

# Innovating life

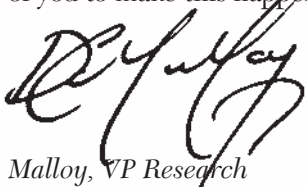
Quarterly Research Update from the University of Regina

## Introductory Remarks from the Vice-President (Research) Dr. David Malloy

Welcome to the second issue of the *Innovating Life* research update—our quarterly report on the University of Regina's research activities on and off campus. As you will read in the many stories to follow, research at our university continues to flourish on a variety of fronts. The successes across disciplines and faculties demonstrate clearly that we are making an impact both nationally and internationally through our work.

As you know, we have, in recent months, invited reviews by both the Provincial Auditor and external research peers. In both cases, it has been shown that we face many challenges in our research policies, processes, funding, and infrastructure. These are challenges, to be sure, and in some case, will be neither simple, nor inexpensive to address. However, as both Vice-President (Research) and a professor, I also view these as tremendous opportunities to change the way we do what we do, and to enhance the research culture on our campus.

The coming months will be a period of transition and positive transformation for the University's research enterprise, and I am dedicated to work with each one of you to make this happen. ■



DC Malloy, VP Research

PHOTO: GABRIEL YAHYAKKEKOOT



## FUNDING THE WAY FORWARD

### [OCTOBER]

A team of researchers from the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC) was awarded a new grant in the amount of \$535,556 over three years from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. The grant, *Kitinikewin misiwanacihisowin: Researching arts-based wellness promotion for suicide prevention among Aboriginal youth*, builds on an existing CIHR arts-based research project that works in partner-

ship with the Fire Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Health Services.

[OCTOBER] Dr. Gordon Huang, Canada Research Chair Tier 1 and Professor in Engineering, obtained a research grant for a project entitled "Developing Future Projected IDF Curves Across the Entire Province and to Make the Project Results and All Associated Data Publicly Available on a Data Portal" from the Ontario Ministry of Environment in the amount of \$100,000.

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**[OCTOBER]** Dr. Tom Conroy, Associate Professor in Electronic Systems Engineering, is part of a large, multi-disciplinary team from Texas A&M which won a five-year, \$10 million grant from the Department of Energy. This team will be developing new software code for Mega-node simulation on large grid computers for thermal transport. Dr. Conroy's portion is \$150,000 over five years, and involves developing the neutron detection system as well as high-speed data storage.

**[NOVEMBER]** Sun Life Financial provided \$500,000 in funding for two important health-related initiatives at the University of Regina. The Lifestyle Management Program for Children with Diabetes will receive \$250,000, to be facilitated through the Dr. Paul Schwann Applied Health and Research Centre. Another \$250,000 will support the Psychology Training Clinic.

**[NOVEMBER]** NSERC renewed funding for the work of Canada Research Chair Dr. Christopher Somers in the amount of \$500,000. CRC in Genes and the Environment, Dr. Somers conducts research in the interactions between humans and wildlife, and the frequency of genetic mutations that can be passed on from one generation to the next.

**[JANUARY]** Three University of Regina researchers were awarded more than \$400,000 in grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI):

- Dr. Thomas Hadjistavropoulos received \$59,687, which will be matched by the Saskatchewan Innovation and Science Fund (SISF), for total funding of \$119,374;
- Dr. Josef Buttigieg was awarded \$79,808 for the Oxygen Stress Research Laboratory to study neurodegenerative diseases. This funding will also be matched by SISF; and
- Dr. Andrew Cameron was awarded \$75,501 to study the genetic mechanisms that control bacterial diseases. Funding to be matched by SISF. ■



PHOTO: PATRICIA HOLDSWORTH

## UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES

**[OCTOBER]**

**D**r. Bruno Dupeyron, Associate Professor in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, was awarded two Fulbright awards—one as the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Policy Studies at the University of Texas, and the other as the Fulbright Canada-CN Scholar at Western Washington University.



PHOTO: AMY HAMPTON

MICHELLE GAGNON

**[OCTOBER]** Michelle Gagnon, a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Psychology, was awarded the highly prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. This award, valued at \$50,000 per year for three years, is one of the most significant awards available to PhD students in Canada.

**[NOVEMBER]** Dr. David Malloy, Vice-President (Research) and professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, was invited to take up residence at the University of Cambridge as a visiting scholar. During his two-week residency, Dr. Malloy collaborated with colleagues in the College of Medicine on research focusing on religion, culture, and healthcare ethics.



PHOTO: SHRF

DR. GREG MARCHILDON

**[DECEMBER]** Dr. Greg Marchildon, Canada Research Chair Tier 1 in Public Policy and Economic History, and Professor at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy received the 2013 Achievement Award from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF). This award is the Foundation's premier honour, recognizing leading health researchers for career contributions to the field.



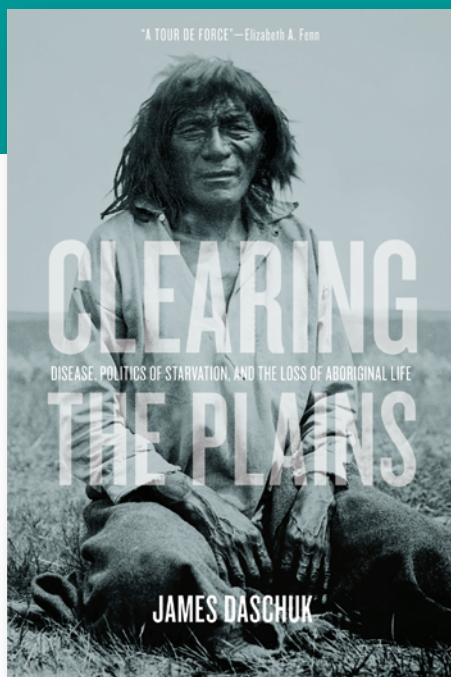


PHOTO: DOMINIQUE DASCHUK

DR. JAMES DASCHUK

**[NOVEMBER]** Dr. James Daschuk's book *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life* caught the attention of Canadian Member of Parliament Charlie Angus, who is also a singer-songwriter. Angus was inspired by the book to write a song about it, and Bruce Walsh, Director of the University of Regina Press, worked with Angus to produce a music video for the track. The music video has had more than 10,000 hits since it was released. [See the music video here.](#)

**ACCOLADES:** *Clearing The Plains*, University of Regina Press's first national bestseller, has been named "Book of the Year" by *The Globe & Mail*, *Quill and Quire*, The Writer's Trust, and The Independent Booksellers of Canada.



Longlisted for the BC Book Prize, James Daschuk's book has also been nominated for four Saskatchewan Book Awards and has received international critical acclaim.

**[JANUARY]** Dr. Gordon Asmundson, professor of Psychology and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, was selected to receive the 2014 Donald O. Hebb Award from the Canadian Psychological Association. This is the highest award bestowed by the CPA, and is intended to recognize distinguished contributions to the scientific study of Psychology. ■



DR. GORDON ASMUNDSON

PHOTO: WWW.AIBL.CA

## TAKE NOTE!

### [SEPTEMBER]

The University of Regina hosted "Pain and Education Research Day" on September 28, 2013. Activities included round-table discussions on advances in research on pain assessment, management and treatment, as well as talks by six prominent international researchers from Canada and Europe.

**[OCTOBER]** IPHRC hosted a weekend-long symposium on arts-based innovations in Aboriginal health research. Over 30 health researchers, applied arts practitioners, health professionals, and students from across North America were in attendance. [Read more about the symposium here.](#)

**[NOVEMBER]** The University of Regina moved up one spot in the annual *Maclean's* magazine university rankings, to eighth place out of 15 in the comprehensive university category. One of the areas that saw the most improvement over past

years was greater success in attracting social sciences and humanities grants.

**[NOVEMBER]** Department of Music Associate Professor Pauline Minevich published *Art of Immersive Soundscapes*. A University of Regina Press publication, this work is the culmination of a large program of research and represents a significant contribution to the field.

**[NOVEMBER]** The Humanities Research Institute and the Office of the Vice-President Research collaborated to bring attention to the central role of humanities and social sciences research on our campus and in the broader world through Humanities and Social Sciences Week from November 5-8.

**[DECEMBER]** Dr. Yiyu Yao, Professor in Computer Science, scores very high when it comes to having his work cited by other researchers. According to Google Scholar, Dr. Yao has an h-index

of 60, meaning that each of his top 60 publications has been cited in at least 60 papers. For academic researchers, the h-index gives an estimate of the importance, significance, and broad impact of a scientist's cumulative research contributions. In all, Dr. Yao's work has been cited more than 13,000 times.

**[DECEMBER]** Principal Investigator Dr. David Sauchyn and a team of U of R colleagues on the federally funded "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Extremes in the Americas" (VACEA) project travelled to Chile to participate in a conference and project workshops with colleagues from Colombia, Chile, Brazil, and Argentina. The project is managed by PARC at the University of Regina.

**[DECEMBER]** On December 16, 2013, University of Regina alumna, Dr. Yongping Li, received the 13th National Award for Youth in Science and Tech-

nology in Beijing, China. This is the top governmental award for young scientists and engineers in China. Dr. Li completed her MSc and PhD degrees at the University of Regina in 2004 and 2007 respectively, and is currently a professor at North China Electric Power University.

**[JANUARY]** The Honourable Rob Norris, the Minister of Advanced Education, met with the Vice-President (Research) and six Canada Research Chairs at the University of Regina. Discussion touched on everything from public policy to genes, and the environment.

**[JANUARY]** The University of Regina's newest faculty, the Faculty of Nursing, has recently received accredita-

tion with the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. A few of the remarkable accomplishments achieved in only three years include:

- 24 articles published in refereed journals;
- 10 invited guest speaker spots at professional events;
- 16 papers in refereed conferences;
- 19 grants (as PI, Co-PI, or Co-Investigator).

**[JANUARY]** On January 15, Dr. Raman Paranjape and his students demonstrated some of the capabilities of the unmanned aerial vehicles

(UAVs) they have been working on through an NSERC Strategic Project entitled "Flexible Control of Low Altitude UAVs". The event was featured by the Leader Post and CTV.

**[ONGOING]** PARC's Heritage Forest project, led by Dr. Norm Henderson, progressed well at a test site south of Moose Jaw, SK. Together with partners at SaskWater and at Agriculture Canada, the project is managing over 3000 trees, of about 25 species, which are undergoing effluent irrigation as a demonstration test project for adaptation to climate change. The project may expand to other Saskatchewan communities in 2014. ■

## ERRATA

**D**r. Mohan Babu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, received \$785,000 from CIHR for his project "Elucidating the Physical and Functional Interactome of Mitochondria in Yeast". The September edition of *Innovating Life: Quarterly Research Update* incorrectly listed the amount of this grant as \$300,000. Dr. Babu instead received \$300,000 for a CIHR New Investigator Award, which was not listed in the previous edition.

Dr. Gordon Huang, Institute for Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Communities, received \$910,669 from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Economy for evaluating operation conditions of various environmental processes. The September edition incorrectly stated that this grant was from Enterprise Saskatchewan. ■

## APPOINTMENTS



**[JANUARY]** Dr. Dena McMartin has been appointed to a five-year term as Associate Vice-President (Academic and Research). Dr. McMartin holds advanced degrees in environmental engineering and is a full professor of environmental systems in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. A prolific and accomplished researcher, Dr. McMartin was named a Fellow of Engineers of Canada in 2013. In addition to her extensive and ongoing research portfolio, Dr. McMartin has served as chair of several faculty and campus committees, and has developed and supported numerous academic and research partnerships with the University and with international partners. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 67th Canadian Geotechnical Conference, GeoRegina 2014, will take place from September 28—October 1, 2014 in Regina. The theme, "Engineering for the Extremes", will highlight current trends in geotechnical engineering by addressing increasingly complex problems under more extreme operating conditions. Submissions of technical papers will be accepted until May 16.

**For more information click here.** ■

## CONTACT US

### DR. DAVID MALLOY

*Vice-President Research*

Administration-Humanities Building, 510

☎ 306.585.5184

✉ [VP.Research@uregina.ca](mailto:VP.Research@uregina.ca)

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SUGGEST  
ITEMS IN AN UPCOMING REPORT CONTACT:

### REBECCA BERTHIAUME

*Awards Facilitator, President's Office,*

Administration-Humanities Building, 510.2

☎ 306.585.4258

✉ [Rebecca.Berthiaume@uregina.ca](mailto:Rebecca.Berthiaume@uregina.ca)