



# Innovating life

Quarterly Research Update from the University of Regina

## Message from the Vice-President (Research)

It has been a very active few months for the University of Regina research enterprise. I am happy to report that in the last quarter we are moving in a positive direction on the following indicators: grants awarded (number and value); contracts signed; and, overall research revenue. Quality research over quantity continues to be our mantra. We achieved the number one ranking among Canada comprehensive universities because of our:

- proportion of international graduate students—*Macleans*
- international research collaboration—*Research InfoSource* (4-year average)
- research impact—Normalized Citation Index (NCI)—*InCites* (10-year average)

Indicative of our emerging status as a research-intensive university, over the past six months we have signed, or are in the process of signing, research-oriented MOUs with six prestigious international academic partners. Those institutions are: University of Edinburgh, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, Kyoto University, University of Texas, University of Melbourne, and Tokyo Metropolitan University. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity for action that these partnering institutions bring to our research activity.

The special advisors for each of the University's five research clusters continue to develop plans for open (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

A VIEW OF CAMPUS.  
PHOTO: U OF R PHOTOGRAPHY.



## FUNDING THE WAY FORWARD

**D**R. YASSER MORGAN, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, has been awarded a \$25,000 NSERC-Engage Grant for a project entitled “*Digital Message Confidentiality*”. Morgan will work with Juniper Networks on developing a new algorithm for message confidentiality. He, along with the research team, is looking for an alternative approach to reinventing encryption by adding additional layers to traditional security systems leading to multi-layer-encryption or multi-fencing.

**DR. CLAIRE CARTER**, Women's and Gender Studies, received a \$54,755 SSHRC Insight Development Grant for “*Exercise and the Queer Body: Implications of Exercise on Gender Identity, Body Image, and Community for Queer and Trans Women*”. This research focuses on how queer individuals negotiate heteronormative pressures to be a certain body size and present their gender a certain way. The objectives of this research are to examine the discursive meanings of exercise for queer individuals (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED from PAGE 1) forums for faculty and graduate and undergraduate students to participate—stay tuned for announcements in the coming weeks.

Certainly, there is a lot of very good news of which we can be proud but there is still so much more we can do to build our research enterprise. Our TriCouncil funding, while on the increase, can grow. With recent changes in Ottawa, new funding directions are developing that are positive for the research community. Our cluster initiatives have been active and while we have garnered over \$8 million in funding, great potential exists to further the success stories of these strategic areas of excellence.

The vast majority of funding of the cluster initiatives goes to our graduate students. Despite the fact that in the last two years we have had the highest level of graduate student funding from internal and external sources, we need to do more. Graduate students are the lifeline for many of our research endeavours. Without a vibrant graduate student community (and this implies not only quality of intellect and passion but also quality of living)

our capacity to research and our ability to compete is diminished. Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Dr. Armin Eberlein, continues to work toward more funding for students and better mechanisms to distribute that funding.

Over the next five years, the recently-approved, CIHR-funded, Saskatchewan Centre Patient Oriented Research (SCPOR), will match, by 50 per cent, our internal funding for up to 10 graduate and six undergraduate research students in key areas of health research. We are stretching every dollar to leverage graduate and research supports. We need to continue to work on adding more of these types of fund-matching opportunities.

What can we do? In addition to strategic planning and development of major initiatives such as the *Canada First Research Excellence Fund* there are key partnerships driven by myself and Dr. Dena McMartin, Associate Vice-President (Academic and Research), the Research Office, and Faculties. There are also tactical mechanisms to support individual researchers in achieving their research and funding goals.

Under Sally Gray's leadership, the Research Office has recently undergone a re-organization and now boasts a team of highly qualified staff ready and willing to assist you.

The Faculties have an outstanding and engaged group of Associate Deans (Research) who work closely with the staff in the Research Office, Dr. McMartin and my office to identify success stories, research opportunities and pressure points.

What can you do? Please work with us. Help us make our University a better research institution by providing us with new ideas that might work and constructive feedback on old practices that may not be serving us well.

Help us build a positive, productive and respectful research culture. ■

Dr. David Malloy  
Vice-President (Research)

FUNDING (CONTINUED from PAGE 1) within the socio-cultural context of heteronormative body ideal; to consider whether queer individuals experience body image struggles in relation to this ideal, and if so, how this ideal impacts their well-being and expression of gender diversity; and to determine if queer exercise spaces such as gyms/teams, and community spaces, promote resistance to heteronormative gender and body ideals or whether, as spaces of fitness, they reinforce these ideals.

**DR. FARSHID TORABI**, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, received NSERC funding of \$20,000 for the project *“Experimental and Numerical Simulation Studies for Cyclic Solvent Injection (CSI) Coupled with Hot-Water Injection and Electro-Thermal Heating in Post Chops Reservoirs”*.

**DR. EBIN ARRIS**, heading a team of researchers from the Faculties of Nursing

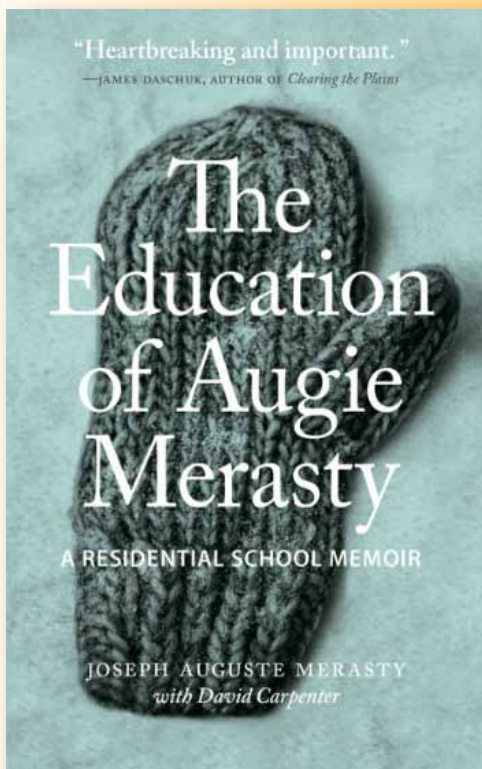
and Social Work, has received a \$36,512 SHRF grant to investigate the development of ethical frameworks in nursing and social work students. This research seeks to extend the theory and practice of ethics education of nurses and social workers by deepening our understanding of ethical issues and early indicators and develop an integrated framework. The aims of the research are to: design, implement and evaluate an inter-professional ethics curriculum; measure outcomes; and strengthen ethics education practices.

**DR. SHEILA PETTY**, Faculty of Fine Arts, received a SSHRC Insight Grant of \$80,834 for *“New Maghrebi Cinematic Spaces”*. The objective of this research project is to explore new Maghrebi cinematic spaces since 2000, a period marking a rebirth in contemporary Algerian, Tunisian and Moroccan cinemas as well as tremendous change beginning with world events or disasters that would have national and/or global impact.

**DR. CHRISTINE RAMSAY**, Faculty of Fine Arts, received a SSHRC Insight Grant of \$111,282 for *“Curating Trauma: Atom Egoyan and the Place of the Witness”*. This research, bridging Film, Curatorial and Trauma Studies, will advance curation of digital media in the field of “digital cinema.”

**DR. SANDEEP MISHRA**, Faculty of Business Administration, has received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant of \$33,111 for *“Social mobility and preference for income inequality”*. A growing body of evidence shows in no uncertain terms that the deep divide between economic ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’ has a range of profound social costs. Drawing on research on subjective perceptions of social mobility, self-efficacy, and system justification theory, this program of research offers a series of empirical and experimental tests that allow us to more clearly understand the conditions under which inequality is embraced or resisted. ■

# UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES



THE EDUCATION OF AUGIE MERASTY.  
PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF REGINA PRESS.

[MAY]

The University of Regina Press has another national bestselling book—the second one since the Press was launched in June 2013.

*The Education of Augie Merasty* by Joseph Auguste Merasty is a memoir of life in a residential school. This book has been featured nationally by CBC's *The Current*, the *Toronto Star*, and *The Globe and Mail*.

[JUNE] For the second year in a row, the University's Faculty of Nursing hosted the Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference.

The conference received a great deal of attention attracting doctoral students from across North America and

featured keynote speaker Dr. Sally Thorne from the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia.

The idea of a national networking conference for PhD students who are registered nurses was established by the Dean's Office in the Faculty of Nursing.

[JULY] Head of the Department of Theatre in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Kathryn Bracht, taught a new production-based class titled *Growing Up Green: Theatre for Young Audiences*, which used the Theatre Dept's new sustainable stage and created the set and costumes with recycled and up-cycled materials. The class presented *New Canadian Kid* (Dennis Foon) to 300 elementary school students and performed at the Regina International Fringe Festival's Children's Festival on July 11. ■

## TAKE NOTE!

[MAY]

Sessional instructor Holly Fay was awarded the National Visual Arts Advocacy Award from the Canadian Artists Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC). The award was presented in Saskatoon, May 29. Fay's works have appeared in the Dunlop Sherwood Gallery, the Mackenzie Art Gallery, and the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

[JULY] Dr. Justin Longo was appointed Cisco Systems Research Chair at the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy. Prior to his appointment, he served as a post-doctoral fellow in Open Governance at the Centre for Policy Informatics at Arizona State University. During this time, his research focused on areas of open governance (outside processes of citizen and expert engagement) and open government (inside processes of knowledge

sharing and collaboration). As the Cisco Systems Research Chair, Longo will also be responsible for developing various tools available for public sector modernization and will explore new avenues of networking and collaboration that will improve virtual management and enhance public engagement.

[JULY] Assistant Professor of Education, Dr. Lee Schaefer, attended the International Association for Higher Education in Physical Education (AIESEP) global conference in Madrid, Spain, July 8 to 15, where he was presented with the Young Scholar Award. The award recognizes beginning scholars in the area of physical education and sport pedagogy who have made significant contributions to the field and portray scholarly promise for the future.



ABOVE: DR. LEE SCHAEFER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION. PHOTO: U OF R PHOTOGRAPHY.

[JULY] Dr. Gordon Huang, Canada Research Chair Tier 1 in Energy and Environment, has been inducted as a new Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering. Dr. Huang has been cited for developing innovative optimization approaches to tackle complexities of environmental risk management that are beyond direct human reasoning. His findings have been introduced by multiple international (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



TAKE NOTE! (CONTINUED from PAGE 3) development agencies to a number of countries, bringing about enormous socio-economic benefits.

**[AUGUST]** Dr. Gordon Asmundson, Department of Psychology, was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*. This prestigious international academic journal, based in the United Kingdom, publishes research papers dealing with all aspects of anxiety disorders, and ranks 19th out of 111 clinical psychology journals. ■

LEFT: (L TO R) PIERRE LORTIE, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING WITH DR. GORDON HUANG, PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING.

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE U OF R?

**[JUNE]**

The University of Regina and Universities Canada announced the establishment of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, a scholarship program which gives students invaluable global experiences. From 2015-2018, the \$1 million scholarship program will provide opportunities for 40 University of Regina graduate students to study at partner universities in Commonwealth countries. In addition, 12 students from partner institutions in Malawi, Jamaica, Antigua and New Zealand will have the opportunity to pursue graduate-level study at the University of Regina.

**[JULY]** On July 1, 2015, the University became a full partner with Mitacs, an independent non-profit agency that supports university research in all disciplines through collaboration with partner organizations. By joining Mitacs as a full partner the University opens new opportunities for research and collaboration with industry, non-profit organizations, federal and provincial governments and other global partners. The University had previous ties to Mitacs as an honorary member, which allowed

for participation in some of Mitacs' programs. As a full partner, research abroad opportunities for students from the University and for incoming students from partner countries will be increased. Mitacs also offers free professional development workshops for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows registered at the University of Regina.

"As a full partner of Mitacs, the University of Regina will have an important role in providing governance on Mitacs' mandate of building research partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada," says Dr. Alejandro Adem, CEO and Scientific Director, Mitacs. "We look forward to

working with the University of Regina to ensure our programs support the excellent teaching and research taking place in Canada's post-secondary institutions."

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—DR. ALEJANDRO ADEM, CEO AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, MITACS

**[AUGUST]** In late August the first occupants of Kišik Towers moved in to the newly-opened residence. Kišik Towers providing on-campus living space for an additional 605 students is a sustainable building. Using leading-edge in-floor heating and cooling systems, heat recovery, LED lighting, and occupancy-based controls, Kišik Towers

will realize efficiency improvements of more than 25 per cent over our award-winning Paskwāw and Wakpā Tower project that was completed in 2005. ■

# RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

## Study to focus on culturally-safe health care

As a professor of Indigenous Health Studies at the First Nations University of Canada, Dr. Carrie Bourassa illuminates pressing social problems and seeks solutions in partnership with the people she serves. Her latest project is a Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded initiative that sets out to develop a model for culturally-safe health care that meets the needs of Indigenous women infected with HIV/ AIDS and Hepatitis C.

The participation of community members is at the core of the project. Numerous community groups are involved in guiding the direction of this study. It includes: the use of two community-based navigators, Indigenous women who either have HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis C; Margaret Poitras, CEO for All Nations Hope Network, serving as a co-principal investigator for the study; and the involvement of groups such as the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN).

“This is not research that is being done “on” or “to” a community,” says Bourassa. “We are going to ensure that the research is meaningful and beneficial to the community and that it is done with, for and by the community.”

Over the course of the study this community-based team will oversee approximately 330 interviews with Indigenous women. Thirty of these interviews will be used for a video to educate health care providers about the issues, challenges and stories of the women who seek their services.

According to Bourassa a lot of research about Indigenous communities tends to

focus on negative aspects such as poverty and drug use. This study will use an assets approach and focus on women’s strengths.

“What we want to do is talk to these women about where their hope is and their resilience and hear their stories,” says Bourassa. “This might be the first time that they ever get to tell their story, the very first time that they get to have a voice.

“The only way we are going to be able to change how care is delivered is if we ask them,” adds Bourassa. “They are the ones that know.” ■

DR. CARRIE BOURASSA, PROFESSOR OF INDIGENOUS HEALTH STUDIES, FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA.

PHOTO: U OF R PHOTOGRAPHY.



KRISTA BALIKO.  
PHOTO: U OF R PHOTOGRAPHY.

## WELCOME!

Krista Baliko (BA, MEd) has joined External Relations as the Research Communications Strategist. In her new role Krista will work closely with the Vice-President (Research), the Office of Research and various members of the University community to lead the development of strategic communications that support our research enterprise.

Krista can be reached at 306-337-3369 or by emailing [krista.baliko@uregina.ca](mailto:krista.baliko@uregina.ca).

## NEW YEAR, NEW PUBLICATION!

External Relations and the Office of the Vice-President (Research) are re-designing *Innovating Life*. In 2016 the publication will become a bi-annual (fall and spring) production with a new name and look. Stay tuned!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS** for the first spring edition is March 10, 2016. Submissions may be sent to External Relations via [stories@uregina.ca](mailto:stories@uregina.ca).

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