Yee gives back to U of M

November was an exciting month for the University of Manitoba with $4.5 million in new donations announced. You can read about Medical Alumnus George Yee’s $2.5 donation below and then check out Page 3 to see what is happening in the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music and in the Faculty of Medicine.

George Yee (MD’60) is giving back to the university that helped him get where he is today.

The Faculty of Medicine announced a $2.5 million gift by Dr. George Yee (MD’60) on Nov. 18 – one of its largest gifts ever by an alumnus – to establish the George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation and the George & Fay Yee Fellowship in Health Service Design and Quality Improvement.

Yee, who grew up on Henry Avenue in Winnipeg’s inner city, is now a respected and successful pathologist in Windsor, Ontario.

Despite tough times, Yee’s parents put a lot of stock in a university education – a luxury they themselves never had. “I was very grateful to receive a bursary to attend medical school and it had a tremendous impact on me,” he says.

“Education enabled me to achieve success and I vowed that if I was ever fortunate enough, I would give back.”

The George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI) will bring together healthcare expertise from the faculties of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and School of Medical Rehabilitation, experts in quality improvement from the I. H. Asper School of Business; systems and process design engineers from the Faculty of Engineering; computer and measurement scientists from the Faculty of Science; and health informatics experts.

Serving as a nucleus for interdisciplinary study, teaching and research, the CHI will provide academic leadership in healthcare system design and quality in a continual drive to improve patient care and safety in Manitoba and beyond.

The innovative centre is an extension of the faculty’s existing partnership with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and will be housed in the Health Sciences Centre.

See YEE/P 2

Meet our new Rhodes Scholar

The University of Manitoba is honoured to announce that its graduate Raed Joundi is the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship for 2008. This continues the excellent record for University of Manitoba students winning Rhodes Scholarships, bringing the total to 92 students, more than any other university in Western Canada.

Joundi has a long track record of outstanding achievement. He received the Chancellors’ Scholarship upon graduation from high school, within the top three high school averages in all of Manitoba. He received a Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship in 2004 when he was accepted to the University of Manitoba. While at the University of Manitoba, he also received scholarships for the highest grade in university biology, the highest GPA among all first-year students and was on the dean’s honour list every year.

When asked about his outstanding list of achievements, Joundi notes: “I have a passion for everything I do; I love doing them.”

He adds: “I came to a realization that all my experiences help me grow as a person so that I am better able to contribute to the world around me. Achieving the goal of a Rhodes Scholarship is not just my success but a product of my surroundings including the support of my family, friends, mentors and teachers at the University of Manitoba and my high school, St. Paul’s in Winnipeg.”

See JOUNDI/P 3
Yee Centre will focus on patient-centered care

From Page 1

The University of Manitoba lauds Dr. George & Fay Yee for their generosity and commitment to furthering the development of a multidisciplinary culture in healthcare. The George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation will convey knowledge and best practices about quality improvement and patient safety to health professionals and promote groundbreaking research in these fields, said David Baranista.

“We are privileged to have among our alumni such kind-hearted and forward thinking people as George Yee. George and Fay Yee’s remarkable gift to Medicine is a leadership investment,” said Medicine dean J. Dean Sandham. “The George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation will position Manitoba and the Faculty of Medicine as leading experts in patient-centered quality care and safety and will propel the university as the vanguard in this area.”

Yee has long remained connected to his alma mater. Since 2003, Yee has donated $200,000 to establish, in honour of his parents, the Charles and Pauline Yee bursary in Medicine to help medical students in financial need complete their program. His donation was matched by the Manitoba Scholarship & Bursary Initiative.

In 2006, his class held their 40th reunion and he generously matched his classmates’ total gift amount to support the Medicine Class of 1960 Entrance Scholarship award. This gift, a group effort, helps medical students with the financial pressures of medical school, a pressure he remembers himself as a medical student.

“I am proud to be a doctor and a graduate of the University of Manitoba medical school,” said Yee, a former Winnipeg Blue Bombers football player whose team is recognized in the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame. “The vision for the Centre for Healthcare Innovation intrigued me ... I appreciate the importance of teamwork and the Centre will teach and train physicians and students in new methods of working together to give more benefit to patients. The multi-professional team of experts in the George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation will become the academic backbone of healthcare innovation in Manitoba, and become a resource to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Government of Manitoba and the community. It will serve as a pedagogical resource to all participating faculties in bringing health innovation through the teaching of undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates; and continuing professional education.

The CHI will serve as a resource to, and become actively involved in, improving clinical care and will support and complement patient safety activities as well as inter-professional education initiatives.

Wild goose chase

When the call for help came out, members of the Bison football team (defensive back Teague Sherman and defensive end Wyatt Jacobs) and Bison track and field team (runners Chris Belof and Quin Ferguson) were quick to respond. The Bison athletes worked alongside the Gee-Haven clinic, which was ready to fly south for the winter.

After figuring out a strategic game plan to catch the injured geese, the Gee-Haven was successful in corralling four wounded geese and handing them over to the Wildlife Haven. The geese will now be nursed to health and returned to the wild when they are ready to fly. To learn more about The Wildlife Haven check out their website at www.wmzo.mb.ca/index.php.

The Bulletin

The Bulletin is the University of Manitoba’s newspaper of record. 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.

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Page 2 The Bulletin

December 4, 2008

The Bulletin
University of Manitoba

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Printing
Derksen Printers

Schedules
Issue Date: Jan. 15
Copy/Advertising deadline: Jan. 7
Issue Date: Jan. 29
Copy/Advertising deadline: Jan. 21

Advertising Policy
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The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin
Asper helps jazz students play on $1 million establishes the Babs Asper Professorship in Jazz Performance

A $1 million gift by the Asper Foundation will support a professorship in jazz performance in the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. The announcement of the Babs Asper Professorship in Jazz Performance was made Friday, Nov. 7 on the university campus, with Babs Asper announcing a professorship that will draw more jazz talent to the program and give students an outstanding jazz education. The announcement was followed by a live performance by members of the jazz faculty.

“This professorship in jazz performance helps us attract outstanding faculty members who will raise the calibre of the university’s jazz program to a higher level, and attract more fine students along the way,” president David Barnard told the crowd. “It helps our jazz studies program flourish and helps our students reach for the stars.”

Babs Asper is a well-known music enthusiast, and the Asper family is a long-time supporter of the University of Manitoba and the Winnipeg arts community.

“Our family’s range of interest in the University of Manitoba is represented in many areas, but given Izzy’s love of music and of jazz in particular, I wanted to support this new and flourishing aspect of the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music,” Asper said.

A volunteer committee raised a further $200,000 in support of the professorship, demonstrating the level of support that the faculty and the jazz program enjoy in the community.

The University of Manitoba is one of the first universities in Western Canada to offer a bachelor of jazz studies degree. Launched in September 2008, the program is one of the most comprehensive in Canada. Its first semester has met with resounding success and a full cohort of students.

“This funding will be used to establish a research chair in the immunobiology of infectious disease – an area of significant research strength at the university and in the province. As one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities, we are pleased about this substantial commitment. It will assist us in leveraging additional investments in an area where our researchers and graduate students are truly making a difference in the local and global community. “With the incidence of infectious diseases on the rise, this research chair will enable us to continue to focus our innovation and expertise on leading-edge research and education,” said Medicine dean J. Dean Sandham.

“Partnerships like the Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Research of the University of Manitoba will help us to attract leading talent to our top research programs in systems biology, immunology, infectious diseases, public health and epidemiology.”

GlaxoSmithKline Inc. announced a $1 million investment partnership on Nov. 18 to establish an endowed professorship in the immunobiology of infectious disease.

The University of Manitoba will earmark these funds to establish a endowed research chair in the immunobiology of infectious disease and then recruit a top researcher to hold the chair. The specific research focus will be determined in collaboration with the research chair in the immunobiology of infectious disease, said GlaxoSmithKline Inc. president and CEO, Paul Lucas.

“This money is part of a research initiative to encourage health science research and to address the critical need for continued research to combat infectious disease both locally and globally,” said president David Barnard.

“Partnerships like the Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Research of the University of Manitoba will help us to attract leading talent to our top research programs in systems biology, immunology, infectious diseases, public health and epidemiology.”

Greatly enhanced by several outstanding part-time instructors who are highly respected educators and performers in the wider jazz community.

“The Babs Asper Professorship in Jazz Performance will enable us to recruit and retain world class jazz professors, and the gift supports the vision of the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music to become a primary destination for Canadian and international students,” says Music dean Edmund Dawe. “A student graduating with a Bachelor of Jazz Studies degree will have the necessary knowledge to enter the field of jazz as a performer, writer, arranger, or educator.”

With this gift, the faculty will be building upon an already-impressive core of jazz experts, including jazz performer Steve Kirby, who has been the faculty’s director of jazz studies for the past five years, and a major force in promoting the jazz art form both on and off campus.

“One of the legacies of the Aspers is our students,” said Kirby, whose others include the artistic director of the Izzy Asper Jazz Performances as well as Jazz on Wheels, an innovative community outreach project. “The Asper family has been an outstanding supporter of our students, giving them opportunities to showcase their talents in the community, and also by building the local jazz scene.”
Heaman and Degner receive honors

Two University of Manitoba Faculty of Nursing professors were awarded one of the most esteemed honors in the nursing profession. Maureen Heaman (B.N. 1978, M. N. 1987, Ph.D. 2001) and Lesley Degner (B.N. grad, Faculty of Nursing, 1969) were in Ottawa to receive the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Centennial Award, an honour for registered nurses whose personal and professional contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the profession.

“These are nurses who represent all regions of this country and all areas of nursing, from educators to administrators to practitioners to researchers to policy leaders,” said CNA president Kaaren Neufeld on the diversity of recipients. “But although they may work in a variety of settings, one thing they have in common is that they have made a difference. Their passion and dedication is truly inspiring.”

Degner is a distinguished professor in the Faculty of Nursing and a Canadian Health Services Research Foundation/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chair. She is considered an expert in the psychosocial aspects of cancer care and symptom management, and was recently recognized as one of Canada’s 10 leading cancer researchers with a National Cancer Institute of Canada Diamond Jubilee Award.

Heaman is an associate professor and associate dean, research, in the Faculty of Nursing. She is director of the Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research (MCNHR) at the University of Manitoba. MCNHR is a research unit within the Faculty that promotes and supports the conduct, dissemination and uptake of collaborative nursing and health research. Heaman is also a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Chair in Gender and Health.

Centennial Award recipients are nominated for the lifetime award by their peers in recognition of their contributions to the profession, workplace and health system. The ceremony is part of the CNA’s year-long program marking the organization’s 100th anniversary.

ANNA THURMAYR
Assistant Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture

Anna Thurmayr, born and raised in Germany, is a passionate landscape architect. She received her degree in landscape architecture from the Technical University of Munich.

Her professional work primarily involves participating in design competitions and developing landscape architecture designs for roof gardens, show gardens, parks, squares, courtyards, cemeteries, city districts, residential zones, private gardens and urban development projects. She received scores of prizes and awards.

The wide range of projects she has undertaken, the professional training in desktop publishing and multimedia are the ‘bed–plate’ for her research interests namely ‘the visual language of landscape architecture’, ‘roof gardens in northern climates’ and ‘landscape architecture in Winnipeg – 101 things I would like to change’.

MINNA ROSE CHUNG
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Music

Cellist Minna Rose Chung performs internationally as a recitalist and chamber musician. In 2008, Chung joined the Faculty of Music as professor of cello.

At age 12, Chung debuted with Maestro Jakob Jakobsson of the London Royal Ballet and Dayton Philharmonic. She has since continued collaborations with the world’s leading musicians.

She holds performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, Northwestern University, and her doctorate from Stony Brook University, NY with renowned cellist Colin Carr.

Chung made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2007 with her Pangaea String Quartet. She is a returning guest artist with the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, Santo Domingo Music Festival, and the Rio de Janeiro International Cello Encounter.

KATHERINE DAVIES
Assistant Professor
Department of Statistics
Faculty of Science

Katherine Davies joined the Faculty of Science on July 1, 2008. Prior to coming to Winnipeg, she lived in Ontario. In June 2002 she completed an honour’s bachelor of science degree in mathematics and statistics from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Continuing her studies in McMaster, she completed a Master of Science degree in statistics under the supervision of Dr. N. Balakrishnan. Her project involved order statistics and progressive censoring.

From McMaster, she moved to the University of Western Ontario. There she completed her PhD thesis in June 2008. Her thesis investigated a spatial renewal process and was done under the supervision of Dr. W.J. Braun. Currently, Davies’ research interests involve such point processes, as well as their applications to such things as forest fire modelling. She is also interested in order statistics and associated types of statistical inference.

MICHAEL ELLERY
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
Faculty of Arts

Michael received his PhD in clinical psychology from Dalhousie University in Halifax, where his training was funded by fellowships from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, the Gambling Research Centre, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Killam Trusts. His research on alcohol use and video lottery terminal play has been funded by the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation. He interned at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, working in both the Borderline Personality Disorder Clinic and the Anger and Addiction Clinic as a dialectical behaviour therapist and researcher prior to coming to the University of Manitoba. His clinical, research and teaching efforts target concurrent mental health and addiction problems.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS
The University of Manitoba has had a series of planning documents that helped guide the institution’s development. The latest strategic plan covered the period that ended in the summer of 2008, so a new framework is needed for moving forward. It is not that we need a planning framework to tell us to carry out many of the aspects of our daily work either as faculty members or as staff members. But a planning framework can help in two different ways. First, such documents often include a statement of some overriding principles or values that members of the organization are expected to keep in mind while they are doing their work and in that way they are a helpful backdrop even to routine activities. Second, planning documents establish a context for weighing decisions about what should be done or not done, or about priorities (what should be done first). A single planning document cannot capture all the detail about plans at the university – there are plans for academic and administrative units, and plans for some particular aspects of our shared experience, such as a campus development in the next five to ten years.

Having arrived as president precisely at the time when the previous overall planning framework was completed provides me with an opportunity to work toward a new planning framework for the next several years. My intention is to move through a planning process rather quickly because I expect that a great deal of the current consensus about the direction for the institution is ready to be reassessed and refreshed. Such a set of emphases could be useful as a set of filters for helping to determine what we will work on together. There could be several themes, such as a ‘student experience’ theme that might include considerations of emphasizing a broad student service orientation, an internal process improvement theme, an academic and research theme and an over-riding principles or values that members of the organization are expected to keep in mind while they are doing their work and in that way they are a helpful backdrop even to routine activities. Second, planning documents establish a context for weighing decisions about what should be done or not done, or about priorities (what should be done first). A single planning document cannot capture all the detail about plans at the university – there are plans for academic and administrative units, and plans for some particular aspects of our shared experience, such as a campus development in the next five to ten years.

An existing SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) workup for the University of Manitoba has been the basis of discussion at the annual retreats of the deans and directors, and of the administrative council. These discussions have resulted in some changes and a revised version has been provided for comment to the deans and directors, as well as for a preliminary discussion with the Board. This material will come to Senate as well for further discussion and eventually will be the core of a first component of the planning framework.

A second component could be the description of a set of emphases of importance to the university in the next phase of its development. Such a set of emphases could be used as a set of filters for helping to determine what we will work on together. There could be several themes, such as a ‘student experience’ theme that might include considerations of emphasizing a broad student service orientation, providing international experiences, providing interdisciplinary programs and facilitating credit transfer among institutions (including transferring credit to the Bologna process in Europe), or a financial theme that could include considerations of increasing base government funding, fundraising in the private sector and identifying revenue-generating opportunities to help close the gap, together with perhaps a community theme, an academic and research theme and an internal process improvement theme.

The final component of the planning framework could be based on a set of projects that would be responsive to the realities of the SWOT while focusing on making progress in the theme areas. There will be opportunities for discussion and refinement of the strategic plan components in various ways, including at Senate, before seeking an endorsement from the Board. I look forward to working with the university community on developing the framework, and on the work that will flow from it.

By the time you read this, we will be close to the holiday season. This is a time when we often look back over the normal flow of work, and a deeper engagement with those to whom we are close – friends, family and communities of faith for some. It is also often a time when many think about peace, and when many look ahead to consider the prospects for a new year. Whatever your personal pattern is for the holidays, I hope that you will find time to reflect on what the University of Manitoba community can find this season to be a time of refreshing, and of being re-energized for the good work in which we are all engaged together.

University’s annual toy drive helps Salvation Army

The annual Santa’s toy drive at the University of Manitoba will be held by the Salvation Army, Nov. 17 to Dec. 16. The toys collected will be given to children from low income families in hopes that it will make this holiday season a happy one. New or gently used unwrapped toys are needed for children up to 12 years of age. Toys or donations can be dropped off at the parking office, 125 University Centre between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday or at 97 Dafoe Road, Fort Garry campus, S105 Medical Services Building, Bannatyne campus. If you have any questions, please contact Naomi Green at 474-7067 or naomi.green@umanitoba.ca

An Open Invitation:

for Submissions to the Presidential Advisory Committees for the Appointments of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost and the Vice-President (Research)

Dr. David Barnard has established Presidential Advisory Committees for the appointment of a Vice-President (Academic) and Provost and a Vice-President (Research). One of the first tasks facing the Committees is to establish the criteria for the search and guide the committee’s evaluation and recommendation of candidates.

To that end, the President invites members of the University community to submit their views on the issues that will face the next Vice-President (Academic) and Provost and Vice-President (Research), as well as the qualities that should be sought in candidates for both VP positions. Specifically:

1. What are the key issues, challenges, and opportunities that will be facing the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost in the next five to ten years?
2. What are the key issues, challenges, and opportunities that will be facing the Vice-President (Research) in the next five to ten years?
3. What should the Committee seek in potential candidates for Vice-President (Academic) and Provost and Vice-President (Research), in terms of:
   - Academic and professional qualifications
   - Administrative and management experience and abilities
   - Personal characteristics and style
   - “Fit” with the University of Manitoba

Written submissions are welcomed by email to the addresses below. The advice received will be of great assistance to the President and the Advisory Committees as they begin their work. Submissions will be held in strict confidence by the Advisory Committees.

Submissions regarding the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost can be sent to search_vpresident@umanitoba.ca

Submissions regarding the Vice-President (Research) can be sent to search_vpresearch@umanitoba.ca

Any questions regarding the process may be directed to the Secretary to the Advisory Committees, Jeff Leclerc, at 474-6167 or jeff.leclerc@umanitoba.ca

MCHP hosts rural health day

Canada might have universal health care but that doesn’t mean that access to health care is always equal. To help understand that challenge, the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) at the University of Manitoba, hosted its 15th annual Rural and Northern Healthcare Day, Nov. 18, at Fort Garry Place. The event included representatives from all ten health authorities outside Winnipeg.

“Every year we get better at looking at reports and discussing them,” Jody Allan, manager of planning and evaluation for the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority, said. “There’s a greater awareness of the information and issues which opens the door for further discussion at the Regional Health Authority level. The whole day acts as a catalyst to make positive change.”

One of the highlights of the day was the keynote presentation by Marri Brown, who presented an update on the “Child Health Atlas” – a 318-page report exploring “significant disparities in children’s health status by socioeconomic status and region of residence” within the province of Manitoba.

Representatives from the provincial government can also use the information discussed at the seminar, such as the data in the “Child Health Atlas,” to create policy in order to improve the use of resources in various regions.

“ar’s been every single Rural Day for 10 years,” said Lorraine Dacombe Dewar, executive director of the accountability support branch at Manitoba Health & Healthy Living. “It’s a fabulous opportunity for staff in the department to stay connected with people and issues in the various regions. The discussions make a difference in what the participants are able to address locally in their regions.”
We can still learn from John Locke

Books
by University Staff

By Dale Barbou
The Bulletin

Who says that the state has to enforce dominant ethical views? In fact, it might be better if the state stayed out of most of our ethical controversies altogether.

In his new book Against Perfectionism: Defending Liberal Neutrality, political studies professor Steven Lecce takes a journey through the history of Western liberal thought to see how some of the debates that have occurred over the past 300 years should be informing today’s politics.

“The book is partially autobiographical, at least in its motivation,” Lecce said. “I grew up in Toronto to Italian and French-Canadian parents and one of the things I struggled with in the Catholic Separate School System and in university was this conflict between fundamental concepts of equality from the state’s point of view and the obvious diversity that I saw around me.

“Whether it’s culture, language or religion, Toronto is one of the most multicultural places on the planet,” Lecce said. “And so you have these two perspectives—on the one hand, the political perspective, which tells us that the state ought to treat everyone equally and, on the other, the incredible perspective, which tells us that the state ought to treat on the planet,” Lecce said. “And so you have these ethical views? In fact, it might be better if the state stayed.

Lecce takes a journey through the history of Western thought to see how some of the debates that have gone back 2000 years to Plato, this question would not have been an issue. Politics and ethics were seen to be mostly continuous with one another—something that works well enough as long as everyone holds essentially the same fundamental beliefs.

But by the time of the wars of religion in Europe the same debates that were raging in Europe 300 years ago are relevant today in his new book Against Perfectionism: Defending Liberal Neutrality.

“During the Wars of Religion, Protestants and Catholics had been killing each other for several centuries. The killing stopped via a principled compromise in which Catholics and Protestants granted one another the right to religious freedom. This innovation was the birth of classical liberalism,” Lecce said. It was a viewpoint, summed up neatly by British philosopher John Locke, which rested on the concepts of freedom and equality.

Over the next few hundreds years, that viewpoint was refined by people like John Stuart Mill, who argued that one of the goals of the state should be to promote free-thinking individuals, who are suspicious of group thought and critical of authority.

Lecce’s argument is that if we really value freedom and we want to take pluralism seriously the state needs to adopt the kind of ethical neutrality that grows out of the Lockean view of political morality.

“My sense is that we’re too eager to politicize things these days, we should return to some older models of reconciling disagreement that many in the academic community seem to have abandoned, especially in the so-called Politics of Recognition and other contemporary multicultural theories,” Lecce said.

“We’ve taken too broad of a response to recognizing diversity, one that’s indefensible from a philosophical point of view, and that’s also unworkable politically.”

“A better approach is to have the state removed from the cultural market place, properly defined,” Lecce said. Against the backdrop of socio-economic equality, people’s cultural and ethical convictions should not be a matter of political concern.

Lecce said that the debate can be book-ended this way: “For example, the state requires one unified response to defence policy. So, should we have nuclear arms or not? We do not, however, require unanimity as to what kind of sexuality is appropriate between consenting adults; that’s not something that demands a collective response. My book tries to work out the gray area in between these extremes.”

“It’s an old controversy – between individual liberty and political authority – but it’s just as relevant today as it was when Western was debating 500 years ago.”

Against Perfectionism is drawn from Lecce’s PhD thesis which was completed at the University of Western Ontario in 2004. Considering that the thesis won the Canadian Political Science Association’s prize for the best PhD in Canada at the time, the book has a pretty good pedigree. For Lecce, seeing that work in print puts a nice exclamation mark on the graduate school experience.

“I love it, it’s good. I found my doctoral work stimulating and enjoyable, but also difficult at times. At the end of the day, it’s nice to see something concrete and tangible come out of my research,” Lecce said.

If you would like more information please contact the coordinator at: foodbank@cc.umanitoba.ca or 474-9850 or visit our website http://foodbank.umsu.ca/

Student food bank could use your help

Hunger doesn’t take a break during the holidays.

So if you’re looking to make a donation this Christmas season consider helping the University of Manitoba Food Bank.

The food bank is a joint program between the University of Manitoba, through the office of Student Affairs and the University of Manitoba Students’ Union (UMSU). The food bank is meant to supplement the needs of students and is dedicated to providing a confidential and

According to recent statistics there is increasing number of students seeking service,” Food bank coordinator Azin Jamali said. “In October 2008 there was an increase of 45 per cent when compared to last year at the same time. The number of students using the food bank continues to grow every month.

In total the food bank provides supplementary service to approximately 2000 students and their families per year. The food bank appreciates any donations from within the university community.

“You can help by dropping off any non-perishable food items to the food bank located at 519 Bannatyne Centre anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday during regular session,” Jamali said. “If you have a cash donation it may be dropped off at Financial Aid & Awards located in 422 University Centre.”

Student food bank

You are invited to attend the
President’s Town Hall

Introduction and short presentation by David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor, followed by an open forum question and answer period with the president and the executive team.

Bannatyne Campus
Thursday, January 8, 2009
11:30 am-12:30 pm
Lecture Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building

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One university. Many futures.
Planning for potential emergencies

A Day in the Life of an emergency management coordinator

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Kenton Friesen might be the University of Manitoba's emergency management coordinator but he's the last person who wants to see an emergency on campus.

"Don't let the word emergency confuse you," Friesen said. "There's a lot of connotations and perceptions about the word, and emergency management is not just about responding to emergencies, a lot of it is about mitigating and preparing so that we don't have to respond to events.

"People think if you have an emergency management coordinator that he's going to come in and write all the plans, but it's not like that," Friesen said. What he is trying to do is create a culture where emergency management is embedded in the way the university does business.

"I'm not trying to make the decisions on how to respond. I'm trying to put in place the framework in which decisions are made," Friesen said. "We're trying to create an all hazards approach so that no matter what's impacting the university, we have a way to respond, whether it be a water pipe bursting or a tornado.

Ideally the approach should look at all phases of a potential situation ranging from mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

"Mitigation, in my mind, is number one, because it's about trying to stop the problem from happening," Friesen said. "The hand washing stations we've installed on campus, for example, that's a mitigative approach. We're trying to reduce the spread of annual influenza."

Friesen said an emergency response plan also has to be workable.

Don't let the word emergency confuse you. It's about trying to stop the problem from happening, and that's what emergency management is all about.

Emergency management coordinator Kenton Friesen is taking a broader perspective when it comes to drawing up an emergency management plan for the University of Manitoba.

"It's not like writing, 'if this happens, do that.' If we do have huge plans, they'll never be used. The thicker the plans the less likely you're going to read them. So you want thin specific plans, and then if you need more information you have an annex."

Friesen's own background includes a BA in geography and a BSc in business computing. The interest in geography helps Friesen understand how natural hazards interact with the human environment.

But while he was studying something else came along that ultimately hooked Friesen on the field. In 1997, when he was a student at U of W geography department, the Flood of the Century happened. Friesen said. Like a lot of people in Winnipeg, he volunteered with the teams of people building sandbag dikes around Winnipeg. But unlike like most people it also got him interested in what Manitoba's Emergency Measures Organization and eventually its American counterpart, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA were doing.

As I was reading about them, it just made sense to me. It clicked," Friesen said. He did a stint with the EMO as a student intern and then went on to work as a GIS (Geographic Information System) analyst. But he was still interested in emergency management and that interest led him to research the subject and eventually consulting work with the University of Manitoba from there he landed a job as with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority disaster management program.

"I was there for just under two years, that's where I started to really love what I do, I'm full of energy about my job and I don't drink coffee. I like going to work on Monday mornings. It energizes me," Friesen said. When a position came open at the University of Manitoba two years ago, he couldn't resist taking up the challenge.

"There's a uniqueness about a post-secondary community, particularly a large one. We're the third largest unofficial municipality in the province between September and April and have 30,000 to 40,000 people on campus," Friesen said.

The key is to slowly and methodically build partnerships along the way both in the university and outside of it so that when emergency situations do occur – be they that broken pipe or tornado – the university can tap those partnerships to bring in the proper response teams.

"He's not alone in facing that challenge. In Manitoba there's only two other positions like Friesen's – at the University of Winnipeg and Red River College – and all of them are new."

"It's neat. It's a new program and I have a role in crafting it," Friesen said.

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THE ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

AWARD HONORUEE:
Sr. Susan Wikeem, snjm
Director, St. Mary’s Academy

GUEST SPEAKER:
Dr. David T. Barnard
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Manitoba

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009
Delta Winnipeg | 350 St. Mary Avenue
Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. | Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
$80 Per Person | $700 Table Sponsorship

New soccer complex is open

The Winnipeg Indoor Soccer Complex is up and running at the University of Manitoba. The clear-span design of the facility will provide flexibility in the number of available playing fields. The larger playing field can be subdivided into smaller fields to accommodate a wide range of ages and abilities.

Look for more on the new soccer complex, and what it means for the U of M, in the next issue of The Bulletin.

Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. Program Research Day

with keynote speaker

Dr. David Butler-Jones
MD, MHSC, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Chief Public Health Officer
Public Health Agency of Canada

When: January 9, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
Where: 206 Human Ecology Building
AHS Poster Session – 200A Human Ecology
(Attended poster session 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.)
AHS Student Presentations – 216 Human Ecology
All are welcome to attend
Participating Units in the Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. program are: Human Ecology, Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Medical Rehabilitation, Nursing

One university. Many futures.
Bisson Sports

Women’s Hockey
Jan. 4 – 9 p.m., 124 Machray Hall.
Jan. 16 – Regina at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.
Jan. 17 – Regina at Manitoba, Max Bell, 7 p.m.

Men’s Hockey
Jan. 16 – Regina at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.
Jan. 17 – Simon Fraser at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
Jan. 4 – Manitoba at Winnipeg, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.
Jan. 5 – Winnipeg at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.
Jan. 9 – Regina at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.
Jan. 10 – Regina at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 6 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
Jan. 4 – Winnipeg at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 8 p.m.
Jan. 5 – Winnipeg at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 8 p.m.
Jan. 9 – Regina at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 8 p.m.
Jan. 10 – Regina at Manitoba, Investors Group Athletic Centre, 8 p.m.

Swimming
Dec. 4 – 7 – Prairie Winter Invitational, Pan Am Pool, 12 p.m.

Track and Field
Dec. 6 – Flying M Classic, Max Bell, 12 p.m.
Dec. 12 – Grand Prix #1, Max Bell, 12 p.m.
Dec. 13 – Grand Prix #2, Max Bell, 12 p.m.
Jan. 14 – Grand Prix #3, Max Bell, 12 p.m.

Ticket Information
Single Game
Adults: $10
Students and Seniors: $5
12 and under: free

Season pass
packages available

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

Advertise in the Bulletin
For details call 474 8111

Events Listing
University of Manitoba

Hunker down in an igloo

Building an igloo might be the part that catches the most attention at the University of Manitoba’s annual Northern Lifestyles and Winter Survival Workshop but it’s only one part of the program.

The Delta Marsh Field Station will be offering two opportunities for people take part in the winter survival workshop. The first session runs Jan. 16 to 18 and the second session runs Jan. 23 to 25.

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

Personal survival kits for the northern travelers will be discussed as well as survival for persons indowned aircraft.

All participants will build their own Inuit igloo, and, time permitting, the Athabaskan Quinzhee. While people will sleep indoors the first night of the workshop, they will have a chance to see just how worthy their igloo is on the second night when they have a chance to bed done in it for the night.

Participants will also have the opportunity to try Inuit-made winter clothing.

The course is taught by Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources professors Rick Bierw and Jill Oakes.

The registration deadline is Jan. 9 or 16 and the cost is $155 per person or $125 family/student rate. For more information about the workshop contact the Delta Marsh Field Station assistant director Heidi den Haan at 1-866-770-5372.

Fort Garry Campus

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Advanced Plant Science, A study of effectiveness of resistance genes Against blackleg and Sclerotinia transferred from pea (Pisum sativum) to canola (Brassica napus) by Ahmad Baghery, PhD student, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

History MA Defence, Coming Full Circle! Aboriginal Archives in British Columbia in Canadian and International Perspective by Rita-Sophia Mogoryori, 400 Tier Building, 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 12.

Mathematics, Pure-injectivity for topological modules by Cristin Enns, 124 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12.

Physics and Astronomy, Nuclear Theory - Nuclear Power by Juris Svenne, 124 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Education MA Thesis Proposal Defense, Constraints and Contributors to the Use of Computer Simulations of the Teaching of Chemistry by Brian Straub, 222 Education Building, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11


STUDENTS LISTING

For details call 474 8111
Monday, December 8
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology: Hot Topics in HIV Series. The power of pyrosequencing: In-depth characterization of vaginal microbial communities from members of the Nairobi commercial sex worker cohort by John Schmiege and are antiproteases in vaginal fluid protecting against HIV-infections? Results from a multiprotein proteomic study of HIV-1-resistant sex workers from Kenya by Adam Burgeren, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9 a.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

St. Boniface Research Centre Public Lecture. Stimulating The Nervous System To Repair Public Lecture by Valerie Verge, professor, department of anatomy and cell biology, director - Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Center, University of Saskatchewan, Samuel N Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface Research Centre, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

Wednesday, December 10
Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds. Overactive Bladder Syndrome by Huda Al-Mowllad, resident, obstetrics and gynecology, University of Manitoba, 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Respiratory Research in Progress. The role of Pronease-Activated Receptor-t in allergic sensitization and airway inflammation by Hari Vliagoftis, AHFMR/Inflammmation by Hari Vliagoftis, AHFMR, in allergic sensitization and airway inflammatory response, 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Thursday, December 11
Immunology Graduate Student Research Presentations. IgE-induced TSLP expression in human airway smooth muscle cells: Role of Syk-NF-kB pathway by Naresh Singh Redhu, 500 John Buhler Auditorium, Dec. 17, 9 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 11.

Friday, December 12
The Tenth Annual Norman Hill Lecture. Down on the Farm – Lessons Learned by James M. Drake, professor, University of Toronto; chief of oncological surgery, Hospital for Sick Children; Harold J. Hoffman/Shoppers Children; Harold J. Hoffman/Shoppers Children, 85 Kirkbridge Drive, tickets at the door, 3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12.

Monday, December 15
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology: Hot Topics in HIV Series. The power of pyrosequencing: In-depth characterization of vaginal microbial communities from members of the Nairobi commercial sex worker cohort by John Schmiege and are antiproteases in vaginal fluid protecting against HIV-infections? Results from a multiprotein proteomic study of HIV-1-resistant sex workers from Kenya by Adam Burgeren, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9 a.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

St. Boniface Research Centre Public Lecture. Stimulating The Nervous System To Repair Public Lecture by Valerie Verge, professor, department of anatomy and cell biology, director - Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Center, University of Saskatchewan, Samuel N Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface Research Centre, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

Wednesday, December 17
Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds. Menopausal Hormone Therapy (HRT) Revisited The Future AIN T What It Used To Be by Richard Boroditsky, Medical Director, Mature Women's Centre, Victoria General Hospital, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Thursday, December 18
Immunology Graduate Student Research Presentations. IgE-induced TSLP expression in human airway smooth muscle cells: Role of Syk-NF-kB pathway by Naresh Singh Redhu, 500 John Buhler Auditorium, Dec. 17, 9 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 17.

Friday, December 19
St. Boniface Research Centre Public Lecture. Stimulating The Nervous System To Repair Public Lecture by Valerie Verge, professor, department of anatomy and cell biology, director - Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Center, University of Saskatchewan, Samuel N Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface Research Centre, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

Monday, January 7
Medical Rehabilitation MSc Thesis Defence. Validation of the English-Language Pelvic Floor Inventories Leiden (PEFls) Administrator Questionnaire by Kelli Berzuk, RH302, Rehabilitation Hospital, Health Sciences Centre, 800 Sherbrook St., 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Monday, January 12
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology: Hot Topics in HIV Series. The AIDS vaccine-status report by Frank Plummer, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9 a.m., Monday, Jan. 12.

Monday, January 13
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology: Hot Topics in HIV Series. The power of pyrosequencing: In-depth characterization of vaginal microbial communities from members of the Nairobi commercial sex worker cohort by John Schmiege and are antiproteases in vaginal fluid protecting against HIV-infections? Results from a multiprotein proteomic study of HIV-1-resistant sex workers from Kenya by Adam Burgeren, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9 a.m., Monday, Dec. 15.
It's time to revisit the campus plan

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


The Board of Governors

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at umanitoba.ca. To apply, visit the University of Manitoba's career site. Applications and qualifications are accepted online and can be submitted until the closing date.

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

University of Manitoba

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Classics

Positions:
- Post-doctoral fellowship in Roman Archaeology, 2009-2010

Start date: July 1, 2009

Salary and rank will be determined based on qualifications and experience.

Application deadline: Feb. 20, 2009

Position number: 05515

For information: Dr. Lea Stirling, Chair

Chair, Department of Classics, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB, R3T 2M8, phone 474-7357, e-mail Lea_Stirling@umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Department of Civil Engineering

Positions:
- One open position (position 85709), 2009

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: April 1, 2009

Position number: 08787

For information: Dr. Peter Rasmussen, chair, civil engineering department, E1-306 EITC, 75 Chancellor's Circle, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, e-mail rasmussen@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Internal Medicine
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Program Manager at the rank of assistant professor

Start date: Feb. 1, 2009

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: Jan. 5, 2009

Position number: A1750

For information: Dr. Judy Anderson, Chair, General Internal Medicine Search Committee, Department of Internal Medicine, Room 3-130, Health Sciences Centre, 821 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1R9.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Department of Biological Sciences

Positions:
- Four tenure-track positions in the following areas: (1) Gerontology (position 8512), (2) Leadership/Administration (position 8511), (3) Aboriginal health (position 8181), (4) Open one position (position 8513)

Start date: July 1, 2009

Salary: Rank and salary will be determined based on qualifications and experience.

Application deadline: February 16, 2009

For information: Dr. Dauna Crooks, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, fax 474-7500, e-mail dauna_crooks@umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Position: Assistant professor level in the area of Aboriginal education

Start date: July 1, 2009

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: April 1, 2009

Position number: 08775

For information: Professor D. Kuhn, Head, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, phone 474-9803, e-mail dkuhn@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Department of Internal Medicine
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Medical Education Program Coordinator at the rank of assistant professor

Start date: July 1, 2009

Salary: Commensurate with rank and qualifications

Application deadline: Jan. 5, 2009

Position number: A1750

For information: Dr. Bob McIlwraith, Chair, General Internal Medicine Search Committee, Department of Internal Medicine, Room 3-130, Health Sciences Centre, 821 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1R9.

FACULTY OF NURSING
Department of Nursing

Positions:
- Assistant professor in the area of education and experience in the field of clinical education

Start date: July 1, 2009

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: April 1, 2009

Position number: 08770

For information: Dr. Judy Anderson, Chair, ECE search committee, department of electrical & computer engineering, E1-306 EITC, 75 Chancellor’s Circle, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, e-mail annakkag@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Position: Research Fellow

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: Jan. 10, 2009

Position number: 08777

For information: Dr. Judy Anderson, Chair, ECE search committee, department of electrical & computer engineering, E1-306 EITC, 75 Chancellor’s Circle, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, e-mail annakkag@cc.umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Position: Research Fellow

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: Jan. 10, 2009

Position number: 08777

For information: Dr. Judy Anderson, Chair, ECE search committee, department of electrical & computer engineering, E1-306 EITC, 75 Chancellor’s Circle, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, e-mail annakkag@cc.umanitoba.ca.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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


Salary: $1725 per month plus utilities. Call 284-3176.
Bringing Research to LIFE

In Brief

Conference takes a close look at climate change

The University of Manitoba participated in a two-day conference on the subject of climate change.

Designed for educators who wish to embed the principles and practices of sustainable development in their teaching and program planning, Choose the Future, was presented at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Nov. 27 and 28, and was geared towards educators, leaders of business, NGO’s and government who wish to engage their employees and stakeholders in sustainable practices and operations.

David Barber, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources associate dean of research and project leader of the IPY-Circumpolar Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources program, was an active participant in the conference.

Also involved with the conference from the U of M were professor and project lead of STAR, John Haneshiak, head of the department of environment and geography Ronald Stewart, program coordinator of Schools on Board Lucette Barber; associate professor Tim Flaw Lead system study, was an active project leader of the IPY-Circumpolar Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources program, and their employees and stakeholders in government who wish to engage educators, leaders of business, NGO’s with the conference.

Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre

Stimulating the Nervous System to Repair

Public Lecture

Monday, December 15, 2008
7:00 PM

Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium, 351 Taché Ave

To pre-register, RSVP to: kjorund@brc.ca
Phone: (204) 235-3939

Speaker Series

War in Outer Space

Wednesday, January 21, 2009
7:00 PM

Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre
St. John’s College

Studying Christmas and its critics

BY SEAN MOORE

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors and thieves and students and children and perfume makers and barrel makers and Belgium.

An impressive résumé, but his references raise questions. So much so, in the 1960's Pope Paul VI downgraded him from being a major saint on the Catholic calendar to a minor one due to his shadowy origins. He now resides in the category of mythical creatures.

He is, however, still popular and December 6 marks his feast day. Second only to the Virgin Mary, St. Nicholas had more churches named after him than any other saint during the Middle Ages, and one of the most popular of these churches dot the southern coast of Turkey in the town of Demre.

History Professor Gerry Bowler visited it this past May to do research for his book, which has the working title, Christmas and its Critics.

Bowler has written extensively on Christmas, and this latest book will examine how various groups throughout history have tried, and failed, to appropriate Christmas, how the world’s most celebrated holiday is the subject of reform and how it has been used by particular government’s that aren’t Christian.

Such governments include Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia and the Turkish Republic.

Turkey is a secular republic with a dominant Muslim culture, yet Demre has a tourist industry focusing on a Christian saint. The Turks call it "the home of Santa Claus" and most people are there not for the statue of Santa ringing a bell, but for a tomb ascribed to St. Nicholas.

"We're not even sure if St. Nicholas existed," he said. "When he was kicking around, there wasn't an official canonization process and there is no birth record. We only have legends, and we have a ton of them. And we've got this church ascribed to him where they say he was the bishop, and where he was buried." That, evidently, is all a pilgrim needs to know. And so they flock to the town and buy icons of him from the Muslim family.

In interviewing the family Bowler learned that, even though they are from an anti-iconic religion, selling St. Nicholas paraphernalia is a point of pride for them.

Their Turkishness comes first. They have a loyalty to St. Nicholas as a prototurk," he said. "It was almost an act of defiance against these waves of pressure that they felt from the government and the immigration from Eastern Turkey." But for now the money is good: in Demre, Russian pilgrims crowd the streets.

They arrive by the busload to visit the saint's small Byzantine building. One by one they reach over a Plexiglass barrier to press their handkerchiefs or icons against a tomb they believe is his. (It’s not. If he did exist in the 300's he’d likely have been buried in the floor. Besides, St. Nicholas’s bones were kidnapped in 1087 and taken to Italy. What's more, the currently revered tomb, Bowler notes, has an effigy of a married couple on it.)

"We’re not even sure if St. Nicholas existed," he said. "When he was kicking around, there wasn't an official canonization process and there is no birth record. We only have legends, and we have a ton of them. And we’ve got this church ascribed to him where they say he was the bishop, and where he was buried."

"That, evidently, is all a pilgrim needs to know. And so they flock to the town and buy icons of him from the Muslim family."

Under communist rule, Christmas was implicit anti-Soviet criticism, a sort of, “we’re going to celebrate Christmas and there is nothing you can do about it,” Bowler said.

In response, though, the Soviet Union put the emphasis on the New Year, made the gift giver a generic Grandfather Frost rather than Jesus or St. Nicholas (who didn’t become associated with gift-giving until the 1100’s). Churches were burned, cathedrals converted to potato warehouses, Christmas trees banned, and priests imprisoned. But the people resisted and Christmas went underground.

In the 1940’s, troubled on various fronts, Joseph Stalin “took his jackboot off the throat of Christmas and it was allowed out again,” Bowler said.

"It was useful for Stalin to allow the celebration of Christmas – there was a link between Russianness and Christmas – and this move allowed him to emphasize that he might be a nasty tyrant but by golly he was Russian."

Many have tried to extinguish Christmas. None so far have succeeded. Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, John Calvin, all failures. Dr. Seuss’s Grinch could not resist the magic, bountiful light and greenery that accompanies the celebration amid the coldest, darkest days of the year.

Cities have tried too. Like Pittsburgh years ago, and today in Oxford, England, officials have tried to push the celebration of Christmas from the public square. No doubt Oxford Professor and outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins is pleased, but as Stalin would attest, Christmas has to be accommodated. Try as you might, it will eventually resurface from any attempt to drown it. So sorry Dawkins, soon enough, Santa Claus is coming to town.
Meet the other Afghanistan
MacDonald proves that one person can make a difference

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

As a country we’ve done a good job of putting our troops on the frontline in Afghanistan in an effort to contain the Taliban insurgency. But while we know how to fight an enemy on the field of battle, understanding how to rebuild a country from within represents a different challenge.

A former Canadian politician and founder of Future Generations Canada, Flora MacDonald delivered the sixth annual Sol Kauer Lecture on Peace and Justice entitled “Peacebuilding, Development, Hope … The Other Afghanistan” at the University of Manitoba on Nov. 19. Her message? We need to take a broader approach if we really want to help Afghanistan.

“I support our troops,” MacDonald said. “And we need the military presence to contain the Taliban insurgents in their heartland.” However, she argued that the situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated this year as the Taliban have been slowly breaking away from the Frontier Korah district and moving towards Kabul.

But MacDonald said what the troops can’t offer is long-term development for Afghanistan.

“They can help build a school, but they can’t ensure that it’s staffed on an ongoing basis,” MacDonald said. If Canada wants to help Afghanistan on a long-term basis, MacDonald says we need to work with the Afghani people to discover what their needs are and how best to fulfill them.

Future Generations Canada focuses its work in Bamyan province, in Central Afghanistan. It’s not a big operation. In fact it has exactly one staff member in Afghanistan: Abdullah Barat, an Afghan-Canadian, recruited by MacDonald to run operations in his home country. He looks after logistics in Bamyan while MacDonald attempts to raise funds and attention for the operation in Canada.

The projects are modest, but the impact can be spectacular. In areas where there is no electricity, MacDonald said they have focused on setting up wind powered pumps to get fresh water and solar-powered lights to light up houses. The solar cells charge up during the day providing power for the lights in the evening.

“Artificial light transforms the lives of villagers,” MacDonald said. “Suddenly children can study in the evening and women can wash.” In other words, light equals time.

Other projects are on an as needed basis. MacDonald said when a group of teens approached her and said they wanted the opportunity to go to school, MacDonald guaranteed them that if they could supply a building, she would link them to a teacher. They upheld their end of the bargain, building the school themselves, and she upheld her end.

“A form of government is emerging in Afghanistan but not necessarily one dictated by Western thinking,” MacDonald added. In Bamyan province village councils have been formed and in some areas have grown into regional councils. The councils meet weekly to develop a work plan for their village or region and then go and make it happen. Significantly, 40 per cent of the council members are female.

MacDonald said the military’s job isn’t done in Afghanistan. If anything, she says the war in Iraq has distracted the United States from what is happening in Afghanistan.

“They need to be here where they started after 9-11. They’ve been ignoring it ever since,” MacDonald said. “They need to get back to where it all began.”

MacDonald said the West also has to recognize that not all Taliban supporters are insurgents bent on winning their battle through military means. Some of them desire peace. During her first trips to Afghanistan in 2001 prior to the NATO invasion, MacDonald was helping establish secret schools for females in private homes. During this period, females were not allowed to attend schools in Afghanistan. Her efforts did not go unnoticed and a couple of Taliban supporters approached her.

“They said, ‘We know what you’re doing. But we won’t say anything about it if you allow our daughters to go to,’” MacDonald said.

And by helping developing other areas of Afghanistan such as the Bamyan province, MacDonald said the Western powers would be helping solidify support in the rest of the country.

“We have to realize that people in Afghanistan could do so much more,” MacDonald said.

New restaurant opens in Smartpark

Smartpark is a community of innovators, a place where private sector know-how walks hand in hand with university research. And every community needs a cafe.

edna fedya opened its doors on Dec. 1 in One Research Road, joining DMT, BASF, Wolf Trax, MRAC and Monsanto. The restaurant’s location fronts onto Pembina Highway and is a short drive away, but the park needed somewhere that people could walk to on their own – a sort of town centre.

The new restaurant is expected to be open Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. While the name might not be familiar, the menu, service and character of the new restaurant should be because edna fedya is a subsidiary of Stella’s Café and Bakery.

“We’ve always wanted to have a Stella’s on campus,” Larry Paskaruk, Smartpark’s director, property development and management said. “When we were working on One Research Road 3 ½ years ago we set aside 1,100 square feet for a food service provider but we couldn’t find one that still had the right attributes until we talked to Stella’s.”

Gary Brownstone, director, the eureka project: Smartpark’s Incubator, said the new restaurant will fill a definite need in the community.

“There’s a 1,000 people working in Smartpark and up until now we’ve had no food service,” Brownstone said. “Sure, there are plenty of food options on the Fort Garry campus, and Pembina Highway is just a short drive away, but the park needed somewhere that people could walk to on their own – a sort of town centre. Now people will have the option of grabbing a lunch or breakfast and, perhaps even more importantly, they can head over to edna fedya’s during the day to talk business over some coffee and food.

“Everyone is welcome,” Paskaruk added. “We’re hoping people from the rest of the campus will join us and we’ve got the new indoor soccer stadium right next door.”

Stella’s co-general manager Brad Burrows said the restaurant was keen to have them join the community. While the edna fedya brand is new, the experience will be what regular Stella’s customers have come to expect.

“We think it’s going to turn out great,” Burrows said. “It’s a little bit of a different floor model from our usual style, but it will have the same hustle and bustle that people like and the menu will be almost exactly the same.”

The restaurant’s location fronts onto a patio – a neat little town square for the businesses at One Research Road – which means people will have the option of eating indoors and out during the summer months.

of M helps in World Heritage Site research

The University of Manitoba is providing research support to Pinacho-wo, a Miskito community in its efforts to have part of the Canadian boreal forest designated a World Heritage Site.

Researchers Iain Davidson-Hunt and Virginia Petch will lead the re- search (with graduate students Catie Burlando, Carlos Idrobo and Christin Didora) at the Natural Resources Institute. The results of this work make an important contribution to the nomination document which will be submitted to Canada and ultimately the World Heritage Committee.

When completed in about a year, this research should help show that the boreal forest is outstanding not only for its natural assets, but also for its cultural importance to the world, said Pinachhowo’s spokesperson Sophia Rablaukas.

“Most people know that the trees and animals in the forest are important to protect, but not everyone realizes that Anishinaabe people have been living on this land for 5,000 years. This study will record that history and show why the area is valuable culturally and spiritually,” says Rablaukas, a member of the Poplar River First Nation located in the proposed World Heritage Site area.

The university’s research will be- gin with an overview of other current World Heritage Sites designated as cultural landscapes.

Flora MacDonald

Gary Brownstone, director, the eureka project: Smartpark’s Incubator, and Larry Paskaruk, Smartpark’s director, property development and management, check out the new edna fedya location in Smartpark.