

Innovating life

Quarterly Research Update from the University of Regina



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

On behalf of the University of Regina, I would like to welcome you to our inaugural *Quarterly Report for Research*. The University is a busy place and we want our stakeholders to be aware and proud of the breadth and depth of research that we are producing here in the capital city. From Physics to Poetry to Performance, our faculty and students are pushing the boundaries of knowledge at a world-class level. The measured impact of our work in many areas places us at the top of Canadian and world standards. I hope that you enjoy reading about our success and I would personally like to thank you for your past, present, and future support of the research enterprise at the University of Regina.—DC Malloy, VPR ■

FUNDING THE WAY FORWARD

During the period July-August 2013, the University of Regina was awarded \$777,227 in grants and signed \$1,110,019 in contracts (total funding: \$1,896,246)

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.

Mohan Babu, Faculty of Science, received \$300,000 from CIHR for his project “Elucidating the Physical and Functional Interactome of Mitochondria in Yeast”.

Gordon Asmundson, Faculty of Arts, received \$451,027 from CIHR for his project “Efficacy of Regular Aerobic Exercise as an Adjuvant or Stand Alone Treatment for PTSD: A Randomized Control Trial”

[MAY] Cassandra Opikokew, PhD student at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina, has been awarded a CIHR Doctoral Research Award, valued at \$108,000 over three years for her work on Indigenous health and education policy.

[MAY] Nuno Ribeiro, post-doctoral fellow with the IPHRC, received \$92,000 of CIHR funding over two years for his work on Aboriginal youth health and the role that culture plays in negative health and healthcare delivery.

[JUNE] University of Regina researchers awarded more than \$2.35 million in funding from NSERC

- Most of the funding in the form of five-year Discovery Grants, which support ongoing programs of research with long-term goals and recognize creativity and innovation.
- David Sauchyn, Department of Geography and researcher with the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, received \$165,000 for his project examining changes in water and climate in western North America.
- Bjoern Wissel, adjunct professor of biology and associate director of the Institute of Environmental Change and Society, received \$110,000 to support research into how climate change and land-use patterns in the Great Plains affect lakes and their food webs. (CONTINUED ON page 2)

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[JUNE] University of Regina’s EYES program received funding from NSERC in the amount of \$75,000 over three years. This funding will be used to establish summer EYES camps in four community schools in Regina. Last year alone, more than 12,000 youths participated in EYES outreach programs at 84 schools in 41 communities across Saskatchewan, and a further 1300 attended camps in Regina over the summer.

[JULY] Saskatchewan Partnership for Arts Research (SPAR) received a \$200,000 Partnership Development Grant from SSHRC for a three-year study entitled “Understanding the Arts Ecology of Saskatchewan”.

- Cross-disciplinary research team consists of researchers from the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, Sociology, Kinesiology and Health Studies.

[JUNE] Dr. Heather Hadjistavropoulos and her team received \$708,000 in funding from CIHR for their project “Improving Access to Internet Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Depression and Anxiety: Overcoming Barriers and Fostering Innovation”. This project was rated in the top 5% of all applications received by CIHR and only 24% of those applications were funded. This research has the potential to significantly influence how ICBT treatment is managed and delivered in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada for those suffering from depression and anxiety. ■



phOTO: patricia hOIdswOrTh

[APRIL]

University of Regina hosted *Balance & Change in the 21st Century* a Prairies regional event involving 11 universities, government, and industry. Discussions focused on the importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Canada’s future. The Presidents of Social Science & Humanities Research Council and the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences were keynote speakers at this event.

[MAY] University of Regina hosted national Artificial Intelligence, Graphics Interface, and Computer and Robot Vision Conference which brought together leaders in research, industry, government, and students, to showcase Canada’s ingenuity, innovation, and leadership in intelligent systems and advance information and communications technology.

[June] Clinical Psychology doctoral student Michel Thibodeau has been selected to study at the renowned Beck Institute for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy in Philadelphia. He was one of 13 students awarded scholarships to attend, from a total of 450 entries around the world.

[JULY] The University of Regina’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science received continued national accreditation by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB)

- Electronics Systems, Environmental Systems, Industrial Systems, and Petroleum Systems each accredited for six years (the longest accreditation period possible in Canada)
- Newest program, Software Systems, accredited for three years, with possibility of extension.

[SEPTEMBER] Dr. Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, professor in the Department of Psychology, is leading a multidisciplinary team of researchers currently working on a five-year, \$2.5 million project which examines changes in demographics and the impact that an aging population has on Canadian society and our health-care system. A particular focus will be on the care of older adults, particularly those in long-term care. The research team is comprised of researchers from the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and the Regina and Saskatoon health regions, and is funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

[SEPTEMBER] Dr. Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor, was invited to provide expert advice to the World Health Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, in its consultations related to persons with disabilities. These consultations focused on developing an action plan for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Dr. Timmons is an international expert in the field of inclusive education. ■

PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Regina, SaskPower, and the North China Electric University have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively toward research and educational initiatives that will enhance our understanding and implementation of carbon capture technology. This is the first partnership agreement the University of Regina has signed that involves both industry and a Chinese university. ■

TAKE NOTE!



CARLOS LONDONO SULKIN

[JUNE]

Department of Anthropology head Carlos Londono Sulkin's new book *People of Substance: An Ethnography of Morality in the Colombian Amazon* draws on his years of field research in the Colombian Amazon among the Muinane. This book has been called "a major contribution... the most detailed case study available of how an Amazonian people conceptualize the relative moral value of action and actors".

[JUNE] New research project being undertaken by Biology master's student Jason Uhrh will study the impact of oil activity on grassland songbirds in southeastern Saskatchewan. This project is being supported by a one-year NSERC scholarship worth \$17,500.

[JULY] Chris Somers, Canada Research Chair in Genes and the Environment, has undertaken a number of research projects, including a search for the elusive "saugeye" fish, a hybridization between lake dwelling walleye and river-dwelling sauger fish, and an exploration of Saskatchewan's population of bull snakes.

[JULY] Professor Dena McMartin, Environmental Engineer, is working with a team of students and faculty researchers to investigate how some bacteria commonly found in fecal matter (i.e., E. coli bacteria) end up in the water supply.



DENA MCMARTIN

economically viable and protecting the environment at the same time.



BRANDON KLUG

The goal of the research is to help farmers make the best decisions about how they manage their land and their livestock, ensuring that they are

[AUGUST] PhD student Brandon Klug is researching the hibernation habits of bats. His project, funded by an NSERC Canada Grant valued at \$35,000 per year over three years, will

be conducted primarily in Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta and is specifically looking at winter bat activity to determine what habitats they are using and to try to understand why bats continue to fly throughout the winter. ■

UPCOMING RESEARCH EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 10th Annual CRHNet Symposium will take place November 5-8, 2013 on the topic of "Today's Hazards: Reducing Tomorrow's Impacts". For more information: <http://crhnet2013.mbrisk.ca/registration.php>
- The University of Regina has been asked by SSHRC to host the *Imagining Canada's Future* regional meeting. This is one of several events taking place across the country to discuss the importance and relevance of the Humanities and Social Sciences in today's world. Students, staff, faculty, and the public are welcome to join us on November 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., in the Ad-Hum Board Room (5th Floor, Ad-Hum Building), at the University of Regina Main Campus.

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

In response to the research administration report received from the Provincial Auditor in the spring of 2013, the University of Regina has created a task force to address its 26 recommendations. The task force has begun its work to assess structural, policy, and educational procedures, and hopes to complete the implementation process in the winter of 2015. ■

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