Mauro Centre Hosts
Passionate Speaker

8th Annual Sol Kanee Lecture moves, inspires audience

CHRIS RUTKOWSKI
The Bulletin

Most of us would not be so forgiving.
Many of us would still be consumed by grief, unable to move on.
Few of us would have responded to tragedy by giving hope to those who despair.

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish spoke to a shocked and silent crowd of more than 250 people on Monday, November 2, 2009, delivering the Sol Kanee Lecture on Peace and Justice. Frequently pausing to regain composure, Abuelaish spoke passionately and frankly about what he has lived through during the past 12 months, and why it has strengthened his resolve to work for peace in Israel and Gaza. His graphic description of the deaths of his daughters unsettled many in the audience, but his reading of a letter to one of them brought many to tears as well.

For many years, Abuelaish has been an outspoken advocate of increased dialogue in the Middle East towards an end to violence. Born in a refugee camp, he is now a physician who has worked in Israeli hospitals and treated both Palestinian and Israeli victims of war. Abuelaish has condemned the use of violence to achieve resolution and instead has promoted forgiveness and healing as better ways to bridge the gap between both sides of the conflict.

Slightly more than a year ago, however, Abuelaish lost his wife to cancer, leaving him a widower with eight children. To compound his loss, his three of his daughters and one of his nieces. Another daughter was severely injured in the Jabalia refugee camp, he is now a physician who has worked in Israeli hospitals and treated both Palestinian and Israeli victims of war.

The shelling of his home had on his resolution to the peace process. “It has strengthened my belief and faith,” he explains. “I could simply look back on what happened and be angry, but that will help no one. Instead, we must go forward. We cannot be consumed by bloodshed. We cannot be consumed with revenge or anger, as hatred is a toxin and as a doctor I know we must remove toxins from our bodies to regain our health.”

Educated at Harvard, Abuelaish is currently associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He is a nominee for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sol Kanee, in whose honour the lecture series has been named, was a highly respected Winnipegger whose lifetime achievements in business, in public affairs, and in local, national, and international service have helped bridge gaps between peoples and generations. The lecture series is supported by a generous grant from the Richardson Foundation Inc.

The Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, at St. Paul’s College, is dedicated to education, research, and outreach in the areas of peace and conflict studies, and social justice. The University of Manitoba’s Ph.D. Program in Peace and Conflict Studies is housed at the Mauro Centre.

Student Counseling and Career Centre
Re-opens

Left to right: David Ness, coordinator of career services; Elizabeth Boyle, career advisor; Sid Rashid, UMSU president. Photo by Chris Reid.

On Tuesday, November 3, the Student Counseling and Career Centre on the fourth floor of UMSU re-opened. Although it never actually closed during renovations, the new facility is more accessible, better equipped and more welcoming to students.

“We want everyone on campus to know that we are open and available to help with career planning needs,” says David Ness, coordinator of career services.

The Centre first opened back in 1983 and received its last face-lift in 1987. This week’s re-opening is part of Manitoba Career Week, and students will be available to speak with staff members to learn about the career mentor program, career planning workshops, the employment help desk and the resource library in the Centre.

“Students sometimes need some help gaining focus and deciding where they would like their lives to be heading,” Ness adds.

Ness notes it is important for staff members to know about the Centre’s services so they can refer students who are seeking help with career decisions. The Centre also posts notices on workopoliscampus.com, offers career fairs, career chats and hosts special events including tomorrow’s “Take Our Kids to Work Day.”

There will be free workshops offered at the Centre this week, designed to help students in career development.
In The News

Shots in the Arm
Ottawa Citizen, Vancouver Province, Regina Leader-Post, Alberni Valley Times, nationalpost.com November 2, 2009

Anand Kucher, an associate professor of critical care and infectious disease, shares his thoughts on the spread of H1N1 in Canada. “You can’t block it now. We’re too late to block it. The only way that you’re going to blunt it is to get as many people as vaccinated as you can,” he said. Recently released federal government data show the provinces and territories have used just over one million doses of swine flu vaccines from the national antiviral stockpile to fight H1N1.

Of Cars and Cattle and Climate Change
New York Times
October 19, 2009

Distinguished professor of environment and geography Vaclav Smil spoke one on one with New York Times columnist Andrew C. Revkin at Perimeter Institute’s Q2C event held recently in Waterloo. In the 78-minute video posted on the newspaper’s website the two discussed the promise and perils of the next 50 years, covering things such as China’s fluctuating political power, the merits of low-meat diets and how to best respond to global climate change.

Are You Scared?

When it comes to H1N1 vaccines, clinical psychologist John Walker told the press that among the people he sees, the concern seems to be centred more on the needle than its contents. “Some of these people will actually even faint if they need to give a blood sample to a family doctor or (if) they need to have an injection,” he said. “Part of the treatment involves teaching them how to handle that.”

Manitoba’s consumption
 Winnipeg Free Press, The Leader-Post, Vancouver sun.com, Kelowna.com, Theprovince.com, October 31, 2009

Northlands’ First Nation in Lac Brochet, a remote northern Manitoba community, is a global tuberculosis hot spot and anthropologist Linda Larcombe, whose studies disease spread among First Nations, shared her thoughts with the media. In this community many people live within small quarters. “Size matters,” she said. “It makes sense that (in) a smaller home with more people in it, your risk of contracting airborne and aerosolized disease is going to increase.”

Headlines:
- “Multyear Arctic Ice is Effectively Gone: Expert”, October 30, 2009, The ABC News, Reuters, The Province, discusses the decline in multi-layer sea ice in the Arctic and the views of David Barter, Canada Research Chair Arctic Systematics, who runs the multi-layered sea ice project.
- “Shortage gives skeptics time to consider flu shot”, October 31, 2009, Toronto Sun, Calgary Sun, notes the opportunity to consider the flu shot as the shortage of the H1N1 vaccine is being addressed.

The Bulletin
University of Manitoba
Page 2

Collegue Universitaire de Saint-Boniface kicks off Fundraising Campaign

In June 2009, the Manitoba government and the Government of Canada each contributed $3 million to the construction of the Health Sciences building and Premier Greg Selinger announced an additional contribution through a matching program. Three major lead donations for the campaign include $800,000 from Marcel A. Desautels, a CUSB alumnus and Chair of the Campaign Cabinet. The Collège universitaire’s Student Association made a contribution of $600,000. The first corporate gift came from Roy Legumex of St. Jean-Baptiste Manitoba. Owners Richard Sabourin (a CUSB alumnus) and his son Ivan, CEO of Roy Legumex, who presented the College with the $250,000 donation. Although the campaign has only recently been launched, it has started out with these and other lead gifts totaling well over $11 million.

Through its fundraising campaign, the Collège universitaire hopes to raise its visibility across Manitoba. “We are a small university with a mission so we do not get the kind of exposure that the other universities have. We will soon launch an awareness campaign. Our campus expansion is a unique opportunity for all Manitobans to get to know us better and see that the College offers the same quality education available at Manitoba’s other universities. The main difference is our students emerge from their studies as bilingual professionals ready to work in both official languages, giving them an important edge in today’s competitive job market.”

The Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface retains its affiliated relationship with the University of Manitoba while operating independently on its own campus in St. Boniface. It offers general and specialized university degree programs as well as professional and technical training. Deeply rooted in its community, the Collège contributes actively to the vitality and development of the Manitoban, Canadian and international francophone through teaching, research and outreach activities. In an intimate setting, the College provides a diverse and inclusive intercultural environment which promotes lifelong personal and professional growth.

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Collegue universitaire de Saint-Boniface has launched a Campagne VISION campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in its 100-year history.

A $15 million campus expansion will transform the Collège and usher in a new era of excellence at Manitoba’s only French-language post-secondary institution.

According to CUSB president Raymond Gagné, “Since 1980, student enrolment and the number of programs offered have quadrupled yet the size of our campus remains much the same. Universities across the country have become increasingly aggressive in recruiting Manitoba’s most promising students. La campagne VISION campaign seeks to ensure that our institution continues to raise the level of excellence that has been its hallmark for 190 years as we move towards our 200th anniversary.”

Construction of a new $13 million Health Sciences building is at the heart of the campaign. The two-story, 25,000 sq ft building will allow the Collège to consolidate its health sciences programs under one roof. These programs include a nursing diploma, nursing degree (in collaboration with University of Ottawa), a health aide diploma and a social work degree.

The cutting-edge facility will include modern laboratories containing five to eight beds equipped with cameras and two-way mirrors for evaluation purposes. The main floor will have “intelligent” classrooms with the latest audio-visual and telecommunications equipment as well as office space for faculty and change rooms for students.

Raising $1 million for scholarships and bursaries is a second major component of the campaign. The Collège seeks to enhance its scholarship program in order to retain Manitoba’s brightest students, attract the brightest students from around the world. Furthermore, by expanding its bursary program, the Collège will have the capacity to support a greater number of promising students who may not otherwise afford a university education. Other priorities include equipment enhancement, as well as research and educational support.

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

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community. Submissions can include letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions. Material in The Bulletin may be reprinted or broadcast, excepting materials for which The Bulletin does not hold exclusive copyright.

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Schedule

College Universitaire
de Saint-Boniface
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 events notices to: bulletin@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 advertisements which is illegal, misleading or offensive to its readers. The Bulletin reserves the right to reject any advertisement which violates the university’s internal policies, equity/human rights code of conduct.

The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin
Events Listing
University of Manitoba

Bannatyne Campus
– St. Boniface General Hospital and Research Centre

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
10th Annual Dr. Arthur R. Birt Memorial Lecture: “What’s New in Pediatric Dermatology?” by Miriam Weinstein, pediatrics, University of Toronto and staff dermatologist, Hospital for Sick Children. Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A), Basic Medical Sciences Building, 730 William Avenue, 8 – 9:00 p.m. (Reception to follow) Thursday, November 5

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Clinical Health Psychology Colloquium, PX236-238, Psychiatry Centre. Dr. Saba Safdar will speak on issues relevant to the practice of cross-cultural psychology. All residents and staff are welcome. For more information, please contact Dr. Reuven Katz. This event qualifies for continuing education credit. 9:30 am, Monday, November 9

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
“Working together: Disabled people, clinicians, academics and researchers sharing knowledge and power to achieve relevant outcomes,” by Karen R. Hilberman, MA (FAC), and Louise Ritchot, Ph.D., C. Psych. The second annual lecture presented by the Department of Psychology. Partial students, conference fee, or a detailed program, please contact: Dr. Michael Baffoe, Conference Chair, baffoe@cc.umanitoba.ca or Candace Jan Andrews, 2009 Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence. For more information, registration forms or a detailed program, please contact: Dr. Michael Baffoe, Conference Chair, baffoe@cc.umanitoba.ca or Candace Jan Andrews, 2009 Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence.

Friday, November 6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Graphene Nanoelectromechanical Systems. Dr. J. Scott Bunch, University of Colorado, 330 Allen Building. 3:30pm, Friday, November 6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Economics Seminar: Extra Kindergarten and Future Outcomes: Evidence from a Failed Policy Experiment by Justin Smith, Department of Economics. 307 Tier, All are welcome. For more information, contact: Debbi Fiorucci, debby.fiorucci@umanitoba.ca, Phone: (204) 474-9207. 2:40 pm, Friday, November 6

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Eat, Drink, and be Roman: How to survive a Roman Banquet. Presented by the Department of Classics, the Classical Association of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Society of Classics, the Classical Association of North America to promote exchange of government representatives from across North America to promote exchange of ideas and discussions on aspects of the integration and settlement processes of new immigrants in the Diaspora. Conference cost (includes breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks): $80 - Faculty and Staff, $90 - Students, $110 - General Public. Details and registration forms can be found on the website: www.umanitoba.ca/centerforadvancedresearch. For more information, contact: Dr. Richard Gillis at 474-6215. Eva Clare Hall, Faculty of Music, 7:30 pm, Sunday, November 8

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Bannatyne Mindfulness and Stress Reduction. This weekly session is open so you can attend any one session or come to every session. Kathryn Ritchot, Ph.D., C. Psych. will do a brief introduction to each individual session. S207 Medical Services Building 12:15-1:00 pm, Monday, November 9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Political Reconciliation: Indigenous Nations and the Settler State. Dr. Kiera Ladner, a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance, and associate professor in the department of politics at the University of Manitoba. 12:15-1:00 pm, Friday, November 13

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Departures and Arrivals by Carol Shields, Black Hole Theatre. Students/seniors $9.00, $11.00 adults. Call 474-6880 for reservations. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Governing in Accordance with the Treaties, 290 Education Building, Part of the Bringing Research to Life Speaker Series, featuring Dr. Kiera Ladner. 7:00 pm, Wednesday, November 18

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
W.L.Morton Distinguished Lecture by Professor John English, University of Waterloo. The Great Hall, University Centre. For more information contact: Maria De Stefano at 474-6839, 7:30-9:30 pm, Thursday, November 19

NATIVE STUDIES COLLOQUIA SERIES, FALL 2009
Writing a New Story: Colonialism, Governance and Culture. All presentations in 307 Tier, 12:30 - 1:20 pm. November 18: Rupert Ross, former Crow Attorney in Northwestern Ontario and Aboriginal House, author of Returning to the Teachings: “Colonization and Emotional Suppression in Aboriginal Canada.”

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SEMINARS, FALL 2009
All seminars will be held at 3:00 p.m. in 527 Buller Building. Coffee and donuts will be served. All are welcome. November 13: Patrick Walsh, biology and Centre for Advanced Research in Environmental Genomics (CAREG), University of Ottawa: “Nitrogen and carbon excretion by fish: implications from ‘nano’ to ‘peta’ scales”
Aboriginal Business Leadership Celebrated

LAURA MIKUSKA for The Bulletin
The elegance of the Fort Garry Hotel’s Provencher Ballroom was the setting for celebrating two outstanding nominees for the Excellence in Aboriginal Business Leadership Award on October 8. The award is presented annually by the Aboriginal Business Education Program at the University of Manitoba’s Asper School of Business.

Lisa Meeches of Eagle Vision Inc. was named this year’s winner. Wanda Wuttunee, director of the Aboriginal Business Education Program, and dinner co-chair, described Ms Meeches as a role model for young people. Nominees are judged on a number of criteria, including the financial stability of their business, role in the aboriginal community and involvement with young aboriginals.

Lisa began her career in 1986 with the Winnipeg-based Native Media Network where she worked compiling radio reports for a native talk show, eventually becoming news reporter. She studied broadcasting at Minot State University in North Dakota and completed the Banff Television Festival’s Executive Program.

As one of the most dynamic and respected Aboriginal producers in Canada, Lisa has produced two award-winning television shows - The Sharing Circle and Tipi Tales, Eagle Vision also co-produces movies for television and theatrical releases. Recent projects include Walk All Over Me (2007), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Academy Award-winning feature film Capote (2006).

From left: Scott Koetke, Shell Canada (Event Partner), Lisa Meeches, Eagle Vision Inc. (2009 winner) and Fauna Kingdon, CA (ABEP Alumnae).

The other nominee for this year’s award was long-time business owner Larry Charttrand, co-founder of Labels Unlimited Inc. Both nominees will speak to ABEP students about their experience in business and the community.

Since establishing the award in 2005, over 20 nominees and 5 winners have been recognized and honoured. Previous winners include Tribal Councils Investment Group, Arnold Asham, Asham Curling Supplies, Pat Turner, E.T. Trucking and Bernie Vermette of B. Vermette Backhoe Services.

Each year’s proceeds support students in the Aboriginal Business Education Program, with over $100,000 raised to date. Established in 1994, the ABEP program now has over 50 graduates. For information on how to submit a nomination or become a sponsor of the event, please visit www.aboriginalbusinessleadership.ca.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The University of Manitoba

CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University. The Chancellor confers all degrees and is a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate. The term of office of the Chancellor will commence on January 1, 2010.

Nominations for the Office of the Chancellor are requested from members and assessors of the Board of Governors and the Senate, Students, Academic Staff, and Alumni of The University of Manitoba. Nomination forms are available in the Office of the University Secretary, Room 312 Administration Building or online atumanitoba.ca/governance. Nomination forms must be signed by any five persons who are members of the aforementioned groups and must be received in the Office of the University Secretary no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 26, 2009.

Nominators may nominate only one person each. The following persons are not eligible to be Chancellor:

1. Members of the academic or administrative staff of any University or College;
2. Members of the governing body of any University other than the University of Manitoba;
3. Members of the governing body of any College.

The University of Manitoba Act provides for a Committee of Election composed of all members of the Board of Governors and all members of the Senate. The sole purpose of the Committee of Election is to elect a Chancellor of the University. The meeting of the Committee of Election will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

One university. Many futures. umanitoba.ca
From the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections:

BRIAN HUBNER for The Bulletin

One of the most interesting "documents" in the Archives is the wooden goalie stick used by the University of Manitoba team which won the Allan Cup in 1928, and the 1931 World Ice Hockey Championship. Arthur T. "Art" Puttee was a goaltender for the U. of M. Senior Varsity team which won the national senior men's championship in 1928. The team, then named the "University of Manitoba Grads", went on to represent Canada at the 1931 championships in Krynica, Poland, winning the world title in a final game against the United States 2 - 0. When Puttee had to return to Winnipeg to write his final exams Sam McCallum took over in the net for the last games of the tournament. The stick, made of two pieces of wood nailed together is only 1.33 metres long - still legible on its handle is the record of the championships won, and the signatures of Puttee and several other players.

Location: Arthur T. "Art" Puttee fonds, A06-78

Brian Hubner is Associate University Archivist, Acquisition and Access. Visit the University of Manitoba Archives at: umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/

Gifted storyteller promises spellbinding performance

CHERYL ARNOLD for The Bulletin

Jan Andrews, one of Canada's most gifted storytellers, will be performing "The Stone Book" on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at Aqua Books, 274 Garry Street.

"It's a beautifully crafted, very vivid, coming-of-age story... one of the favorite things I tell in all the world," says Andrews. "It's also a great journey of discovery that takes its heroine from the very top of the church steeple being built by her stonemason father to deep within the earth. The events are set against the backdrop of the Industrial Revolution; they involve the struggles of one family to preserve old ways in an overwhelmingly changing world.

"If you're new to storytelling and have not experienced its simple power, there is no better place to begin. Make no mistake about this; this is a story for adult audiences. "It will be an electrifying performance," says Warren Casien, Director of The University of Manitoba's Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture. "Jan holds audiences spellbound. They live every minute of the tale."

A published author since 1972, Andrews began her storytelling career in 1986 and has performed across Canada, in Britain and Australia. She ranks among a small percentage of Canadians making a living doing nothing but writing and storytelling.

"I first saw Puttee in Winnipeg for the autumn university term, serving as Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity and a great honor," says Andrews, who notes that she knows of nowhere else that offers storytellers such a position.

The Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture is the first of its kind in North America. Home to scholars, students and visiting artists, the Centre's mandate is to nurture and celebrate the multiplicity of our cultural heritage through the collection and sharing of stories. Each year, like most of the spoken - which have been handed down through the generations.

Intimately involved in the contemporary revival of storytelling as an art form, Andrews was one of the founders of Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada and the organization's first coordinator. She has worked on behalf of other storytellers, using her skills as a producer and artistic director. Her many awards and accolades, both for her books and her performances, include being shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award and the Washington State Book Award. Andrews has published 12 children's books and countless short stories. Her permanent home is in Lake in the Hills, Ontario, an hour's drive from Ottawa.

The Stone Book is a story created by Entertainment Weekly's "Storyteller of the Year" Garner, and published as part of The Stone Book Quartet. Andrews tells The Stone Book with the author's permission.

Tickets to the performance cost $12 and are available at the door or in advance from Aqua Books. More information can be obtained from the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture at 480-1065.

OPAL Enhances Learning, Teaching, Communication in Faculty of Medicine

OPAL was successfully launched by the Faculty of Medicine in August 2009 as a comprehensive curriculum management system for the medical school class of 2013.

"Development of OPAL is a result of Dean Sandham's vision and leadership along with effective collaboration by the faculty, students and administrative staff," said Dr. Sat Sharma, Medical Director, "OPAL will take our teaching, learning, evaluation and communication to a new level."

OPAL will accomplish the pedagogical, administrative and accreditation needs of the Faculty of Medicine to foster lifelong learning as medical students advance to become competent physicians, he said. "An integrated curriculum management system was required to enhance communication, collaboration, data tracking and information sharing," Sharma noted.

The system establishes centralized information management and administration procedures and will provide faculty, staff and students with a common suite of educational technology tools.

Sharma said OPAL's benefits are numerous and extremely important as the Faculty prepares for accreditation of the undergraduate medical education program in 2011.

OPAL create a system that allows the entire faculty to be a part of a living curriculum to which they can contribute in a significant manner. It allows educators to organize and prepare teaching material according to the student needs and promotes collaboration among teachers, students and administrators.

Furthermore, OPAL reduces the costs of delivering education while enhancing the teaching and learning experience and improves access to the learning resources. As well, it improves reporting on interactive curriculum evaluation and enables quality improvements. OPAL has capacity to measure and compare the medical curriculum to the other universities and will provide effective curriculum tracking for faculty compensation and accreditation.

OPAL was developed in collaboration with Online Business Systems, a software development and service company with headquarters in Winnipeg. A collaborative model of partnership between Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba and OBS was developed. Once fully implemented at the University of Manitoba, OBS will be allowed to pursue commercialization of OPAL to other medical schools.

Sharma reported that OPAL is being implemented in a phased approach. Phase I comprises curriculum delivery and communications portal with a user-friendly interface and was made available to students, faculty and staff for the academic year 2009 - 2010. Phase II will include accreditation, curriculum renewal, question bank, clinical procedure logging and undergraduate and postgraduate evaluation tools to be developed and made available for the academic year 2010 - 2011.

"Holds-on-OPAL training at the computer lab for faculty (Block 1 instructors first), department heads/section heads, course program directors, course coordinators and support staff began July 2009. Ongoing training programs in the NIM Library continue to facilitate Block 2 and later instructors/support staff.

"Many faculty members organized and participated in OPAL department tours. These tours presented an opportunity for members of the OPAL project team to visit specific areas and demonstrate OPAL functions and features," Sharma said.

The class of 2013 received a hands-on training session during Orientation week for which they were able to login, navigate, search and upload student resources to OPAL. The training was well received as shown by the student survey performed at the time of training, Sharma said. Additional follow-up sessions were held to answer questions and address students' concerns. "We are very excited about this made-in-Manitoba initiative and look forward to the enhancement of teaching, learning, evaluation and communication within the Faculty," Sharma said.

"The system merges feedback and input from the faculty and students as we approach Phase II to upgrade the system and add other functionality for a comprehensive curriculum management system."

For more information, call the OPAL help desk at 272-3167 or visit http://umanitoba.ca/medicine/opal

Advertise in the Bulletin
For details call 474 8111

November 5, 2009 The Bulletin Page 5
Looking to collect food for the U of M Food Bank and have a little fun while doing it, faculty and students from the Department of Psychology held a pancake breakfast fundraiser on October 30. Pictured here, from left to right, professor Randy Jamieson, department head Todd Mondor, and professor Jonathan Marotta.
Studying the signs

SEAN MOORE  The Bulletin

Born deaf to a hearing family, Erin Wilkinson frequently questioned her parents' use of English words and grammar because she wanted to understand the language's blueprint, and now, 32 years later, she's an assistant professor in the University of Manitoba's linguistics department. She is the only deaf linguist in Canada, and one of the few in the world studying signed languages.

In Grade 12 she went to Norway on exchange and the differences between American Sign Language (ASL) and Norwegian Sign Language intrigued her. Fascinated, she compared semantics and syntax between the two languages. Her passion remained nameless though for she did not even know linguistics existed. She wanted to study medicine, but at Wellesley College in the US she realized it didn't strum her chords, the only thing that reverberated in her was language and so her friend invited her to an introductory linguistics class. The temporary turned permanent and she pursued this career, studying at Gallaudet University, the University of New Mexico, and with a Fulbright Scholarship she conducted research in Rome.

She joined the University of Manitoba's linguistic department this year. Her research program aims to understand the commonalities between signed languages and spoken languages so that she may better illuminate the universal characteristics of language.

"We don't even know what are general principles about specific group's kinship terms that cut across signed languages, let alone each signed language as most signed languages have not yet been documented nor described." Wilkinson explains Sherra Hall, a full-time interpreter the department hired. "For example, in French we already know that it has gender like 'te' and 'la' and things like that. But in ASL it appears there is little evidence of gender" - although in a study she found that female kinship terms in ASL are produced on the chin while masculine terms get produced on the head, suggesting there is gender differentiation. Still - "We don't know if that truly exists, gender that is. Comparative research on signed languages is so new."

Wilkinson knows of only a few universities that house ASL linguistics in the Department of Linguistics rather than, say, Speech and Hearing Sciences: the University of New Mexico, Gallaudet University, and the University of Connecticut, University of Texas, Austin, and Boston University. "So," Wilkinson continues, "if signed languages have been viewed as being of only one type while spoken languages have been deconstructed into all these different groups, how can we then compare spoken language to signed languages if they are not even being viewed in the same way? It doesn't make sense. It is clear that a great amount of work is needed to observe if there are subtypes of signed languages within the modality type of visual-gestural language."

Modality is a form that "mediates" communication, be it through vocal chords or by using the hands, body and face.

In her dissertation Wilkinson examined the range of signed language modality by examining how kinship terms are expressed in 40 signed languages. Since every language has some form of well-established set of kinship terms they provide a good basis for comparison to see if signed languages could be subgrouped by specific linguistic patterns.

Her findings: Signed languages vary greatly. Nepal Sign Language has the most kinship terms with 55, and Croatian and Persian Sign Languages have the least with six each. The range in number, Wilkinson concluded, demonstrates the great variation between them—something which is rooted in the socio-cultural/anthropological framework of kinship systems—but the findings also show that linguistic processes in encoding kin relations vary in signed languages. In short, by finding the different ways kinship terms are constructed (e.g. mother, mother’s older sister, mother’s younger sister, mother’s mother) the study presented evidence that there is typological variation across 40 signed languages.

"What’s more, she found there is generally more variation in the way ‘woman’ is conceptualized than ‘man’ and that while some languages have distinct variations between boy and girl, some have none. And interestingly, although the reasons are unclear, in most of these languages save a few, the sign for mother and father touch the face.

"Now, we need to figure out how to type signed languages into subtypes."

Wilkinson will explore this topic further, but frequency-effects also interest her. Understudied in signed languages, the field offers a small window into the cognitive process. (Linguists are non-invasive neuroscientists. That’s my definition.)

Language changes based on how often a word is used – its frequency. The example she gives is "I don't know" versus "Dunno". Ask an English speaker to define pi and they may say "I don't know" or they may say "Dunno".

The former, with clear boundaries between the words, means the speaker lacks the cognitive potential to actually perceive the answer. But "Dunno", which came into existence from the frequent use of "I don't know", shows that it's not that the speaker lacks cognitive understanding; rather, it's pragmatics: it shows an attitude of "I don't care", and the form of the expression has diverged to represent the subtle differences.

"So how do we see frequency effects on visual-gestural [signed languages] modality? That is a question I would like to look further into. And my second goal is more broad and it has to do with research on gesture. What is the role of gestures in communication for both hearing and deaf people?

"It does get quite complicated, but related to gesture, for spoken language, gesture supports speech. Or is it that speech supports gesture? That is a very interesting question."
After the Second World War when Bauhaus artists were emigrating from Europe to big American cities like New York and Chicago, only two decided to set up a shop in Canada. One of them, Andor Weininger, a Hungarian-born multimedia artist with a love for theatre and music (he was the founder of the Bauhaus band), moved to Toronto with his family in 1951. And according to a new book, A Bauhausler in Canada, Andor Weininger in the ’50s by art history professor Oliver Botar, he probably wished he never had.

“Weininger was in Canada for six and a half years, and though he came from one of the great Modernist movements of the time he was sidelined soon after he got here. So one of the questions I explore in the book is: How did Weininger’s Canadian career go so wrong?”

But Botar’s explanation also circles back to the artist himself. “I think it was also him. He was a Roman Catholic who had hung on to his religiosity, and he was shy, so he wasn’t comfortable with promoting himself.”

At the Bauhaus, surrounded by like-minded artists, many of whom were his close friends, Weininger was able to thrive. But in a Toronto art community not ready to accept him and where the onus was on him to pitch and promote his work, Weininger moved to the shadows. “He couldn’t get anything going during his time here. He and his wife Eva Fernbach Weininger, a Modernist furniture designer and cabinet maker who was also a Bauhaus grad, weren’t able to re-launch their furniture design business, and Andor’s one Canadian exhibition wasn’t well-received.”

“Not exactly the limelight for someone who Botar calls “one of the most important modernists to settle in Canada after the war.”

Weininger himself is quoted as saying of his time in Canada: “I tried to teach, but I was rejected. I tried to do furniture design, but there was no interest in modern furniture design in Canada. So I painted, but I couldn’t exhibit my works. I was rejected each time.”

Later he added: “I was absolutely depressed in Canada...”

Although Botar makes a case for Weininger’s culpability in his own failure in Canada, he also points a finger squarely at the Canadian art community of the 1950s. “That’s when the Canadian Modernist movement was really starting to emerge. They should have recognized what they had.”

 Ironically, it was only after Weininger and his family were preparing to move to New York in 1958 that the Canadian art community finally started to recognize that a great Bauhaus innovator was in their midst.

Now more than 50 years after Weininger left Canada, Botar is shining a light on him again with his new book, which focuses specifically on the six and half years he spent in Toronto. Botar calls it one of Weininger’s most prolific periods, as his 280-page book demonstrates with its hundreds of illustrations of Weininger’s work.

The book is actually the second stage of a partnership struck between Anita Yonues, the artist’s niece and head of the Weininger Foundation of San Antonio (the book’s principal funder) and the University of Manitoba School of Art’s Gallery One One One.

In 2001 Botar arranged for the donation of some 160 Weininger works to the Foundation to Gallery One One One. The donation was followed in 2004 with an exhibition at Gallery One One One: “From Bauhaus to our House in Etobicoke: Andor Weininger in the 50s” and the establishment of a Weininger webpage on the Gallery’s website. (http://bit.ly/SUFdS) Since that time, the site, established by gallery director and art professor Cliff Eyland, has been the web’s number one site on Weininger.

In 2009, Botar succeeded in convincing the three Canadian galleries that received donations from the Weininger Foundation to join forces and make available to them his works for an even more comprehensive exhibition on Weininger’s Canadian years. This past May and June, his exhibition “A Bauhausler in Canada: Andor Weininger in the 50s,” including works from Gallery One One One, the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa, and the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in Toronto was put on display in Oshawa.

Botar says that several of those who specialize in Canadian art told him that the Oshawa exhibition was a “revelation,” as most of them knew little or nothing about Weininger.

This exhibition and book are the only Canadian contributions to a major series of exhibitions and publications on both sides of the Atlantic celebrating the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Bauhaus in Weimar, Germany. Botar himself participated in the “Bauhaus Global” conference held in Berlin this September.

A Bauhausler in Canada, Andor Weininger in the ’50s will be released officially on November 18 at an event being held at the University of Manitoba’s Gallery One One One. The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. as part of the opening of the second stage of the Gallery’s “Border Crossings Study Centre” show. All are welcome to attend.

Botar will then fly to New York to officially launch the book in the US. That event will be held on November 24 at the Hungarian Consulate in New York City, in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition of Weininger’s works. These events are being coordinated with a day-long symposium on the Bauhaus being held at the Museum of Modern Art on November 20th, in which Botar has been invited to participate.

Art History professor Oliver Botar explores the Canadian years of Bauhaus artist Andor Weininger in his book A Bauhausler in Canada: Andor Weininger in the ’50s.
Letters to the Editor
Dear Editor;
I attended convocation last Thursday, and I have just finished reading the current edition of The Bulletin. In both instances, I noticed that the focus of convocation is NOT on the graduating students, but on professors, dignitaries, etc. I am absolutely in favour of recognizing career achievement and do not belittle the accomplishments of these individuals at all. However, I do think that the students, the whole reason for having a convocation, are forgotten. Why do you not have a write-up of the students, who are the whole reason for the elaborate ceremony of recognizing career achievement and do not belittle the accomplishments of these individuals at all. However, I do think that the students, the whole reason for having a convocation, are forgotten. Why do you not have a write-up of the students, who are the whole reason for the elaborate ceremony?

T.H.: To me good service means courteous service providers working within an efficient process. From a research perspective, good service means working with documented processes which can support quality proposals and lead to positive competition results. Quality service translates into access to the information that you need to support the anticipated budget reduction. At the end of the day, the university will be a better place for students and staff as a result of this project.

If one of the key deliverables of this project is to enhance the quality of service, what does good service look like to you?

T.H.: To me good service means knowledgeable, committed and courteous service providers working within an efficient process. From a research perspective, good service means working with documented processes which can support quality proposals and lead to positive competition results. Quality service translates into access to the right information from the right people in the right time frame.

In your view, why is Project ROSE important?

T.H.: In my opinion, it is imperative that we find new ways to improve service, reduce costs, eliminate duplication, share resources, leverage technology and apply best practices. In the coming months, the Bulletin will feature interviews with faculty and support staff involved with the projects.

What opportunities for improvement do you see in your area?

T.H.: One major opportunity would be move to a paperless process, utilizing electronic systems for processing grant proposals, contracts and necessary protocols. This would support a more efficient and effective process. We are in the early stages of starting such a project in one of our units. Another opportunity exists for website enhancement to increase information sharing on research opportunities, including internal and external deadlines.

What is your role on the project team?

T.H.: My role is to help my PwC team members understand how “we do business” within the Office of Research Services (ORS). I connect the project team with key members of the research community and provide background documentation, which includes policies and standard operating procedures. I also play a role in identifying potential project challenges and issues, and act as a sounding board as we continue to gather information and form initial findings.

What opportunities for improvement do you see in your area?

T.H.: I am involved in implementing online application My Research Tools. We are also involved in implementing additional software to support and connect our research data between units i.e. Ethics Offices.
Research Associate Positions

The University of Manitoba anticipates research associate positions available over the next six months beginning November 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 to host a diverse group of investigators and expect excellent research accomplishments each academic year. Applications are now being accepted. Interested parties are encouraged to apply. The University reserves the right to fill any of these positions or extend the closing dates.

The University of Manitoba is committed to employment equity including accommodations for applicants with disabilities. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Application materials will be kept in confidence.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a brief statement of research interests, and the names and addresses of three referees. In the case of academic appointments, names and addresses of the heads of the academic units and the numbers of the specific fields are to be provided. Applications for medical professional positions should be accompanied by a current curriculum vitae, list of publications, and names of three referees. Application forms and further information are available on the University of Manitoba’s web site (wwwumanitoba.ca) or via email to HRMHR@umanitoba.ca.

The University appreciates the interest of all applicants, however only those under consideration will be contacted.

Applicant qualifications should not be limited by these positions, and interested parties are encouraged to apply.

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In Brief

Treaties Today

Aboriginal governance researcher describes historical documents as tools for change

By Katie Chalmers-Brooks

The state of First Nation reserves today is a lesson in "colonialism 101," says Ladner, noting the tremendous economic and cultural "dispossession" of Aboriginal people that followed. She says while most Canadians are aware of the "absolutely appalling" details surrounding the residential schools scandal, most don't know anything about Aboriginal history or the many Canadian policies that caused economic and cultural "dispossession," she says. Ladner says her efforts are futile if her people involved in her research, she'll introduce them to post-secondary education. And before long, she'll have a physical space where she can make this happen.

Ladner recently received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund to establish a research centre called Mamawipawin (Cree for gathering place) on the fourth floor of the Tabler Building. The space will have an adjacent lab to record interviews and house a digital archive.

Hawaiians

Ladner’s quest for knowledge also extends south of the border to Indigenous Peoples in Hawaii, which was illegally occupied by the United States in 1887. Ladner said the move had similar negative affects on the Aboriginal population there as it has here. She has been working with Indigenous Hawaiians who have been actively reclaiming their culture, language and control over their land during the last four decades.

"Some of the lessons I've learned there are things I would like to bring back here," she says.

Ladner acknowledges that change doesn't happen overnight but she is determined to contribute in some way if relations don't improve, she fears there will be more resistance similar to the Oka Crisis in 1990 when the Quebec town tried to build a golf course on Aboriginal burial ground land to the dismay of the Mohawk nation.

"If we don't work on both sides of the problem, I see another Oka — but something far more catastrophic and far greater, if we can manage to rebuild, to fully engage in reconciliation, I see a Canada based on the treaties," Ladner says.

She is currently compiling a collection of works by indigenous and non-indigenous academics, activists, and poets about the impact of the Oka Crisis. This is an Honour Song 20 Years after the Blockades is scheduled to launch July 11, 2010, two decades to the day that a SWAT team stormed the site. Ladner says very little progress has been made since the crisis, which is "disheartening" for the Mohawk people involved and which drives her to find solutions through her research.

"I don't want to see any kids, any young people on a blockade with guns, facing off with military ever again," she says. "But the reality is: that’s what’s going to happen if something doesn't change. And what is Canada going to do? Either we start to engage in these issues now and learn now or we face each other at a blockade."

To learn more, come to a free public presentation by Ladner called "We are all Treaty People: Governing in Accordance with the Treaties" Nov 18 at 7 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 230.

Faculty of Arts professor Kiera Ladner says treaties are "the bedrock" of our constitution.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

A framed black-and-white photograph of three young girls sits on a shelf in Kiera Ladner's office, next to scores of books about Canadian politics. The photo of the girls, cuddled in close, one of them clutching a doll, is special to the political studies professor for a few reasons: not only are the smiling youngsters her adored nieces, they represent the future.

"When I think about why I do what I do, I think about those coming generations," says Ladner.

Her research on Aboriginal governance, in particular the huge impact colonialism has had on Indigenous Peoples and the search for a way "we can all live here together in a mutually agreeable and mutually beneficial manner," she says. Ladner learns from Elders and pores over historical treaties going back 200-plus years (some of them signed with blood), in addition to memoirs and journals written by non-indigenous people who negotiated these agreements.

For Aboriginal people, treaties were a vehicle to cope with settlers who wanted to share their land. These documents didn’t discuss “one controlling another. It was about both nations living under the Queen," says Ladner, whose research suggests the British saw things differently.

“While the Queen’s people were negotiating for as long as the sun shines and the grass grows and the water flows – which is the text of almost every treaty – they were thinking that Aboriginal people would be dead in 30 years and there would be no treaty obligations.”

Colonialism 101

The state of First Nation reserves today is a lesson in "colonialism 101," says Ladner, noting the tremendous economic and cultural "dispossession" of Aboriginal people that followed. She says while most Canadians are aware of the “absolutely appalling" details surrounding the residential schools scandal, most don’t know anything about Aboriginal history or the many Canadian policies that caused economic suffering.

Ladner says the more she familiarizes herself with treaties, the better equipped she is to come up with new ideas about how we can all live side by side more harmoniously. She describes herself as a “bridge-builder” and would like to see the relationship depicted in treaties become reality.

“My work is really about how we move on, and I use the treaties as the tool box. Although they weren’t followed, they are there. Those treaties are what allow the Canadian government to be here. So when you look at it constitutionally treaties are the bedrock,” explains Ladner, noting it’s a topic that is discussed more frequently now that treaty-related legal cases have hit the Canadian court system.

A Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance, Ladner said her efforts are futile if her research doesn't make sense to everyday people in the community. Soon, she'll invite a few dozen Aboriginal youth from across the province to the university. Not only will she get these young people involved in her research, she'll introduce them to post-secondary education. And before long, she'll have a physical space where she can make this happen.

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"While the Queen's people were negotiating for as long as the sun shines and the grass grows and the water flows – which is the text of almost every treaty – they were thinking that Aboriginal people would be dead in 50 years and there would be no treaty obligations."
She sings even better in the shower

Sean Moore
The Bulletin

Faculty of Music instructor Tracy Dahl received one of this year’s Opera Canada Ruby Awards, given annually to four Canadian artists who have made a significant contribution to opera in Canada. “It’s fantastic to win because one of the drawbacks of being a Canadian is we tend not to celebrate our own very often and when this award began ten years ago it was a way of recognizing those who contributed in the past and those who are still contributing, and to be recognized with the other three is a huge honour,” Dahl, a coloratura soprano currently performing in Edmonton, said. “I don’t know that if this will have any profound effect on prolonging my career or just affirming that it has been careers so it will be interesting to see what effect it will have.” Dahl, a three-time Juno nominee, has been performing for 25 years and teaching at the U of M for about 13 years. And although her schedule can be difficult to work around her students and the Faculty are pleased that they have a teacher still active in the field. As Dahl notes, while some professors publish papers or write books to be active in their work, she performs across North America. “The Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music is very fortunate to have Tracy Dahl as an instructor and colleague,” Dean of Music Edmund Dawe said. “She is a fine teacher and a first-rate artist who has earned international accolades for her work in numerous operatic roles and recitals.” But, does she sing in the shower? “Yes. I love singing in the shower although I only really do it when I’m in a hotel and not paying for the water bill. I love singing in the shower. The warm moist air is great for the voice and everyone sounds better in the shower.” These prestigious awards are named in honour of Ruby Mercer, the founding editor of Opera Canada Magazine. The award ceremony was held in Toronto in mid-October. In the last few years, Ms. Dahl has travelled to Tampa Bay and Regina to sing the role of Adelina in Die Fledermaus. She appeared as Blüdhchen in a concert version of Die Entführung aus dem Serail with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, and performed Off’s Carmina Burana with the Oregon Symphony. Ms Dahl’s recent engagements include Norina in Don Pasquale in Calgary and Edmonton.

‘Blue Out’ includes Brown and Gold

Come cheer on the Blue and Gold this Sunday, as the game will include three former University of Manitoba Bison football stars. Bombers’ defensive ends Justin Shaw and Don Oramasionwu, and defensive back and special teams specialist Brady Browne all honed their skills on the grass of University Stadium. Browne, a one-of-a-kind defensive back and special teams specialist Brady Browne all honed their skills on the grass of University Stadium right here at the U of M. There’s a lot of Brown and Gold pride here.”

“W hen I was playing for the Bisons I always dreamed about playing pro for the Bombers,” says Browne. “Playing for this team has been amazing, and with Justin and Don in the locker room, it’s even better. Not a day goes by where we’re not talking about our time at the U of M. There’s a lot of Bison pride here.”

All three players had memorable careers as Bisons and were part of the Vanier Cup winning team of 2007. Browne was a 2007 Canada West Conference All-Star and a 2007 Second Team All-Canadian. Oramasionwu was a 2005-06 Academic All-Canadian. And Shaw was a 2006 Canada West Conference All-Star and holds the Bison record for most fumbles recovered in a career. On November 8th, the Bombers will try to continue their winning ways when they take on the Hamilton Ti-Cats, who are battling the Bombers for second spot in the East. “We need a lot of support for that game,” says Browne. “We need our fans to be the ‘13th man’ on our team.”

Don’t miss out on cheering for the Blue Bombers and the University of Manitoba Bison alumni during this pivotal game. Tickets are currently being offered at a reduced rate, so let’s bring a little Brown and Gold fever to the Blue Out! To purchase reduced rate tickets for the November 8th game go to www.bluebombers.com, click on “Purchase Tickets”, choose the amount of tickets in the “Women’s and Special Offers” category and type “blueout” into the promotion code while quantities last.

See you at the game!