

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE UPDATE

**April 1, 2021**

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



## College holds second annual "Think Big - Be Bold" Celebration Day

A curriculum renewal panel discussion, a keynote address about MATH 101 and a robotic telescope demonstration were some of the highlights of the College of Arts and Science's second annual "Think Big – Be Bold" Celebration Day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held online this year. A video premiered on YouTube at 1 pm on March 24, 2021, to celebrate milestone achievements for two college commitments: Put Students First and New Curricula.



## Dr. Lorin Elias named new Vice-Dean Academic

A University of Saskatchewan faculty member with extensive administrative experience related to teaching, learning and student affairs has been named the incoming Vice-Dean Academic in USask's College of Arts and Science. Dr. Lorin Elias (PhD), a cognitive neuroscientist and a professor in the college's Department of

Psychology, will begin a five-year renewable term in his new role beginning July 1, 2021.

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### **Dr. Bram Noble named new Vice-Dean RSAW**

A highly respected University of Saskatchewan researcher has been named the new Vice-Dean of Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) in USask's College of Arts and Science. Dr. Bram Noble (PhD), a faculty member in the college's Department of Geography and Planning, will begin his five-year renewable term beginning on July 1, 2021.

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### **USask researchers help lead \$9-million COVID Variant Rapid-Response Network**

University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina researchers are joining forces with scientists across the nation to undertake surveillance, sequencing, tracing and research-driven action on the COVID-19 virus variants that have been identified in Canada. Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of

Indigenous Studies, will lead pillar seven of the eight core pillars of activity of the COVID Variant Rapid-Response Network (CoVaRR-Net).

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### **Ducks Unlimited Canada endowed chair at USask first of its kind in the country**

A rising star in conservation science has been hired as the Ducks Unlimited Canada Endowed Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Mitch Weegman (PhD), an avian ecologist, will teach and mentor USask students while delivering research that addresses some of the most

pressing environmental issues of our time.

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### **USask's robotic telescope discovers first supernova**

Astronomers at the University of Saskatchewan are excited about undertaking new research after the PROMPT-USASK Skynet robotic telescope discovered its first supernova earlier this month. The supernova—known as SN 2021gmj—was discovered on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at around 3 am, by the DLT40 supernova research

group.

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### **New USask radiotracers could be key for new treatments and early detection for Parkinson's**

University of Saskatchewan nuclear medicine researcher Dr. Chris Phenix (PhD) has been awarded US\$150,000 by The Michael J. Fox Foundation to develop diagnostic radiotracers for early detection of Parkinson's Disease, a chronic degenerative brain disorder that affects more than 100,000 Canadians.

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### **MFA in writing head wins USask graduate mentor award**

Dr. Jeanette Lynes (PhD) is the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Mentorship Award from the University of Saskatchewan. The award, presented annually by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, recognizes a USask faculty member with a reputation as an outstanding mentor to graduate

students.

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### **New USask research takes aim at improving water security, gender equity, and international co-operation**

A multidisciplinary research team from the University of Saskatchewan has been awarded \$289,000 for a project to develop water security solutions that contribute to enhanced gender equity in the West African nations of

Ghana and Senegal, where women and girls are hit hardest by impacts of climate change.

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**USask model for predicting mountain snowpack provides clearer picture of spring runoff, impacts of climate change**

Scientists have developed a way to predict the depth and movement of snowpacks in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, which will provide valuable information on spring runoff, risk of flooding, avalanche danger, and the impact of climate change.

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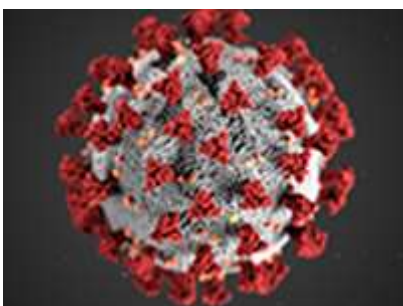


**'The environment is supportive and constant': USask students praise ISAP, STEM Accelerator courses**

college.

University of Saskatchewan students are lauding a series of preparatory courses available through **Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways** (ISAP) that are designed for students who want to pursue a degree in science or post-secondary education in a related professional

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**Canadians hopeful for new workplace arrangements, dreading mental health and economic impacts of pandemic: USask research**

Canadians are bullish on a post-pandemic future when it comes to new ways to do their work, but are apprehensive about dark days to come for their mental health, the economy, and for their personal finances.

These are some of the highlights of the first Taking the Pulse of Canada national survey conducted by the University of Saskatchewan's Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research (CHASR).

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### Dean Peta Bonham-Smith featured in *Business Voice* magazine

Dean Peta Bonham-Smith was featured in the March/April digital issue of *Business Voice* magazine, which published articles about several colleges at the University of Saskatchewan. She spoke about how the College of Arts and Science has addressed challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The full interview can be read by [clicking on this link](#) and turning to Page 21 in the digital document.



### By the numbers

**\$50,000:** The amount Dr. Megan O'Connell (PhD), a faculty member in the Department of Psychology, has been awarded [to study the effectiveness of virtual, culturally safe support groups for caregivers of Indigenous people living with dementia](#). The project is co-funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research

Foundation (SHRF) and the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. O'Connell was also featured in a [recent article published in \*On Campus News\*](#).

## Upcoming Events



### [Virtual talk tour with Ruth Cuthand and Felicia Gay](#)

This virtual event, hosted by the Department of Art and Art History and the University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries and Collection, will take place at 7 pm on April 7. This online event features college alumni Ruth Cuthand (BFA'83, MFA'92) and guest curator Felicia Gay (BA'04, MA'11) hosting an intimate talk tour of [Cuthand's current survey exhibition \*Beads in the blood\*](#). The talk tour will be followed by a live Q&A session. [Click here to register](#).

**Until April 2:** [BFA Honours Exhibition: Cristine Andrew-Stuckel and Diana Roelens](#)

**Until April 3:** [Greystone Theatre presents Gordon Winter](#)

Until April 8: [ᑕᑭᑎᑲᑲᑦ ᑎᑲᑎᑲᑲᑦ ᑎᑲᑎᑲᑲᑦ ᑎᑲᑎᑲᑲᑦ](#) Pe kiyokake ekwa achimoostahwinahn - [An Indigenous Theatre Conference](#)

April 5-9: [BFA Honours Exhibition: McKayla Evanovich and Kei Tanaka](#)

April 7: [Making Public: Nicole Leroy: The Hidden Lives of Objects](#)

April 7: [Making Public: Adrian Golban: In Between Two Worlds](#)

## In the Media

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [U of S students tackle play addressing morality, Indigenous issues, and 'cancel culture'](#) (with Prof. Deneh'Cho Thompson, Department of Drama, March 30)

CTV News: [Sask. historians want your COVID-19 pandemic experiences for archive project](#) (with Dr. Jim Clifford and Dr. Erika Dyck, Department of History, March 25)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [Independent investigator should be part of 'concrete steps' on policing oversight in Sask., experts say](#) (with Dr. Scott Thompson, Department of Sociology, March 25)

CBC Saskatoon: [U of S professor says fixing social safety net best way to keep Saskatoon women safe](#) (with Dr. Priscilla Settee, Department of Indigenous Studies, March 23)

Eagle Feather News: [Making evacuation spaces safe for Elders, gender-diverse, women, goal of research](#) (with Dr. Simon Lambert, Department of Indigenous Studies, March 12)

Global News: [Saskatchewan experts provide a glimpse into a post-pandemic future](#) (with Dr. Pamela Downe, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, March 12)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [U of S sustainable farming study sees 'win-wins' for nature, producers](#) (with Dr. Christy Morrissey, Department of Biology, March 12)

Saskatoon StarPhoenix: [Researcher calls for McPherson Avenue renaming](#) (with Dr. Cheryl Troupe, Department of History, March 5)

CBC Saskatoon: [Prof says rare earth elements facility in Saskatoon could stabilize supply chain in North America](#) (with Dr. Kevin Ansdell, Department of Geological Sciences, March 4)

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

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