

INITIATIVES

International Year of Pulses Event Held

The U of S hosted the **2016 Year of the Pulses** kickoff event on January 6th. The United Nations declared that 2016 is the International Year of Pulses to acknowledge the crops as a primary source of protein and other essential nutrients. Pulses are a primary research area at the U of S. The Crop Development Centre at the College of Agriculture & Bioresources is well known as a major research centre for pulse crop breeding and genetics. In addition, one of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition's research areas is to enhance food security through improved sustainable agricultural practices and human nutrition by the inclusion of pulse crops.

World Wheat Experts to Meet in Saskatoon in 2019

Saskatoon will host the **2019 International Wheat Congress**, a first-of-its-kind event that will bring together more than 600 scientists to discuss advances in research and the future of wheat in effort to avert a global food security crisis by 2050. This Congress brings together for the first time two major wheat research conferences—the **International Wheat Conference** and the **International Wheat Genetics Symposium**.

U of S Researchers Help Lead Wheat Genome Sequencing Breakthrough

An international consortium of scientists co-led by the U of S announced on January 6th that it has been able to characterize the order of ~ 90 per cent of the highly complex genome of bread wheat, the most widely grown cereal in the world. This public-private collaborative project is co-led by Curtis Pozniak of U of S Crop Development Centre, Andrew Sharpe of Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S, Nils Stein of IPK Gatersleben in Germany, and Jesse Poland of Kansas State University. Other project participants include Tel Aviv University in Israel and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research. For more information, visit:

<http://goo.gl/B3oXpp>

UnivRS Launches Campus-Wide

The **University Research System** (UnivRS) launched the Pre-and Post-Award Management module campus-wide on January 29th. This module is designed to make it easier for University of Saskatchewan members to initiate and manage their research projects, from concept to completion. For more information on UnivRS, visit:

<http://goo.gl/eztQli>

REPUTATIONAL SUCCESSES

U of S Invited to Submit Full Proposal in Second Competition of Canada First Research Excellence Fund

The University of Saskatchewan has been invited to submit a full proposal to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) Competition 2 in accordance with its letter of intent (LOI) entitled **World Water Futures: Solutions to Water Threats in an Era of Global Change**.

Thirty postsecondary institutions will compete for a share of up to \$900 million. CFREF grants are awarded on the basis of scientific merit, strategic relevance to Canada (including the potential for the research area to create long-term advantages for Canada), and the quality of the implementation plan. The full application deadline is March 29, 2016.

Li among Latest Appointments to Order of Canada

Peter Li, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Sociology, was recently appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada. Professor Li was awarded one of Canada's highest honours for "*advancing social justice in Canada through sociological research into race, immigration, and multiculturalism*". For more information, visit: <https://goo.gl/pL0kdc>

Undergraduate Project Symposium

\$3,000 in prize money was awarded to students by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) and sponsors at the 4th annual Undergraduate Project Symposium on January 10th. The OVPR's *Signature Area Award* went to Lisa Durocher-Bouvier for her project, "Guiding Native Parents", and Anya Pogorelova took home awards in *People's Choice* along with *first place* in the category of *Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts* for her project entitled, "Marimba Concerto No.1". Other winners were: Taryn Heidecker, Kimberlee Dubé, Megan Congram, Stephanie Mah, and Steven Langlois.

Schoenau and Thacker Received Agricultural Institute of Canada Awards

The Agricultural Institute of Canada awarded U of S researchers with two of their most prestigious honours:

- **Jeff Schoenau**, Professor in the Department of Soil Science, won the Fellowship award from the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC). This is the AIC's highest honour and is awarded in recognition of an individual's distinguished contribution to Canadian agriculture by helping to build scientific capacity.
- **Phil Thacker**, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, won the International Recognition Award from the AIC. This award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of agriculture in the developing world.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

Sask Wheat, SeCan Invest \$3.5M in U of S Durum Program

The development of durum varieties through the U of S Crop Development Centre will take a major step forward thanks to a commitment to invest up to \$3.5M over 10 years by the Sask Wheat and SeCan. The funding will allow the centre to enhance and expand on the research and variety development it is conducting through its world-leading program for Canada Western Amber Durum. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/Vh2asm>

SSHRC Connection Grant

Veronika Makarova, (Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies) received \$7,656 for "*Islam on the Prairies*" Conference.

NSERC Awards Engage Grants

NSERC has awarded 11 U of S researchers Engage grants of up to \$25,000 each for projects with an industry partner. The recipients were:

- **Won Jae Chang**, (Department of Civil and Geological Engineering) for "*In Situ Biodegradation Potential in Petroleum Hydrocarbon-Contaminated Soils exposed to Seasonal Freeze-Thaw Conditions*" with industry partner PINTER & Associates Ltd.
- **Ravi Chibbar**, (Department of Plant Sciences) for "*Grain Nutrient Analysis of Canadian Heritage and Present Day Wheat Varieties to Develop Healthy Consumer Grain Based Products*" with industry partner Canada Bread Company Ltd.

- ❖ **Ralph Deters**, (Department of Computer Science) for “*Enabling an Inclusive and Supportive Work Environment*” with industry partner Technology North Corporation.
- ❖ **Ramakrishna Gokaraju**, (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering) for “*Wide Area Based Network Stability Analysis System*” with industry partner GE Digital Energy.
- ❖ **Ramakrishna Gokaraju**, (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering) for “*High Speed Digital Distance Relaying Scheme Using FPGAs for Extra High Voltage Transmission Systems*” with industry partner RTDS Technologies Inc.
- ❖ **Markus Hecker**, (School of Environment and Sustainability) for “*Characterization of Complex Soil and Groundwater Contamination Scenarios Using Effect-Directed Analysis*” with industry partner Interprovincial Cooperative Limited.
- ❖ **Natacha Hogan**, (Department of Animal and Poultry Science) for “*Systemic Human Toxicity Assessment of Pesticide Mixtures*” with industry partner Interprovincial Cooperative Limited.
- ❖ **Dwight Makaroff**, (Department of Computer Science) for “*VNetwork Packet Processing with P4 (Programming Protocol-Independent Packet Processors) in CPU, GPU and FPGAs using Open CL*” with industry partner Vecima Networks Inc.
- ❖ **Steven Siciliano**, (Department of Soil Science) for “*Innovative Sample Collection Strategies and Protocols for Biochemical and Chemical Analysis*” with industry partner Maxxam Analytics Inc.
- ❖ **Lope Tabil**, (Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering) for “*Thermochemical and Physical Transformation of Byproducts from Industrial Oilseeds (Meadowfoam and Abyssinian) to Bioenergy Feedstock*” with industry partner Nature’s Crops International.
- ❖ **Khan Wahid**, (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering) for “*Embedded Systems, Hand-Free Gaming, Disability, Game Controller, Desktop Computer*” with industry partner EQLVL.

Contract Funding Secured

Five U of S researchers have recently secured research funding through contracts with partners:

- ❖ **Murray Fulton**, (Centre for the Study of Co-operatives) has received an additional \$200,000 from Federated Co-operatives Limited to fund phase II of project entitled “*Co-operative Business Development in Rural Municipalities and Aboriginal Communities in Canada*”, which brings the project funding to a total of \$1,200,000.
- ❖ **Graham George**, (Department of Geological Sciences) has received funding from Chevron for a 3-year research project, “*Analyzing Crude Oils for Sulfur Species and Oxygen Speciation*”.
- ❖ **John Harding**, (Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences) has received \$954,013 from Genome Alberta for his project entitled “*Application of Genomics to Improve Disease Resilience and Sustainability in Pork Production*”. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/2Uf2ls>
- ❖ **Andrew Potter**, (Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization) received \$1,097,710 from Genome Alberta for the project “*Reverse Vaccinology Approach for the Prevention of Mycobacterial Disease in Cattle*”. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/RtFUyo>
- ❖ **Chris Willenborg**, (Department of Plant Sciences) received \$136,400 from the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission for the project “*Assessing the influence of Base Germination Temperature and Chemical Desiccants on the Recruitment Biology of Cleavers*”.

PARTNERSHIPS

International Delegations Supported

The following delegations both to and from the U of S recently took place:

- ❖ His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda-Ricaurte, **Ambassador of Colombia to Canada**, visited the U of S on November 25, 2015. The Ambassador met with U of S President and representatives from the International Office, International Student and Study Abroad Centre, College of Graduate Study and Research, Student and Enrolment Services Division, the University Language Centre and faculty members from the College of Arts and Science and the College of Engineering. Ambassador Lloreda-Ricaurte toured the CLS and gave a lecture on Columbian Trade and Economy in the International Studies 110 class.
- ❖ Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President Research, Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, Special Advisor – Research and International and Chair of the Confucius Institute Management Committee (CIMC), Kevin Veitenheimer, Senior Financial Officer and member of the CIMC, and Dr. Li Zong, Canadian Director of the Confucius Institute attended the 10th **Confucius Institute Global Conference in Shanghai, China** on December 6, 2015. Currently, a total of 1.9 million people are studying Chinese language and culture in 500 Confucius Institutes in 134 countries and regions. More than 2,300 people, including representatives from universities and Confucius Institutes around the world, attended this conference to discuss the institutes' future development.
- ❖ Invited by the Confucius Institute Headquarters, a U of S Educators' delegation, including Dr. Diane Martz, Director of the International Office, and other senior administrators visited **China** from December 7th to 21st. The delegation visited Beijing Language and Cultural University,

Normal University, Institute of Technology, City University, and the Open University of China. The U of S representatives and the Chinese counterparts shared experience and ideas on student recruitment and admission, student affairs, student counselling, international collaboration, summer exchange programs, Confucius Institute scholarship, and Chinese government scholarship opportunities.

International Agreement Signed

A Faculty and staff exchange agreement was signed with the **Iwate University**, Japan.

International Research Success

- ❖ **George Keyworth** (Linguistics and Religious Studies) received \$5,000 through **Mitacs Globalink Research Award** program for Master of Arts student Yue Wang for the project "*Disappearing, Surviving, and Thriving: Daoists at Baiyun guan in Early Modern China*" under the co-supervision of Yi Liu at Capital Normal University, **China**.
- ❖ **Harley Dickinson** (Sociology) and **Jason Disano** (Social Science Research Laboratories) received \$15,030 from the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** for the project "*Exploring Trends in Canadian Philanthropic Giving to the Developing World*" collaborating with Hudson Institute's Center for Global Prosperity in the **United States**.
- ❖ **Hui Wang** (Chemical and Biological Engineering) received \$5,000 through **Mitacs Globalink Research Award** program for doctoral student Wahab Olaiya Alabi for the project "*Synthesis and Testing of Industrial Catalysts for Carbon dioxide (CO₂) Reforming of Methane (CH₄) in Coal Delivered Gases*" under the co-supervision of Jiancheng Wang at Taiyuan University of Technology, **China**.