Barnard named next president

David T. Barnard, currently chief operating officer of an information technology company and formerly president and vice-chancellor of the University of Regina, has been named the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

The University of Manitoba Board of Governors approved Barnard’s appointment on Nov. 29 and publicly announced it on Nov. 30. The appointment is effective July 1, 2008 for a five-year term.

“When the search first began for the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba, the search committee only dreamed of finding an individual combining such impeccable attributes and qualifications,” said Terry Sargeant, chair of the Board of Governors. “After a consultative and comprehensive search process, the University of Manitoba is fortunate to have found someone as ideally suited for the position as Dr. David Barnard. He will serve as an excellent champion of this institution – locally, nationally and internationally.”

A respected scholar, educator and administrator, Barnard studied computer science at the University of Toronto (BSc, MSc, PhD) before joining the faculty of Queen’s University. During his time there he held a number of administrative roles (director of computing and communications services, head of computing and information science, associate vice-principal) and also studied theology at Regent College at the University of British Columbia (DipCS). He then moved to the University of Regina, first as vice-president (administration) and then as president (1998-2005) during a period of significant change and growth.

“I am delighted to be joining a post-secondary institution as respected around the world as the University of Manitoba,” Barnard said.

See BARNARD/P. 2
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 deserve U of M faculty and staff impact the world around them.

The French take notice
Nov. 11, 2007
3
The Globe and Mail
Susan Arnfield and former graduate student Alexandra Pinteris, department of food science, were featured in an online article on an enzyme-modified canola protein. The story was labeled as breaking news on food and beverage development in Europe. The story is based on the research team’s upcoming article in LWT - Food Science and Technology.

Ethicist reviews biotech book
Nov. 17, 2007
The Globe and Mail

MacFarlane on Air India
Nov. 20, 2007
The Canadian Press, CanWest News Service
Law professor Bruce MacFarlane captured headlines from Alaska to Montreal when he prepared a report for the inquiry into the Air India trial, which is looking at the unique challenges of ‘mega-trials’. MacFarlane said he does not favour a system in terrorism cases where three judges would be empanelled, but recommends that in such trials an alternate judge should be appointed to back up the trial judge in the case of missed workdays.

Teller on Lake Agassiz, again
Nov. 20, 2007
CanWest News Service
A newswire story citing geologist Jim Teller on Lake Agassiz, again. Where else has the U of M been making news?

Plummer is top researcher

Barnard looks to lead team

From Page 1: “Institutions of higher learning, particularly research-intensive universities like the University of Manitoba, play a central and indispensable role in society and the world. I look forward to working as president of the University of Manitoba as we build an exciting future.”

“Universities have a complicated role,” Barnard added. “They have a conservatory role to play, in that they are charged with passing on our accumulated intellectual heritage. But at the same time we keep asking if we really know the answers. Through our research, we take a radical questioning attitude. Finally, we need to take what we know and make it relevant to the society around us. The mission is a societal service role.”

“All of this makes for complex institutions.”

But the joy of the university experience is that when all the various disciplines, and regions of the university, tasks operate together in harmony they can have a profound impact on the world, Barnard said.

Barnard serves on the Board of Governor-managed Investments, the Provincial Court Commission of Saskatchewan (chair), the Saskatchewan Arts Board (vice-chair), the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority and the board of the Canada West Foundation. He has previously served as lead director on the Board of the Bank of Canada, chair of the Minister’s Advisory Council on Information Technology and the board of SaskPower, and as a member of several other community boards.

“Building a Career Change: After more than 25 years in the business, this architect went back to school for an MBA. Here’s a look at a typical day in his new job,” BusinessWeek, featuring Iaper School of Business student Julie Iretton, Nov. 18, 2007.

From Page 1: “It is my great pleasure to welcome Dr. Barnard to the University of Manitoba,” said Lt. Governor, Chancellor, and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba. “There have been just 10 presidents in our 130-year history. The influence of those leaders, during their tenure and beyond, has had a significant impact on the university, its students and its faculty. I know Dr. Barnard will continue the University of Manitoba’s tradition of excellence and innovation.”

President Emerite Szathmary will complete 12 distinguished years of service as the 10th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba on June 30, 2008. She was happy to welcome Barnard to the province.

“Winning is a great place to be and the University of Manitoba, the first university in Western Canada, is the best university to lead,” Szathmary said. She has known Barnard for several years and said he has proven himself as an academic leader with a unique blend of the sciences and the arts.

The recommendation for the appointment of Barnard was made by a 14-member search committee chaired by Terry Sargeant. The committee included members of the Board of Governors and Senate, including academic staff, support staff, students and community members.

Francis Plummer, one of the world’s foremost HIV/AIDS researchers, has been named Canada’s Health Researcher of the Year in the field of biomedical and Clinical Research.

The University of Manitoba researcher received the prestigious Michael Smith Prize in Health Research at an awards banquet in Ottawa on Nov. 20. The award is named after Nobel laureate Michael Smith. The Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) awards it annually to an outstanding Canadian researcher who has demonstrated a high degree of innovation, creativity, leadership and dedication in health research. The honour consists of a medal and a grant of $120,000.

Plummer is known around the world for his groundbreaking research focused on naturally acquired HIV immunity vaccine development.

He currently leads an international team of researchers that received a Grand Challenges in Global Health grant of US $8.5 million in 2005 to expand on research that he and his team, in collaboration with commercial sex workers in Kenya who do not become infected with HIV despite repeated exposure to the virus. The team is studying the immune systems and genetics of these women to identify what creates this resistance. This research will provide vital new information for HIV vaccine development.

Plummer’s studies of HIV-1 in Africa led to the identification of mechanisms of heterosexual transmission of HIV-1 by the development of highly effective interventions, which are now in use worldwide by UNAIDS and the World Bank. He also collaborated on studies that were the first to show breastfeeding significantly increases the frequency of mother to child transmission of HIV-1. This discovery led to changes in health policy that now prevents thousands of HIV-1 infections among children.

“Dr. Plummer is an outstanding scientist and I congratulate him on this significant achievement,” University of Manitoba president Emerite Szathmary said. “He is a world leader in HIV/AIDS research and his contributions to science have been exceptional. Dr. Plummer is an internationally recognized medical microbiologist and the Smith Prize is confirmation of his stature in the biomedical and clinical research community.”

The Michael Smith Prize in Health Research has its roots in 1993, when Michael Smith shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for discovering and developing site-directed mutagenesis, a technique now widely used in genetic engineering. This discovery allowed researchers to gain profound insights into the structure and function of genes and proteins.

Plummer is a University of Manitoba Distinguished Professor of medical microbiology and Canada research Chair in Resistance and Susceptibility to Infections. He is also the senior scientific advisor of the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control in Ottawa, and scientific director general of the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba in 1976.

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University of Manitoba researchers have been awarded nearly $2 million in new funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The funding will support two University of Manitoba projects.

Working in partnership with Sichuan University in China, University of Manitoba researchers will address the increasingly devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic in China by building capacity to implement HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support programs aimed at those most vulnerable to infection and those already dealing with the disease.

A second important project will help the country of Bangladesh develop sound economic development approaches to resource management. The projects will continue for six years and each will receive funding of $998,886 from CIDA.

"CIDA awarded only eight grants across the country in this particular competition, and the fact that two of these grants were awarded to faculty members at the University of Manitoba says a great deal about the quality of their work," said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. "Over the next six years, these professors will be sharing their expertise with their colleagues in Bangladesh and China, and establishing education and training programs that will greatly benefit communities throughout these regions and beyond."

This new funding recognizes the University of Manitoba’s long history at the forefront of HIV/AIDS research and program development around the world. University of Manitoba researchers currently working in Kenya and India have made some of the most promising break-through discoveries in understanding how HIV spreads and how the body responds to HIV infection, and have developed pioneering programming strategies for HIV prevention, care and support.

James Blanchard, community health sciences, will lead the China-based project, which has the potential to significantly improve the country’s response to HIV/AIDS. His research in reacting, responding, and training programs that will greatly benefit communities throughout these regions and beyond.

"CIDA awarded only eight grants across the country in this particular competition, and the fact that two of these grants were awarded to faculty members at the University of Manitoba says a great deal about the quality of their work." Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. The second project is being led by Emdad Haque, the director of the Natural Resources Institute. His research in Bangladesh and China over the last two decades has made significant contributions to the natural resource and environmental risk management fields. His project will now help rural communities and the government in Bangladesh become environmental stewards by developing sustainable resource management capacity with enforced regulations.

"What’s the right adjective to use?" her father asks. "We are extremely pleased and excited for Akosua. She’s worked very hard for this. After she got the call Saturday night, we phoned relatives here in Canada to tell them the news and then woke up our relatives in Ghana."

In addition to her outstanding academic credentials, Matthews is an army reservist, where she is a corporal and plays bugle and trumpet in the company band. “I was very busy performing at Remembrance Day services this year,” Matthews notes. Matthews says she enjoyed her time in the philosophy department, enhancing her ability to learn and share knowledge.

“My department was very small and hands-on,” she says. “I got to know my professors on a one-to-one basis. Many people think that University of Manitoba is a really big school, but for me, my experience was quite small.”

“People really got to know you,” she adds. Matthews is the 87th Rhodes Scholar to hail from the University of Manitoba, which has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other university in Western Canada.

Matthews plans to eventually study law. Her Rhodes Scholarship is tenable for studies at Oxford in England for two or three years commencing in the fall of 2008, covering all tuition fees plus an annual stipend.
When friends discover you blogging

Thanks to the It's My Future campaign, students and alumni at the University of Manitoba are telling their stories. Over the next year, the Bulletin will be introducing the university's online bloggers and give you a glimpse of what is happening in their lives. To learn more, go to itsfuture.ca.

MEET ROB SMITH

Rob Smith is in fourth year arts with a focus on psychology. He plans to pursue an honours degree in psychology, a bachelor of laws, or a future in professional hockey.

"It took a while for me to find my stride in university," says Rob Smith, who completed two years of introductory courses before deciding to focus on Psychology. "I think it took me a little longer than expected after University 1, that would have been for me," he jokes.

You might say he wasn't academically driven in high school but at university a 'switch flipped,' he says.

"This is where I've discovered life more than just academically," says Rob. "This is where I'm connected with the girl I had a crush on in grade five. She helped me discover my faith and that's what inspires and drives me every day."

The Boys of Christmas
November 26th, 2007

I am part of a hockey pool with my coworkers. This huge group met last week and the talk of the pool was nothing about hockey. Instead it was about the discovery of this blog. Being close friends in mine, of course they did not say the things about it but instead gave me a hard time.

With my friends, it would abnormal to applaud each other too much or say things like: "Wow, Great Blog Rob." But it was more like: "Wow, I cannot wait to read the next one" (of course with a lot of sarcasm tone). One of my friends even threatened not to be my friend anymore. He is a bit of a meathead though. Deep down inside we do like each other but most of the time it would be too awkward to wear it on our sleeves.

All this talk about the blog got me thinking about what Christmas entails for a group like ours. We have some great traditions that take place over the holidays.

We have one day where MOST of us take off work for a "party". It is a big macnabber two weeks in advance. The day starts with a street hockey game that gets pretty intense and involves "heated" rivalries. Last year one of my friends left a game mid-series because he got a case of the cramps. We are still thinking about his involvement this year!

After the game, we first clean up then head over to one of our parent's houses for the "Tacky Christmas Sweater - Not So Silent Night Party." I should mention that most of us have moved away from home and do not live with our parents. We only come together at this time of the year. I wish you peace, each according to your tradition, and do me the favor of knowing the future, and it is the future that excites him, draws the future he envisions to the media, and because the future will enable a significant change when the next scholar writes the history of the University of Manitoba. In some ways, David is a professors' professor - for how many among us has been funded like he has, by both NSERC and SSHRC/Homedy. As the University of Manitoba's associate vice-president (research), and with corporate business experience, bodes well for our university. It also bodes well for the external community - for in knowing - allow their own interests to surface, like Akosua Matthews did at our university, an institution that provides an education that is as good as can be obtained anywhere.

In 2007 Dave Barber of our Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Business and Management, lead investigator, and his co-investigators at Fisheries and Oceans, Gary Stern, and at the University of Washington, Jody Deming, received $20.5 million for the Circumpolar Flaw Lead Study (CFL), the single enormous project. In other years, other scientists at the University of Manitoba have received huge awards of the same magnitude as the CFL study – think of the work on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in India, or the international mouse mutagenesis project. But the CFL study is the fourth that has been awarded an allocation of more than $20 million over the past five years. Is there any other Canadian university that can claim a record like that?

And then there was the Bisons football team’s winning the Desjardins Vanier Cup just over a week ago. Now that was sweet victory for head coach Brian Dobie and his roster of fine student-athletes. They were undefeated all year, as they were last year until the last game in the Western Conference. For them, for their fans, of whom I am one, last year’s final game was a bitter loss, but the national championship of 2007 means much, and especially so because we took the Vanier from the University of Saskatchewan to whom the Bisons had lost in the Vanier Cup game of 2001. In a sports town like Winnipeg, the Bisons have been fered everywhere – by the Mayor of Winnipeg, the Premier of Manitoba, and even the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce! Go Bisons! You have brought notice of the University of Manitoba into virtually every living room in town! Perhaps we will see a plethora of able young men who would never have thought about university education decide to come here, because they want to do what the Bisons did this year. And they will learn, that both education and sports are the key to success.

In 2007, the University of Manitoba has another Rhodes Scholar, Akosua Matthews, and there is something quite delicious in knowing that her undergraduate degree is in philosophy. The world needs more people who know how to read and think, and her eminently sensible comments to the media will influence prospective students to join us and take a chance on studying what fascinates them in University 1, rather than restricting their focus to something "practical." One fact is, there is nothing wrong with practicality, nor is it wrong to focus on something "practical." But I hope that students will find university education more than just a means to an end. I would like them all to be captivated by their subjects, take delight in the process of learning, find satisfaction in knowing – allow their own interests to surface, like Akosua Matthews did at our university, an institution that provides an education that is as good as can be obtained anywhere.
Two awards for U of M program

On Oct. 51, at the Global Perspectives on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Conference in Calgary, the Chronic Disease Management of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Program, sponsored by the Provincial Health Contact Centre, was recognized with two awards.

The project is a collaboration between the University of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. The research component is lead by Alan Katz, associate director of research, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

The CHF program was recognized with a “Delivery System Design Award.” There were eight other award winners in various categories. The CHF Program also won the University of Calgary, department of community health services research award.

Marks of Achievement

Earned some recognition or an award? The Bulletin would like to celebrate with you. Please email information about your Marks of Achievement to barboard@rs.umanitoba.ca. Feel free to include a picture of yourself! We’ll need a 200 dpi jpeg image. If you would like to chat about the details, please call 474 8111.

Diamond Jubilee Award for Degner

At a gala reception in Toronto in November, Lesley Degner, a professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, was formally recognized as one of Canada’s 10 leading cancer researchers. Degner received the Nature Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) Diamond Jubilee Award as part of its 60th anniversary celebration.

Degner is one of 12 Chairs in Canadian Health Services Research Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in health services and nursing research in Canada. She heads the Development of Evidence-Based Nursing Practice in Cancer Care, Palliative Care, and Cancer Prevention program at the University of Manitoba. She is considered an expert in the psychosocial aspects of cancer care and symptom management.

Degner was awarded the NCIC Diamond Jubilee Award for her research into behaviours and supportive care leading to improved quality-of-life and supportive tools for cancer patients. She is a previous recipient of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) Award of Excellence for Research

As well as the Cancer Nursing Research Article of the Year award for an article she wrote in the journal Cancer Nursing on a new approach to eliciting meaning in the context of breast cancer.

Gardiner receives CSEP honours

Phillip Gardiner, director of the Health Leisure & Human Performance Research Institute at the University of Manitoba, has received the 2007 Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology (CSEP) Honour Award. Gardiner is a tier 1 CIHR Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity & Health Studies, and the associate dean – Research for the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management at the University of Manitoba. Gardiner is a pioneer and world leader in research and has made CSEP’s highest honour in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field of exercise physiology and for his ongoing volunteer contributions to the organization. CSEP is a volunteer organization composed of professionals interested and involved in the scientific study of exercise physiology, exercise biochemistry, fitness and health.

The University of Manitoba handed out its Outreach Awards on Nov. 21. The winners included, back row from left, Paul Fernyhough, Eleanor Steward, Robert O’Kell, Bud Henry, Kelley Beaverford, Steve Kirby, Jean Trottier, and Francs Amara; front row from left, Renate Eigenbroad, Jessica Seneshi, James Teller, Robert Roughley, Carol Prosk and Kelly Mackay.

Fifteen staff members of the University of Manitoba were recognized for their outstanding community involvement through Outreach Awards at a reception on Nov. 21. This year, recipients include people who help immigants adjust to life in Canada, educate the public about brain injury, promote Aboriginal literature, work with the institutionalized elderly, inner-city poor and the mentally challenged, use their expertise to help improve the lives of people in other parts of the world, and “jazz up” the University of Manitoba.

The recipients for 2007 are:

- Francis Amara, biochemistry and medical genetics, for his community outreach activities for the benefit of children in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba, and for his leadership in the Sierra Leone community in Manitoba.
- Kelley Beaverford, interior design, for helping students learn from working directly with people in need around the world.
- Vincent Chan, community oral health, for dedicating his professional career to caring for Canada’s most disadvantaged populations. Chan has averaged more than six months per year providing dental care in Northern communities.
- Renate Eigenbroad, native studies, for her work in broadening the scope of programming on Aboriginal literatures available in the City of Winnipeg, and for her work as a member of the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Equality Coalition and of Confederation College’s advisory committee, advising on Aboriginal literatures of Canada.
- Paul Fernyhough, division of neurodegenerative diseases, for his neuroscience leadership in the project to treat a chronic human disease. His research includes work on the activities of the Huntingtons disease research team at the University of Manitoba.
- Bud Henry, physical plant, for his long-time involvement in the University of Manitoba’s United Way Campaigns.
- Steve Kirby, Faculty of Music, for his contributions to jazz music culture and activities in the city of Winnipeg.
- Kelly Mackay, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, for her collaboration with other universities, park agencies and the Nature Conservatory of Manitoba; for her role as a founding and on-going member of the Parks and Protected Areas Research Forum of Manitoba; and for her long-standing service on boards and committees, sharing her knowledge and expertise with community, industry and government agencies working in the tourism industry.
- Robert O’Kell, English, for his service on two national boards: the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
- Carol Prosk, Military Support Office, for her dedication in supporting Canadian Forces soldiers who are abroad.
- Robert Roughley, entomology, for his dedication in assisting members of the general public in identifying insects in response to their calls to the “Bug Line” and e-mails from around the world.
- Jessica Seneshi, Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, St. Paul’s College, for initiating and organizing two Winnipeg Storytelling Festivals.
- Eleanor Stuard, classics, for her annual calendar drive, which puts calendars in every room of the Victoria Hospital, the Grace Hospital and the Seven Oaks Hospital, so patients do not have to look at cold, bare walls.
- James Teller, geological sciences, for his role in promoting and organizing the International Year of Planet Earth, which was proclaimed for 2008 by the United Nations.
- Jean Trottier, landscape architecture, for leading Architecture students in their design and construction of the Welcome Place outdoor gathering space in Winnipeg and the Minnedosa Design/Build studio.

Our Outreach Award winners

APPOINTMENT

Director of Development and Alumni Relations (Bannatyne)

The University of Manitoba is pleased to announce the appointment of Barbara E. Becker, CFRE, as the director of development & alumni relations for the Bannatyne Campus at the University of Manitoba where she directs a team of development, advancement and alumni relations staff to support the faculties on that campus.

Barbara Becker

Becker has been with the University of Manitoba since 2003, and brings a wealth of fundraising experience to this task having worked in development since 1993 and achieving her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credentials in 2001.

Becker has served as chair of the resource development committee on the board of directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Manitoba Chapter, chair of the Bowl Wow Ball for the Winnipeg Humane Society and board member of the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Chapter.
The example of the HBC Archives

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, 1670-1920, are a treasure on par with some of the greatest archeological sites in the world. And while their grandeur is in the realm of records rather than buildings, it makes them no less significant. The archives, held as part of the Archives of Manitoba collection in Winnipeg since 1974, were recognized on Nov. 22 as one of only two archives in Canada to be included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Memory of the World Registry. The designation was officially handed out to the HBC Archives (HBCA) and the Quebec Seminary Collection, 1623-1800, housed in the Musée de la civilisation du Québec, earlier this year.

“Part of the intention of the Memory of the World Registry is to treat archives with the same respect we treat historical sites. They are areas that must be preserved for future generations,” David Walden, secretary-general for the Canadian delegation to UNESCO, said.

Certainly, University of Manitoba alumni Deirdre Simmons would agree. Simmons added a U of M twist to the UNESCO designation by releasing her book *Keepers of the Records: The History of the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives* (McGill-Queen’s University Press) in conjunction with the UNESCO announcement.

*Keepers of the Records* can trace its lineage back to Simmons’s archival studies’ master’s thesis on the history of the HBCA, which was completed in 1994. She was one of six students who decided to enroll in the archival studies program, in the joint-master’s program in history offered by the departments of history of the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. Studying the HBCA was a natural fit.

“I had been working at the Hudson’s Bay Company archives as a contract archivist,” Simmons said. “So I really wanted a project about the company that I could work on and continue with in my thesis.”

What she’s created is a story of how the archives have been maintained over the past 337 years — and survived to be recognized as a UNESCO Memory of the World Site.

In some ways their survival speaks to how critical their role was to the Hudson’s Bay Company. While they’re considered historical documents now, at the time of their production the records covered every detail of running a company that stretched across the world.

“The company maintained a sophisticated information system. That was the key to its success,” Simmons said. “Every Earl of the Hudson’s Bay Company staff were having to deal with. Everything from economic growth in Canada to climate change based on the sort of shipping conditions that the Hudson Bay Company staff were having to deal with. Because the documentation involved the mechanics of running the company it was treated with standard business confidentiality for the first 250 years of the company’s life, Simmons said.

“Before the 1930s the staff of the company looked to get together when Simmons’s new book *Keepers of the Records: The History of the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives was released on Nov. 22.*

Archival studies graduate Deirdre Simmons and her former thesis supervisor Tom Nesmith had a chance to get together when Simmons’s new book *Keepers of the Records: The History of the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives was released on Nov. 22.*

Employees were given precise instructions about what records should be kept, how they should be recorded and what details needed to be included. That information allows researchers today to track everything from economic growth in Canada to climate change based on the sort of shipping conditions that the Hudson Bay Company staff were having to deal with. Because the documentation involved the mechanics of running the company it was treated with standard business confidentiality for the first 250 years of the company’s life, Simmons said.

Before the 1930s the staff of the company looked after the historical records,” Simmons said. But with the celebration of the company’s 250th anniversary in 1928, there came a growing realization that its records also represented a critical piece of the archival history of Canada, Aboriginal people and the British Empire. As Simmons’s book traces, the discussion then focused on how the records could be maintained and what parts of them should be open to the public. The archives were transferred to Canada in 1974 when the HBC moved its head office to Winnipeg and in 1975 the public was granted access to the archives through the Archives of Manitoba. In 1994 an ownership was officially transferred to the Archives of Manitoba.

Nesmith was at the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives event to celebrate the registry designation, but he was also there to congratulate Simmons, who worked at the University of Victoria Archives and now works as a researcher and archival consultant in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, on her new book. Nesmith supervised Simmons’s thesis on the HBCA. He was brought to the University of Manitoba in 1990 to launch the archival studies program. At the time there was only one other archival studies program in English Canada. There will soon be five.

“It’s a small program but it’s had an important impact on archives in Manitoba and the rest of Canada,” Nesmith said. “We have graduates working all over Canada, and the current president of the Association of Canadian Archivists, Scott Goodine, is one of our graduates.”

Over the past 20 years there has been growing public understanding of the work of archives, but if people appreciate the need to maintain records of the past, such as the HBC archives, more than ever before, they are less cautious when it comes to preserving the electronic archival.

“When we look at the day to day electronic communication of today’s businesses, governments, other institutions, and in our personal lives, we have to wonder what will become of those records and will we be able to learn from them in archives in the future?” Nesmith said. “That’s very much in doubt, unfortunately.”

Electronic communications can be easily lost, manipulated, and mismanaged and technological obsolescence is a crippling challenge to preservation. The prospects for archives in the computer age, Nesmith said, will only improve when archivists get much greater support for their work from the computer industry, today’s records creators and information technology managers, and academic and other researchers. Vast amounts of valuable records have been and will be lost because action is not being taken to archive electronic files.

“Archiving,” he hoped, “is the next frontier in computing.”

Rainbow excitement

Advertise in the Bulletin
For details call 474 8111

The Fort Garry United Way campaign held its annual Rainbow Auction on Nov. 28. Bookstore receptionist Diane Stowe was on hand to help draw names during the event. The auction is one of the public high points of the campaign, but University of Manitoba employees can still get involved by setting up a donation through their local campaign coordinators.
A fond farewell to the mainframe

‘Funeral’ is really a chance to reunite people networks

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba held a New Orleans’ style funeral on Nov. 21 to say farewell to its mainframe computer. But the event was about more than just retiring a piece of equipment – it was about paying respect to all the friendships that had been built around that piece of equipment over the past 40 years.

“We’re celebrating here is the end of an era and moving forward,” Gerry Miller said as the funeral procession wound its way into Marshall McNair Hall – aptly named after a U of M graduate who had some strong feelings about how technology impacts people’s lives.

“But as important as the machine are the people who worked here and ran the equipment. A lot of those people are with us today, but I’d like to propose a toast to all the friends who couldn’t be here,” Miller said.

“I think the mainframe touched a lot of people’s lives deeply over the past 40 years. In some ways it represents their time at the U of M,” administrative services director Marvin Kocay said. Kocay was responsible for organizing the send-off. The event included a procession – complete with musicians and a mainframe-styled piñata – that wound its way from the computer room and viewed the flashing lights in 1979 when my job allowed me to go into the computer room and view the flashing lights – never mind actually using it.

“Can I still remember how exciting it was in 1975 when my job allowed me to go into the computer room and view the flashing lights and the trailer-sized cabinet,” recently retired U of M employee Pat MacDonald said in an e-mail. “It’s hard to imagine a time when being next to high tech equipment was not commonplace, it was thrilling. Now it’s all around us.”

“We’re celebrating here is the end of an era and moving forward,” Gerry Miller said as the funeral procession wound its way into Marshall McNair Hall – aptly named after a U of M graduate who had some strong feelings about how technology impacts people’s lives.

“But as important as the machine are the people who worked here and ran the equipment. A lot of those people are with us today, but I’d like to propose a toast to all the friends who couldn’t be here,” Miller said.

“I think the mainframe touched a lot of people’s lives deeply over the past 40 years. In some ways it represents their time at the U of M.”

Marvin Kocay

administrative services director

“I think the mainframe touched a lot of people’s lives deeply over the past 40 years. In some ways it represents their time at the U of M.”

Marvin Kocay

administrative services director

You can beat winter

The University of Manitoba’s Delta Marsh Field Station is offering two sessions of its annual Northern Lifestyles and Winter Survival Workshop, Jan. 18 to 20 and Jan. 25 to 27.

The course is designed for travelers and persons whose occupations expose them to winter Arctic conditions; winter camping enthusiasts and teachers of outdoor survival skills. It is also designed for persons wishing to become more aware of northern sociological and environmental issues. Techniques of winter survival will be examined through field work, lectures, group discussions, slide presentations and films.

Personal survival kits for the northern travelers will be discussed as well as survival for persons in downed aircraft. All participants will build their own Inuit igloo, and, time permitting, the Athabaskan Quinzhee. Participants will also have the opportunity to try out Inuit-made winter clothing.

The cost of the workshop, including registration, instruction and room and board is $155 per person or $125 per person for family/student rates.

For more information please call 1-866-770-5372 or e-mail hdenhaan@cc.umanitoba.ca

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To learn more about Faculty and Staff giving at the University of Manitoba, check out: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/dev_adv/how_give/fac_staff.html.
Bison Sports

ME N S V O L L E Y B A S K E T B A L L
Jan. 12 – Trinity Western at Manitoba, Investors Group, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 – Trinity Western at Manitoba, Investors Group, 7:30 p.m.

W O M E N S V O L L E Y B A S K E T B A L L
Jan. 12 – Trinity Western at Manitoba, Investors Group, 7:30 p.m.

W O M E N S H O C K E Y
Jan. 4 – UBC at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 – UBC at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.
Jan. 11 – Saskatchewan at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.
Jan. 12 – Saskatchewan at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.

M E N S B A S K E T B A L L
Dec. 28 – 30 – Wesmen Classic at Winnipeg, Time TBA.
Jan. 3 – Manitoba at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Jan. 5 – Winnipeg at Manitoba, Investors Group, 8:15 p.m.
Jan. 11 – Saskatchewan at Manitoba, Investors Group, 8:15 p.m.
Jan. 12 – Alberta at Manitoba, Investors Group, 8:15 p.m.

W O M E N S B A S K E T B A L L
Jan. 3 – Manitoba at Winnipeg, 6 p.m.
Jan. 5 – Winnipeg at Manitoba, Investors Group, 6:15 p.m.
Jan. 11 – Saskatchewan at Manitoba, Investors Group, 6:15 p.m.
Jan. 12 – Alberta at Manitoba, Investors Group, 6:15 p.m.

T R A C K A N D F E I L D
Dec. 6 – Grand Prix #1 and 2 at U of M, Time TBA.
Dec. 16 – Grand Prix #3 at U of M, Time TBA.

T I C K E T I N F O R M A T I O N
Single Game Adult: $10
Students and Seniors: $5
12 and under: free
Season pass
Packages available

Tickets available at all Bison home games, Frank Kennedy, Max Bell Equipment Desk.

Bannatyne Campus

AND ST. BONIFACE RESEARCH CENTRE

M O N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 1 7
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology. Loud is not always better: The role of immune defence in HIV Resistance by Keith Fowke, medical microbiology, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 7:45 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17.

W E D N E S D A Y , D E C E M B E R 1 9

Pathology Research and Teaching Seminars, Title TBA by Gelfei Qng, assistant professor, department of pathology, MS473 Thorlakson Building, Health Sciences Centre, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Pathology Research and Teaching Seminars, Title TBA by Steve Ahing, associate professor, dental diagnostic and surgical sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9.

T H U R S D A Y , D E C E M B E R 2 0
Community Health Sciences, The Biological, Social and Economic Value of Vaccination of Streptococcus Pneumoniae and Hemophilus Influenzae B by Kevin Chan, associate professor, department of pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 405 Brodie Centre, 12 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20.

T H U R S D A Y , J A N U A R Y 1 0
Immunology Annual Graduate Student Research Presentations with Stéphane Dragon and Alex Silaghi Immunology Library 605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 10.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology. Loud is not always better: The role of immune defence in HIV Resistance by Keith Fowke, medical microbiology, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 7:45 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Pathology Research and Teaching Seminars, Title TBA by Gelfei Qng, assistant professor, department of pathology, MS473 Thorlakson Building, Health Sciences Centre, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Pathology Research and Teaching Seminars, Title TBA by Steve Ahing, associate professor, dental diagnostic and surgical sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20
Community Health Sciences, The Biological, Social and Economic Value of Vaccination of Streptococcus Pneumoniae and Hemophilus Influenzae B by Kevin Chan, associate professor, department of pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 405 Brodie Centre, 12 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10
Immunology Annual Graduate Student Research Presentations with Stéphane Dragon and Alex Silaghi Immunology Library 605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 10.
Fort Garry Campus

University of Manitoba BookStore
Customer Appreciation Days The Biggest Sale of the Year! Nov. 19 to Dec. 21

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Institute for the Humanities: Law & Society Research Cluster, Accusation, Science and the Invention of Criminal Types by George Pavlích, professor of law and sociology, University of Alberta, 409 Tier Building, 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6.

Advanced Plant Sciences Seminar Series, Mapping with Microarrays - Using Genomics to Associate Genotype with Phenotype by Mark Jordan, Cereal Research Centre, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
Environment and Geography PhD Oral Examination, Development of a Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Algorithm over First-Year Sea Ice using In-Situ Passive Microwave Radiometry by Alexander Langlois, 477 Wallace Building, 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7.

Graduate Religion Colloquium Series, One Purple Shoe and One Black Shoe: Emperors, Patriarchs, and the Religious Drama of the Byzantine Empire in the 6th and 7th Centuries by Theodor Kyriakopoulos, Byzantine Studies, Queen’s University, Belfast, The Quiet Room 111 St. John’s College, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7.

Mathematics Graduate Student Seminar, Shape Preserving Approximation on the Real Line with Exponential Weights by Alexander Maltzhal, 418 MacNay Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7.

Physics and Astronomy, Latest Developments in MRI Technology Research: Multi-Transmit Array Imaging by Scott B. King, Institute for Biodiagnostics, National Research Council, 530 Allen Building, 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7.

Mathematics Functional Analysis Seminar, Sometric composition operators on the Bloch type spaces by Nina Zorboska, 415 Machray Hall, 4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12
Nursing, Living in a World Without Closure: Reality for Parents Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child by Roberta Woodgate, associate professor, Faculty of Nursing, 12 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Psychology, Role of Psychology in the Research and Treatment of Cancer by Carey Minz, Clinician Health Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, P412 Duff Robin Building, 3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13
Centre on Aging’s Research Seminar Series, Perspectives on Active Aging by Jim Hamilton, executive director, Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat, Judy Chipperfield, Faculty of Social Work, Department of Management, and Michelle Porter, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Cross Common Room, St. John’s College, 12 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 13.

Psychology PhD Oral Examination, Predicting the Learning Ability of Children with Autism: The Assessment of Basic Learning Abilities Test versus Parents’ Predictions by Lisa Schwartzman, department of psychology, 412 Duff Robin Building, 9 a.m., Friday, Dec. 14.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17
Computer Science Seminar, Raising the Stakes by Jonathan Schaeffer, Professor of Computing Science, University of Alberta, E3-270 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 17.

Computer Science Seminar, Computer (and Human) Perfection at Checkers by Jonathan Schaeffer, professor of computing science, University of Alberta, E3-270 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 17.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19
Smartpark INTERACTIVE Speaker Series, ‘The Power 30’ with Allan McLeod, president and CEO, Tribal Councils Investment Group, Smartpark Lobby Boardroom, Moderated by Geoff Kirbyson of the Winnipeg Free Press, 155 Innovation Drive, 8 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4
Chemistry, Multidimensional Separation Science - Where are we now and where are we going! by James Hryaryuk, department of chemistry, University of Alberta, 539 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, January 4.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9
Psychology, Psychology and Sleep by Norah Vincent, clinical health psychologist, University of Alberta, P412 Duff Robin Building, 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
Chemistry, Title TBA by Cyrus Shafai, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 539 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 11.

Classified Ads

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


LOVELY HOME IN NORTH RIVER HEIGHTS FOR RENT. Perfect for professional couple or sabbatical. The house has been renovated substantially - 1300 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms 1 1/2 bath. Large walk-in closet, FP hardwoods, renovated kit., fenced yard, alarm, garage & offstreet parking & W/D. Prefer to lease fully furnished $2100 + util. but will consider unfurnished $1500 + util. Available Jan. No smoking, pets considered with deposit. Please contact m2swagg@hotmail.com.

Advertise in the Bulletin
For details call 474 8111

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERY ONE ONE ONE

Gallery One One One is located on the main floor of the FitzGerald Building. It is open Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

Arnaud Maggs Nomenculture November 22 to January 11
Arnaud Maggs is a winner of the 2006 Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts. His new work, which is part of this travelling exhibition organized by Linda Januma of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa, reverberates dynamically with historical and anthropological significance. Gallery One One One will produce a web site and CD-ROM for this exhibition.

The Black Hole Theatre

The Black Hole Theatre is located in the lower level of University College. For tickets call 474 6880.

Romance

by David Mamet
Jan. 17-19, 21-26
David Mamet’s most recent play, Presented at the Gas Station Theatre as part of MTC’s MametFest 2008. A black farce, and quite possibly Mamet’s most outrageous play. A court case is continually interrupted by the personal obsessions and perversions of all the characters (including the judge) and by attempts to bring peace to the Middle East. Warning: Language (this is Mamet after all), truly offensive opinions. Directed by Bill Kerr.

Architecture II Gallery

Main Floor, Architecture II Building. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sky Mansion: Homes for Canada, 1966-67
November 15 - December 14
While living alongside a large housing complex in Amsterdam called the Bijlmer, SkyGlabush became interested in the relationship between the optimism and promise of early modernism and the ways in which this idealism has been translated into urban space. Upon returning to Canada in 2004, he was struck by the similarity between modernist architecture here and what he had witnessed in the Netherlands. This body of work chronicles his engagement with the imaging of modernism both as an examination of the internal dialog of painting and drawing, but also in its various expressions of social form.

Faculty of Music

The Faculty of Music hosts recitals and performances at Eva Clare Hall, located within the Faculty of Music building on Dafoe Road. Recitals and events are free unless otherwise noted.

JAMMING THE DRAGON
6-9 p.m., Thursday, December 13
Mondragon Bookstore & Coffee House, 91 Albert Street
Join the Experimental Improv Ensemble under the direction of music professor Gordon Fitzell as they present an evening of improvised music.

Music events

• Opera Workshop - Gas Station Theatre - 445 River Avenue; Tickets will be sold, 8 p.m., Jan. 11.
• Opera Workshop - Gas Station Theatre - 445 River Avenue; Tickets will be sold, 8 p.m., Jan. 11.

Elizabeth Dafoe Library

Elizabeth Dafoe Library is hosting a traveling exhibit of prize-winning books, selected for the 2006 Alcan Society Book Design Awards.

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


LOVELY HOME IN NORTH RIVER HEIGHTS FOR RENT. Perfect for professional couple or sabbatical. The house has been renovated substantially - 1300 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms 1 1/2 bath. Large walk-in closet, FP hardwoods, renovated kit., fenced yard, alarm, garage & offstreet parking & W/D. Prefer to lease fully furnished $2100 + util. but will consider unfurnished $1500 + util. Available Jan. No smoking, pets considered with deposit. Please contact m2swagg@hotmail.com.

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Utility caretaker Larry Merrick balances his day job at the University of Manitoba with a love of running that has taken him across North America.

Merrick turns 50 on the run

BY DALE BARBOUR

No one can accuse utility plant caretaker Larry Merrick of standing still.

As part of his day job he ranges through the Engineering and Information Technology Complex cleaning it, emptying the garbage, and keeping the sidewalks around it cleared of snow. You name it and it’s probably part of the job description, from changing light bulbs to shlfing the floor in the washroom.

“People don’t realize how important our job is,” Merrick said.

In a way the University of Manitoba works as an institution because people like Merrick are doing their jobs.

But for Merrick, working at the U of M, is only part of what keeps him on the move. After hours, he’s busy training for his next marathon, which this fall included a jaunt in the New York City marathon, where he logged a time of 3 hours and 22 minutes, good enough to rank 2,852 out of 38,000 runners.

“I turned 50 this year, so running in the New York City marathon was a present for myself,” Merrick said. He’s come in under three hours at the Manitoba marathon, but Merrick said part of running in New York is going for the pure pleasure of it, not setting a personal best.

And hitting the road to run is nothing new for Merrick, he’s run 16 marathons from Chicago through to Las Vegas.

“A phys-ed teacher got me into running when I was in Grade 7,” Merrick said.

The teacher had heard Merrick had a good set of legs on him and recruited him to the track team. But it was when he was in Los Angeles and partying as a 22-year-old that Merrick decided to make running a lifetime pursuit.

“I was watching a show on fitness and how endorphins are produced when you exercise. I thought, ‘I could really take me out of the party scene.’”

So when he came back to Winnipeg he started training for his first marathon in 1981 …

“Which I did not complete either,” Merrick recalled. “I ran 20 miles and that was as far as I could go. So after that I was on a mission to finish with a little more training.”

He did and has kept up the running ever since.

Prior to joining the University of Manitoba, Merrick worked for 22 years at McGavin’s Bakery until the bakery shut down in 1998. After moving through a few interim jobs, Merrick was hired by the University of Manitoba in 2001.

“It was kind of like winning the lottery,” he said. He started with special functions before moving into his current position as utility caretaker. He likes the work atmosphere and the hours are perfect for someone who spends his off time in training.

“We start at 6 a.m. and finish at 2:15 p.m., which is great if I want to go running in the afternoons,” Merrick said.

As for the running, Merrick is already thinking about where he might head next.

“'I might run the Boston marathon in the spring, to kind of bookend my 50- year,' Merrick said.
Halting hospital acquired infections

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Promotion

If bacteria held a conference, toxigenic Clostridium difficile would lead a seminar on how to cause visceral damage in innovative ways.

When individual rods of the anaerobe bacterium become stressed and approach death, as they often do on a toilet’s porcelain, they use their remaining energy to convert into their spore form.

This robust spore is genetically identical to the parent and able to persist – although it’s not metabolically active – in an atmosphere for years, impervious to many chemicals and heat. And when the spore, which is essentially a seed, finds suitable conditions for growth, like a human on antibiotics, it flourishes.

And although medical microbiologist Michelle Alfa admires the effectiveness of this strain’s spore tactics, she is nevertheless researching how to kill them, stop their spread in hospitals, and halt their germination.

For the past 15 years Alfa’s laboratory at St. Boniface Hospital has investigated how to prevent hospital acquired infections, like C. difficile.

“I think it’s unfair,” Alfa said, “that a patient can come in for an operation, get put on antibiotics, and then get sick with something they didn’t have before they were admitted. We should be able to prevent people from getting C.difficile infections.”

Although a few other bacteria produce spores, only toxigenic C. difficile causes severe illness; it can corrode the gut’s wall leading to septic shock. To help understand the situation, Alfa suggests you view the gut as an ecosystem, which has more microbes in it than the human body has cells. Normal gut flora keeps the spores in check, but antibiotics, which are necessarily common in hospitals, rid a patient of microbial allies, allowing the opportunistic C. difficile to take over.

Alfa, and other research groups, are finding C. difficile to be more common in the community than previously thought. Indeed, it’s found in pork and beef, and since the optimal cooking temperature does not kill the spore form, it’s often ingested.

So of the roughly 100 confirmed cases of C. difficile that annually occur in a hospital the size of St. Boniface Hospital, many may have originated in the community. Still, hospitals generate most cases and Alfa recently completed a study identifying an effective and safe chemical cleaner (bleach works well, but its fumes are not hospital-friendly).

Interestingly, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, for reasons not yet understood, have consistently lower rates of C. difficile than other provinces. Worldwide, rates seem to be increasing. And overall, C. difficile infects more people than all other enteric pathogens – even more than the headline grabbing “superbugs” like MRSA.

“C. difficile has been under the radar for a long time. But we’re starting to realize that the rates we have, even though they are below the national average, are not acceptable. Since this infection is something you can prevent, it’s worth the effort to try to reduce the rates.”

Alfa’s efforts now focus on investigating functional foods, specifically egg yolks.

“We have evidence that shows we can use antibodies in yolks to neutralize C. difficile’s toxins and that in and of itself is very valuable information. It’s promising because it doesn’t involve antibiotics, but we’re not yet at the point where we’ll offer it as an alternative therapy to people.”

Stress – a contributing factor to diabetes?

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Promotion

The World Health Organization estimates 180 million people have diabetes, a disease commonly attributed to poor nutrition, obesity and inactivity. But researchers are now investigating another possible contributor: stress.

Sharon Bruce, department of community health sciences, researches diabetes within the context of a specific community, paying particular attention to acute and chronic stress levels.

Since 2001, Bruce has been working with the Sandy Bay First Nation, a community of 3,000 located on the west side of Lake Manitoba. A screening study completed by Bruce and Dr. Rue Young in 2003 found that 50 per cent of adult participants had diabetes and five per cent had impaired fasting glucose – putting them at high risk of getting diabetes.

“We were invited out there because they were interested in learning why their community was hit so hard by the diabetes epidemic. They were wondering whether stress and life conditions had anything to do with diabetes,” Bruce said.

Past literature shows – broadly speaking – that living conditions affect health, and stress affects a person’s neuroendocrine system, resulting in hyperglycemia and visceral adiposity. So there is a plausible explanation for stress’ involvement in the onset of diabetes, but any link would be indirect.

“The causes of diabetes are complex and multifactorial. Although we know that environment is implicated in health outcomes, for example socioeconomic status, the pathways are not well understood. We wanted to better understand the relationship between living conditions they define as stressful and diabetes,” said Bruce.

Because existing stress and coping scales did not fully capture life in a First Nation community, Bruce completed in-depth interviews to better understand life experiences in general, and those community members defined as stressful. Based on these interviews, Bruce, colleague Verena Mienec, and the Sandy Bay Diabetes Working Group created a contextually relevant stress and coping survey.

“We’re certainly not trying to prove a direct link between their environment and disease,” Bruce said. “One of our major goals was to describe what people’s experiences of stress were in a qualitative way and then see if we could take that and make it a relevant and meaningful questionnaire.

“I think we’ve been able to do that, and now we want to see if there is a relationship between the items we would describe as stress-inducing and disease.”

Although the data are still being analyzed, about a quarter of the study population reported high levels of stress (with women reporting higher levels than men). What’s more, an important finding for diabetes management is that 40 per cent of study participants feel they lack control over their lives, including their health.

“I really want to emphasize that this is about context and not culture,” Bruce said. “There is nothing wrong with their culture or the people. It’s the situation and the environment the people live in that has created a lot of the difficulties.”

Bruce cannot yet say what, exactly, the solution will be. But, since early findings show community members identify emotional issues as priorities, the team agrees that increased involvement of mental health workers and spirituality seems paramount in diabetes prevention and management.
One Perfect Season

It was the perfect end to a perfect season.

The University of Manitoba Bisons Football team captured the 2007 Desjardins Vanier Cup with a 26-14 win over the Saint Mary’s Huskies in front of 27,000 football fans at Rogers Centre in Toronto on Nov. 23.

The victory extended the Bisons’ unbeaten record which included an 8-0 regular season and a romp through the playoffs at Canad Inns Stadium which included a 27-5 semi-final win over Calgary on Nov. 3, a 48-5 win over Regina on Nov. 10 to take the Hardy Cup, and a 52-20 win over Western Ontario on Nov. 17 to win the Mitchell Bowl.

It’s the first time the Bison football squad has captured the Vanier Cup since 1970 and for coach Brian Dobie, a U of M alumni and member of the 1973 Churchill Cup winning football squad, it was a dream come true.

“This is awesome! I cannot put into words my thoughts. I am so proud of everyone and how we stayed together as a family,” Dobie said after the game. “There are now three major important events in my life: my wedding day with my wife Jackie, the birth of our daughter Caleigh, and this Vanier Cup win.”

“We won this one for coach (Brian) Dobie,” fourth-year quarterback John Makie said. “Losing in the first round of the playoffs last year after also going 8-0 was heartbreaking. Coach really rallied us this year, we were on a mission from day one.”

The Vanier Cup victory played on some of the strengths the Bison have demonstrated all year. Fourth-year quarterback John Makie was 16-of-31 for 261 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions, and also scored on a 52-yard run in the first quarter.

Makie said. “Losing in the first round of the playoffs last year after also going 8-0 was heartbreaking. Coach really rallied us this year, we were on a mission from day one.”

“Any man you see in this circle has the opportunity to get the education they want to and succeed they way they want to.”

“This university epitomizes what a higher education stands for, and it goes far beyond football and far beyond sports. This university is about opportunity.”

President Emőke Szathmáry credited the athletes with pursuing their dreams on the field and in the classroom.

“It takes brains to be a great athlete and I commend your sacrifice,” Szathmáry said.

The team was also welcomed to the University of Manitoba on Nov. 28. Despite just being released from the hospital, Henry stood shoulder to shoulder with his teammates and finally had a chance to lift the Vanier cup above his head.

The celebration was just one of the events the Bison have been feted at over the past week. On Nov. 27, Sam Katz called the entire team down to City Hall and offered them his personal congratulations and Outstanding Achievement Award Medals for all the team members.

“This is awesome! I cannot put into words my thoughts. I am so proud of everyone and how we stayed together as a family.”

Brian Dobie
Bison football head coach

$5,000,000
$1,000,000
$500,000
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$62,500
$31,250
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$244
$122
$61
$30.5
$15.25
$7.62
$3.81
$1.90
$0.95
$0.48
$0.24
$0.12
$0.06
$0.03
$0.01
$0.00

Counter-clockwise from the bottom, the University of Manitoba Bisons road to the Vanier Cup included winning the Hardy Cup with a 48-5 win over Regina; head coach Brian Dobie, flanked by Mayor Sam Katz and president Emőke Szathmáry speaks at City Hall on Nov. 27, running back Matt Henry had to leave the Vanier Cup game early with a broken right femur but he finally had a chance to celebrate with his teammates at a pep rally on Nov. 28; the Bison celebrate their victory in Toronto.