

REPUTATIONAL SUCCESSES

U of S Student Achievements Recognized Around the World

The innovative work of U of S students is receiving major recognition in leading research publications, at international competitions, and by prestigious research societies. Highlights of recent achievements include:

- ❖ PhD student **Jaivime Evaristo** (SENS) published a study in the journal *Nature* which challenges the common understanding of how water moves through soil. Read more at: <http://goo.gl/snEmPw>
- ❖ **University of Saskatchewan Space Design Team** took first place in the European Rover Challenge for their Mars rover. Read more at: <http://goo.gl/mV1Ucy>
- ❖ **Scott Adams** (Medicine) was awarded the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award for medical students. Read more at: <http://goo.gl/ENXWnG>
- ❖ **Dania Alkhani's** (Dentistry) research into more effective treatments for oral cancer has been recognized as the top student research project in the country by the Canadian Dental Association. Read more at: <http://goo.gl/40m9Y0>

Coates and McDonnell Elected to Royal Society of Canada

Two faculty members have been honoured with fellowships of the Royal Society of Canada. **Ken Coates** (Public Policy), Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, was named a fellow in the Academy of Social Sciences, and **Jeff McDonnell** (SENS) was elected as a fellow in the Academy of Science.

U of S Faculty Double Major Awards Total

U of S faculty were recognized with eight major national and international awards in 2014. This total is up from four awards in 2013 and two in 2012, ranking the U of S 8th in the country on awards performance. The Office of the Vice-President Research employs a full-time awards facilitator to help identify and nominate candidates for national recognition. Anyone interested in nominating a colleague for a major award is invited to contact sara.mueller@usask.ca.

INITIATIVES

Undergraduate Research Initiative Expands to Four Colleges

This fall, the **Undergraduate Research Initiative** has expanded to collaborating with ten faculty from four colleges. The Initiative offers support such as funding for research coaches to faculty who offer in-class research experiences in their entry-level courses. Previous collaborators from the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources and Arts & Science are joined this year by colleagues from the College of Education and Edwards School of Business. This semester the Initiative is helping to expose 1200 largely first-year students to experiential-learning aligned with course objectives.

Undergraduates Complete Summer Research Projects

During this past summer, 88 undergraduate students held research assistantships with faculty as a result of \$300,000 in matching funding provided by the **Undergraduate Student Research Assistantship** program (USRA) administered by the Undergraduate Research Initiative. These OVPR-USRA grants are allocated to academic units based on rates of undergraduate enrolment and allow faculty to hire undergraduate students to assist with research, scholarly or artistic works between May and August.

U of S Teams Up with Harvard Affiliate

U of S scientists are teaming up with colleagues at a Harvard-affiliated research centre in Boston to advance the cutting-edge field of using stem cells for brain repair. **Dr. Ivar Mendez** (Surgery) leads the Saskatchewan Brain Repair Program which has signed an agreement with the Center for Neuroregeneration Research at McLean Hospital to collaborate on basic research and explore opportunities for clinical programs and trials in areas such as surgery and nerve cell transplantation. To learn more, visit: <http://goo.gl/TLVsKq>.

UnivRS Launches in Pilot Colleges

The **University Research System** (UnivRS) launched the Pre-and Post-Award Management module to the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on August 10th. Feedback from faculty and staff in these units will ensure the system is ready to launch campus-wide in the coming year. For more information on UnivRS, visit: <http://goo.gl/eztQli>.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

Funding for Breast Cancer Research

Two U of S researchers have secured a combined \$740,000 through contracts with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation:

- ❖ **Yulian Wu** (Biochemistry) received \$373,500 for the project "*HAGE: A Potential Biomarker and Therapeutic Target for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer*".
- ❖ **Humphrey Fonge** (Medical Imaging) has received \$366,550 for the project "*Targeted Alpha Particle Therapy of Her2- Resistant Cancers Using Novel Antibody-Drug Radio Conjugates*".

Researchers Secure Partnership Development Grants

Two U of S researchers were successful in securing SSHRC Partnership Development grants:

- ❖ **Clint Westman** (Archaeology and Anthropology) was awarded \$200,000 for "*Cultural Politics of Energy in Northern Alberta: Aboriginal Communities and the Impacts, Benefits and Consultation Processes of Bitumen, Oil and Natural Gas Extraction*".
- ❖ **Jeremy Rayner** (Public Policy) was awarded \$141,590 for the project "*Small Nuclear Innovation Policy Partnership*".

Mousseau Named to Research Chair

Darrell Mousseau (Psychiatry) was awarded a \$1 M Research Chair in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. Funding will come over five years from U of S partners the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).

SSHRC Awards Insight Development Grants

Four U of S researchers were recently awarded SSHRC Insight Development Grants:

- ❖ **Dirk Morrison** (Curriculum Studies) was awarded \$50,131 for the project "*How Older Adults Use Personal Learning Networks to Support Informal, Self-Directed Lifelong Learning Goals*".
- ❖ **Karim Tharani** (Library) was awarded \$54,176 for the project "*A Model for Searching the Deep Web Using Linked Data*".
- ❖ **Jorden Cummings** (Psychology) was awarded \$74,890 for "*A Grounded Theory Examination of Changes in Parenting Following Child Trauma*".
- ❖ **Leah Ferguson** (Kinesiology) was awarded \$70,841 for the project "*Self-Compassion in Sport: Its Stability and Longitudinal Relationships with Young Women Athletes Performance and Eudaimonic Well-Being During a Competitive Season*".

Further SSHRC Successes

Two additional researchers were recently successful in receiving SSHRC funding:

- ❖ **George Keyworth** (Religion and Culture) was awarded a \$50,071 SSHRC Insight Grant for "Buddhist Canon of Matsuno'o Shrine."
- ❖ **Elizabeth Quinlan** (Sociology) was awarded a \$22,147 SSHRC Connection Grant for "*Disseminating Socio-Historical Research Through Theatre: The Work of Women's Auxiliaries in the 1940s - 1960s.*"

Mental Health Hub Funded

Caroline Tait (Psychiatry) has received \$89,000 from the Canadian Depression Research and Intervention Network Secretariat for her project entitled "*First Peoples - First Person: Canadian Indigenous Depression Research and Intervention Network Hub.*"

Plant Sciences Research Receives Support

Two U of S researchers have secured a combined \$680,000 through contracts with the Western Grains Research Foundation:

- ❖ **Chris Willenborg** (Plant Sciences) has received a total of \$276,736 from the Western Grains Research Foundation and the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission for "*Integrated Crop Management for High Yielding Flax Production.*"
- ❖ **Ravi Chibbar** (Plant Sciences) has received \$404,416 for the ongoing project "*Genomic Strategies to Improve Field Survival of Winter Cereals and Stabilized Yield.*" This funding is in addition to previous contributions from the Alberta Wheat Commission, the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission and Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc.

PARTNERSHIPS

International Delegations Visit the U of S

The U of S welcomed 9 international delegations in the past month:

- ❖ A delegation from **Jilin University**, China visited on August 26 and signed a general collaboration MOU.
- ❖ Tanu Jindal, Director of the Institute of Environmental Science at **Amity University** in India visited the Global Institute for Water Security from August 22nd-24th.
- ❖ A delegation of senior administrators, professors, and students from **Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University** in India visited from August 29 to September 4 to participate in WCVI's annual summer school program.
- ❖ Two leading members of **Chem-Invest LLP** in Kazakhstan visited the U of S on September 14th. The delegates held meetings with the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) and Edwards School of Business to learn about the Canadian mining industry as well as environmental protection plans and business strategies.
- ❖ A delegation from **Iwate University**, Japan visited from September 14th-15th and signed an agreement regarding a dual PhD program.
- ❖ Gesa Mackenthun from **Rostock University** in Germany visited from September 21st-25th to hold meetings and deliver a presentation on "*Embattled Antiquity, Colonial and Post-Colonial Inventions of the American Ancient Past.*"
- ❖ A delegation from **Pandit Deenayal Petroleum University (PDPU)**, India visited on September 21.
- ❖ Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa visited on September 24th to discuss the active collaborations between the U of S and Chinese universities.
- ❖ A delegation from **Waseda University** in Japan visited on September 25th. The delegates held meetings with a number of colleges to explore collaboration opportunities.