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PRIDE WEEK

University of Saskatchewan (USask) Pride Week events, education and celebrations have moved online during the ongoing pandemic, due to social distancing guidelines. But there are still a number of activities scheduled for USask students, staff and faculty to take part in during the university's virtual Pride Week from June 15-20, leading up to the first Saskatoon Virtual Pride Parade to be celebrated online on June 20. In this edition of *On Campus News*, we chat with faculty and student organizers about USask Pride Week events and the progress that has been made on campus in support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

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On Campus News aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the USask community.

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of USask or *On Campus News*.

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

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Gifting of Indigenous Strategy to USask to be held this month

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The Indigenous Strategy will be gifted to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in June, on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples who created it as a companion to the University Plan 2025.

“This strategy acknowledges the university’s participation—historical and persistent, overt and subtle—in colonialism and reflects the university’s conviction to decolonize,” said Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement Jacqueline Ottmann. “This strategy is powerful because it is honest, not tokenistic. It required courage to write. It requires courage to read. And, most importantly, it will require courage to implement.”

From the beginning of the process there has been a focus to ensure that the work was ‘done in a good way.’ The University Plan 2025 included meaningful engagement

with Indigenous Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Language Teachers, and there was a conscious effort to continue the work in an inclusive and respectful manner with the subsequent creation of the Indigenous Strategy.

That work began with the Elder’s Summit where Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Language Teachers helped to guide and support the process of creating this strategy. These advisors openly and honestly shared their knowledge, feelings and teachings about the future direction of Indigenization, decolonization and reconcili-ACTION at USask.

Protocol was followed as the members of the Office of the Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement (OVPIE) met with Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and community members in the fall of

2018 and throughout 2019/2020.

On May 6, May 13, and May 22, 2020, several Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Language Teachers who have a long history of supporting the work of the university came together online in virtual gathering circles to provide feedback on the document, to gift a name for the strategy, and to advise on appropriate ceremonial processes for gifting the Indigenous Strategy to the university.

The May 6 virtual gathering was the first time that many of the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Language Teachers had met with one another in several months, in light of the COVID-19 group gathering restrictions. For many of them, it was the first time they had engaged in an online Zoom meeting platform. It was unlike anything



Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann (PhD) is the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement at USask.

they had been asked to participate in previously during their time advising and supporting USask.

The name of the Indigenous Strategy chosen by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Language Teachers will be revealed to the broader community during a ceremony that is scheduled to take

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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:

New AgBio dean

The University of Saskatchewan has appointed Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD) the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Bedard-Haughn will begin a five-year term on Aug. 15, 2020. “I’m really excited to serve the AgBio community in this new role,” said Bedard-Haughn, who earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at USask and is currently the associate dean of research and graduate studies at the college, and former department head and graduate chair in soil science. Bedard-Haughn will replace Dr. Mary Buhr (PhD), who has served as dean since 2009.

Bourassa appointed

USask researcher Dr. Carrie Bourassa (PhD) has been named the Indigenous Engagement Lead on the federal COVID-19 Immunity Task Force. The leadership group will oversee national efforts to measure SARS-CoV-2 immunity across Canada. The two-year initiative to expand national testing and modelling aims to provide decision makers with the best science to manage the epidemic and help safely get Canadians back to work. Bourassa is the scientific director of the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Health and professor of community health and epidemiology in the College of Medicine.

GDI Research Chair

Dr. Allyson Stevenson (PhD) has been appointed the Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies at USask, effective July 1. Stevenson is a Métis scholar and lifelong Saskatchewan resident from Kinistino. “It is a true honour to be recognized as a leader in the area of Métis research, and I will work to strengthen relations with the Métis researchers who are already doing fantastic work at the University of Saskatchewan.” The chair is a five-year partnership between USask and Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI).

COVID-19 archive

USask has launched the COVID-19 Community Archive to document life in Saskatchewan during the global pandemic. “We want to help capture the everyday experiences alongside the formal responses to COVID-19,” said Dr. Erika Dyck (PhD), USask history professor and Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine. The digital archive features photographs, social media posts, videos, creative projects, email, blog entries, journals, as well as personal reflections. The COVID-19 Community Archive content can be viewed and submitted online at covid19archive.usask.ca.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: news.usask.ca @usask



USask celebrates virtual Pride Week

Dr. Simonne Horwitz (PhD) and USSU vice-president Jory McKay (right) hold the inclusive Pride flag, prior to being raised outside of the Peter MacKinnon Building in June of 2019.

CHRIS PUTNAM

JAMES SHEWAGA

This year's Pride Week format may have changed, but its importance remains the same for the University of Saskatchewan (USask) campus community.

While the ongoing global pandemic and social distancing guidelines have altered a number of the annual events, USask will be celebrating with a variety of activities leading up to Pride Week from June 15-20, culminating in staff and students taking part in the Saskatoon Virtual Pride Parade on June 20.

"It's not only a celebration, it is also a time for education and I think it is vital to talk about issues that still confront us," said USask history professor Dr. Simonne Horwitz (PhD), who is the co-chair of the Provost's Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity, along with fourth-year USask anthropology student Jory McKay.

"Pride started out as a protest

and while we can celebrate the successes that we have had, it is important to continue educating and fighting for rights. So pandemic, or no pandemic, online or in person, we have to be able to keep those messages coming."

USask's Pride Week supports the 2SLGBTQ+ community and promotes the university's commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all, while also educating the USask campus community about gender and sexual diversity.

"It is so important for the university to educate and to help support the queer community, which is a very large part, and very important part, of our campus community," said McKay, the former co-ordinator of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) Pride Centre and the USSU's new vice-president of student affairs. "And I would say

now that we are in a pandemic, it is even more important for us to continue to support all communities that may be suffering during a rough time like this."

In celebration of Pride Week, the university is raising the Pride flag and has bathed the Peter MacKinnon Building and the President's Residence in Pride rainbow colours at night. The sidewalk between the Murray Library and the Arts Building has been repainted in the Pride colours, while USask is again selling Pride T-shirts and tote bags to raise proceeds for the university's queer housing project in the College Quarter Residence that began last year. Online donations can be made at donate.usask.ca.

Meanwhile, the University Library has partnered with the Western Development Museum and the Pride Festival to organize a digital panel as part of *Spark Your Pride*, to share and explore queer

histories and stories. The digital panel, entitled *So You Have a Queer Collection—Now What?*, will feature USask history professor Dr. Valerie Korinek (PhD), among others, and highlight the library's Neil Richards Collection of Sexual and Gender Diversity, a unique collection in Canada of more than 8,000 titles. The panel discussion and question-and-answer session will begin at 11:30 am on Tuesday, June 16 via Zoom meeting. Register in advance at saskatoonpride.ca.

Pride Week will wrap up with the Saskatoon Virtual Pride Parade on Saturday, June 20 on Facebook Live at noon, hosted by Saskatoon Pride and featuring a variety of video submissions from community members, including from USask and the USSU.

"We are presenting a video submission of messages from people across campus, allowing queer faculty, staff and students to talk

about why Pride is important to them," said Horwitz.

While there will not be a physical parade to walk in this year, McKay said he is looking forward to what this year's unique virtual version will offer.

"I am extremely excited about it," McKay said. "We are in a digital age and things are very different, but I feel we can do something very significant and very inclusive. I think it is a very awesome thing, even though everything is surreal right now in the world and we have this new normal, but there is still so much that we can do within this new normal."

Horwitz has witnessed some major changes in support of Pride Week and the 2SLGBTQ+ campus community during her 12 years at USask.

"Without a doubt there has been a major change amongst the students and amongst faculty, especially faculty willing to address 2SLGBTQ+ issues," Horwitz said. "There are initiatives that the university has taken seriously, including queer housing and gender-neutral bathrooms, all of these issues that even 10 years ago were very difficult to even speak about. So, nothing is perfect and we still have a ways to go, but we are definitely seeing advances in attitude and people showing their Pride and wanting to be a part of it."

McKay is also pleased with the initiatives he has witnessed during his four years on campus.

"The university is doing a great job for LGBTQ+ people on campus," McKay said. "We now have gender-neutral washrooms, which is something that not long ago would have been completely unheard of, and we have the Positive Space program, which has become vital to so many people. We have also been able to open queer housing on campus, which was only a pipe dream of mine before I started on the Provost's advisory committee and Simonne really took leadership of that initiative.

"So, we have taken some amazing strides and I don't think we are at the end yet, but we are taking the major steps that we have to, in order to get there." ■



USask accelerating road safety research

 JAMES SHEWAGA

New funding is helping drive new research at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) into making better drivers and safer roads.

Led by Dr. Alexander Crizzle (PhD), a gerontologist and assistant professor in the School of Public Health, the university is establishing the country's first state-of-the-art road safety research hub. The new facility in the Health Sciences Building will feature high-tech car and truck simulators to assess and rehabilitate high-risk drivers, and will also be able to examine city street and highway design factors in road safety.

"I think there is a real nice opportunity to create a great research hub for road safety here," said Crizzle. "We have the support from SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and many other partners and there is a lot of interest

in using the simulators for various research studies. So we are excited about the possibilities that this will present."

With funding from the likes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Transport Canada, the Alberta Ministry of Labour, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Crizzle will accelerate his examination of all aspects of road safety with the new research hub. His work in developing systems to improve drivers and roads could help save lives and lead to significant financial savings for the health-care system.

"It is expensive to be involved in a crash, not just the medical costs for treatment and rehabilitation, workers' compensation and

disability, but also the costs involved with towing companies, police services, the fire trucks that come on scene and block the highway, and the cost of cleaning up the accident scene," said Crizzle. "And of course you also have the social cost of being involved in a serious accident."

Crizzle's research with driving simulators goes hand-in-hand with his ongoing project on assessing aging drivers, which studies show are statistically more likely to be involved in accidents. In Canada, the number of drivers over the age of 65 is projected to double in the next two decades, increasing the impact and importance of Crizzle's new research endeavours.

"Driving has become such an automated activity that we don't often think of the potential implications if we can't drive safely," he said. "It's a fascinating topic because we know when people lose their license



Dr. Alexander Crizzle (PhD) is a gerontologist and assistant professor in the School of Public Health at USask.

to drive, the impact can be devastating. So it's important to try to keep people driving safely as long as possible, to allow them to maintain their independence for as long as they can."

The first step in the process is assessing and improving the skills of at-risk drivers via the simulators, since those drivers will often shy away from official road tests in which they could be identified to lose their licenses.

"For assessing at-risk drivers, simulators are an excellent research tool because if something bad happens, it happens in a safe environment," said Crizzle. "It allows

us to work with people who have more severe conditions and see if we can improve their driving habits, or if they are at a level where they may have to stop driving. It also allows us to rehabilitate drivers who have already lost their licenses, for example, due to a stroke."

Crizzle said the simulators can be synchronized with medical monitoring devices to assess driver's physiological changes such as eye, brain and muscle movements, if they get nervous in traffic. They can also measure levels of distraction, test new crash avoidance and lane departure warning systems, examine the effects of medications, alcohol and cannabis on driving, and examine sleep deprivation and its effects on long-haul truckers.

Two years after the horrific crash involving a semi and the Humboldt Broncos team bus, researching intersection design and winter driving conditions could also lead to safer highways, Crizzle said.

"If you have ever watched that show *Ice Road Truckers*, you get a sense of what they are going through," he said. "We will be able to test different driving conditions on the simulators and put them through various scenarios, not just as a way to test, but as a way to train."

Crizzle said the new hub also offers the chance to collaborate with the City of Saskatoon on road safety, through the new Research Junction agreement between the university and city. From high-traffic intersections to adding bike lanes on city streets, Crizzle said the simulators can help stress-test projects prior to implementation.

"Absolutely, that might be a nice little partnership," he said. "When the city proposes additional bike lanes, we could test the road design on drivers, bikers and pedestrians in the simulator lab before actually implementing it. It is a very cheap way to do research ahead of time that can actually influence those types of decisions."

While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily delayed the set up of the new research hub, Crizzle hopes to get the green light to begin work in the lab in the coming months. ■

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Every month in *On Campus News*, we highlight an exceptional graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in our Alumni Spotlight feature series. In this issue, we profile USask alumna Rachel Loewen Walker (BA'06, MA'08), who is returning to campus for a one-year appointment in the College of Law after serving seven years with OUTSaskatoon.



University of Saskatchewan alumna Dr. Rachel Loewen Walker (PhD) is moving from OUTSaskatoon to the College of Law to serve as the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights.

SUBMITTED

Rachel Loewen Walker: A new challenge

JOHN GRAINGER

It takes a leap of faith to leave a dream job for the unknown.

But that is exactly what Dr. Rachel Loewen Walker (PhD) is doing as she leaves her role as executive director of OUTSaskatoon this month.

After nearly seven years in her position at OUTSaskatoon, she felt it was the right time for a new challenge—a one-year appointment as the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights with the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

However, Loewen Walker is confident she leaves OUTSaskatoon in a stronger place than when she arrived in 2013. At that point, OUTSaskatoon was known as the Avenue Community Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity and had five staff that worked in a different location.

“We still have a very similar mandate, a very similar mission

in the community, but it was on a smaller scale then,” said Loewen Walker, who earned bachelor and master’s degrees at USask and a PhD at the University of Alberta. “We’ve been lucky that we’ve had lots and lots of growth in the last six years. But one of the biggest things was changing our name to OUTSaskatoon.”

The organization’s visibility in the city was low, partly because it needed to be more discreet. However, a changing and growing acceptance of diversity has allowed OUTSaskatoon to gain a more prominent place in the community.

“We needed to be very visible in the public as an organization.”

She credits both the staff and the OUTSaskatoon board of directors for making it happen in 2015.

“It takes a lot of bravery. They were ready for that shift.”

After extensive planning and community consultations to ensure

the new name was supported, Loewen Walker helped OUTSaskatoon cross that threshold and move into a more prominent place in the community.

“We needed to be out and proud so that people could find us, so that people could get the services they needed.”

While that step under her watch was important, Loewen Walker said the establishment of Pride Home also stands out for her as a highlight. Pride Home opened in 2017 and provides a place for 2SLGBTQ+ youth to live along with services that support young people to be who they are.

“It was an incredible amount of work, but also relied on an incredible amount of community support and has been such an important and valuable part of our work since then and going forward.”

Loewen Walker said OUTSaskatoon has been able to take what it

has learned and experienced in that journey and pass the information along to others in the province and across the country.

Another milestone for Loewen Walker was the establishment of Glitter, an annual fundraising event for OUTSaskatoon. She hopes OUTSaskatoon will be able to hold its fifth Glitter event sometime this year, but remains in limbo given how the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted planning.

“It’s really a community-based event. Ours has such a wonderful community feel to it.”

Loewen Walker and her staff are also proud of the meaningful work done with the Two-Spirit community through building cultural programs, practices, awareness, and capacity through things such as hosting the Two-Spirit Powwow in the summer and the Two-Spirit Feast and Round Dance in the winter.

“I think it’s really important as an organization in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, but also as an organization just more generally.”

Again, as a leader of a trail-blazing organization, OUTSaskatoon has been helping provide guidance to other organizations looking to deepen their Indigenous engagement.

“Together, we’ve really dived into that work, at the board level and the staff level. This work comes out of values the whole organization carries.”

The journey Loewen Walker has experienced with OUTSaskatoon will carry her back as a leader to USask, a place she feels at home.

“I’m, of course, really happy to stay in the community so that I can stay connected to OUTSaskatoon, in whatever way I can.”

John Grainger is a communications officer in Alumni Relations at USask.

Yates masters the art of teaching soil science

KIRA GLASSCOCK

For Dr. Tom Yates (PhD), experiential learning and learning from mistakes are important parts of his teaching method.

“Students doing real things and learning from mistakes made in authentic experiences,” said Yates. “I want to give them that opportunity. That’s what excites me as a teacher.”

For his masterful approach to teaching, Yates, a professor of soil science in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, has been selected as the recipient of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Spring 2020 Master Teacher Award.

Yates teaches courses in the Renewable Resource Management program in the college, all which have a strong experiential learning component.

“Experiential learning underpins my philosophy, and I find ways for students to reflect on what they did wrong and give them the opportunity to come up with a successful strategy for which they get credit,” he said. “Learning comes best from making mistakes.”

Yates’ relationship with the university began in 1982 as an undergraduate student, going on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees and his PhD at USask.

“I have left only to come back in

a different capacity several times,” he said. “The university just could not get rid of me.”

A faculty member since 2008, Yates has found learning how to teach to be “a personal exploration and the methods we develop are a unique expression of who we are, how we were taught, and the nature of the area we teach in.”

“I consider my role to be the ‘guide on the side.’ However, I take the ‘sage on the stage’ role when necessary—and it is usually necessary at some point in a course. I am trying to incorporate into my teaching more mulligans or do-overs and use these opportunities as teaching moments.”

“Some students do not go out of their way to interact, others only interact when they want help

answering a question, and there are those students who want to discuss course material in ways that goes farther than the current assignment. Students usually have insightful comments, but sometimes need help finding the right way to express them. I try to act as a medium for reflection on the course material.”

While the award came as a surprise for Yates, it would not have to his colleagues and students.

“Tom cares about his students on a personal level as well as about their learning,” said Dr. Ken Van Rees (PhD), head of the Department of Soil Science. “The investment he makes in their lives has made the Renewable Resource Management program a huge success.”

“USask has many excellent teachers, and any one of them is

worthy of this award,” said Yates. “Having the support of an amazing department and mentorship from high-performing teachers like Dr. Ken Van Rees (PhD), Dr. Fran Walley (PhD) and Dr. Jay Wilson (EdD), did make me think that if I kept working hard I might see such a recognition.

“For me, the best moments are when I am standing in a classroom or at a field-course site, surrounded by students. They are not listening to or looking at me. They are talking and listening to each other, discussing a soil characteristic, or the landscape around them. They have forgotten that I am even there.”

Kira Glasscock is the communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Soil scientist Dr. Tom Yates (PhD) of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources has earned this spring’s Master Teacher Award at the University of Saskatchewan.

LAURA ZINK

New Researcher Awards:

USask honours exceptional MS and water researchers

 USASK RESEARCH PROFILE AND IMPACT

This year's University of Saskatchewan (USask) New Researcher Award recipients are both rising stars in their fields whose prolific research has made a difference regionally, nationally and internationally—one in water resource management and the other in multiple sclerosis (MS) research.

Dr. Helen Baulch (PhD) and Dr. Charity Evans (PhD) are both also regarded as inspiring teachers and mentors, having both won the Provost's Outstanding Teacher Award. And while accomplishing all this, both have taken two parental leaves.

"These two emerging research leaders with such bright futures are demonstrating every day through their research and teaching how we can be the university the world needs and are also modelling how we can advance equity, diversity and inclusion," said Vice-President Research Karen Chad.

Baulch, associate professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability, is described as a "visionary and passionate" global research leader who is "pushing forward the frontiers of aquatic sciences in a bold manner."

With peer-reviewed grants totalling more than \$17 million, Baulch—who holds the USask Centennial Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Biogeochemistry—has discovered unmonitored toxins in key recreational and drinking water supplies, including some with extremely high toxicity and some with little-known human health effects.

Baulch plays a key role in the success of the USask-led Global

Water Futures program, including work she has done on toxic algal blooms in Buffalo Pound, the main drinking water reservoir for southern Saskatchewan. When unusual weather and algal blooms disrupted the water supply to Regina, Baulch's work played a major role in providing real-time data and forecasts, helping the water utility to understand and manage the problem.

She also looks at how agricultural management practices can reduce nutrient pollution in lakes and rivers by "keeping water on the land" through wetland management and on-farm reservoirs—work that is helping to guide new watershed management approaches in Saskatchewan.

Her groundbreaking work on winter ecology, looking at what happens to aquatic nutrients under ice, is helping to change how scientists view aquatic ecosystems.

She is highly sought out nationally and internationally for her expertise. For example, she works with leading international modelling groups to investigate long-term implications of nutrient loading on rivers and lakes, including climate change effects. She has also served on a U.K. environment panel reviewing nutrient research proposals for a major national program.



Dr. Helen Baulch (PhD) is an associate professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability.



Dr. Charity Evans (PhD) is an associate professor in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Understanding MS through population-based research

With \$4.4 million in research grants, Evans, associate professor of pharmacy, has significantly contributed to the understanding of MS disease impacts and management on health care.

Her expertise is in demand provincially and nationally, as well as for international review committees and presentations.

One of only a few pharmacists doing research on MS in Canada, Evans has done seminal work in determining MS incidence and prevalence in Saskatchewan—research that has fed into both global MS estimates and prevalence estimates in the United States (double what had previously been thought) and has been critically important for guiding government policy and funding decisions. Her work confirmed that Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of MS in the world.

Evans co-led a \$1-million multi-centre study that found that detecting early symptoms, measurable five years before clinical onset, could help diagnose and treat MS.

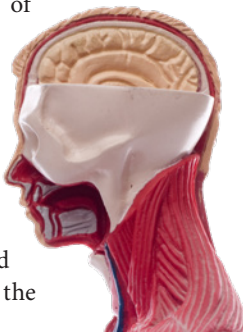
She led a large, multi-province research project looking at what MS drug adherence means for health utilization and disease outcomes—the first population-based study of

its kind.

While MS patients are twice as likely to use health services and the costs are six times as for patients with non-neurological disorders, Evans discovered higher medication adherence among people with MS compared with people who have other chronic diseases such as epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and rheumatoid arthritis, a finding that might underscore the value of the unique support patients receive when prescribed MS drugs.

She also co-led a \$1.2-million study on prescription drug safety and effectiveness, and a study on health care utilization in Saskatchewan which found that MS disease-modifying therapies appear to decrease hospitalization rates, a finding helpful to physicians in making treatment decisions.

In a randomized controlled study on the impact of Pilates exercise for people with MS, she found that Pilates is an effective way to help manage the disease, a finding that has led to online classes and generated interest around the world. ■





A successful Cruise through College of Law

 SARAH TREFIAK

With so many highlights during Allyse Cruise's three-year law school career at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), it's impossible to mention just one.

Growing up on a farm near Imperial, Sask., Cruise graduated high school and earned a volleyball scholarship that took her to Montana Tech, where she was trained as an engineer. But Cruise said her real goal was always to become a lawyer.

After working for engineering firms in Salt Lake City, Utah, for a few years, Cruise decided it was time to come back to Saskatchewan.

"When I applied, I only applied to USask. I really missed my home province and I wanted to come and be closer to my family. And I know USask is a really great school," said Cruise, adding that both of her parents earned degrees at the institution.

And at USask's College of Law she thrived, and now graduates this spring as a member of USask's truly unique Class of 2020.

In her second year of law school, she became involved with the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution. With fellow students Melissa Craig and Jianna Rieder, Cruise examined how Saskatchewan could meet the justice needs of the public and increase legal empowerment through technology. The project also entailed working with a room full of Saskatchewan justice sector stakeholders and using design thinking to have them consider the access to justice crisis from a user perspective.

"I think that was a fairly transformative day for a lot of the practitioners and it was great because it brought technology into the legal space, not just as a Band-Aid solution to a problem. We really took on the mentality that technology is a mindset."

Cruise, together with Kaitlin Ward, Courtenay Catlin and Leah Howie (coach), was also part of a team that won the national Willms & Shier Environmental Moot in 2019—a first for the College of Law.

"It was really amazing to win a national championship, but beyond that it was really amazing to get to work with Leah Howie, who I think is a fantastic role model. She also graduated with a degree in engineering before entering law school," said Cruise.

During her last year as a law student, Cruise completed a semester in Finland where she carried out research at the Helsinki Legal Tech Lab, an interdisciplinary hub which examines and experiments on legal technology and digitization of legal practices.

In her final term, Cruise was enrolled in the clinical course at Community Legal Assistance Services For Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC). She said working every day with individuals who are underserved by programs that are designed to help them and who are sometimes taken advantage of by landlords and other systems, was really eye opening for her.

"There's a difference in understanding Access to Justice from

an abstract level and actually seeing the practicalities of how the Access to Justice crisis looks when you are working with individuals who are struggling to navigate it," explained Cruise.

Cruise spent her last weeks as a USask law student organizing a toy drive for children affected by COVID-19. As of April 22, toys, crafts and books had been delivered to more than 500 children around Saskatoon and as far north as Birch Narrows.


"I think the University of Saskatchewan, and the College of Law specifically, can be really proud that it is not graduating students who are just sad that we can't throw our end-of-year party. That is of course disappointing, but it's amazing to see there are so many students who aren't choosing to focus on that, and are instead choosing to focus on how we can help," said Cruise.

While it may not have been the ending to law school Cruise was expecting, she is proud of the way

she and her classmates have been able to focus on the positives.

"Even though what we are going through is real and we're allowed to have feelings about it, in the grander scheme of things, it's nothing compared to what a lot of our fellow Canadians, and our fellow global citizens are going through during this time. So, it's really heartening."

Cruise feels fortunate to have a plan set out for the next three years of her life. In June, she starts clerking at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in Regina. In 2021, she will clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada for the Honourable Justice Malcolm Rowe, and will then join the Borden Ladner Gervais LLP law firm in Vancouver.

As she joins the impressive family of USask College of Law alumni, there's no doubt Cruise's highlight reel will continue for years to come. 

Sarah Trefiak is the communications officer in the USask College of Law.



Award-winning student Allyse Cruise is graduating from the College of Law this spring, joining USask's truly unique Class of 2020.

 SUBMITTED



Top physics student plans health-care career

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

Evan Seebach has always been fascinated by physics, noting it can be used to study everything from the smallest particles to the largest objects in the universe.

“What intrigues me the most about physics is the real-world applications,” he said. “Physics is present in everything we do, including our own human physiology. By using the principles of physics we can better uncover the mysteries of the human body.”

It is not surprising, then, that Seebach chose to study physics in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) after graduating from Saskatoon’s Holy Cross High School in 2016.

He had a great start to his undergraduate studies, receiving the Governor General’s Academic Medal for the highest academic average in his Grade 12 graduating class, as well as a Chancellors’ Scholarship at USask.

“I was grateful for this scholarship, as it funded the entirety of my undergraduate studies,” he said. “The Department of Physics and Engineering Physics has been very generous, through which I have received several different scholar-

ships including the Dennis Skopik and Dennis Johnson Scholarship in Physics and Engineering Physics in 2018, the James F. Mathison Memorial Scholarship in Physics in 2019, and the Akira Hirose Memorial Award in 2020.”

This spring, Seebach received a Bachelor of Science (honours) degree in physics from USask, with minors in computer science and mathematics. He graduated with a cumulative average of 94.19 per cent, earning him the Most Outstanding Graduate in Physics award. He also received the Harrington Prize, given to the top graduate in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics.

“In my four years in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics I have been surrounded by so many exceptional minds, so I feel very grateful to receive these awards,” he said.

Also notable is that Seebach was awarded a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) and worked with Dr. Kaori Tanaka (PhD) in the summer of 2019, researching superconductivity and the interplay between supercon-

ductivity and charge density waves. During the 2019/20 academic year, Seebach continued working on his research project with Tanaka for PHYS 493.6, the Extended Research Project in Physics course.

“He has performed microscopic studies of nanoscale superconductors and possible interplay of charge density waves and superconductivity. He has written a highly advanced code for solving microscopic equations for superconductivity, utilizing recently developed, efficient numerical algorithms and parallel computation,” said Tanaka, chair of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. “Evan is not only bright but also diligent, and his enthusiasm has made it such a joy for me to work with him.”

Outside of his classroom and research work, Seebach served as a Learning Communities peer mentor at USask, meeting weekly with a group of first-year students to provide advice on adjusting to university life. He also took on the role of VP-Internal for the Physics and Engineering Physics Students’ Society, connecting undergraduate

students with faculty and staff.

“It was a fun and wonderful experience,” he said. “A main aspect of this role was organizing our student-faculty mixer, where students learn about research opportunities from the faculty and staff. This event was a favourite of mine, because it was at this event in 2018 where I connected with Dr. Tanaka for the first time about joining her research team.”

Seebach was also involved with Peer Health throughout his undergraduate studies. The student-led initiative educates university students on health and wellness topics.

“In my first year with Peer Health, I was a volunteer. Then, in my second year, I became the facilitator of the sexual wellness group, where I organized events including the STI testing blitz—a campus-wide event about breaking the stigma around STI testing,” he said. “In my third and fourth years, I moved into the student co-ordinator position, where I oversaw all of the health events put on by Peer Health.”

Working with Peer Health had a lasting impact on Seebach. As a result, he now plans to pursue a

career in health care.

“My experiences with Peer Health have fostered a deep appreciation for helping others, particularly as it pertains to their health and wellness,” he said. “I value how health-care workers are able to provide a level of empathy and care in some of the most difficult times in people’s lives.”

Now that he has graduated, Seebach will consider his next steps and can take some time to enjoy his favourite activities, such as golfing, cooking and baking, and listening to podcasts and audiobooks. Whatever he chooses to do in the future, he will look back with fondness on his time on campus.

“The best part about studying in the College of Arts and Science is that it provided me the opportunity to diversify my studies more than I could have in any other college,” he said. “The College of Arts and Science has a wide range of opportunities, and being a part of it allowed me to pursue physics and a passion for the health sciences.”



Evan Seebach is the Most Outstanding Graduate in Physics and won the Harrington Prize as top graduate in Physics and Engineering Physics.

SUBMITTED

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



Kinesiology's Bhargava sweeps college honours

ALYSSA WIEBE

Every year in June, the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) College of Kinesiology recognizes its Most Outstanding Graduate and Dean's Medal Recipient. This year, the college is proud to recognize the same student for both awards: Sahya Bhargava.

The most outstanding graduate recipient must demonstrate leadership and participation within the college, on campus, and in the community, with academic performance also taken into consideration. Bhargava's display of community involvement, volunteering, dedication to her academics, and leadership contributed to earning this year's honours.

"It makes me so proud that the college values and acknowledges extracurricular engagement and participation in the community, and it's an honour to be recognized," said Bhargava, who is celebrating the completion of her kinesiology degree while observing physical and social distancing, after USask's

Spring Convocation was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Bhargava, who was born and raised in Saskatoon, attended Evan Hardy Collegiate prior to applying to the College of Kinesiology program at USask. As a high school student, she placed in the top 10 in all core classes and carried those high academic standards into university.

"Entering my first year as a self-declared introvert, I was content with spending my hours holed up in the Murray Library focused solely on my academic standing," said Bhargava. "With the encouragement of my older sister, I joined a few committees and programs, becoming aware of my platform as a post-secondary student. I soon realized the power of education in engaging others and creating change."

Her focus shifted from the cubicles on the sixth floor of the Murray Library to new opportunities with the college, campus and community. After being elected

to represent first-year students on the Kinesiology Student Society's board, her interest continued to grow. Bhargava went on to hold the position of secretary in her second year, and vice-president for her third and fourth years. As vice-president, she was invited to speak on behalf of kinesiology students at Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC) meetings, a task that would have seemed impossible at one point.

"I found confidence in my voice and from speaking at UPC, I began sitting on various sub-committees focused on course development, job position hiring, college policies, co-curricular records, areas of specialization and KIN Life," said Bhargava.

Every internal leadership and volunteer experience began to open doors to other opportunities on and off the USask campus. Bhargava became involved in Kin in the Community, a program dedicated to improve physical literacy of families at Sutherland Elementary School,

and the annual Youth Leadership Through Sport event. She also served as a Learning Community Leader, a tutor for the Greystone Scholar Society, a volunteer at the USSU Food Centre, school director for the 5 Days for the Homeless, coached a community association under-four co-ed soccer team, and volunteered as an official track umpire, all while playing competitive soccer and taking weekly vocal lessons.

"I strive to achieve balance in life," said Bhargava. "I look forward to my extra-curricular commitments as a weekly break from academia and an opportunity to develop new skills."

Not only does Bhargava thrive in her community on and off campus, she has also excelled in academics. Graduating at the top of her class with an impressive average of 94.93 per cent, Bhargava was also named the College of Kinesiology Dean's Medal recipient, an honour that acknowledges the highest academic average among fourth-

year graduating students. Her dedication to academics has always been high on her priority list.

"Education has always been a priority in my family," said Bhargava. "Throughout these last four years, my education has changed the way that I see the world, it has made me more critical of the normative influences within our society, and it has given me tools I need to make meaningful change."

As she looks towards the future, she is excited to be moving on to the College of Medicine for the fall semester, while also continuing to graciously volunteer with the programs she is connected with.

"The knowledge that I have gained in kinesiology will serve as a strong foundation to be an advocate for a healthier society and personal wellness as I continue my education in the College of Medicine this fall." ♥

Alyssa Wiebe is the communications and alumni relations officer in USask's College of Kinesiology.



Sahya Bhargava has been named the Most Outstanding Graduate and the Dean's Medal Recipient in USask's College of Kinesiology.

SUBMITTED



Lacey Jurke is graduating this spring with a medical degree after completing her fourth and final year in USask's College of Medicine.

SUBMITTED

Métis student celebrates MD degree on family farm

KRISTEN MCEWEN

Like any student in their last year of medical school, Métis student Lacey Jurke has been keeping busy—though not in the way she had envisioned.

Instead of completing her fourth year at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) campus in Saskatoon, the COVID-19 pandemic required Jurke to complete her classes online at the family farm near Maidstone, Sask., where she has also been helping to deliver hundreds of calves and piglets.

"I've been really lucky to be busy and have work to do and to be around my family," Jurke said. "It's been nice to be at the farm as the work that we do is not so much affected by the pandemic. During calving time, I'm just as busy as I am in medical school."

Throughout the month of April, students in their last year of medical school usually finish the last four

weeks of classes to prepare for the licensing exam that marks the end of their medical school career.

"It's been kind of tough," Jurke said. "We're uncertain and don't know when we will be able to write the exam—maybe summer or fall."

Like the other members of USask's Class of 2020, Jurke won't be able to attend a convocation ceremony this spring due to the ongoing pandemic, but hopes to celebrate with her classmates at some point in the future. Traditionally, convocation serves as a time for medical students to reflect on their achievements before starting residency programs, which Jurke is now looking forward to.

"Graduation was cancelled, which was really sad," Jurke said. "I've been going to university for eight years, and I was looking forward to celebrating with my classmates, many of whom I haven't

seen for months before we all go off to residency in different provinces. I was also looking forward to having my family come to Saskatoon to the graduation banquet.

"Although there is a lack of closure at the moment, I hope we will be able to come together to celebrate this milestone in the future when it is safer to do so," she added.

The last time Jurke was with her classmates was during Match Day at the beginning of March when fourth-year medical students learn which residency programs they have been matched with across Canada. Jurke had learned she was successfully matched to a rural family medicine residency program in Red Deer, Alta., set to start this summer.

Jurke hadn't initially considered becoming a doctor—at least not for humans. Coming from

an agricultural background, she intended to apply for veterinary medicine, enrolling in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and ultimately completing a degree in animal bioscience.

"Being a vet wasn't the career I envisioned myself doing, but it's something you get told to do when you're a farm kid and like science," Jurke said. "In my veterinary anatomy and physiology classes, I always found myself studying the human equivalent in my spare time, due to interest."

Jurke met a couple of students who were in medical school and realized it was an option for her to apply as well. Once in medical school, Jurke found that she had to adjust to the workload that medical school demands in first year, hours spent memorizing and studying information. Her third year proved to be another adjust-

ment as students find themselves in clerkship, spending time in hospitals and on call.

"My favorite year of medical school was fourth year because I was able to travel across the country doing electives I was interested in and was able to spend more time with patients," Jurke said.

As a Métis student, Jurke also had the opportunity to be a mentor for younger students in the College of Medicine.

"I'm really proud to be an Indigenous student," Jurke said. "The College of Medicine does a fantastic job supporting Indigenous applicants and current students. The more Indigenous students we have, the more we can help the Indigenous community and give back."

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

Innovation in campus collaboration: Colleges of Medicine, Arts and Science partner on revamped biomedical sciences degree

 SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) will begin offering a revamped biomedical sciences degree program (BMSC) starting in May 2021.

Made possible through a partnership between the College of Arts and Science and the College of Medicine, the retooled BMSC program will provide cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary training that will position USask students for careers in the biomedical sciences and health professions, as well as for graduate studies and research.

“For the first time in USask history, the degree parchments for this program will include signatures from the deans of both the College of Medicine and the College of Arts and Science, symbolizing our co-operative approach in program delivery,” said Dr. Gordon DesBrisay (PhD), vice-dean academic in the College of Arts and Science. “This strong partnership exemplifies our institutional strategic plan to prioritize cross-college collaboration.”

Numerous changes have been made to improve and enhance USask’s undergraduate biomedical sciences program. For example, the previous five biomedical sciences departments were merged to form two new departments: anatomy, physiology and pharmacology (APP) and biochemistry, microbiology and immunology (BMI). With the mergers, three new majors were approved to replace the previous majors: biochemistry, microbi-



Dr. Gordon DesBrisay (PhD) is the vice-dean academic in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan.

 DAVID STOBBE

ology and immunology; cellular, physiological and pharmacological sciences; and biomedical neurosciences.

As well, a new shared three-year major, called biomedical foundations, has been created to replace the three-year degrees of each of the former biomedical science majors.

The creation of a new interdisciplinary biomedical sciences (ID BMSC) major was also approved, with the aim of providing students greater flexibility in course offerings across the biomedical sciences while maintaining the same standard of academic rigour.

The ID BMSC major is designed

for students whose interests span a wider range of biomedical sciences or for those seeking entry into professional colleges who may be better served by a greater breadth of science training, said Dr. Scott Napper (PhD), a professor in the College of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology and the interim associate director of research at VIDO-InterVac.

Napper noted the ID BMSC major will exist between the two biomedical science departments, serving to provide a functional bridge between those academic units.




Dr. Scott Napper (PhD) is a professor in the College of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology.

 DEBRA MARSHALL

Also approved is the creation of a new degree template to house the biomedical sciences programs. This allows the link between the five majors to be apparent and for the introduction of new admissions requirements.

“The changes to our biomedical science program have generated considerable enthusiasm among our faculty and students,” said Napper. “In addition to higher-quality training, the new program—coupled with USask’s unique infrastructure, such as VIDO-InterVac and the Canadian Light Source—will attract more highly qualified students from across Canada.”

The courses offered by the biomedical sciences departments will be managed by a newly created academic programs committee. While the committee will be housed in the College of Arts and Science, it will be comprised of equal representation from the College of Medicine, and the College of Arts and Science. This is another way in which the two colleges are signalling their ongoing commitment to collaborate in the offering of biomedical science programming at USask. 

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

Schell excels in final season with Huskies

JAMES SHEWAGA

There are superb student-athletes all across the country, but few can match what Alex Schell accomplished in her Huskie Athletics career.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) graduate student went undefeated in each of her three trips to the U Sports national wrestling championships, winning all 12 of her matches to earn three straight gold medals in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Remarkably, she did it while being named an Academic All-Canadian in each of those years, for her equally outstanding work in the classroom.

With an academic average of better than 90 per cent, Schell graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (Great Distinction) in 2019 and completed the first year of her Master of Physical Therapy program in 2020 while also garnering gold again at nationals in her fifth and final year of wrestling.

“That was my goal coming back for my final year of eligibility, so to have it work out like that three years in a row was pretty special,” said Schell. “It was a great experience.”

Not to mention an historic achievement, according to Huskie wrestling coach Daniel Olver, who was named men’s coach of the year at the Canada West conference championships and women’s coach of the year at U Sports nationals.

“What Alex did in her career was truly remarkable,” said Olver. “I can’t recall having another Huskie wrestler who not only won every single match at nationals that she ever took part in, but also never had a point ever scored against her at nationals. It was a truly outstanding achievement for Alex and just as importantly, her prowess on the mat was matched by her work ethic in the classroom, since she has been an Academic All-Canadian in every single year at USask.”

The epitome of the student-athlete, Schell has excelled in both academics and athletics during her five years at USask, balancing full



Huskies student-athlete Alex Schell (top) won her third straight national wrestling championship this year while completing the first year of her master’s program at USask.

GETMYPHOTO.CA



Schell

While she is one of the best young wrestlers in the country in her weight class, Schell does not plan to continue to compete nationally, but is hoping to remain involved in the sport, possibly by helping coach the next generation of young Huskie athletes.

“Wrestling has been a big part of my life, but I am at that point of time in my program that my education has to be the priority,” said Schell, who was runner-up for the Valerie Girsberger Trophy as the top all-around female athlete in the Huskie Athletics year-end awards announced in April. “But I definitely would still like to be involved in wrestling in some way, so it will just be figuring out what that will be.”

class loads with demanding weekly training and weekend competition schedules as a Huskie competitor.

“The coaches fully support the whole student-first approach,” said Schell. “My goal pretty much from the beginning when I knew I was trying to get into physiotherapy, I knew it was a very competitive program, so I definitely put a lot of time and focus into trying to maintain my average.”

Like all USask students, Schell wrestled with the additional challenge of completing her first-year master’s courses and final exams on-line this spring, after returning home to Smithers, B.C., located 700 kilometres north of Vancouver.

“It was an adjustment studying online and a little difficult, but everybody had to do it, and being at home with family definitely

helps,” she said. “For us in physio, we had some practical final exams postponed until we come back, because obviously we were not able to do them at this time.”

“I was supposed to be on practicum as well. So I think they are trying to give us some content that we can do over the summer at a reduced load, because there will be no hands-on learning. And hopefully we will go back in September to start up again.”

Looking back on her Huskies career, Schell said coming to USask to study and compete was the best decision she could have made.

“There was a great team dynamic and that was very important for me coming from B.C.,” she said. “I definitely like the individual aspect of wrestling, but the team aspect is also very important because your

teammates push you every day in training and support you in every competition, and that’s what made it even more special. It was definitely great to be a part of it.”

HUSKIE NOTES:

Huskie football and men’s and women’s soccer have been cancelled for the fall semester after the Canada West conference—in consultation with medical professionals—voted June 5 to cancel first-term team sports due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A decision on cross-country will be made before July 15, while basketball, volleyball, hockey, wrestling, and track and field would start no sooner than January 2021 ... USask men’s hockey goalie **Taran Kozun** became only the sixth Huskie in school history named Canada West Male Athlete of the year. He is now a finalist for the June 25 national Lieutenant Governor Athletic Awards, honouring the nation’s top male and female student-athletes ... Huskie women’s basketball associate coach **Claire Meadows** has been named head coach of the Queen’s University Gaels, starting in April 2021. Meadows will remain with the 2020 national champion Huskies for one more season ... Former Huskies track and field star and Olympian **Diane Jones Konihowski** was inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame on May 27.

USask preparing for fall semester scenarios

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



GORD WALDNER

Research scientists in VIDO-InterVac's containment Level 3 lab are currently working on a COVID-19 vaccine.

VIDO-InterVac vaccine shows promise

A COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) has cleared another major milestone in moving towards human clinical trials: the novel vaccine has proven highly effective in ferrets, one of the commonly used animal models for COVID-19.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine, the ferrets received two immunizations prior to being exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine induced a strong immune response, generated neutralizing antibodies, and decreased viral infection in the upper respiratory tract to almost undetectable levels.

"We are working to ensure our COVID-19 vaccine advances as rapidly as possible," said VIDO-InterVac Director Dr. Volker Gerdt (DVM). "Proving that the vaccine is effective in ferrets is a key milestone in the development pathway."

"We are excited by these results and are continuing to develop our vaccine towards regulatory approval," said project leader Dr. Darryl Falzarano (PhD).

Several additional trials are planned over the next few months, including safety studies to prepare for human clinical trials this fall. The organization is also completing a vaccine manufacturing facility that will be GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) certified to support vaccine production capacity in Canada. ♥

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is planning for primarily remote learning for the fall semester, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The university recently formed a Pandemic Recovery Team (PRT) designed to lead the planning for the delivery of academic programming and research in September, posi-

tioning USask undergraduate and graduate students to continue their programs with minimal disruption and necessary supports.

The planned September delivery model will combine remote online learning, with limited classroom, laboratory, clinical, and physical instruction only where warranted and where circumstances permit, in consultation with public health and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer. This direction reflects comprehensive analysis and planning work done at the university over the months since the emergence of COVID-19, and based on current pandemic knowledge and projections.

"The method of program delivery this fall and winter—whether in-class, remotely or a

blend of both—will not change the high quality and value of a USask degree," stated USask President Peter Stoicheff.

The spring term and summer term programming is also being delivered remotely.

For students concerned about making travel and living arrangements for the fall term, every effort will be made to communicate information about the mode of delivery of specific fall programs as soon as possible. Students and staff are encouraged to continue to monitor updates.usask.ca for USask pandemic status updates, program delivery information, and additional details about campus changes.

All buildings remain closed, with only limited access to employees deemed critical to core operations. ♥

Tuition freeze for 2020/21

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is implementing a tuition freeze for 2020/21 for a majority of its programs due to the impacts of COVID-19 on students.

The university announced the decision on May 7.

"We know tuition is a significant investment for our students, and we hope that by maintaining tuition levels at their current 2019/20 rates in the majority of our programs for the upcoming year, current financial pressures felt by students and their families may be reduced," stated Anthony Vannelli, USask provost and vice-president academic.

The tuition recommendations were made to the university's Board of Directors in consultation with students and campus leaders, including deans and executive directors.

To assist with affordability and accessibility, USask provides more than \$70 million annually in financial aid, through scholarships, bursaries, and tuition credits. As further response to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic, the university is investing \$175,000 to support graduate students, suspending late fees for tuition payments until August, and have made payments in excess of \$925,000 to date from the Emergency Student

Fund, a fund that will continue to support students in crisis.

International differential tuition multipliers—a common practice at most Canadian universities—will remain unchanged at 2.73 for undergraduates students and 1.58 for graduate students, and are projected to remain below most U15 comparators. Tuition rates for three colleges—College of Dentistry, College of Law, and Western College of Veterinary Medicine—will see tuition increases ranging from 3-15 per cent.

"These tuition increases have been previously announced, and reflect the specific needs of these respective programs," said Vannelli. ♥



Preparations are continuing to transform the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Merlis Belsher Place complex into a potential pandemic field hospital, if required.

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Campaign for Students tops million-dollar mark

✍ INALIE PORTADES

Taylor Keller, a third-year accounting student from the Edwards School of Business, is one of the many University of Saskatchewan (USask) students who received support from alumni donations to the Campaign for Students—the university’s annual fundraising drive for scholarships and bursaries.

Thanks to 4,160 donors, more than \$1.17 million was raised during the 2019/2020 school year to support students like Keller, who will go on to make their mark in the world.

Like many, Keller was inspired to follow in her parents’ footsteps.

“Ever since I was in Grade 2 or 3, I was already building my future plan of becoming an accountant, just like them,” said Keller, whose parents are both Edwards School of Business alumni.

Driven to succeed, she has been working hard in her accounting classes and is also taking the course requirements for a finance major.

She credits her scholarship support for allowing her to balance academia while staying involved in extracurricular activities and

“ When you donate for a scholarship, you’re not just giving to one specific person. You’re giving to the community around them and every person that they impact. So, it’s really a gift to the community, as well as changing that one person’s life.

— Taylor Keller

sports. Keller is part of the USask concert band, where she plays the bass trombone, and volunteers with the Edwards Business Students’ Society as the scholarship director. In addition, she continues to play and devote her time to the ringette community.

“Last year, I also took on more responsibility within my ringette association and started training goalies! I was able to work with about 15 different girls, from the ages of 7-17, throughout the year, in different camps and team practices.”

Keller understands the importance of donor support in students’

lives and is grateful for its impact.

“Any amount of money is a weight off of students’ backs, and it gives them the time that they don’t have to necessarily put into a job and focus on their studies or hobbies. It’s really important because it gives students the best opportunity to succeed in school.”

Donations to the Campaign for Students provides students like Keller the chance to share their talents and knowledge with communities near and far. Thanks to scholarship and bursary support, students do not have to sacrifice their time to look for part-time jobs to pay for



Taylor Keller of the Edwards School of Business is one of many USask students thankful for scholarship support from the Campaign for Students.

tuition, books and living expenses, and can focus on their studies and experience everything a university education has to offer.

Keller said she sees how the impact of donations goes beyond students because of how they will influence communities both in school and after graduation.

“When you donate for a schol-

arship, you’re not just giving to one specific person. You’re giving to the community around them and every person that they impact. So, it’s really a gift to the community, as well as changing that one person’s life.”

Inaliev Portades is a development communications co-ordinator at USask.

Organizers planning online celebration this month

FROM PAGE 2

place online sometime this summer as the document is formally gifted to the university and received by President Peter Stoecheff.

This year the COVID-19 pandemic has presented some unprecedented challenges for everyone. Many of the events planned have been altered with

concerns for community safety because of COVID-19. However, the gifting of the Indigenous Strategy to USask will continue in adaptive and creative ways, as organizers are in the midst of creating an online celebration that includes a lineup of speakers and performers who are participating from around the

province and across the country.

The online celebration of USask’s Indigenous strategy is an example of how distinct this strategy is from others in the province or country. Indigenous Peoples of this land have come together in an act of self-determination to reimagine the path forward for all our children,

including ‘those not yet born seven generations into the future’ through this plan, which serves as a roadmap to reconciliation for the university’s

leadership, faculty, staff, and students. USask’s Indigenous Strategy was created by Indigenous people, and is presented as a gift to all.

Watch for future announcements on the gifting and formal presentation at: [Indigenous.usask.ca](https://indigenous.usask.ca).



VIDO-INTERVAC A WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY

 JAMES SHEWAGA

It is one of the largest and most advanced infectious disease research facilities in the world, with unique features that attract scientists from across the country and around the globe.

With researchers currently serving on the front lines in the world's battle against COVID-19, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is garnering global attention.



Featuring approximately 285,000-square feet and more than \$200 million in state-of-the-art containment Level 2 and 3 infrastructure, VIDO-InterVac was the first in the country to isolate SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and was also the first lab in the country to test a vaccine in animal models.

“We are very well-positioned for this,” said VIDO-InterVac Director Dr. Volker Gerdtts (DVM). “VIDO-InterVac is one of the largest Level 3 high-containment facilities in the world. There are four pathogen levels, and SARS-CoV-2 requires Level 3 containment.”

VIDO-InterVac's work during the global pandemic is the latest in a long line of world-leading human and animal research initiatives that have taken place over the last few decades at the facility, from early research on calf scours in the 1970s, to African swine fever, SARS and Zika virus, to antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

“We are proud that our scientists at VIDO-InterVac—a world leader in developing vaccines against infectious diseases—are working with the National Research Council and other partners around the world to advance our efforts in combatting the global COVID-19 pandemic,” stated USask President Peter Stoicheff.

VIDO-InterVac, which was originally established in 1975 and held the grand opening of its containment Level 3 facility in 2011, has commercialized eight vaccines, and has been granted more than 110 patents in Canada and the United States.

Among its unique features, VIDO-InterVac has the country's largest and most advanced containment Level 3 agriculture facility designed to support large animal and small animal efficacy trials. In addition to the buildings on campus, VIDO-InterVac has a 160-acre research station for containment Level 2 large animal studies.

Backed by new federal and provincial funding, VIDO-InterVac is now establishing Good Manufacturing Practices pilot-scale manufacturing in its containment Level 3 facility to produce human and animal vaccines.

“Current manufacturing capacity for flexible vaccine development is limited in Canada,” Gerdtts said. “We want to build a manufacturing facility that allows us to manufacture vaccine candidates and take them into clinical testing for humans and for animals. Once established and fully operational, the manufacturing facility could also play a role in Canada's emergency preparedness for (COVID-19) and other emerging infectious diseases.”

