A University of Manitoba and Asper School of Business graduate gave back to his alma mater in a big way recently. Entrepreneur Stu Clark presented a cheque for $5 million to President and Vice-Chancellor EmiKee J. E. Szathmáry and Dean Glenn Feltham at the Fort Garry Hotel in front of more than 100 community leaders from business, government and university, students and media.

To honour Clark, who made his name in the oil and gas industry, the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship has been renamed the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship. Leonard Asper, son of the late Dr. Israel Asper after whom the Asper School of Business is named, said the name change would have delighted his father, who always encouraged others to better his own generosities.

To show continuing gratitude for Izzy Asper’s initial $1 million investment to the centre in 1997, the School announced that Rob Warren, currently director of the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship has assumed the new title of I.H. Asper Executive Director for Entrepreneurship.

Warren explained that Clark’s donation will support entrepreneurship courses and programs for students within and outside the Asper School of Business. Warren said this is because many entrepreneurs are not only in the business school, but also in other faculties.

When it came time for Clark to speak, he asked that his gift be thought of as an investment, not as a gift or donation. He also said that it was his university experience as a Commerce graduate that helped him create opportunities that he has taken advantage of in his career.

“I have a passion for entrepreneurship. I’ve started a number of my own businesses, sold them, profited from them and now it’s time to give back,” he said.

“The $5 million investment in the entrepreneurial centre comes at a good time. Since 1999, the centre’s student teams have had almost 40 first-place wins in business pitch competitions around the world, making the school’s and the university’s name synonymous with major international titles. In fact, most times the students are the first and only teams from a Canadian business school at competitions.

“I look forward to seeing the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship in headlines as it continues to win competitions, create highly sought-after graduates, and pave the way for entrepreneurial excellence, just like it has done for the last 11 years,” said Dr. Szathmáry prior to the announcement. “The University of Manitoba is enormously grateful for the announcement. “The University of Manitoba is enormously grateful for Mr. Clark’s generous gift to support these initiatives.”

Dean Feltham said the gift is in itself a turning point in the history of management education at the University of Manitoba.

“This gift is transformational,” he said. “Stu Clark’s contribution demonstrates his tremendous confidence in one of the school’s important areas of focus – entrepreneurship.”

In discussing the impact of the gift, Warren added, “We are working hard at expanding entrepreneurship well beyond the borders of the business school. Riding on the wave of our recent accomplishments, coupled with Stu’s gift, I don’t think there will be any stopping us in the years to come.”

The centre also hosts several youth programs, including the summer Curry BizCamp in Entrepreneurship. It also hosts the Stuart Clark Venture Challenge, a student competition for new, independent ventures in the seed, start-up or early growth stages, which coincided with the announcement.

Clinical Learning and Simulation Facility Opens

It was all smiles in the Brodie Centre Atrium on April 11 when government, health and University of Manitoba officials announced the opening of one of the most sophisticated medical student training centres in the country.

The $4.6-million Clinical Learning and Simulation Facility was officially opened at the Bannatyne campus April 11 by the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Medicine and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. The new multidisciplinary facility was developed in partnership with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Manitoba departments of Health and Science, Technology, Energy & Mines.

The Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with the WRHA, will operate the new $4.6-million, 11,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, one of Canada’s most comprehensive clinical learning and simulation centres.

“The Clinical Learning and Simulation Facility will transform how Manitoba’s health professions are prepared to deal with real patients and medical emergencies,” said Dr. J. Dean Sandham, Dean of Medicine, University of Manitoba.

“Realistic simulation training on robotic mannequins will strengthen communication and clinical skills of students and ensure more confident, experienced practitioners.”

Dr. Brian Postl, President and CEO of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, said the new centre is a huge step forward in terms of both education and patient safety. “This will allow students to practice the skills they need to develop before actually using them on patients. It is the way of the future.”

Funding for the Clinical Learning and Simulation Facility (CLSF) includes $1 million each from the WRHA, Province of Manitoba and Faculty of Medicine; and $1.6 million from donors, students and alumni.

“The provincial government’s $1 million contribution for this innovative facility was provided through the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund,” said Jim Rondeau, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines. “Over the years the fund has provided more than $50 million for research and development and research infrastructure, in areas such as health, manufacturing, aerospace, new media and alternative energy.”

See LIFE-LIKE/page 2
Ribbon cutting ceremony (or surgical tubing cutting ceremony, if you will) at CSLF opening event. From left: University of Manitoba President Dr. Emike Szathmary; the Honourable Jim Rondeau, Manitoba Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines; Kam Birdi, senior stick of the Manitoba Medical Students Association; the Honourable Theresa Oswald, Manitoba Minister of Health; President and CEO of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Dr. Brian Postl; and University of Manitoba Dean of Medicine Dr. J. Dean Sandham.
Province to invest $47 million in campus redevelopment

The provincial government will invest $47 million over three years in the historic redevelopment of the University of Manitoba’s Fort Garry campus, Advanced Education and Literacy Minister Diane McGifford announced on April 10.

Within the next five years, the University of Manitoba will restructure several major facilities using a six-stage development plan called Project Domino. The Manitoba government will provide $4 million toward Project Domino this year and the remaining $43 million will be invested over 2009-10 and 2010-11. “This is one of the province’s largest campus redevelopment projects and I commend the university for its vision, which successfully preserves and restores the historic integrity of the institution while showcasing forward-looking innovation in sustainability,” McGifford said.

“We called this project Domino because the plan will address major space and infrastructure challenges on campus in such a way that, like dominoes falling, the resolution of one challenge leads to the resolution of another,” said University of Manitoba president and vice-chancellor Dr. E.mente Szathmáry. “This important project will also provide students, faculty and staff with the facilities and technology they need to succeed and thrive. We are most grateful to the Province of Manitoba for their support of this significant undertaking.”

Highlights include a new facility to replace the 580-bed Tache residence, with the existing space becoming home to the Faculty of Music and School of Art. The current music building will house two English Language Centres, the International Student Centre, and the Office of International Relations.

Other changes will see the FitzGerald building become home to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and possibly the Graduate Students Association, the current pharmacy building will become the new biological sciences building and lab space in the Duff Roblin building will be made available for the human nutritional sciences department within the Faculty of Human Ecology.

With a commitment of $100 million over two years in Budget 2008, the Manitoba government will have supported $562 million in capital investment for post-secondary education since 1999.

International Symposium on Emerging Resistant Infections
Drs. George Zhanel & Ethan Rubinstein, Co-Chairs

April 28, 2008
Theatre A and Joe Doupe Concourse, 2nd Floor, Basic Medical Sciences Building
730 William Avenue, Bannatyne Campus
Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba

Visit the U of M on Facebook

University of Manitoba

Symposia 50 Celebrates the Birthplace of Oral Biology

Drs. Raj Bhullar (left) and Colin Dawe prepare a mix of posters, presentations and all-star personnel for Dentistry’s Traditions of Excellence in Oral Research event April 25.

The Faculty of Dentistry is set to celebrate five decades of achievement in oral biology research with a special event on Friday, April 25.

Traditions of Excellence in Oral Research, which is part of the recently launched Symposia 50 series that marks Dentistry’s 50th anniversary, will salute the long history of achievement realized by Dentistry’s faculty and students.

“The University of Manitoba is the birthplace of oral biology and set the standard for all dental schools in North America from that point on,” said Dr. Anthony M. Iacopino, dean of Dentistry at the U of M. “We intend to honour that legacy and what better way to do that than to re-affirm our faculty’s position of prominence and excellence within this section of the profession.”

The event will feature a full slate of presentations from world renowned researchers, all of whom have direct ties to the U of M faculty. In addition, a special awards ceremony will take place during the day.

The public and media are welcome to attend, along with members of Manitoba’s dental and medical community.

The University of Manitoba is a community-directed, community-connected organization that plays a pivotal role in bringing together people, agencies, government and business to achieve positive change in our community. Winnipeggers have once again demonstrated their strong belief in the value of University of Winnipeg’s work by investing an outstanding $17 million to support it – yet another record-breaking achievement!

Thanks to your personal endorsement of the campaign, the great work of your campaign team leadership Ms. Rosalyn Howard, Dr. John Wiens, Dr. Thomas Klonsich and their respective employee campaign teams and canvassers, the generosity of the faculty, staff and students, the University of Manitoba contributed a total of $425,857 for United Way’s work in our community. An additional $22,461 was raised for other registered Canadian charities.

Thanks to your personal endorsement of the campaign, the great work of the University of Manitoba’s provision of an office at the Fort Garry campus with computer and telephones was greatly appreciated. This arrangement allowed the four Sponsoring Executives to effectively work with the employee campaign team. Thank you once again for generously providing this space.

The number of leadership donors, $1,200 and above, increased this year from 82 to 95 and contributed $126,418 to your campaign. The University of Manitoba has the highest number of leadership donors in the entire 2007 United Way of Winnipeg campaign.

Working together through United Way is the best way to make Winnipeg a stronger community for us all. Thank you once again for your generous support, and please pass on our thanks to the entire campaign team and all the generous donors at the University of Manitoba.

Heather Grant-Jury
Chair, Campaign 2007

April 17, 2008
Events Listing
University of Manitoba

Community, campuses to celebrate President Szathmáry’s contributions

Mark your calendars for three special events to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Emőke Szathmáry during her term as president and vice-chancellor from 1996 to 2008.

Gala
On Wednesday, May 21, a gala dinner and presidential farewell will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Honorary co-chairs for the event are Wayne Anderson, past chair of the Board of Governors, and his wife Lee, who extend the invitation with Chancellors William Norrie and Board of Governors Chair Terry Sargeant. The reception starts at 6:00 pm and dinner is at 7:00 pm, co-enclosed by Gill Asper and Hartley Richardson. Tickets are $100 per person (tables of eight and ten available) from the Alumni Association by calling 474-9946 or by downloading the order form at http://umanitoba.ca/alumni/events/index.html. Proceeds will support the Dr. Emőke Szathmáry Graduate Fellowship in Biological Anthropology.

Campus events
Two campus farewell events are planned:
- Monday, June 23, 12:00 pm, Brodie Centre, Bannatyne Campus
- Tuesday, June 24, 12:00 pm, Duckworth Quadrangle, Fort Garry Campus (rain location, Manitoba Room, University Centre).

All staff, faculty, retirees, students, alumni and members of the community are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

For more information on the campus events contact Linda Chartier, Dentistry, 789-5400 or chartier@ms.umanitoba.ca or Julie Mikuska, alumni association, at 474-8198 or Julie_Mikuska@umanitoba.ca.

Fort Garry Campus

THURSDAY APRIL 17
Centre on Aging’s Research Seminar Series, Personhood and Dementia by Kerstin Roger, department of family social sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, 207 tibisher Building, 12p.m., Thursday, April 17.

FRIDAY APRIL 18
Anthropology MA Thesis Defense, SIMS oxygen isotope analysis of human dental tissues from Fuller Mounds (Eld-3), MB: mobility during Manitoba’s Middle and Late Woodland periods by Rachel ten Bruggencate, 409 Tier Building, 2pm, Friday, April 18.

Harassment, Coercion and the Inefficiency of Voluntary Contracts. The topic is Harrassment, Coercion and the Inefficiency of Voluntary Contracts. This will be presented by Dr. Aftab A. Mufti, professor of civil engineering at the University of Manitoba. For more information contact Dr. Mufti at aftab.mufti@umanitoba.ca or Julie Mikuska, alumni association, at 474-8198 or Julie_Mikuska@umanitoba.ca.

Finding Others, Finding Yourself: Rethinking Religion. 1:00pm, Cross Common Room St. John’s College, Friday, April 18.

Centre for Globalization and Cultural Studies Development, Violence and Displacement An International Development Forum, Getting Humanitarian Aid Right by Peter Walker, director, Feinstein International Centre Tufts University, 224 Education Building, 9:30am, Friday, April 18.

TUESDAY APRIL 22
Book launch, Rae Bridgman, Architecture: launches Fish and Sphinx, the third book in her MiddleGate fiction series. Winnipeg’s Town Crier Ed Humphrey (of Amusin: Entertainment) will be in attendance to open the ceremonies. McNally Robinson Bookscellers (Polo Park), 7pm, Tuesday, April 22.

Nursing Research Seminar Series, Including Low-Income Women with Children: Program and Policy Directions by Lynn Scruby, assistant professor, Faculty of Nursing, 370 Helen Glass Centre, 12pm, Tuesday, April 29.

THURSDAY MAY 1
Human Nutritional Sciences Special Presentation: The Department of Human Nutritional Sciences presents Dr. Kenneth Hensley from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 2:30pm, Lecture Theatre, Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals, Thursday May 1.

APRIL 14 - APRIL 29
$5Cash for Books$5 Of U of M BookStore

Marks of Achievement

Earned some recognition or an award? The Bulletin wants to celebrate with you. Please e-mail information about your Marks of Achievement to barbourd@ms.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 or picture, call 474 8111.

Mufti Honoured

Dr. Aftab A. Mufti, professor of civil engineering at the University of Manitoba, is being honoured by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering with a 2007 P.L. Pratley Award for best paper. Dr. Mufti co-authored the paper with Dr. Emile Shehata of Wardrop Engineering Inc. The award is granted annually for the best paper in the field of bridge engineering and is in honour of distinguished bridge engineer P.L. Pratley.

Dr. Mufti has been teaching in the Faculty of Engineering since 2000. He is the president of ISIS Canada, or Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures, which is a Centre of Excellence headquarted at the University of Manitoba.

He has won numerous professional awards and is known internationally for his expertise on bridge engineering and civics, a term he coined to describe the need to bring together engineering’s brightest minds as a means to improve civil infrastructure design.
Friday April 25

What do you need to know about The Need to Know Team? Different lenses, different perspectives on a research collaboration since 2001, 12pm, Room 405, 4th floor Brodie Centre, Friday April 25.

Researching Smarter not Harder: Broadening Your Scope — Scopus and CINAHL 5pm, Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library - Ross Lab, Friday, April 25.

Traditions of Excellence in Oral Research, part of the Symposia 50 series, presented by the Faculty of Dentistry. Featuring presentations from world-renowned research scientists, this day-long event will showcase the latest advances in oral research while honouring the achievements of past U of M researchers. Continuing education credits are available and there is no charge to attend. Registration begins at 8:30am at the Basic Medical Sciences building, Friday, April 25

Monday April 28

International Symposium on Emerging Resistant Infections: guest speakers include Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Health Steven Fletcher, beginning at 7-45am, Theatre A and Joe Doupe Conference, 2nd Floor, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 730 William Avenue, Monday, April 28.

Endnote Introduction: setting up a database, importing and exporting records, and “Cite While You Write”, 9-11am, Brodie Centre, Monday, April 28.

Wednesday, April 30

Bench to Bedside Rounds: Diabetes: How Sweet It Isn’t! From Research to Practice and Back Again by Brent Kvern, associate professor, department of family medicine, and Gregoire Nyomba, associate professor, department of internal medicine, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 pm, Wednesday, April 30.

Department of Pathology Research Seminar: Speaker: Dr. Angela Cornick, Ph.D., C. Psych., 1:00pm, MS473 Thorlakson Building, Health Sciences Centre, Wednesday, April 30.

Monday, May 5

Centre on Aging, 25th Annual Spring Research Symposium, “Dialogue on Aging”, session topics include: Age-Friendly Communities Initiative: The Manitoba Experience; Shining New Light on Alzheimer’s Disease: New Clinical Trials, Keeping Seniors Mobile & Road Savvy; Aging with a Developmental Disability: Ethical Issues Regarding the Withholding or Withdrawal of Life-Sustaining Treatment; Vision in Long-Term Care Facilities: An Overlooked Need; Aging in the Justice System, Brodie Centre, 8:45am to 4:00pm Monday, May 5.
Thanks to the My Future campaign, students and alumni at the University of Manitoba are telling their stories to the world. Over the next few months, the Bulletin will be introducing the university’s online bloggers and giving you a glimpse of what is happening in their lives. To learn more, go to itsmyfuture.ca.

MEET JESSE HAMONIC

Growing up in the small town of St. Malo, Manitoba, university life was Jesse’s first introduction to the diversity of urban life. “Here, you’re exposed to people from around the world,” he says. “That really helped me broaden my understanding for other cultures and beliefs.”

He’s studying to become a corporate securities lawyer and continues to maintain his connection with, and love for, country life. From a young age, his parents instilled in him the importance of contributing to his community. “No matter what you do for a living, everyone has a personal responsibility to give back,” says Jesse. “I believe in the power of the individual to make a difference.”

Jesse definitely passes this belief into practice. With the encouragement of University of Manitoba faculty, he has launched several student charity initiatives including local hunger relief efforts and a rebuilding project in New Orleans.

“I was shocked how much interest the idea generated,” says Jesse. “We could only accommodate 50 people but there must have been 70 or 80 applications.” The Manitoba crew were building homes at a Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans when a tornado hit a nearby neighbourhood in the already devastated city.

“We ended up being the first on the scene to help clean up,” says Jesse. “The perseverance and courage of those people, who have already gone through so much, is absolutely amazing.”

Reprinted with permission from The Globe and Mail.

ST. ANDREW’S COLLEGE
Invitation to Bid for Food Service Catering Contract

Interested bidders are invited to apply at the Main Office of St. Andrew’s College, U of M Campus, 29 Dysart Rd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2M7, before 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 31, 2008 for the Food Service Catering Contract, for a small University Residence housing approximately 40 students requiring daily food service (3 meals per day). Bidders are requested to indicate their interest, and to receive specific information, by applying in writing or by telephone at (204) 474-8895. Appointments for interviews will be arranged individually. The lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Family Medicine
Position: Academic Family Physician
Start date: July 1
Salary: Commensurate with experience and credentials
Application deadline: May 15

FACULTY OF HEALTH
Department of Clinical Health Psychology
Position: Contingent Geographic Part-Time Clinical Psychologist at the Assistant Professor level
Start date: September 1
Application deadline: May 17 (initial review)
Position number: 00038

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, R3F 5S0 – 771 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 3N4, phone 204-787-7424, e-mail bmcilwraith@hsc.mb.ca.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Child Health
Position: Contingent Full-Time Psychologist at the Assistant Professor level
Start date: September 1
Application deadline: May 17

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Position: Contingent Full-Time Pediatric Neurologist
Application deadline: September 1
Position number: 07570
For information: Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, University of Manitoba, CE206, 845 Sherbrook St, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3A 1S1, e-mail: cgreenberg@hsc.mb.ca.

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Position: Research Methods Lab Instructor
The successful candidate must have an M.A. or Ph.D. in Sociology or related discipline by the commencement of the appointment and demonstrated competence in teaching.
Start date: July 1
Application deadline: May 25
Position number: 07908
For information: http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/sociology/ or contact Dr. E. Comack, Head, Department of Sociology, 518 Isabel Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3T 2N2, phone 474-9673, e-mail comack@cc.umanitoba.ca.
Getting to the root of the maggot problem

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Promotion

Although his wife calls them animated eyelashes, the small beetles Neil Holliday studies may be the finest assassins Canadian canola farmers could employ, but the alien species hasn’t earned its visa yet.

The beetle is Aleochara bipustulata and it has no common name. It hails from Europe, is predominantly black, and both the adults and larvae feed on the cabbage root maggot, a pest that came from Europe and, in some years, causes Alberta $100 million in lost canola yields.

“The cabbage root maggot first showed up in prairie Canada in 1958 and it was ignored until 1980, which was when it began destroying canola in Alberta. Since then, it’s been on the rise, in a general trend sort of way, throughout prairie Canada,” Holliday, Head of the Department of Entomology, said.

The cabbage maggot (Delia radicum) attacks the crop in the middle of the season. Adult females lay eggs at the base of the thickest stems they find and their larvae burrow down to feed on the roots. No legal insecticide works against them so the only useable tactics come from the playbooks of cultural and biological control.

Cultural controls involve changing crop densities and rotations to make canola crops less attractive to egg-laying females. But these options require farmers to make various economic sacrifices so are unlikely to be adopted. Biological control is thus the most feasible option and Holliday has been examining it since 1999.

To deal with a pest from Europe, you go to Europe. A graduate student collected, recorded, and tagged a total of 25,000 cabbage maggots from Europe and the Canadian Prairies and individually reared them to see what parasites emerged. Most parasites showed up on both continents, but only the European maggots played host to Aleochara bipustulata.

The odd thing is, long ago entomologists recorded A. bipustulata to be present in Canada.

Before 1986 there was no certain way to determine whether you held an A. bipustulata in your hand, or one of its relatives. But in 1986 the distinguishing characteristics were found to be in the genitalia. So Holliday borrowed over 150 beetles from museums in Canada and the U.S. – in fact, all the known specimens from North America that were labeled as A. bipustulata – and dissected them. None, he found, were what their label indicated – they were all A. verma, a species already known to be in Canada.

A bipustulata attacks cabbage maggots in two ways. The adults feed on the eggs (and sometimes on larvae), and A. bipustulata larvae invade and eat maggot pupae.

Many aspects of this beetle, like its cold-hardiness, make it a good candidate for introduction. So Holliday’s lab is investigating the would-be outcomes of its introduction.

To see if A. bipustulata would add to overall parasitism rates, it was put in cages of maggot-infested canola with A. bilineata, a parasite that already resides in Canada and can kill 40 per cent of cabbage maggot pupae. When A. bipustulata was added to the mix, parasitism in cages increased from 35 per cent to nearly 60 per cent of maggots.

“That increase could tip the balance and be enough to curb the long-term trend of increase in the cabbage maggot population,” Holliday said.

But would A. bipustulata parasite non-target species too? To find out one of Holliday’s students put A. bipustulata in vials with selected species of pupae. Called the no-choice test, the larva can attack the pupa or starve, which is a rather rigorous indicator of its tastes. Out of 17 non-target species (ones not intended to be harmed by biological control) it entered only four, suggesting it is not polyphagous, which adds yet another point to its immigration file.

But past literature suggested this beetle would eat a beneficial insect found in forests. Sure enough, it invaded these pupae in the laboratory. But later experiments showed this beetle does not venture into forests, and so would not encounter the beneficial species in the wild.

Holliday’s lab is about to start studying how chemicals, sulphurous behavior with a goal of understanding why and where the beetle travels, and how it finds its prey.

Some people may think it unwise to introduce alien species to an ecosystem on purpose. But Holliday notes that classical biological controls are employed on 10 per cent of all world crops, and deleterious errors have occurred in less than two per cent of the 5,000 introductions already made. His role in this matter, he said, is to provide information so regulators can make informed decisions, both now and in the future.

“By publishing all the information, people can come back in 2020 if the problem is worse, and decide if the benefits of introduction then outweigh the risks. The information doesn’t die, it will still be there.”
Mini U Turns 30
A model for universities around the world

by TAMARA BODI

One of biggest and longest-running summer day camps in the world celebrat-
ed 30 years recently with an afternoon of family activities. Since 1979, more than 130,000 kids have been able to tell their pals they went to the University of Mani-
toba for their summer break as part of Mini University, affectionately known as Mini U. The unique play-study-work day camp has exposed children aged four to 16 years to hundreds of physical activi-
ties, creative arts and innovative learning workshops.

For Mini U’s 30th birthday party, pub-
ic and campus were invited to the Fort Garry campus to take in live music, games, clowns, magicians, swimming, interactive stations and refreshments. The celebra-
tion also showcased some of the programs and activities that have made Mini U an international success since its debut as a summer camp three decades ago.

“Mini U has been around for 30 years because we offer something for every age and stage of development, and because our instructors are excellent,” says Janice Grift, director of Children’s Programs, Bison Sport and Active Living, University of Manitoba, who adds the program has a knack for setting the stage for children who come back as University of Manitoba students and/or Mini U instructors. “I constantly hear from parents about how energetic, caring and fantastic our instruc-
tors are.

Grift says participation in Mini U im-
proves a child’s self-esteem, helps build long-term friendships and gives them a chance to become familiarized with the university and its academic programs at a young age. Mini U also has an international reputation, and has attracted groups of children from as far away as Taiwan. Since its early years, Mini U has been a model for universities from around the world looking to design their own day camp program.

From June 30 to August 29 nearly 60 programs ranging in duration from one to two weeks will be offered. Some of the new programs this summer will focus on animals, magic, karate, creative writ-
ing, video making, ringette, babysitting, racquet sports, triathlon training, entre-
preneurship, goalie training, hip hop and jazz dance, and the national Steve Nash youth basketball course.

For information on any of the excit-
ing programs please visit miniu.ca or call 474-7864.