Introducing Project Domino

$100 million plan will transform Fort Garry campus

Over the next five years, the University of Manitoba will undergo one of the largest and most ambitious redevelopment plans ever undertaken on campus.

The $100-million project – dubbed Project Domino – was announced last month by president Emőke Szathmáry, who said the plan will ensure students and faculty continue to have the facilities they need to succeed and excel while maintaining and preserving the historic buildings that define the campus.

“It’s a project that’s been close to a year in the making,” Szathmáry said. “We have enormous space in old buildings on campus and we want to provide students with the facilities that the new world requires.”

The project will be a massive undertaking. In total, at least 13 faculties and departments will be affected over the course of the next five years. But for all that the project will transform the Fort Garry campus, there will only be one new building constructed – a 350-bed residence set to go up on the south side of the campus. Consultations have already begun with residence students to ensure that the new building fits their needs and wants.

The rest of Project Domino, aptly named to reflect a line of dominos set on edge and then being tumbled down one after another, will follow from the construction of the new residence with students moving from Taché Hall into the new building. Once emptied, Taché Hall will be converted into a new home for the Centre for Music, Art and Design along with the Faculty of Music and School of Art. The 400-seat auditorium in the Taché Hall will become a revamped musical performance venue for the Faculty of Music.

Szathmáry said the renewal of Taché Hall fits in nicely with the university’s view that its historic buildings should be refurbished for 21st century needs, rather than demolished.

“We retrofitted the Engineering One Building, which is a fabulous space where the professors, technicians, and students are happier. Now we can do that for more than 13 units on campus as we get this project started,” said Szathmáry.

The Faculty of Music is probably facing the biggest space crunch on campus. Its current building was built in the 1960s for an enrolment of 60 students.

See RETHINKING/P.3

Swim program grows

The Bison swimming program is recreating itself to offer a one-stop program for Manitoba swimmers – providing a home for youth learning how to swim all the way up to Olympic class athletes.

Bison swim head coach Vlastimil (Vlastik) Cerny said, “The restructure is a departure of the last 20 years and this is a big movement for the Bison swim program.”

The new swim program structure will have three components to allow swimmers a chance to grow and continue in the sport.

At the ground level there will be the Bison Children’s Program, which is a one of a kind program in Canada with an enrolment of over 7,000 children focused on learning the basics of swimming.

See BISON/P.2

St. John’s College senior stick Harley Shepherd endured a little pain in the form of a leg waxing as part of the college’s Rip a Strip Campaign to raise money for CancerCare Manitoba. So far the college has brought in over $1,400.

Ouch! (But it’s for a good cause)
In The News

University of Manitoba members are always looking for ways to demonstrate 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.

Generation NGO
March 21, 2008

U of M student and popular It’s My Future blogger Jesse Hamonic was featured prominently in a Globe and Mail article about the new wave of youth who are forming small, hands-on charities that rely on blogs and Facebook networks rather than traditional mail campaigns and donor drives. Hamonic’s multiple start-up charities were mentioned.

Asper students win again
March 21, 2008


Another business competition, another triumph for students from the Asper School of Business. This time the 2008 McGinnis Venture Competition was the event and the U of M team joined teams from Carnegie Mellon University and Yale University in taking home the top prizes. The U of M team won in the technology track with Civitech, an early-stage company developing a system of wireless sensors for monitoring environmental conditions in buildings.

Northern Star
March 26, 2008

Toronto Star

Toronto Star science reporter Peter Calamai joins a long list of journalists who have made their way to the Arctic to cover the research being conducted by the U of M on the icebreaker Amundsen. Calamai is not only reporting his experiences for Toronto’s largest daily, but blogging about them as well on the Toronto Star’s web site.

HIV in rural India
March 22, 2008

Winnipeg Free Press

The U of M’s frontline HIV/AIDS research was highlighted in a Winnipeg Free Press special feature that took a close look at the HIV epidemic plaguing the Karnataka region of India. Karnataka has over 50,000 sex workers, a situation that has highlighted in a

Headline News

Where else has the U of M been making news? Here’s a look at just a few of our headlines over the past few weeks.


University of Manitoba Press nominated for five awards
Alexander Kennedy Ibasber award for Non-Fiction. The North End: Photographs by John Paskievich, nominated for four awards.

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.

Material in The Bulletin may be reprinted or broadcast, excepting materials for which The Bulletin does not hold exclusive copyright.

New diploma program has Aboriginal focus

A new diploma program in Aboriginal environmental stewardship has been passed by the University of Manitoba Senate and approved by the Board of Governors.

The program will cover a wide range of curriculum areas and will require 60 degree credit hours of study. Students will select from an environmental assessment, monitoring, protection, monitoring, sustainability, legal aspects and current environmental issues.

Cathy Rocke, program director of Aboriginal Focus programs at the University of Manitoba, says: “The most exciting feature of this new diploma program is that it not only meets the educational needs of Aboriginal learners and builds capacity in Aboriginal communities, but also allows students to continue to pursue further studies at the University of Manitoba by applying the credits they’ve earned to a degree program.”

The diploma program will involve Extended Education, the Claytton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, the Faculty of Arts and Building Environment Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHIR), a federally funded organization established to positively influence the long-term employability of Aboriginal people in the environmental sector.

The design of the program is a proactive and innovative response to the growing complexity of the role of Aboriginal people in both environmental assessment and the protection of the environment. It will incorporate traditional ecological knowledge within the academic program through the guidance of Elders and the utilization of Aboriginal instructors who are specialists in the field.

Core courses will include topics such as environmental science; Aboriginal spirituality; environmental assessment; Aboriginal law and legal; and sacred lands of Indigenous Peoples.

The flexible nature of the program will allow specialization related to community needs. For example, if the new program is delivered in a First Nations community where water and the ecosystem are of paramount importance, courses on water quality management and assessment will be planned. Students will be provided with opportunities for field studies where work experience will be of prime interest.

Bison Sports takes on program

From Page 1.

The ‘Learn to Swim’ stream, another ground level program, holds 800 children and with the addition of the Mini Bison program will provide opportunities for beginner swimmers.

The second level of the new program is the competitive streams: Youth Bison, Junior Bison and then the university senior level. Finally, swimmers that excel will be funneled into a high performance Olympic program to harness their skills and desire to compete at the highest level of swimming.

“It’s exciting to build a program that sets up development as a feeder system for future Bison teams,” Cerny said. “Recruitment is important but development and having a say on how swimmers enter our program is just as important. We have never covered the full loop and been able to take swimmers from ‘learn to swim’ programs and then further develop them.”

The goal is to develop swimmers and help them remain in the province. Cerny believes this new structure will retain swimmers and allow the Bison to compete with top university teams (UBC, Calgary, Laval) who employ similar structures in the country.

For the Canadian Sport Centre – Manitoba, this is a golden opportunity to develop potential aspiring Olympians from Manitoba.

General manager Randy Anderson talked about their “commitment to Bison swim program structure as they believe this will lead to more Manitobans on future Olympic teams.”

In addition, the new structure allows for a coach mentorship program to run concurrent throughout the three components as swim coaches will be able to teach swimmers at different stages of competitive and non-competitive swimming.

Bison Sports athletic director Colecen Dufresne summed up the objective, “We have been able to maintain our partnership with Canadian Sport Centre – Manitoba and have them recognize our goal for more Manitobans to be Olympic athletes coming from the Bison program.”

U of M Press nominated for five awards

University of Manitoba Press has been nominated for five publishing awards. The awards will be presented at the 20th Manitoba Writers and Publishing Awards Gala on Saturday, April 26 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by a catered reception. The evening is free and all are welcome to attend.

U of M Press nominees for the 2008 awards are:

• Imagined Homes: Soviet German Immigrants in Two Cities by Hans Werner, nominated for the Manitoba Publisher, 2007 Manitoba Book Award, • The Mary Scorer Award for Best Book by a Manitoba Publisher, • The Manuela Diaz Award for Best Illustrated Book, and • The Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award.
Rethinking space at Fort Garry

Project Domino starts with Taché Hall

Project Domino calls for a new residence facility to be developed and constructed first, which would enable Taché Hall to be vacated and permit renovation of the building to begin after completion of the academic term in April 2009.

The Faculty of Music, School of Art and newly created Centre for Music, Art and Design are set to move into the long-time residence.

Tache’s auditorium, which has sat vacant for years, will be converted into performance space for the Faculty of Music. The Oak Room, a former cafeteria, could become a new library.

Today Music has over 250 students and to fit them all in the faculty has had to borrow rooms and offices in buildings scattered all over campus.

“Currently we don’t have enough classroom, office or practice space,” Faculty of Music dean Edmund Dawe said.

Moving into Taché will solve those immediate problems, but it will also allow for the creation of the Centre for Music, Art and Design. The centre will include an electrical-acoustic sound stage, allowing music students to flex their creative muscles in new sound media.

Dawe has already been up to check out the auditorium – it’s in disrepair now but will become the focal point of the remodeled Taché – and can see the potential.

“It’s a beautiful space and it’s going to work very well for us,” Dawe said.

The School of Art will also be moving into Taché Hall. From a square-foot point of view the new Taché location won’t offer more space than their current home in the FitzGerald Building and they plan to hang on to their satellite buildings such as the Art Barn and the Ceramic/Sculpture Studio.

But Art dean Celia Rabinovitch said what they will get in Taché is remodeled space that has been built to suit their needs.

“We’re really looking forward to participating in the design process,” Rabinovitch said. “For the visual arts you really need special facilities with doorways, hallways and rooms built to move works around.”

Meanwhile, new media, digital art, and performance art have taken off over the past 20 years, leaving the School of Art’s current home in the FitzGerald Building unable to keep up. While Taché Hall will keep its nearly 100 year old frame, the interior will be outfitted with all the latest technology for today’s students.

And when the School of Art moves out of the FitzGerald Building, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will move in, relocating from its current home in the 5th floor of University Centre.

“This will mean for us a lot more space,” Graduate Studies dean Jay Doering said. “For the number of people I currently have I need at least twice as much space as I have now and the lack of space has really hampered our ability to develop.” Being able to move into the FitzGerald Building will ensure that the faculty can keep all of its employees under one roof and have space to expand into new programming.

But the move would also have another impact that’s somewhat less quantifiable – visibility.

“Having our own building will increase the profile of the Faculty of Graduate Studies,” Doering said.

Having our own building will increase the profile of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Doering said. The Graduate Students’ Association will also be invited into the building and combined with the faculty that would create a true home for graduate students on campus. Doering said he can envision a lounge in the building where grad students can meet their peers, study or just hang out.

GSA president Matt Melean said the GSA council hasn’t had a chance to decide if it will move into the new building or not. But he said bringing the two groups together – with some clear boundaries to ensure GSA independence – would make it easier for students to tap the services that the faculty and the association have to offer.

And like Doering, he can see the potential in a true Graduate Studies building.

“I think it’s a good move. It sends the message that the university wants to make graduate studies more visible and part of what we do.”

The Music Building will be recreated as International House, with the English as an Additional Language (EAL) and English Language Centre (ELC) programs, as well as the International division of the university moving in. The current Faculty of Music Building has a gross area of 23,000 square feet, and the space requirement for the International House project is the same number – a perfect fit.

The current Pharmacy Building – which will be made available when the faculty moves to its new facilities at the Bannatyne campus this summer – will become the new Biological Sciences Building. The current Pharmacy Building fits well within the long-existing cluster of science buildings such as Armes, Allen, Parker, Buller, and Machray.

The School of Extended Education, and part of what we do.”

The Faculty of Pharmacy will be headed to the Bannatyne campus later this year, freeing up its old building for conversion into a new home for the Department of Biological Sciences.

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Pharmacy on the move

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International House

The Music Building will be redeveloped as a home for International Students’ programs, including the English Language Centre.

Graduate Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies will move into the FitzGerald Building, giving it a street front location and more visibility.

Architecture benefits

Actually, a lot of faculties and divisions will benefit. The Faculty of Architecture will gain access to a new studio located in the Education Building, replacing their current location in the ‘tin bin’ they currently use. The Faculty of Extended Education and Student Affairs will also gain access to space freed up through the moves.
Thanks to the it’s My Future campaign, students of alumni at the University of Manitoba are telling their stories to the world. Over the next few months, the Bulletin will be introducing some of the world renowned bloggers and giving you a glimpse of what is happening in their lives. To learn more, go to itsmyfuture.ca.

MEET GAMAL MUSTAPHA

Gamal Mustapha is a University of Manitoba computer engineering alumnus, whose career path has brought him full circle; back to the University Smartpark as a partner in SMT Research.

"With computer engineering, you could be up doing almost anything," says Gamal. "From designing e-mail packages to missile guidance systems – the possibilities are endless.

Even before university, Gamal was interested in computers and took top priority in high school science fairs, including an international competition through which he met University of Manitoba professors. “So deciding to get into a technology field was a pretty easy decision,” says Gamal. “The U of M was my first choice because I knew the programs here were excellent.”

Upon completing computer engineering, Gamal worked for various technology companies including

Norcan Instruments, an international telecommunications systems firm, for several years before launching his own enterprise.

“There’s no other place like Smartpark,” he says. “It’s eureka place, facilitates synergies between a cohesive group of companies, and it’s a huge advantage to be able to access the resources, expertise and facilities of the university itself.” In turn, Gamal’s company, SMT Research, provides unique opportunities for students to enrich their academic experience by working on its emerging structure monitoring systems through the University’s co-op programs.

“We also encourage our student employees to pursue any idea they have even if it’s not applicable to the work we do here,” he says. “It’s so important to keep people engaged in creating and doing what they love.”

One Laptop Per Child

March 20th, 2008

Over the past year, a variety of very compact, inexpensive laptops also known as subnotebooks have entered the market. I had the chance to test both the EeePC from ASUS and the XO Laptop from OLPC. Purchasing an XO laptop was possible through a program by OLPC or One Laptop Per Child where if you purchase two laptops, one will go to a developing country while the other is sent to you.

Both the EeePC and XO Laptop have 7” displays, weigh less than 2 lbs, run Linux based operating systems, use solid state media and have all the features you would expect from a standard full featured laptop. The EeePC is fantastic for portability and has found its way into industrial applications where a standard compact computer is not required.

The XO Laptop, on the other hand, is a very unique computer both in its rugged hardware and open-source software. The purpose of the OLPC program is to provide the opportunity for children in emerging countries with tools to enhance their education and provide a forum for them to network, collaborate and in many cases to simply have the means to acquire education.

The XO laptop set out to achieve this by having a target price of $100 and to have an operating system targeted for new users and children. The OS and tools that come with the laptop foster creativity and learning. In fact this laptop teaches children very strong fundamentals of computing.

The first interaction most kids have with computers through a school system is to teach them how to use the computer as a word processing tool or graphing tool. In contrast, the XO Laptop teaches children very important fundamentals of computing.

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

If Dennis Bayomi had his way, every kid in Winnipeg’s inner city would have a basketball to play with this summer.

But for now the community health sciences’ programmer/analyst has set a more modest goal of getting a basketball into the hands of every grade six student in all 12 of Winnipeg’s inner-city elementary schools.

“Our goal this year is to distribute between 500 and 600 basketballs so that every kid graduating from inner city K-6 schools can have a basketball as a sort of graduation present,” Bayomi said. He is heading up the project called Basketballs for Inner City Kids with the help of Leonard MacWilliam, a programmer/analyst with community health sciences, and Bernard Boguski, an educational support technician with the School of Medical Rehabilitation.

The basketballs cost $5 a piece when they’re bought in bulk, which makes the price of the project a rather reasonable $5,000. Now into its third year, the project has distributed over 500 basketballs to kids in all parts of the inner city.

“I’ve been coaching minor league basketball for five or six years,” Bayomi said. “We’ve always known that there were very few teams from community centers in central Winnipeg participating. The issue had particular resonance for Bayomi, who was born and raised in Winnipeg’s downtown. At the same time he was noticing who wasn’t on the basketball court, Bayomi was completing his master’s degree in community health sciences, learning along the way about the profound importance of the social determinants of health. It was an easy step to see that getting kids playing and engaged in sports in their community could lead to healthier kids and a healthier community.

And for Bayomi, basketball has a beautiful simplicity to it.

“I went to Mulvey and Gordon Bell Schools when I was growing up and spent hundreds of hours on the outdoor basketball court. It’s the type of sport you can play so long as you have a ball and a hoop,” Bayomi said. Appropriately, Mulvey School is one of the inner city schools involved in the project along with Magnus Eliason Neighborhood Centre and Rossbrook House. The results of the effort have already started to show. Their donation of basketballs and equipment to Magnus Eliason in part helped the community centre launch its first set of teams last year and this year they were able to field five teams in the Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association. This winter Bayomi and Mac/William co-coached in Rossbrook House’s Carl Ridd Memorial basketball league, mentoring many of the kids who received basketballs.

So far the project has been an in-house affair, drawing many of its supporters from Bayomi’s coworkers at the community health sciences. Mac/William and Boguski came on stream shortly after seeing what Bayomi has been up to. This spring they’ll be helping pump up basketballs and carting them off to schools.

“It’s really a satisfying project,” Boguski said. “With this project you know exactly where your efforts are going.”

“I’ve known Dennis for many years and I could see that what he was doing with this project was really helping out, so I thought I should come on board and do what I can,” Mac/William said.

They wouldn’t mind some more help too. Basketballers for Inner City Kids welcomes donations, whether it be funds to help purchase basketballs or a donation of new or slightly used basketballs. Balls should be in good shape, but Bayomi said they’re not looking for people to outfit the court and buy the flashiest basketball they can.

“I would bring in with a basic ball, so that when we hand deliver them to the schools, all of the kids feel like they’re being treated equally,” Bayomi said.

For more information, or to get involved with volunteering for the International Centre for Students, visit their website at umanitoba.ca/international.
Music Students excel at festival

Faculty of Music piano major Steve Melnyk picked up the Aikins Trophy at the 2008 Winnipeg Music Festival last month. The Aikins Trophy is awarded to the top senior instrumentalist of the competition. Piano major Madeline Hildebrand was named as a runner up for the Aikins Trophy. Steve Melnyk was the winner of the three of the four categories he entered in at the Festival this year. Faculty of Music voice major Jessica Strong won the Rose Bowl at the festival this year. The Rose Bowl is the trophy for top senior vocalist. Music student Chris Enns was the runner up in senior vocalist competition. More than 16,000 competitors participated in the 96th annual music festival. Faculty of Music students were winners or runners up in other events, as well, and several received scholarships or bursaries.

Sitar takes up editor's job

The American College for Clinical Pharmacology is pleased to announce that Daniel S. Sitar has been selected as editor-designate of the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

Sitar will assume his duties on June 1, 2008, and will serve a concurrent one-year term as a member of the Editorial Board. Editor Lisa L. von Molk, M.D., will remain as Editor-in-Chief.

During his current stay in Ukraine, McKenzie will meet with government officials and university officials to further develop a proposal for a public-private partnership for a proposal to be submitted for funding on public policy and civil society.

McKenzie headed to Ukraine

Brad McKenzie, Social Work, has been invited to Ukraine to teach a course for the new social services administration stream at Lviv Polytechnic National University, and a consumer directed resource centre serving people with disabilities. He has continued his work in Ukraine since 2003 by teaching and consulting on curriculum for this new Social Work department.

As part of his engagement, McKenzie will present a key paper at the 4th International University of Lublin in Poland entitled Differential Response in Child Welfare in North America: From CPI to CPI-P to Family Services. This paper will be published in the conference proceeding.

The National Aviation University in Kyiv, which offers an undergraduate program in Social Work, will be another part of McKenzie's itinerary. Both he and Nina Hayduk, the head of the social work program at the polytechnic, will consult with university officials there on curriculum issues.

Centre for Earth Observation Science director David Barber told the Board during its March 18 meeting that researchers have found that the Arctic region is warming up three and a half times faster than the rest of the planet and that current estimates show that as early as 2013 – or 2030 for more conservative estimates – the Arctic will experience an ice free summer.

CAMPBELL REMEMBERED

The Board of Governors passed a motion at its March 18 meeting to extend its condolences to the family of Ralph A. Campbell, president of the University of Manitoba from 1976 to 1981. President Emîke Szathmáry said that even after he left the U of M Campbell routinely return to the University to take part in special events and stay in touch with colleagues. When she signed on as president in 1996, Szathmáry said Campbell made a point to drop by and chat with her about the position.

Szathmáry said one of the hallmarks of Campbell’s term was a concerted effort to make the university more inclusive, whether through his master’s programs with the University of Manitoba, ACCESS programs for Aboriginal Canadians or expanded correspondence offerings.

“Dr. Campbell saw himself and was seen as a people person,” Szathmáry said. “And he was a very important president for the development of the university.”

INTERIM SPENDING

The Board of Governors authorized interim spending guidelines based on 98 per cent of the current 2007-2008 baseline operating budget from April 1, 2008 until the Board approves the 2008-2009 budget. The motion is a standard approach to bridging the gap between the end of one fiscal year and the official passing of the budget for the next fiscal year.
What has a Canada Research Chair meant for you?

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

Back in the year 2000 the Canada Research Chairs Program was created with a rather lofty goal – distribute 2,000 research chairs to universities across Canada by the year 2008.

This year the program is going to be full grown and for the University of Manitoba that will mean a grand total of 49 research chairs – divided between Tier 1 Chairs, tenable for seven years, renewable, and worth $200,000 annually; and Tier 2 Chairs, tenable for five years, renewable once, and worth $100,000 annually.

At the most basic level the Canada Research Chairs Program has brought in some much needed cash. But along the way it has also changed the way universities think about their research programs and the way researchers approach their work.

"There was a lot of discussion in Canada in the 1990s and early 2000s about the brain drain and Canada not being competitive and losing our best and brightest to other countries, most notably down south. So the Canada Research Chairs Program was set up to stem that brain drain," Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research), said.

The CRC program followed in the footsteps of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the two programs still work in tandem, with universities pairing funds from both to launch research programs.

But what is notable about the CRC program is that it allocates a certain number of chairs to universities to use as they see fit to recruit and retain people. In other words, the funding choices and research focus are driven by the institution, rather than individual researchers.

"It was really the first time that the university got serious about planning for research and thinking beyond the individual level about how one might want to grow and develop research programs at the university," Keselman said. "It has allowed us to concentrate on building new research areas and further developing areas where we already had a particular strength."

Kent HayGlass, immunology, Michael Freund, chemistry, and Lea Stirling, classics, all represent different examples of how that strategic planning played out.

The U of M’s immunology department was the first in Canada and remains one of only two in the country. HayGlass, with a strong research program and a history of success in competitive national salary award competitions, was an obvious pick for a Tier 1 research chair.

"We’ve had a lot of history of excellence in that department, but I think through establishing not only Kent’s leadership as department head but as a Tier 1 research chair he has been able to build – through CFI and other funding bodies – the next generation of people in that area," Keselman said.

HayGlass said the past eight years have witnessed a transformation of the immunology department.

"When I was recruited as a prof 20 years ago, and I came to the U of M from Boston, I was 30 years old. The equipment I was working with was 25 years old. That’s not a good way of doing things, with equipment almost as old as you are," HayGlass said. But when the CRC program and the CFI program came along, HayGlass said things started to change.

"All of a sudden you had the tools and opportunity to do things that just hadn’t been possible before," HayGlass said. Now the department is set to move into the fourth floor of the new Apotex Centre, a $5.6 million project. Lab equipment has been replaced with outstanding infrastructure, and several new faculty members have joined the department, applying for and winning major individual and team research grants of their own.

Notable recent projects include a $1 million grant from CIHR targeted directly at funding graduate and post-doctoral students in trans-disciplinary research, and a $12 million grant targeted specifically at education and training in materials science.

The Tier 2 chairs don’t have a set end date. But the Tier 1 chairs are capped at ten years. The federal government has now committed $1.5 billion to the CRC program over 10 years.

"It just really enhances the possibilities for researchers at the University of Manitoba," said Andrey Bekker, Canada Research Chair in Immune Regulation.

"From the beginning of the program we took a different approach to the CRC program. Rather than apply a number of its research chairs towards the field of stem cell research, we applied a number of its research chairs towards the field of wound healing, and to identify health-promoting bacteria, and to identify health-promoting ways to advance research and development in areas that we already had existing strength," Keselman said. "In the area of archeology, it became apparent to us when we were looking for the opportunity to come to Canada. In 2002 we were applying for a CFI grant for the department it's really made the Canadian system competitive with the rest of the world." Keselman said.

With that flexibility in hand, Stirling is directing part of her research towards the field of autoimmune disorders. One area of research is classifying the disease in her patients.

"Out of all the areas we’ve deployed chairs to we’ve deployed the most to that particular area. Some in recruitment, some in retention, I think it’s allowed us to significantly enhance our research strength in an area in which we already had existing strength," Keselman said.

Freund was working at California Institute of Technology but he had family in Winnipeg and was ready for a change. It was his chance to return.

"It brings a researcher to Manitoba, gives us a chance to attract world-class researchers and truly innovative research programs that advance Canadian research and development to world-class levels. It’s a win-win-win situation for the university, the researchers and the province," Freund said.

"When I first started, it was expected that academics would do the research work and do it alone and use the kills they had to try to make it happen," Freund said. "I think this is the excitement of people being able to apply a number of its research chairs towards the field of archeology, and to identify health-promoting bacteria, and to identify health-promoting ways to advance research and development in areas that we already had existing strength," Keselman said.
Chair Chair meant for you? 

Those qualities have transformed the University of Manitoba

Looking for the opportunity to come to Canada. In 2002 it all came together. “With the CRC program, CFI funding and the investment in infrastructure it was a very attractive time to try to make it happen,” Freund said. “I think it’s really made the Canadian system competitive with the U.S. system. In the U.S. you have huge start up packages, but the CRC and CFI have made Canada very competitive.”

In the case of the materials science, the research chairs were deployed strategically – when the university was applying for a CFI grant for the department it sweetened its application by agreeing to add a new Canada Research Chair specifically to strengthen its research capabilities in that area.

Now if immunology was a case of recognizing an existing strength, and investments in materials science helped build one, then the university’s decision to apply a number of new research chairs towards the field of archeology was a case of discovering a strength it already had.

“What was interesting in developing the strategic plan is you come to realize things about the university that you never knew,” Keselman said. “In the area of archeology, it became apparent to us when we were developing our plan back in the year 2000 that we had one of the youngest and most talented group of people in the field of archeology.

By directing Canada Research Chairs to people like Robert Hoppa in anthropology and Stirling in classics, they’ve been able to keep those people. The key, Stirling said, is the flexibility of the program. The CRC funding is unrestricted, allowing chair-holders to direct it where they like. “It just really enhances the possibilities for international collaboration, opportunities for my students and opportunities to get involved with international students,” Stirling said.

“If a graduate student e-mails me with questions or suggestions, I can say well why don’t you come to the field and see some of that stuff for real and then of course I get to learn about what they’re doing and apply that into my own research,” Stirling said. “It makes me more visible internationally as well.”

The university has done its part to make sure that Stirling and the others have the flexibility they’re looking for. Under the CRC program, universities have the right to hang on to the funding to defray the overhead costs of research – in other words the U of M could take the CRC cash and use it to help out with its own bottom line. But it’s made a conscious decision not to do that.

From the beginning of the program we took a deliberate approach to say that we would like to see as much of that funding directed to the research programs of the individual,” Keselman said. It means the CRC funding is applied on top of whatever other research dollars the professor would normally receive.

“That’s unique,” Stirling said.

“Every time I’ve talked with people from other institutions they’re always surprised at how generously the researchers are treated here.” With that flexibility in hand, Stirling is directing part of her CRC towards creating a post-doctoral position in the classics department.

“It brings a researcher to Manitoba, gives us a chance to get to know them and then as they head off elsewhere they take our name with them,” Stirling said.

Freund said the unrestricted funding lets researchers be a little more spontaneous with their projects. Rather than having to go through an approval process, they can direct their CRC dollars and bear the costs themselves if it doesn’t work out as they had hoped.

“The CRC’s are picked because the university expects them to be leaders in their field and to attract other people to the university – whether as research associates or as future fellows. HayGlass said a fringe benefit of that approach has been changing the way researchers go about their business.

“When I first started, it was expected that academics would complete their PhD’s, do a fellowship then go obtain an academic position and begin their own research program,” HayGlass said. Ideally, bolstered by a grant that they had applied for, they’d be doing that research largely on their own.

“One of the side effects of everyone being focused on demonstrating individual success was that no one could develop broad enough knowledge to attack highly complex problems by themselves. Now there is more recognition that you really need to benefit from the excellent training of your colleagues who are experts in areas where you know very little,” HayGlass said.

“Eventually the program set to reach maturity this year the question on everybody’s mind is, what happens next?”

“Do we turn into Cinderella again?” Stirling asked. The Tier 1 chairs don’t have a set end date. But the Tier 2 chairs are capped at ten years. The federal government has announced new funding projects – including a research chair program to draw researchers to Canada. But Keselman said the next few years should be interesting as people lobby the government to keep the research ball rolling and ensure that universities can retain their research chairs in the future.

“We can’t afford to rest on our laurels because other countries are moving ahead with their research programs and the challenge will really be to keep up with that so we stay competitive,” Keselman said.

Derek Ralph

A new approach to the research ball rolling and ensure that universities can retain their research chairs in the future.

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National recognition

Some of Canada’s top researchers were honoured in Quebec on March 27th, and 47 of the honorees conduct their groundbreaking work at the University of Manitoba.

The Canada Research Chairs program, launched in 2000, held an event today at the Université du Quebec en Outaouais in Gatineau, Quebec that honoured the scientific and economic successes the Canada Research Chairs program has brought to Canada. The event’s title was Inventing the Future: Ideas for the 21st Century.

“Canada Research Chairs are remarkable scientists and scholars, and the University of Manitoba is proud to be the home of such a strong contingent of these outstanding individuals,” said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research). The Canada Research Chairs program continues to strengthen research excellence in Canada. By helping Canadian universities attract and retain the world’s most accomplished and promising scientists and scholars, the program is also building on Canada’s growing international reputation as a global leader in research and innovation.

So far, the University of Manitoba is home to 47 Canada Research Chairs. Here is an example of the type of world class such researchers are conducting.
The University of Manitoba will play host to American writer Harry Mark Petrakis at the Black Hole Theatre, University College, 3 p.m., Sunday, April 13. Petrakis will give a talk entitled Reflections: A Writer’s Life, A Writer’s Work and for people who come it will really be a chance to learn about a career that has spanned decades and crossed genres from novels to screen writing.

“What’s interesting about him is that he’ll be one of the most celebrated fiction writers to visit the University of Manitoba in some time,” said John Danaskas, whose day job is as public affairs director at the University of Manitoba, but who also serves as a member of the U of M’s Centre for Hellenic Civilization board and is a Winnipeg writer.

“Petrakis is a huge name in the industry; he’s been nominated twice for national literary awards in the United States and beyond that he’s 85 years old and is still writing and publishing short stories and novels. Petrakis is being jointly hosted by the Centre for Hellenic Civilization and Film Training Manitoba – a situation that speaks to the breadth of his career. Along with a career in print, where his award winning work includes the short story collection Pelicans on 31st Street, and the novels Lion At My Heart, The Odyssey of Kostas Volakis, Petrakis has worked in television and film and collaborated with such luminaries as Sam Peckinpah, Peter Bogdanovich and Daniel Mann, who directed the movie version of Petrakis’s novel of Kings with Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas in 1969.

For aspiring writers Petrakis offers a good motivational example – for all that his career has spanned decades, he didn’t publish his first story until he was in his mid-30s. Before that he had done everything from working at a diner to selling insurance.

Petrakis’s writing focuses on the experiences of first and second generation Greek immigrants to the United States. In that sense what he has to say should be of keen interest to people interested in the history of ethnicity and immigration. But he also infuses his stories with images and references drawn from Greek mythology giving classics students a chance to see how a contemporary writer deals with ancient myth.

We’re anticipating a real mix of people will be drawn to this event,” Danakas said. “Especially with the local Greek-Canadian community, we’re expecting a number of them will want to come out to hear the experiences of a preeminent Greek-American figure as he speaks about his life.

Petrakis has a new novel due out this November on the Greek War of Independence, titled Shepherds of Shadows, and a variety of his books will be available for sale after the reading. There will also be a reception after the reading featuring Greek cuisine.

Harry Mark Petrakis

Fort Garry Campus

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Computer Science MSc Thesis Defense, Archive Planning for a Distributed PACS by Peng Zhou, EZ-105 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 1 p.m., Thursday, April 3.

Plant Science, Applications of Entomopathogenic Nematode and Symbiosis: thiamerin and the role of the nuclear target, by Zheng Liu, research associate, plant science, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3.

W.L. Morton Distinguished Lecture, Polar Sea Ice and Climate Warming in Hudson Bay and the High Arctic by Ian Stirling, research scientist emeritus with the Canadian Wildlife Service and an adjunct professor in the department of biological sciences, University of Alberta, 204 University College, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
Chemistry, Lights! Camera! Action! by Kathleen M. Gough, department of chemistry, 539 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 4.

Psychology, The emotional modulation of attention: Cognitive and neuropsychological perspectives by Stephen Smith, department of psychology, University of Winnipeg, P412 Duff Roblin Building, 3 p.m., Friday, April 4.

Physics and Astronomy, The Changing Climate of the Arctic: Spatiotemporal properties of sea ice and atmospheric phenomena by Jennifer V Lukowick, environmental science, 330 Allen Building, 3:30 p.m., Friday, April 4.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
Classics, Pigs, Rats, And People: Puzzles Of A Pacific Paradise by Thomas J. Riley, North Dakota State University, 257 University College, 3 p.m., Sunday, April 6.
Mini U celebrates 30 years

The University of Manitoba’s Mini U program will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on Sunday, April 6. The celebration will include an afternoon of fun at the Frank Kennedy Centre with party games, a complimentary buffet lunch and the chance to swim in the U of M’s Pool.

Jack Chenier will be on hand at 2:30 p.m. to deliver a concert in the Investors Group Athletic Centre. The cost for the afternoon, which runs from 1 to 5 p.m., is $5 per family.

Since its debut as a summer sport camp in 1979, the unique work-study program has exposed more than 50,000 children aged four to 16 to physical activity and educational programs that fit the needs of children in higher learning. Mini U has also repeatedly been a model for similar university programs across the globe.

For more information on the program go to miniU.ca.
Bison get CFL shot, MacGillivray remains

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

Five Manitoba Bison football players have been selected to the 2008 CFL Elation Camp held in Toronto from March 14 to 16. Fourth year defensive back Brady Browne, third year defensive line Justin Cooper, fourth year wide receiver Terry Firr, fourth year linebacker Kenton Onofrychuk and four year defensive lineman Justin Shaw will be part of 54 Canadians and permanent residents who have been selected to the 2008 CFL Canadian Football League Evaluation Camp.

From the CFL release: General managers, head coaches and scouts from all CFL teams will be in attendance evaluating prospects as they prepare for the 2008 CFL Canadian Draft on April 30.

This year’s attendees include 48 CIS players and six NCAA players who have qualified as non-imports and have been selected to the 2008 CFL Evaluation Camp by the CFL and its member clubs. The participants include nine defensive backs, nine defensive linemen, eight linebackers, 11 receivers, 10 offensive linemen, five running backs and two quarterbacks.

Five players from the 2007 Vanier Cup champion Manitoba Bisons represent the highest number of participants by any school at this year’s Evaluation Camp, followed by the Saskatchewan Huskies with four.

Bison football head coach Brian Dobie stated, “I am proud that we will have the largest number of representatives from a CIS school at this year’s CFL Evaluation Camp. All five have worked extremely hard to attend this camp and show off their skills.”

MACGILLIVRAY
STAYS ON AS COACH

Don MacGillivray will remain as the Bison men’s hockey head coach for the upcoming 2008-09 season. Mike Sirant requested and received another year leave of absence from the university.

On July 17, 2006, MacGillivray replaced Sirant and became the 14th Bison men’s hockey head coach. Originally, Sirant was on a two-year leave of absence from the University of Manitoba while he became the sports director and head coach of the Danish National Men’s Ice Hockey Team.

A full list of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found atumanitoba.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 position number when applying for openings at the university.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Department of Architecture
Position: Design Studio and technology professor
Start date: July 1
Application deadline: May 5
Position number: 07791
For information: Professor Art Chard, chair of the search committee, head of department of architecture, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture, 201 Russell Bldg., Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, phone 474-6424, e-mail chardn@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of French, Spanish and Italian
Position: Instructor I or II in the area of Italian Language, Culture and Literature
Start date: July 1
Application deadline: May 5
Position number: 07793
For information: Dr. Enrique Fernandez, Chair, Italian Position Search Committee, Department of French, Spanish and Italian, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2.

FACULTY OF ARTS
Libraries Electronic Technologies and Services
Position: Associate librarian/lead
Start date: Sept. 1
Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience
Application deadline: May 2
Position number: 07857
For information: Ms. Carolynne Presser, director of libraries, The University of Manitoba Libraries, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Clinical Health Psychology
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Position: Clinical psychologist (child) at the assistant professor level
Start date: July 1
Salary: An attractive salary schedule is available and, in addition, the GFT agreement provides for on-site private practice opportunities
Application deadline: May 3
Position number: 06995
For information: Dr. Bob McIlwraith, department of clinical health psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, 771 Boundary Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E SN4, phone 787-8767, fax 787-3755, e-mail: bmcilwraith@hsc.mb.ca.

School of Medical Rehabilitation
Department of Occupational Therapy
Position: Assistant professor (two positions)
Start date: July 1
Application deadline: May 3
Position number: 07530 and 07531
For information: Dr. Emily Etcheverry, chair, occupational therapy search committee, School of Medical Rehabilitation, University of Manitoba, R106 – 771 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 0T6, phone 789-5418, fax 789-3927, e-mail eetchev@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF PHARMACY
Department of Statistics
Position: Assistant advocate professor appointment in medicinal chemistry
Start date: Appointment will commence in the 2008/2009 academic year
Salary: Dependent upon qualifications and experience
Application deadline: May 2
Position number: 07814
For information: Dr. FJ Burczynski, professor & search committee chair, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, e-mail: fburczyn@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Department of Statistics
Position: Instructor I or Instructor II
Start date: May 2
Application deadline: May 1
Position number: 07766
For information: Dr. John F Brewster, chair, search committee, department of statistics, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, phone 474-8172, fax 474-7621, e-mail stats_dept@cc.umanitoba.ca.

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


ST. MARY ANGLICAN CHURCH in Charleswood will be holding a Giant Garage / Rummage Sale on Friday, April 11, 2008 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 1201 Robin Lane and Harbour (just over the Charleswood Bridge).

There will be white elephant tables, book tables, a fish pond for kids, as well as household items, clothing and other items for sale.
Researcher working behind the screens

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Promotion

More liquid crystal displays populate the planet than humans, yet few understand how they work, so few can improve them, but luckily, chemist Torsten Hegmann can do both. He is in a leadership understanding how certain nanoparticle composites can improve the properties of liquid crystal mixtures used in liquid crystal displays (LCDs). His research was recently on the cover of the journal Advanced Functional Materials and you can read more about future publications at www.home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~hegmann/

There are a few types of LCDs, each making use of different liquid crystal molecules and mixtures. Most liquid crystal molecules used are rod shaped and prefer to neatly align in manners specific to the display medium they find themselves in. And all respond to electric fields.

Most displays, such as computer screens and televisions, are backlit. Each screen is divided into picture elements called pixels. Each pixel has its own transistor and is covered with the liquid crystal mixture as in active matrix displays.

The backlight shines through a pixel when the liquid crystal molecules occupying it are turned “on”, which occurs when an electric field causes the molecule to change its alignment. When no field is present, the liquid crystal molecules found in certain

Chipettaining the gender gap?

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Promotion

We’re not there yet. In the 1970s the feminist movement’s flame burned bright, but still it did not illuminate enough -- the gender equality gap was not closed. Today, the feminist flame only flickers to the predominantly male workforce. Although dull bedtime reading, Hansards provide contextual insights. For example, the family benefit -- an allowance for mothers -- passed in the Commons not out of concern for a mother’s economic equality in the 1920s, but because businesses didn’t want to raise the minimum wage paid to the predominantly male workforce. A recent focus of Turnbull’s and her three research students’ attention, however, is Chatelaine magazine. This magazine has been the repository of popular discourse on Canadian women’s issues since it began publishing in 1928.

Turnbull’s lab has sifted through nearly 100 years worth of magazines, storing anything -- advertisements, editorials, articles, novellas, pictures -- that depict mothering or the work of care giving.

She has since developed a large database of the messages conveyed through Chatelaine magazine. This data is sorted into six categories: mother as an autonomous agent; how mother is trained to properly rear her children; mother’s role in family decision making; how blame for, say, a child’s delinquency is assigned to the mother; how marginalized mothers are portrayed; mothers’ social activism.

“I’m trying to see if there is any connection at all between the issues being expressed in the popular discourse and what the law was doing at the time,” she said.

“What does this tell us about any changes we want to bring about now? My sense is that things don’t change until there is a certain level of grassroots concern, it is not enough to have an enlightened legislator who wants to write a wonderful law.

“I don’t know whether that’s true and this study won’t ultimately prove it, but it might give us some insights into this chicken-and-egg problem of social change.”

Chatelaine influencing the gender gap?

Law's Lorna Turnbull examines gender-based legal issues by studying various forms of discourse, even Chatelaine magazine.

The larger gold nanoparticles work well because they can be charged like a capacitor. When added to the liquid crystal mixture, most metal nanoparticles get expelled to the interface and along the way they manipulate the alignment of the liquid crystal. The gold bit then sits by the electrodes and “soaks up” charge. This, Hegmann believes, creates a stronger local field without the addition of more power.

Hegmann is also working with quantum dots made of Cadmium telluride; they are luminescent, their emission wavelengths can be controlled by the quantum dot size and coating, and they too can reduce threshold voltage. Since the backlight consumes most of a display’s energy, luminescent nanoparticles would be a boon to industry.

Ultimately, we’re trying to get to the point where a company can come to us with a liquid crystal mixture and we, having gathered fundamental knowledge on many different nanoparticles, can tell them which particle would work best.”

Chemist Torsten Hegmann studies how certain nanoparticle composites can improve the properties of some liquid crystal mixtures.

The World Economic Forum’s 2007 Global Gender Gap Report, which measures gender inequalities in such things as women’s literacy rates, earnings, health and political presence, ranked Canada as 18th in the world, behind countries like Latvia and Sri Lanka.

Women are predominately burdened with motherwork; some men may be, but rare is the case. So to understand how laws and ethics interact, with a goal of understanding what brings about social change, Turnbull is examining various discourses.

She looks at legislative discourses, things like the Income Tax Act and Employment Insurance Act. And she examines the discourse of the legislators themselves, which she gets from Hansards.

Although dull bedtime reading, Hansards provide contextual insights. For example, the family benefit -- an allowance for mothers -- passed in the Commons not out of concern for a mother’s economic equality in the 1920s, but because businesses didn’t want to raise the minimum wage paid to the predominantly male workforce. A recent focus of Turnbull’s and

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At last, a chance to tell our story
Encyclopedia of Manitoba tapped U of M research talent

Books
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

As it turns out, Manitobans do want to know what makes their province tick.

The first run of the Great Plains Publications’ Encyclopedia of Manitoba has already sold out and the second run is already flying off the shelves across the province.

A recognition ceremony for the nearly two dozen University of Manitoba contributors to the encyclopedia was held at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library on March 14.

“We had more than 300 contributors for the encyclopedia and for some of them the subjects they were writing about came really close to the heart. These subjects were really matted to them,” Encyclopedia of Manitoba managing editor Ingeborg Boyens said.

And perhaps it’s that engagement with the material that truly makes the Encyclopedia of Manitoba valuable. In a time where information on any subject is a google check away, the encyclopedia offers a distinctly Manitoba take on its subjects – showing why and how these things matter, places, and things are important.

“I love the Internet and it’s a great research tool, but it’s only one research tool,” Boyens said. “Something like Wikipedia just can’t deal effectively with the things we’ve been able to deal with.”

In all there are more than 2,000 entries in the encyclopedia. All of them researched and verified.

“We knew, or at least suspected, that Dr. Ballard put out his first tins of dog food from Virden, but it took the research team a lot of work to prove that that was true,” Boyens said.

Joel Trenamen served as an assistant editor for the project and ended up writing well over 100 of the entries in the encyclopedia. For many of them that meant doing some traditional scholarly work by pouring through books, journals, and archival material. But sometimes the job was more complicated.

“Lots of times I had to take a more journalistic approach and makes calls to people in the field,” Trenamen said. “For the biographies they sometimes meant calling friends and relatives who knew them.”

And like Boyens there were some particularly Manitoba entries that intrigued him.

Encyclopedia of Manitoba managing editor Ingeborg Boyens, centre, joined the University of Manitoba contributors to the encyclopedia for a book launch at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library on March 14.

“Reading the encyclopedia can really make one think about what kind of place Manitoba is,” Trenamen said. “The Winnipeg Jets even warrant an entry – and Trenamen said they cover both the period of when the team was here and how the symbol of the Jets continues to pop up in Winnipeg, including as a political football during the last election.

History professor Robin Jarvis Brownlie was a member of the editorial board for the encyclopedia and edited the people’s section of the book.

“This was a really great project to be involved in and I’m really proud of the final product,” Brownlie said. Her own academic interest is in Aboriginal history, and Brownlie said the encyclopedia does a fantastic job of looking at Aboriginal people on their own terms and telling their history as a people.

Of course, none of this came without work. The project was over three years in the making and involved coordinating over 300 writers.

When people dropped out or deadlines were missed, it was up to the editorial board to ensure they information they needed was still tracked down.

“I think the most difficult thing I’ve ever done,” Boyens said. Hand in hand, of course, it was also one of the most satisfying. Great Plains Publications has a track record of focusing on Manitoba writers, but with the Encyclopedia of Manitoba, Boyens said they were really looking outwards to more and more people in the field.

When the first print run of 5,000 copies has sold out and they’re in their second run, it would seem that Manitobans really do want to learn more about their province.

Luo helps China Project succeed

A Day in The Life of a project coordinator

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The China Project might only occupy an office or two at the University of Manitoba but over the past four years it’s been responsible for training hundreds of women in China how to be care-givers and social workers.

The China Project is a joint project between the University of Manitoba and the China Women’s University of China. The goal is to provide training to a grass-roots network of women in China,” project coordinator Hai Luo said.

The project kicked off in 2004 with Tuula Heinonen and Maria Cheung, both professors in the Faculty of Social Work, setting things in motion and running, Luo said most of the faculty members can work in China. In the early stages of the project she’s the wind beneath the wings of faculty members working in China. In the early stages of the project she traveled with them, helping them orientate themselves after they landed in China. Now with things up and running, Luo said most of the faculty members can fly solo to, and in, China, but Luo’s office is still responsible for booking flights, tracking down hotel rooms and generally making sure there’s a connection between people at the U of M and people at the China Women’s University of China.

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“I set up all the work plans for each year and coordinate with the Chinese side to ensure that the goals we set out here are being accomplished on their end,” Luo said. At the end of the year all the information is bundled together into a report that is passed on to CIDA to show that the $3 million that they’ve invested is being well spent.

Now completing its fourth year the China Project annually trains between 400 and 500 people in China who, in turn, take their training into the field and help rural women.

Hai Luo is the project coordinator for the China Project, a U of M led effort that is building social work capacity in rural China.

Reading the encyclopedia can really make one think about what kind of place Manitoba is,” Trenamen said. “The Winnipeg Jets even warrant an entry – and Trenamen said they cover both the period of when the team was here and how the symbol of the Jets continues to pop up in Winnipeg, including as a political football during the last election.

History professor Robin Jarvis Brownlie was a member of the editorial board for the encyclopedia and edited the people’s section of the book.

“This was a really great project to be involved in and I’m really proud of the final product,” Brownlie said. Her own academic interest is in Aboriginal history, and Brownlie said the encyclopedia does a fantastic job of looking at Aboriginal people on their own terms and telling their history as a people.

Of course, none of this came without work. The project was over three years in the making and involved coordinating over 300 writers.

When people dropped out or deadlines were missed, it was up to the editorial board to ensure they information they needed was still tracked down.

“I think the most difficult thing I’ve ever done,” Boyens said. Hand in hand, of course, it was also one of the most satisfying. Great Plains Publications has a track record of focusing on Manitoba writers, but with the Encyclopedia of Manitoba, Boyens said they were really looking outwards to more and more people in the field.

When the first print run of 5,000 copies has sold out and they’re in their second run, it would seem that Manitobans really do want to learn more about their province.

Luo helps China Project succeed

A Day in The Life of a project coordinator

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The China Project might only occupy an office or two at the University of Manitoba but over the past four years it’s been responsible for training hundreds of women in China how to be care-givers and social workers.

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