

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

January 11, 2021

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



Four faculty members honoured with college research awards

The College of Arts and Science is recognizing four faculty members—Dr. Pamela Downe (PhD), Dr. Kirsten Fisher (PhD), Dr. Tara Kahan (PhD), and Dr. Julita Vassileva (PhD)—for their outstanding contributions to research, scholarly, and artistic work. The College of Arts and Science New Research Awards and Distinguished Research Awards are presented annually to faculty members who have had an exceptional impact in their field.



USask awarded \$4.8 million for research chairs

Computer science professor Dr. Regan Mandryk (PhD) and history professor Dr. Erika Dyck (PhD) have been awarded Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs that each provide \$200,000 annually for seven years. As well, the Tier 1 chair in molecular environmental science has been renewed for

seven years for geological sciences professor Dr. Ingrid Pickering (PhD).



College of Arts and Science faculty members named Distinguished Professors

Two faculty members in the College of Arts and Science have been bestowed with the title of “Distinguished Professor,” effective Jan. 1, 2021. Dr. Lisa Vargo (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of English and the Department of Art and Art History, and Dr. James B. (Jim) Waldram (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of

Archaeology and Anthropology, were informed of the honour in December by the University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Professorship Advisory Committee.



Centennial Enhancement Chair renewed for USask sociologist

The University of Saskatchewan has renewed Dr. Colleen Anne Dell (PhD) as holder of the Centennial Enhancement Chair in One Health and Wellness for a five-year term. Dell is a professor in the Department of Sociology in the College of Arts and Science and the School of Public Health at USask. She is also a senior research associate

with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. The Centennial Enhancement Chair Program provides \$40,000 for research and a chair stipend, as well as \$20,000 for a graduate stipend from the College of Arts and Science.



USask researcher focuses work on land-based healing

Since coming to the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Michelle Aihina Inkinsh Holhpokunna Johnson-Jennings (PhD) has had numerous opportunities to explore her interests in Indigenous health and land-based healing. In 2019, a \$3.5-million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) was awarded to USask researchers to establish an Indigenous-led centre to address the increase in HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections among Indigenous people in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Johnson-Jennings has taken on a lead role with the new centre, known as Wuniska, which is under development.



History of infectious diseases and vaccination: New USask course features an innovative interdisciplinary approach

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 course will explore interdisciplinary perspectives on infectious diseases and inoculation. The course will be taught by two medical historians from the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Simonne Horwitz (DPhil) and Dr. Erika Dyck (PhD), alongside Dr. Scott Napper (PhD), a professor of biochemistry, microbiology, and immunology in the College of Medicine who serves as a senior scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac).



Vice-Dean Academic public presentations scheduled for Jan. 19 and Jan. 21

The Search Committee for the Vice-Dean Academic invites faculty, staff and students to view the public presentations of the two candidates shortlisted for this position. Each candidate will discuss their vision for the role of Vice-Dean Academic in the College of Arts and Science for approximately 20 minutes, followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Dr. Alec Aitken (PhD) [will make his presentation at 9 am on Jan. 19.](#) Dr. Lorin Elias (PhD) [will make his presentation at 9 am on Jan. 21.](#)



[Applied research projects to benefit Saskatoon residents](#)

Four new research projects that will benefit Saskatoon residents are advancing thanks to Research Junction, an innovative partnership between the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan. Research Junction awards funding to projects that apply advanced research methods to addressing current issues in our city.



[USask dinosaur research among CNN, National Geographic's top discoveries of 2020](#)

The remarkable findings of a research partnership between the University of Saskatchewan, Brandon University and the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alta., have been lauded by National Geographic and CNN as some of 2020's "most fascinating and awe-inspiring discoveries." USask geologist Dr. Jim Basinger (PhD) is a member of the team that has been working to unlock the extremely well-preserved nodosaur's many secrets—including what this large armoured dinosaur actually ate for its last meal.



Napoleon's bust of Hannibal a USask treasure

During his rule as Emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte spent long days and nights working in his study at the Château de Saint-Cloud near Paris. On the mantelpiece above his favourite chair sat a bronze bust of one of his idols, the Carthaginian general Hannibal. A bust of Hannibal in the collection of the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Saskatchewan is the very same sculpture, believes Dr. Tracene Harvey (PhD). "It's not every day you have such a strong connection to Napoleon here in Saskatchewan," said Harvey, director of the museum in the College of Arts and Science.



Kaplan collection: a musical journey around the world

From being gifted an Inuit drum in the Arctic to stopping his boat deep in the jungle to hear—and later be given—a flute-type instrument from isolated Indigenous villagers along the Amazon River, Dr. David Kaplan (PhD) collected exotic instruments from all over the world. That collection of more than 400 instruments amassed over more than 30 years is one of the hidden gems of the University of Saskatchewan campus, donated in 2013 by the late great USask music professor and Order of Canada recipient, who passed away in 2015.



College of Arts and Science RSAW update

Information on upcoming workshops/information sessions for upcoming grant opportunities, as well as any Tri-Agency related COVID-19 updates, can be found here: <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/events/funding-deadlines.php#OpportunitiesbyMonth>



[The pets of Arts and Science: Round two](#)

At the end of 2020, the College of Arts and Science asked faculty and staff to submit words and images showing how their pets enrich their workdays at home. The first batch of these submissions [were featured here in December](#). A [blooper video](#) was posted to the college's social media accounts. Since then, many more submissions have arrived.



By the numbers

15: Canadian glaciers have shrunk 15 per cent since 1985, and estimated glacier loss in the Rockies could rise to 100 per cent by the end of the century, [according to University of Saskatchewan PhD candidate Caroline Aubry-Wake](#). One of the areas that Aubry-Wake conducts research at is the Peyto Glacier in Banff

National Park and the Athabasca Glacier in Jasper National Park. It's an area that's a cause for alarm—not just the immediate region, but also those areas downstream—and a look at the region's rapid ice loss makes this clear.

Upcoming Events



Beads in the blood: Ruth Cuthand, a Survey

Artwork by College of Arts and Science Alumni of Influence award winner Ruth Cuthand (BFA'83, MFA'92) will be on display in College Art Gallery 1 and 2 from Jan. 22 - April 10, 2021. The exhibition, [**Beads in the blood: Ruth Cuthand, a Survey**](#), is guest curated by fellow alumna Felicia Gay (BA'04, MA'11).

Jan. 15: [**Jane Austen and Diversity: Laughter through Gritted Teeth**](#)

Jan. 19: [**Public presentation: Vice-Dean Academic candidate Dr. Alec Aitken \(PhD\)**](#)

Jan. 20: [**The Global Cafe: What is Global Citizenship?**](#)

Jan. 20 - 23: [**Writing North 11: Sheltering in Place, Dwelling in Words**](#)

Jan. 21: [**Public presentation: Vice-Dean Academic candidate Dr. Lorin Elias \(PhD\)**](#)

Feb. 1 - 15: [**Indigenous Achievement Week \(IAW\) Virtual Bead-in**](#)

Feb. 2 - 3: [**People Around the World \(PAW\) Conference 2021**](#)

In the Media

Global News: [**Canadian dinosaur research recognized by CNN, National Geographic**](#) (with Dr. Jim Basinger, Department of Geological Sciences, Jan. 6)

The Conversation: [**The 'Christmas star' appears again: Jupiter and Saturn align in the 'great conjunction' on Dec. 21, 2020**](#) (with Dr. Daryl Janzen, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Dec. 21)

CBC Saskatchewan: [**Urban/rural split on vaccine confidence echoes health-care history**](#) (with Dr. Paul Hackett, Department of Geography and Planning, Dec. 17)

The Economist: [**Deepening despair: Suicide is on the rise among South Korean women**](#) (with Dr. Timothy Kang, Department of Sociology, Dec. 10)

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

Visit [**artsandscience.usask.ca/news**](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news) for the latest news and events.
