



April 2018 - Issue #4

Discovery Digest

Highlights of U of S research news

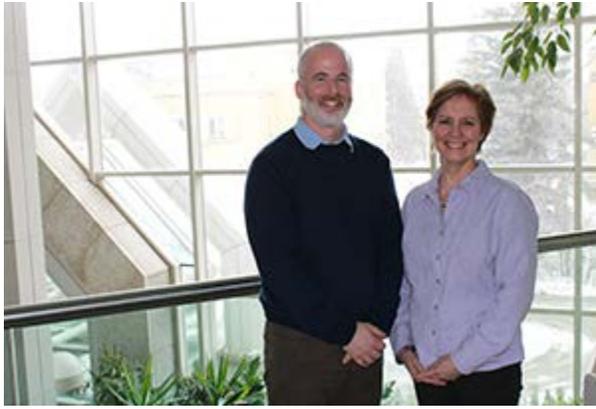
In this issue: New UNESCO Chair, new Canada 150 Chair, CFI boost to cancer, water, and food security research, and more!

Each month, U of S Research Profile and Impact assembles a selection of research stories from across campus. It's a glimpse into how U of S research, scholarly and artistic work is making a difference for Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.



CFI boosts U of S research in cancer, water, and food security research with high-tech tool funding

Five researchers at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have been awarded a total of \$625,000 by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for state-of-the-art equipment that advances their leading-edge work in precision medicine, water research and swine welfare. [Read more here.](#)



New UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal

USask School of Environment and Sustainability professors **Maureen Reed** and **James Robson** have been jointly named Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The UNESCO Chair will work in partnership with international organizations and communities across Canada, in Latin America and in South Africa effectively combining Indigenous and Western knowledge to promote productive and biodiverse landscapes and territories.



U of S recruits world-leading U.S. water scientist to Canada 150 Research Chair

The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) has recruited NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory senior water scientist **Jay Famiglietti** as Canada 150 Research Chair in Hydrology and Remote Sensing and the new executive director of the U of S Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) as of July 1, building on the university's excellence in water science and bringing top international talent to the country. **Read about it at [Research.usask.ca](https://research.usask.ca) or watch a video where Famiglietti discusses his research and coming to U of S.**

In **THE CONVERSATION**



The fishy problem of underwater noise pollution

Writing in *The Conversation Canada*, Prof. **Maud Ferrari** and post-doc **Adam Crane** describe the harmful impacts underwater noise produced by humans is having on aquatic animals - distracting, confusing — and even killing them.



Paying surrogates, sperm and egg donors goes against Canadian values

Writing in *The Conversation Canada*, **Alana Cattapan** professor at Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Dalhousie University Prof. **Françoise Baylis** argue that a recently announced private member's bill to allow Canadians to pay for surrogacy, and sperm and egg donation is ill-conceived.



New research partnership makes childbirth safer in Mozambique

In [The Conversation Canada](#) , community health and epidemiology professor **Nazeem Muhajarine** details the U of S-government of Mozambique five-year maternal health project to bolster local health services. Mozambique has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world. The project aims to improve access to health-care services for mothers, reduce maternal deaths and improve newborn health.

Write about your own research in The Conversation

Want to reach a broad audience with your research? Consider submitting an item to the Conversation, an academic journalism hub of which U of S is a co-founding member. [Read more here](#) or [get in touch with Sarah Peiris](#).



Images of Research Photo-Imaging Competition Winners unveiled

The winners of the fourth annual U of S Images of Research competition were unveiled in dramatic fashion at a small reception on April 4. Top prizes were awarded to graduate students, a post-doctoral fellow, faculty and staff from a field of 86 entries across five colleges, three schools, and two research centres. [View the winning entries online](#) or in-person **April 16-20th** in Place Riel, North concourse.

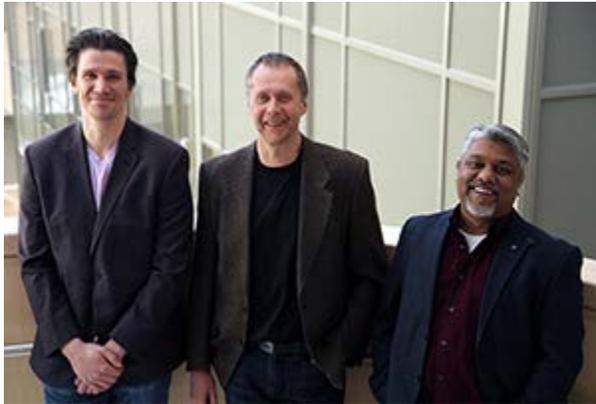


New drone video: A Campus for all Seasons

The Research Profile and Impact Unit, in collaboration with Media Production, has launched a new drone video that demonstrates the beauty of USask campus through all the seasons. Funded through the U of S Canada 150 Project, the winter video features undergraduate

student **Tiana Kirstein** and crop sciences master's student **Anne Nerbas**, members of the U of S Anne Collingridge Figure Skating Club, and music performed by the **Greystone Singers** .

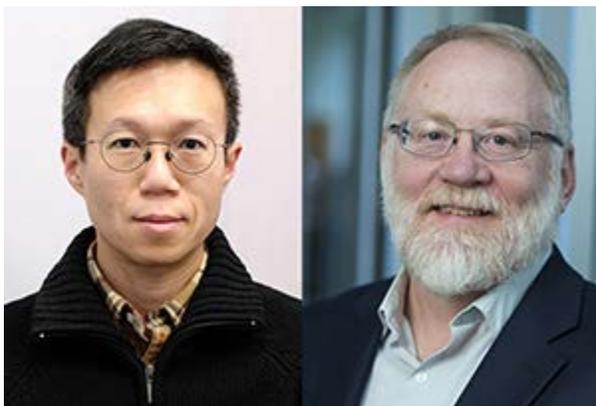
Health Research



Collaborating to design personalized treatment for breast cancer

USask cancer researchers **Andrew Freywald** and **Franco Vizeacoumar**, and **Eric Price**, Canada Research Chair in Radiochemistry, are collaborating on a research project to find methods to attack a sub-type of aggressive breast cancer for which there currently is no targeted therapy. Their four-year project to develop personalized therapy that increases the survival of triple-negative breast cancer patients has been awarded \$558,000 by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

Food Security Research



Two top U.S. scientists join USask food security research

Two scientists recruited from major American universities by plant scientist Leon Kochian for his \$20-million CERC in Food Systems and Security research program are the latest to join USask. Plant molecular and cell biologist **Byung-Kook (Brian) Ham** joins USask from the University of California Davis, where he was an associate project scientist, and computational

biologist **Dave Schneider** joins the U of S from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) chair in digital and computational agriculture and graduate chair and professor at the USask School of Environment and Sustainability.

Flagship programs at the University of Saskatchewan such as the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) and two Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) programs are helping to create a cluster of expertise in world-class plant breeding and attract top researchers.

[Read more here.](#)



Rooting out secrets to creating better crops

Internationally recognized plant scientist Leon Kochian, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Food Systems and Security and Associate Director of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan, has been granted \$800,000 by Innovation Saskatchewan to equip a new research laboratory that will improve crop productivity and resiliency. [Read more here.](#)

Commercialization



Ten applicants chosen for Co.Launch

Ten companies have been chosen for the Innovation Enterprise-sponsored **Co.Launch** technology accelerator program. Companies chosen receive mentorship and funding opportunities to move from concept to commercialization in three months. A majority of the companies chosen, as well as a majority of team members from those companies, are either USask alumni or students.

The program is co-sponsored by U of S Innovation Enterprise, Innovation Saskatchewan, and Co.Labs, Saskatchewan's first technology accelerator. Teams compete for a \$15,000 cash prize, a ticket to Startupfest 2018 in Montreal, and a spot in the fall 2018 Co.Labs cohort.

Young Innovators



New tool helps minimize impact of solar activity

USask researcher **Lindsay Goodwin's** research using the SuperDARN radar may help predict, and possibly prevent, the negative effects of space weather on the International Space Station and on communication systems. [Read more in the *Young Innovators* series.](#)

A Green and White Globe



Through a Canadian Farm Woman's Lens

History professor **Keith Carlson**, working in collaboration with visiting journalism professor **Liang Zhao** of Sichuan University, is creating an exhibit based around the 1971 photographs of China by **Evelyn Potter**, Saskatchewan farmer and former president of the Women's National Farmer's Union. Only 13 weeks after the Canadian government officially recognized the People's Republic of China, Potter was an essential part of an unofficial delegation, representing the agricultural sector.

One hundred of the most illustrative of her 1,200 Kodachrome slides of China help tell the story of the crucial months when diplomatic relations were first being forged with the West. Original archival research and interviews are underway, with the aim of the exhibit launching in August.

In the Arts

14 Hours



A Photography Exchange Exhibition
University of Saskatchewan + Hubei Institute of Fine Arts

14 Hours: A Photography Exchange Exhibition

Referring to the time difference between Saskatoon and Wuhan, China, *14 Hours* features 30 artists in a photographic cultural exchange between U of S and Hubei Institute of Fine Arts. The exhibition is curated by **Patricia Bazylak**, **Taza Iron**, and **Kyle Zurevinski**. It travels to the Hubei Institute in May. **Exhibition April 9-20, reception Friday April 20, 7-10 p.m., Snelgrove Gallery, free and open to the public.**

We want your feedback! **What do you think of Discovery Digest?**

Looking for past issues of Discovery Digest or Research Update? Visit **Research.usask.ca** for more.

You are receiving this email because you are a student, faculty or staff at the U of S. Questions? Comments? Send an email to **Research Profile and Impact**.



For more information,
visit Research.usask.ca or contact research.communications@usask.ca

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