The University of Manitoba is facing months of recovery work after an electrical fire caused severe damage to the Duff Roblin Building on Saturday, March 28.

Fire investigators have now concluded that the fire started due to an electrical short from a refrigerator cord on the fourth floor of the building. No one was injured during the fire and none of the animals that form part of the department of zoology’s collection were injured.

“The fire caused extensive damage to the west side of the building,” said vice-president (administration) Debbie McCallum. “The east side has less structural damage but is suffering from smoke and water damage.”

Environmental health and safety director Grant McCaughhey estimated that firefighters poured over 1 million gallons of water into the building in an effort to contain the fire.

Early media reports had pegged damage from the fire at $2 million, but vice-president (administration) Debbie McCallum said that figure is incorrect. “That will not even cover the clean up, never mind the extensive reconstruction and investment in research equipment that will be required,” McCallum said. The damage from the fire is still being assessed and a final dollar figure will not be available for some time.

In a message following the fire, president David Barnard noted: “This was a major fire, affecting many people in the University of Manitoba community: students, faculty and staff. I am proud of the degree of professionalism, initiative and compassion that is being demonstrated by the University of Manitoba community in its response.”

At Senate on April 1, he went on to note that some people may have lost decades worth of research due to the fire and graduate students may have had their work disrupted. As the shock of the fire wears off, those people will find their stress levels increasing. Barnard said it’s up to their co-workers and fellow students to help them.

“If we want to be a great university we need to cope with this as a community,” Barnard said.

In the wake of the fire the university has established an emergency operations centre in 207 University Centre to act as an information hub for those affected by the fire and the building closure.

We’re just one play away from a new stadium at the University of Manitoba.

Construction of world-class athletic and recreation venues at the University of Manitoba, including a new stadium for both the Blue Bombers and the Bisons, took another major step forward following the signing of key agreements on April 2.

The financial core of the deal includes $100 million plus private sector investment that significantly alleviates the load on taxpayers through the retail development and economic engine at Polo Park.

The David Asper led project will also provide an important economic stimulus for Manitoba in terms of creating an estimated 1,468 person-years of employment and $26.2 million in new tax revenues.

Signed agreements will provide for:

• $35 million in joint support from the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba for community and amateur athletic facilities
• $20 million from the province towards the stadium project
• Acquisition of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers football club with change in ownership slated for early 2010
• Multi-year land lease by the University of Manitoba, subject to final approval by the Board of Governors
• Sale of existing stadium site at fair market value, subject to final approval by City Council

From left, David Asper, Premier Gary Doer, and federal Treasury Board Minister Vic Toews look on as president David Barnard talks about what becoming the home for a new Winnipeg Blue Bombers stadium will mean for the University of Manitoba.
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.

U of Volunteers
April 5, 2009
C CBC, Winnipeg Sun, Winnipeg Free Press

Students from the University of Manitoba demonstrated once again why they are among the most supportive in the nation when two buses full of them volunteered recently for sandbagging duty in West Kildonan.

Why a stadium matters
April 4, 2009
Ottawa Citizen

An article examining the effect building a new sports stadium has on a city cited David Witty, dean of architecture at the University of Manitoba and a member of the National Capital Commission’s planning advisory committee commented that cities eager for development, especially in a recession, sometimes "toss aside esthetic considerations and it’s full speed ahead, we need the jobs."

Recession? What recession?
April 4, 2009
Winnipeg Free Press

Manitobans are generally feeling optimistic about the economy, which itself is having a positive effect on our province. A recent article exploring that phenomenon included comments from Charles Mossman, associate dean of the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba, who confirmed the power that positive thinking has on the economic state of our province.

Everyone digs ‘Duff’s Ditch’
March 31, 2009
Globe and Mail, Winnipeg Free Press

The floodway continues to be a popular destination for Manitobans. The floodway is a significant part of the community, and its impact on the city has been felt for decades.

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

- "Poor diet can sabotage workout," Moncton Times & Transcript, March 27, 2009, includes comments from Dean Kriellaars, an exercise physiologist, professor and researcher at the University of Manitoba.
- "Arlene’s dells from the University of Manitoba, ads

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The Bulletin
University of Manitoba

The Bulletin is the newspaper of record for the University of Manitoba. It is published by the Public Affairs department every second Thursday from September to June and monthly in December, July and August.

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community. Submissions can include letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions.

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

Fire recovery underway

The fire damage to the fourth floor of the Duff Roblin Building is extensive; other floors will need reconstruction work to repair water and smoke damage.

From Page 1
The phone number for the emergency operations centre is 474-9262. This room has also been outfitted with computers, phones and copiers which are available for use by faculty and staff of affected departments.

Since the fire the university has had to find new classroom space for 100s of displaced students, a process that will continue as new space is found for summer session classes. The departments affected by the fire include: psychology, biological sciences, anthropology, human nutritional sciences and textile sciences. Departments relocated to new spaces include:
- Biological Sciences – 121 Machray Hall, 474-9245
- Psychology – Chancellor’s Hall, 474-6378
- Human nutritional sciences – 209 Human Ecology Building, 474-7386
- Textile sciences – 209 Human Ecology Building, 474-8157

United Way raises $443,000

The 2008 United Way campaign once again highlighted U of M’s support for its community. The university had a record breaking year, with a total of $443,000 raised for the United Way and $18,956 directed to other registered Canadian charities. This was a 3.5 per cent increase from last year’s campaign. The campaign included campaigns at the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, special events like the Rainbow Auction and unit-based events, and a retirees campaign.

"We’re really pleased with this year’s results”, says Rosalyn Howard, LDS director and co-chair of the campaign. "We counted on our people recognizing the particular importance of helping others in these uncertain economic times, and of standing out as community contributors.” A significant part of the campaign pledges are what are known as ‘leadership’ donations of $1200 per year and more. "I am very pleased to announce that the U of M has 117 leadership donors – the highest number in the entire 2008 United Way of Winnipeg campaign.

Howard co-chaired the campaign with John Wiers, dean of Education, David Witty, dean of Architecture Emily Etecheverry, associate dean of Medicine and director of medical rehabilitation, Norm Hunter, department head in chemistry as leadership champion, and Irv Gadland and Brian Macpherson of the retirees association. Kathyn Kook of development and advancement services and Sylvia LaPointe of Education led the Rainbow Auction and Bud Henry of physical plant led the 50/50 draw. Other U of M leaders in the Winnipeg campaign were Glenn Beldham, dean of the Asper School of Business as co-chair of the Universities and Colleges division, and Janet Hoskins, warden of St. John’s College as the leadership chair for the universities and colleges division.

The co-chairs want to thank all the contributors and carriers. Thanks also to the volunteers for the special events – including many from physical plant, housing and student life, and Bison sports – and to public affairs and special functions for their great support each year. Planning is already underway for next year's campaign.

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 event 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 uananitoba.ca/bulletin
To the land of oil and water
Cariou and McArthur create documentary on Canada’s oil industry

BY DAVE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

For University of Manitoba English professor and writer Warren Cariou, the documentary film Land of Oil and Water began with a trip home.

“I’ve been working on a novel for five or six years on the oil industry and in the process of doing that I realized that the activity is closer to home than I expected,” Cariou said. “I’m from Medicine Hat, Saskatchewan and there are a lot of companies are starting to expand into that area. I wanted to see what my home town might look like if development continues.”

So two years ago he took a trip to Alberta, to look at the heartland of oil sands production.

“I was astounded by what I saw,” Cariou said. “I was writing about it, but I felt people really needed to see it, which would be so much more powerful than me trying to describe it.”

And that’s where fellow U of M professor Neil McArthur entered the picture. McArthur’s field is philosophy but he has also created his own feature-length film, Out of the Way, in 2006. It doesn’t hurt that McArthur is from Saskatchewan, as well as coming from Regina, far south of the oil sands action. It wasn’t hard to sell him on the project, but like Cariou, convincing colleagues with the subject matter was eye opening.

“When I look back two years ago, it seems strange that I didn’t know more about the tar sands,” McArthur said. “It’s the size of Florida and it’s right next door. There are billions of dollars spent and it’s changing the world economy in some sense.”

McArthur and Cariou did two major shoots in Northern Alberta last year and were joined each time by a cinematographer. The filming included a fly over of the oil sands project in an effort to capture its massive scale.

But after showing the entire development, McArthur and Cariou focus the story on the people living in the area, many of them Aboriginal people.

“When I first went there that I was really hit by how huge it was,” Cariou said. “But it’s such a more personal story when I went back and talked to people to see how they live.” And that included looking at how people in his home town might live with the oil industry.

“When we did this project last year it was when oil was at its highest price in history and development was moving incredibly quickly,” Cariou said. “It’s an area that is typically economically depressed, but suddenly people had hope that they could have a good standard of living someday.”

Traveling to the heart of oil country, Cariou and McArthur found people who still felt that way about the industry. In Fort McMurray some Aboriginal people were excited that the industry allowed them to prosper and still live in their traditional communities. But they also found other people who wondered what life in those traditional communities would mean, once the oil industry had moved on and the traditional way of life was no longer available. In Fort Chipewyan, downstream from the oil sands, people were even less enthusiastic.

“People there are affected by air quality, water quality, and they talked about how the companies are here today, gone tomorrow, and there is no incentive to clean it up before they leave,” McArthur said. “Even where they have reclaimed land it’s not like it was before.”

Land of Oil and Water focuses very much on the Aboriginal experience with the oil sands. In some ways it’s a natural fit to tie the documentary style of film making to Aboriginal oral traditions.

For Cariou working with film was a new experience. But even for McArthur, creating a documentary meant reassessing his approach.

“With a novel you’re trying to control your vision. But with a documentary you have to let go of that. You have to turn your material and force the chaos into a film.”

A look at a pit mine northern Alberta, just one of the stark visuals offered in the new documentary film Land of Oil and Water.

Upgrade set for University Stadium

The new stadium for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and U of M Bison will be positioned at the intersection of University Crescent and Chancellor Matheson Drive.

Senior Manitoba MP Vic Toews saluted the city, province and University of Manitoba for coming together on the project. He said it was critical that the agreement focus the federal funds towards the community and amateur sports aspects of the project.

“It’s an essential part of the entire project, refurbishment of University Stadium, relocation of the university soccer and tennis fields, the construction of a new university fitness facility and the inflatable bubble over the outdoor stadium which will allow use of the stadium year round,” Toews said. “This initiative means a vibrant and strong community within the university, city and the province.”

The retail marketing, leasing and financing phase, already underway, will conclude in September 2009 and be followed by financing and construction tendering with closing of the deal as early as February 2010. Shovels should be in the ground at the new site by spring 2010 with the new stadium expected to open for the 2011 football season.

The new 30,000 seat, fan-friendly stadium (expandable to 45,000 seats) will be constructed on a 20 acre site at the intersection of University Crescent and Chancellor Matheson Drive at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus.

Once complete, the new stadium, refurbished University Stadium and new fitness centre, will transform the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus.

In terms of critical mass, this development will allow us to build on the strengths of the Max Bell Centre, Investors Group Athletic Centre and new indoor soccer complex,” said president David Barnard. “This will help transform the university into a year-round sport and recreation destination. This will position us as a leader in athletic and community development across Canada and provide many synergistic opportunities for our institution, our students and the community.”

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**Marks of Achievement**

**GAILEN CHEE**
Associate Professor
Medicinal Chemistry
Faculty of Pharmacy

Gailen Chee obtained his PhD in 1997 from the University of Manitoba where he focused his work on the asymmetric synthesis of medicinal natural products. Chee stayed on as a postdoctoral fellow with the Faculty of Pharmacy, focusing her research on the synthesis of new anti-cancer drugs until 1998 before she accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Guelph, Ontario. She spent over 10 years of her career at Chemtura working on research relating to the discovery of biologically active compounds for crop protection, human health, veterinary and disease vector control applications. Co-founder of the non-profit Cherub Foundation, her research interests include studying the role of omega-3 fatty acids in cancer and other diseases.

**CHRISTINE DAVIS**
Assistant Professor
Division of Clinical Sciences and Practice
Faculty of Pharmacy

Christine Davis graduated from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Pharmacy in 1999 and completed an accredited hospital pharmacy general practice residency at the Ottawa Hospital in 2000. She worked as a staff pharmacist in the inpatient department at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre for one year before pursuing her doctor of pharmacy degree at the University of British Columbia. After graduating from the doctor of pharmacy program in 2003 she practiced as a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg where she developed a practice in critical care. She also provided mentorship, continuing education and consultation on a regular basis to the staff pharmacists. Her research interests include promoting safe use of medications, examining patient outcomes, and quality, secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and pharmacy practice in primary health care.

**KENDRA NIXON**
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Social Work

Kendra Nixon has spent her career focusing her research on the discovery of biologically active compounds for crop protection, human health, veterinary and disease vector control applications. Her research interests include studying the role of omega-3 fatty acids in cancer and other diseases.
A fertile ground for sharing ideas
Some of the best learning happens outside the classroom

A delight of working in the academy is the lively interaction about books and ideas that occurs in this milieu. The traditional missions of universities can be the source of this kind of interaction. Teaching – preserving and passing on the intellectual heritage of our society – is naturally focused around the discussion of ideas, so a great deal of interaction about ideas and good books occurs in classes, or the preparation for classes. Research – challenging both the content and the boundaries of our intellectual heritage – often takes its impetus from reflection on and response to the written expression of the ideas of others, hence much conversation about ideas takes place in our collective creative, scholarly and research activities. Public service – the application of ideas to contemporary situations and debates – evokes conversations about ideas as well.

Beyond these core activities, though, for me one of the most stimulating and rewarding parts of working in universities has been informal interactions about ideas and books that occur in collegial conversations. When I was a student I found my courses consumed more time than I had realized they would, and my recreational reading during those years I allowed to become limited. I have learned more since I graduated than I did during my years of formal study (as wonderful and valuable as those years were), in large measure because of friendships with curious, well read colleagues eager to talk about ideas and books, and unwilling to accept intellectually lazy or slipshod responses.

Of course, I could have learned more perfectly, and am continuing to benefit from these friendships now. For example, my good friend George Logan, whom I am continuing to benefit from these friendships now. Because of their conversation, pointing me to it, I discovered that this was actually the Senate executive committee I overheard Richard Lobdell and Mark Gabbett talking about a book they had each read. The book under discussion was Night Train to Lisbon by Pascal Mercier, which Richard had heard about from Mark. Because of their conversation, I immediately bought a copy as a Valentine’s Day gift to my partner, Gursh, who read it on our vacation late in February and found it very stimulating. A couple of weeks later, I was traveling and read the book myself on several airplanes. I e-mail correspondence among the three of us, after I thanked Mark and Richard for pointing me to it, I discovered that this was actually an experience enjoyed by their spouses as well, since Jocelyn had put Mark onto the book, he brought it to Richard’s attention, and Richard shared it with Evelyn.

In case you might want to read it yourself, I won’t say much about the story. But here is an example of the thought-provoking passages in it. At one point the protagonist is reading notes written by a man whose life interests him, and comes across this text:

I start trembling at the very thought of the unplanned and unknown, but inevitable and unstoppable force with which parents leave traces in the souls of the children who are helpless and ignorant of what is happening to them. We need a whole life to find and decipher the branded text and we can never be sure we have understood it.

This passage made me think not only of the branded text written in my life by my parents (which has, thankfully, been an extremely positive part of my experience) but also of the branded text I have written into the lives of my own children – there my judgment about value and efficacy is less certain. But my point from this passage is that Mercier’s book can cause any reader to think carefully about the effects of the entanglements of lives.

This penetrating value is, of course, what made Mark and Richard talk about the book so positively, made me want to give it to Gursh and read it myself, and stimulated this little reflection on the ongoing value of such informal interactions in the academy. I am thankful for colleagues who enrich this environment.

The President’s View
with David Barnard

The mutableListOf
of the magisterial Norton Anthology. The intellectual
teaching and literary vistas that opened up for me as a result of our decades-long friendship have been wonderfully rich and rewarding. I have read voraciously, eager to enjoy the riches available. Having large research libraries available in universities makes it possible to sample the literatures of many fields; public libraries are wonderful for less academic material, such as the mysteries I love to read for relaxation.

All this reflection is prompted by a recent interaction with two new colleagues here at the University of Manitoba. Before a recent meeting of the Senate executive committee I overheard Richard Lobdell and Mark Gabbett talking about a book they had each read. The book under discussion was Night Train to Lisbon by Pascal Mercier, which Richard had heard about from Mark. Because of their conversation, I immediately bought a copy as a Valentine’s Day gift to my partner, Gursh, who read it on our vacation late in February and found it very stimulating. A couple of weeks later, I was traveling and read the book myself on several airplanes. I e-mail correspondence among the three of us, after I thanked Mark and Richard for pointing me to it, I discovered that this was actually an experience enjoyed by their spouses as well, since Jocelyn had put Mark onto the book, he brought it to Richard’s attention, and Richard shared it with Evelyn.

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REHABILITATION OF THE FORT GARRY TWIN BRIDGES
(EASTBOUND STRUCTURE)

Eastbound structure over the Red River on Bishop Grandin to close Saturday, April 11, 2009 evening.

Eastbound traffic to be diverted onto westbound structure during construction.

Preparation for the rehabilitation of the Eastbound Structure of the Fort Garry Twin Bridges will commence on-site on April 1, 2009. The eastbound structure over the Red River on Bishop Grandin will be closed to traffic on Saturday, April 11, 2009 when eastbound traffic will be diverted onto the westbound structure. Re-opening of the eastbound structure will occur early in September 2009.

While the final stages of the diversion are being set up on Saturday, April 11, 2009, traffic delays can be expected in the area and it is recommended that motorists allow additional travelling time and give consideration to alternative routes.

Work includes rehabilitation of the concrete bridge deck, replacement of concrete traffic barriers, strengthening of steel bridge girders, and repair of the approach roads.

Last year over the same time period the rehabilitation of the westbound structure was completed. Rehabilitation of the eastbound structure will be similar. A difference is that the eastbound structure contains a sidewalk and pedestrian traffic will be diverted to a temporary sidewalk on the westbound structure.

The westbound structure will accommodate a temporary sidewalk, one westbound lane, and two eastbound lanes.

Lane closures will occur prior to April 1, 2009 to place temporary concrete traffic barriers on the westbound bridge which will separate the traffic lanes from the temporary sidewalk.

After the closure of the eastbound bridge, the speed limit will be reduced from 80 km/h to 60 km/h on a full time basis during construction in consideration of curves in the roadway, narrowed lanes and a complex driving environment.

Adjustments again will be made to traffic signal lights after the closure to promote and optimize traffic flow, as required.

Transit routes 16, 51, 75, 76, and 101 will be maintained during construction. For more information, visit: winnipegtransit.com

Additional project information can be found at: Winnipeg.ca/FortGarryBridge

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winnipegtransit.com

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Graphic element:**

Global empire with a Western tilt
United States views the world through lens of its own Western expansion

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin
Go West, Young Man.

It’s a simple phrase that speaks volumes about how the United States views the world.

Bruce Cumings, Gustavus F. Swift and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago, kicked off the World History and Historical Materialism Conference at the University of Manitoba on which he recently delivered the 2009 Knight Distinguished Lecture entitled “Facing West: Atlanticist Mystification and Pacific Realities in American Hegemony.”

The conference looked at the history of the global economy, its impact on people and where it might be headed.

Cumings’s lecture focused on the world’s most powerful economy.

“There are two orientations to the world in the United States,” Cumings said. “There’s an Atlanticist internationalist free trade orientation, which is taken to be the whole by our textbooks, pundits, politicians.

To understand that perspective, imagine the East coast cultural elite in the United States looking towards the Atlantic Ocean and more specifically to Europe, as the origin of American culture and as an equal worthy of an international approach with the effect of free and trade among like minded countries.

“But there is a way of America interacting with the world that tramples rights, doesn’t deal with other people as equals and never has,” Cumings said. It’s a perspective that can be understood by considering what happened when America’s elite started looking to the Pacific Ocean.

“During its westward movement the United States hardly encountered any people that white people felt they needed to take seriously and so there was an orgy of killing and dying off of people through diseases,” Cumings said. “When Chinese people came to the West Coast as immigrants they met with an apartheid and discrimination only matched by what happened to black people but they were managed to stay on and flourish in California.

“But this involvement with people as it moved West is fundamentally different from Americans’ interactions with Europeans,” Cumings said.

Aboriginal people were decimated by disease brought to North America by European settlers and through military campaigns that spawned the concept of the west being won.” Mexican territory was annexed after the Texas-British war, which brought territory from Texas to California under American control. The gold rush followed on the heels of the war and brought California firmly into an emerging continental economy. Even without war, discovery of gold in California would still have lead to the same result, Cumings said. Mexico simply did not have enough feet on the ground to resist the flow of American gold seekers and settlers. From California, the United States settled its boundary with Great Britain, purchased Alaska, which had the added benefit of pushing the Russian Empire off the North American continent, and annexed Hawaii in 1898. The latter move might have seemed unimportant at the time, but it had broad implications a half century later.

“Pearl Harbour was really a tipping point in American history,” Cumings said. It marked the United States into the Second World War and drew an end to the American practice of having a volunteer civilian army.”

Traditionally the United States had mustered troops in time of war and released them in times of peace. That changed after the attack on Pearl Harbour.

“It locked in a military state, where hegemony became defined in military terms,” Cumings said. “After Pearl Harbour we get a way of interacting with other countries and a form of unilaterism.”

The West Coast also received a huge economic boost with the U.S. government pouring money into the military industrial complex, which included heavy investments in the high tech industry.

“The digital revolution was a state-funded revolution,” Cumings said. “It puts a lie to the notion that the open market keeps everything in place. When the state focuses on a problem, it gives all the money in the world to find the solution and then creates the market to buy all chips.” In this the challenge was creating technical equipment with a performance better than industry-standard reliability rates.

“It’s an amazing story but it doesn’t fit with American theories on market and state,” Cumings said.

The growth of state-led industry on the West Coast gave the United States a fully continental economy and it happened in tandem with the growth of industrial economies along the Pacific rim.

“This development also happened in tandem with the growth of American hegemony. Something that Cumings views as a capitalist necessity.

“For me hegemony is legitimate world leadership by one power, legitimate in the sense that other countries accept that leadership, and see it as legitimate and consensual,” Cumings said. “Those that don’t have that thing a hegemon does is keep the world economy in order. A role that can be seen with the efforts of U.S. president Barack Obama to bring stability to the world economy.

“Today the United States operates a global empire with troops in over 100 countries, including most of its major economic rivals, Cumings said. “It’s an empire in plain sight, but it never becomes part of the discourse of international affairs among American specialists. They always present their views on a world of independent countries, but that’s not the reality.” Indeed the U.S. keeps troops on the soil of most its major economic rivals.

The more interesting question for Cumings is what will happen now as the economy at almost all across a Pacific Ocean that is starting to resemble the Mediterranean or Atlantic with economic rivals scattered across the shore.

“The United States may finally have a formidable challenger in China,” Cumings said. “If we don’t change and see the Chinese as equals, the 21st century will be long and difficult, but historically people in the U.S. have trouble taking people of colour seriously.”

Plotsing where our health dollars go

Between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006 Manitoba spent nearly $600 million on providing services to inpatients in Manitoba hospitals. To find out how that money was spent, the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) released a report that included estimated costs for each type of hospitalization.

When looking at overall spending, the report found that the most costly hospitalization wasn’t providing care for heart attacks or strokes, nor was it surgery on the hip or knee. In fact, this expense isn’t even disease related – it’s having a baby.

In 2005-06, Manitoba spent over $11.3 million on hospitalizations for the delivery of 6,819 healthy babies. The cost of knee replacements is second on the list, followed by simple pneumonia and then hip replacements.

The amount of money spent on hospital care for heart attacks comes in ninth. The report also found that while there are some very expensive types of hospitalizations, Manitoba hospitals provide very few of them, and their total cost is a small proportion of overall spending.

The cost list provides valuable information that will allow health authorities and hospital administrators to compare costs and has the potential to highlight areas for improvement.

Researchers, government and other planners can use this information to do population-based hospitalization studies and to develop realistic health policy.

“The list can be used for policy development and economic analyses,” says Greg Finlayson, MCHP research scientist who led the report.

“Being hospitalized can be expensive. If programs can be put in place to prevent hospitalizations through prevention, we may be able to save tax dollars. This cost list can help government make decisions about what programs may be most cost-effective.”

This report includes lists with the number of cases, average cost per case and total cost for each condition. The lists also break down costs by age group and complexity.

“More variability is hospital costs across the life span and between genders,” says Finlayson. “On average men cost more at all ages while women cost more in total during the childbearing years and at the end of life.”

This report updates the last cost list for services provided in Manitoba hospitals which was released in 1999 based on 1993-95 data.

The current information improves our ability to understand the cost of providing hospital care in Manitoba.
Bison Sports hands out awards

Corfield and Ferguson are Athletes of the Year, Berube is top coach

At the conclusion of another successful season during 2008-09, the Manitoba Bison distributed their year-end hardware at the annual Brown and Gold Year-End Banquet held at Canad Inns - Fort Garry on Saturday, March 28.

Bisons Stacey Corfield and Quin Ferguson were named as Bison Sports Female and Male Athletes of the Year for the 2008-09 season. Track and field and cross country head coach Claude Berube was selected as Bison Sports Coach of the Year.

Corfield’s selection is the first Bison Female Athlete of the Year multiple winner since the mid-90s as she also won this award in the 2006-07 season. She is the only women’s hockey player to win during the 46 year history of this award. The fourth-year Bison had a golden 2008-09 season.

The Winnipeg native was named as a CIS Second Team All-Canadian for the 2008-09 season and this is the first time a Bison player had been named to a CIS All-Canadian Team in the 12 year program’s history. She was selected as starting goaltender for Team Canada at the 2009 Winter Universiade (World University Games) in Harbin, China and started in five of the seven games while backstopping both playoff games en route to winning inaugural gold medal for women’s hockey at the Games.

Corfield was instrumental in leading the team to a fourth place showing in the CIS Championship and finishing Canada West Championship title in the 12 year program’s history. In the regular season, this fourth-year player had better stats than last season as she led Canada West with 21 wins and at 924 Save Pct. plus second with 1.55 Avg. and seven shutouts.

Corfield, 21, was also named to the 2008-09 Canada West First Team while starting all 24 conference games.

Ferguson’s selection is the first time a track and field athlete has been named Bison Male Athlete of the Year since the 1996-97 season. He was part of the two-time Canada West champion men’s track and field team and a major contributor to the 2009 CIS Championship title by being a part of scoring 28 of the 99 points by capturing four medals at the conference championship.

In his third year, he was a two-time silver medalist in the 400m and 800m plus part of gold in 4x400m relay team and silver medal in 4x200m relay team at the 2009 conference championship.

The Winnipeg native was part of scoring 20 of the 56 points registered by the men’s squad that finished fourth at the 2009 CIS Nationals. He earned a CIS silver medal in the 600m, a bronze medal in the 800m and anchored the bronze medal 4x400m relay team at 2009 CIS Championship.

Ferguson was named team captain for the first time this year. Ferguson was also selected as the team MVP. Ferguson, 20, has now added to his impressive CIS medal totals over his three-year career at Manitoba. He has now captured six medals overall along with two medals won at 2008 CIS Championship (silver in 600m and silver in 4x200m relay team) with one bronze medal with 4x100m relay team at the 2007 CIS Nationals.

Along with the Athletes of the Year, Claude Berube was selected as the second time as Bison Sports Coach of the Year in the eight year history of the award. He becomes the first recipient to be a three time winner of this award.

In his 12th season as head coach, he led the Bison men’s track and field team to a successful defense of the Canada West title they won last season and saw them become the first Manitoba team to win back-to-back men conference titles in over a decade (1994, ’95, and ’96). He guided the Bison men’s team to a fourth place finish overall at the 2009 CIS Championship and this was the highest end result at a CIS Championship for the Bison men’s team in almost a decade (in 2001, the squad also finished fourth).

The men’s squad improved on their eighth spot finish at last season’s CIS Nationals. Berube was selected as the 2008-09 Canada West Track and Field Men’s Team Coach of the Year. This is the second consecutive season that Berube has won this conference award.

The Student-Athlete Leadership and Community Development Award was handed out for the third time to one female and one male recipient. Fourth-year track and field athlete plus soccer player Jennifer Campbell (football and first-year eligible football player Thomas Hall were this season’s recipients of this award.

Bisons Stacey Corfield, left, and Quin Ferguson, right, were named as Bison Sports Female and Male Athletes of the Year for the 2008-09 season while track and field and cross country head coach Claude Berube, centre, was selected as Bison Sports Coach of the Year.

Corfield and Ferguson

Competition features top universities

Twenty-four teams from the world’s best business schools including the Aspen School came to Winnipeg last week to compete for the Stuart Clark Venture Challenge title and more than $40,000 in cash and prizes, and the right to open the NASDAQ exchange. A first-place win also guarantees the team’s entry into the prestigious “Super Bowl of Business Planning,” the MOOT Corp Global Competition at the University of California at Austin.

Teams pitched new ventures ranging from a chain of Tex-Mex restaurants in Poland to a treatment for macular degenerative disease. At the end of the Burnham Hollow Technologies team from Boston University came out on top of the competition with their plan for a full-featured home automation solution.

The Stuart Clark Venture Challenge has become the largest graduate level business plan competition in Canada in terms of teams. This year, five of the 50 universities in the world including MIT, Brown University and Babson College competed for the title and the greatest prize package of any such competition in Canada.

The Aspen School of Business brought its own track record to the Stuart Clark Venture Challenge. It is the only Canadian school to consistently send a team to MOOT Corp Global based on winning one or more competitions in the U.S. and it is the first Canadian school to ever have two teams invited to compete at MOOT Corp Global with this year’s Altave and Purus.

Both teams have earned the special invite at recent international business competitions. The Stuart Clark Venture Challenge is more than an academic exercise as the products and services presented are real and the teams presenting them are serious about launching their venture. Previous winner, Anson Innovations, from the Loyola Marymount University, CA, presented a product called the Asthma Sound Indicator. Past winners have also included business plans for a new drug that in animal trials had cured a form of brain cancer; SanoGene Therapeutics Inc. has since gone on to raise substantial investment and has been featured in The New York Times and on CNN. In all, teams attending the competition have gone on to launch ventures that have raised over $20 million in financing.

The competition would not be possible without the support of entrepreneur Stu Clark, a University of Manitoba Commerce graduate who went on to major success in the oil and gas industry.

Bison Sports recognized team MVP from each team:

Women's Basketball – Michele Hynes
Men's Basketball – Nathan Dixon
Women's Cross Country – Katrina Bruckenschwager
Men's Cross Country – Desire Budigoma
Football – Kenton Onofrychuk
Women's Golf – Faye Zachedniak
Men's Golf – Eric Johnson
Women's Hockey – Stacey Corfield
Men's Hockey – Steve Christie
Women's Soccer – Caley Miskimmin
Women's Swimming – Landice Yestrau
Men's Swimming – Braeden Taylor
Women's Track & Field – Caley Miskimmin
Men's Track & Field – Quin Ferguson
Women's Volleyball – Erin Niewenburg
Men's Volleyball – Derek Tyler

Team MVP

Bison Sports
Creating a haunting connection

The University of Manitoba’s Archives and Special Collections is home to Thomas Glendenning (T.G.) Hamilton’s photo library of science and exotic phenomena. The photos were used as a model in the production of the newly-released film, The Haunting in Connecticut.

In 1918, after his son’s death, Hamilton began to experiment with psychic phenomena. His aim was the investigation of paranormal phenomena such as rappings, psychokinetic, ectoplasmic, and materializations under scientific conditions that would minimize any possibility of error. Hamilton’s wife, Lillian, carried on his paranormal experiments following his death in 1935.

Producers of the newly-released The Haunting in Connecticut film researched Hamilton’s photographs in the fall of 2007 to get a first-hand look at how séance images are depicted. The goal of their visit was to report back to the film’s director with a good idea of how to re-create T.G. Hamilton’s images in the movie.

“We actually gave the production company permission to use eight photos,” explained U of M archivist Brian Hubner. And those photos which Hubner speaks of, made it to the big screen. During a scene where two actors are looking through archival material, a few pictures from the U of M’s Hamilton archive can be seen.

As well during the preview for the movie, a hand flips through photos of what looks like a séance – and those photos have a striking resemblance to T.G. Hamilton’s archive. Filming of the movie took place throughout 2008 in Winnipeg and Tealón, Manitoba.

The Haunting in Connecticut, rated 14A, is a film about a family forced to relocate for their son’s health. They begin experiencing supernatural behavior in their new home.

Bannatyne Campus – ST. BONIFACE GENERAL HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Palliative Care Educational Rounds, Pediatric Palliative Care with Mike Harlos, medical director, Simone Stenekes, pediatric clinical nurse specialist, David Lambert, pediatric pain specialist and physician, WHA Pediatric Symptom Management & Palliative Care Service, and Chris Hohl, palliative care fellow, Classroom A/B Lower Level Day Hospital Riverview Health Centre, linked to the Nigerian National Education Building, St. Boniface General Hospital, 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 15.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 Community Health Sciences, The Effect of English Language Skills on the Health of U.S. Hispanics by Nalini H. Sehmi, CHIR post-doctoral fellow, department of family medicine, 12 p.m., Dr. Betty Havens Seminar Room R060 Medical Rehabilitation Building, 12 p.m., Friday, April 17.

MONDAY, APRIL 20 Café Scientifique, What affects your Mental Health with Harvey Max Chochinov, Canada Research Chair in End of Life Care, director, CancerCare Manitoba, Patricia Martens, CHIR/PHAC Applied Health Chair, director Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, associate professor, community health sciences; Jitender Sareen, associate professor, psychiatry, and John Arnett, professor, clinical health psychology as facilitator, McNally Robinson, Polo Park, 7 p.m., Monday, April 20. RSVP Lindsay_Fagundes@umanitoba.ca.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Section of Infectious Disease Medicine, Understanding the New MS Therapeutics by Michael Us: The Science Behind Deception by Lie To Us. The Science Behind Deception by Giovanna Levin and Frank Varheute, assistant professor, psychiatry, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, linked to NG002 St. Boniface Hospital, 10:30 a.m., Monday, April 21.

Immunology, Antibody and immunogenic properties of a novel peptidic protein hydrolysate by Rotimi Aluko, department of human nutritional sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, Immunology Library 604/605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, April 23.

Immunology, Title TBA by Klaus Okkenhaug, group leader, lymphocyte signalling and development, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, United Kingdom, Immunology Library 604/605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Tuesday, April 21.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds, PProm Trial: An Update, The Impact Of Revised CDC Guidelines for Neonatal GBS Disease Prevention on Triage Of Neonatal Care And Length of Stay by Thierry Lacaze, director, Women And Children’s Health Research Institute, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 22.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 Pediatrics and Child Health/ Biochemistry & Medical Genetics: The Sixth Irene Uchida Lecture, The Third Era of Cytogenetics by Jan M. Friedman, professor, department of medical genetics, University of British Columbia, B.C. Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Thursday, April 23.

Pediatric Research Rounds, Neurofibromatosis 1: Looking Beyond the Tumours by The Third Era of Cytogenetics by Jan M. Friedman, professor, department of medical genetics, University of British Columbia, B.C. Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, 500 John Bublier Research Centre, 12 p.m., Thursday, April 23.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Proteomics and Systems Biology, Innate Defense Regulators - a new paradigm in selective immunomodulation by Neeloffer Mookerjee, assistant professor, Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A) Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Thursday, April 28.
Support Delta Marsh

The third annual Friends of Delta Marsh Fundraising Dinner will be held Thursday, April 23 at the Canad Inns - Portage la Prairie, 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W. Portage la Prairie. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. and the auction at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $50 each.

The Delta Marsh Field Station is a department of the Faculty of Science and has been a focal point for environmental education and research for the past 15 years. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. and the auction at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $50 each.

Law Courts to hold open house

Law Day 2009, celebrates the 27th Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and will feature an open house at the Law Courts Building, 408 York Avenue on Sunday, April 19, from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission to the open house is free of charge. The open house will include: guided tours of the Law Courts and Lock-Up, interactive exhibits and displays, student mock trials (in English & French); student debates (in French); legal information panel discussions; special sitting of Citizenship Court.

The law courts complex is a secure facility. As such, visitors will pass through a scanner similar to airport security. For more information contact the Manitoba Law Courts and Lock-Up; interactive exhibits and displays; student mock trials (in English & French); student debates (in French); legal information panel discussions; special sitting of Citizenship Court.

Retirees to meet at Brodie Centre

The 25th President’s Reception for Retirees will be held on Saturday, April 11. The event will feature an open house at the Law Courts Building, 408 York Avenue on Sunday, April 19, from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission to the open house is free of charge. The open house will include: guided tours of the Law Courts and Lock-Up, interactive exhibits and displays, student mock trials (in English & French); student debates (in French); legal information panel discussions; special sitting of Citizenship Court.

Following Mencé's presentation, Digvir Jayas, acting vice-president (research) will update retirees on activities at the university on behalf of president Barnard.

Support Staff Assessor to the Board of Governors

Nominations for the position of Support Staff Assessor to the Board of Governors are being accepted until 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

For more information and the nomination form, please go to: umanitoba.ca/governance/forms

One university. Many futures.
The tell-tale beep of dial-up falls silent

Remember that annoying, high-pitched whine, beeping and whistling noise that you heard whenever your computer tried connecting to a dial-up modem? You don’t? You must be under 30.

Here’s what it used to sound like: http://bit.ly/GvXB

Well, for those of you who have been doing the equivalent of shoveling coal into the back of your 486’s and Pentium 1’s and using your 14400 baud modems to slowly surf the World Wide Web’s time to enter the 21st Century.

At midnight, March 31, 2009, the University of Manitoba ended its dial-up modem services. A notice was sent out last month advising users that the days of dialing into the university are gone.

“Effective April 1st, 2009, Information Services & Technology will discontinue the dial-in modem service to the University campus community,” says Gerry Miller, executive director of IST at the University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba provided dial-in access to its computer network for many years, but these days, statistics show that modem usage is very low is expected to decrease even more in the future. The cost of providing the service to a declining set of users is also becoming prohibitive.

Miller notes: “Today’s use of computers is best done with a constant connection to the internet. The speed of the connection and the time required to download critical security patches and anti-virus updates has reached a critical point where the dial-up connections cannot perform this task. As well, many applications require a high speed connection.”

“It’s an obsolete technology,” he adds.

Staff and students with accounts on the University of Manitoba system will not lose any data or other access. Off-campus users will need to have a cable or wireless modem, or use a commercial internet provider for dialup access to the university network after April 1, 2009.
April 9, 2009

The Bulletin

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Bringing Research to LIFE

In Brief

A perfect pair

Fikret Berkes, Canada Research Chair in Community-Based Resource Management, is the co-chair of a newly established International Development Research Chair (IDRC) in Community-Based Resource Management. The partnership is one of only eight announced by the International Development Research Centre and the Canada Research Chairs Program. The new program, launched in December 2007, received 104 applications for joint research between Canada Research Chairs and their counterparts at universities in the developing world. From that, after a rigorous peer-review process, eight teams were selected to receive up to $1 million each over five years, each to address a key development challenge.

Berkes has been partnered with Alpina Begossi at State University of Campinas Brazil. Together they will develop community-based adaptive management (a feedback system for learning-by-doing) to increase food security and improve livelihoods of fisher communities in Paraty (Rio de Janeiro State).

They will begin by developing a knowledge base of the area's ecology, drawing on local people's knowledge of their resources. Working with communities, the researchers will launch a system for managing livelihood resources that could serve as a model for other parts of Brazil and perhaps elsewhere. By doing this the team hopes to incorporate local groups into the management process, and to build local capacity to engage stakeholders in governance processes.

The partnership between IDRC and the Canada Research Chairs Program is a distinctly Canadian international initiative that brings the power of science and technology to bear on problems in the developing world, while creating unique research opportunities for Canadians.

IDRC president David Malone said, "The partnership between IDRC and the chairs program is a major step forward in our mission to bring the power of knowledge to bear on problems in the developing world, while creating unique research opportunities for Canadians who are working on these issues."

Chasing what others run from

BY SEAN MOORE

It's not the tornadoes, those, for the most part, can be seen; it's the lighting, that's what percolates worry through a storm chaser.

For a storm chaser like John Hanesiak in the department of environment and geography, the chase begins on paper and computer screens, on maps and charts. He examines wind patterns, moisture levels, and atmospheric instabilities and characteristics to determine if and where a storm could be triggered.

"The day prior is when things really start. It sort of tells you, on the larger scale, where things seem to be lining up. Sometimes the weather models can give you much more lead time on larger scales. It will give you a general idea of whether you should head East, South, North or West. And if you can get there in time, that's great. So then the next morning you analyze things in more detail -- for example, where exactly in south-western Saskatchewan should we go? So that's a challenge."

On April 16, Hanesiak will give a public lecture at the next Bringing Research to Life speaker series (details below). His talk is titled A Day In the Life of a Storm Chaser.

"One of the more difficult parts is trying to decide where things will start going at any given time. Much of the excitement is trying to figure out where they will initiate, and then, when they start, trying to quickly figure out which ones will be the most severe. Then you go to those ones.

As many picknickers will contend, meteorologists get things wrong. Although they get much right too, but certainly it's not often seen. Everything was lined up. The wind shear wasn't quite perfect and there was a 'cap'. Wind shear is the measure of wind speed and directional changes with altitude. It gives storm clouds a tilt and this tilt ensures that a storm can continually suck up warm, fueling air ahead of its downward flowing shafts of cool air and precipitate. If a storm has no tilt its downpour will occupy the same space as its updraft, so the downpour will tamp the rising air and the storm will ultimately snuff itself out. And a cap, which acts independently of wind shear, also affects storm development.

It's a layer of warm air about a kilometer above ground that prevents surface air from rising freely into a major storm.

There was shear, but it wasn't terribly strong. Not enough to make you suspect it was going to produce an F5 tornado, yet it did. Although the cap was strong, it eroded late in the day. So it's these things of things that can throw you off," Hanesiak said.

"Then there is the opposite where their brunt will be felt. The challenge is that every storm is different. To learn more, come to A Day in the Life of a Storm Chaser, a free presentation held on Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m. in the Robert B. Schulz lecture theatre in St. John's College. For more information, call 204-474-9020.

Some Fast Facts on Mental Health

-20% of Canadians will personally experience a mental illness in their lifetime.
-About 8% of adults will experience major depression at some time in their lives.
-Suicide accounts for 24% of all deaths among 15-24 year olds and 16% among 25-44 year olds.
-Mental health issues are caused by a complex interplay of genetic, biological, personality and environmental factors.
-Mental illnesses can be treated effectively.

The goal of all this storm chasing is to figure out how to better predict storms with a more specific location as to where their brunt will be felt. The challenge is that every storm is different.

For further information and access to the general guidelines and application form visit:
http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internalfunding_deadlines_forms.html

In its ongoing effort to bring research into your life, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research are hosting the third Café Scientifique on April 20.

"Café Scientifique is a free event that brings together experts and non-researchers in a relaxed atmosphere to talk about research and the questions it raises. The next Café will focus on mental health issues."

The panelists include: Harvey Max Chochinov, Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and distinguished professor in psychiatry, and director of Manitoba Palliative Care Research Unit at CancerCare Manitoba; Patricia Martens, CIHR/PHAC Applied Public Health Chair, director of the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, and associate professor of community health sciences; and Attinder Sareen, associate professor of psychiatry.

The discussion's facilitator will be John Arnett, professor of clinical health psychology.

The panelists will provide insights into their research in the areas of mental health services, suicide prevention, and the psychological aspects of life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses.

Mental illness affects a large portion of our population, from young to old. These individuals are generally high users of health care services. What strategies might work best to address these issues? Certain populations are more at risk for mental illnesses. What preventive measures can be taken to assist these people?

On April 20, at 7 p.m., come to McNally Robinson in Polo Park (1485 Portage Ave.) and join the discussion.

The discussion will be held in the Scotsman's Library at 7 p.m. Please register at events/ors/cafescientifique.html.

Upcoming

Creative Works Grants Program

Deadline to apply is May 1, 2009

To provide support for high quality creative works at the University of Manitoba. The program is administered by the Office of Research Services on behalf of the University.

For further information and access to the general guidelines and application form visit:
http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internalfunding_deadlines_forms.html

What affects your mental health?

Published by the Research Communications and Marketing Unit, Office of the Vice-President (Research) Comments, submissions and event listings should be directed to lidsday_j@umanitoba.ca
Phone: (204) 474-9020 Fax (204) 261-0325
The University of Manitoba presented an Arctic Science and Fieldwork day at Fort Whyte Alive outdoor education centre on March 20. Graduate students took 150 students from Henry G Izatt Middle School, Fort Richmond Collegiate and Westwood Collegiate through stations on Snow & Ice, Water, Sediment Cores, Meteorology, People and Beluga. Clockwise from above, Ryan Galley, PhD candidate at the Centre for Earth Observation Science, breaks through the ice; professor Rick Riewe, zoology, demonstrates northern clothing; Breanne Reinfort, master of environment candidate, at left, and Jessica Koteriek, Schools on Board intern, give students an overview of the Arctic region; Larkin Mosscrop, Fort Whyte Alive, helps students engage all five senses in their research; and Alexis Burt, master of science candidate, looks over water samples with students.

Photos by Bob Talbot