

INITIATIVES

U of S Climbs to 11th on Research InfoSource Rankings

In 2013-14, U of S research revenue grew by \$37M to a total of \$195M, the third highest growth in Canada. This moves the U of S from 14th to 11th in Canada on Research InfoSource's annual rankings. While Research InfoSource also reported an overall decrease in research income across the country this year, Prairie universities took in a combined 8.6% more in research funding. The U of S led the way in this Prairie growth with an increase of 23.6% over the 2013 fiscal year.

Industry Connect Event Held

The Industry Liaison Office co-hosted **Industry Connect 2015** on September 30th. The event linked local manufacturing companies with academics with the aim of working towards solutions to engineering and ICT challenges. The fully-subscribed event also included presentations by NSERC, MITACS, and the National Research Council to introduce attendees to available funding opportunities. The event was co-hosted along with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina, and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

Innovation Expert Joins U of S Industry Liaison Office

The U of S has hired **Johannes Dyring**, an accomplished leader in advancing university research commercialization, entrepreneurship and innovation in Sweden. Dyring joined the Industry Liaison Office (ILO) as managing director on October 27th. The Office of the Vice-President Research welcomes Johannes and thanks interim managing director Tom Roberts for his guidance during transition. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/7cGyHy>.

Collaborative Research Initiative Launched

The Office of the Vice-President Research has begun investigating the collaborative research environment at the U of S with the aim of more effectively supporting collaborative research. A university-wide survey is being developed with the Social Sciences Research Lab to determine faculty experiences with collaborative research endeavours. In-depth consultations with diverse groups will also take place to inform upon how to best support, promote and maintain collaborative research efforts.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

Funding for International Student Scholarships

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada has awarded the U of S \$272,070 for international student scholarships. The funding will support up to 33 students from ten Latin American and Caribbean countries with short-term scholarships for attending the U of S. Awarded students originate from: **Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

Health Services Research Funded

Jacqueline Quail (Public Health) and co-investigators **Nazeem Muhajarine** (Public Health), **Cory Neudorf** (Community Health and Epidemiology) were awarded a total of \$180,884 for the project "*HOTSPOTTING: Identifying Superusers of Health Care Services with Mental Health and Addiction Problems.*" Funding comes from CIHR, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

NSERC Awards Engage Grants

NSERC has awarded 22 U of S researchers Engage grants of up to \$25,000 each for projects with an industry partner. The recipients were:

- ❖ **Lifeng Zhang** (Chemical and Bio. Engineering) for the project "*Characterization of Electrostatic Charges of Fungal Spores and Their Impact on Spore Viability*" with Novozymes BioAg Limited.
- ❖ **Nadeem Jamali** (Computer Science) for the project "*Actors-based Engineering Methodology for Software as a Service (SaaS)*" with Updex Solutions Inc.
- ❖ **Oon-Doo Baik** (Chemical and Bio. Engineering) for the project "*Torrefaction and Densification of Biomass from Municipal Solid Waste*" with Waste Management Services of the City of Edmonton.
- ❖ **Won Jae Chang** (Civil and Geological Engineering) for the project "*Lime-based Stabilization of Residual Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Contaminated Soils after Biodegradation*" with Graymont Western Canada Inc.
- ❖ **Duncan Cree** (Mechanical Engineering) for the project "*Innovative Oilfield Application for Flax Fiber, Shives and Dust*" with Biolin Research Inc.
- ❖ **Karl-Erich Lindenschmidt** (SENS) for the project "*Incorporating Ice Jam Modelling into Flood Risk Assessment and Mapping*" with Stantec.
- ❖ **Francis Bui** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) for the project "*Physiological Signal Monitoring for a Novel Horse Sling Design*" with RMD Engineering Inc.
- ❖ **Qiaoqin Yang** (Mechanical Engineering) for the project "*Large Area Deposition of Adherent Diamond-Like Carbon Thin Films on Plastics Using End-Hall Ion Sources*" with Intlvac.
- ❖ **Carey Simonson** (Mechanical Engineering) for the project "*Characterizing Energy Wheel Matrixes Through Transient Testing*" with Engineered Air.
- ❖ **Raymond Spiteri** (Computer Science) for the project "*Mathematical Modelling and Simulation of Product-innovation Diffusion*" with Asmoteknologies, Ltd.
- ❖ **Lope Tabil** (Chemical and Bio. Engineering) for the project "*Pelletization Trials for Refuse Derived Fuel Fluff to Produce High quality Feedstock*" with Waste Management Services of the City of Edmonton.
- ❖ **Jo-Anne Dillon** (VIDO) for the project "*Application of Accutas Hydrogel Technology for Gonorrhea Diagnosis and No/Go Decision for Ciprofloxacin Use at POC*" with Aquila Diagnostic Systems Inc.
- ❖ **Li Chen** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) for the project "*BotSpine - A General Interface Between Smart Phones and Robotics*" with Environmental Instruments Canada Inc.
- ❖ **Yuanming Pan** (Geological Sciences) for the project "*EPR Study of Radiation-Induced Defects in Quartz at the Arrow Showing, Northern Saskatchewan*" with NexGen Energy Ltd.
- ❖ **Carl Gutwin** (Computer Science) for the project "*Gesture-Based Definition of User Gameplay Experiences*" with Experience First Design Inc.
- ❖ **Angela Bedard-Haughn** (Soil Science) for the project "*Integrating Soil Property Surveys and Soil Landscape Models in the Development of a Habitat Suitability Model for Dakota Skipper, a Threatened Butterfly Species*" with Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- ❖ **Kevin Stanley** (Computer Science) for the project "*Data Linking and Mining for Agricultural Exchange Systems*" with Ag Exchange Group Inc.
- ❖ **Qiaoqin Yang** (Mechanical Engineering) for the project "*Development of High Power Microwave Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition System for High Speed Large Area Synthesis of Diamond and Graphene*" with Plasmionique Inc.
- ❖ **Gabriela Mangano** (Geological Sciences) for the project "*Geothermal Potential for the Cambrian-Ordovician Deadwood Formation of Saskatchewan*" with DEEP Earth Energy Corp.
- ❖ **Regan Mandryk** (Computer Science) for "*Metrics to Facilitate Playtesting in Small independent Teams of Game Developers*" with Alientrap Games.
- ❖ **Janet Hill** (Veterinary Microbiology) for the project "*Optimization a Protocol for Microbiome Profiling of Self-collected Vaginal Samples*" with Eve Medical Inc.
- ❖ **Safa Kasap** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) for the project "*Synthesis and Properties of Vanadium Dioxide Thin Films for use as Optical Switches*" with Cisco Systems Canada Inc.

\$4M in Contract Funding Secured

Researchers at the U of S have recently secured nearly \$4M in research funding through contracts with partners:

❖ **Kirstin Bett** (Plant Sciences) and **Albert Vandenberg** (Crop Development Centre) have received \$2,563,833, from Genome Prairie and \$1,046,188 from the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board for the project “*Application of Genomics to Innovation in the Lentil Economy (AGILE)*.”

❖ **Sylvia van den Hurk** (VIDO) has received \$150,000 from the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) for her project “*Optimization of a Novel Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus Vaccine by Transdermal Needle-free Delivery and Antigen Sparing*.”

❖ The **Department of Biology** has received \$70,000 from Environment Canada for the project “*Overabundant Geese – Understanding Changing Snow Goose Population Dynamics and Implications for Habitat Impacts and Population Reduction*.”

PARTNERSHIPS

International Agreements Signed

The U of S has recently signed the following international agreements:

- ❖ A student exchange agreement for 2nd and 3rd year Law students with **Lund University** in Sweden.
- ❖ A partnership for student exchange with **Universidad Austral de Chile** motivated by the Canada Brazil Awards - Joint Research Projects.
- ❖ An MOU formalizing partnerships with the **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**, **University of North Carolina at Pembroke**, and **Swinburne University of Technology at Melbourne**.

Visitors to the U of S

The U of S is currently hosting three interns from **Iwate University** in Japan. **Yoichi Miyagawa** (Associate Professor, Faculty of Education), **Fumie Nagai** (Officer, United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences), and **Misaki Ito** (Officer, General Administration and Public Relations Division) are gaining experience with U of S units related to their job duties during the fall semester. Other recent visitors include:

- ❖ A delegation from the **Chinese Embassy** in Ottawa visited on September 24th to discuss current collaborations with Chinese universities and future student exchange and scholarship opportunities.
- ❖ A delegation including the ambassador of the **Republic of Korea** in Canada visited on October 2nd to discuss education collaboration opportunities.
- ❖ The ambassador of the **Czech Republic** in Canada visited on October 9th to meet with senior administrators and faculty members.
- ❖ The scientific director of **CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health**, Cara Tannenbaum, visited on October 15th and 16th, co-hosted by the School of Physical Therapy and the OVPR.