Guitar Hero Wins Big

University of Manitoba student wins $10,000 scholarship

BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE

The Bulletin

A University of Manitoba music student has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Domenic Troiano Guitar Scholarship. One $10,000 scholarship is presented annually to a Canadian guitarist pursuing post-secondary guitar education in Canada or elsewhere. Jordan Laidlaw, a third-year performance student in the Faculty of Music, was informed in January that his entry won.

Applicants for the award are judged on dedication to their craft, previous successes and their talent. Submissions also include a two-song demo of the applicant playing lead guitar with backup or band — and a brief description of the music program to which the scholarship will be applied.

"I anticipate earning a Bachelor of Education as well as a Master’s of Music," Laidlaw said.

Laidlaw, who is also a composer, included one of his own pieces. "It was one of my compositions that was viewed favourably by the trustees for the scholarship," he said.

Trustees of the Domenic Troiano Guitar Scholarship include Alex Lifeson of Rush, Triumph's Rik Emmett and the award's co-founders, Jim Norris of Canadian Music Trade magazine and John Harris, president both of the Toronto-based music industry school Harris Institute for the Arts and of Metronome Canada.

Laidlaw was roughly 11 years old when he started to play guitar. He fell in love with the instrument after being enrolled in a public junior high school guitar program, and he continued private studies with Skender Sefa, now-president of the Winnipeg Classical Guitar Society. Laidlaw began to invest more time in practice — up to eight hours a day in summer.

Now, says Laidlaw, he practises at least two hours per day.

A full time student, Laidlaw practises at least 2 hours per day. Photo by Heidi Friesen

"I played it once in the popular video game Guitar Hero," Laidlaw responded, "I played it once and that was enough!"

The Domenic Troiano Guitar Scholarship is named in honour of the late Domenic Troiano, a respected, influential guitar player who appeared on the successful hits "American Woman" by The Guess Who. The scholarship was founded by Troiano's colleagues from Canadian Music Trade magazine and the Harris Institute after his death in 2005.

The scholarship was awarded to Laidlaw at the same ceremony at which the prestigious 2010 Domenic Troiano Guitar Scholarship was presented to him.

"This new funding from CIHR is welcome recognition of both the high calibre of our health researchers and the importance of their work to all Canadians," said Digvir Jayas, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. "I congratulate all members of the research teams on their success in this funding competition."
In The News

With Still More to Come

February 6, 2010


University of Manitoba professor David Barber, the lead investigator of the Circumpolar Flaw Lead System study, which began in July of 2007 and involved over 300 scientists from around the world, shared the preliminary results of the team’s findings with media. Gary Stern, Steve Ferguson and John Hanekom, among others, were also quoted by media and shared their thoughts on the work they conducted as part of the CFL study.

The preliminary findings, for example, show that rapidly melting Arctic sea ice is changing the world’s weather, releasing contaminants into the food chain and threatening the survival of whales and polar bears.

Killing Them Softly

February 18, 2010


Arthur Schafer, director of the University of Manitoba’s Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics, shared his thoughts with media about euthanasia, saying that juries won’t convict an assisted suicide or euthanasia case if they’re convinced the motivation of the accused was genuinely merciful. The story comes on the heels of a newly released study that found, as all others have in the past two decades, that Canadians support legalizing euthanasia.

Funding Injection

continued from page 1

Canada Research Chair in Molecular Cardiology Lorrie Kirchenbaum, physiology and St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, will receive $747,580 over five years to investigate cardiac protective factors that may exist to reduce heart cell death. This will provide new important information regarding the molecular mechanisms that regulate cardiac cell survival during disease conditions.

Elissavet Kardami, with co-investigators Peter Cattini and Davinder Jassal, human anatomy & cell science, physiology and St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, will receive $818,110 over five years to study abnormal heart growth and a protein believed to be involved in promoting that growth (FGF2) when synthesized as a larger size molecule during heart disease, as well as factors/strategies that may prevent and even reverse abnormal growth.

To investigate the protective factors of the human gene known as IRF-1 for potential development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine, T. Blake Ball, medical microbiology, will receive $395,586 over three years. A group of women who are highly exposed to HIV/AIDS, but do not become infected may provide an answer. IRF-1 has been shown to help HIV replicate and is important in the immune response of humans to the infection.

Canada Research Chair in Resistance and Susceptibility to Infections Francis Plummer, medical microbiology, with co-investigators T. Blake Ball and Ma Luo, will receive $358,392 over three years to identify and characterize the immunologically relevant HIV epitopes (cells involved in the human immune system response) that can be included in a T cell based vaccine.

Xiao-Jian Yao, medical microbiology, will receive $100,000 for one year to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying HIV/host protein interactions and the role this plays in HIV replication. One of the goals of this project is to provide a proof-of-concept for the interactions as novel targets for the development of new strategies to block HIV infection.

Canada Research Chair in Environmental and Health Risk Communication Michelle Driedger, community health sciences, will receive funding for two projects. With co-investigators Cynthia Jardine (University of Alberta) and Jennifer Keelan (University of Toronto), Driedger will receive $318,065 over two years to examine how well the pandemic communication strategies of public health agencies worked. The project will also make concrete recommendations on how to improve risk communication planning for future outbreaks to better meet the information needs of front-line healthcare workers and the Canadian public.

With co-investigators, Christopher Furgal (Trent University), Cynthia Jardine (University of Alberta), and Judith Bartlett (University of Manitoba), Driedger will receive $604,326 over three years to examine the various factors that affect the trust of the public in decision-maker action on risk to the health of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

To examine the effect suicide has on surviving family members, James Bolton, psychiatry, with co-investigators Brenda Elias, Laurence Katz, Patricia Martens, Leslie Roos and Jitender Sareen, will receive $137,296 over two years. Study findings will help identify the problems faced by suicide survivors, leading to better resources and treatment for people in need.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the Government of Canada’s agency for health research. CIHR’s mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health-care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to nearly 13,000 health researchers and trainees across Canada.

The Bulletin
**Bannatyne Campus**

**Fort Garry Campus**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Events Listing University of Manitoba**

**Fort Garry Campus**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Department of Immunology

Annual Winnipeg Art Lecture

**Presentation, Influence of Parasite-derived Arginase on the Quality of Memory Art-Like Immunity by Helen Muleme, Alec Sehon Seminar Room (477 Apotex Centre), 12 p.m., Thursday, February 25.**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Series

Steve Whyard, Department of Biological Sciences, 527 Buller, 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 26.


UMH New Faculty Colloquium Series Public Talk, Youth, technology and the Internet, and the Localisation of Transnational Projects in Eastern Europe by Anna Fournier, Anthropology, 409 Tier, 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 26.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

School of Art Visiting Artist Talk, Artist Tony Scherman visits Winnipeg in conjunction with the opening of the Winnipeg Art Gallery of his exhibition, Tony Scherman: A Major Acquisition. The Winnipeg Art Gallery will host a public talk at 100: Building for the Future by Stephen Borys, Scholar in Residence, Current Executive Director at the WAG, 207 Fitzgerald Bldg, 4:00 p.m., March 2.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3**

Leon Leyson remembers, the youngest survivor on “Schindler’s List” will tell his story of life as a child in the factory of Oskar Schindler, 343 Drake Centre, 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 3.

School of Art Visiting Artist Talk, Artist Tony Scherman will discuss his encaustic paintings, Art Barn, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 3.

UMH Spotlight Series Public Talk, Slave owner, Missionary, and Colonization Agent: Tracing a Pattern of Paternalism from Barbados to the Canadian North-West, 1835-1884 by Ryan Efroyd, PhD Candidate, History, 409 Tier, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 3.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4**

Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics lecture: “Bleeding Hearts and Tanks in the Streets: The Problem of Emergency Powers in a Democracy” by Professor Nomi Lazar, Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa. Private Dining Room, University College, 12:30-1:30, Thursday, March 4.

Leon Leyson remembers, the youngest survivor on “Schindler’s List” will tell his story of life as a child in the factory of Oskar Schindler, 343 Drake Centre, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 4.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

Faculty of Music Jazz Master Class featuring Mulgrew Miller, 7:00 p.m., The Annex, Friday, March 5.

**Colloquium in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Update on the Manitoba Institute for Materials by Bill Caley, Director, Manitoba Institute for Materials, 330 Alien Building, 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 5.**

**Department of Economics Seminar, The Economics of Contingent Re-Auctions by S. Brisco, Giuseppe Lepomo, L. Marx, SUNY-Stony Brook, Duke University and Fuqua School of Business, 307 Tier Building, 2:40 p.m., Friday, March 5.**

**MONDAY, MARCH 8**

Graduate Nursing Association and Nursing Student Council is hosting a $1 clothing sale to support a student studying to be a nurse in Kenya, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Fletcher Argue, Monday, March 8.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10**

School of Art Visiting Artist Performance, AVATAR by Freya Olfaton, a Winnipeg artist reprises her solo performance that explores methods of creating, validating and disseminating one’s identity through the use of technology and the Internet, Art Barn, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 10.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12**


**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Gallery One One One**

**GALLERY ONE ON ONE**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

**Bannatyne Campus and St. Boniface General Hospital and Research Centre**

Medical rounds are typically targeted directly involved in the medical field.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Pediatric Grand Rounds, The Presurgical Patient With Congenital Heart Disease: Aiming for a nice shade of blue by Michael Narvey, neonatologist, Stollery Children’s Hospital, Edmonton, Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building (linked to St. Boniface NG002), 8:00 a.m., Thursday, February 25.

**Pediatric Research Rounds, The Influence of HLA Class II Antigens and Mother-Child HIV Transmission, MaLou, PhD, adjunct professor, Department of Medical Microbiology Research Scientist, National Microbiology Laboratory, Room 500, Boardroom, John Buchler Research Centre, 12 p.m., Thursday, February 25.**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

Pediatric Research Rounds, Academic Presentation, Regan Spencer, Rn | L397A, 12 p.m., Friday, February 26.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

16th Annual Centre on Ageing Research Forum, Educational Research – Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches by John Creswell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 12 p.m., Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A), Bannatyne Campus. Following his lecture Dr. Creswell will conduct a workshop in 5211 Medical Services Building from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Friday, March 26, registration by fax to 474-7576 or email jacobs@cc.umanitoba.ca.

**Starting a business? Don’t know where to turn?**

Get free information* from the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic at the Faculty of Law.

The clinic is designed for entrepreneurs who require information regarding new business organizations: incorporation, partnership, sole proprietorship and non-profit.

Call 474-9249.

*Students do not give legal advice.
Hey everyone. I know it has been a while since my last post. It is a cliché but I am in full time school mode. While since my last post. It is a cliché but I am in full time school mode.

What’s new? Well, a few weeks ago I got to travel down to Fargo and compete in my first ever indoor track event outside of Winnipeg. I ran the 3000m (of course) and this was also my first indoor competition of the season since coming off the Philadelphia marathon in November. Based on my training and good workouts that I had been having over the holidays I felt that reaching my all time goal of running under 10 minutes was possible. The track in Fargo is shaped a bit different than ours in Max Bell as it is more oval shaped making the turns tighter. The building was also unusually warm inside for some reason that weekend too. These factors along with it being a long day (arriving at 11am and not racing until 5:30pm) took their toll on my performance. I ended up finishing in 10:12, a good enough time to open up the season with but there is definitely room for improvement. This weekend we are hosting the Bison Classic, a meet where other universities in CanWest will be visiting. I will be making another attempt at the 3000m. With me luck!

Other than running as usual, classes are keeping me busier than ever before. This semester I am taking 6 courses to end my undergrad degree. Somehow most of the courses I am in are assigned heavy whereas I am used to the more exam heavy type courses. On one hand I am eager to graduate but on the other I am also a bit nervous about the change that comes with finally graduating. For a long time I thought that heading down the research path and doing my Master’s degree was the way to go but now I am not so sure anymore. I am also considering entering the Education program and working towards becoming a Physical Education teacher. The thing about the Bachelor of Kinesiology degree is that it doesn’t train you for any specific job. Rather, you learn subject matter in a variety of related areas and earn a well rounded education in the topics of health, exercise and disease prevention, therapy, biomechanics, aging, etc. So, it is up to you to choose a particular area of interest and pursue opportunities in them. Time will tell where I eventually end up. I will keep you posted.

Looking forward to reading week already. Don’t have any plans to travel or anything like that but am anxious to get ahead in course work, run and maybe catch up on seeing some movies.

Barret Hildebrandt is one of nine University of Manitoba students contributing regular blogs as part of the U of M More campaign. You can read their stories and get a glimpse of student life at bmymore.ca.
Most ancient signs of life on earth found in sedimentary rock

A University of Manitoba researcher is one of an international team of geologists who have announced the discovery of what may be evidence of the oldest complex life formed on Earth. They found fossilized microorganisms that were deposited in ancient marine sediment about 3.2 billion years ago.

“These are the oldest large microfossils with significant implications for the evolution of life,” says André Bekker, geological sciences. Bekker, along with colleagues Emmanuelle Javux of the University of Liège and Craig Marshall of the University of Kansas, published their findings in this week’s issue of the journal Nature.

The researchers examined shale samples from drill cores 600 metres below the surface in South Africa. They found unmistakable fossilized microorganisms that had been well-preserved. This effectively pushes back the earliest evidence of complex life that lived on Earth to at least 3.2 billion years, which means that life on Earth began to form within less than one and a half billion years after planetary formation.

Previously, the oldest reliable evidence of advanced life found were fossilized bacteria in rock less than two billion years old.

He notes: “This discovery provides evidence that life was rather complex more than three billion years ago.”

Dr. Robert Kroetsch is to receive a Doctor of Canon Law (Honoris Causa) degree and will give the Convocation address. Kroetsch is one of the most prolific and influential of Canadian writers on whose work a vast body of scholarship has developed. His work is internationally known and translated and he is also well known for his generosity in encouraging and assisting upcoming writers. He was a professor at the State University of New York and at the University of Manitoba, where he was made first a distinguished professor and then a distinguished professor emeritus. Kroetsch’s contributions have been recognized by many awards, including a Governor General’s Award for fiction, a Killam Award and the Order of Canada. He was a Visiting Fellow at St John’s College from 2006 to 2009.

The Right Reverend Barbara Andrews is to receive a Doctor of Divinity (Jure Dignitatis) degree. Bishop Andrews graduated from the St John’s College Faculty of Theology in 1997 with a Bachelor of Theology. She was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Rupert’s Land that year and was ordained a priest the following year. She served in parish ministry and in an inner-city shared mission project where she pursued a passion for social justice. She also served as the executive director of Sorrento Centre. Bishop Andrews was consecrated Suffragan Bishop for the Kamloops-based Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior on October 18, 2009.

The Most Reverend James WeigSBerger will be awarded a Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) degree. Archbishop WeigSBerger is the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the chancellor of St Paul’s College. He has a long history of dedicated ministry to the people of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, including a strong ecumenical focus. A major endeavour of Archbishop WeigSBerger’s ministry has been the reconciliation of aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In April 2009, while he was the president of the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, he organized the historic encounter in Rome between the Pope and a delegation of former students at residential schools, which went so far in helping to address the deep concerns of the aboriginal community.

St John’s College to award three honorary degrees this fall

To encourage the development of research, the University offers a number of research support programs. These programs are administered by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) on behalf of the University. For further information on these programs (i.e. program priorities and guidelines, applications procedures, etc.), contact the appropriate person listed below, or access the forms via the Web at: http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internalfunding_deadlines_forms.html

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<tr>
<th>Name of Program</th>
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<td>University Research Grants Program (URGP)</td>
<td>To support the growth of research at the University - highest priority is the provision of grants to new faculty members (those in the first 3 years of their appointment)</td>
<td>October 15 (New Staff) March 1 (Established Staff)</td>
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<td>UM/SSHRC Research Grants Program (UM/SSHRC RGP)</td>
<td>To provide support for small-scale research projects in the social sciences and humanities – open to researchers in disciplines supported by SSHRC</td>
<td>October 15 March 1</td>
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<td>UM/SSHRC International Conference Travel Grants Program (UM/SSHRC TGP)</td>
<td>To provide support for researchers to take part in international conferences of major scholarly significance – open to researchers in disciplines supported by SSHRC.</td>
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<td>University Creative Works Grants Program</td>
<td>To provide support for highly creative works at the University of Manitoba – highest priority is the provision of grants to new faculty members (those in the first 3 years of their appointment)</td>
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<td>Leave Research Grant Program</td>
<td>To designate part of applicant’s salary as a grant-in-aid of research conducted while on research/study leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-funded Research Grant Program</td>
<td>To designate part of an applicant’s salary as a grant-in-aid of research conducted while not on leave from the University (within one calendar year)</td>
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<td>Samuel Weiner Distinguished Visitor Award</td>
<td>To bring distinguished scholars who are making outstanding contributions to their field(s) of research to the University for visits of up to one month</td>
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What to do with caribou hooves

by SEAN MOORE

The Bulletin

In the 1950s William Pruitt followed migrating caribou in the Baker Lake and Churchill region of Canada’s North, keeping a hoarf of each felled animal. The biologist was surveying the animals with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the hooves served him no immediate purpose, but some call him a hoarder since he kept just about everything, from bread ties to moose scrotums, because he thought time could instill anything with purpose. Pruitt died in December of 2009, before he saw what purpose time endowed his collection with.

In 1963 he left Memorial University in Newfoundland and arrived to the zoology department at the University of Manitoba. The Duff Roblin Building was constructed that year and he put the 100 or so caribou hooves he collected in a box in the building’s attic, along with boxes of bear skulls and coyote skulls, baleen and bones, books and 20,000 neatly catalogued journal articles. (The books are so voluminous libraries hesitate to accept them because they lack the shelving space, although the Churchill Northern Studies Centre will take his collection of journal reprints and name the library after him.)

Indeed, he had so many things that when he moved here, in addition to filling vehicles with stuff, he rented and filled a train car. And for 60 years his stuff sat undisturbed in the Duff Roblin attic until a fire burned the building’s third floor in 2009, forcing researchers to remove their things so crews could cleanup and rebuild.

The task of dealing with Pruitt’s cache fell to his friend, former student, colleague and executor Rick Riewe, a zoology professor.

“He’s a hoarder. Nothing ever got thrown out. He kept things because they were interesting not because he was studying them” – he studied snow – “and all his stuff was forgotten about till the fire. We thought it would have all been destroyed but it wasn’t.”

The University of Manitoba archives are in the process of receiving Pruitt’s field notes, journals (his students’ too), slides, and published materials. Shelley Sweeney, head of archives and special collections, reckons it will be over 75 linear feet of material. A typical endowment from an individual is seven to 15 linear feet.

The skulls, bones and baleen now sit in a warehouse awaiting homes in museums and university collections. As for the hooves, they were shipped to Mitch Campbell, a wildlife biologist with the Nunavut government and Pruitt’s former student. He was more grateful than surprised to receive a shipment of caribou hooves because it will give him access to previously unobtainable information about such things as past caribou eating habits and genealogies of caribou herds.

“There’s a difference between a hoarder and a visionary and Pruitt was definitely a visionary. He may have been collecting a lot of stuff, but he had a vision that technology will make that stuff extremely useful. Some of the big breakthroughs in understanding wildlife will come from studying these old collections. So Pruitt will keep contributing where others won’t,” Campbell said.

This view influenced Campbell who, in the early 90s, kept caribou teeth in his lab’s freezer despite his manger’s requests to throw them away. He hid the teeth and recently, thanks to new technologies, Campbell can now subject them to detailed isotopic study, something he never thought possible in the early 90s.

“Pruitt taught me so much. Any value I am to anyone as a biologist because of him alone and I feel I can say that and not sound hokey.”

Pruitt didn’t like to discard. Moose scrotums became tobacco pouches, moose bladders became vessels for storing sourdough pancake batter in the field (sleep with it under your arm to get the batter just right for morning). He taught Riewe these tricks.

“We had a far better relationship,” Riewe said. “And all the jobs I got were based on the fact that I had this arcane knowledge he taught me rather than just zoology type information.”

Campus Cast

The University of Manitoba has launched its new podcast, Campus Cast. The podcast will be available on iTunes and in the U of M News Blog (http://umanitoba.ca/news/blog/).

Campus Cast is a regular radio show where researchers and scholars talk about their work and how it relates to life. The episodes offer glimpses into one of the thousands of topics U of M faculty explore.

Three episodes have already been released. The first guest is James Hare, biological sciences, who talks about the ongoing squirrel war in Manitoba, which is not unfolding as expected, and then he speaks about his research on squirrel communication.

The next show features economist Robert Chernomas whose book The Gatekeepers was recently released. The book and the podcast focus on Chernomas’s research into the political slant of the New York Times, arguably one of the most influential newspapers.

And at the time of publication, the most recent episode available for download features medical historian Kurt Markstrom discussing such things as how vital German composer Johann Sebastian Bach is to today’s rock ‘n roll music.

Upcoming episodes will feature biologist Mark Fryd, discusses how fat changes brains and entomologist Terry Galloway talking about the world of bugs.

Rare Book Room home to Literary Avant-garde collection

The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections’ Rare Book Room holds the Ukrainian Literary Avant-garde Periodical Collection. The collection includes such titles as Nova heneratsiia (The New Generation), Chervonyi shliakh (The Red Pathway), Krytyka (Criticism), Pluh (The Plough) and Hart (Tempering). All were published in Ukraine between the mid-1910s to the 1930s. A significant number of literary journals appeared in print during the 1920s – a time of great excitement and experimentation in the Arts. Ukraine as well as the other Soviet republics at the time were undergoing a national re-awakening of its language, literature, and culture. The theatre, the music and even the movable movements looked westward to developing their crafts, – as a result new publications expounding this new experimental era began being published. Among the literary figures that were closely associated with these publications include Ivan Dniprovs’kyi., Volodymyr Sosiura, Pavlo Tychyna, Mykola Kulish and Mykola Khvyl’ovy.

James Kominowski, Slavic Librarian/ Archivist
Meet Amber Anderson Skrabek. As External Communications Specialist for the Faculty of Engineering, Amber knows how important donor support was to getting the Engineering and Information Technology Complex built. That’s why she supported the campaign too.

Q: What makes you proud of the U of M?
A: We are the premiere educational institution in the province of Manitoba. We not only provide excellence in education and research, but we are an important economic driver for the province. I am very proud to be a part of such a vital community.

Q: Why do you support the Faculty of Engineering?
A: In my job I work closely with other donors, and am constantly exposed to the amazing activities of our alumni, faculty and students. What is happening in this building and on this campus has a long-standing impact in the world we live in. I want to be a part of that.

Q: What is your giving philosophy?
A: Working at the university has afforded me many opportunities I would not normally have had. I feel it is only appropriate to respond with giving that enables the university to continue to do what it does best... provide a top notch education to the best students in the province!

Campus as a Community

Visit: umanitoba.ca/admin/dev_adv
Join your colleagues in supporting your university.
Thin ice risky for northern Manitoba residents
U of M grad’s research focuses on Churchill River and climate change

In Manitoba, northern communities are likely to be among the hardest hit by the effects of global climate change because of geographic connectedness to the land and limited resources to adapt to changing conditions.

Justin Gilligan is a University of Manitoba graduate of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Earth, Environment, and Resources and the Centre for Earth Observation and Science. Gilligan recently authored Environmental Change and Off-Road Transportation in Churchill, Manitoba. His research focused on our ever-changing environment, specifically in regards to the Churchill River and its impact on residents.

“Residents of Churchill live on the east side of the Churchill River,” Gilligan explained. “In the spring, they cross the ice to take part in their annual goose hunt. But due to changes in the Budy, 753 the freeze-up and break-up of ice on the Churchill River and Hudson’s Bay, it puts residents in a dangerous situation.”

The people of northern Manitoba take big risks crossing the river when the ice is too thin. In some parts of the river, Gilligan says thin ice makes it absolutely impossible to cross.

“If you look back in the 1970s or 1980s, the ice would never be broken-up like it is today,” said Gilligan. “It was frozen solid. Residents never had to worry about situations they face now.”

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at umanitoba.ca. The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for openings at the university.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Position:** Assistant Professor  
Start date: July 1, 2010  
Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications  
**Application Deadline:** March 25, 2010  
**Position Number:** 11027  
For Information: Search Committee Chair, Department of Computer Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2 or phone (204) 474-6313, email: search@cs.umanitoba.ca

**FACULTY OF DENTISTRY**

**Department of Oral Biology**

**Position:** Associate, Assistant or Professor  
Start date: July 1, 2010  
Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications  
**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2010  
**Position Number:** 10864  
For Information: Dr. R. Bhullar, Head, Department of Oral Biology. 780 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3E 0W2, Fax: 204-789-3913, e-mail: bhullar@cc.umanitoba.ca

**FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

**Neuroscience Research Program**

**Klesyion Institute of Advanced Medicine**

**Winnipeg Regional Health Authority**

**Position:** Assistant or Associate Professor  
Start date: July 1, 2010  
Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience  
**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2010  
**Position Number:** 10631, 10632, 10633, 10634, 10635  
For Information: Dr. Kevin Coombs, Associate Dean of Research (kcoombs@cc.umanitoba.ca) or Dr. Xin-Min Li, Director of the Neuroscience Research Program (ximin_li@cc.umanitoba.ca), Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, R3T 2N2 Canada. Telephone: (204) 474-9219; Fax: (204) 789-3942.

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES**

**Department of Entomology**

**Position:** Assistant or Associate Professor, Curator of the J.B. Wallis Museum of Entomology  
Start date: July 1, 2010  
Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications  
**Application Deadline:** April 15, 2010  
**Position Number:** 10948  
For Information: Dr. M.L. Connor, Chair, Search Committee - SE, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2 Canada. Telephone: (204) 474-9219; Fax: (204) 474-7628; e-mail: mconnor@cc.umanitoba.ca

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**The University of Manitoba**

**Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. Program**

Research Day Keynote Address:

Science, the Media and Communication of Controversy and Risk

John Robert Finnegan Jr., Ph.D.
Professor and Dean  
Assistant Vice President for Public Health, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

Dr. Finnegan joined the Public Health Faculty in 1986, where he developed a research and teaching program focusing on public health and the mass media. Today, he is a recognized scholar and researcher in the field, publishing in the scientific literature, serving often on National Institutes of Health (NIH) panels, and a frequent national and local speaker on related topics. His research in health communication has focused especially on the socio-economic and community origins of differences in population exposure to health information and their relationship to health outcomes.

9:00 am Friday March 5, 2010
Marshall McCulhan Hall, 204 University Centre

AHS Ph.D. Student Presentations & Poster Competition  
(Presentations to commence following Keynote Address; posters on display all day, students will attend their posters from noon – 1 p.m.)

Participating units in the Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. Program are: Human Ecology, Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Medical Rehabilitation, Nursing

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**University of Manitoba Professors elected to the Royal Society of Canada**

We are extremely proud to honour three University of Manitoba professors as new Fellows to the Royal Society of Canada: Dr. Digey Jayas, Dr. Noralou Roos, and Dr. Ron Stewart. A fourth professor, Dr. Kenneth Standing, was named a medal winner by the Society.

Founded in 1822, the Royal Society of Canada is the most prestigious scholarly organization in the country. RSC Fellows are elected by their peers for outstanding contributions to humanities, sciences and social sciences.

This election brings the university’s total to 43 RSC Fellows.
**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**MMSF/MHRC DR. F.W. DU VAL CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP**

The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation, the Manitoba Health Research Council and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, invite applications from individuals as candidates for the MMSF/MHRC Dr. F.W. Du Val Clinical Research Professorship Award, to be effective July 1, 2010. The intent of the award is to promote clinical research in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba for the general benefit of health research in Manitoba.

Candidates must be physicians licensed to practice in Manitoba with a faculty appointment in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba and must be engaged in research related to the health field. Candidates must be judged to be in the early stages of a successful research career as a physician scientist. Candidates must have been engaged in independent research for not more than 7 years and should have received one or more grants from a national granting agency, such as the CIHR, and should have a satisfactory publication record in peer-reviewed journals.

The Award is given for a period of three years. It may not be held concurrently with another personal career award and is not renewable. The Award consists of a contribution of $50,000 per annum to the awardee's salary during the three-year term. During the tenure of the award the awardee must guarantee a 50% time commitment to research. The appointment will be subject to annual reviews.

A one-year term grant-in-aid to the appointee of up to $20,000 may be made during the first year of the appointment.

Applicants shall use the CIHR New Investigator Award application form which consists of a CV Module and a Research Module. The original plus eight copies of the application with supporting letters of recommendation, must be submitted no later than April 1, 2010 to:

Dr. K. Coombs, Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
Room A108 Chown Building
753 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0T6

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**Public Lectures**

**“Bleeding Hearts and Tanks in the Streets: The Problem of Emergency Powers in a Democracy”**

**PROFESSOR NOMI LAZAR**

Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa.

**Thursday, 4th March, 12:30-1:30**

Private Dining Room, University College

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**“The Crack Made Me Do It: Can we hold addicts responsible for their actions?”**

**PROFESSOR GIDEON YAFFE**

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Law, University of Southern California.

His books include: *Dying and Attesting: Cones (Delford, furtheream) and Liberty Worth the Name (Princeton)*

**Friday, 26th March, 12:30-1:30**

Concourse Lounge, University College

Everyone is welcome to attend these events.

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**Advertise in the Bulletin**

For details call 474 8111

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**The Faculty of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Yuewen Gong as Associate Dean (Research) and Dr. Lavern Vercaigne as Associate Dean (Academic) effective January 1, 2010.**

**Dr. Gong, B.M. (Beijing), M.Sc. (Beijing), Ph.D. (Manitoba)** received his Bachelor of Medicine in Traditional Chinese Medicine from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, the M.Sc. in pathophysiology from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Ph.D. in Molecular Endocrinology in the Department of Physiology at the University of Manitoba. After graduation he completed postdoctoral training at the Mayo Clinic and the University of Manitoba. Dr. Gong joined the University of Manitoba in 1997 and was promoted to professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2007. He has been involved in research and teaching in both undergraduate and graduate levels in the Faculty. The focus of Dr. Gong’s research program is to understand the mechanism of liver fibrosis and cancer, and to develop treatments for these conditions.

**Dr. Vercaigne, B.Sc. (Pharm) (Manitoba), Pharm.D (Toronto)** began his academic career in 1995 with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Pharmacy after receiving his Pharm.D. degree from the University of Toronto. While at the Faculty, Dr. Vercaigne has been extensively involved in curriculum development and implementation. He has been an active member on the Curriculum Committee continuously for the last 10 years, serving as chair from 2000-2004 and again in 2010. On a national level, Dr. Vercaigne was a council member of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC) for six years and served as its president in the 2002-2003 academic year. He is currently chair of the Committee for Clinical Practice and a member of the Board of Directors of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC). Dr. Vercaigne has an active clinical practice and research program in collaboration with the Manitoba Renal Program. His research interest primarily includes management of central venous catheter infection and thromboembolism in hemodialysis patients. In 2007, Dr. Vercaigne was awarded the Bonnie Schultz Memorial Award for Practice Excellence and in 2008, the Pharmacist of the Year Award by the Manitoba Pharmacist Association.

The appointments are effective until June 30, 2011.

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**Life as a child in the factory of Oskar Schindler**

The youngest survivor on “Schindler’s List” will tell his story of life in Oskar Schindler’s factory at two public lectures.

Leon Leyson was 10 years old when the Nazi’s occupied Poland and shortly after his father managed to get his family’s names on the list of Schindler’s workers, probably sparing them from extermination camps during the Second World War. Leyson worked 12-hour shifts in Schindler’s factory. The SS called him “Little Leyson”. On March 3 and 4 Leyson will tell his stories in a lecture titled “On Schindler’s list: Leon Leyson Remembers”. He will talk about Poland before the war, during the war, the ghetto, the factory and Schindler’s maneuvering to spare as many Jewish lives as possible. Leyson was invited to the Fort Garry Campus by the Asper School of Business’s MBA program and before his public lectures he will give a closed-door presentation to the MBA students about executive responsibility.

Professor Reg Utz is organizing this year’s event.

“Every year our goal is to give students a moment to think about something that will stay with them, and this year we are focusing on entrepreneurial managers with strong principles. This year’s lecture will tell a few stories, one of which will be about a manager who saved lives.”

The public lectures are as follows: Wednesday, March 3, at 1 p.m. in room 343 of the Drake Centre; and Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of University Centre. The lectures will be about 90 minutes long.

The event is made possible thanks to support from the Jewish Foundation, the Winnipeg Foundation, the University of Manitoba Distinguished Lectures Series and the Asper School of Business.
Former Olympic speed skater champions robots and other autonomous agents

BY MARIJANNE MAY'S VIEBE
The Bulletin

Computer Science professor Jacky Baltes didn’t start his career working on robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning. His first passion in life was speed skating, and as a three-time national champion, he represented Germany at the 1984 Sarajevo and 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

Baltes was always interested in computers and robotics, and taught himself programming on an Apple IIe, which he had converted into a portable computer so that he could carry it to training camps and competitions. After the 1988 Olympics, he decided that it was time to get serious about becoming a computer scientist.

As professor at the Autonomous Agents Laboratory in the Faculty of Science, Baltes has been working with robotics for more than 10 years. Along with his students, he (and fellow computer scientist John Anderson) have been competing successfully in the international Robocup and FIRA competitions in places like China, the US, Korea and Austria, against much larger universities with major funding sources.

Baltes and his students work with different types of robots. Some run on wheels and some are more human-like and walk. “Working with the wheeled robots is easier,” says Baltes, “because you don’t have to worry about balance.” One of the challenges for walking robots is the climbing-wall event, where the steps to ascend cannot be pre-programmed and the robot has to be able to maneuver up the wall dynamically. Again, reasoning that would be easier for a human than to program into a robot.

The most recent addition to the lab has been Archie, the 1.2 meter tall humanoid robot built by the Technical University of Technology at a cost of $200 thousand. For the Autonomous Agents Lab, Archie was a windfall, but to put it in perspective, Archie competes against robots, like a recent Japanese team entered, worth $3 million. You’d have to have the determination of an Olympic to successfully compete against those odds.

Working with robots isn’t all about toys and games; its purpose has a much more serious side in real-world applications. Robots are used in search and rescue efforts so that robots, rather than people, can be sent in to dangerous situations, like burning buildings, to search for survivors. We’ve all heard about their use in everything from space exploration, car-assembly plants to bomb-disposal units.

Although working with robots involves many long hours, a lot of dedication and hard work, as Baltes and his students can attest, graduates from the program are recruited by many companies including Canadian NRC labs and Bank of America. They have worked on animation in the film industry on such films as Journey to the Centre of the Earth (3D version), Superman Returns, Happy Feet 2, and the most recent blockbuster Avatar. They also developed a robotics art project for Reva Stone, a local artist: combining art and science.

The passion and drive that first took Baltes to the Olympics is now channeled, with his students, into robotics competitions, and the hard work has paid off as the team competes successfully around the world. In 2009, Baltes became a member of IROC, the International Robot Olympiad.

Dr. Bruce Homer is a world-renowned expert on how children learn to communicate, from language acquisition to symbolic understanding. From birth, children are exposed to a diverse array of signs, including pictures, numbers, writing and language itself. These signs are initially means of communication but are later adapted as modes of thought. Homer’s applied research includes the development of software and educational games to help children learn more efficiently.

Friday, March 5
3 p.m.
107 Drake Centre
University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus

All are welcome. Free admission.

For more information, contact Dr. Judy Chipperfield at 474-6790

University of Manitoba Merit Awards for 2009

Applications and nominations for the Merit Awards for UMFA members are now being accepted. The awards are for the 2009 calendar year. Article 25 of the Collective Agreement between The University of Manitoba and The University of Manitoba Faculty Association provides for Merit Awards of $3,000 each. Awards are available in four specified categories:

a) Teaching - up to eight (8) awards;
b) Research, Scholarly Work, and Other Creative Activities - up to eight (8) awards;
c) Service - up to six (6) awards;
d) Any combination of Teaching, Research, Scholarly Work and other Creative Activities, and Service - up to eight (8) awards.

Applications and nominations must be made using the forms available online at the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost website: umanitoba.ca/admin/vp_academic/awards-honours.html

Applications must be received by the Joint Committees, c/o Dr. Karen R. Grant, Vice-President (Academic), 208 Administration Building, no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1, 2010. Late applications and nominations will not be considered.

Please contact Paula Chorney, paula.chorney@umanitoba.ca or 474-8170 if you have any questions.
Bringing Research to LIFE

In Brief

Human Wrongs: Making Things Right

A public forum with keynote speaker David Matas, international human rights lawyer and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will take place on Wednesday March 31 at the University of Manitoba (Manitoba Room 210, University Centre) from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Matas will discuss his recent human rights advocacy and present the case of China. A panel discussion of intelligent vehicles that sense and prepare for a collision to finding new sources of water on Mars.

Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Day was held Feb. 19 on the Fort Garry Campus. The event is organized by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Office of the Vice-President (Research), and sponsored by Manitoba Hydro, the Province of Manitoba, NSERC, and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geologists of Manitoba.

Nearly 200 Manitoba high school students and their teachers got a firsthand glimpse at the power of science and engineering.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

U of M’s annual SET Day gets high school students fired up about science and engineering.

Budding Researchers on Your Mark...Get SET...Go!

There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion following the keynote and panel presentations.

For more information call 474-9020

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Comments, submissions and event listings to: research_communications@umanitoba.ca

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SET Day 2010

Dozens of high school students took part in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Day held Feb. 19 on the Fort Garry Campus. Turn to the previous page to read more.

Photos by Katie Chalmers-Brooks

Professor Trish Studynyk from the department of civil engineering

Presenier Michael Stringer from the department of food science

Professor Dean Kriellaars from the department of physical therapy

Professor Martin Scanlon from the department of food science

Dave Chomiak, provincial Minister of Innovation, Energy and Mines

Above (from left): vice-president (research) Digvir Jayas, professor Judy Anderson from the department of biological sciences, and professor Jeannette Montufar from the department of civil engineering

umanitoba.ca/research

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