The Dean’s Newsletter is published every second month and provides updates on academics, research, events, and other items of interest. Join us in celebrating our achievements by submitting your updates to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca.

TOP STORIES

Dr. Charity Evans, and her colleagues, were awarded a $1.2 million grant from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research for their project "Prescription Drug Safety and Effectiveness in Multiple Sclerosis [DRUMS]: a population-based, multi-province platform for comprehensive pharmacovigilance." This important research will help develop a framework that can be used to study the benefits and side effects of future new drugs for MS across Canada.

Dr. Holly Mansell, and co-investigator Dr. Dave Blackburn, received a Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation SPROUT grant for $160,000 for the project “Improving Health Outcomes for Kidney Recipients: A randomized controlled trial of a pre-transplant education intervention.” Read more.

Dr. Ellen Wasan, and co-investigator Dr. Kishor Wasan, received a $255,000 grant from the Agriculture Development Fund and the Saskatchewan Cattleman’s Association for their project "Enhanced Vaccine Adjuvant Platform for Nasal Administration in Livestock".

Nutrition graduate student Getenesh Berhanu Teshome earned first place in the poster competition at the People Around the World “PAW” conference, which highlighted the impact, outreach and engagement of the university’s international research. Read more.
MORE COLLEGE NEWS

Indigenous Achievement Week Awards
Dr. Jaris Swidrovich and Aline Gariepy received awards at the Indigenous Achievement Week awards on Thursday, February 8. Jaris received the Award for Community Involvement for the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, while Aline (photo unavailable) received the Award for Leadership for the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

94 U of S students attend PDW
With 94 delegates at the 2018 CAPSI Professional Development week, the University of Saskatchewan had an impressive The conference took place January 10-13 in Edmonton, Alberta, and key results for the U of S include:

- **Dylan Hope** earned second place at the Canada's Next Top Pharmacist pageant.
- **Logan Underwood, Darren Reithmeier, Daylin Sproule, and Laura Wu** earned third place in the Pharmafacts Bowl.
- **Michelle Meng, Alex Baran, Jonathan Williams, and Diar Al-Azawi** earned third place in the Compounding Competition.
- **Kaitlyn Tress** accepted the CAPSI Guy Genest Passion for Pharmacy Award for Saskatchewan.
- **Darren Reithmeier and Tatiana Orlowski** were selected to present their posters on research conducted through the College at the Health Fair.
- **Dustin MacCuish and Melissa Liu** volunteered at a blood pressure clinic and advocated for Pharmacists at the Alberta Legislature Building.

Read more.

Pledge of Professionalism Ceremony
On Wednesday, January 31, the Pledge of Professionalism Ceremony was held in the Health Sciences lecture theatre for the first-year students. Both pharmacy and nutrition students recited their pledges in front of their peers to demonstrate their commitment to professionalism in their education and careers.

These pledges were written by the students to reflect their values when it comes to professionalism. Thank you to first year room reps **Japheth Bool** and **Madison Rennie** for organizing the event.
MORE COLLEGE NEWS

IN THE MEDIA

Kelly Kizlyk was on Global Saskatoon Morning News today to talk about children’s cough and cold medicines. Watch the video.

Dr. Gord Zello shared his expertise on choosing the right foods for physical activity with the Best Food Facts website. Read more.

Dr. Carol Henry’s project to alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition in southern Ethiopia was recently profiled by Charting Change, which is a series about innovative projects in the developing world. Read more.

Dr. Robert Laprairie spoke with CBC Saskatoon on Thursday, February 22 about testing wastewater for drug traces. Read more.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Erling Madsen, Stores Manager, is the 2018 awardee of the Dean’s Staff Award for Commitment and Excellence. He will be presented with this award at the SCPP Convocation Luncheon on Thursday, June 7.

Dr. Jian Yang has established and is the first president of the new Saskatchewan Center for Science and Religion. Read more.

Dr. Anas El-Aneed was appointed to the governing council for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

On Tuesday, February 6, Diane Favreau, Administrative Officer, Undergraduate Affairs, attended the Future is Yours Career Expo.

Poppy Lowe, Nutrition Professional Skills Coordinator, is our March Staff Spotlight. She works for the college’s nutrition program and maintains a clinical dietitian practice at St. Paul’s Hospital. Read more.

We’re hiring: full time, tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in the Division of Pharmacy. The successful candidate will teach in the PharmD curriculum, primarily in the areas of psychiatric medicine, mental health, and neurology, with some involvement in interdisciplinary teaching as well. Read more.
ALUMNI NEWS

Dorothy L. Smith (BSP 1968) was appointed as the Honourary President of the American Pharmacists Association. Read more.

Brad Cooper (BSP 2003) was featured in a Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy article about minor ailment prescribing. Read the article on page 9 of the 2017 Changing Face of Pharmacy. Read more.

Courtney Junop (BSP 2011) talked to CTV Saskatoon on Friday, January 12, about the continued importance of getting the flu shot during a segment about the effectiveness of this year’s vaccine. Watch the video.

Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009) was on Global Saskatoon Morning News today to talk about how canned fruit can help add variety during the winter months. Watch the video.

Sarah Crawford (BScNutr 2017) from University of Saskatchewan Culinary Services was interviewed for a Spoon University USask video about plant-based proteins. Watch the video.

On Friday, January 26 the Regina Leader-Post profiled Melanie McLeod (BSP 1997) for her work as a psychiatric pharmacist and how the pharmacy she opened helps provide better access for patients. Read more.

Sara Langley (BScNutr 2010) was on Global Regina Morning News on Wednesday, January 31 to talk about Eat Well Saskatchewan, a pilot program aimed to improve First Nations’ access to dietitians. Watch the video.

Doug Sellinger (BSP 1985) received Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Fellowship status at the CSHP Professional Practice Conference in February.

Katie Maloney (MSc 2010) was featured in an article about a Lower Mainland cannabis-testing lab run by a team of women. Read more.

Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009) was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, February 20 to explain the importance of potassium for heart health. Watch the video.

Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca to be featured in our next newsletter.
EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SPNSS Student-Faculty Wine and Cheese will take place on Monday, March 12 in Louis’ Loft at 5:30 pm. Dr. Kris Stewart will present on HIV, HCV, and TB.

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich and Dr. Holly Graham from the College of Nursing, are co-chairing a conference on First Nations, Métis and Inuit health. The conference is free to attend and will be held on March 15 and 16 at the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre. More information.

The 2018 Undergraduate Admissions Test of Critical Skills is scheduled Saturday, March 17.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Academic Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 18 in the Health Sciences Building.

The Edith Rowles Simpson Lecture will take place on Monday, March 19 at 7:00 pm in the Frances Morrison Library auditorium. This year’s speaker is Dr. Maurice Maloney, Executive Director and CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

The Nutrition Third Year Celebration & Send-off will take place on Thursday, April 5 at the University Club. This event marks the completion of the educational component at the university and the transition to internship for nutrition students.

The annual College of Home Economics Alumni Luncheon will take place again this spring in Saskatoon on Friday, April 27 at 11:45 am at the Delta Bessborough. Please RSVP to andy.collin@usask.ca before Monday, April 23.

The Dietitians of Canada Nutrition Research Day will take place on Thursday, April 26 at Marquis Hall. The day highlights and celebrates the fourth-year nutrition students’ practice-based research project presentations, and features presentations by leading experts in food and nutrition. Register now.

The college will host its annual dessert and reception at the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan Annual Conference on Friday, May 11, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre in Regina.

Sask Night will return to the Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference on Sunday, June 3, in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Details to follow on social media, the website event calendar, and in the next newsletter.

The college will host an alumni reception during the Dietitians of Canada Conference in Vancouver on Friday, June 8, at 7:00 pm at 6 Degrees Eatery (1590 Coal Harbour Quay, across the street from the Westin Bayshore). All local alumni who are not attending the conference are welcome at the event.

PAST EVENTS

Indigenous Spend-a-Day took place on January 12. This one-day event is held on campus for grade 10 - 12 First Nations, Métis and Inuit students includes an Indigenous student panel and an information fair. Thanks to Mary Fraser (Pharmacy) and Cathy Langdon (Nutrition) for setting up hands-on sessions with current student volunteers.

On Saturday, January 27, our nutrition students hosted the Women’s Wellness Break workshop in the food and nutrition lab, which included a session on problematic eating and a sushi-making demo.
SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Congratulations to Franklyn De Silva who is our February Trainee Spotlight. His research involves molecular signaling and cellular processors in diseases with dysregulated proliferation. Read more.

TRAINEE SUCCESS

Program Update
Congratulations to Fakir Yunus (supervisors: Drs. Gord Zello and Diane DellaValle), who successfully defended his Nutrition Master’s thesis this January—he has now begun a PhD program in Nutrition under the supervision of Drs. Carol Henry and Diane DellaValle.

Welcome to two visiting experiential learning students: Alice Demelenne, who is working with Dr. Anas El-Aneed, and Cem Yamali, who is working with Dr. Jonathan Dimmock. Alice is a PhD student from the University of Liège in Belgium and will be studying here for the remainder of the term. Cem is a PhD student from Ataturk University in Turkey and will be at the U of S until December 2018.

External Student Awards
Congratulations to PhD student Allison Cammer (supervisors: Drs. Susan Whiting and Debra Morgan) who has received the Gerontology Network’s Annual Marie Taylor Award, which recognizes excellence in dietetic practice in long term care and seniors health. She will be presented with the award at the upcoming Dietitians of Canada annual meeting in June.

Other News
PhD student Frank De Silva (supervisor: Dr. Jane Alcorn) was selected as the trainee representative for the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS) Board of Directors for a two-year term starting January 2018. Congratulations to Frank!

Graduate Program Review
Our graduate programs are undergoing the Graduate Program Review process coordinated by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies this year. Please help us welcome our Nutrition program reviewers on March 19th and 20th and our Pharmacy reviewers on April 19 and 20!
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH FUNDING

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is a partner in the $153 million Western Canada Crop Protein Supercluster, awarded under the Federal Innovation Superclusters Initiative.

Robert Laprairie was awarded a $75,000 NSERC Collaborative Research and Development grant with industry partner CanniMed Therapeutics for the project “Exploration of the lesser-known cannabinoids of Cannabis sativa”.

Robert Laprairie received a $7,750 SHRF Connections grant for the upcoming Inaugural Saskatchewan Cannabinoid Research Symposium.

Phyllis Paterson was awarded $20,000 in bridge funding from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Holly Mansell and collaborators J. Alcorn, A. Shoker and M. Fenton (Medicine), W. Semchuk (Qu’Appelle Health Region), J. Douketis (McMaster), and B. Bashir and W. Kraft (Philadelphia) were awarded $20,000 from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition’s Seed Fund for the project “Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Apixaban + Tacrolimus or Cyclosporine in Kidney Transplant Recipients”.

Jane Alcorn and collaborators B. Seifert and A. Lyon (SK Health Authority), R. Huntsman (Medicine), C. Wesolowski (Memorial), and R. Laprairie, and MSc student S. Vuong (Pharmacy) were awarded $15,500 from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition’s Seed Fund for the project “Single Oral Dose Pharmacokinetics of 1:20 THC:CBD Cannabis Oil in Pediatric Patients”.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- SAGE Open, 7(4).
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES