The University of Manitoba is introducing a new pilot program in Summer Session 2008, Summer University Advantage. The program will offer newly admitted University 1 students the opportunity to enroll in select courses during Summer Session (up to 6 credit hours in July and/or August), and to participate in a range of special activities to help them make a successful transition to the U of M.

Students can focus on courses relevant to their identified area of study or explore topics of broader interest. All courses will provide full academic credit, and smaller class sizes in Summer Session will make it easier for students to interact with faculty and other students.

Summer Session is a great time for students to begin their studies at the university,” said Bill Kops, summer/intersession professor. “Classes are smaller and the atmosphere on campus is more relaxed – allowing them to get to know professors and fellow students more easily. Summer University Advantage is designed to enhance the setting, create a greater sense of community for new students, and help them make the transition to the U of M.”

University 1 students have always had the option of getting a jump start on their academic school year by taking summer courses, but Kops said the new program allows them to start forming a cohort from day one.

As well, students will have the opportunity to engage in discussion with faculty members, receive individualized attention from advisors, and participate in academic skill-building workshops. The experience will start with an orientation session prior to the beginning of July classes.

See SUMMER/P 3
In The News

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

What’s happening to the bees?
June 11, 2008
Globe and Mail, CBC

Rob Currie, a honeybee expert and associate professor of entomology at the University of Manitoba, was cited in two separate articles on the declining population of bees. Currie’s research on breeding bees that can cope with parasitic varroa mites, which destroy the reproductive cycle of bees, was discussed.

Teens not all mall rats
June 6, 2008
Vancouver Sun, Ottawa Citizen, Calgary Herald, Nanaimo Daily News, CJOB

A study co-authored by University of Manitoba sociologist Lori Wilkinson that debunks the popular notion that teens are hyper-consumer mall rats was picked up by media across the country.

Women as food lobbyists
June 9, 2008
National Post

Julie Guard, a historian and professor of labour studies at the University of Manitoba, was cited heavily in a National Post article on the history of women as food lobbyists.

Neo-Nazi parents?
June 9, 2008
Winnipeg Sun

Harvey Frankel, a professor of social work at the U of M, was quoted when Manitoba Child and Family Services seized two youngsters from a couple suspected of being racist. The issue has raised the question of how far parents can go in teaching their children what they think is right.

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.

• “Next 10 tunes on my iPod,” Inkless Wells blog from Maclean’s Magazine, June 15, 2008, mentions Music’s jazz studies director Steve Kirby. Kirby’s song “Both Sides Now” was one of the “next 10 tunes.”

• “Robots tackle the ‘beautiful game’,” Inkless Wells blog from World Radio Switzerland, June 17, 2008, included an interview with computer science professor Jacky Baltes.

Manitoba Health Research Council Executive Director

The Manitoba Health Research Council invites applications and nominations for the position of Executive Director.

The Council was formally established in 1982 by statute to promote and assist basic, clinical and applied research in the health sciences in Manitoba. It does so by funding research, promoting knowledge transfer and advising the Government of Manitoba on health research issues and developments. Following a major review involving key stakeholders in Manitoba’s health science community, a Manitoba Health Research Strategy was developed in 2006 that resulted in strengthening the role of the Council in the support and coordination of health research in the province and in the reform of its governance and management processes.

The Executive Director will provide strategic, creative leadership at a time of growth and innovation. Reporting to the Council through its Chair, the Executive Director is the senior administrative officer of the Council and, subject to the plenary powers of the Council, provides leadership, planning and management direction for the Council’s programs.

The successful candidate will be an innovative leader and effective communicator with a substantial record of achievement related to health research and its development.

Consideration of candidates will begin in July 11, 2008. Expressions of interest, applications and nominations should be submitted in confidence to:

Dr. Dean Sandham
260 Brodie Centre
727 McDermot Ave.
Winnipeg MB R3E 3P5
Fax: (204) 789-3928

Manitoba Health Research Council Executive Director

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.

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

Advertising Policy
With the exception of advertisements from the University of Manitoba, ads carried in The Bulletin do not imply recommendation by the university for the product or service. The Bulletin will not knowingly publish any advertisement which is illegal, misleading or offensive to its readers. The Bulletin will also reject any advertisement which violates the university’s internal policies, equity/human rights or code of conduct.

The Bulletin can be viewed online at u mannitoba.ca/bulletin
Hall family takes up the challenge

Bison Football Festival set for July 6 at University Stadium

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

The CancerCare Manitoba Foundation’s Challenge for Life is a province-wide event with a goal of raising $1 million and helping people change their lifestyle for the better. But at the heart of the event is a tight-knit family with some very personal reasons for taking up the battle against cancer.

“After our mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 we became very involved with the CancerCare Manitoba and its fundraising events,” Katie Hall said. “We really felt by getting involved that we gained control back over our lives.”

The ‘we’ in question includes Katie, a first year law student, Thomas, a member of the 2007 Vanier Cup winning Bison football squad and kinesiology student, Nicholas, an environmental design student, and Alison, a Grade 11 student at St. Mary’s Academy.

“We really felt that the province needed a better all-encompassing event so the four of us came up with a proposal to CancerCare for the Challenge for Life and they loved the idea,” Katie said.

Unlike previous fundraising events that have focused on one particular type of cancer, the Challenge for Life is intended to recognize that there are over 40,000 people living with some form of cancer in Manitoba. It also recognizes that one of the best ways to reduce your risk of cancer is simply by living a healthy active lifestyle — that means getting out and moving your body and eating well.

“We wanted to focus on some of the strengths of past events, so there will be a 20 km walk for people to participate in,” Thomas said. “We’ve made sure to include great responses from sponsors, so that means that all the funds raised in Manitoba will stay in Manitoba.”

The walk will take place on Sept. 27, kicking off at Assiniboine Park and then heading through the city. But events connected to the Challenge for Life will be going on all summer.

“We’re really asking people to take up two challenges,” Nicolas said. “We’d like them to raise $1,000 for the Challenge for Life, but we’d also like them to make a personal health challenge, whether it’s making a change to their lifestyle or to their eating habits.”

People can even track their fundraising and personal progress online through the www.challengeforlife.ca website.

University of Manitoba president Emőke Szathmáry received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Mc- Master University on June 12.

McMaster University was the institution that shaped Szathmáry’s professional academic life; she spent 16 years there as a member of the professoriate and served terms as chair of the department of anthropology and as provost and vice-president (academic).

Szathmáry addressed a large convocation crowd at McMaster University.

Creating urban smiles

An armada of volunteers, including dental practitioners, hygienists, assistants and other caring individuals descended upon the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre June 11 with one common cause to improve the quality of life among the province’s less fortunate community.

Urban Smiles was a day dedicated to bringing the oral health and overall health of children, pregnant mothers, those affected with diabetes and others in need of care and attention.

Volunteers from the practicing dental community joined with the Centre for Community Oral Health for a full-day of free oral health care at Aborigi- nal Health and Wellness Centre.

As part of dentistry’s 50th anniversary year, Urban Smiles marked 35 years of community outreach at the Centre, helping those most in need but who cannot afford proper care.

The outreach that’s going on here today and the outreach that takes place everyday across Manitoba is so very important to people that do not have the means to pay for care, as said Manitoba Premier Gary Doer who was on-hand for the event.

Summer gets sweeter for U1

From page 1

The orientation will introduce students to University I and the U of M, as well as the library, classroom and research facilities, academic support services, and campus computing facilities. Also, students will participate in skill-building workshops designed to improve their skills in essay writing, note taking, examination preparation, critical thinking, and time management.

Students will also be invited to lunch-time conversations with faculty members to acquaint them with areas of study and research at the U of M.

Similar programs have been successful in summer sessions at universities across the USA and Canada, and I hope students take advantage of the opportunity in Summer Session at the U of M,” said Kops.

Last call for applications!

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA EMPLOYEES SCHOLARSHIP 2007-2008

Applications for the University of Manitoba Employees Scholarship are now available atumanitoba.ca/student_fin_awards. Applications are also available in the Financial Aid & Awards Office, Room 422 University Centre, and in Room 5107 Medical Services Building, at the Bannatyne Campus. The 2007-2008 competition is based on course work completed between May 1, 2007 and April 30, 2008. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, June 27, 2008.

For additional information, please visit www.umanitoba.ca/student_fin_awards or contact Shannon Coyston (474-9261 or shannon_coyston@umanitoba.ca).
Meet our new deans

The University of Manitoba will have five new deans and director this summer. The new appointments include:

PAUL HESS
Director, School of Art
A celebrated artist whose work has been included in major collections across Canada. Paul Hess comes to the University of Manitoba after a long tenure at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Hess received his education at the University of Guelph and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

NORMAN HALDEN
Dean, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources
As a distinguished geologist, Norman Halden has been active in teaching, research, scholarly work and outreach during his 25 year tenure at the University of Manitoba. He has received several teaching awards and is active in many professional organizations.

CHRISTOPHER AXWORTHY
Dean, Faculty of Law
Christopher Axworthy has taught law at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of New Brunswick and Dalhousie University. Along with his academic career, Axworthy has also served as a Member of Parliament and as justice minister for the province of Saskatchewan.

KAREN ADAMS
Director of Libraries
Karen Adams is well-respected within the national libraries community having held senior positions with the Province of Saskatchewan, the Province of Manitoba and at the University of Alberta. She has also held key offices within the Canadian Library Association.

HARVEY FRANKEL
Dean, Faculty of Social Work
Harvey Frankel has been active in teaching and community outreach since he began his career at the University of Manitoba 20 years ago. He has helped with community development projects around the world and has received several academic honours.

Applications/nominations are invited for the following cardiovascular awards

Robert Beamish
Leadership Award
Ken Bowman
Research Award
John Foerster
Distinguished Lecture Award
Vincenzo Panagia
Distinguished Lecture Award
Arnold Naimark
Young Investigator Award (For Post-Doctoral Fellows)
Henry Friesen
Young Scientist Award (For Pre-Doctoral Fellow)

Sr. Jacqueline St-Yves Award for Best Paper
Jack Litvack
Exemplary Service Award
T. Edward Cuddy
Summer Student Award

James S. McGoey
Summer Student Award

Heart & Stroke Foundation Award For Masters Student

The closing date for applications/nominations is July 11, 2008. Winners will be decided by a Committee and notified towards the end of August. The awards will be presented at the ICS Awards Day, November 7, 2008.

For more information and terms/conditions of the awards, please contact:
Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum
Secretary, Cardiovascular Awards
Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences
St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre
Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
151 Tache Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2H 2A6
Tel: (204) 233-6813
Fax: (204) 233-6723
E-mail: lorrie@sbrc.ca

Classified Ads

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

FOR RENT: 1-2 storey, 1-21/2 storey, 1-2 br. rm., totally renovated, 1,500 sq. ft. centrally located near Osborne Village, Corydon Ave., bus routes. Triple garage, side yard with patio. 1 or 2 yr lease, furnished or unfurnished. $1,500/ mo. Plus utilities. Available Sept. 1. Contact: 269-5145 or 286-1820.
Grads shape their future
Instructors honoured for helping them on their way

BY SANDRA STECHISEN
The Bulletin

Graduates of Extended Education don’t need to be convinced of the rewards of learning. Most of them, in fact, become committed and continuous learners, often taking more than one program through Extended Education. Perhaps this is, in part, due to the “exhilaration of mastering new knowledge and skills” as Lori Wallace, dean of Extended Education, noted in her address at Extended Education’s graduation ceremony.

The Extended Education graduation was held June 12, honouring graduates of over 20 certificate programs. The ceremony follows the university’s regular convocation where degree students study through Extended Education marked their graduation.

Wallace emphasized that the graduates had “earned this celebration not only as she welcomed family and friends along with community and campus representatives and faculty who attended the ceremony.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mary Ann Kempe, vice-president, human resources and public affairs with Manitoba Public Insurance. Kempe is also president of the Human Resource Association of Manitoba (HRMAM).

“I was excited to be here for we welcome our Extended Education graduates,” she said.

“Many futures.”

The valedictorian was Roy Mulchand. Now I also have a wealth of knowledge about the University of Manitoba, its departments and its programs. I am very happy to be a part of the University of Manitoba’s global presence, noted Rodrigue, with over 120,000 other alumni worldwide. 

“T he Dr. Ronald Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship Award”

The Dr. Ronald Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship Award recognizes the top three graduates of Extended Education. Awarded to students in their final year of study, the scholarship is based on grade point average and community service.

Bobbie Jo Clunas and Penny Burton were named this year’s recipients of the Dr. Ronald Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship Award. The scholarship was established in 1992 to commemorate the life and work of Ronald Kristjanson, adult educator and professor in Extended Education. Awarded to students in their final year of study, the scholarship is based on grade point average and community service.

Bobbie Jo Clunas enrolled in the prairie horticulture program initially to learn how to propagate plants – a few flats of petunias just didn’t provide much impact on her family cattle farm near Russell. “I have a passion for plants. Now I also have a wealth of knowledge about them,” she said. 

Janice Baranoski is this year’s recipient of the ASQ Award for Academic Achievement (American Society for Quality - Manitoba Section). A very surprised but very happy Janice Baranoski is this year’s recipient of the ASQ Award for Academic Achievement. As the quality assurance manager for Vita Health, Baranoski makes sure every product that goes out the door of Vita Health’s stores meets their regulations and is safe to consume. The quality management program, she says, “affirmative and successful in my job and showed me the possibilities of what else our company could do.”

Baranoski found statistics particularly useful. “Statistics help in determining problems that are a recurring issue. You can show people proof so they are more willing to correct the problem. That makes my job easier.” An avid learner, Baranoski says her long-term goal is to complete an MBA program.

“The Canadian Institute of Management Winnipeg Branch’s Outstanding Academic Performance Award recognizes the top three graduates with a Gold, Silver or Bronze Award. This year’s award winners are: Meghan Marsland, Gold Award Winner; Donalda Fridfilson, Silver Award Winner; Lisa Monod, Bronze Award Winner

Extended ED honours its graduates

Extended Education presented a number of awards during its graduation ceremony on June 12.

KAREN GREENHILL
Certified Management Accountant
Manitoba Section

CMA Manitoba Award of Excellence (Certified Management Accountants)

For Karen Greenhill, receiving the CMA-Manitoba Award for Academic Achievement was the perfect way to top off her studies in the certificate in accounting program. “It’s nice to be acknowledged,” says Greenhill, a payroll administrator at the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission. With a husband who works shift work and a daughter involved in extra-curricular activities, Greenhill admits it’s been a challenge balancing her studies with family and work responsibilities. She appreciated the flexibility that allowed her to take a break when she needed to, or accelerate her course completion. Her positive experience has turned her into a lifelong learner.

KAREN GAJEK
Certificate Program in Human Resource Management
IPMA Award for Academic Achievement
(International Personnel Management Association)

A new position as a developmental staffing consultant with the RCMP in 2001 prompted Karen Gajek to enroll in the human resource management program. “I didn’t have a formal background in HR and wanted to broaden my perspective beyond what I had learned in the federal government. I also wanted to prepare myself for the national CHRP or IMPA professional designations.” Gajek says the flexibility which allowed her to complete all but one course by distance really allowed her to be successful in the program. “When you work full-time, have family obligations and travel for work, being able to submit assignments electronically was a huge benefit.”

JANICE BARANOSKI
Certificate Program in Quality Management
ASQ Award for Academic Achievement

“A very surprised but very happy” Janice Baranoski is this year’s recipient of the ASQ Award for Academic Achievement. As the quality assurance manager for Vita Health, Baranoski makes sure every product that goes out the door of Vita Health’s stores meets their regulations and is safe to consume. The quality management program, she says, “affirmative and successful in my job and showed me the possibilities of what else our company could do.”

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Events Listing

Bannatyne Campus – St. Boniface General Hospital and Research Centre

Risk Factors Among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women Who Have Sex with Women in Winnipeg, Manitoba by Stephanie Cycowich, BA, 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 24.

Friday, June 27

Medicine, Richardson Laboratory, 10 a.m., Thursday, June 26.

Clinical Health Psychology, Neuropsychological Aspects of Multiple Sclerosis: The Old, the New, the Borrowed, the Blue by Moira Somers, assistant professor, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Theatre C, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 26.

Friday, June 27

Physiology, NMR structures of protein-RNA complexes for understanding gene regulation by Frederic Allain, associate professor, Institute for Molecular Biology and Biophysics Egendonsche Technische Hochschule, Zurich, Switzerland, Theatre B, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Friday, June 27.

Academic Job Opportunities

A full listing 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.

ASPER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Department of Marketing

Position: Department head, only those who hold a probationary-tenured position within the university are invited to apply.

Application deadline: June 26, 2008

Start date: July 1, 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter

Position Number: BE 140

For information: Chair, Dr. E. Tyrfynchew, associate dean, Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba, 181 Freedman Crescent, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V4.

The above employment opportunity notices should have appeared in the June 5 issue. I regret that they did not appear and apologize for any inconvenience that may have been created by my mistake. Dale Barbouer, editor.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Clinical Health Psychology

Positions: Two contingent geographic full-time clinical psychologists

Start date: Oct. 1

Salary: Salary and academic rank will be commensurate with experience

Application deadline: July 19

Position numbers: 08051 and 08052

For information: Dr. Bob McIlwraith, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, 1ZF 250 – 771 Bannatyne Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3N4, phone: 787 3876, fax 787 3755, e-mail bmcilwraith@hsc.mb.ca.

Department of Community Health Sciences

Position: Department head

Start date: Nov. 1

Application deadline: Aug. 31

Position number: BH189

For information: Dr. J. Dean Sandham, dean of medicine and chair of search committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, 260-727 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3P9, phone 789 3485, fax 789 3928, e-mail jgsandham@umanitoba.ca.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Department of Surgery

Position: Department head

Start date: Nov. 1

Application deadline: Aug. 31

Position number: AD356

For information: Dr. J. Dean Sandham and Dr. Brian Postl, chairs, department of surgery headship search committee, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, 1800-155 Carlton St., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 4V1.

CancerCare Manitoba

Instructor positions (rank to be determined)

Faculty of Community Health Sciences

Position: Department head

Start date: Nov. 1

Application deadline: Aug. 31

Position number: BH189

For information: Dr. J. Dean Sandham, dean of medicine and chair of search committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, 260-727 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3P9, phone 789 3485, fax 789 3928, e-mail jgsandham@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Mathematics

Position: Instructor I

Start date: January 1, 2009

Application deadline: Aug. 31

Position number: 07949

For information: Dr. Dauna Crooks, Dean, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, R3T 2N2, phone 474 8705, fax 474 7611, e-mail: mathematics_dept@umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF NURSING

Positions: Three three-year term Instructor positions (rank to be determined based on qualifications and experience). One position requires a nurse practitioner (NP) who will be able to teach and provide student supervision in the graduate NP program (position #2522). The second position requires a broad base in nursing fundamentals and the ability to teach in a variety of undergraduate courses (position #JW029). The third position is in community health position (#PS151).

Start date: Jan. 1

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: Sept. 22

For information: Dr. Mike Boushy, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, fax 474 7500.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Honouring president Emöke Szathmáry

CAMPUS EVENTS

Come celebrate the outstanding achievements of Emöke Szathmáry during her term as president and vice-chancellor from 1996 to 2008.

Two campus farewell events are planned:

• Monday, June 23, 12 p.m., Brodie Centre, Bannatyne Campus

• Tuesday, June 24, 12 p.m., 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 3490 or chartier@cc.umanitoba.ca or Julie Mikuska, alumni association, at 474-8198 or Julie_Mikuska@umanitoba.ca.

Welcoming David Barnard

CAMPUS EVENTS

David Barnard will be welcomed as the University of Manitoba’s 11th president during two special events on July 2:

• 10 a.m., Engineering and Information Technology Centre Attrium, Fort Garry Campus

• 2:30 p.m., Brodie Atrium, Bannatyne Campus

All staff, faculty, retirees, students, alumni and members of the community are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. This will be a casual meet and greet with the university’s 11th president.

GALLERY ONE ONE ONE

Gallery One One One is located on the main floor of the FitzGerald Building. It is open Monday to Friday, noon to 6 p.m.

MAZE

with Stephen Greener, Kevin Kelly, Steven Nanoda, Alex Poruchnyk, Kirk Warren

Curated by Cliff Eyland

June 3 to September 11

MAZE is an exhibition that brings together work in various media by several artists who are or who have recently been “tenure track” faculty members at the University of Manitoba School of Art. For information contact Kevin Kelly, Steven Nanoda, Alex Poruchnyk, and Kirk Warren are part of a new generation at the School of Art. They all have histories as academics, but becoming “tenure track” at a university presents special opportunities and challenges that each of them addresses in a different way. This show is related to a long term Gallery One One One exhibition called Art School Anatomies that is investigating art, artists and the contemporary art school.

For information please contact Donna Jones at jones5@cc.umanitoba.ca.
Learning organic’s dirty secrets

BY SEAN MOORE
Research Communications Officer

In 1992 Martin Entz started growing crops in an un-Western way to prove to himself that it couldn’t be done. But after nearly 17 years of comparing organic and conventional agricultural practices at research farms around Winnipeg the plant scientist delightfully notes his assumptions were wrong.

The Glenlea long-term organic/conventional crop rotation study is Canada’s oldest and it’s providing valuable insights into natural farming systems.

A major finding pertains to soil health, specifically, the microorganisms living in it. (To re-cap from a first-year Biology course, over 95 per cent of vascular plants have fungi in their roots and this association benefits the plants in numerous ways.)

In Year 13, graduate student Cathy Welsh, working with Entz and soil sciences’ Mario Tenuta, compared the plots’ fungal spore density and diversity – a hallmark of soil health, and indirectly to some degree, plant health. In short, the organic system was metropolis compared to the conventional plot.

“It shouldn’t have been a surprise to find this, but it was,” Entz said. This has many implications, one of which pertains to fungal resignation. Soil in conventional systems is obese hosts a galea of zinc, iron and the like. This causes the plant, specifically those mycorrhizal fungi, to become lazy, which is a shame since they are superb micronutrient extractors. But in such systems they sit back and wait for fertilizers to bring the goods to them. They fail to extend their hyphae and this association yields you can’t – the argument goes, feed the world on organic.

“But that’s a premature debate,” Entz said, noting that less than one per cent of Canada’s land is now under organic cultivation. “The real debate needs to be on how we can achieve sustainable agriculture because our current system is not sustainable. Also, we need to keep in mind that much of the world currently feeds itself using what are essentially organic methods.”

Besides, Entz notes, the gap in yields should close with further research.

Currently, organic plots produce up to 8% per cent of the calories a similar conventional field can, but it takes 30% less energy to do so. And as Entz and others work with farmers to breed crops especially for organic systems the yields will increase.

“Our current agricultural model is getting tired. It had a good run, but it’s time to adapt – that’s how civilizations move forward.”

What Glenlea offers us is a laboratory that lets us explore what these natural processes offer humanity. And what we learned is that they offer a ton.”

Breathing new life into asthma research

BY JANINE HARASÝMCHUK
Research Communications and Marketing Manager

Allan Becker, pediatrics and immunology, will be heading up the Winnipeg site of the new national CHILD Asthma and Allergies Study.

The $12-million study is co-funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and AllerGen NCE Inc. The study will follow 5,000 Canadian children from their time in the womb through early childhood and investigate the roles of indoor and outdoor environmental exposure, infections, nutrition and genetics in the development of asthma and allergies. Expectant mothers will be recruited for the study in four regional centres across the country—Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto.

“We have done previous work using two different cohorts which have helped to inform where to go with this new Manitoba cohort,” said Becker. “This experience at recruiting, retaining and studying birth cohorts is a significant strength for the Manitoba portion of the study.”

The team headed by Becker includes: Kent HayGlass, immunology and medical microbiology; Anita Kozynskiy, pharmacy and community health sciences; and Clare Ramsey, internal medicine.

“The study will address many controversies that only a large study of children that looks at environmental, genetic and very specific phenotypes can solve,” said Becker. “If we can solve these controversies it will have a major impact on prevention of asthma and for public policies.”

Allergic diseases and asthma are the most common diseases in childhood, with one in five Canadians suffering from asthma and one in three having allergies. These factors may be acting as markers, telling us that our population as a whole is in trouble.

A parallel increase is also seen in other, less common, diseases such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease.

Indeed, since about one-half of the energy on our dinner plate came from nitrogen, we are essentially eating oil, Entz notes. To rectify this, he is experimenting with “green manure” – plants, like legumes, that extract nitrogen from the atmosphere. These plants then get mashed into the soil by way of a tractor add-on Entz’s lab created. The legumes soon decompose and cycle nitrogen into the soil.

All this sounds great, but everything seems to have a downside. A major flaw critics point to in organic systems concerns yields you can’t – the argument goes, feed the world on organic.

“By JANINE HARASÝMCHUK
Research Communications and Marketing Manager

Allan Becker, pediatrics and immunology, will be heading up the Winnipeg site of the new national CHILD Asthma and Allergies Study. This could be a signal that there are dysfunctions occurring in early life, perhaps intrauterine, that are associated with allergies and asthma.

This study will work to find answers and correlations to these questions.

Research News

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Bridgman returns to MiddleGate

Books
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

This time 11-year-old cousins Wil Wychwood and Sophie Isidor get a whole new perspective on the Assiniboine River and the fishy world below its surface.

It’s all part of Fish and Sphinx, the third book in Rae Bridgman’s MiddleGate series.

“It’s very much set in Manitoba and the Manitoba Legislature Building features prominently, although in the secret city of MiddleGate it’s known as the Palace of the Blazing Star, and Sophie and Wil have to save it from being taken over by the Serpent’s Chain,” Bridgman said. The Serpent’s Chain is a secret society of mages that Wil and Sophie have tangled with in the previous two MiddleGate books, The Serpent’s Spell and Amber Ambrosia. Helping them in this scrap are a magical black medallion and ring that Wil received from his grandmother just days before she died in a mysterious fire.

The first book in the series had the two working to save the snakes of Narcisse, while in the second they were transformed into bees. This time a transformation into catfish is the order of the day, aided and abetted by a river spirit known as Catfysh.

When she’s not writing young adult fantasy novels, Bridgman is the associate dean (research) for the Faculty of Architecture with a research interest in homelessness and innovative projects aimed at addressing homelessness.

Of course, as much as Fish and Sphinx is an adventure story, it’s also a tale of two kids being kids, so Wil and Sophie go through the typical childhood entanglements of sorting out their friends, and their surrounding cast of characters get to do some growing of their own.

As for the next adventure in the series, art will reflect life when Wil and Sophie travel to Iceland.

“I spent a month at a writer’s retreat in Skriðuklaustur, East Iceland,” Bridgman said. Some vivid descriptions of Iceland reach into Fish and Sphinx, but readers will have to wait until the fourth book for a magical exploration of the island country.

For more about the MiddleGate Books, you can check out Bridgman’s website: www.raebridgman.ca.

Architecture professor Rae Bridgman takes Wil and Sophie on a new adventure in Fish and Sphinx.

“It’s remarkable that here in Winnipeg we have Egyptian sphinxes on top of the Legislature Building. It’s just too enticing for a fantasy writer,” Bridgman said. “And I didn’t even have to make up the Pool of the Black Star.”

The Sphinxes are on the roof of the Legislature building, keeping an eye on terrain to the east and west, while the Golden Boy is looking north. The Pool of the Black Star, located at the very heart of the building acts as an echo chamber for the Legislature or, in Bridgman’s world, a portal to gain entrance.

The book is a feast of language and imagery, with tangled phrases and playful rhymes. Each chapter is topped by a Latin phrase and illustration.

Bridgman perfected the Latin phrases with the help of Elizabeth Dafoe librarian Carol Steer and had help from senior scholar Kenneth Stewart in defining the fishy world of the Assiniboine River. As for the prose of the book, that’s entirely her creation.

“I love to play with language in the books. In Amber Ambrosia I was able to think about how bees would speak, while in this book I think about how fish speak,” Bridgman said. And so Catfysh, the river spirit, ends her verbs with ‘ysh,’ a passing Walleye mingle Latin and English and minnows, not quite ready to handle capital letters, speak completely in lowercase.

“I don’t think people play with language enough in middle school books. There are lots of wonderful words out there and I would hate for them to go extinct due to lack of use, so these books are really for people who like to learn while they’re reading.”

Bridgman draws the illustrations herself, creating full-sized versions and then shrinking them down for the book. They’re works of art in themselves, and Bridgman did an exhibition of the work from Amber Ambrosia at the Winnipeg Public Library. But her overall goal with the illustrations is to move the book forward, not to create art.

“The pen-and-ink drawings don’t always work as I had planned,” Bridgman said. “I had drawn a great inverse white on black sketch of the Bison from the Legislature, but when I shrunk it down they just ended up looking like a big ink spot. Back to the drawing board, literally!”

Of course, as much as Fish and Sphinx is an adventure story, it’s also a tale of two kids being kids, so Wil and Sophie go through the typical childhood entanglements of sorting out their friends, and their surrounding cast of characters get to do some growing of their own.

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