Open house showcases best of student artwork

University of Manitoba School of Art held its annual Open House on April 9, 2010. All areas, including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography, video, graphic design and Gallery One One One, showed work created by students during the past academic year. Pictured above are paintings by Honours Thesis student Christabel Lindner. See more student artwork from the event inside this issue.

New and renewed funding for Canada Research Chairs

As we get older, our ability to process spatial information declines. Thanks to new government funding, researcher Debbie Kelly is investigating what aging does to our brains, specifically how it affects the way we navigate our way around.

The new Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Comparative Cognition, Kelly is the first researcher to use a bird model – pigeons – to understand age-related spatial degeneration. She’ll monitor spatial decline not only associated with normal aging but with degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

“Using birds offers a unique opportunity to study the brain and its functions since their anatomy provides a natural split-brain situation. Therefore, the function of each hemisphere can be studied independently and repeatedly within the same animal while it navigates around its environment,” said Kelly, a recent recruit to the University of Manitoba.

Her CRC appointment was announced March 26 at the University of Manitoba by Minister of State for Democratic Reform Steven Fletcher, coinciding with the national announcement in Ottawa.

Renewed support for four existing U of M Chairs was also announced. Chairholders are research leaders or rising stars in natural sciences and engineering, health sciences, or social sciences and humanities. The University of Manitoba has 49 Canada Research Chairs.

“This government is investing in research, science and technology to improve Canadians’ quality of life, create jobs and strengthen the economy,” said Minister Fletcher. “The Canada Research Chairs program is helping our universities develop, attract and retain talented people, strengthening our capacity for leading-edge research, while building economic opportunities and the jobs of the future for Canadians.”

The new funding is worth a combined $4.4 million plus infrastructure support.

“I congratulate the new and renewed Chairs,” said David Barnard, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba. “We are home to many outstanding scientists and scholars, and continue to be the chosen university for researchers who are leaders in their field.”

The four renewed Chairs are James Blanchard, Harvey Chochinov, Peter Loewen, and Verena Menec.
In the News
Once again, prevention is best
April 16, 2010

Winnipeg Free Press, The Canadian Press, Vancouver Sun

Children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder require three times as much funding for health care and education as kids from the general population, a new Manitoba report shows. Co-author Don Fuchs, a social work professor at the University of Manitoba, said this study along with an earlier report showing the high costs of FASD to the child welfare system, are ample proof of the need to prevent more kids from being born with this for preventable but incurable disease. “Our model clearly shows because FASD is preventable, it would make sense to move more money into prevention,” Fuchs said.

Road Scholar has 3-D vision
April 15, 2010

The Winnipeg Sun, The Winnipeg Free Press

Civil Engineering professor Ahmed Shalaby and two of his graduate students have developed a camera that helps the City diminish the threats wet or icy streets pose to drivers. “It’s basically a camera with lighting from precise directions that are angled to the surface. The idea is that by looking at how light reflects from it, we can combine these images to generate a 3-D map of the surface,” Shalaby said. Shalaby’s lab spent four years developing the camera that can betray road surface; the smoother the road’s surface texture, the more dangerous it is. By knowing this, crews can then roughen up that section of road, or pay more attention to it with salt and sand trucks. “We’re trying to have the road look very similar to how a new tire would look like, with its treads or grooves that would channel water away from the surface,” Shalaby said.

Double clicking
April 11, 2010

Winnipeg Free Press

“Students provide health care help,” and podcasts, many of which focus on scientific research being conducted online. News Room is home to the university’s news releases, advisories, video and current students, staff, faculty, and members of the public. The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the University community. Submissions can include letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story ideas, or photo suggestions. Material in The Bulletin may be reprinted or broadcast, excepting materials for which The Bulletin does not hold exclusive copyright.

RDC makes your research easier
BY MARIANNE MAYS WEIBE

The Bulletin

Ian Clara was there when the Manitoba Research Data Centre (MRDC) at the U of M opened its doors at the Bannatyne Campus in 2002. At the time he was a PhD student working as a research assistant with the university’s Mood and Anxiety Disorders Research Group. Now, in addition to teaching in UM Community Health Sciences, Clara works as an analyst at the centre. And, he wants university students and faculty to know that the data held at RDC can make their research easier.

Clara notes that a variety of university researchers access the data, including students and faculty from sociology, education, psychology, health research, economics, family studies and statistics. As part of Statistics Canada, MRDC gives researchers access to social science statistical information across a broad field of subjects and chronological periods.

Though general statistics are public, many social science surveys contain confidential material accessible only by employees of Stats Can. Potential researchers go through an application process in which they submit a proposal, pass a security check and are sworn in under the Statistics Act as Stats Can employees.

Clara says that researchers are often unaware of the rich resources available in the form of secondary data managed by Statistics Canada.

The University of Manitoba rolls out new and improved website
BY MICHAEL MARSHALL

The Bulletin

Click the refresh button! The University of Manitoba has re-launched its website (umanitoba.ca) with a brand new look and new features.

The new site is clean, modern design, dynamic images and easy-to-use menus, the new site enhances the university’s identity and better serves the thousands of prospective and current students, staff, faculty, alumni, researchers and friends of the university who visit the site daily.

“We wanted our new website to be easy to use for all of our visitors, so a clean look and improved navigation was essential,” says John Danakas, the university’s director of Public Affairs. “We are extremely happy that we were able to accomplish that goal.”

This week’s roll-out is the result of a redesign project that began in the fall of 2008 and continues in the coming weeks as more faculties, departments, units and sites migrate to the new design. Gerry Miller, executive director of information services and technology (IST), worked behind the scenes on the new site and says that the plan from the beginning was to produce a task-oriented website.

“Many of the people that want to get things done on the web, and in our case that means prospective students who are looking for information and registration for courses, faculty want to update their own content as well as news and events, current students want to tap into student services and our social media channels, and so forth,” Miller explains. “With the new site it is now easier than ever to accomplish those tasks.”

“It doesn’t hurt that the site looks great too,” he adds.

University of Manitoba rolls out new and improved website
Modern design, improved navigation and enhanced functionality all key features of refreshed umanitoba.ca

### Fund awards academic enhancement initiatives

**BY MARIANNE MAYS WEBE**

Twelve new projects that will support excellence and innovation in teaching, research, scholarship and creativity have been awarded substantial funding through a new program for academic enhancement at the University of Manitoba. Academic enhancement is one of four key areas identified by the Strategic Planning Framework for development over the upcoming 15 years, along with student experience, Aboriginal achievement and being an engine of choice.

The U of M 2009/2010 operating budget included an allocation of $1.6M for academic enhancement. Approximately 30 per cent of those funds was designated to support academic and research program innovation through a new fund called the Academic Enhancement Fund (AEF). Six areas outlined in the Strategic Planning Framework were identified for focused development through AEF including: healthy, safe, and sustainable food and bio-products; sustainable parks and Northern communities; human rights; innovations in public and population health; innovative materials and technologies; and culture and creativity.

Initiatives awarded funding contribute to the University’s unique positioning in the project area or areas, draw upon strengths from across the University, foster linkages within the University, enhance teaching and public service activities, contribute to areas of strategic importance to Manitoba, and build/strengthen linkages with local community and beyond.

The call for proposals initiated September 30, 2009 resulted in 27 applications which were assessed and ranked according to their alignment with the overall purposes of the Fund. Applications were evaluated by a committee established by the Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research). All full-time academic staff members with a clear resiliency or academic librarian rank were eligible to apply for support. Applications were sponsored and endorsed by at least two Deans or Directors of or Heads of Colleges. All applications were accompanied by a cover letter that addressed, among other things, the importance of projects to their units and to the University.

Vice President (Academic) & Provost Richard Bodwell says, “These projects will enable our staff and students to build bridges between academic disciplines, to involve community groups and to form partnerships with other agencies, and to conduct this work in Winnipeg, in rural Manitoba and in the Northwest Territories.

“Projects are exciting projects and we look forward to learning about the outcomes.”

### Academic Enhancement Fund Successful Applications 2009

<table>
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<th>Project Short Title</th>
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<td>A Model for International Service Learning</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Forget, E.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Arts, Human Ecology, Medicine</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fried, N.</td>
<td>Science</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrumore, R.</td>
<td>Inter-Professional Education</td>
<td>Nursing, Pharmacy</td>
<td>Inter-Professional Competency for the Early Learner: A Promising Strategy Towards Sustainability Education.</td>
</tr>
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<td>MacDonald, S.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>MacLean, G.</td>
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<td>Sider, J.</td>
<td>Human Ecology</td>
<td>Human Ecology, Medicine</td>
<td>Fuel for Work: A Learning Site to Promote Nutrition and Food Security at Sunshine House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evelyn Forget: In partnership with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research, the Manitoba Research Data Centre (RDC) is developing a branch RDC in Yellowknife.

This will be the first opportunity for research and policymakers in the north to access confidential Statistics Canada data relevant to their communities without travelling to Ottawa, and to make use of resources in Winnipeg to address important policy issues in the areas of public and population health, education, child and youth development, labour and northern communities.

This partnership will be valuable to faculty and graduate students at the University of Manitoba. The development of a teaching site in Yellowknife will allow graduate students in Community Health Sciences with an interest in population health, for example, to do research and work in the north.

### The Impact of Changes in European Higher Education: Challenges & Opportunities

The internationalization of European higher education has led to tremendous institutional change over this past decade. What does this mean for universities and colleges in Manitoba?

Mr. Bernd Wächter and Dr. Hans de Wit will speak to Manitobans on this important topic.

**Bernd Wächter**

Bernd Wächter is the Director of the Academic Cooperation Association (AACA). He is a frequent speaker at European and international education conferences and has worked, as an expert advisor, for many international organizations. Mr. Wächter has been a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Studies in International Education.

**Hans de Wit**

Hans de Wit is Professor (lector) of Internationalization of Higher Education and Co-Editor of the European Journal of Studies in International Education. He has (co)written several books and articles on international education and is actively involved in assessment and consultancy in international education, for organizations like the European Commission, UNESCO, World Bank, IMF/OECD, and ESMU.

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Robert B Schultz Lecture Theatre, St. John’s College, U of M
A strategy for ensuring quality and access

Tuition in Manitoba remains far below national average

Recently, there has been discussion about the prospect of tuition fees increasing for students in professional schools at the University of Manitoba. Law and Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

The report of the Levin Commission, the independent review of university accessibility commissioned by the Government of Manitoba, concluded that higher fees do not reduce participation rates. It also recommended that fees in professional programs should be allowed to rise, and that these fees be linked with the government’s existing policy direction, as they have allowed tuition increases in professional programs in the past.

Canada’s past freeze in increased general tuition fees has helped to enrol in all nine credit hours to it’s a joint venture among departments. This summer the University of Manitoba will offer its first one-of-a-kind series of courses called the ‘Cree Language and Narrative.’

BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE

The President’s View

with David Barnard

The summer institute for the University of Manitoba will offer its first one-of-a-kind series of courses called the ‘Cree Language and Narrative.’

One-of-a-kind collaboration a ‘rare’ opportunity for students

Interdisciplinary three-week Summer Institute focuses on Cree language, culture and stories

This summer, the University of Manitoba will offer its first one-of-a-kind series of courses called the ‘Cree Language and Narrative.’

Louis Bird will be the lead Cree Oral Stories course as a visiting instructor. An Elder and storyteller, Bird is Omushkego (Swampy Cree) from Peawanuck who has been collecting, recording and telling traditional stories for his entire life, and is well worth it.

We don’t yet know what the exact shape of our proposals will be, or what government will approve. We believe, however, that certain principles should apply:

• That we try to reduce the gap over a period of up to three years.
• That we ensure that the increased fees are targeted to improving programs and services, and to increasing financial capacity when they seek to enter university. We believe that 85% of the increased revenues should go directly to the faculties in which the students are registered. 15% of this amount should be directed to student assistance, leaving 70% for improvements to programs and services. The remaining 15% of the increased revenue should go towards improving program components relating to the overall academic environment, such as the library.

As we develop our proposals, we are consulting with students in these programs. I welcome their input on this important issue and I am looking forward to hearing what they have to say.

A version of this column appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on April 14, 2010.

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Students show work at annual open house

Photos, top row from right: paintings by student Peter Prince; “Golem’s Pelt,” sculpture by Ben Bonner; Second row: figurines, thesis work by Emile St. Hilaire, photo: Chris Reid; circle drawings, Heather Cole’s cautionary tale, photo: Chris Reid; design student Scott Ford (far left) and friends with his sculpture in front of FitzGerald, photo courtesy Scott Ford; Third row: Fundamentals of Drawing students install work for Open House; School of Art director Paul Hess with artist Ivan Eyre; student Maureen Tichborne with her work, photo: Chris Reid; print by Igor Puzhevich, photo by photography student Timothy Dyck; Fourth row: “untitled,” detail of bees installation by Stephanie Graham; light sculpture by Jane Yagi, first year design, photo by Timothy Dyck; Bottom row: First-year ceramics studio; Open House attendees. All photos courtesy Donna Jones, School of Art, unless otherwise indicated.
Summer construction
A review of campus changes as construction continues

As the transformation of the University of Manitoba’s Fort Garry Campus continues, several summer construction projects will be in progress between May 3 and September 1, 2010. New infrastructure construction gets underway with foundation repairs to the Buller Building and Tier Building roof replacement. Project Domino construction continues on a number of fronts, including the start of a new residence over Pembina Hall and ART Lab construction. Project Domino, a five-year project kicked off in April 2008, is a $150 million plan that will see at least 13 units on campus receive new classroom, study, laboratory and studio space. Several other construction projects, such as restoration of Duff Roblin, will also take place. Read on for a full report of changes to buildings and bus and pedestrian routes, as well as building access.

**Education Building foundation**
As foundation work begins, pedestrian access to the west side of the building will be restricted. Access to all other entrances will be maintained. A portion of P Lot will be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

**Stadium Development**
The north-west quadrant of Chancellor Matheson and University Crescent will be fenced off beginning mid-May. The sidewalk along Chancellor Matheson on the north side between the new stadium site and the soccer complex will remain open to pedestrians throughout the summer.

**Transit changes**
Construction of the new ART Lab and residence building affects traffic flow on Dafoe Road and Freedman Crescent, and Winnipeg Transit service to the University Terminal on Dafoe Road (across from Tache Hall) is temporarily changed.

Routes 60, 61, 36, 75 and 76 are rerouted to MacLean Crescent, where there are temporary shelters west of Tache Hall and Pembina Hall. Passengers of transit routes that would normally load at the University Terminal on Dafoe Road may now board its bus on MacLean Crescent.

Routes 37, 51, 62, 70, 72 and 78 will continue to use the University Terminal on Dafoe Road.

All other bus stops on campus are unaffected by the construction.

**Pembina Hall Residence**
A temporary sidewalk on Freedman Crescent south of Pembina Hall accommodates pedestrian traffic as construction begins. The new residence is scheduled for completion by September 1, 2011. A covered walkway provides access to Pembina Hall; however, the building will be closed June until November 2010 for safety reasons. Food Services for residence students and conference participants will be relocated to the Manitoba Room in University Centre.

Right: Rendering of new Pembina Hall Residence, scheduled for completion by September 1, 2011.
Continued and new infrastructure work begins

**Biological Sciences Building pedestrian tunnel**
Renovation of the Biological Sciences (former Pharmacy) Building begins June 1. A pedestrian tunnel will be developed to connect this building and the FitzGerald Building to the University Centre-Allen Building tunnel. Pedestrian access around the Biological Sciences Building will be limited; pedestrian access to the FitzGerald Building will be maintained.

**Machray Hall curtain wall**
From May 3 to August 31, construction work will continue the upgrade of the curtain wall on the east side of Machray Hall. Access to Machray Hall will not be affected.

**Buller Building foundation**
The Buller Building foundation will be upgraded with no disruption to pedestrian access.

**Buller Building sewer renewal**
As work will affect the south, west and east sides of Buller Building and Chancellor’s Circle, N-Lot will be closed to parking and casual traffic flow from May 3 until September 1 inclusive. Pedestrians, service vehicles and delivery vehicles may gain limited access to these areas. Pedestrian access to the Administration Building and University Centre will be maintained.

**ART Lab**
As ART Lab construction begins, Alumni Lane has been closed to traffic and bus routes are rerouted to Maclean Crescent to reduce traffic flow near the site on Dafoe Road. Pedestrian access has been enhanced with development of a sidewalk on the east side of Alumni Lane.

**Human Ecology landscaping**
Landscaping surrounding the main entrance to the Human Ecology Building will be enhanced in preparation for the faculty’s centennial celebrations in September.

**Tier Building roof replacement**
The Tier Building slate roof will be replaced with new slate, and scaffolding will be erected in quadrants as work progresses around the building. Some pedestrian disruptions may occur but access to building will be maintained.
A Day in the Life of Alba Pinder
Food Services cashier, Pembina Hall

BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE
The Bulletin

When Pembina Hall food services cashier Alba Pinder recently had to take some time off because of a foot problem, she received a get-well card with more than 200 student signatures, wishing her back in time for the residence students to say goodbye before they leave for the summer.

Her supervisor, Jan Mandziuk, says this didn’t surprise her at all. “The students all think very highly of Alba. They respect her and wish her well. She makes (the university) feel like home to them.”

Alba Pinder has been at the University of Manitoba for seven years. She used to work for Aramark at the MotorCoach location, but after a maternity leave and taking four years to do daycare, she contacted head office for possible opportunities.

Pinder’s own two children are now eleven (her daughter, in grade six) and nineteen (her son, who has just graduated). She works full-time hours at Pembina Hall, the cafeteria for the students in residence. A typical day as cashier includes greeting the students when they come into Pembina Hall, handling cash and rice-up, and generally making students feel welcome.

Pinder is the kids who are away from home, she says. “Especially in their first year, you try to make them feel comfortable. You get to know them, have conversations with them.”

The students, says Pinder, are one of the best things about her job. She calls herself a “people person” and she says she likes talking with the students. “They get to know you and they care about you. You’re missing one day and they want to know where you were… It’s a good feeling when [students] ask where you’ve been, I think the majority do like me because I care about them,” she says.

She also enjoys the variety of people she meets. “We also have a lot of international students here,” she says. “A lot of them don’t understand English and so you try to help them through it.”

“I’m Italian too, so I understand [the students who haven’t assimilated to the culture yet]. My mom could never really speak English, since she was always home with the kids, so she had a hard time. I understand where they’re coming from.”

“A little bit of compassion goes a long way. You have to have some patience for it.”

When resident-students go home and Pembina Hall closes for the summer, you can find Alba working at another location on campus such as the Tim Hortons. The four months at University Centre is a nice change for her, she says. “We serve U of M staff too, so it’s not students only. You meet a lot of different people, which keeps it interesting.”

“Working with the public and with the staff is what I like about the job. I also like the variety [of working at a different on-campus location in summer],” but I think home is Pembina Hall where I’m with the kids in residence.”

When asked to name her favourite place on campus, Pinder doesn’t hesitate. “My favourite place on campus is Pembina Hall. I look forward to going back there in September. The old kids come back and there’s a whole new group. Middle of August, I always say I’m ready to go back to Pembina Hall.”

During her time off, Pinder likes to be at home in Fort Garry. Once the weather’s nice, it’s time for yardwork such as planting flowers in the front yard (the backyard is her husband’s territory), and the family also spends time at lakes that surround the city. “We have a fifth-wheel, so the last two years we were at West Hawk Lake but we couldn’t get in this year because it’s a lottery,” says Pinder. “We’ve been looking at buying some property about 40 minutes outside of the city.”

In her spare time Pinder takes walks and loves to socialize. One thing that students might not know about her now that she would like them to know? “I’ll really miss the ones that aren’t coming back,” she says.

“The ones that are leaving the residence to go live somewhere else, I’ll tell them, stop by for a visit. “I do enjoy them,” she says, “it’s not difficult to see why they would enjoy her right back.”

Academic Job Opportunities

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at uMANITOBA.ca. U of M 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.

MANITOBA CENTRE FOR NURSING & HEALTH RESEARCH

Dr. Helen P. Glass Researcher in Residence
Margarete Sandelowski PhD, RN, FAAN
Cary C. Boshame Distinguished Professor
Faculty of Nursing
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

May 18, 2010
10:30 am
Room 370
Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, University of Manitoba
(Reception to follow in Room 202)

May 19, 2010
5:00 pm Reception
6:00 pm Presentation
Concert Hall Room
The Fort Garry
222 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB

Teaching and Learning Methods
This presentation is focused on key issues in communicating and understanding qualitative research. Emphasis is placed on the problems of the qualitative/quantitative binary and of differentiating methods, and on varying approaches to teaching qualitative research.

Keeskaas and Kodak Moments: Fetal Ultrasoundography as Cultural Instrument
Fetal ultrasoundography is a technology that more than meets the eye. This presentation is focused on its power and paradoxes as a medical, parent-infant acquaintance, propaganda, entertainment, and marketing device.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
RSVP to the Manitoba Centre for Nursing & Health Research at 474-9080

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Winnipeg, MB

Teaching and Learning Methods
This presentation is focused on key issues in communicating and understanding qualitative research. Emphasis is placed on the problems of the qualitative/quantitative binary and of differentiating methods, and on varying approaches to teaching qualitative research.

Keeskaas and Kodak Moments: Fetal Ultrasoundography as Cultural Instrument
Fetal ultrasoundography is a technology that more than meets the eye. This presentation is focused on its power and paradoxes as a medical, parent-infant acquaintance, propaganda, entertainment, and marketing device.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
RSVP to the Manitoba Centre for Nursing & Health Research at 474-9080

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SUNDAY, APRIL 25
St. Philip’s Cathedral 2010 Baccalaureate Mass and Ceremony. The ceremony will acknowledge the accomplishments of University of Manitoba graduates. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. and Confirmation Ceremony follows at 12:15 p.m. 

TUESDAY, APRIL 27
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- 8:00 a.m., Room A229, Chown Building (Pharmacology Library), with Martha Holobowich, tel 787-2270, email MHolubowich@exchange.hsc.mb.ca.

MONDAY, APRIL 26
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday School of Medical Rehabilitation Building, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 5th Floor, Apotex Centre, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday School of Medical Rehabilitation Building, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 30. No Pediatric Research Rounds.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday School of Medical Rehabilitation Building, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 5th Floor, Apotex Centre, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday School of Medical Rehabilitation Building, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 30. No Pediatric Research Rounds.

Thursday, April 29
- 12:00 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 30. No Pediatric Research Rounds.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday School of Medical Rehabilitation Building, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29.
- 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 30. No Pediatric Research Rounds.

Psychology in Health Research Day.
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A long way from where we started
U of M Human Ecology kicks off centennial celebrations

BY MARIANNE MAYS WEBE
WITH FILES FROM GLENDA PARSONS AND ON MANITOBA

This spring, the Faculty of Human Ecology will mark the 100th anniversary of its first class, then called home economics. Today graduates work in such diverse fields as community nutrition, resource coordination, textile testing, design and product development and behaviour intervention. Centennial celebrations will be launched with a lecture by one of the faculty's most recognized graduates.

Dr. Barbara Macdonald will give a free public talk on May 3 at Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre, St. John's College, with sponsorship from the Canadian Home Economics Foundation. Macdonald works with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), a Swiss-based foundation dedicated to eliminating malnutrition. GAIN works in 18 countries, mainly Africa and Asia, to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in the population through the fortification of foods and other strategies – for example, adding iron to food to prevent anaemia in women, or adding vitamin A to prevent illness in children.

Macdonald is a U of M Human Ecology graduate from 1987 (and MSc 1991, PhD 1999, McGill University).

Beginnings
The School of Home Economics began with the Massy-Treliffe Experiment, named after the woman who donated funds for the first courses.

As early as 1894, the Local Council of Women in Winnipeg had called for the inclusion of “handicrafts” in the public school system, things like sewing, carpentry and upholstery. Lacking government assistance, the Massy-Treliffe experiment ended after three years.

However, in March 1903, the Province of Manitoba created the Manitoba Agricultural College, which included a Division of Home Economics. The courses were to be state of the art, equal to any other existing program.

May 3, 1910: the first class
By 1909, the courses of study, staff members and all the required pieces of equipment were assembled and the first group of girls began studies on May 3, 1910.

In order to apply, female students were to be 18 years old and able to prove evidence of moral character. No mention is made of how students could provide evidence of moral character in the General Calendar included everything from uniform policies to strict schedules for eating and sleeping or leaving campus.

The courses ran from May to July and encompassed everything from hygiene to nutrition to millinery and design. During this time, the many rules and regulations listed in the General Calendar included everything from uniform policies to strict schedules for eating and sleeping or leaving campus.

The Manitoba Agricultural College moved from the Tuxedo location to the University of Manitoba in 1924. After 1924, the program was extended to five months. In October 1912, another five months were added to the original curriculum.

As the breadth of the program broadened, the scope of the courses at the University of Manitoba also broadened. Physical and social sciences such as biology, chemistry, economics and anthropology were added to the original curriculum of design, sewing and foods.

The Manitoba Agricultural College moved to the Tuxedo location to the new St. Vital location in 1913.

On May 21, 1915, the Board of Governors established a 16-month degree course. The first graduation, six students in total, was May 1918.

Success and growth
Due to the success of the program, the second course in January 1911 was extended to five months. In October 1912, another five months were added and the scope broadened. Physical and social sciences such as biology, chemistry, economics and anthropology were added to the original curriculum of design, sewing and foods.

The Manitoba Agricultural College moved to the University of Manitoba in spring 1924. The Agriculture and Home Economics program became a faculty. Postgraduate work was added and allowed students to do graduate work leading to a Master of Arts or a Masters of Science.

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Miss Anna Speers was the first Home Economics student to graduate with a Masters in Arts in 1932. The title of her thesis was “The Economic and Social Effects of Fashion.”

The program began to offer specializations in the 1933/34 calendar, with three years of general studies followed by a year of specific courses to lead to one of four areas of specialization: the teaching, institutional, scientific and general options-time high.

The first record of a request for the establishment of an autonomous unit for home economics was in a letter written by staff in the Division of Home Economics to Dr. Sidney Smith, president of the university in November 1937. It took some time: approval of the Board of Governors recommendation to grant faculty status was reported at a Senate meeting on May 13, 1970.

On November 17, 1980 the Faculty of Home Economics voted to adopt the name Human Ecology.

Marking the centennial
When Barbara Macdonald first graduated with her degree in Human Ecology, she had not considered the kind of international work she does today at GAIN. After a first trip to Guatemala, she was hooked. She says much of her inspiration was taken from the international research conducted by her professors within Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba.

“The Faculty of Human Ecology has a solid ‘preventative’ approach to human nutrition,” says Macdonald, “and a global way of looking at foods and nutrition.”

The broad spectrum of courses at the University of Manitoba and the fact that there is a focus on both food and nutrition “is quite unique,” according to Macdonald.

At the centennial lecture, Macdonald will outline current trends and causes of malnutrition in low-income countries. Her presentation will highlight the importance of integrated programs to consider food insecurity, infectious disease and maternal and child care. Macdonald will also compare current trends in the nutritional status of Canadians to the inclusion of “handicrafts” in the public school system, things like sewing, carpentry and upholstery. Lacking government assistance, the Massy-Treliffe experiment ended after three years.

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In brief
Nearly $10 million in new funding
Faculty and students at the University of Manitoba will receive a total of $9,593,543 in new scholarships and grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The new funding is the result of NSERC's grants and scholarships competition. It includes NSERC Discovery Grants totaling $8,940,745 for University of Manitoba researchers, and 48 awards totaling $1,652,800 for young researchers at the graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels.
Minister of Industry Tony Clement announced the funding April 9.

Pretty Insect, Ugly Disease
Scientist who developed the world’s first genetically modified butterfly zeroes in on colon cancer

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

Researcher Jeffrey Marcus refused to sit idle while cancer targeted those closest to him. The deadly disease had killed his mother, claimed his grandfather, launched an assault on his supervisor and even went after his dog.
"This all happened over a period of three or four years and it made me realize that it’s all fine and good to study things that I find interesting," Marcus says. "But if I could make a connection between this basic research that I was doing and areas where it could be applied, it could actually have a positive impact on human health, it was really my obligation to explore these avenues. These are real people who are being affected by these terrible illnesses and these are real families who are clutching for any hope that there is any sort of way of curing them."

**Butterflies and colon cancer**

A PhD student at Duke University at the time, Marcus began looking for ways his research with animals could do more to help humans. A biology buff since he was a kid tending to fish in his dozen or so aquariums, the New York-born researcher was fascinated by the study of genes in fish, fruit flies, and brine shrimp. While delving deeper in search of possible links to various cancers, he realized the genetic pathways in one of the prettiest insects he was examining — the butterfly — were similar to those involved in the development of one of the ugliest diseases affecting people: colon cancer.

The creator of the world’s first genetically modified butterfly Marcus was recruited last fall to the University of Manitoba’s Department of Biological Sciences and awarded a Canada Research Chair in Phylogenomics (the study of the evolution of genes and genomes). As Chair he continues his quest to better understand how a butterfly develops the colour of its eye spots, which are the circular markings on its wings.

**Mutation in pathway**

Marcus examines “what genes are being turned on to produce these different colours.” It’s a similar mechanism to what happens in the colon of a person who has inherited a genetic predisposition to colon cancer. In butterflies, the signals that tell the cells surrounding the eye spots what colour to be are similar to the signals operating in these patients’ colon.

"About 80 per cent of all inherited colon cancers are due to a mutation in this pathway or module, the same module that makes butterfly eye spots," Marcus says.

In humans, this mutation causes the pathway’s “signal” to be on all the time, resulting in the creation of polyps, which are abnormal growths. These polyps can eventually take over the colon, forcing doctors to remove this part of the digestive system so cancer doesn’t spread to the rest of the body.

**Changing cellular behaviour**

Marcus’ goal is to figure out if there is a chemical they can inject that can be used to manipulate the genetic pathways in butterflies, and change how their cells behave. And if so, eventually develop a medication that could do the same for humans who carry the same mutation. Such a drug would keep their cells from proliferating and forming polyps in the first place, which in turn stops cancer from developing. At the very least, Marcus says, perhaps such a medication could allow people to put off possibly for decades — having to remove their colon and rely on a colostomy bag.

"Hopeful" for future

“I am hopeful that we are going to have some compounds that are going to be demonstrably useful in affecting these pathways in butterflies in the next year or two. To move from that to an actual human medication is a long long process,” Marcus says, noting he figures they are at least 10 years away. "But every good idea has to start somewhere."
Our 2009 Rh Award Recipients
Honouring researchers for current success and future potential

The Rh Awards were established in 1973 by the Winnipeg Rh Institute, now the Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation, from funds set aside from the sale and production of medical formulae. These honours are given to academic staff members who are in the early stages of their careers and who display exceptional innovation, leadership and promise in their respective fields. Past winners have become internationally-known researchers, so this recognition of early success bodes well for our latest recipients. Each winner receives $10,000 to support his or her research program. Typically, one award is given in each of the following areas: applied sciences, creative works, health sciences, humanities, interdisciplinary studies, natural sciences and social sciences.

APPLIED SCIENCES
Mark Tachie

Dr. Mark Tachie, mechanical and manufacturing engineering, receives the Rh Award for his study of turbulent flows and fluid flow in porous media. His area of study involves measurements and the theoretical analysis of dauntingly difficult fluid flow problems. Yet Dr. Tachie, a recognized leader in near-wall turbulence, manages to take these extremely complex phenomena and break them down into digestible problems. He is among an elite group of international researchers working at the forefront of rough-wall turbulence research and has collected bench-mark data in this field. He is an expert on the use of particle image velocimetry (which involves adding tiny particles to a fluid to observe its flow and measure its velocity) for the study of turbulent flows. He tackles applied engineering research as well, and did so for Manitoba Hydro by analyzing the effects of recirculation of flow on the performance of some of their hydraulic turbines.

CREATIVE WORKS
Laura Loewen

Dr. Laura Loewen, music, receives the Rh Award for her work in collaborative piano and vocal coaching. A versatile pianist, she is a sought-after partner and has worked with many of Canada’s finest international performers. She has commissioned innovative new compositions from leading composers and performed these works internationally. She has collaborated with singers and instrumentalists across North America, in Europe and Asia. Critics have praised her performances for their technical polish and artistic insights. As a vocal coach, she has developed a unique approach that has endeared her to students and colleagues at training programs across the country. She is able to guide her singers to use language - whether French, English, German or Italian – in a way that fully conveys the dramatic and musical intent of the poet and composer.

HEALTH SCIENCES
Davinder Jassal

Dr. Davinder Jassal, internal medicine, the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, St. Boniface Hospital Research, receives the Rh Award for his research in cardiovascular medicine. His laboratory’s focus is on evaluating the role of cardiovascular imaging when examining the effects of marathon running on cardiac remodeling (which is a physical or functional change to the heart). His current research includes investigating the role of nutraceuticals in preventing the adverse effects of metabolic syndrome (a condition that puts you at greater risk for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases); determining the effects of continuous airway pressure on cardiac remodeling in obstructive sleep apnea patients; and the cardiotoxic effects of chemotherapeutic agents - in particular trastuzumab - in breast cancer patients.

HUMANITIES
Esyllt Jones

Dr. Esyllt Jones, history, receives the Rh Award for her research which addresses issues related to public health, social inequality and epidemics. She is a specialist in the social history of twentieth-century Canada, and has made significant and original contributions to our understanding of Canadian history. She was the first author to fully explore how the flu epidemic of 1918 was strongly related to the Winnipeg General Strike, in her award-winning book Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg. She uses Winnipeg as a case study to show the relationship between epidemic disease, social inequality, and working-class identity. As a result of her innovative and groundbreaking analysis, the book has become required reading in the field of pandemic disease.

INTERDISCIPLINARY
Javier Mignone

Dr. Javier Mignone, family social sciences, receives the Rh Award for his contributions in the area of social development and Indigenous health. His research has taken him from remote Indigenous communities in Canada and Latin America to rural villages in India. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his work on social capital (connections within and between social networks) as a determinant of health and well-being – in particular, as it relates to First Nations communities. He developed a related framework that has been adopted by the Assembly of First Nations and a measurement technique now used by researchers in the United States and Australia. In rural India, he created a village-level rapid assessment tool to predict an individual’s risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. And he has brought together Indigenous communities in Manitoba and Guatemala to improve midwifery and intercultural health care in these communities.

NATURAL SCIENCES
Johan van Lierop

Dr. Johan van Lierop, physics and astronomy, receives the Rh Award for his research into the magnetism of nanoparticles and thin films (nanomagnetism). His expertise in understanding how magnetism is altered through dimensional confinement applies directly to a wide range of technologies that are based on nanoscale magnetic materials. A pioneering materials scientist, he studies exchange bias, a technologically important phenomena that is a fundamental to all modern magnetic sensors, including those found in computer hard drives. He is also researching the magnetic properties of nanoparticles for their potential medical applications. In this emerging field, he is working on how to use nanoparticles to provide targeted heat treatment to cancerous tumours, and understanding how to deliver drugs to specific areas of the body to improve their effectiveness.

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Andrew Woolford

Dr. Andrew Woolford, sociology, receives the Rh Award for his research in conflict resolution and restorative justice. Colleagues have praised him for his inventive approach and say his work brings a new dimension and direction to the field. They say his work has challenged them to push boundaries as well. Of particular note are his ideas about the role of power in limiting the potential outcomes of conflict resolution processes. He has achieved national and international recognition not only as an expert on colonial genocide and Indigenous peoples in Canada but also as a scholar of the criminology of genocide, restorative justice, and reparations politics. His current work focuses on post-genocide reparations, Canadian Indigenous Peoples and the concept of genocide, conflict resolution, and neoliberalism and social regulation in the inner city.