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Board of Governors Research Chairs announced

Edmonton – MacEwan University has announced its two new Board of Governors Research Chairs. Dr. Shelley Boulianne and Dr. Erin Walton have been chosen to continue to advance the profile of research, scholarly and creative activities at the university as outlined in the Research Strategic Plan.

They will join the current research chairs Dr. Sandy Jung and Dr. Sam Mugo, whose two-year terms will end in 2020. “Both Dr. Boulianne and Dr. Walton have distinguished themselves as researchers while maintaining reputations as dedicated instructors,” says Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic. “Over the next two years they will have more opportunities to further their programs of research while mentoring students and colleagues.”

About the new Board of Governors Research Chairs

Boulianne is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology. Prior to joining MacEwan in 2009, she completed her PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research examines citizens’ engagement in civic and political life. It’s important as citizen engagement is linked to better policy outcomes, prosperous and resilient communities, and healthy and happier citizens.

Boulianne’s peer-reviewed articles appear on course syllabi at a variety of post-secondary institutions including Harvard University and Oxford University. In 2017, she was awarded the Distinguished Research Award at MacEwan University.

Walton is an associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. She holds a Discovery Grant from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada for research focused on shock metamorphism of astromaterials, with an emphasis on Martian meteorites. She uses high-precision analytical techniques, such as transmission electron microscopy, Raman spectroscopy and Ar-Ar laser geochronology to study the age of the rocks, and their isotopic and chemical compositions.

The meteorites Walton studies are the only samples from the planet available to study and the results of her work could play a role in planning future Mars missions. Her research interests also encompass the age and formation of terrestrial impact structures, such as the 91-million-year-old Steen River impact crater in northern Alberta.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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