

RESEARCH UPDATE

DISCOVERIES WITH IMPACT

U of S research finds good news for Saskatchewan's woodland caribou

A team led by **Philip McLoughlin** (Biology) and **Jill Johnstone** (Biology) has found the woodland caribou population in the remote boreal region of Saskatchewan has been slightly increasing over the past two years, and exists at one of the highest densities in Canada. The interim report released November 22 on the population dynamics and critical habitat are the first findings of a five-year study. [Read the report and learn more the study.](#)

U of S research boosts omega-3 in eggs with new ingredient for laying hen diets in Canada

Laying hen producers in Canada can now add camelina meal to their ingredient inventory thanks to efforts by the U of S Department of Animal and Poultry Science, in collaboration with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Meal made from camelina, a drought tolerant oilseed belonging to the Brassica family, has been approved in broiler and now laying hen diets by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The oil extracted from camelina has shown value as a human food product, biofuel and other bio-based industrial products, but until recently there had been no market for the meal produced as a byproduct during oil processing. [More details are available here.](#)

YOUNG INNOVATORS

Young Innovators is a series of articles written by U of S graduate students under the mentorship and supervision of University Research Profile and Impact about graduate student researchers. It's a partnership between U of S and *The StarPhoenix*. [See the latest articles here.](#)

REPUTATIONAL SUCCESS

Jim Waldram wins SSHRC Insight Award

Jim Waldram (Archaeology and Anthropology) has won the 2016 Insight award from SSHRC. The prestigious award was presented at a ceremony in Ottawa on November 22. This award honours Professor Waldram's outstanding achievement in understandings of Indigenous health and well-being arising from his ongoing work with the Q'eqchi' Maya of southern Belize and for his overall career achievements. [Read more about his research and watch the documentary he produced here.](#)

Ajay Dalai elected as fellow of U.K. Royal Society of Chemistry

Ajay Dalai (Chemical and Biochemical Engineering) was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom.

Former researcher earns World Agriculture Prize

Lorne Babiuk, former U of S researcher, former director of VIDO, and current VP Research at the University of Alberta, was awarded the *World Agriculture Prize* by Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) for lifetime contributions as a renowned virologist, acclaimed for his international leadership in vaccine development and research in veterinary infectious disease control. Babiuk is one of the country's leaders in health research. He led a team that developed six world-first livestock vaccines, including the first genetically engineered vaccine for an animal species, and a vaccine against rotavirus in calves that has since been translated to treat the viral bowel infection in children. He also set in motion the creation of the International Vaccine Centre (InterVac). [Read more details here.](#)

VIDO-InterVac wins two major awards for PEDV Vaccine

For its short timeline to develop the vaccine for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) and its potential to protect swine, VIDO-InterVac has just received two awards:

- On November 16, VIDO-InterVac received the inaugural *Science, Technology, Innovation and Collaboration (STIC) Project Award* by the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) for a pioneering project from the Saskatoon Region that adds value to the local economy, and
- on November 15, the *2016 Saskatchewan Pork Award of Distinction* by SaskPork for outstanding contributions to the Canadian swine industry.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) is a high risk pig virus that emerged in the U.S. in 2013 and Canada in 2014. To date, the virus has killed over eight million pigs and caused more than \$400 million in production losses in North America.

U of S researchers make waves at SETAC

This year, U of S made 63 presentations at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) World Congress, held November 6-10 in Orlando, Florida – the most of any academic institution, and the most ever presented by U of S. SETAC is the largest professional society globally in the field of environmental toxicology with about 3,000 members in North America and 6,000 worldwide, and branches on five continents. From the North American branch (SETAC-NA) over the last 10 years, only Environment Canada and the U.S. EPA have had more presentations. **Karsten Liber** (SENS) serves as SETAC-NA's President.

INITIATIVES

Industry Liaison Office (ILO) launched Student Desktop Researcher (SDR) Program

As part of the ILO's efforts to promote entrepreneurial culture, three students were hired to help U of S researchers and ILO professionals assess and develop new technologies and innovative ideas. The newly launched Student Desktop Researcher (SDR) Program offers undergraduate and graduate students a chance to explore the dynamics of innovation and business development. The ILO is partnering with USSU, GSA, ISAAC and SECC in a continuous recruitment effort which aims to hire 10 students by December and 50 by the end of 2017.

AIMday® is coming to North America

U of S Industry Liaison Office (ILO) and the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII), in collaboration with the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, are hosting *AIMday® Minerals 2017* on March 15, 2017 in Saskatoon. Academia Industry Meeting days (AIMday®), originated and developed by Uppsala University, are structured around questions submitted by companies – those questions form the basis for workshops and discussions by academics from various disciplines. The goal is to increase interaction between the minerals sector in Saskatchewan and academic researchers by focusing on specific R&D challenges with an aim to identify pathways to innovative, sustainable solutions.

U of S provides funding for childhood neurological disease research

U of S and the Ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay Foundation are working together to fund medical research on Autosomal recessive spastic ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay (ARSACS), a neurodegenerative disease that first appears in toddlers just as they are beginning to walk. The

funding comes from the U of S's Richardson Family Fund and will support research currently underway at the Montreal Neurologic Institute (MNI), McGill University. **Richard Huntsman** (Medicine) will aid the work of Drs. Peter McPherson and Edward Fon at the MNI to investigate the cellular underpinning of ARSACS. [For full details, read more here.](#)

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING SUCCESS

- ❖ **Craig Stephen** (Veterinary Microbiology), on behalf of the Canadian Wildlife Health Co-operative, has been awarded core funding in the sum of \$2.2 million from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- ❖ **Gillian Muir** (Veterinary Biomedical Sciences) \$594,950 USD from the U.S. Army for the project, *Recovery of Breathing and Forelimb Function after Prolonged Exposure to Repetitive Acute Intermittent Hypoxia*.
- ❖ **Ryan Brook** (Animal and Poultry Science) received an additional \$140,000 USD from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the project *Feral Swine Data Collection and Modelling*. This additional funding brings the project total to \$600,530 USD.
- ❖ **Gregory Penner** (Animal and Poultry Science) received \$106,961 from Alberta Milk and the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency Ltd. for the project *Evaluating Strategies to Improve the Feeding Management of Dairy Cows Housed in Automated Milking Systems*.
- ❖ **Regina Taylor-Gjevrev** (General Internal Medicine) was awarded \$14,800 from the Arthritis Society for the project, *Longitudinal Shared Experience with Rheumatic Diseases for First Year Medical Students*.

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada - Hermès Canada | MS Society Wellness Research Innovation Grants

- ❖ **Charity Evans** (Pharmacy) was awarded \$39,935 for the project, *Determining the impact of a Pilates program in multiple sclerosis*.
- ❖ **Katherine Knox** (Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) received \$39,730 for the project, *Web-based physiotherapy in moderate to severe MS*.

INTERNATIONAL

International Grant Funding Success

Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) Scholarships

U of S has been awarded \$204,340 for 24 students and researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean for short-term exchange to study and/or research at the U of S at both undergraduate and graduate levels in multiple colleges and departments. ELAP is funded by Global Affairs Canada, and administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education. Recipients are from **Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico**

International Activities and Partnerships

U of S researcher presenting at United Nations climate change conference

Greg Poelzer (SENS), founding director of U of S International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, presented key findings on renewable energy in a report entitled, *Developing renewable energy in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions and communities: Working recommendations of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Energy Group*, at the United Nations Marrakech Climate Change Conference on Nov. 17 in Marrakech, Morocco. [For further details, consult this release.](#)

International Delegations to U of S

- ❖ **University of Lagos, Nigeria** – October 31-November 2. A delegate met with representatives from the Department of Geography and Planning, and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and toured many laboratories across campus. Discussions were on next steps in our new partnership.
- ❖ **Ambassador of Japan to Canada** – October 25. Delegates met with representatives from Finance, Administration and Human Resources offices, AgWest Bio, POS Biosciences, and the Regional Director of Natural Products Canada. They toured Ag-West Bio and POS Biosciences.
- ❖ **Embassy of France in Canada, Vancouver Consulate** – October 31-November 1. Delegates met with U of S President Peter Stoicheff, Vice-President Research Karen Chad, IO, ISSAC, the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies, the School of Public Health, and the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS). They toured the Canadian Light Source and GIFS.
- ❖ **Consul General of the U.K. in Calgary** – November 1. Delegates met with Diane Martz, Director, International Research and Partnerships.
- ❖ **Luleå University of Technology, Sweden** – November 7-8. A delegate met with representatives from IO, ISSAC, College of Arts & Science and Edwards School of Business.
- ❖ **University of Liverpool, U.K.** – November 9. A delegate met with representatives from IO, ISSAC, College of Arts and Science, Edwards School of Business, and College of Law.

Delegations of U of S abroad:

- ❖ **U of S Students Union (USSU) trip to the U.K.** – November 4-13. Four students from USSU, accompanied by Leslie Bowditch of ISSAC,

met with the National Union of Students, and representatives from the student unions of Essex, Birmingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh universities. This site visit tour was based on the recognition of the critical role that the U of S Students' Union (USSU) plays in internationalization and of its record of exceptional executive student leadership.

International Agreements

MOU Agreements:

- ❖ **Baylor University (Toxicology Centre), U.S.** – signed November 07, 2016
- ❖ **ONIRIS (Nantes Atlantic College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering), France** – signed September 16, 2016
- ❖ **University of the Arctic (Network)**, a cooperative network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North – signed September 20, 2016
- ❖ **CESINE University Centre, Spain** – signed October 06, 2016

Student Exchange Agreement:

- ❖ **CESINE University Centre (Edwards School of Business), Spain** – signed October 06, 2016

Staff / Faculty Exchange Agreements:

- ❖ **Iwate University, Japan** – signed October 5, 2016