

IMAGINE

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE & POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

Dean's Update
March 2022



I share my deep concern for the people of the Ukraine. Supports to current students from the Ukraine have been extended by various services of the university and we are working with current applicants to overcome obstacles. It is highly likely refugees will come to Saskatoon. As we would for any humanitarian crisis, CGPS can provide support for students who may wish to apply to programs or join your group as visiting research students. If you are approached to take in a student, please contact [me, so that we can assist.](#)

Call for Expression of Interest, Faculty Fellow - Decolonization

Aligned to CGPS and the University of Saskatchewan's priorities and [Ohpahotân – Let's fly up together](#), we are recruiting a CGPS Faculty Fellow in Decolonization. The fellow will lead the development of the college's Indigenous strategy including focused work to decolonize CGPS processes and policies to create a safe and supportive environment for Indigenous students. [Express your interest in this opportunity here.](#)

Graduate Community

Advisory Committee Changes: A set of changes to streamline advisory and examination committee composition and thesis/dissertation defence processes for Master's and Ph.D. programs was approved by CGPS Council in January 2022. Key changes and implementation dates that start May 1, 2022 [are summarized here.](#)

Student Survey: This spring our students will once again be surveyed in the [Canadian Graduate and Professional Studies Survey](#) that runs every three years. I hope you will assist me in encouraging our students to participate as high participation is critical to understanding if we are making improvements to our program quality including the relationship with supervisors and more general student services.

Developing Flexibility

Effective May 1, 2022, the option of hiring Graduate Students into a term will resume allowing a more consistent onboarding process and desirable payroll practices for Graduate Student Employees. Targeted communications regarding the impact of this change are currently underway in a joint effort between Labour Relations, Public Service Alliance of Canada, College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, and ConnectionPoint.

Enhancing Experiences

CGPS is excited to host the 2022 Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Days, March 29, 30 and 31. These events have been created to help promote future career development for postdoctoral fellows. Please make time available for your postdocs (and PhD students) to attend. [Information can be found here.](#)

We are recruiting an [Indigenous Graduate Student Initiatives Coordinator](#) and I would appreciate your support by spreading the word and pointing it out to individuals that may be a good fit; particularly recent graduates.

Congratulations to CGPS' Indigenous Awards Week recipients recognized for their outstanding academic achievements.

Natasha Tinis

Master's Student, School of Environment & Sustainability

My mom is from Treaty 4, while my dad is from Treaty 6, the Southend community. I was raised mostly by my mom. She taught me that hard work and application could get me anywhere I wanted. I have a bachelor's degree in engineering and am currently working as an engineer while attending the part-time Energy Security program at the School of Environment and Sustainability. I am married with two children. I think the award should go to my husband and children, since they are affected most by my drive and hard work.

Michael Palmer

PhD Student, Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology

Learning how intricately a virus can incorporate itself into the normal function of your cells fascinated me and became the basis of my current research. While the methods I use to further my research have become more and more complex, the underlying appeal has remained the same: how can something as simple as a virus, containing little more than genetic information, overcome the complex defenses of the immune system to establish an infection?