A lasting welcome

The gift of access: Welcome Centre recognized

BY MARIANNE MAYS WEIBE
The Bulletin

In late July, the University of Manitoba Welcome Centre had a visit from Chris Sobkowicz, a member of the Access Advisory Committee, City of Winnipeg. He advised that the community forwards to the committee their award nominations for facilities that they feel have excellent accessibility, and that the Welcome Centre had been shortlisted. Of the 19 total projects nominated, including two other U of M sites, the Welcome Centre was one of 12 to make the short list. New buildings, renovations and landscape projects are all eligible to be nominated.

As Bill Schellenberg, manager of architectural services at the U of M, notes, the Welcome Centre project was administered by architectural and engineering services in physical plant, as is the case for all university buildings. LM Architectural Group was engaged to design and oversee the construction of the project. Overall design was reviewed by Alan Simms, associate vice-president (administration), Schellenberg, and an assigned review team, along with Norma Carswell and Linda Lavallee, who were the primary contacts for the user groups. Kelly Thomas was project coordinator and oversaw the construction process, and the contractor was Boretta Construction.

“We are very pleased to hear about the nominations of our campus buildings for possible accessibility awards,” says Schellenberg. “Universal accessibility has been a key design consideration on our campus for many years now. “The Welcome Centre has become the university’s front door in some respects, so setting a high standard of accessibility reinforces its welcoming role. It also works in concert with the new grand staircase and gentle ramp leading over the Extended Education rooftop to provide an inviting façade.” Awards will be handed out September 30.

The Winnipeg Accessibility Award is intended to raise awareness about the importance of accessibility in the city of Winnipeg and its role in making life more equitable, safe, comfortable and affordable for everyone including people with disabilities. The Winnipeg Accessibility Award highlights some of the positive examples that exemplify this goal.

N. Murray Edwards receives IDEA Award
27th International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award gala

BY CHRIS RUTKOSWISI
The Bulletin

On Tuesday, September 21, N. Murray Edwards, financier and business developer, received the 2010 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (IDEA) at a gala dinner and reception.

Earlier in the day, Edwards spoke to the students of the Asper School of Business; the presentation was followed by a short ceremony during which a portrait honouring him was unveiled.

“Murray encapsulates the significance of the award as a respected entrepreneur who stands among very few Canadians in terms of what he has done, and what we anticipate he is yet to do,” said Arni Thorsteinson, chair of the
In the News

Too much information

Montreal Gazette, The StarPhoenix, Calgary Herald, Vancouver Sun, Edmonton Journal, The Leader-Post (Regina), The Ottawa Citizen

September 15, 2010

Charles Mossman, professor of finance in the Asper School of Business, provided insight on stocks, in particular, the deluge of information one gets on the internet that can hinder rather than help decision making. “If a person buys or sells on the basis of what is not real or substantial, then that trade creates a market force. So, looking just at prices, which reflect sound investment decisions [along with] fears and hopes obscures true value.”

There are stories to be told

Winipeg Free Press

September 18, 2010

Ignatius Mabasa, who has spent nearly three decades retelling the tales he learned at his grandfather’s knee in his native Zimbabwe, is the latest storyteller in residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture. He was recently profiled in a newspaper. The 40-year-old novelist and poet will spend the next three months in the post. “Stories are vitally important in times of chaos. They’re universalized metaphors that help us humanize our world,” he says.

Wanting brains?

Winipeg Free Press

September 13, 2010

As the story in the newspaper leads off; “The living dead meet self-aware machines, and the secrets are revealed of the once-booming Manitoba frontier border town of Snowflake — who knew research at the University of Manitoba could be so much fun?” Graduate student Daria Patie and former student Sean Braun are this year’s recipients of $10,000 grants apiece from the U of M and CD Howe Memorial Institute to work on master’s of arts degrees in creative writing. Patie’s thesis will be a collection of short stories bringing together zombies and artificial intelligence. Braun will write a Manitoba gothic novel set a century ago in Snowflake.

Getting brains

Winipeg Free Press

September 10, 2010

The University of Manitoba saw an increase in enrolment, up one per cent to 27,540 students. There are 6,772 first-year students enrolled in University-I, 1.7 per cent over last year’s incoming class at the U of M. The number of U of M international students has risen by 5.8 per cent to 2,274 students, or 8.2 per cent over last year’s incoming class at the U of M. The number of U of M international students has risen by 5.8 per cent to 2,274 students, or 8.2 per cent over last year’s incoming class at the U of M.

Headlines


“Kids’ art reaches across ocean, cultures,” Winnipeg Free Press, September 17, 2010, article about graduate course on global awareness for teachers taught by professor of education Nathalie Piquema.

IDEA award, cont.

The University of Manitoba and Intellectual Ventures (IV) have signed a Master License Agreement (MLA) that outlines a novel, dynamic approach to the management of intellectual assets generated by U of M faculty, students, and staff.

IDEA Committee for the Associates and president of Shelter Canadian Properties Limited.

Edwards is owner and president of Edco Financial Holdings Ltd., a private management and consulting company of which he became a director and sole shareholder in 1988. Prior to that, he was a partner of the law firm Burnett, Duckworth and Palmer in Calgary.

In the public company realm, Edwards owns over 30 per cent of management and financial services company Lovian Capital Corporation, and is chairman of the board and major shareholder of locally based Magellan/Bristol Aerospace Corporation.

This lawyer-turned-financier is also vice chairman and major shareholder of Canadian Natural Resources Limited, one of Canada’s largest energy producers.

Edwards is chairman, director and co-owner of the Calgary Flames Hockey Club. He also owns Resorts of the Canadian Rockies. At the community level, Edwards is a member of The Council of Chairs for the Calgary Children’s Initiatives, a current director of both the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and the CD Howe Institute.


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Intellectual Ventures will provide financial support for the university’s inventions and fund the patenting costs for inventions accepted into the program.

“We are pleased to be in collaboration with Intellectual Ventures, one of the largest invention investment companies worldwide,” said Garold Breit, executive director of the university’s Technology Transfer Office. “With our team of leading professors and students, we hope to generate some ground-breaking inventions and see them commercialized on a global scale as part of our work with Intellectual Ventures.”

In Indian river, Greater underwater life is seen.

The Bulletin, University of Manitoba

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

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

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Send events notices to: bulletin@umanitoba.ca

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With the exception of advertisements from the University of Manitoba, ads carried in The Bulletin do not imply recommenda-

The Bulletin publishes notifications of events taking place at the University of Manitoba or events that are of particular interest to the university community.

There is no charge for running notices in the events column.

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First Canadian Journal of Human Rights

BY SEAN MOORE
The Bulletin
The Canadian Journal of Human Rights, the first and only academic journal of its kind in Canada, has been commissioned by the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Law. Its first volume will come out in spring 2011, one year before the Canadian Museum for Human Rights will open in Winnipeg.

Not only is Winnipeg the geographical centre of Canada, but it will also be the centre of discourse on human rights issues,” said Donn Short, the journal’s editor-in-chief and assistant professor of law at the University’s Robson Hall.

The journal will be a national and international forum for scholars to share and debate ideas. It is the only journal in Canada committed to human rights scholarship and its inaugural volume will contain roughly four to five articles.

“The Faculty of Law is committed to enhancing human rights scholarship through its Centre for Human Rights Research. Its continued involvement and now this unique Canadian journal are we proud of and excited for,” said Lorna Turnbull, acting dean of the Faculty of Law.

For video of professor Short discussing the journal, visit the U of M YouTube channel at youtube.com/umanitoba.

Law students line up for bright future

Class of 2013, meet your duty to uphold and protect the public interest

On September 7 the Faculty of Law welcomed the Class of 2013. Included in the range of activities for orientation week for this class of future lawyers was a welcome ceremony in which the students each received a copy of the Canadian Bar Association Code of Professional Conduct. Chief Justice Scott of the Manitoba Court of Appeal addressed the students and spoke to them about the ethical demands of becoming members of the legal profession.

For students at Robson Hall this begins on the first day of law school as they reflect on the importance of integrity and service in the public interest as an integral part of their future careers.

Student Rachel Heinrichs said that she appreciated being reminded of the seriousness of her decision to study to enter the legal profession: “I feel incredibly privileged to have a duty to uphold and protect the public interest. It is a great honour, and it was inspiring to hear the Chief Justice talk to us about it today. I am thrilled that I came and shook hands with each of you.”

The Class of 2013 is a diverse group of 105 full-time students, from Manitoba and across the country. Their average age is 25 years and they come to Robson Hall with degrees in Arts, Business, Public Administration, and Science and with experience working in a wide range of jobs and serving a variety of communities.

The students were welcomed to the faculty with an opening address from Elder Shane Patterson of the Southern First Nations Network of Care who spoke about the important role one plays when tasked with speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

The students also heard welcome messages from acting dean Lorna Turnbull and the associate dean Lisa Faisttein before they met all of their professors for the first year of the program. Said Turnbull, “We see a bright future for our profession and our country with individuals like the members of this class providing leadership.”

Grains of plenty

Canadian-Chinese research consortium to improve grain storage capacity

BY SEAN MOORE
The Bulletin
Its English acronym of CCRCSGE may seem a little convoluted, but the result of the agreement signed by the University of Manitoba and four Chinese institutes is straightforward: increased food supply.

The U of M has signed an agreement with four Chinese institutes to form a consortium that will greatly improve grain storage capacity and research.

The China-Canada Research Centre for Stored-Grain Ecosystems’ memorandum of understanding was signed on September 15 by a U of M delegation currently in China, and it was witnessed by Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger. The deal was inked with the Academy of State Storage Research Institute.

“I am pleased that the University of Manitoba will be working with our friends in China to understand and solve the basic yet complex problem of how to store grains,” said David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor at the U of M.

“The University of Manitoba continuously exports its faculty members’ talents and skills through partnerships with countries and industries around the world, and this latest relationship further strengthens our role as an institution with a commitment to improving lives — locally, nationally and internationally.”

The U of M is a world leader in grain storage research and its Canadian Wheat Board Centre for Grain Storage Research is the most advanced facility of its kind in the world. By sharing information and resources, techniques and tools, the consortium will ultimately find ways to reduce losses, thereby benefiting the global food supply.

For thousands of years, grains have formed the basis of the human diet. Access to a consistent supply of quality grains is the lifeline for countries so any loss in quality or quantity during storage can have far-reaching effects. Yet post-harvest losses can contribute to a cent in developing countries. In the latter, high losses can contribute to a cent in developing countries.

“The Faculty of Law is committed to enhancing human rights scholarship through its Centre for Human Rights Research. Its continued involvement and now this unique Canadian journal are we proud of and excited for,” said Lorna Turnbull, acting dean of the Faculty of Law.

For video of professor Short discussing the journal, visit the U of M YouTube channel at youtube.com/umanitoba.

Senate Briefs

Briefs from September 8 meeting

ELECTION OF SENATE REPRESENTATIVE
Senate has elected Brian Postl, dean of Medicine, as Senate representative to the Executive Committee to replace D. Stichlmair, for a term ending May 31, 2011.

NEW PHD PROGRAM
Two individual PhD programs, in human nutritional sciences and in food science, replacing the former interdepartmental PhD program in food and nutritional sciences, have been approved by Senate.

NINE NEW AWARDS
Senate heard the report of the Senate Committee of Awards, which has accepted nine new offers of awards. The Hyeman Barlin Memorial Bursary will be established from the endowment fund in memory of Hyeman Barlin (Dip. Pharm./40) to provide bursary support for Pharmacy students. Friends and family of his parents, Joseph and Sylvia Lavitt, who earned a Diploma in Agriculture in 1951, have established this fund in accordance with the wishes of William W. Fetterman, who earned a Diploma in Agriculture in 1951. An endowment fund with an initial gift of $175,000 will provide one renewable scholarship for graduates of high schools in the Interlake, Lakeshore, and Evergreen School Divisions, who pursue post-secondary studies in the Agricultural and Food Sciences. The Joseph and Sylvia Lavitt Award in Pharmacy has been established by Frank Lavitt (LL.B./77) and his spouse Ahava Halpern in honour of his parents, Joseph and Sylvia Lavitt, with an initial gift of $25,000 in 2010, to provide scholarships for students in Pharmacy. The Douglas and Beverly Ruth Centenary Award in Engineering has been established for engineering students in celebration of the Faculty of Engineering’s centennial anniversary in 2008 with an initial gift of $10,000 from Douglas and Beverly Ruth. The Murray St. John Research Award for Women’s Legal Issues has been established from an annual contribution of $500 by Murray St. John to encourage research into legal issues pertaining to women, social justice and societal rights. The David Silverberg Scholarship in Judaic Studies has been established from $30,000 bequested by David M. Silverberg (B.Sc.(E.E.)/36) to offer scholarships for students of Judaic Studies. The H.D.B. Wilson Bursary has been established from an endowment fund from former students, colleagues, and friends of H.D.B. Wilson in his memory, for undergraduate students enrolled full-time in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources or in year two or three of any B.Sc. in Geological Sciences.

STUDENT GRADE COMMENT: DISCIPLINE
Senate approved a new grade comment ‘disciplinary’ to replace the current grade comment ‘CW’ (compulsory withdrawal) used by disciplinary authorities to designate disciplinary action. The grade comment ‘discipline’ and/or a transcript notation will also indicate a time period after which the student may apply to the registrar to remove the grade comment and/or transcript notation.

IN MEMORIAM: GUNNAR VALDISSONR
Senate heard an obituary in honour of Gunnar Valdissonr, biological sciences. Valdissonr passed away peacefully at home on May 8, 2010, after a courageous struggle with cancer.
**New Storyteller-In-Residence welcomed**

Ignatius Mabasa, new Writer/Storyteller-In-Residence.

As well as a poet, storyteller and novelist, Mabasa is a gospoet and dub poet, a champion of Shona language, wisdom and folklore, a mentor for the Budding Writers Association of Zimbabwe, the deputy director of the British Council in Zimbabwe and a lay preacher at his local church. He is working to establish the first storytelling venue in Zimbabwe.

Mabasa has published two award-winning novels, Ndafa here? (So what?) and Mapenzi (Fools) and a collection of folktales entitled Man, Shaggy Leopard and Jackal and Other Stories. He has also produced Yadhakha, an album of gospoetry and published poems and short stories in several anthologies.

Mabasa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Shona and Linguistics and a Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Communications, both from the University of Zimbabwe, as well as a Master of Philosophy in Media, Communication and Development from the University of Norway, Oslo. From 1999-2000, Mabasa was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at North Central College, College of Du Page, Lake County and William Rainey Harper College, all in suburban Chicago. In 2009 he participated in the San Francisco International Poetry Festival alongside legendary poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

During his tenure as Storyteller-In-Residence, Mabasa will visit classes, mentor writers and storytellers, and give several performances throughout the fall term. He will also finalize his third Shona novel, Vana Venyoka (Brood of Vipers). Mabasa will hold the position through December 2010.

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**No slouch: Back-to-work posture**

By Tracey Nyczai, C.A.T.(C) is director of the Bison Athletic Therapy Clinic.

**Tips for better posture**

1. Sit on your "butt bones" — not your knees, with your feet flat on the floor.
2. Be sure your back is resting against the back rest of your chair.
3. Make sure you chin isn't sticking out.
4. Squeeze your shoulder blades back and together.

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**CHOOSING CHANGE**

**BY ROSALYN HOWARD**

For The Bulletin

The bloom's still on the ROSE: Update

The outdoor gardening season is done, but ROSE is still blooming. ROSE is Resource Optimization and Service Excellence: a vision of great service for our students, our communities and each other with optimal use of our limited resources. ROSE includes attention to fairness, equity, shared responsibility, transparency and accountability, and environmental sustainability.

Many people have been involved in visioning, and improving administrative processes. We have accomplished advances in the use of technology including pay information, financial aid, billing, time and paper saving changes. We are well into the rollout of electronic pay stubs, with over 5000 employees already involved. Most of us who get monthly financial operating reports will soon be getting those electronically, with specific information about our division. A report for contracts is being developed and other options for paperless communication are being explored. We are changing our approach to the phone book, the annual report, and various other communications, strengthening the electronic versions and reducing use of glossy paper.

Many people took advantage of the opportunity to provide input regarding email, calendar, and file and print management systems, and we soon will be addressing the plans regarding those. We also are developing a system to help those scheduling classes be able to better match the size of the class with the appropriate classroom.

Over the summer and still continuing, there is a pilot on the Bannatyne Campus using a centrally managed model for providing information technology desktop services. Information on service patterns and satisfaction ratings will be used to guide future action.

For more information, please visit http://umanitoba.ca/cais/bannatyne-pilot.

There are also be "desks, plans, and positive momentum in many other areas, e.g., external relations, financial services, human resources, information services and technology, physical plant, research services and student support services. What will we do, when, and how? Consultations and decision-making regarding the next phase for ROSE are nearly complete. Stay tuned.

For more information about ROSE, please visit http://umanitoba.ca/admin/rose/.

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**BY MARIANNE MAPS MBEBE AND CHRIS RUTKOWSKI**

The Bulletin

On September 16, the University of Manitoba's Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture welcomed Ignatius Mabasa, its new Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence at a program and reception at the Great Hall in University College. The event also featured readings by English master's students who are recipients of the 2010 CD Howe Fellowship, a $10,000 prize for graduate students working in creative writing and/or oral culture.

Mabasa is a gospoet and storyteller from Zimbabwe. He says that he grew up on his grandfather’s farm where he heard his grandmother tell stories each evening. By age eight he was retelling his grandmother’s stories to siblings. He was loved by both his family and the community, and the storyteller that my grandmother told befriended me more than the other children,” he says.

"Getting an opportunity to retell her stories into a new generation is a privilege. I have found myself adding new twists to the plot."

‘Stories are the reflections that bring coherence to our lives.’

Addressing the crowd that came to welcome him, Mabasa recounted that Africa is a country full of contradiction. “In stories, survival is the theme that matters most,” he continued.

But stories in a time of chaos, he continued, “are the reflections that bring coherence to our lives.”

Mabasa’s expression of the humourous storytelling mesmerized the crowd as he went on to tell two stories; the first about a great hunter who wanted to be even greater: to be a living legend; and another about a tricky bird named Boo Boo, who earns the admiration of his bird friends after killing a snake but lets it all go to his head when he’s appointed as government minister and forgets all about helping his friends.

He ended his performance with several poems, and also one in its original African language Shona, the language in which Mabasa writes. The rhythms of the Shona poem are very different than the English version; as the author says, “Translation is not faithful.”
September 23, 2010

The Bulletin

Page 5

Briefs
Trends in education and technology at the U of M and beyond...

US study finds Facebook aids in student retention: A new study published in the Journal of College Student Retention finds that frequent Facebook users are more likely to return to their initial institution after their first year. In a survey of 375 Abilene Christian University students, those who were more active on Facebook were more likely to return for their second year. The study’s author says the Facebook effect on campuses is twofold — not only does the site make it easier for first-year students to find friends, but it also boosts the likelihood of students’ developing deeper friendships following chance encounters. Both aspects lead to a deeper sense of connection on campus and in the classroom, the author argues.

Gen Y, employers differ on importance of knowledge economy skills: In a new survey commissioned by George Brown College, one-third of Generation Y admit to being “somewhat familiar” with the concept of the knowledge-based economy, while employers are nearly twice as familiar. Close to 68 per cent of employers believe the shift to the knowledge-based economy has already occurred, compared to just 16 per cent of Gen Ys. About two-thirds of Gen Ys believe communication and teamwork to be important to employers, while 80 per cent of Gen Ys believe they are familiar with the concept of the knowledge-based economy. About two-thirds of Gen Ys feel they are familiar with the concept of the knowledge-based economy.

The Chronicle of Higher Education - George Brown College News Release, services, and science and technology will issues, including the belief that IT, financial

important. The groups do agree on other

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important to employers, while 80 per cent

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concept of the knowledge-based economy.

The conference will include an overview of topics such as identity, politics and culture, adapting to change, the university’s role in powering the future and relating to our indigenous heritage.

The institutional partnership between UMU and the University of Manitoba began in 2006 after a visiting delegation from Sweden, including academic and administrative staff as well as government representatives, requested the U of M to establish a partnership of some strategic significance, based on common strengths and interests related to the circumpolar north.

In Feb 2009, UMU hosted a delegation from the U of M in the first partnership conference. According to Friesen, UMU made it clear that Umeå wanted to build a strong relationship with Manitoba, which they see as similar to mid-Sweden in many ways.

"We would like to reciprocate this hospitality by facilitating the many layers of possibly linkages at the academic as well as the civic and provincial levels," says Friesen.

The conference takes place October 3 to 6 at the University of Manitoba.

Campus as a Community

WELCOME BACK...
...from the Department of Development.

As a staff or faculty member, YOU are integral to the University’s ability to offer our students an exceptional university experience.

Whether you teach, conduct research, maintain the grounds, provide clerical support or administer policies, each one of you contributes to a stellar education for our students and lets our researchers discover new ways of understanding our world.

Keep an eye on upcoming issues of The Bulletin where you can meet some of your colleagues who are going above their everyday responsibilities and making a dynamic impact at our university.

We all have a role to play. Thank you for everything YOU do.

Join your colleagues in supporting your university.

Visit umanitoba.ca/giving to find out how you can make a difference.

Professors receive top honour
U of M faculty members among latest inductees to Royal Society of Canada

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

For The Bulletin

Three University of Manitoba professors have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the country’s most esteemed association of scholars and scientists, and one has been declared an award winner.

Terry Cook, a distinct voice for Canadian archival scholarship, Leslie Roos, a pioneer of health data linkage, and George Toles, an internationally-recognized screenwriter and film critic, will receive the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences. World-recognized mineralogist and RSC Fellow Frank Hawthorne will receive the Bancroft Award. The RSC announced its new Fellows, medal recipients and award winners on September 13.

“These individuals have made remarkable contributions in their fields of study. Their achievements are not only noted here at the University of Manitoba but across the globe,” said Dr. Digvir Jayas, the university’s vice-president (research). “I applaud their accomplishments. They are very deserving of this honour.”

Terry Cook, history professor, has transformed our understanding of archives from being storehouses of old records to the focus for close scholarly attention. Seeing archives as sites of power, and archivists as agents of interpretation rather than passive curators, Cook has been able to reposition his profession — in Canada and internationally — to cope with the super-abundance of modern records to discern the tiny percentage that will survive as archives, and to respond to the challenges of digital records and of critical theory. He has developed a distinctive voice for Canadian archival scholarship worldwide and is a pioneer in writing archival history.

Leslie Roos, community health sciences Distinguished Professor, cofounded the Population Health Data Repository in Manitoba in the early 1990s. This population-based system allows researchers to examine the social determinants of health and the efficacy of the population-based system allows researchers to examine the social determinants of health and the efficacy of the health system. A revolutionary concept that helped transform research using data routinely collected by multiple ministries, the repository continues to lead to important findings in health policy and prevention. Other scholars in Canada and countries around the world have since followed Roos’ groundbreaking lead.

George Toles, English, film and theatre Distinguished Professor, is an accomplished scholar and artist with an international reputation for his critical and creative work. For more than 25 years he has been the scriptwriter, story consultant and script editor for director Guy Maddin and in the process helped shape one of the most innovative and highly-praised bodies of work in recent Canadian film history. Toles is also a major voice in contemporary film criticism. His book A House Made of Light is regarded as an essential text on the medium of film and appears on course reading lists around the world.

Frank Hawthorne, geological sciences Distinguished Professor, has addressed some of the most fundamental problems in mineralogy and has made major contributions to our understanding of energetic and mechanistic factors affecting the stability of crystalline materials. He was listed by Thomson Scientific as the world’s most cited geoscientist of the decade 1997-2006 and received the Killam Prize in Natural Sciences in 2008.

New Fellows and award winners will be officially inducted and honoured Nov 27 at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa during the RSC’s Induction and Awards Ceremony. This brings the total number of current Royal Society Fellows from the U of M to 43.

Founded in 1882, the society’s primary objective is to promote learning and research in the arts and sciences. It consists of approximately 2,000 Fellows. These are men and women from across the country nominated by their peers for outstanding contributions to the natural and social sciences and in the humanities.

Clockwise from top left: Terry Cook, history professor (submitted photo), Leslie Roos, community health sciences Distinguished Professor, Frank Hawthorne, geological sciences Distinguished Professor, George Toles, English, film and theatre Distinguished Professor.

A new study published in the

US study finds Facebook aids in student retention. A new study published in the Journal of College Student Retention finds that frequent Facebook users are more likely to return to their initial institution after their first year. In a survey of 375 Abilene Christian University students, those who were more active on Facebook were more likely to return for their second year. The study’s author says the Facebook effect on campuses is twofold — not only does the site make it easier for first-year students to find friends, but it also boosts the likelihood of students’ developing deeper friendships following chance encounters. Both aspects lead to a deeper sense of connection on campus and in the classroom, the author argues.
BY JEREMY BROOKS
For The Bulletin

With Homecoming 2010 fast upon us, we want to remind each and every one of you to join us for a great week of celebrations. What better way to do this than steal a page from late night television? Here it is.

THE TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD ATTEND HOMECOMING 2010

10. You understand Facebook is no match for face-to-face and want to meet up with old university friends and colleagues.
9. You’re a Class of 1970 engineering grad who’d never miss a chance to share a pint with fellow grad and former dean Doug Ruth.
8. Home Economics and Human Ecology are celebrating their faculty centennial and, though they may claim to be perfectly prim and proper, this lot knows how to throw a shaker!
7. You’re an aggie. You like to party. ‘Nuff said.
6. The Bisons Homecoming Football Game, Saturday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. Here we go, Brown and Gold!
5. The Bisons Homecoming Football Game. Our guys thumped UBC last week; let’s cheer them on at home so they beat the Dinos into extinction.
4. Campus Tours: your chance to see the bajillion* dollars worth of projects that are turning your alma mater into a world-class institution. *Bajillion is loosely defined here as lots and lots.

A message from the Alumni Association

University of Manitoba Research Support Programs

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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<th>Name of Program</th>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td>October 15 March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td>2 months prior to leave</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td>September 30 January 31 May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inc. of the University of Manitoba

1. You love this university as much as we do!
2. Homecoming is ridiculously fun!
3. Because you, our alumni, students and staff, are the reasons the University of Manitoba is great; we need you to join us and make this year’s event perfect!

Come home for Homecoming 2010, September 22 to 26, 2010. Visit us online at umanitoba.ca/alumni for complete details.

FOOTBALL
September 25 | 1:00 p.m.
HOMECOMING GAME
Bison Football vs. Calgary
Location: University Stadium

BISON WOMEN’S SOCCER
October 2 and 3 | 12:00 p.m.
v. Saskatchewan and Alberta
Location: Winnipeg Outdoor Soccer Complex (900 Waverley St.)
The Bison women’s soccer team battles Saskatchewan Saturday, Alberta on Sunday.

BISON WOMEN’S HOCKEY
October 8 and 9 | 4:00, 3:00 p.m
Season opener vs. Alberta.
Location: Max Bell Centre
Note the special start times with Friday at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

BISON MEN’S HOCKEY
October 8 and 9 | 8:00, 7:00 p.m.
Season opener vs. Regina
Location: Max Bell Centre
Note Friday’s game starts at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday’s game starts at 7:00 p.m.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SOL KANE LECTURE ON PEACE AND JUSTICE
DR. PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA
NARRATIVES OF DIALOGUE AND HEALING:
STORIES OF REMEMBRANCE AND FORGIVENESS IN THE AFTERMATH OF MASS MARTIA AND VIOLENCE
Wednesday, September 29, 2010 - 1:00 PM
Manitoba Room, University Centre, and Flies, University of Manitoba
Parking on campus is limited. Public transportation is highly recommended.

ADMISSION IS FREE

Presented by:
PARK SUBWAY CORPORATION
THE FOUNDATION INC.
St. Paul’s College
University of Manitoba

THE ELIZABETH DAFOE LIBRARY INVITES YOU TO THE SECOND ANNUAL
ELIZABETH DAFOE MEMORIAL LECTURE

GUEST LECTURER:
Dr. Jarvis Brownlie
Dept. of History
University of Manitoba

Shooting Fish in a Barrel? The Crown’s Invalidation of Aboriginal Oral History in Canadian Litigation

Date: Thursday, October 7, 2010
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Archives Reading Room
3rd Flr, Elizabeth Dafoe Library

Aboriginal oral history is the main source of Aboriginal historical knowledge and is often presented as evidence in litigation, but Constable courts have difficulty making sense of it. However, in rights-related court cases, Aboriginal peoples face government-appointed experts whose task is to discredit that oral history. This talk examines the ways that one regulatory government expert, Dr. Jarvis Brownlie, seeks to invalidate this form of knowledge, taking advantage of the existing prejudices of Canadian courts, while denying Aboriginal conceptualizations of Aboriginal oral history and insisting on the universal applicability of Western knowledge tools, especially positivist empiricism. He draws on this to exclude Aboriginal thought, using a specific racist language to reclassify the old Eurocentric hierarchy of knowledge and authority.

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- You are interested in above average compensation.
- Check out our website, contact Dr. Greg Bradley.
- Home of the Medicine Cat Tigers, the team has won two Memorial Cups, five WHL Championships and seven Division Titles.

The Bulletin Page 7
September 23, 2010
Page 7
Coffee with a co-worker

The Bulletin plays 10 or 20 questions with Sean Byrne

Coffee or tea? Both, with milk. Tea because of my culture, and I learned to like coffee when I came to North America.

Sean Byrne tells a story about the exquisite varieties of cherry tree that have been reduced to only one in many Ireland orchards. The story’s meant to be an analogy about the kind of “monoculture,” as he puts it, that becomes fruitless in a society. He values what he calls the “diversity — and a real sense of community and social justice” he finds in Winnipeg. “People here are humble, and have a way of working together.” He also agrees with Centre for Peace and Justice founder, Arthur Mauro, that Winnipeg is quite possibly the “Geneva of North America.”

“The desire to bring peace is personal,” he says. Byrne is originally from Northern Ireland, a country whose richness and beauty is often overshadowed by the “conflict over narrow ground,” as he puts it.

As the director of the Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, Byrne’s goal is to make a contribution. He speaks with passion and enthusiasm about the work of other scholars and colleagues in peacekeeping and peace and conflict studies. Part of the Centre’s mission, he says, is to reach out to the wider communities, with events from the brown bag lecture series, to the Sol Kanee Lecture on Peace and Justice, to other activities such as the Storytelling Festival.

And as I found out from a colleague of mine, he also doesn’t hesitate to talk to people in lunch lineups about bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

- Marianne Mays Wiebe

What a typical day looks like: Teach a graduate course, administration, research, supervision, outreach work, thesis work, and multi-tasking: which is nice for a Gemini.

How you came to this vocation: I was fortunate enough to have an inspirational teacher, Ms. Hennessy, in the first grade. My grandmother was a peacemaker in our local community. Profs. Paul Bew and Frank Wright at Queen’s (Belfast) nurtured me in my research interests.

A recent vivid dream you’ve had: Ireland won the world cup.

Hidden talent? I’m a singer.

The Vice President of Research, The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Recent memorable book you have read: Peace and Conflict Theory by Roger MacGinty and Andy Williams.

What is peacemaking to you? Peacemaking is a form of conflict transformation that creates equal and solid relationships that withstand future conflict.

Name a couple of items you have at your desk. Picture of my eight-year old daughter Katie, lots of interesting books.

Sweet or savoury? Both. A bit of everything. One thing that people might not know about you is ... I played drums in a punk rock band and also played senior rugby for many years.

Dinner at home or out at a restaurant? Cooking at home.

A childhood memory that’s stayed with you? I was at the Guildhall in July when PM David Cameron addressed 7,000 people with the findings of Lord Saville’s inquiry into the Bloody Sunday shootings in Derry. People spent the following days just hanging out on the streets, sharing stories, talking to each other.

A film you love: Lawrence of Arabia.

A recent experience that has changed your view of the world is. Spending summers on my grandmother’s farm in Ireland.

Your idea of fun is. ... playing with my daughter and hanging out with my partner.

Your motto is. Treat people as I’d like to be treated, and inspire and care for others.

What is your most recent achievement? Being a father.

Upcoming exciting lectures at the Faculty of Medicine

3 Outstanding Biomedical Experts in Translational Research in Winnipeg this Fall

Dr. Patrick Choy Distinguished Seminar in Translational Research

"Viral hepatitis: Animal models and the development of improved therapy"
Tuesday, September 28, 2010. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A), BMSB, Bannatyne Campus

Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, OC, AOE, MD, PhD, FRCP, FRSC
Professor and CHRI/CSIR Chair in Virology
Director, Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

Duncan J. Stewart, MD, FRCP
CEO & Scientific Director, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Vice President of Research, The Ottawa Hospital
The Evelyn & Rowell Lashley Chair
Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa, ON

2010 RCPC Visiting Professor in Medical Research
"Cell therapy for acute myocardial infarction: The next major advance in AMI care?"
Tuesday, October 5, 2010. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A), BMSB, Bannatyne Campus

Professor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute & Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Boston, MA, USA

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD
2010 Canada Gairdner International Laureate

"The von Hippel-Lindau tumor suppressor protein: Insights into oxygen sensing and cancer"
Tuesday, October 26, 2010. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Frederic Gaspard Theatre (Theatre A), BMSB, Bannatyne Campus
**2010 Ethics Research Fellowships**

The Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics invites applications for Research Fellowships for the 2011-2012 academic year from University of Manitoba faculty members holding tenured or probationary appointments. The Centre is housed within the Department of Philosophy and has a mandate to promote interdisciplinary research on applied ethics in all areas of practical and professional life. Funding for these Research Fellowships is provided by: the Mary Catherine Cartwright Endowment of the Department of Philosophy and the Imperial Oil Ethics Endowment Fund.

Successful applicants will be appointed as Research Associates of the Centre and will be granted release time stipends for 3 hours of teaching or the equivalent. Alternatively, the applicant may choose to apply for financial support of up to $5,000. In that case, a draft budget will be required, detailing how the grant money would be spent. Recipients will be required to present their research findings at a public seminar/lecture sponsored by the Centre. A final written report describing the outcome of the research must be submitted within two months of the end of the term of the fellowship.

Two Research Fellowships are available. One is open to all University of Manitoba faculty members, and the Centre wishes to encourage applications from researchers in all areas of inquiry. The other is open only to members of the Faculty of Arts.

The Executive Committee of the Centre will act as the selection committee. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the Centre’s web site for further information, including the correct application procedure: umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/philosophy/ethics/2154.htm

You may also wish to contact the Director for additional assistance.

Applications, and all supporting material, must be submitted not later than December 15th, 2010, to:

Professor Arthur Schafer, Director Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics
University College, University of Manitoba
220 Dyasit Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2M8
Phone: (204)474-9107; Fax: (204)261-0021
Email: schafer@cc.umanitoba.ca

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**DO YOU HAVE DEBT?**

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**Call for Nominations**

Nominations for the following titles and honours are now invited:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/ Honour</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>October 15, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President/Dean/Professor/Librarian Emeritus/Emerita</td>
<td>December 31, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Degrees</td>
<td>October 31, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service Award</td>
<td>December 31, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter D. Curry Chancellor’s Award</td>
<td>October 15, 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**End of Life Care: Where are the ethical lines?**

**PROFESSOR WAYNE SUMNER**

University Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto
Author of:
- Assisted Death: A study in ethics and law (publication forthcoming)
- The Hateful and the Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression (University of Toronto Press)
- Welfare, Happiness and Ethics (Oxford University Press)
- The Moral Foundation of Rights (Oxford University Press)
- Abortion and Moral Theory (Oxford University Press)

Friday, 22nd October
12:30 - 1:30 pm

University College, Concourse Lounge.
Everyone welcome

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**Outreach Nominations Invited**

Each year the University of Manitoba honours support and academic staff who have been notably active in outreach activities.

The university will hold its 31st Annual Outreach Reception on Monday, November 29, 2010.

Deans and Directors are accepting nominations until Friday, October 29 of anyone active during 2009-2010 in enlarging and enriching the contacts of the university. Administrative units of the University should send their nominations to their respective Vice-President.

Outreach activities may include increasing access to existing university programs, extending the nature and range of the university’s programs and services, and sharing most effectively with the community the resources of the university.

While there are no restrictions on nominating a previous recipient, the case for doing so must be based on outreach activities since the previous award.

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**University of Manitoba**

One university. Many futures.
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UPCOMING LECTURES, CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA

TRANSPORT INSTITUTE: THE 6TH SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE
September 29 to 30
Conference on transportation requirements and alternatives for moving goods and people to and from northern places.
Register online at www.umnit.ca. After August 20, the regular registration fee is $450 plus GST (Canadian funds). The cost includes two breakfasts, two luncheons, all breaks PLUS the banquet on September 29.
Contact: Kathy Chmelnitzki at 204.474.9097 or email transport_institute@umanitoba.ca for further details.

CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL & APPLIED ETHICS LECTURE
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, Samuel Weber, David Farrell Krell, October 6 to 9
FREUD AFTER DERRIDA
Website and registration: http://www.umanitoba.ca/ethicsfreespeech/lecture.html

APPLIED ETHICS LECTURE
Co-sponsored by the Centre on Aging.

CENTRE ON AGING

STUDENT LECTURE SERIES
Matthew Sapolin, New York City

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS
All music events take place in Eva Clare Hall unless otherwise indicated
September 23, 7:30 p.m., University Homecoming, Faculty Gala Concert
Saxophone and Laura Loewen on piano
September 28, 8:00 p.m., Crystal Schwartz, 3rd year trumpet recital
To register contact: Sr. Elaine or Fr. Michael, Rm 221 or 222, St. Paul’s College

ST. PAUL’S COLLEGE EVENTS
September 25 | Development and Peace Workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
September 26 | Homecoming 2010 Mass, 11:00 a.m.
September 26 | Homecoming 2010 Mass, 7:00 p.m.
September 27 | Annual Grace and Thanksgiving, 6:00 p.m.
September 28 | Faculty Retirement Brunch, 12:00 p.m.
September 29 | Women’s Catechetical Council, 1:00 p.m.
October 3 | Women’s Conference, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

McNIR RESEARCH SEMINAR
September 27 | 12:00 p.m.
“Embodiment, spirit, fostering connections: The design of an integrated cancer treatment centre” by Anna Westund. Participate via Telehealth, contact MB Centre Nursing and Health Research at 474-9080 or mchnr@cc.umanitoba.ca

STATISTICS SEMINAR
September 30 | 2:45 p.m.
“System Signatures and Properties” by Narayanaswamy Balakrishnan, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, McMaster University, 316 MacNay Hall.

CITTA SEMINAR SERIES
October 1 | 12:00 p.m.
Dr. Richard Bairstow, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 1229 Chown Bldg. (Video link to SIRC R102)

THE COAST TO COAST SEMINAR SERIES
October 5 | 1:30 p.m.
“Insight into Lower Atmospheric Composition from Remote Sensing and Modeling” by Randall Martin, Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University, E2-568 EITC Building.

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LECTURE
October 15 | 12:30 p.m.
“Konopli: Hemp in Ukrainian Tradition and Life” by Orysia Tracz, Collections Management, U of M Libraries. The Frederick G. Stambaugh Classroom, 339 Elizabeth Starling-Roberts Building.

ARCHITECTURE GUEST LECTURE
September 20 | noon
Matthew Sapolin, New York City Commission with the Mayor’s Office For Persons with Disabilities. At Centre Square, Russell Building.

OTHER EVENTS
UKRAINIAN CANADIAN ALUMNI BANQUET
September 25 | 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew’s College, Great Hall. Tickets $35; call Robert Wiebe (204.896.0707), Genia Bozyk (474-8895), Nelli Drozd (474-7374), James Kominowski (474-9681), Iryna Kontoulieva (474-8289), Orysia Tracz (474-9961), Victoria Kaschir (474-8900).

36TH PRESIDENT’S RECESSION FOR RETIREEs
September 25, 16 | 2:00 p.m.
Marshall McCluhan Hall, 204 University Avenue, 312, Fort Garry Campus. RSVP by Friday, October 8, 2010 to Linda Lasman at email: Linda.Lasman@umanitoba.ca or telephone: (204) 474-924.

Academic Job Opportunities
A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at humanresources.umanitoba.ca. If you are encouraged 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, Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for opening at the university.

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Classics
Position: Tenure-track Assistant Professor
Start date: September 1, 2011
Deadline: August 5, 2011
Position Number: 11956
For Information: Dr. Mark Joyal, Chair, Department of Classics, University of Manitoba, 800B, Shingwauk Hall, 10674 Music Building.

FACULTY OF LAW
Department of Legal Studies
Position: Tenure-track Assistant Professor
Start date: July 1, 2011
Deadline: October 7, 2010
Position Number: 11957
For Information: Dr. R. G. Herring, Chair, Department of Legal Studies, University of Manitoba, 800B, Shingwauk Hall, 10674 Music Building.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Reproductive Health Research
Position: Tenure-track Assistant Professor
Start date: September 1, 2011
Deadline: August 5, 2011
Position Number: 11958
For Information: Dr. Ranjan Persad, Chair, Department of Reproductive Health Research, University of Manitoba, 800B, Shingwauk Hall, 10674 Music Building.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT
Department of Supply Chain Management
Position: Tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor
Start date: July 1, 2011
Deadline: November 10, 2010
Position Number: 07765
For Information: Dr. Mark Joyal, Chair, Department of Supply Chain Management, University of Manitoba, 500, 1210 University Avenue.

ASPER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Department of Supply Chain Management
Position: Tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor
Start date: July 1, 2011
Deadline: December 10, 2010
Position Number: 07766
For Information: Dr. Mark Joyal, Chair, Department of Supply Chain Management, University of Manitoba, 500, 1210 University Avenue.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
Department of Social Work
Position: Tenure-track Assistant Professor
Start date: July 1, 2011
Deadline: October 14, 2010
Position Number: 11953
For Information: Dr. Sharon Taylor-Henley, Chair, Department of Social Work, University of Manitoba, 500, 1210 University Avenue.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
Northern Social Work Program
Position: Tenure-track Assistant Professor
Start date: July 1, 2011
Deadline: October 14, 2010
Position Number: 11955
For Information: Dr. Sharon Taylor-Henley, Chair, Department of Social Work, University of Manitoba, 500, 1210 University Avenue.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS
All music events take place in Eva Clare Hall unless otherwise indicated
September 23, 7:30 p.m., University Homecoming, Faculty Gala Concert; free, tickets required: contact Alumni Association for information
September 24, 8:00 p.m., Marianne Kohlmenn, 4th year piano recital
September 25, 8:00 p.m., Environental Impressions performs live soundtracks to local films at The Cube, Old Market Square
September 28, 8:00 p.m., Crystal Schwartz, 3rd year trumpet recital
September 29, 12:30 p.m., Faculty Concert at Noon featuring Allan Harrington on saxophone and Laura Lowe on piano
October 1, 8:00 p.m., Sarah Kirsch, graduate voice recital
October 1, 7:00 p.m., Jazz Masterclass with Allan Harris, location TBA
October 2, 8:00 p.m., Elizabeth Humphries, 3rd year voice recital
October 4, 12:30 p.m., Faculty recital at mid-day featuring Chris Lee on tuba
October 6, 12:30 p.m., Anna Hamilton, guest artist from our sister University, Umeå University (Sweden) in conjunction with the Office of International Affairs and the Northern Studies Conference hosted here. Hamilton is a poprock star in Sweden.
**Biofuels Breakthrough**

Researchers are using bacteria—found in some unusual places—to produce renewable fuel

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

A teen pop sensation might be accustomed to capturing the world’s attention. But two humble U of M professors? Not so much.

Research by Prof. David Levin (biosystems engineering) and Prof. Richard Sparling (microbiology) that involves turning Tim Hortons coffee cups into fuel made international headlines this summer after being featured in local news.

“Mrwntghdbi Atosophtinnnfhre was a clip of us on yahoo right beside Justin Bieber,” says Levin. “It’s been crazy.”

Levin and Sparling are offering a free presentation about their research—open to the public Wednesday Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre—part of the upcoming Bringing Research to Life Speaker Series. They are co-leading a $10.5 million research project, funded by Genome Canada and managed by Genome Prairie, to find and investigate new ways to create the next generation of biofuels (which are derived from renewable energy sources). The need has never been greater: the cost of tapping traditional fossil fuels is on the rise since the more easily accessible wells are being used up. There’s also the added risk of environmental catastrophes when venturing into these new wells.

“The environmental impact of incidents like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (in April in the Gulf of Mexico) should remind us that we are often unaware of the long-term impact of our technologies on our surroundings,” says Sparling. “However, old habits are difficult to break. We are addicted to cheap oil.”

The pair are looking for local bacteria that eat cellulose and in the process produce biofuels like ethanol or hydrogen that can be used to power our cars, boats, and planes. Part of their quest involves finding materials with little or none of the chemical compound lignin: the less of this the better as it makes the transformation into fuel less efficient. As it turns out, fuel-making bacteria love the discarded and processed cups from the popular coffee-shop chain. Using the cups also keeps them out of the landfill (Tim Hortons cups can be recycled but not all recycling facilities accept the cups at this time.) Now Levin and Sparling are turning their attention to Starbucks cups, along with other processed products like paper collars and bags.

“From an outreach point of view we hope our efforts give the community an awareness of the potential uses of underexploited resources that are hiding in plain sight around us,” says Sparling.

What sets this pair of professors apart from other researchers who are exploring biofuels elsewhere in the world is their multi-bacteria approach. “Instead of producing co-cultures that can work together with the goal of making the process more efficient. A more common approach is to use genetic engineering to create one super bacteria that “can do everything,” says Levin. “And that hasn’t really worked out very well.”

Instead, Levin and Sparling are “trying to mimic nature.” “Micro-organisms don’t live alone. They live in communities,” Levin says. “They like to have friends around.” They are isolating bacteria found in a variety of local and far-flung environments, including hot springs in New Zealand, a farm in Saskatchewan, and even from within the guts of a dead wood-eating insect found in a cherry tree in Sparling’s own backyard.

“Basically, the idea is we isolate these microorganisms from these communities; we characterize the ones that break down the cellulose, break down the cells individually and put them back together to see what combination works best,” says Levin, likening the process to mixing and matching.

“It’s difficult for him and Sparling to predict how far away their research is from actually being put into practice. It all depends on the price of oil. If it takes a leap, producing these alternatives becomes more economically viable, in comparison. Already, wood materials are being used to produce ethanol and hydrogen. To do so, scientists use steam explosion, and then enzymes to break down the cellulose—but it’s a costly process, explains Levin. In fact, the biggest challenge in biofuels today is finding a more viable option for industry. The bacteria he and Sparling are investigating “have the enzymes built into their bodies, encoded in their genomes” which would skip a step and save money.

Sparling says the key is to think globally—about the issues surrounding oil, but act locally to reduce our dependency on oil extracted from ecologically sensitive areas, like the Gulf of Mexico or Beaufort Sea.

“There may be local means of converting some municipal and agricultural wastes into biofuels,” he says. “The cups are one example that may strike a chord with people’s imagination.”
We all shine on
Shining shoes, kicking records, for Cystic Fibrosis

President and vice-chancellor David Barnard (far left), Glenn Feltham (centre), dean, Asper School of Business, Joanne Kieselman (bottom left), vice-president (academic), Debbie McAlpin (from left, bottom row), vice-president (administration) have their photo taken with students from the University of Manitoba.

The annual United Way Plane Pull took place September 17 at the Red River College campus. Vital Transit volunteered the bus and the driver at no cost to the U of M.

This year’s team was made up of grad students, the U of M wrestling team and several staff members. U of M put in a time of 11.75 seconds to pull the plane some 15 feet or so.

Campaign co-chair Marvin Kocay, executive director, IST, says, joking, “Debbie Brown (business manager of Extended Education and one of the participants) said it best when she said the U of M time was a personal best for everyone on the team.”

Other campaign co-chairs are John (Jay) Doering, dean of Graduate Studies, and Louise Simard of Bannatyne campus. The U of M will be having kick-offs at both campuses. Bannatyne will have its event October 15, while Fort Garry kicks off October 6 in the BIFC atrium. Kocay promises “something fun.”

There will be almost 100 canvassers helping to distribute and collect pledge forms. Sylvia Lapointe from the faculty of Education is leading a team to put together the rainbow auction. They will be seeking donations of prizes and for volunteers to sell raffle tickets.

The University of Manitoba campaign is one of the top in the city.

HANLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES
The Clinic for Entrepreneurs
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The Clinic is designed for entrepreneurs who require information on sole proprietorship and non-profit organizations. The clinic is designed for entrepreneurs who require information*

Students do not give legal advice

Lisa Sowle Cahill

L L Sósowle Cahill is currently a member of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, the Advisory Board of Catholics Against the Death Penalty, and of the Catholic AssistantViking Network, sponsored by the University of Ottawa and St. Mary’s University.

For more information visit www.umanitoba.ca/stpauls

Starting a business
Don’t know where to turn?

Get free information* from the L Perry Vickar Business Law Clinic at the

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

Call 474-9521

Students do not give legal advice

The Faculty of Arts and the Department of Political Studies present

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