A HEALTHY PERSPECTIVE

Featuring a full complement of health science colleges, the University of Saskatchewan is a leader in research and training in the ever-changing field of health science. In this edition of On Campus News, we feature some of the people and programs in the Colleges of Dentistry, Kinesiology, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, as well as the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

SEE PAGES 6-11.
Social Sciences Research Laboratories expanding

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

It’s a time of growth for the University of Saskatchewan’s (USask) Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL).

The SSRL’s physical footprint is getting bigger, and so are the number of projects and organizations it supports. In November, the SSRL opened the Mixed Methods Research Laboratory—its ninth lab—and is opening its 10th in the near future. The new Computational Research Laboratory will be located in the Murray Library.

The SSRL is expanding in other ways as well. The SSRL has entered into a partnership with CBC Saskatchewan to gauge how residents feel about a variety of issues. The collaboration is similar to the work the SSRL does for Postmedia News Saskatchewan—conducting public opinion surveys that provide data for news articles.

“The SSRL, as it exists right now, is a unique entity,” said director Jason Disano. “Nothing like this exists anywhere else—not in Canada, not the U.S., and not abroad.”

Housed in the College of Arts and Science, the SSRL is a support unit that assists faculty members and students with their research projects and also works with organizations off campus, such as the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the City of Saskatoon, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and other Canadian universities.

“One of the things that makes this unit distinct or unique is we operate under what’s called a public utility model,” said Disano. “That means anyone, anywhere, can access the unit and work with us.”

In the fiscal year ending April 30, 2018, the SSRL supported 339 unique research studies and worked with 521 researchers, of which 445 were from USask. During that same time period, 706 undergraduate and graduate students worked with the SSRL.

“One of the things that we’re really excited about is that we engage so many students in the work that we do,” said Disano.

The SSRL has grown quickly in a relatively short period of time. Disano was the only staff member when the unit opened in 2011; now there are 10.

He said one of the biggest assets is the staff, since the employees have training and expertise in a variety of areas. They help researchers with grant applications and with developing sections of ethics applications, as well as collect, analyze and report on data.

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A lot happens at the USask during the weeks when On Campus News isn’t published. Here are a few of the top stories from news.usask.ca:

Fossil finding

Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) have helped uncover the earliest evidence ever found of organisms capable of movement. Recently published research conducted by an international team of scientists reported the discovery of string-shaped fossils they believe to be trails left by tiny creatures that wriggled through mud 2.1 billion years ago. The discovery suggests that some lifeforms on Earth were able to move themselves 1.5 billion years earlier than previously thought. The co-authors of the research paper were USask geological science professors Dr. Luis Buattois (PhD) and Dr. Gabriela Mángano (PhD).

CIHR funding

Five USask research teams have been awarded a total of $4.85 million by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)—the main funding body for university health research in Canada—for cutting-edge health research in cancer, HIV and Indigenous health. The grants include $2.26 million for research into re-awakening and applying Indigenous knowledge of wellness, led by Dr. Alexandra King (MD) and Dr. Malcolm King (PhD). Also receiving funding on Feb. 15 were Dr. Humphrey Fonge (PhD), Dr. Shahid Ahmed (MD), Dr. Linda Chelico (PhD), Dr. Ekaterina Dadachova (PhD) and Dr. Maruti Uppalapati (PhD).

Unique certificate

A unique new interdisciplinary certificate offered by the College of Arts and Science at USask was officially launched on Feb. 6 during Indigenous Achievement Week. Starting in September 2019, students can register for the new Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling. The departments of Indigenous studies, English, and drama came together to develop the certificate, which aims to recognize student knowledge and understanding of approaches to Indigenous storytelling from multiple disciplinary and culturally specific perspectives. Registration is open to undergraduate students enrolled in any degree program at USask.

Education option

The College of Education will begin offering the Early Childhood Education (ECE) option in the 2019/2020 academic year. In a new partnership between the University of Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Education, students in the Bachelor of Education program will now be able to choose from three options: early childhood, elementary/middle years, or secondary. The ECE program will feature eight new courses that are being developed as part of the partnership. Teachers in the ECE option will have the skills to teach children from pre-kindergarten to Grade 3.
The work of influential individuals like Dr. Marie Battiste (EdD) is helping make the University of Saskatchewan (USask) a national leader in Indigenization. The renowned Mi’kmaw scholar, knowledge keeper, and educator from Nova Scotia’s Potlotek First Nation has served as a professor in the College of Education for more than 25 years and is a supporter of the university’s commitment to Indigenization, reconciliation and decolonization. While the university has come a long way, Battiste said there is still plenty of work to be done.

“It’s with great pride that I go out and I tell about what kinds of things we are doing here and indeed we are, I would say, leaps and bounds ahead of most universities across Canada and we will continue to be because we have leadership who believe in this and are working very hard toward achieving these outcomes,” said Battiste, a Harvard and Stanford-educated leader in the Department of Educational Foundations at USask. “But I do think it still needs to grow and there is no end to it. And I think we need to build on the Indigenous languages that are a part of this province, because this is the kind of inheritance that this institution can draw upon.”

The commitment to uplift Indigenization is a key foundation of the new seven-year plan to strengthen the fabric of the university through respectful, meaningful, ethical weaving of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit knowledges, lived experiences, worldviews, and stories into teaching, learning, and research across campus.

“Having Indigenous people at the table of developing the policies and the practices and the principles of this university, having them at the table is a very different kind of framework that we are looking at,” said Battiste, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and earned the university’s Distinguished Researcher Award in 2005 and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2008. “If you are going to do Indigenization, it has to be with Indigenous people, it has to be from our perspective, and it has to be within our goals and aspirations for our futures.”

After hosting the first national forum—Building Reconciliation: Universities Answering the TRC’s Calls to Action—in 2015, Battiste said the university needs to continue to work on increasing Indigenous knowledges in courses across campus.

“Indigenous knowledges do not come from within a book and do not come from Euro-centric research. It comes from Indigenous peoples, from their continued living on the land and their continued relationships with each other,” she said. “The maintenance of those relationships is bound through ceremonies and those are the kinds of ways that Indigenous people maintain and keep their culture, language and heritage alive and well. And this institution has a role to play in making that possible for them to continue to build upon and grow.”
USask historian tracing lost Stó:lō stories

By Chris Morin

Through community engaged scholarship and collaboration, a University of Saskatchewan (USask) historian aims to shed light on a dark chapter of Canadian history when a number of Stó:lō First Nation families were tragically torn apart.

While working as historian for the Stó:lō Nation in the 1990s, Dr. Keith Carlson (PhD), now a professor of history and Research Chair in Aboriginal and Community-Engaged History at USask, was tasked to research how the 1858 gold rush impacted the Stó:lō communities, including looking at the value of gold that was taken, and the environmental damage to creeks and river systems. What he stumbled across in the archival record was far more disturbing—evidence of an eight-year-old boy having been taken by a California miner.

Earlier historians had overlooked the story, and in the wake of residential and other tragedies, the story had also slipped from the memories of many in the Stó:lō community.

Digging deeper, Carlson discovered evidence suggesting that a large number of Stó:lō children had been abducted from the area by miners from the United States. And while no one knows exactly how many children were taken away during the gold rush, one contemporary observer recorded that “a great many” young Stó:lō boys were taken to California where they were used as a source of free labour.

“We were able to find the burial site of one of them in Sacramento,” said Carlson. “And we know that 30 years later, two other young boys who were taken when they were six years old, found their way back to the Fraser Valley to the Stó:lō community. It’s almost unbelievable, but somehow they made that journey.”

Working alongside members of the Stó:lō community on Lost Stories, a Canada 150 project that aims to shed new light on forgotten stories, Carlson has nurtured relationships with a number of community leaders, academics, and artists to uncover truths about the gold rush.

Stó:lō cultural leader Dr. Naxaxalhts’i Albert “Sonny” McHalsie, was recently on campus for a panel discussion at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, and highlighted the value of university-community collaboration and the need for more people to dig deeper into historical injustices against Indigenous communities.

“We still have a protocol where if someone from our community passes away, we bring them back home,” said McHalsie. “There’s an expression in our language that says that. My niece passed away in Mexico and we had to bring her back to be buried back home. It’s a strong belief, and at some point, I believe the community will look into bringing these lost boys back to be home.”

Carlson, internationally recognized for collaborative research with Indigenous communities, recently launched the unique-in-Canada database developed at USask with student researchers that aims to ensure Gladue rights of Indigenous people are fully accounted for during sentencing. In 2017 he was appointed to the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada. He also leads the one-of-a-kind Stó:lō Ethnohistory Field School, which brings graduate students into Stó:lō communities in B.C.’s Fraser Valley region to work on priority community projects.

Carlson said the research done in the Fraser Valley is community-engaged scholarship, and hopes these partnerships will help inspire the telling of similar stories of Canada’s history from other regions. One current project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council looks at how Stó:lō people are envisioning future reconciliation.

“We have students working both here on campus and in the communities and doing interviews with youth, artists, hunters and fishers there and asking what they envision reconciliation should look like, so that people can start to imagine how to bring that about,” said Carlson. “From that research, we are taking those voices to the leaders and chiefs so that they have concrete information to help them design and implement the action plan of getting there.”

“This work requires a lot of conversations, and you have to ask what the community priorities are,” he continued. “As a university researcher I have certain skills, and I try to bring these into partnership with community knowledge keepers to find projects where we can collaborate and find answers to questions that we couldn’t otherwise do on our own. We find that middle ground where we can create capacity. That’s what I find exciting.”
On March 8, the world celebrates International Women’s Day with the theme of “balance for better.” University of Saskatchewan (USask) engineering alumna Angie Bugg is the epitome of what it means to balance work, life, and passion, all while succeeding in a field traditionally dominated by her male colleagues.

“We've moved forward so much, but engineering still isn't 50 per cent women. It lags way behind the other professional colleges. I think it's something we need to be paying attention to because so many people don't have the same privilege that I do,” said Bugg.

Bugg has always taken this can-do attitude in every aspect of her life. Two of Bugg’s passions are volunteering and energy conservation and she’s been able to do both during her career.

Bugg is the Energy Conservation Co-ordinator for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. She works part time and is able to volunteer the other half of her time to four different organizations throughout Saskatoon.

“My parents have always done a lot of volunteering and viewed volunteerism as an important part of how they lived their lives,” said Bugg.

After completing her degree from USask in 1985, Bugg made her way to Alberta where she worked in the oil and gas industry for five years. Just before she left, she was part of creating an internal environmental auditing program for the company she was working for, a first for her and the company.

Bugg and her husband, who is also an engineering grad from USask, returned to Saskatoon in 1990. She began to dive into an area she was always interested in: using her engineering training for environmental protection.

While Bugg consulted for various companies, she worked with waste management regions, which is where RMs and towns get together to manage their garbage and recycling. In 2003, she started at the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. Since then, Bugg has trained more than 900 building operators in Saskatchewan, helping them make their buildings efficient and comfortable. She's also provided more than 100 energy audits for non-profit organizations and small businesses in Saskatchewan.

It is common for these organizations to go on to achieve energy and water savings of 10-30 per cent.

“When I started at the Environmental Society we kind of had to beg people to participate in environmental programs,” said Bugg. “But now we have lots of people interested in our programing because there’s so much more recognition of the importance of the work we do.”

Bugg also does a lot of work with K-12 students and teachers, focusing on energy conservation for the next generation. And in doing so, she has been able to show both young girls and boys how they can make a difference.

“Whenever we go into classrooms I make sure to point out I’m an engineer, partly to show the kids that women can be engineers, but also to let them know that this cool stuff we’re about to be doing is something that relates to engineering and that if they find what we’re doing fun, engineering might be for them,” said Bugg.
Though he’s known as the “father of agricultural medicine,” Dr. James Dosman (MD) didn’t have rural health care in mind when he started his career in medicine.

The distinguished College of Medicine researcher at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) on May 2 for his contributions to respiratory, agricultural and rural medicine.

Initially, Dosman wanted to specialize in cardiology while attending the cardio-respiratory medicine program at McGill University in Montreal in 1969. He landed his specialty after a good friend and respiratory research fellow encouraged him to make the switch.

“I thought that going into respiratory might present certain opportunities,” Dosman said.

After finishing his studies and research in Montreal, he had a choice of where his career would take him next—from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, to Edmonton or Winnipeg.

But in 1975, he decided to come back to the University of Saskatchewan, where he started the path of medicine. More than 40 years later, he is still leading innovative research initiatives on campus, serving as a Distinguished Research Chair.

“I think (my wife) Sue would say one of my (traits) is loyalty,” Dosman said. “My parents lived here … We certainly had roots.”

**FROM ANNAHEIM TO SASKATOON**

Dosman grew up on a farm in Annaheim, Sask., located 35 kilometres northeast of Humboldt.

In his final year of high school, a teacher encouraged Dosman to pursue medicine.

“He said, ‘Those doctors are no smarter than anybody else. They just work harder.’ I thought that fit me perfectly,” Dosman said.

He attended USask in 1959 to start studying medicine. Shortly after, he met his wife, Susan. They will be celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary in 2019. The pair have five grown children; four girls and one boy.

“Sue’s been very much a part of it all—ups-and-downs, and schemes and planning, triumphs and failures that go along with almost doing anything,” Dosman said.

**THE EFFECTS OF GRAIN DUST**

Dosman returned to Saskatchewan in 1975 after receiving an offer to lead a new partnership between the USask College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League, later known as the Lung Association of Saskatchewan.

Dosman’s first project with the league was the Grain Dust Study. His team studied breathing tests from 1,100 elevator agents, at the request of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, to determine the effect of grain dust on lungs. The team found the test results showed the grain dust was affecting the lungs of the participants. This discovery led to an international symposium, Grain Dust and the Lung, in 1977, as well as the publication of a book on the findings.

The national department of labour asked Dosman to lead a committee, resulting in the national Canadian Grain Dust Medical Surveillance program. The program mandated that companies had to reduce dust levels and offer a breathing test every three years.

“At 38 years old, I thought this is just what happens, I didn’t realize that to translate research into policy and program in such a short period of time was an unusual opportunity,” Dosman said.

Dosman collaborated on many studies that would lead to provincial, national and international impact, including developing an international code of safe practice in agriculture for the United Nations International Labour Office.

**LEGACY AT CCHSA**

Dosman is currently working within the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), formerly known as the Centre for Agricultural Medicine, which he helped establish in 1986. The faculty, students and staff in the centre focus their research on various issues around health and safety in agriculture and rural life.

Recently, Dosman became a certified specialist in sleep medicine. His team has been working with First Nations communities for the past two years and studying the effects of housing and social conditions on sleep and breathing problems.
Brooklyn Nemetchek of Saskatoon plans to head overseas again this spring, after completing her master’s in the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Nemetchek grows as a nurse through graduate studies**

Once Brooklyn Nemetchek earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2016, she knew she’d probably carry on with graduate studies. She just didn’t know when, where or how. “I’ll just work and figure it out,” she told herself.

“I absolutely love the field of global health,” said Nemetchek, whose faith-based upbringing encouraged serving others.

So, she immediately jumped at the offer after graduating when she got a chance to volunteer in Uganda for three months with a collaborative University of Saskatchewan (USask) research program.

The collaboration, led by the late Dr. Adil Nazarali of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, focused on pediatric mortality in Uganda, a country with extreme poverty and scarce medical supplies and resources in hospitals. A study found that five per cent of children die after admission and the same number die within six months of going home.

“There’s no follow-up, no census about what’s going on in the homes,” Nemetchek learned.

As she dove into her work, she found herself getting immersed in the culture.

“I really love Uganda,” she said. While overseas, Nemetchek discovered another passion: cross-disciplinary collaboration.

“I loved working with so many different doctors and nurses,” she said.

Back in Canada, Nemetchek still had no tangible grad studies plan.

“But then I spoke with Adil,” she recalled. “It was a very short conversation. I asked him what he’d think about me going back (to Uganda) to continue volunteering. And he said, ‘Great. Do you want to do your master’s while you’re there?’ Next thing I knew I had the visa, a project to work on, and I was gone.”

The Saskatoon born-and-raised Nemetchek was about to learn that graduate studies at USask can be self-directed, flexible and relevant to her passion.

While she weathered patchy Internet service to complete her coursework via distance learning during her additional six months in Uganda in 2017, she managed to conduct a new phase of the original research, this time targeting infant mortality. She turned that into her master’s thesis, *Pediatric Infectious Disease in Resource-Limited Settings: Describing Post-Discharge Mortality in Uganda*. Her master’s took just 14 months between conception and thesis defence in 2018.

“I did my research with the team; either I’d go to their office or work in hospitals during the day,” she explained. “Those broad experiences made it so much easier to actually integrate the formal learning I was doing at the same time.”

Nemetchek said she recognizes that her opportunity to do her graduate studies was “literally placed in front of me.” She’s grateful for that and encourages others who are considering a master’s degree to look at what the College of Nursing offers, with graduate studies individually tailored. Nemetchek said the mentorship she received through both Dr. Matthew O. Wiens (PharmD) as project research head from the International Centre for Child Health, and Dr. Susan Fowler-Kerry (PhD) as her supervisor from the College of Nursing, were invaluable in her growth, learning, and experience.

“The College of Nursing has a lot of options to get an MN (Master of Nursing),” she said. “I say figure out what your interest is. You can reach out across the university, to, say, pharmacy, or public health.”

In addition to overseas opportunities, the College of Nursing allows students to study where they live. In May, Nemetchek is off to the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool for a three-week course that is a prerequisite for working with organizations like Doctors Without Borders, as well as Samaritan’s Purse.

After that, she wants to work in East Africa. For Nemetchek, the challenge of nursing in Africa makes her feel like she’s doing something worthwhile and working for something greater than herself. And that’s precisely what she is looking for.

“I love experiencing new things,” she said. “And I’ve become a better nurse.”

Cory Leyte is the communications officer in the College of Nursing.
Thanks to a new program at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), free nutritional advice and information is now just a phone call away.

Following a successful pilot project in early 2018, a new dietitian call centre has opened within the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Eat Well Saskatchewan was a pilot project funded through a partnership between Dietitians of Canada and the Government of Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (Saskatchewan) last year. The pilot program was a resounding success, which led to discussions on how to continue the project in a sustainable setting.

In the new partnership with the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, the federal government is providing $210,000 of new funding over three years to continue Eat Well Saskatchewan.

“The college was a natural choice to become the home for the call centre,” said Dr. Carol Henry (PhD), associate dean of nutrition. “It complements the similar services we’re providing to the pharmacy community and provides an environment in which evidence-based nutritional information can be trusted.”

The call centre will provide free nutritional information to the public and health-care professionals. One key goal carried over from the pilot project is to fill the gap for rural, remote, and isolated communities, as many of them lack access to the services of a dietitian.

Registered dietitian Carrie Lambden was hired in January as the centre’s co-ordinator. A USask nutrition graduate, Lambden worked for nearly 10 years as a community nutritionist for the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC). During her time with STC, she travelled to Indigenous communities to provide nutrition counselling and professional expertise to individuals and groups.

Lambden’s experience with Indigenous communities gives her the knowledge needed to take a culturally sensitive approach to providing nutrition information. She understands the unique food environments and nutrition needs of Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan.

“This new service is intended to provide credible nutrition information to both the public and health-care professionals,” said Lambden. “There’s a lot of misinformation about food online, and our goal is to become a resource people can trust.”

Registered dietitians are health-care professionals who are trained to provide advice and counselling about diet, food and nutrition. They use the best available evidence, coupled with good judgment about the client’s or communities’ unique values and circumstances, to determine guidance and recommendations.

The centre can provide basic nutritional information to callers and refer them to other health-care resources as needed.

It’s not intended to replace an in-person consultation with a registered dietitian or a visit to a family physician, but it will be able to assist people in finding a dietitian for further in-person consultations or other related services, such as a diabetes educator.

Members of the general public and health-care professionals can contact the centre Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm by phone at 1-833-966-5541, or via email at eatwell@usask.ca.

Kieran Kobitz is the communications and alumni relations specialist in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.
Dentistry develops progressive programs

With two major new programs starting in May and more on the way, it’s an exciting time for the ever-evolving and expanding College of Dentistry.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) dental school will begin offering a new Bachelor of Science in Dentistry as well as the International Dental Degree Program (IDDP) this spring as the college continues to develop to meet the needs of its students, the profession and the province it serves.

“The dental school is really pleased that our two proposed new programs are going ahead,” said Dr. Doug Brothwell (DMD), dean of the College of Dentistry, which began the first accredited dental program in the province 50 years ago back in 1968/69. “Both programs are very important to the future of the dental school and to the dental profession.”

The new bachelor’s and IDDP programs were recently approved by University Council. Brothwell also hopes to make another important announcement soon as the college proposes to offer graduate programs for the first time.

“We don’t offer them yet, but that’s next,” said Brothwell. “We have a notice of intent before the planning and priorities committee right now for our first specialty program, so we anticipate opening our first three graduate programs within two years.”

The addition of graduate programs would be a significant advancement for the college, with the new bachelor’s degree specifically designed to bolster research initiatives that would enhance USask students’ chances of being accepted into highly competitive specialized programs, such as orthodontics.

“Acceptance into any of the 10 specialties offered in Canada is a highly competitive process, with in some cases as few as one in 30 applicants being accepted in some graduate programs, so highly competitive is an understatement,” said Brothwell. “Our graduates are always looking for ways to be better applicants in this competitive process. The Bachelor of Science in Dentistry allows them to show that they have the ability to perform dental research, which is a requirement of all graduate programs.”

Brothwell said the emphasis on enhancing research opportunities for students is a new focus for the college as it strives to bolster its research output.

“With the new Bachelor of Science in Dentistry, instead of every dental student doing a small research project—which seldom led to publication—five dental students will get much more in-depth training and experience in research, hopefully leading to a published paper for every student,” he said. “It’s 20 in-depth weeks of working on a single research project, from inception to publication. Dentistry is a research and evidence-based profession, and now even our undergraduate students will be involved in creating the research that guides the profession.”

Meanwhile, the new IDDP program will offer internationally trained dentists—from schools not accredited in Canada—the ability to practice in the country by receiving some credit for previous education and by completing the final two years of the four-year Doctor of Dental Medicine program. Seven of the 10 dental schools in Canada already offer similar programs, which support federal initiatives to give immigrants more opportunity to make the most of their previous training and experience.

“There are hundreds and hundreds of dentists from other countries who are living in Canada and are unable to write the examinations that are required to become licensed in Canada, so their former training goes unrecognized and un-utilized,” said Brothwell. “That’s the principal reason why we’ve introduced the international dentist program: to provide a pathway that allows these dentists from other countries to obtain Canadian credentials and be eligible for licensure to practice their profession in Canada.”

Brothwell believes foreign-trained dentists could potentially help fill the gap by providing more dentists to practice in rural and northern areas of the province.

“My experience in Saskatchewan, and in other places in Canada, is that the candidates who will come into our international dentist program have values that align more closely with rural and remote practice, so it is our hope in offering this program that some of those grads will choose to locate their practices in those areas,” said Brothwell. “And anything we can do that helps to increase the number of dentists who practice in rural and northern areas is a good thing for our province.”

“Dentistry is a research and evidence-based profession, and now even our undergraduate students will be involved in creating the research that guides the profession.”

— Dr. Doug Brothwell (DMD)
University of Saskatchewan researcher Dr. Heather Foulds (PhD) is studying the role of social and cultural factors in heart disease and stroke among Indigenous women.

The Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and USask recently awarded Foulds—the university’s Indigenous Early Career Women’s Heart and Brain Chair—a total of $730,000 over five years to complete her research.

“My research will focus on the prevention of cardiovascular disease with a specific focus on Indigenous populations and women,” said Foulds, a professor in the College of Kinesiology. “I am currently undertaking a project to assess the importance of culture and social support as mediators of risks of heart disease.”

Her research program will use a holistic approach to assessing the importance of cultural identity, cultural connectedness and social support as risk factors for cardiovascular disease among Indigenous women, investigating whether being culturally engaged, positively identifying with your culture and having social support networks may mediate risks of cardiovascular disease.

“From my initial master’s research working with a number of communities in British Columbia, we noticed that blood pressure was fairly low, even among communities with elevated rates of diabetes and obesity,” said Foulds. “My PhD work built on this observation. One of the important findings was that cultural identity and cultural engagement were important risk factors of hypertension among Indigenous populations, even more important than body size.”

Building on that idea, her current project will look at the importance of culture and social support for a larger array of risk factors. Foulds has collaborated with a committee of community advisors to design the project and are preparing for the first study.

The first step will be to get a sense of what culture means and what measurement of culture should look like, through focus groups and photovoice. The group has begun with a study in collaboration with Métis people on campus and anticipates undertaking a similar project with First Nations people in the near future.

The initial response to her research has been positive, with many of the Indigenous people she has spoken to recognizing the importance of culture and support in health.

“Indigenous women are a really important part of our communities,” Foulds said. “We play important roles both within the home and outside of the home, supporting families, children, grandchildren, Elders and other family members. Indigenous women are massively under-represented when it comes to understanding heart disease.”
The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is preparing to take bold new steps in the study and control of disease in animal health with a new Master of Science degree program in field epidemiology.

Scheduled to launch at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) this fall, the master's program is the first of its kind in Canada, as well as one of only two similar training opportunities around the globe.

"There is only one other formal program in the world that I know of that is a [field epidemiology training] program for veterinarians specifically," said Dr. Tasha Epp (DVM), associate professor in the WCVM Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

"Our program differs from most training programs because it is situated both within a veterinary and academic unit, and is specifically for veterinarians. The focus will be on animal health issues but will not rule out links to human or public health issues."

It’s common for veterinarians at every level of their field to work first-hand on disease cases, whether it’s assisting a government agency with a large-scale investigation or being the first eyes to look over a possible disease outbreak on a local farm.

This hands-on, project-based program is structured to provide students with opportunities to participate in ongoing, real-life animal disease investigations. It will help them to best understand the ways in which disease flourishes in an animal setting, how its spread can be carefully managed to prevent further outbreak, and how these skills can position them as future leaders in animal health.

"Veterinarians will always need skills to tackle outbreak investigations," Epp said. "Veterinarians are on the front lines of defending our country’s food supply, animal health and economic trade with other countries."

Epp emphasized the ways in which USask has an especially strong platform on which to found a program such as this, as the institution already blends such a large array of health-related studies within a single campus, under the One Health banner.

"This university is quite unique," Epp said. "We have all health sciences [colleges and schools] on one campus—medicine, dentistry, kinesiology, pharmacy and nutrition, veterinary medicine, public health, and nursing. The epidemiology that has been taught on campus has involved collaborations between veterinary medicine and human or public health for a very long time ... This linkage between human and animal health epidemiology learning extends into practice as well."

The program’s two-year timeline is designed to dovetail coursework, field study and the development of practical skills including data analysis, diagnostic testing and evaluation, outbreak investigation and surveillance assessment. The intent is to provide the students with the necessary skills they’ll need to succeed as they begin their careers.

"The goal is to provide them with experience in applying the skills to real-world examples," said Epp. "This will prepare them for entering jobs in federal, provincial or local animal [units] or even public health units, where these skills are already being used daily."

The program is only accepting one or two students each fall, since smaller groups will allow for a higher degree of one-on-one interaction with instructors and more easily facilitate field work. But the positive reaction to the program’s development has already made Epp confident that it will fill a critical gap.

"Without any formal advertising we already have interest for this year’s intake of students," Epp said. "I think that speaks to the fact that we saw a need, proposed a program to meet that need, built it, and they came."

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan.
Interested in governance at the University of Saskatchewan?

Consider offering to join a University Committee

Each year, the Nominations Committee of Council invites University of Saskatchewan faculty members, librarians, and sessional lecturers to step forward and offer to serve on university committees. Our committees are the mechanism through which collegial university governance is achieved. Finding excellent people to serve on our committees is the job of the Nominations Committee. The committee’s terms of reference direct it to find members who are broadly representative of the disciplines of the university, and to strive for equity and diversity in representation. Nominees are selected for their experience, demonstrated commitment, and potential for significant contributions to committee functions.

Following are the committee vacancies to be filled for the 2019/20 academic year. Appointments are generally for three-year terms. Sessional lecturers are appointed for one-year terms.

To volunteer or to nominate someone else:

- submit nominations online at: usask.ca/secretariat/forms/committeenominationform2018.php by Friday, March 22, 2019.

For more information, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee of Council:

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For more information, visit usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/committees.php or call 306-966-2561
Huskies’ Harmsworth taking care of business

It should come as no surprise that future accountant Colby Harmsworth is always one of the most accountable players on the ice for the University of Saskatchewan Huskie men’s hockey team.

The third-year defenceman and Edwards School of Business student earned a reputation as a dominant defender and team leader during his time in the Western Hockey League (WHL) and now in the Canada West conference. Leading the team’s defencemen with a superb +18 plus/minus rating (the Huskies scored 18 more even-strength goals than they gave up with him on the ice), Harmsworth is the backbone of the blue-line and one of the keys to the Huskies’ success in a record-setting season in which they rattled off 13-game and 10-game winning streaks.

“It’s a phenomenal season,” said Harmsworth, who chipped offensively with two goals and nine assists in 28 games for the Huskies (25-3-0), who are ranked third in the Canada West conference. Leading the team’s defencemen with a superb +18 plus/minus rating (the Huskies scored 18 more even-strength goals than they gave up with him on the ice), Harmsworth is the backbone of the blue-line and one of the keys to the Huskies’ success in a record-setting season in which they rattled off 13-game and 10-game winning streaks.

“It’s been a phenomenal season,” said Harmsworth, who chipped in offensively with two goals and nine assists in 28 games for the Huskies (25-3-0), who are ranked third in the Canada West conference. “It’s definitely a motivator and I think we know that any time we get to nationals, we have a legit chance to win it,” said Harmsworth. “To win it would be something to say thanks to all the supporters who helped get the new rink built, all the alumni who support us. The alumni are very important to our team and to win it for them would be great. The only other time the university won nationals was when (coach) Dave (Adolph) was on the team (in 1983), so to win it again would be something.”

In addition to being an elite player, Harmsworth has excelled in the classroom, earning the nod as an Academic All-Canadian for posting an average of better than 80 per cent while completing a full course load of 24 credit units. Harmsworth went a step further last season, taking nine classes for a total of 27 credit units while averaging 81 per cent in his second-year business courses.

“(Being named an Academic All-Canadian) was a goal that I set,” said Harmsworth, who balances classes with passes, skating six days a week with the Huskies. “Being dedicated in the classroom is something my parents always stressed, and my sister is an engineer so I always try to keep up with her. In my first two years on the team I roomed with (Kendall) McFaul and (Jordan) Fransoo on the road and McFaul was in engineering and Fransoo was in agriculture, so they are both pretty smart guys. And when they went to study, I went with them, so that helped build good habits.”

Adolph said Harmsworth’s leadership on and off the ice made him one of the Huskies’ top recruits.

“He was captain of the Calgary Hitmen for a reason and he is an alternate captain for our team for a reason,” said Adolph, who was named Canada West coach of the year. “He is the voice of reason for our team. He’s very determined and he checks all the boxes as a student-athlete. He was a popular recruit, no question about that. Obviously, he had the entrance average to get into any school he wanted, so he had a few choices and we certainly wanted him. He is a very important part of our team.”

For Harmsworth, it was an easy decision to return home to Saskatoon to attend USask and suit up for the Huskies after completing his junior hockey career in Calgary.

“I knew there were always going to be opportunities to play pro, and I wanted to get my degree first,” said Harmsworth. “I actually committed to the U of S before the (WHL) playoffs when I was 20, and I just knew where I wanted to go. I had some offers from other schools, but coming home and being with friends and family and playing for the Huskies was the deciding factor.”

Harmsworth will graduate in two years with a commerce degree and either pursue professional hockey or enter the world of business.

“There might be pro opportunities, and I definitely want to work in the accounting field at some point, but I’m not sure if I want to do big business or small business or work privately,” she said. “I still have a couple more years before I have to decide, so I am just going to enjoy my time here with the Huskies.”

HUSKIE HIGHLIGHTS:

Defenceman Leah Bohlken and goalie Jessica Vance of the USask women’s hockey team, and former Huskies captain Kaitlin Willoughby are playing for Team Canada at the 13th World University Games from March 2-12 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

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JAMES SHEWAGA

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NEWS.USASK.CA 13
SSRL a one-stop research shop at USask

While the SSRL is supporting more projects every year, what also excites Disano is that the projects are becoming larger in scope and scale. He attributes that to the way the SSRL functions. While other Canadian universities have some of the assets that the SSRL has—for example, there’s a telephone survey facility at the University of Waterloo and decision labs at McMaster University and at the University of Calgary—“no one’s pulled those pieces together, under one roof, like we have,” he said.

“One of course there’s an economy of scale in supporting all these labs, but the bigger benefit is we can actually do bigger, more complex, more sophisticated—I guess I could say ‘cooler’—research projects because we have all those different pieces under one roof,” said Disano. “The SSRL keeps growing and expanding based on the need and demand that we’re seeing from our researchers.”

Shannon Boklaschuk is a communications officer in the College of Arts and Science.

Dosman honoured to be nominated

CMHF NOMINATION
Dosman was nominated as a 2018 CMHF inductee by CCHSA director Dr. Niels Koehncke (MD).

“It’s very moving to be recognized,” Dosman said. “You don’t do it for that reason. In the early years, we said we did it because we didn’t know we couldn’t do it.” One key message that Dosman sticks to is “knowledge is universal.” “Research is important. It affects health in the end—one way or another,” he said. “Whether it’s one grain of knowledge that fits into a larger piece, much of our research is practical in nature.”

Kristen McEwen is a communications co-ordinator in the College of Medicine.

General Academic Assembly (GAA)

What “The University the World Needs” Needs From Us

President Peter Stoicheff, chair of the GAA, invites you to attend the annual GAA meeting, where he will give his report on the state of the university. This event is open to all faculty, staff and students.

MONDAY, APRIL 8
NOON
CONVOCATION HALL

Members of the GAA include the president as chair, members of faculty, elected students, deans, executive directors of schools, vice-presidents, the university secretary and the registrar.

For more information, visit usask.ca/secretariat

This event will be live streamed
Foulds focused on updating heart disease data in Indigenous women

FROM PAGE 10

Foulds hopes to increase recognition in mainstream medicine to show that women’s experiences of cardiovascular disease differ from men. She indicated that women with cardiovascular disease may experience less intense chest pain, additional discomfort in the torso region and arms, and unusual fatigue that is more likely to go undiagnosed and untreated. Mental stress can also be a trigger for women, and cardiovascular disease can often be confused for the flu.

While there are other researchers exploring the importance of culture in well-being or wellness in Indigenous communities through a qualitative approach, Foulds is not aware of any other researchers taking a more quantitative approach. Foulds said that since 2010, the only data collected to evaluate rates of heart disease among Indigenous women are from her previous work in B.C.

“We are relying on out-of-date information, at least 10 years old, and a significant lack of information,” she said. “Based on my previous research, I anticipate culture and social support will be important contributors to risk factors of cardiovascular disease and overall health.”

Once her research is completed, Foulds will look at new cultural-based programs or interventions as a method of improving health for Indigenous women.

Alyssa Wiebe is a communications specialist in the College of Kinesiology.

SEMINARS/LECTURES

Jesse Caldwell Memorial Lecture
March 8, 7–9 pm, Archaeology Building, Room 132. Please join us for the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society’s annual Jesse Caldwell Memorial Lecture. This year’s speaker is Dr. Paul Hackett, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning and is a research faculty member in the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit. His lecture, entitled Historical Epidemics in the Fur Trade West: Implications for Archaeological Practice, will examine the impact that epidemic diseases, such as smallpox, had on Indigenous groups in the fur-trade era of Western Canada and how the devastation of these epidemics might inform the practice of archaeology in this region. All are welcome. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

Department of Psychology’s monthly colloquium series
Members of the university community and the general public are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or e-mail: peter.grant@usask.ca

March 28, 3–4 pm, Arts 153. Gordon Pennycook of the University of Regina presents Reasoning like good lawyers or bad philosophers? Why people fall for fake news. The alarming spread of entirely fabricated news stories during the 2016 U.S. presidential election is a salient example of how human reasoning often fails. During this talk, two broad perspectives on this question will be outlined. One argues that humans reason like good philosophers, according to the good lawyer perspective, reasoning is often employed to justify our beliefs and behaviors so that we might make sense of the world. In this series of community talks, members of the Department of English explore diverse literary topics.

• April 24, A Preview of the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan 2019 Season

Role Model Speaker Lecture
(College of Arts and Science)
Gender and Ethnicity in the Memoirs of Penny Petrone
March 25, 4 pm, Arts 202. Professor Margherita Ganeri of the Università della Calabria (Italy) will present a lecture on Penny Petrone (1925-2005). Petrone was one of the first authors of Italian Canadian literature. Her memoirs, Breaking the Mould (1995) and Embracing Serafinia (2000), focus on the internal conflicts generated by her heritage.

Philosophy in the Community
7–9 pm, The Refinery, Emmanuel Anglican Church Basement. 609 Dufferin Ave. This community lecture and discussion series is organized by the Department of Philosophy. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit: usask.ca/philosophy/community

March 8, Why Legal Aid Matters for Justice. Sarah Buhler, College of Law, will discuss the vital importance of publicly funded legal aid in the context of a justice system and legal regime that disproportionately impact members of marginalized communities. The talk will include some history and background about legal aid programs in Canada and will argue that legal aid can both mitigate harm and promote justice for people who find themselves drawn into the system.

Literature Matters
7:30 pm, Grace-Westminster United Church social hall, 505 10 St. E. Reading, studying and talking about literary works helps us make sense of the world. In this series of community talks, members of the Department of English explore diverse literary topics.

• April 24, A Preview of the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan 2019 Season

COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education
Registration is open to the public and university employees for upcoming programs. Call 306-966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed/

• March 12–14, Project Management Course – Saskatoon

• March 19, Leadership Essentials for Supervisors – Saskatoon

• March 21, Appreciative Leadership – Saskatoon

• March 22–May 7, Speak! Canada Program – Saskatoon

• March 25–29, Certified Coach Training – Saskatoon

• March 27, Creating Impact through Branding and Advertising – Saskatoon

COMING EVENTS

SEMINARS/LECTURES

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Gender issues and ethnic struggles present the reader with a painful journey into the Italian/Canadian diasporic background. All are welcome.

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THE ARTS

Grand Theft Terra Firma
Daily until March 10, Diefenbaker Centre. An exhibit created by David Campion and Sandra Shields, curated by The Reach Gallery Museum. Grand Theft Terra Firma is an unflinching redress of Canada’s colonial narrative. By combining contemporary popular culture with historical source material, artists David Campion and Sandra Shields disrupt the celebratory mythology of nation building and invite us to critically evaluate our own continued and complicated relationship to colonial practices. Free admission.

MISCELLANY

Health Expo
March 10, 9 am–4 pm, Education Lounge. Solace Campus Fellowship is proud to present a holistic health expo on March 10. This event is designed to help us learn how we can make small adjustments to our daily lives which will in turn help us reap big benefits to our overall health. The event will consist of various stations emphasizing the benefits of sunshine, nutrition, water, exercise, air, rest, temperature, and trust. Please join us to learn how you can improve your health and achieve your full potential. Free breakfast will be served. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome.

Global Vets Sign Painting Night
March 27, 6:30–9 pm, Louis’ Loft. Come join the students of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for a fun night to create your own beautiful wooden sign. Sign up and choose your design by contacting us and we will send you an emailed list of options. When you arrive at the event, your supplies will be ready: grab a free snack and find a seat. We’ll go through some quick instructions and let you get to work. There are over 100 paint colours and nine wood stains to choose from. This event is being held in support of our Global Vets Team; a student-run organization geared to send veterinary students to developing countries to volunteer. Email dbk880@mail.usask.ca to sign up and choose your design. Prices will vary depending on sign options. Deadline is March 19.

Images of Research Photo-Imaging Video Competition

What does research look like to you? Enter the fifth annual USask Images of Research photography and imaging competition. Open to USask students, staff, faculty and alumni. Submit in four categories, with cash prizes offered in each. Grand prize: $500. Category winners awarded $300, first runner-up awarded $200, with awards also given for overall Best Description and Viewer’s Choice. In 60 seconds, tell us in a video why your research matters to the world, for a chance to win a $300 prize, plus $300 for Viewer’s Choice. Submit until March 20, with voting from March 21-April 3. Details: https://research.usask.ca/imagesofresearch

Next OCN: April 12
Deadline: March 29
Pack your bags and set your sights on memory lane, because this year’s On Campus News back page features landmark moments and events from our storied 110-year history.

Have a particular event you’d like to see featured? Let us know about it at news@usask.ca.

With files from University Archives and Special Collections.

MARCH 1975

HUSKIE SETS WORLD RECORD

Forty-four years ago, University of Saskatchewan Huskies track and field star Diane Jones (now Jones Konihowski) etched her name into the record books.

Jones established a new world record in the women’s pentathlon by racking up 4,540 points at the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships in Edmonton on March 9, 1975. It was her final season of competing for the University of Saskatchewan track team, capping a career in which she led the team to three conference championships, 12 individual titles in four different events, and set Canadian indoor records in the 50-metre hurdles, long jump, shot put, and the pentathlon.

Born in Vancouver and raised in Saskatoon, Jones competed for Canada in the Summer Olympics in 1972 and 1976 and was ranked No.1 in the world in women’s pentathlon in 1975 and 1978. She was a gold-medal favourite in pentathlon heading into the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, but did not compete as Canada joined a multi-country boycott of the Moscow Games in protest of the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan in December of 1979.

While attending the University of Saskatchewan, Jones competed for Canada in the 1973 World Student Games, winning a bronze medal in pentathlon, and also won gold medals in the 1975 and 1979 Pan Am Games and the 1978 Commonwealth Games. She competed for Canada internationally for 16 years and was awarded the Order of Canada in 1978, was inducted into the Canadian Olympic Sports Hall of Fame in 1995, and led Canada’s Olympic team as Chef de Mission in the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.

Jones Konihowski, who married former CFL receiver John Konihowski in 1977, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Education in 1975, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws in 2002, and was named to the Huskie Athletics Board of Trustees in 2016.

Diane Jones crosses the finish line in a relay race for the Huskies track and field team in 1975.