The University of Manitoba is on the leading edge of new biofuel technologies thanks to continued strong support from Husky Energy Inc. Building on an original $1 million endowment in 2005, Husky is increasing its contribution with a five-year commitment of $1.625 million. When combined with matching funds from federal and provincial government support programs, the project is anticipated to leverage more than $4 million in total funding.

The biofuels research program, led by plant scientist Dr. Anita Brödl-Bébel, focuses on developing high-yield, disease-resistant winter wheat varieties and maximizing efficiency in biofuel production. The program funding has enabled the hiring of two leading researchers: plant physiologist Dr. Fawzi Razem and molecular biologist Dr. David Levin.

“Husky’s contribution will be used to establish the Husky Biofuel Research Fund to help the University of Manitoba create two research chairs in biofuels focusing on ethanol. Husky is very proud of its research partnership with the university and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship,” said Mr. John C.S. Lau, president and chief executive officer of Husky Energy Inc.

“We are pleased to have such a continued strong commitment from Husky in this critical area of research. Their investment has helped to build research expertise at the University of Manitoba and will create benefits for both industry and the environment,” said Dr. Emőke J.E. Szathmáry, president and vice-chancellor, University of Manitoba.

The University of Manitoba’s plant science department is home to a well-established winter wheat program that has made advances in wheat yield, quality and disease resistance with a particular focus on Fusarium head blight, a fungal disease that has severely affected wheat production in western Canada. With the new funding, the researchers are developing new cultivars with increased yield potentials and proven Fusarium resistance.

The new biofuels program also builds on capabilities in biosystems, civil and mechanical engineering, and molecular biology to improve the efficiency of biofuel production. Using advanced biotechnology in combination with process engineering, this multidisciplinary team seeks to design an innovative system that converts biomass, or organic matter, into biofuels such as ethanol and hydrogen.

Additional research by the University’s animal scientists aims to enhance the feed for distiller’s dried grain, a high protein by-product of ethanol production. High value co-products are a key component of the viability of bioenergy production streams, which have become an important market opportunity for Manitoba grain producers.

“With Husky Energy’s support, we have brought together an excellent team of researchers whose goal is not only to develop and enhance biofuel production but also to support enabling strategies towards sustainable development in our province,” said Dr. Karin Wittenberg, associate dean (research), Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

On April 29, 2008, the public earned a peek at many rare artifacts from Manitoba history as Archives and Special Collections of the University of Manitoba Libraries held its grand opening.

“This newly renovated space in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library makes this a spectacular facility,” said Dr. Emőke Szathmáry, president and vice-chancellor. “The historical and cultural treasures within these walls can now be both preserved more effectively and accessed more easily by researchers studying our diverse heritage.”

Following a presentation by historian Dr. John English on the significance of archives, the Honourable Diane McErford, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, brought greetings from the Province and the president spoke on the importance of the collection to the people of Manitoba.

The theme of the event was “Explore Uncharted Territory,” emphasizing the many facets of the collection, including historical maps and other materials concerning the birth of Manitoba and Win nipeg, and significant items documenting our culture and the lives of Manitobans. There were displays on the Ukrainian Canadian experience, Aboriginal archives, Prairie writers, wartime archives, our agricultural heritage and the world of pop culture. The Winnipeg Tribune Archives was also on view.

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Archives vault open to the public for grand opening

The Archives vault is now open to the public for grand opening.

Carolyne Presser, director, libraries, with Shelley Sweeney, head, archives, in front of one of the new display cases in the renovated Archives and Special Collections. Right, President Stazhmáry and Minister McErford plant the flag to mark the new territory. Far right, a child’s letter of support to a WWII soldier is one of many historical items in the collection.

many donors of these materials, and this event was a celebration of their generosity,” said Carolyne Presser, director of Libraries.

One University. Many Futures.
It's all about the children: Mauro Centre Storytelling Festival builds peace through stories

The 3rd Annual Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival kicks off this Saturday, May 10th at Club 650 in the Fort Garry area of the University of Manitoba. The festival is a celebration of the art of storytelling, and an opportunity for students to explore their creativity and develop their oral communication skills. The festival is free and open to the public, and is presented by the University of Manitoba's Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice.

The festival features performances by local and international storytellers, as well as workshops and seminars on the art of storytelling. Students will have the opportunity to participate in storytelling workshops, learn about the history and techniques of the art, and develop their own storytelling skills. The festival also includes a storytelling competition, with cash prizes for the winners.

The festival aims to promote peace and social justice through stories, and to encourage students to explore the power of storytelling as a tool for personal and community transformation. The festival is sponsored by the University of Manitoba's Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, and is supported by the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Arts Council.

The festival takes place from May 10th to May 18th, with events every second Thursday from September to May. The festival is a great opportunity for students to explore their creativity, develop their communication skills, and contribute to the promotion of peace and social justice through stories.
Welcome to the William Norrie Centre, where Selkirk Ave. is the de facto campus and community action is part of the curriculum

Omar points across the back lane to the “lovely building” despite previous incarnations since the 1950s as the Norrie Centre. After I had my daughter I decided to stop studying for a while, says Omar, the daughter of mixed in St. Norbert,” the third-year social work student explains. Although she made the best of her time in the school system, she found the intense social pressures of school negatively affected her education and her self-esteem. A situation that, in its own way, has steered her to the William Norrie Centre.

“I have a black father and a white mother, and that was a problem growing up in St. Norbert,” the third-year social work student explains. Although she made the best of her situation. Her owner Roanna, who has clearly at peace with her leather. A canine Buddha, contrasting with the black leather. A canine Buddha, clearly at peace with her surroundings.

The Norrie Centre’s student lounge, with its organic Aboriginal design features five levels the playing field. Survivors of poverty, racism, or violence are Aboriginal, approximately 70 per cent, and supported at the Norrie Centre than found elsewhere. The Norrie Centre is a residence project developed by local Aboriginal community leaders, and one of many new buildings that has popped up in the neighbour-hood in recent years. "The face of the community really is changing," says the third-year social work student, president of the inner city social work ACCESS program’s student council.

It’s a different scene than in 2005 when Omar was getting ready to begin his studies at the William Norrie Centre. "When I was accepted, I didn’t know anything about the area. So I took a drive down Selkirk Avenue; it didn’t look good," he says, recalling the boarded-up shops, unkempt street and sidewalks, and lack of pedestrian traffic. All symptoms of a wounded neighbourhood.

Omar quickly saw beyond those first impressions once the inner city social work program began and faculty and students began to take field trips to meet local business owners and community leaders. "I found that people around here, even strangers on the street, were very welcoming and happy to have us," says the 28-year-old Somali-Canadian. But it was an incident in the Norrie Centre’s first year that may have made the biggest impact on Omar and his fellow students on what it means to get an education in the north end, and what it means to be a student in the community. "It brought us togeth-er," he says. "It got us talking about how we can make the community better."

For Omar and his classroom, the event con-structed itself in that they had not only entered a university program, they had joined a family. "You think you’ve died and gone to heaven," he says with a genuinely giddy grin.

Roanna is an administrative personal in-terviews the moment she arrived as a child of her own. "I had a daughter I decided to get my Grade 12," she explains. "I was in-terested in nursing," she says. But there was no way I was going to uni-versity. It was too intimidating. Intimacy is a common theme among students at the Norrie Centre. As of many other outpoints, when you are socially or financially disadvantaged, a new Canadian whose second language is English, a single mother, or a first female from a small northern community, or otherwise undereducated, marginalized and/or addressed as being like the mother of our school. People want to feel self-assured enough to do is march down to the east Fort Gary campus and demand an education.

No one like Melanie who prefers not to reveal her last name. The William Norrie Centre - where over 60 per cent of the students are Aboriginal, approximately 70 per cent of whom are social or financially disadvantaged, and a quarter are survivors of poverty, racism, or violence - levels the playing field.

"It’s very welcoming, safe, inclusive, and very supportive," says Melanie. "And everybody knows everybody." Family is another common theme at the Norrie Centre. The Norrie Centre is a residence project developed by local Aboriginal community leaders, and one of many new buildings that has popped up in the neighbour-hood in recent years. "The face of the community really is changing," says the third-year social work student, president of the inner city social work ACCESS program’s student council.

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Peers celebrates their senior, and their National Title...

By Tamara Bodí

UM Merit Awards for 2006 and 2007

Applications and nominations for the Merit Awards for UM students are now being accepted.

The awards are for the calendar years 2006 and 2007.

Article 25 of the Collective Agreement between The University of Manitoba and The Univer-
sity of Manitoba Faculty Association states: "Each faculty, college, or institute of the University of Manitoba, and its Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority. Applications including the names of nominees will be handled in accordance with the Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MPI). Applicants should forward a detailed curriculum vitae that should describe the candidate's education and names and address (inability included) of three references. Consideration of applications that are not accompanied by adequate and suitable candidates will be declined.

You will be informed in the following activities.

For those interested in applying, you may: submit a brief statement of your personal qualifications through the University of Manitoba/Students Association or office http://umanitoba.ca/students/university_staff/relatives/administration/11447.html

The original 4 x 5 copies of the completed applications information and form are to be delivered to the offices of:

The University of Manitoba students who grew among the programs.

For demand for the programs. The University of Manitoba students wanted to support the programs among the University of Manitoba students. The programs of the University of Manitoba students who grew among the programs.

From left: Michelle Trippe, volunteer; Holly Peers, Steering Committee and former Peer; and former Peer. (Photo by The Director of Student Affairs Voluntary)

Because the training is intense, the programs of the University of Manitoba students who grew among the programs.

Interdisciplinary

Social Sciences

Dr. Susan Frohlick, anthropology, for her research on globalization and gender with a special focus on tourism. Her research analyzes the construction of representations, identities and social relations among women and men from diverse and global perspectives and cultures, in northern Canada. She conducts research in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and has worked extensively in the field of medical anthropology. She also conducted research projects with the Seniors Education Research Centre in Winnipeg. Investigating women’s use of the Internet to bring new modes of social and identity narratives among emerging and established Internet researchers.

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Do You Remember Your Teachers?

Do you remember one particular teacher who made a real difference in your life? Did he or she go that extra mile and help you during a crucial time in your educational development?

On May 1, outstanding graduating students from faculties at the University of Manitoba saluted teachers from kindergarten to university who have made an impact on their lives.

One common theme among students who nominated their teachers was “going above and beyond.” Many students recalled their fond memories of teachers who stayed after school with them or coached them after school hours to personally assist them with projects, homework, or preparing for exams.

Jennifer Sykes is graduating from the Faculty of Education this year and selected Ms. Geeta Persaud as her most memorable secondary teacher, from École Seven Oaks Middle School. “She created real experiences for kids, not simply work,” Sykes notes. As for her university professor of note, Sykes picked Barbara McMillan. About her, Sykes says, “She brought the world into our classroom. Once, she brought a pile of soil into the classroom to help us learn ways to teach kids about biology. It really let us see how we could bring life into our classroom.”

In the Faculty of Pharmacy, Omo Famuyide is graduating with fond memories of her high school physics teacher, Raeface Borelli. “As a teacher, he was always encouraging,” she says. He was very supportive of you wherever you were getting a 70 or a 90, what mattered more was seeing you try.” Borelli remembers Famuyide as a neat young woman, hard working and never afraid to ask for help. “It’s nice to get feedback that you actually make an impact in the classroom,” says Borelli.

In the faculty of Science, Natali Serrano selected Dr. Patricia Mitchler from Kelvin High School as her memorable teacher. Serrano explains that, “Dr. Mitchler’s style really worked for me. Although she required detailed notes, she really made physics real to us in the classroom. I was impressed that I was actually able to measure the mass of an electron!” In university, Dr. Frank Fruska also made class work interesting. “He used humour in his classes and left a lasting impression on me. I came out of it having learned a lot, although at the time it seemed an impossible amount of work.”

In a remarkable twist, Serrano acknowledged Mitchler, who herself nominated a teacher for recognition when she graduated from the University of Manitoba. “Natali was a wonderful student,” recalls Mitchler. “She was very dedicated, with a real talent for physics.” Mitchler says her model for her high school teaching style came from a teacher she had at St. Mary’s Academy. “It’s all about making connections with students at their level, sharing your life and creating a bond.”

She adds, “Teachers don’t often get to see the product of their efforts. But when it does happen, you get renewed hope, even through some of the frustrations that come in other parts of your job. Having Natali come to see me and tell me I was her selection was very refreshing. It made my day and was most meaningful because I had been in her position, too.”

“[This was one of the most memorable events of the university year] says Dr. Cheryl Kristjanson, director of University Teaching Services. “Every year, there are at least a few student stories that really touched our hearts as they recalled the men and women who made such a difference in their lives.”

For the complete list of honored teachers and professors, please see umanitoba.ca

Business Students Take Hong Kong; School Continues to Set Records

Advotech receives the grand champion award. From left: HKUST Prof. Steven DeKrey, senior associate dean & director of MBA Program, Asper School of Business students David Monfort and Taren Gesell, and HKUST Prof. Stephen Mason, contest chair.

Firms from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology International Business Plan Competition website.

The University of Manitoba business team called Advotech and consisting of Asper School of Business students Taren Gesell and David Monfort and Faculty of Medicine student Chris Lu was recently named grand champion at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) International Business Plan Competition. It is one of the world’s leading graduate student entrepreneurial events, and is known for attracting business student entrepreneurs from top universities in Asia, North America and Europe.

Teams pitched their business plans to leading Hong Kong executives and professional investors. Advotech defeated teams from Switzerland, Hong Kong and Oregon in the final round, bringing home a total of $13,000 in cash. Advotech’s team was called for the commercialization of two medical device technologies developed in Israel for the orthopedic market. Advotech’s use of Israeli technology builds on the strong relationship developed between the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Asper School of Business and leading research universities and incubators in Israel. Advotech also won the elevator pitch competition at HKUST.

The Hong Kong win comes at the heels of a benchmark year for the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship. Team Advotech recently won a round at the New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition. In March, three other Asper School of Business students brought home a total of $45,000 in prizes and in-kind services from Carnegie Mellon University’s 2008 McGinnis Venture Competition.

Since 1999, the Centre’s teams have had 40 first-place finishes, keeping its director, Robert Warren, as the record holder for the business school advisor with the most number of wins at international business school competitions.