The Bulletin
University of Manitoba

I.D.E.A. worthy
Manulife Financial head Dominic D’Alessandro shares his ideas about leadership.  
Page 3

Excellence
The university handed out Awards of Excellence to some of its top support staff.  
Page 4

Paper weight
You can help the environment just by making different choices at the photocopier.  
Page 8

We’re looking great!

President Emőke Szathmáry chats with students during Campus Beautification Day on May 30 at the Fort Garry campus. For another look at Campus Beautification Day check out the pictures on page 8.

How to win a Nobel Prize

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin
Nobel Prize winner Louis Ignarro is often labeled the father of Viagra but he’d rather be known for his efforts to extend life.

Ignarro delivered the keynote address entitled “Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in the Cardiovascular System,” at the Cardiovascular Health: From Bench to Bedside to Bedroom research forum on June 7. Along with bringing in experts in cardiovascular health, the forum gave students the chance to showcase their research efforts through poster displays and discussion.

Ignarro won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1998 for a series of major discoveries about how nitric oxide acts as a unique signaling molecule in the cardiovascular system. His lecture was both a science and history lesson as he explained how nitric oxide works. The student asked him how nitroglycerin – a chemical also found in explosives – worked in combating heart attacks.

“He asked me how nitroglycerin works to relieve heart pain and when I went to look up the answer I discovered that there was no answer. We didn’t know how it worked,” Ignarro said. The key ingredient, as Ignarro discovered, was nitric oxide which acted as a signaling molecule to tell arteries and veins to relax and open up. Step one was discovering what the chemical did. For step two, Ignarro and his team found that the chemical was being produced naturally in the human body, which explained why it could be inserted as an outside drug and have an impact on behaviour inside the body – the body recognized it as a familiar substance.

Among the other health benefits that Ignarro and his team were able to attribute to nitric oxide was its role in regulating penile erection. That discovery earned Ignarro the tagline ‘father of Viagra’ although it was a drug company that used Ignarro’s research to design a drug that could be taken orally.

The University of California, Los Angeles, professor credits a student with launching him on the road to discovering how nitric oxide works. The student asked him how nitroglycerin – a chemical also found in explosives – worked in combating heart attacks.

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See MAKE/P. 2

U of M makes land deal

It’s a deal.

The Southwood Golf and Country Club has accepted the University of Manitoba’s offer to purchase the 120-acre Southwood property.

The university’s $10 million offer was approved by the Board of Governors on May 28 and accepted by the majority of the Southwood Golf and Country Club members on June 7. The deal is a win-win situation for both sides. It gives the university room to grow and allows Southwood the opportunity to reestablish itself in a new location.

President Emőke Szathmáry said she is delighted at the prospect of improving the university’s ability to meet the needs of students, staff and the community as this province’s premier post-secondary institution.

“For the past 130 years the University of Manitoba has grown and developed to meet the ever-changing needs of students and the community. This purchase will help us continue to do that into the next 130 years,” Szathmáry said. “We take pride in the evolution and growth of our beautiful campus. This land will be developed in a manner consistent with the principles of our campus plan.”

Other major universities around the world have begun to establish “UniverCities” which combine a learning environment with creative approaches to urban development.

The Fort Garry campus will continue to grow and develop into a vibrant ‘live-work-learn-play’ community, enhancing its status as an invaluable asset to Winnipeg and the province,” Szathmáry said.

Southwood Golf Course president Ron Amann said the proposal is one which will benefit both parties.

“We are very excited about the possibility of our dream for a new facility starting with our current home becoming part of the University of Manitoba,” he said.

See SOUTHWOOD/P. 2.
Virtual Glasgow
May and June, 2007
BBC

U of M graduate Douglas Pritchard has spent the last two years leading the Virtual City of Glasgow project for the Glasgow City Council. The project has developed a hyper-accurate 3D representation of Glasgow using laser scanning and 3D modelling technology. The virtual model represents 28 per cent of all the buildings, terrain & roads of the city with plans to expand. The project has received coverage on the BBC and Architecture Scotland.

Pritchard is head of visualization at the Glasgow School of Art.

Air India expert
May 29, 2007
The Vancouver Sun, CanWest News Service

Retired political studies professor Peter St. John testified at an Ottawa inquiry into the 1985 terrorist attack and part of his testimony was quoted in a story that appeared online and in at least one newspaper. The story stated that St. John began studying aviation security and terrorism after losing his best student and teaching assistant in the bombing.

Poet in our midst
June 2, 2007
The Star Phoenix, Canada.com

Alison Calder, professor of Canadian literature, department of English, is featured in a story for her first book of poetry. Wolf Tree in Saskatoon’s The Star Phoenix and on canada.com. The comprehensive article explains that the collection of poems is divided into several semi-autobiographical sections, one in which the Winnipeg neighbourhood of Wolseley is featured prominently.

Ethics of kidney donation
June 6, 2007
CTV’s Canada AM

The director of the Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics was interviewed on CTV’s Canada AM for his expertise regarding a decision made by the Toronto General Hospital. Arthur Schafer agreed with the hospital’s refusal to deny a woman’s request to receive a kidney donation from an Australian man she met online after concerns were raised that he may have been brainwashed by a religious cult in his home country.

Headline News

Where else has the U of M been making news?

• “Bunco night in Grand Forks is happy,” citing finance professor John McCaullam. The Winnipeg Sun, May 31, 2007

• “University of Manitoba Study Examines Manipulation of Diet to Reduce Phosphorus in Sun,” Farmscape Online, June 4, 2007

From Page 1.

“...to make lifestyle changes,” understanding what we’re trying to do. Ignarro says he doesn’t mind the link, and if it provides an opening for a system of dikes and pumping stations that would keep the university into a flood plain area adding extra expenses for a system of dikes and pumping stations that would have needed to be built around the periphery of the point.

From Page 1.

But as a result, he’s heard every joke possible around the subject of erectile dysfunction. Ignarro says he doesn’t mind the link, and if it provides an opening to talk about his research, then so much the better. The potential benefits of nitric oxide go beyond Viagra. The chemical also works to improve blood flow to the arteries and veins and helps protect against conditions such as hypertension, stroke, coronary artery disease, gastrointestinal ulcers and the vascular complications of diabetes. It’s the next best thing to a silver bullet when it comes to combating health issues in the human body. Best of all, it’s produced naturally in a healthy body.

And that’s why Ignarro would rather people think about exercise than Viagra. “We need people to understand what we’re trying to say. We’re trying to get them to make lifestyle changes,” Ignarro said.

Southwood land ideal place for U of M to grow

Make healthy life choices

The Bulletin

University of Manitoba

The Bulletin is the newspaper of record for the University of Manitoba. It is published by the Public Affairs department every second Thursday from September to June and monthly in December, July and August.

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community. Submissions can include letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions.

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Printing
Derksen Printers
This issue’s contributors: Frank Nolan, Tamara Bodn, Bob Talbot, Allen Patterson, Chris Rutkowski

Schedule
Issue Date: July 12
Copy/advertising deadline: July 4
Issue Date: August 16
Copy/advertising deadline: August 8
Return undeliverable copies with Canadian addresses to:
The University of Manitoba Bulletin
144 Medical Sciences Building,
97 Dufresne
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Phone: (204) 474 8111
Fax: (204) 474 7651

Events
The Bulletin publishes notifications on events taking place at the University of Manitoba or events that are of particular interest to the university community. There is no charge for running notices in the events column. Send events notices to: barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca

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The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin

In The News

University of Manitoba members are always making news – demonstrating the university’s impact on the community. Here’s a look at the stories and headlines that show how U of M faculty and staff impact the world around them.

Southwood land ideal place for U of M to grow

A land deal with the Southwood Golf and Country Club will let the University of Manitoba create a more vibrant community at its Fort Garry campus.

From Page 1.

“It is important to us to ensure that our legacy continues to be an asset to the community,” Amann said. “We can’t imagine a better buyer for our property than the University of Manitoba.”

This agreement is a logical next step in Southwood's 20-month-long process of planning for the long-term viability of the club. The advanced age of the clubhouse, combined with the continued erosion of the riverbank and encroachment from neighboring development are creating a number of challenges for the club. The club is looking to a larger tract of land in St. Norbert.

“Our new site has the potential for Southwood to establish itself as one of the top tier facilities in Western Canada,” said Amann.

Under the agreement, Southwood Golf Club members will be able to “stay and play” on the existing course for three to four years. It provides the university time to determine how the property will be integrated into the campus plan and used to promote the development and advancement of the campus.

For the university, the adjacent parcel of land is perfectly situated to facilitate future university growth.

The university’s Fort Garry campus straddles several long and narrow river lots and comprises 316 acres for the main campus, 148 acres for Smartpark, and 109 acres of experimental research lands. The campus is much longer east-west than it is wide (north-south), such that adding the course acreage would increase the campus acreage by 22 per cent, but would increase its width by nearly 100 per cent on the primary University Crescent north-south axis.

When the university laid out its campus plan a few years ago, it had looked to expand to the east into agricultural land located on the point. But apart from having to sacrifice agricultural land that has a long history of research, the plan would have also taken the university into a flood plain area adding extra expenses for a system of dikes and pumping stations that would have needed to be built around the periphery of the point.

From Page 1.

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D'Alessandro talks leadership
I.D.E.A. recipient suggests keeping a work/life balance

As president and chief executive officer of Manulife Financial, the second largest public company in Canada and one of the most profitable life insurance companies in North America, Dominic D'Alessandro knows a thing or two about leadership.

So, when the subject came up during the June 11 event to announce D'Alessandro as the recipient of the 2007 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (I.D.E.A.), the well-respected business leader had many valuable insights to share.

"Leadership matters a lot, and it starts with ambition," he said, addressing the group of business students, university representatives, and media attending the event held in the Asper School of Business’s Drake Centre.

"Some are natural leaders – some are tall, athletic and good looking – but those of use who don’t fall into that category need desire. You have to want to achieve."

D’Alessandro also pointed out that those who have the desire and ambition to succeed in the business world need to understand that success in the business world is a combination of personal life, suggesting that those who punch out at 5 p.m. every day and wonder why they aren’t CEOs is probably as aware of the commitment CEOs make.

D’Alessandro quickly added, however, that successful business leaders shouldn’t earn their success at the expense of those waiting for them at home.

"At the end of the day, family is far more important than any business deal that you may or may not have enjoyed," he said.

D’Alessandro, a 2003 Order of Canada recipient, was formally awarded the 2007 I.D.E.A. at a black tie dinner in Winnipeg on June 11. He was selected by the Associates of the University of Manitoba’s Asper School of Business for his exceptional leadership and visionary skills, and for his contribution to economic life in Canada and abroad.

"The Associates are delighted to honour Mr. Dominic D’Alessandro for his entrepreneurial, business and economic spirit," said Arni Thorsteinson, chair of the I.D.E.A. committee and president of Shelter Construction.

Manulife president and CEO Dominic D’Alessandro was in Winnipeg, June 11, to receive the 2007 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (I.D.E.A.) He spoke at the Asper School of Business earlier in the day.

Construction booms during summer

Summer construction season is well underway at the University of Manitoba. Projects include:

• The Annex Centre, at the Bannatyne campus, which will serve as the new home for the Faculty of Pharmacy when it is completed.

• The Aboriginal Student Centre, which will provide a focal point for the Aboriginal community at the University of Manitoba. It’s slated for completion by the end of December 2007.

• The Elizabeth Dafoe Library Storage Annex is rising to the east of the library. While the building will be four-stories high, there will not be any dividing floors inside the building. Instead the storage shelves will stretch the full height of the building.

• The Buller Building redevelopment. The building upgrade and window replacement project is now more than 50 per cent complete.

• Curry Place. The university is in the second phase of developing Curry Place into a pedestrian friendly plaza. Currently, the area in front of the John, A. Russell Building is being redeveloped. Subsequent phases will extend to the Extended Education Complex.

• The 250-seat Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre is going up on the south end of St. John’s College.

Manulife president and CEO Dominic D’Alessandro was in Winnipeg, June 11, to receive the 2007 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (I.D.E.A.) He spoke at the Asper School of Business earlier in the day.

Canadian Properties Limited.

D’Alessandro has led Manulife Financial since 1994, leading the company to 13 consecutive years of record financial performance. In 1999, D’Alessandro pioneered Manulife’s successful demutualization and conversion to public company status, which set the stage for it to become an industry world leader. Five years later he made Canadian history when he managed the largest cross-border transaction with a merger with John Hancock Financial Services, simultaneously creating the second largest life insurance company on the continent and the fourth largest in the world.

University of Manitoba president Emile Szathmáry said D’Alessandro as this year’s I.D.E.A. recipient is a coup for the university and the Asper School of Business.

"Mr. D’Alessandro is a distinguished entrepreneur for many reasons, but there is no question that he is one because he has backbone, he is willing to work hard, and he uses his intelligence and the sieve of broad experience to identify opportunities worldwide that others have overlooked," Szathmáry noted at the award ceremony. "Not only does he possess an exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, but he also has an abiding commitment to his community."

It should surprise no one in this audience that Mr. D’Alessandro has chaired the campaigns of both the Salvation Army and the Greater Toronto United Way, he has served as the corporate fund co-chair for the Breast Cancer Research Campaign, he has been a member of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Counsel and has provided much needed service to the institution where his formal learning first began: Concordia University."

The annual I.D.E.A. dinner, established in 1983, is widely known for honouring internationally-renowned entrepreneurs such as Israel Asper, Richard Branson, award founder Albert D. Cohen, Paul Desmarais, Akio Morita, Ross Perot, Heather Reisman, Dame Anita Roddick, Gerald Schwarz, Martha Stewart, and G. Westen Galan. Each I.D.E.A. recipient is presented with a custom-designed pure gold medal struck specifically for the award by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The Associates is an organization of senior business leaders dedicated to making the Asper School of Business a top Canadian business school. Every year the Associates support and promote interaction between business executives, faculty and students, culminating with the I.D.E.A. presentations in June.

Employment Equity Incentive Fund Awards

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007/2008 Employment Equity Incentive Fund competition. The fund provides bursary support for projects which support employment equity initiatives proposed by individuals, faculties, schools, departments and other administrative units.

Types of projects include: 
• facilitating recruitment or retention of designated group members as academic or support staff; 
• promoting cultural or gender sensitivity or inclusivity; 
• accommodating special needs in the workplace; * 
• providing role models for designated group members; 
• increasing awareness of employment equity issues.

Deadline: June 29, 2007

Please Note: Requests for a second year of support will be considered for one or two initiatives which require more than one year to complete.

• Requests for accommodations of special needs for employees with disabilities should be made to the Reasonable Accommodation Fund.

For application forms, please contact: Equity Services (C) 941-7499 or email: Paula.Birrell@umanitoba.ca

For information to applicants, forms, a brief history of the fund and a list of successful proposals check the Equity Services web site: www.umanitoba.ca/equity

Distance Ed and nursing

A Faculty of Nursing study of distance education and the perceptions of Aboriginal nursing students in remote areas of Manitoba has shown that technology has its limitations. Students required more support in learning distance education than they were receiving, and there is a need to better equip remotely located learners using distance technology.

The advantages of distance learning include the ability of students to remain in the North close to their families, having a flexible and adaptable learning environment, and the creation of fostering or mentoring communities among students themselves.

To learn more go to umanitoba.ca/nursing/Outreach.
Awards of Excellence 2007 winners

Learning and Development Services and the Awards of Excellence selection committee are pleased to announce the winners for the 2007 Awards of Excellence. The contributions of support staff are celebrated with four separate awards - the President's, Service, Leadership, and Team awards. The winners were recognized at a recognition dinner at the President’s house on June 29, and the formal presentation of the President’s Award was made at June 7 events.

This year Brian Rivers received the President’s Award. Dan Hiebert, Nancy Klos, Marvin Kocay, and Gord Pasieka were recipients of the Leadership Award. Terri Garner, Louise Graham, Lawrence Grimshire, and Kirk Marat received the Service Award. The Team Award went to the Aurora Finance implementation team. Congratulations to all the winners. Congratulations also to all whose contributions were recognized with a nomination. The committee found it difficult to make its selections in every category. This is a testament to the high caliber of nominations submitted and the contributions of those nominated.

President's Award
BRIAN RIVERS
Brian Rivers is the 2007 winner of this pre-eminent Award of Excellence for support staff. Rivers has been with the university for over 30 years, for the last nine as the director of physical plant, leading almost 400 staff. During his tenure, Rivers and his team have played a key role in developing and facilitating strategic objectives under demanding conditions. Rivers's calm, reasoned, collegial, and consultative approach is appreciated, during daily issues and in stressful situations.

The last several years have seen the most significant facility construction at the university since the 1960s. Over $128 million in construction and renovation projects have been successfully completed during Rivers's tenure. Rivers has been an ardent champion of environmental sustainability, leading initiatives also saving the university hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Rivers was honored during Spring Convocation and his full citation appeared in the May 31 issue of The Bulletin.

Team Award
AURORA FINANCE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
The Aurora Finance implementation team has 34 members from four different university departments and several external companies. This team implemented a large, complex financial system which has had an impact right across the university. This implementation involved replacing the legacy, mainframe-based, financial systems with a new system which dealt with the many different types of financial transactions that take place at the university. This project involved the development and testing of over 60 different interfaces and of supporting users in learning the system.

The Aurora Finance implementation team dealt with the complexity of the project and the many challenging change issues to successfully achieve the goal of implementing the new system. They did this by being positive, solution-oriented, constructive and working very hard. Since the implementation process has gone live, the team has put up 1,700 user IDs, processed 30,000 journal entries, had over 2,500 participants in training sessions, and taken 2,500 “helpdesk” calls. The finance system has been well received on campus as a result of their efforts.

Service Awards of Excellence

TERRI GARNER
Terri Garner is a technician with the department in animal science, ensuring that experimental techniques and procedures are carried out correctly and excellent animal care is maintained. She has been indispensable for faculty and researchers involved in ruminant animal research and indispensable for faculty and researchers involved in the Faculty of Agriculture 2 Russell and Architecture 2 buildings. Over the last several years Grimshire has provided outstanding service in what were, at times, difficult circumstances. Before and after the refurbishment of the Russell Building, Grimshire worked diligently to effect a smooth transition between existing systems and new systems. Grimshire's leadership skills enabled this initiative to be completed successfully and within budget, developing a new technical infrastructure for the university's financial services in new and innovative ways both now and in the future.

Leadership Awards of Excellence

DAN HIEBERT
Dan Hiebert, from administrative systems, was the project manager for the implementation of Aurora. In this role, Hiebert coordinated the many resources working on this large and complex project. Hiebert’s initiative, problem solving skills, and organizational skills were critical.

Any project this complex and far reaching introduces a great deal of change and change management. Hiebert worked tirelessly at building a collaborative, solution-oriented team.

Despite unexpected technical glitches, sudden changes in staffing, and limited resources, Hiebert created an open environment that supported project staff in taking on new challenges and responsibilities.

NANCY KLOS
Nancy Klos, office of research services, leads teams of administrative staff and researchers throughout the often complex award submission process, resulting in the receipt of national individual awards and institutional submissions. Klos often acts as an ambassador for the university with a number of affiliated institutions both provincially and federally. She also plays a critical role in administering the various awards.

The university has made great gains in this competitive environment because of Klos’s efforts. As one researcher stated, “The results of Nancy’s dedication and professionalism are stunning. The amount of research dollars obtained by the Faculty of Medicine has risen from $4.5 million in 1999 to $89 million in 2005.”

MARVIN KOACY
Marvin Kocay, director of administrative systems, has provided overall leadership for the largest information technology renewal project in the history of the university: the move of six core systems off an aging mainframe. Kocay’s leadership skills enabled this initiative to be completed successfully and within budget, developing a new technical infrastructure for the university’s financial services in new and innovative ways both now and in the future.

Kocay led his own IST team plus stakeholders from various units with a team approach focusing a sense of purpose on the greater good of the university. Kocay also took lessons learned from early parts of the project and applied them to subsequent phases.

GORD PASIEKA
Gord Pasieka, associate comptroller, financial services, has become synonymous with the Aurora Finance project. Gord’s leadership role in this project was an essential part of its success.

During the implementation of Aurora Finance, he juggled the hundreds of tasks with balance and accuracy. He took ownership of his team and gave everyone a sense of ownership of their piece of the project. He cared about his team’s well being and constantly showed appreciation and recognition for their effort. Pasieka also worked to ensure that the needs of stakeholders were taken into account throughout the project.

His focus on the stakeholders input started with the vendor selection and has lasted right through to the refinements that are being introduced to the system as it continues to evolve.
Jazz program could soon get green light

The Faculty of Music’s new bachelor of jazz studies won the approval of Senate on May 23. With Senate’s approval, the program will go to the Board of Governors for final approval.

The jazz program will give students the ability to enter the field of jazz as performers, writers, arrangers, educators of any combination thereof. It’s intended to build on and support the growing interest in jazz music that has been shown at the University of Manitoba and in the music industry in general.

However, given that the program will require new space and funding, Senate noted it will not be implemented until the vice-president (academic) is satisfied that sufficient supports are in place to guarantee the on-going operation of the program.

ELECTION

Senate members had an election of their own at their May 23 regular meeting. Faculty of Arts dean Richard Sigurdson was elected as Board of Governors representative for a three-year term. Graduate Studies dean Jay Doering was re-elected to the Senate executive committee for a three-year term. Medical Rehabilitation director Emily Etcheverry was also elected to the Senate executive committee for a three-year term while chemistry professor Phil Hultin was elected for a two-year term.

Doering was also appointed to the Senate committee on nominations for a three-year term. Chemistry head Norm Hunter, Pharmacy dean David Collins and Nursing professor Marie Edwards were re-appointed for three-year terms.

IN MEMORIAM

Senate paid its respects to Ken McLachlan, who passed away on Feb. 10 at the age of 84. McLachlan had been a professor in the department of civil engineering from 1970 until his retirement in July 1996. Attaining his PhD in electrical engineering from South Hampton University, McLachlan initially came to the U of M on sabbatical in 1969 to help one of his former doctoral students. He liked Manitoba so much that he decided to return and take on a full-time faculty position. Throughout his career, which included work in electrical, mechanical and civil engineering, McLachlan was renowned for his dedication to teaching and interest in students.

NEW PROGRAM

The Council on Post-Secondary Education gave its approval for a new bachelor of science in geological sciences (general) degree. The program requires no additional resources, so it can be implemented in September, 2007.

Considering Retirement?

BMO Nesbitt Burns Pathfinder®, our investment and retirement planning software, is customized to show you the differences between your various early retirement options. Using Pathfinder®, we will help you clarify your options so that you can make an informed decision about which alternatives would be best for you.

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Expecting Visitors This Summer?

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umanitoba.ca/student/housing

Gettin' read'y

President Emőke Szathmáry helps honorary degree recipient and Canadian Governor General Michéelle Jean prepare for the University of Manitoba’s Tuesday, June 5 Spring Convocation ceremony.
Bison Sports

SEASON TICKET SALE
It pays to get your season tickets early. The Manitoba Bisons are offering a series of deals aimed at staff and students.

- Season tickets price for Staff
- Season tickets price for Students

Students can also look forward to special season ticket prices in the fall when the University of Manitoba kicks off the annual ticket lottery and competition.

Events Listing
University of Manitoba
Fort Garry Campus

THURSDAY, JUNE 14
- Physics & Astronomy PhD Oral Examination
  Dynamic XMR Studies of Molecular Motions and Order in Calamin and Dicocito Liquid Crystals by Jing Zhang, 250 Allen Building, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 14.

MONDAY, JUNE 18
- Pharmacy PhD Oral Examination
  Roles Of Bone Morphogenetic Protein 4 In Liver Fibrogenesis by Jiang Zhang, 250 Allen Building, 10 a.m., Monday, June 18.

- Computer Science MSc Thesis Defense
  Performance Evaluation on IEEE 802.15.4 Scatternet Sensor Networks by Jun Fun, E2-415 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 1 p.m., Monday, June 18.

Agricultural and Food Sciences
- U.S. Beef: Outlook and Long Term Implications of Ethanol by Clem Ward, professor and extension economist, department of agricultural economics, Oklahoma State University, Carolyn Silva lecture Theatre 130 Agriculture Building, 2 p.m., Monday, June 18.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
- Sociology, Indigenous Sentencing Courts in Australia: Processes, Practices and Theoretical Framework by Elena Marchetti, senior lecturer, Griffith Law School, Brisbane, Australia, 535 IbiSter Building, 1 p.m., Thursday, June 19.

- Computer Science MSc Thesis Defense
  Trust and Reputation in Web Services by Abul Kalam Rafi Ahmed, E2-415 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 11 a.m., Thursday, June 19.

- Soil Science PhD Oral Examination
  Molecular Speciation of Phosphorus in Organic Amendments and Amended Soils Using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and X-Ray Absorption Spectroscopies by Babasola Ajiboye, 344 Ellis Building, 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 19.

- Computer Science MSc Thesis Defence
  Design of an IEEE 802.15.4 compliant Slavedelay Bridge to Support Inter-WPAN Communication Using CSMA/CA by Ranjit Udadyankar, E2-415 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 19.

Bannatyne Campus
AND ST. BONIFACE RESEARCH CENTRE

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
- Community Health Sciences PhD Oral Examination, Family Perceptions and Satisfaction with End-of-Life Care in Long-Term Care Facilities by Genevieve Thompson, 405 Brodie Centre, 1 p.m., Monday, June 18.


- Sociology, Indigenous Sentencing Courts in Australia: Processes, Practices and Theoretical Framework by Elena Marchetti, senior lecturer, Griffith Law School, Brisbane, Australia, 335 Isbister Building, 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 19.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 19
- Community Health Sciences PhD Oral Examination, Family Perceptions and Satisfaction with End-of-Life Care in Long-Term Care Facilities by Genevieve Thompson, 405 Brodie Centre, 1 p.m., Monday, June 18.


- Sociology, Indigenous Sentencing Courts in Australia: Processes, Practices and Theoretical Framework by Elena Marchetti, senior lecturer, Griffith Law School, Brisbane, Australia, 335 Isbister Building, 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 19.

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A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at www.umanitoba.ca

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the positions to which you are applying for or openings at the university.

- Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources
  Department of Environment and Geography
  Position: Instructor 1, one-year term appointment
  Start date: Aug. 15
  Application deadline: July 14
  Position number: 06296

For information: Dr. Richard K. Baydack, chair, search committee, department of environment and geography, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, University of Manitoba, 213 IbiSter Building, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, e-mail baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For information: Dr. Harvey Keselman, department of psychology, 404 Duff Roblin, 190 Dysart Road, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T-2N2.

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The Bulletin welcomes Classified Ads. The rate for ads is $5 for the first 45 words.

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June 14, 2007

The Bulletin

Page 7

Research News

umanitoba.ca/research

CAN-R website zeros in on superbugs

BY FRANK NOLAN
Research Promotion

Health professionals across Canada have a new weapon in the war against antibiotic-resistant superbugs. It’s not a vaccine or a powerful new drug, it’s an innovative website, and it was the brainchild of researchers at the University of Manitoba.

CAN-R.ca is the official website of the Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Alliance (CARA), a University of Manitoba-based medical microbiology and infectious diseases research group that includes members from across the country. Launched in March, 2007, the new website includes a wide range of information about superbugs, including up-to-date surveillance data, and the latest statistics on antibiotic usage across Canada.

University of Manitoba superbug expert George Zhanel, medical microbiology, is the website’s editor in chief. "This was something we’ve wanted to do for a very long time, and it’s great to have the site up and running," Zhanel said. "Our editorial board is really a who’s who of medical microbiology and infectious diseases across Canada, and we have committed to making the CAN-R website a national resource where people can find comprehensive information about superbugs."

Endorsed by the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI) and Health Canada, the website is the only one of its kind in North America. It is designed to be a resource for health professionals dealing with antimicrobial resistant infections, as well as members of the media and the general public. All content is evidence-based, peer reviewed and approved by the CAN-R editorial board before being posted on the site. CARA has also partnered with an organization called IMS, which stands for Intercontinental Medical Statistics. IMS tracks antibiotic use in both in-patients and out-patients around the world, and will provide the website with the latest information about antimicrobial usage across Canada.

"Doctors and other health care professionals would access this site for a number of reasons," Zhanel said. "For example, you can get the latest Canadian and American practice guidelines for dealing with specific infections. Or if you want to use a certain antimicrobial, you can find the latest research on that particular agent, whether it’s dosage, adverse effects, efficacy and so on. It’s also very useful for people who want to know what kind of superbugs are in their particular region, and what the resistance patterns look like."

The new site also has pages aimed at the media and the general public, which present a range of superbug information in a clear and simple way. "There are a number of animations that show how antibiotics work and how resistance develops," Zhanel said. "This can be used, for example, by university teachers in science and medicine, for teaching in hospitals, or for members of the media who need some background for a story they’re working on. It’s already a great resource, and we’re getting about 500 hits per day. I’m sure that count will rise dramatically as we continue to develop the site."

First-time visitors to the site must register to gain access to all of the information. Registration is free, and once registered, users will also receive a “hot topics” update every few months with the latest superbug information. To register, visit the site at: http://can-r.ca

Programs support agri-food research

BY FRANK NOLAN
Research Promotion

Agriculture in the 21st century is about a lot more than just farming. Environmental concerns and growing consumer demand for value-added foods and natural health products have revolutionized the agri-food sector, sparking intense research on everything from functional foods and biopharmaceuticals, to environmentally-friendly bioproducts and biofuels.

On May 23, university researchers, government personnel and local companies gathered at the University of Manitoba to learn about government programs that support innovative agri-food research and development. The full-day workshop was organized by Digvir Jayas, associate vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba, and Canada Research Chair in Stored-Grain Ecosystems. The event was sponsored by the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Food Processors Association, the Manitoba Business Council, the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

“The federal government has introduced several new programs, and we’re forecasting many more opportunities in the future for people to work with university researchers and local industries,” Jayas said. “It was a tremendous success. We were initially expecting maybe 40 or 45 people, but we ended up with about 125. There is clearly an appetite in the research and development community to learn more about these government programs.”

The event included presentations by a number of federal and provincial government representatives, including Gordon Neish, director general of bioproducts and bioprocesses for AAFC, who began the workshop with an overview of AAFC’s science and innovation strategy.

“We live next to a giant, and we deal with giants, whether it’s the United States, the European Community, or Japan,” Neish said. “We’re looking at ways to build a knowledge-based bio-economy, which has profound implications for the agriculture and forestry sectors in Canada. We really need to bring our best minds together in productive partnerships, so that we can develop new ideas and take them to the marketplace.”

Neish also opened the afternoon session with a presentation on the new Agriculture Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP), which supports the development and operation of new bioproducts research networks that include university researchers and the private sector.

“We’re asking people to create networks that have a particular focus, whether it’s biofuels, other kinds of bioenergy, biopharmaceuticals, and so on,” he said. “We’ve heard from several applicants who say the program has already done a great service, simply by encouraging people to talk to each other and to come up with these collaborations.”

The workshop concluded with a presentation by Daryl Domitruck, Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Initiatives, and Lori-Ann Kamiński, project officer for the Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI), a program supported by both the federal and provincial governments.

ARDI funds everything from basic research to product commercialization and market evaluation, and it really encourages partnerships across sectors,” Domitruck said. "Projects are focused on priorities that come directly from the agri-food sector and from rural Manitobans, including things like value-added agriculture, biofuels, functional foods and natural health products and sustainable production systems. It’s really about research and development that will lead to better profits for farmers, either on the production side or further up the value chain.”
A beautiful university

The Bull
June 14, 2007

A beautiful university

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bison Athletic Therapy Centre is located on the second floor of the Investors Group Athletic Centre. It caters to the university community, athletes and the general public throughout the year. But during summer, with most of the athletes off campus, Nyceai said they have an opportunity to focus more on the needs of students and staff members.

The most common spring mishaps include lower back strains and shoulder injuries and often the culprit is simply trying to do too much of the same activity at one time.

“With the rain we’ve been having, people are in a panic to get things done when the sun shines,” University Centre director Tracey Nyczai said. “But the problem with pushing yourself too hard is that it increases the chance of sustaining an injury.” A problem even more acute in the spring for people who may have been less active during the winter months.

“People want to get things done in one big rush. But you’re far better to focus on doing a little bit each day,” Nyceai said.

The most common spring mishaps include lower back strains and shoulder injuries and often the culprit is simply trying to do too much of the same activity at one time.

The best advice is to have two or three jobs on the go,” Certified Athletic Therapist Jeff Billeck said. “That way you can switch back and forth between the jobs, and avoid straining yourself by spending too long in the same position.”

And the rule of thumb is, if the soreness has lasted more than 48 hours, you might have an injury rather than just stiff muscles.

Billeck and Nyceai are two of the four therapists who work in the Athletic Therapy Centre.

Other advice for staying injury free during summer includes:

• Put your legs into it. Don’t just use your back when bending over and lifting or when shoveling, spread the workload among all your major muscles. Bend at the knees when lifting and keep the item close to your body.

• Change positions. Break up the workload by switching jobs, or changing positions every 20 to 30 minutes.

• Use the proper tools to make the job easier. Many stores now carry ergonomically designed tools, such as The Garden Claw or Weed Hound, to make jobs easier.

• Make a stretch break. It can be as simple as standing tall and pressing your palms to the sky. Stay hydrated, wear a hat and slap on some sunscreen and take breaks. You’re supposed to enjoy summer, after all.

The centre is holding an open house on June 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We’ll have interactive demonstrations, brief consultations with people and offer tours of the centre,” Nyceai said. The open house coincides with the second annual Athletic Therapy Month, which runs throughout the month of June.

The Bison Athletic Therapy Centre

Sustainability on Campus

What could save 1604 trees, the energy equivalent to heating 12 homes annually, the emissions equivalent to approximating 13 cars and three garbage trucks full of waste? According to the paper calculator from the U. S. based environmental defense, the University of Manitoba could realize these savings by switching to recycled stock.

The information is based on research done by the paper calculator. For more information, visit www.papercalculator.org.

McDermott says there are a quite a few converts who are satisfied with the recycled stock. “Some departments were apprehensive at first because of the perception of poor quality and the possibility of the paper jamming their copiers. But they see now that recycled paper has come a long way and I haven’t had any complaints. In fact, most users can’t tell the difference.” Faculties and departments who are ordering the recycled stock include Engineering and Architecture, physical plant, purchasing, the Natural Resources Institute and many departments in the Faculty of Arts.

McDermott adds that she’s convinced that eight per cent will increase in the new calendar year when departments and faculties realize an environmentally friendly option exists. “Already this calendar year we’ve seen a significant increase in orders for the post-consumer recycled stock and a decrease in the non-recycled stock.”

Environmental impact estimates were made using the environmental defense paper calculator. For more information, visit www.papercalculator.org.

Sustainability coordinator Maire McDermott is hoping to save some trees by getting people at the university to use paper with a higher recycled content.

Time is of the essence. If each department chose a copy paper based on research done by the paper calculator from the U. S. based environmental defense, the University of Manitoba could realize these savings by switching to recycled stock.

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Work smart and you’ll enjoy summer

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McDermott states that the recent increase in recycled paper orders represent a savings of about 32 trees and 1.3 metric tonnes of CO2! And that doesn’t even factor in the savings that departments could realize by double sided copying.

If your department would like an individual summary of the savings they could realize by switching to paper with a 30 per cent post-consumer content or would like information on recycled paper options, please contact the sustainability coordinator at sustainability@umanitoba.ca or call 474-8166.

Environmental impact estimates were made using the environmental defense paper calculator. For more information, visit www.papercalculator.org.