe even call or do something that helps someone else feel uplifted."

Dr. Signa Daum Shanks is a lawyer, legal scholar and historian who works to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world. A former faculty member of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Law, Daum Shanks is now associate professor and director of Indigenous outreach at Osgoode Hall Law School. Since 2016, she has represented a non-governmental organization at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She currently lives in Barrie, Ont., and remains a proud co-owner of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

"My greatest takeaway is the value of connections I made before this pandemic. As I navigate through the virtual world, all the previous networking and volunteering helped me confidently navigate the new normal during the pandemic. Also, membership in various organizations provided multiple opportunities to keep me learning through the online seminars."

Tracey Jungwirth is a dedicated volunteer and the driving force behind many activities of the Ore Gangue, one of USask's oldest student and alumni societies. Her tireless volunteer efforts have helped the society—founded in 1934—remain one of USask's most engaged alumni groups. She has been instrumental in bringing together hundreds of alumni from across Canada for a series of Ore Gangue reunion events, most recently the highly successful 85th anniversary event held in Saskatoon in May 2019.



TRACEY JUNGWIRTH
(BSC'92)



RUSSELL MUZZOLINI
(BSC'88, MSC'92, PHD'97)

"Looking back, my greatest takeaway is that tech executives now realize it is entirely possible to work remotely for an extended period of time. A high-performing team can execute across geographies and time zones without requiring 'butts in seats.' I can now work from Amalfi!"

Dr. Russell Muzzolini is a software development leader who has held senior roles at numerous cutting-edge technology companies. In 1999, Muzzolini joined the online photo service Shutterfly. From 2014 to 2017, Muzzolini served as chief technology officer at Spire Global, a satellite-powered data company. In 2017, he became CTO at YourMechanic, the leading mobile car repair network in the United States. He left YourMechanic in 2018 to spend more time helping young startups as an adviser. His latest startup is Moda Market, where he is taking the reins as co-founder and CEO of the Saskatoon-based business.

Alumni of Influence

The Alumni of Influence Awards recognize and celebrate outstanding alumni whose remarkable achievements and contributions are having an impact on their fields, their community and the university.

"Embrace change, seek it out, lead it. In times of uncertainty, the opportunity to create and influence becomes even greater. Change will happen no matter what; you can choose to lead the change, wait for it to happen or be surprised when it does. Choose to lead."

Dr. Monique Simair is an industry leader in the environmental consulting sector and an adjunct professor of civil, geological and environmental engineering in USask's College of Engineering. In 2019, Simair founded Maven Water & Environment. At her previous company, Contango Strategies, she developed the first commercial genomics services for environmental microbiology communities. *Profit* magazine named Simair one of Canada's future entrepreneurial leaders in 2011. She was added to the W100 list of Canada's top female entrepreneurs in 2015 by *Profit* and *Chatelaine*.



MONIQUE SIMAIR
(BSC'04, PHD'09)



RONALD STEER
(BA'63, PHD'68, DSC'95)

"I wish it were more generally appreciated what an impressive feat scientists have accomplished in developing several highly effective COVID-19 vaccines within just a few months. Prior long-term investments in biochemical/ biomedical research are again paying huge societal dividends. The same will prove to be true of investments in climate science—biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, physics, engineering—if politicians globally have the good sense to listen and act accordingly."

Dr. Ronald Steer is an internationally renowned researcher of the interactions between light and matter. At USask, Steer secured the original grant to establish the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre, which has invigorated multidisciplinary research across campus. In 1995, he received the university's Master Teacher Award. Steer has also served as president of the Canadian Society for Chemistry, as a member of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), as chair of NSERC's Chemistry Grants Selection Committee, as North American editor of the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* and as organizing chair for several major chemistry conferences.

"As Douglas Adams wrote in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, don't panic! It is the best advice for all of humanity, and especially in these pandemic times when everything seems so uncertain. Uncertainty definitely causes fear, and fear leads to all sorts of ills. For me, overcoming my initial fear and panic was the biggest takeaway—reminding myself to use all the wellness tools that I have gathered over the years, to take a big breath and know in this very moment, in this place, that I am OK. Also, a little humour never hurts. Thank you, Mr. Adams."

A member of the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation in southern Alberta, Adrian Stimson is an interdisciplinary artist, educator and curator whose celebrated work has had a significant impact on the visual arts in Canada and beyond. As a participant in the Canadian Forces Artists Program, Stimson was sent to Afghanistan in 2010. Two exhibitions resulting from that trip later toured across Canada. In 2018, Stimson was presented with a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. He was also the recipient of the REVEAL Indigenous Arts Award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation in 2017, the Blackfoot Visual Arts Award in 2009, the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005 and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003.



ADRIAN STIMSON
(MFA'06)

YOUNG ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE AWARD



ADAM POTTLE
(PHD'16)

"Seize the moment as hard as you can. Seek creativity and beauty in each moment. Don't wait to pursue the things you love. Don't put off your projects. Don't delay sharing your feelings with your beloved. The world is too fragile, and life is too . . . short to spend it in misery."

Dr. Adam Pottle is an award-winning novelist, poet and playwright whose work explores the fiery beauty of Deafness and disability. While working on his PhD dissertation, he wrote and published three books. Each was nominated for several awards, with his novel, *Mantis Dreams*, winning a 2014 Saskatchewan Book Award, and his novella, *The Bus*, winning the 2015 Ken Klonsky Prize. In 2016, Pottle's first play, *Ultrasound*, was produced by Cahoots Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. Pottle's second play, 2019's *The Black Drum*, is the world's first all-Deaf musical. His activism has prompted literary festivals and arts spaces across Canada to incorporate access into their organizational mandates.

USASK ALUMNI Achievement Awards

2021 WINNERS

Nominated by their peers from a group of more than 161,000 alumni, recipients of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Alumni Achievement Awards represent alumni who are changing the world one idea or action at a time.

Congratulations to this year's recipients of Alumni Lifetime Achievement Awards with degrees from the College of Arts and Science.



WAYNE BROWNLEE (BSC'75, MBA'77)

During his professional tenure with PotashCorp (now Nutrien), Brownlee led several transformational and highly successful changes within the company. He recently retired as executive vice-president and chief financial officer. His philanthropic efforts have been equally impactful. Throughout his life he has volunteered on several boards for various Saskatchewan charities. Brownlee's family foundation recently made a \$10-million donation to the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation literacy program, an initiative Brownlee is extremely passionate about and holds near and dear to his heart.



RUTH CUTHAND (BFA'83, MFA'92)

Cuthand is a mixed-media artist of Plains Cree and Scottish ancestry who is acknowledged as one of Canada's preeminent contemporary artists. She is well known for her intricate beadwork portraying microscopic images of viruses. Cuthand has played an influential role in highlighting Indigenous art in Saskatchewan. In 2013, she was awarded a Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award. In 2020, she was named one of the winners of the prestigious Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.



HEATHER KUTTAI (BA'94, MSC'09)

Kuttai is a human rights activist who encourages disability to be a positive part of one's identity. During her time as a USask employee, she created supports for students with disabilities that ensured all students have equal opportunities to achieve success. She has achieved immense success herself in many areas throughout her life, including being a Paralympic medalist, a coach and mentor, author and more. She has dedicated her life to creating equality and equity for students and the community.



DR. JENNIFER WELSH (BA'87)

While working with the United Nations, Welsh focused her efforts on responsibly protecting people in vulnerable global situations. She's educated others as a Fellow for many institutions, has taught across Canada and Europe, and authored several books and articles. In March 2018, she was named Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance, and currently serves as the director of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies. She is also a Rhodes Scholar, the first female in Saskatchewan to achieve this prestigious designation.



DR. STEVEN WOODS (BSC'87)

Originally from Melfort Sask., Woods has found success in every step of his remarkable journey. The computer science alumnus has made significant advancements in the technological sector and in households across the world. Woods co-founded Quackware, the world's first interactive voice portal, which was acquired by America Online/Time Warner in 2000. In 2008, Woods joined Google Canada as senior engineering director, a role he holds to this day and where he continues to make influential change as a sought-after leader in the tech world.

MEAGHAN HACKINEN'S MOTIVATIONAL TIPS

Meaghan Hackinen (MFA'16) knows something about determination. In less than one year, the writer and cyclist from British Columbia set two ultra-endurance cycling records and published her debut book.

In November 2019, Hackinen—a graduate of the College of Arts and Science's MFA in Writing Program—set a world record at the World Time Trial Championships in California, cycling nearly nonstop for 24 hours to a distance of 460.8 miles.

Two weeks earlier, she launched *South Away: The Pacific Coast on Two Wheels*, a travel memoir about her adventure on a bicycle

from Canada to the tip of the Baja Peninsula. *South Away* was shortlisted for a 2020 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize and a 2020 Alberta Book Publishing Award.

In June 2020, Hackinen became the first woman to complete a 10,000-metre "Everest" of Knox Mountain in Kelowna, B.C.—a challenge that involved pedaling up and down the mountain for 19 hours until she'd climbed a greater height than Mount Everest.

Arts&Science asked Hackinen for her advice on staying motivated, whether on a bike or at a keyboard. ▀

Meaghan's tips

1. Have a plan. "I write out my training calendar with my coach weeks or months in advance." Even if you don't follow the plan to the letter, it will help keep you committed.

2. Break down the task. "For the 24-hour time trial, I broke my training down into a week-by-week schedule." When writing her book, Hackinen focused "on shorter segments that eventually built into a coherent whole."

3. Celebrate accomplishments. "After a big training ride, I celebrate by making myself a giant scrambled egg breakfast, with peanut butter and jam toast—even if I finish at 10 pm."

4. Keep it positive. "I talk to myself more than I'd like to admit on the bike... 'You can do this, Meaghan!' 'You've got this, only six hours to go (gulp!)'"

5. Pick the right music. "When I'm cycling, I enjoy listening to tunes that are upbeat and catchy. When I'm writing, I prefer music without lyrics."

6. Remind yourself of the why. "I compete in ultra-distance cycling events to test my limits, and to discover how far I can go. I am driven by curiosity, and the thrill of riding longer, harder and farther than I ever imagined possible."

Meaghan's pump-up tracks

PERSONAL PLAYLIST FROM THE 24-HOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE

1. "Sunny" by Boney M.
2. "Little L" by Jamiroquai
3. "Body Funk" by Purple Disco Machine
4. "A Fifth of Beethoven (Soulwax Edit)" by Walter Murphy
5. "Better at Making Time" by De Lux
6. "Lift Me Up" by Moby
7. "You Make Me" by Avicii
8. "Dougou Badia (feat. Santigold)" by Amadou & Mariam
9. "Sisters (feat. Northern Voice)" by A Tribe Called Red
10. "Home" by LCD Soundsystem



LISTEN ONLINE: SEARCH "USASK ARTS AND SCIENCE" ON SPOTIFY

Photography by Don Forbess



GAME TEACHES HEALTHY EATING TO ONLINE SHOPPERS

Dr. Ifeoma Adaji (PhD'20) used influence strategies to encourage players to make wise choices

BY FEDERICA GIANNELLI (MA'15)

A new web game developed at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) that uses clever marketing techniques holds promise for teaching online shoppers how to eat healthily.

"Online grocery shopping has boomed due to the COVID-19 crisis as people avoid going to the supermarkets. With our new game, we can help educate the public on the nutritional value of foods and lead them toward healthier choices," said USask computer science graduate Dr. Ifeoma Adaji (PhD'20).

The game *ShopRight*, available for web browsers, simulates supermarket aisles that players can explore, and presents shoppers with several products to choose from the shelves. The healthier the foods that players put in their virtual basket, the more points they earn.

"I first came up with the idea of the game when I shopped online. I often got few or no points for loyalty programs when I chose healthy food," said Adaji, who plans to develop the game as a free Android mobile app.

Adaji's research sheds light on how people can be influenced through targeted educational messages based on their answers to personality questionnaires and data from their previous online shopping behaviour. The results are published in the proceedings of the *International Conference on Persuasive Technology 2020*.

Adaji used "influence strategies," techniques commonly used by marketers to sell products, to encourage players to make wise choices. The strategies aim to affect people's online behaviour by appealing to the players' specific needs, such as for status, peer approval, feeling unique or for following authority.

"For example, for players who like listening to authority, I have come up with messages saying that the ministry of health recommended certain foods for certain nutritional value, whereas for those who value what their friends think, I have messages saying that they should buy certain items because their friends did," Adaji said.

"I found that players change their behaviours only when reading messages that are tailored to them. The messages don't work if they simply state what healthy foods are."

Given that not everyone playing the game may recognize nutritious foods to buy, when players make unhealthy choices messages designed by Adaji randomly pop up on the screen to provide information about healthy eating.

She tested the game on more than 300 people, and three-quarters of them responded to at least one message positively by "buying" in-game healthy groceries. She said most of the players described the game as an effective, fun way to learn about healthy eating.

By surveying people before and after playing, she found that these targeted messages were twice as effective as simple messages about healthy eating.

These strategies are already used in other domains, such as mobile apps for exercising and health, which use demographic data such as age, gender or location to tailor the content of the apps to their audiences.

"This kind of app uses software that can 'learn' from returning customers and adapt influence strategies to them," said USask computer science professor Dr. Julita Vassileva, Adaji's former supervisor. "The

"With our new game, we can help educate the public on the nutritional value of foods and lead them toward healthier choices."

DR. IFEOMA ADAJI (PHD'20)



Dr. Ifeoma Adaji (PhD'20) tested the game on more than 300 people.

Photography by David Stobbe

online environment enables additional information, recommendations and nudges to be presented to the users while they are browsing, influencing their decisions."

Adaji, whose research was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), has been in contact with emerging online grocery shopping businesses in Nigeria, her home country, to test her game in real life and help customers make healthier choices. ■

ONLINE THERAPY DOG PROGRAM PROVIDES COMFORT DURING PANDEMIC

Sociology professor Dr. Colleen Dell is pictured with her Boxer, Kisbey.

Photo courtesy of Colleen Dell

BY SHANNON BOKLASCHUK (BA'00, MPA'14)

Responses to a survey that asked members of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) community about the PAWS Your Stress Therapy Dog Program highlighted “the power of connection between humans and animals” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Nearly 400 people responded to the survey and we learned that people wanted to visit the therapy dogs primarily to reduce stress, because they missed them and because they wanted to learn about therapy dogs,” said Dr. Linzi Williamson.

“People shared that they would also like to see the dogs playing, performing tricks, training and hanging out in their homes. And as much as people would prefer to see the therapy dogs in person, they would still like to see them online.”

PAWS Your Stress events featuring the therapy dogs started taking place online on April 20, 2020, after the university closed due to the global coronavirus health crisis. Over the summer of 2020, online therapy dog visits took place on Facebook Live (@PAWSYourStress), while recorded videos were shared on additional platforms, including Instagram (@pawyourstress), Twitter (@PawsStress) and YouTube (PAWSYourStress). Funding for the project was provided by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and the Office of the Research Chair in One Health and Wellness.

The online survey was conducted from July 10 – 27, 2020. Williamson (MA'13, PhD'19), a College of Arts and Science alumna and postdoctoral fellow in the office of Dr. Colleen Dell, said the survey responses highlighted “the power of connection between humans and animals, even when physical touch and petting the dogs is not possible.”

As a result of the positive feedback, the therapy dogs and their handlers continued to offer online sessions during the fall 2020 and winter 2021 terms, when the majority of USask classes continued to be

delivered remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the program’s regular St. John Ambulance therapy dogs that visited on campus prior to COVID-19 transitioned to online visits, said Dell, a sociology professor and the university’s Centennial Enhancement Chair in One Health and Wellness.

Dell said connection is very important to mental health, and providing connection is what the therapy dog program is all about. In June 2020, Dell’s team worked alongside the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, and the Mental Health Commission of Canada, to develop a poster offering information on how the connection between animals and humans can help reduce feelings of stress and anxiety during the pandemic. The poster also provided tips for reducing the harms associated with using alcohol, cannabis and other substances.

“It is pretty clear that this pandemic has been stressful on our collective wellness as a community, while at the same time being an individualized experience. We know that mental health is a concern on the university campus, and without doubt this has been added to with the pandemic—from students dealing with starting the semester physically isolated from their classmates and campus activities, through to instructors trying to prepare their classes for remote delivery,” said Dell.

“The therapy dogs and handlers visited campus prior to COVID-19 because they care, and there is nothing preventing them from continuing to display this care in a virtual environment.”

Transitioning the therapy dog program to an online format required a lot of patience and creativity on everyone’s part—including on the part of the therapy dogs, said Dell.

“That said, our evaluation has shown us that the PAWS Your Stress Therapy Dog Program goals of offering attendees comfort and support

was attained, just in a different way,” she said.

PAWS Your Stress, which began in 2014, is a partnership between Dell’s office, Peer Health and the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. Learn more about the online therapy dog program and the research team behind it by visiting therapydogs.ca.

The program’s campus partners include the Office of the President, Student Health Services, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the University Library, the One Health and Wellness Research Chair, Be Well and What’s Your Cap. Off-campus partners include the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction and the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. ♥



Photos (clockwise from top left):

Lindsay Knight (Arts'10, MA'13) served as the first Storyteller-in-Residence at USask. *Photography by Sweetmoon Photography*
Leah Taylor (BFA'04) is co-curator of an exhibition at Remai Modern showcasing Thelma Pepper's photography. *Photography by David Stobbe*
Radio General is a video game from Saskatoon developer Foolish Mortals, led by Michael Long (BSc'15, MSc'19). *Photography by Foolish Mortals*
A Canada Post stamp pays tribute to medical research pioneer Dr. James Till (BA'52, MA'54, DSc'08). *Photography by Canada Post*

ALUMNI NOTES

Two of the newest members of the Order of Canada have strong ties to the University of Saskatchewan (USask). **Gary Gullickson** (BEd'61, BA'64) is a retired College of Arts and Science professor and one-time head of the Department of Music who has cast a bright light across the campus during his storied career. **David Dubé** (BA'85) is a successful businessperson in Saskatoon whose commitment to philanthropy has bettered the lives of many in the community. Established in 1967, the Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian honours system and recognizes people in all sectors for their contributions to communities throughout Canada.

The Honourable **Karen M. Weiler** (BA'68) has been appointed to the Order of Ontario in recognition of her contributions to family law. The Order of Ontario is the Province of Ontario's highest honour. Weiler, a retired lawyer and federal judge whose judicial career spanned 37 years, was previously appointed to the Order of Canada. She is currently a director of Covenant House Toronto and a volunteer with Innocence Canada.

Dr. Lillian Dyck (BA'66, BA'68, MSc'70, PhD'81) retired from the Canadian Senate in

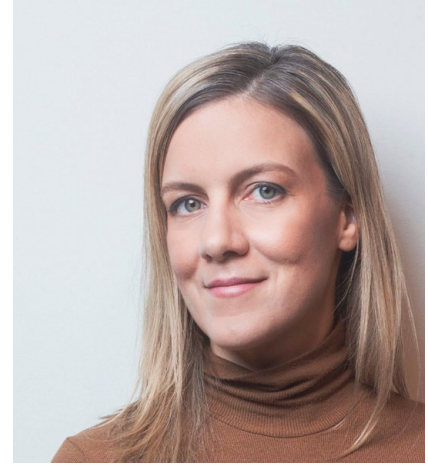
August 2020 at the age of 75, the age limit for sitting senators. Dyck, who was appointed by former prime minister Paul Martin in 2005, was the first First Nations woman and first Canadian-born Chinese person to be appointed to the Senate. Prior to politics, she was one of the first Indigenous women in Canada to enter the field of neuropsychiatry. Dyck was named one of the College of Arts and Science's first 100 Alumni of Influence in 2009.

Lindsay Knight (Arts'10, MA'13), a PhD student in the Department of Indigenous Studies in the College of Arts and Science, served as the first Storyteller-in-Residence at USask earlier this year. The first position of its kind at USask and unique in the province, the Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence program at the University Library began as a six-week pilot on Jan. 4, 2021. Knight, also known as Eekwol, is an award-winning hip-hop artist with nine album releases to her credit. She was honoured as one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence in 2018.

USask and Remai Modern have teamed up to present an exhibition showcasing the work of Saskatoon photographer Thelma Pepper, who passed away in December 2020 at the age of 100. *Thelma Pepper: Ordinary Women.*

A Retrospective is a collaboration between Remai Modern and the USask Art Galleries and Collection, featuring works from both the museum's and the university's collections. The project is the first such collaboration between USask and Remai Modern, two organizations that signed a memorandum of understanding in 2017 to collaborate in areas of complementary strength and mission. The exhibition, which opened on Feb. 13, 2021, at Remai Modern and runs until Aug. 15, 2021, was co-curated by USask curator and College of Arts and Science alumna **Leah Taylor** (BFA'04) and Sandra Fraser, Remai Modern curator (collections).

Nine alumni from the College of Arts and Science were honoured in December 2020 as CBC Saskatchewan Future 40 winners. The 2020 recipients include **Brittany Houk** (BA'09), **Alana Krug-MacLeod** (BSc'20), **Lenore Maier** (BA'14), **Natalya Mason** (BA'14), **Logan Martin-Arcand** (BFA'19), **Brandon Needham** (BA'05, BEd'07, MEd'13), **Nahanni Olson** (BA'05, BEd'08), **Dr. Monique Simair** (BSc'04, PhD'09) and **Helen Vangool** (BA'12, BEd'14). Through the Future 40 program, CBC Saskatchewan celebrates people under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the province.



Two College of Arts and Science alumni were honoured with 2020 YWCA Saskatoon Women of Distinction Awards. **Lisa Mooney** (BA'02) was the winner in the Business and Professions category, while **Nicole Shoaf** (BA'99) was a recipient in the Health and Athletics category. The YWCA Women of Distinction Awards are recognized nationally as one of the most prestigious awards for women.

College of Arts and Science alumni were among the winners of 2020 Saskatchewan Book Awards, which celebrate excellence in publishing and writing. **Jason Heit** (BA'99, BA'04, MA'07) was nominated for three awards for his debut novel *Kaidenberg's Best Sons*. Heit's book received the First Book Award, honouring Brenda MacDonald Riches, and the Fiction Award. USask registrar **Russell Isinger** (BA'88, MA'97) and Department of Political Studies senior policy fellow and former USask chancellor **Roy Romanow** (BA'60, LLB'64, LLD'07) are co-editors of *Back to Blakeney: Revitalizing the Democratic State*, along with John Whyte and St. Thomas

More College faculty member Dr. David McGrane. The book received the Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award, sponsored by the USask College of Arts and Science and the University of Regina Faculty of Arts. **Alexandra Popoff** (MA'98) and her biography *Vasily Grossman and the Soviet Century* were shortlisted for two awards: The University of Saskatchewan President's Office Non-Fiction Book Award and the Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award. She received the Non-Fiction Award. **Paula Jane Remlinger** (BA'94, CACE'99, BED'00, CTESL'00, MA'06) received the Poetry Award, honouring Anne Szumigalski, for her book of poetry, *This Hole Called January*.

A new set of stamps from Canada Post pays tribute to six Canadian medical research pioneers, including College of Arts and Science alumnus **Dr. James Till** (BA'52, MA'54, DSc'08). Working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in the early 1960s, Till and his colleague Dr. Ernest McCulloch were the first to demonstrate the existence of stem cells, kickstarting a revolution in modern medicine.

For his contributions to regenerative medicine, Till was named an Officer of the Order of Canada and one of the College of Arts and Science's Alumni of Influence in 2009.

With the launch of an ambitious video game, a College of Arts and Science alumnus is hoping to shake up the strategy game genre and highlight Canada's role in the Second World War. *Radio General* was released in 2020 by Foolish Mortals, an independent game company led by Department of Computer Science graduate **Michael Long** (BSc'15, MSc'19). The game puts players in the role of a Canadian general during the Second World War. *Radio General* launched on Steam, the world's largest digital distributor of PC games, and can be played on Windows, Mac OS X and Linux computers. USask computer science PhD students Martin Dechant and **Colby Johanson** (MSc'17) were part of the small development team, and Long's brother **Dr. Jeff Long** (BSc'04, MSc'06)—a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science—acted as a consultant. ♥

How are you and your fellow alumni answering the call to Be What the World Needs? Share your stories today! Email us at alumni.artsandscience@usask.ca.



A new replica of the sundial was installed on the observatory's south wall in 2019. *Photography by Christopher Putnam*

THE OBSERVATORY SUNDIAL

BY CHRISTOPHER PUTNAM (BA'07)

For five decades, a towering timepiece outside the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Observatory challenged visitors: "I am a Shadow / So art thou / I mark Time / Dost thou?"

True to the motto inscribed on its face, that one-of-a-kind sundial was lost to time. It weathered away, being rebuilt in 1984 before it was finally removed in the early 1990s.

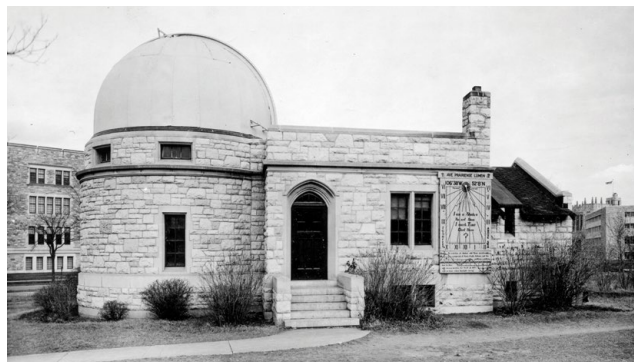
In August 2019, a new 10-foot-tall replica of the sundial was installed at the observatory. The replacement features the original gnomon, or shadow caster.

College of Arts and Science astronomy instructor Dr. Daryl Janzen (BSc'04, MSc'08, PhD'12) led the project to replace the sundial. He said he has wanted to see the instrument return since first hearing about it as a student in the early 2000s.

"A sundial is a really cool feature that draws people's attention to the movement of the Earth. And this was a really unique one that had been here for 50 years," Janzen said.

The original custom-made sundial was designed and paid for by William H. White

around 1945. White retired to Canada from a professorship at the University of London, coming to Saskatoon in 1942 to be near an observatory where he could pursue his astronomy hobby. He volunteered at the campus observatory for 18 years and was the



The University of Saskatchewan Observatory pictured in 1956, with the original sundial visible

Photography by Len Hillyard / University Archives and Special Collections, A-653

first to open the facility's doors to the public.

A classical scholar as well as a physicist, White sometimes helped in the physics department by grading papers submitted by engineering students. The eccentric scientist was known for leaving students

detailed comments—most of them written in Latin.

White's eclectic interests are reflected in the sundial's design. The inscription at the top, in what White called "good enough prairie-dog-Latin," is AVE PRAIRIENSE LUMEN. Roughly translated, it means "Hail light of the prairie." The "I am a Shadow" motto was taken from a 17th-century sundial in Scotland.

The Department of Physics and Engineering Physics funded the new sundial, which was constructed with help from the university's Physics Machine Shop and Digital Research Centre.

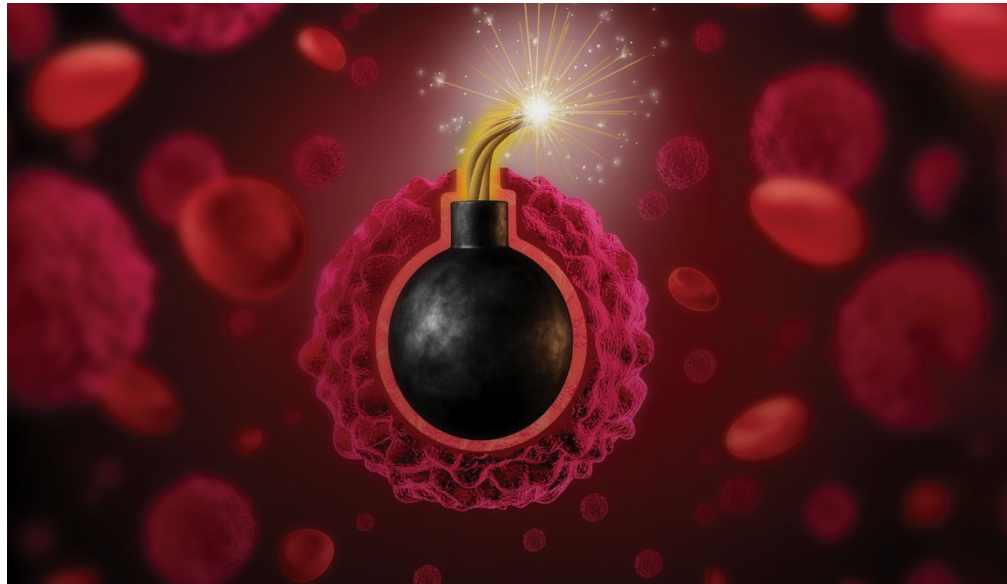
"As much as possible, we tried to keep it the same as the original," said Department of Art and Art History faculty member Dr. Jon Bath (BA'97, MA'00, PhD'10), who designed the 2019 replica.

The new sundial differs from the previous versions in one important way. Instead of wood, it is made from resilient powder-coated aluminum.

"Our goal was to make something as permanent as we could," said Janzen. ♥

COBALT-60 TREATMENT AT USASK MADE MEDICAL HISTORY

BY JAMES SHEWAGA



This year marks a special 70-year anniversary for the University of Saskatchewan (USask), when researchers made medical history on campus and began a tradition of world-leading innovation that continues to this day.



Sylvia Fedoruk (BA'49, MA'51, LLD'06) was part of the USask team that developed the world's first non-commercial cobalt-60 therapy unit for the treatment of cancer.

Photography by University Archives and Special Collections, MG 372

Turn back time to 1951, when a team of remarkable researchers led by Dr. Harold Johns became the first in the world to build

a cobalt-60 radiation therapy unit and the first to also successfully treat a cancer patient using the revolutionary treatment that would help save millions of lives around the world. That first cancer patient—a 43-year-old mother of four suffering from cervical cancer—would go on to live until the age of 90, with the original cobalt-60 unit used to treat 6,728 more patients over the next 21 years.

Johns' original research team on the cobalt-60 unit—dubbed the “cobalt bomb” by members of the media—included graduate student Sylvia Fedoruk, a pioneering figure in medical science who would later become the university's first female chancellor in 1986 and the province's first female lieutenant-governor in 1988. Fedoruk (BA'49, MA'51, LLD'06) conducted the calibration of the unit, an 11-week process to define the precise radiation depth-dose measurements to treat cancer tumours.

“It is just a wonderful story and I think it's fulfilling to feel that I was around for the start of it all,” said Fedoruk, in an interview for *Cobalt-60 at 60: The Legacy of Saskatchewan's Innovative Cancer Treatment*.

Fedoruk was named one of the College of Arts and Science's inaugural Alumni of Influence in 2009 and was also inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame. Her role

in making medical history is documented in the new biography, *A Radiant Life*, by historian and College of Arts and Science alumna Dr. Merle Massie (BA'93, MA'98, PhD'11).

The original cobalt-60 machine is now on permanent display in Saskatoon's Western Development Museum, a tribute to one of the first of many contributions the university has made to advancing medical research over the years.

“With its flair for trend-setting performance in medicine, Saskatchewan had led the way,” Fedoruk and Dr. Stuart Houston wrote in their 1995 book, *A New Kind of Ray*.

USask's history of medical marvels helped lay the foundation for future innovation and research the world needs that continues today on campus at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. The Fedoruk Centre oversees use of the university's cyclotron—at the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences—which produces medical isotopes for the province's first PET-CT scanner that is used in cutting-edge cancer treatment. Meanwhile, the CLS—home to the country's only synchrotron—employs a linear accelerator for research into producing medical isotopes for diagnosis and treatment. ♥

“I told Emily at one point, ‘I am trying to be professional right now, but on the inside I am screaming.’”

JACK MILLIGAN



This reconstruction of a champsosaur on display at the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend, Sask., shows what the animal might have looked like in life.

Photography by Jack Milligan

THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY

Student Jack Milligan found a rare ancient reptile fossil in Saskatchewan

BY CHRISTOPHER PUTNAM (BA'07)

When Jack Milligan spotted the distinctive hourglass shape at his feet near Climax, Sask., he knew immediately what he was looking at.

“As a paleontology student, your eyes are kind of glued to the ground whenever you’re walking because you never know if there’s a fossil where you’re going to step,” said Milligan.

In the summer before starting his final term of undergraduate studies in the College of Arts and Science, Milligan was helping paleontologists from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Canadian Museum of Nature with field research in southwestern Saskatchewan. He noticed the small orange-coloured object on Aug. 22, 2020.

It was the fossilized vertebra of a champsosaur: a large crocodile-like reptile that lived in and around swamps or rivers in the region about 66 million years ago. Milligan had discovered a piece of what would turn out to be the second-most complete champsosaur skeleton ever uncovered in the province.

Dr. Emily Bamforth, a researcher with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum’s T.rex Discovery Centre and an adjunct professor in the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Geological Sciences, was supervising Milligan on the dig. She suggested he look for the source of the loose fossils in a nearby hillside.

Milligan soon located an area that “was just littered with champsosaur bones,” he

said. “I was calling down to Emily, ‘There are limb bones and ribs and hip elements up here!’”

Together, over the next two days, they uncovered about 30 per cent of the reptile’s skeleton, including sections of



While volunteering on a research trip, Jack Milligan found Saskatchewan’s second-most complete champsosaur skeleton. *Photography by Dr. Jordan Mallon*

ribs and a foot that were articulated—connected as they were during the animal’s life.

“I told Emily at one point, ‘I am trying to be professional right now, but on the inside I am screaming.’ I was just overjoyed

that I found this champsosaur skeleton,” said Milligan, who spent the last day of his trip piecing together the skeleton in a laboratory at the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend, Sask.

Champsosaurus lived alongside the dinosaurs of the Late Cretaceous period and outlasted them, surviving into the Paleogene period.

Champsosaur skeletons, especially those that are still articulated, “are very rare,” said Bamforth. The newly discovered skeleton is also important because it was found just above the layer of ground that marks the meteorite impact that wiped out the dinosaurs.

“It tells us something significant about how ecosystems were recovering in the half-million years after one of the most significant extinction events in Earth’s history,” Bamforth said.

Milligan is set to graduate this spring with his Bachelor of Science in palaeobiology. He has applied to the paleontology master’s program in the Department of Geological Sciences.

Milligan intends to continue working with Saskatchewan fossils, including his own champsosaur. This summer, he will return to the dig site with Bamforth to search for more pieces of the animal, including its missing skull.

“I don’t care if I get sunburn or mosquito bites or anything like that. I endure it all for the thrill of the discovery of new fossils,” said Milligan. ♥

"I would not be where I am today—pursuing my dreams—without the support of alumni and donors. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to study and graduate into a field that I love and it's thanks to people like you, who believe in supporting students' ambitions."

KATE NACHIOBE, THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
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