A University of Manitoba-led national team of researchers has been awarded $1,499,773 in new funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Rx&D Health Research Foundation (HRF) to study the impact of comorbidity, or co-existing health conditions, on people with MS.

The team is being led by Ruth Ann Marrie, assistant professor in internal medicine and Community Health Sciences and clinician at Winnipeg’s Health Sciences Centre.

Funding for seven projects totalling over $9 million was awarded under the CIHR Team Grants in Co-morbidity of Brain Disorders and Other Health Problems. Six projects, including Marrie’s focus on co-existing health problems associated with mental illness, addiction, brain and nerve disorders, and sensory disorders, and one project on palliative care among First Nations.

“We expect our approach to ultimately allow for individualized disease management for those with MS and increase our understanding of the pathophysiology of MS,” said Marrie. Findings will be disseminated via a partnership with decision makers and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

“The research team led by Dr. Marrie and her colleagues nationally will provide insight into the health of those with MS and will have impact on the lives of thousands of Canadians who suffer with MS,” said Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research) at the U of M.

The research team is made up of collaborators from six institutions at five study sites in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia.
In the News

Mallrats
The Globe and Mail
October 20, 2010
Reg Litz, entrepreneurial studies, shared his thoughts on shopping malls. Currently Big Biag “anchor tenants” at Canada’s shopping malls are increasingly using their market clout to keep small businesses and other competitors away. Restrictive covenants banning everything from rival delicatessens to muffin stores have been included in big-box lease agreements for decades as a way to ensure a desirable retail mix. But entrepreneurs and lawyers are reporting that in recent years major tenants are using them to tighten their stranglehold on malls. The use of restrictive covenants also damps ingenuity, Litz says. “Some entrepreneurial behaviours that involve new products and services will be pushed to the sidelines...You’re setting things up to get very boring and monolithic.”

Headlines

Geological Society's Andrey Bekker made news again for his contributions to another study that further explains Earth’s early history. According to the team of Canadian and U.S. researchers he worked with, a theory that suggests the world was covered in ice 750 million years ago could also explain the initial explosion of complex life on Earth. In the past, people have speculated that glaciations delivered phosphorus to the ocean but the evidence for such an event didn’t exist until now. The team arrived at its conclusion by analyzing hundreds of iron oxide mineral samples from all over the world dating back to the era in question. Bekker and his team found that the samples contained “anomalously high concentrations” of phosphorous, which one researcher said was a “wonderful, serendipitous peak...that was unlike anything before or after.”

Icy Earth fostered life in oceans: researchers; Phosphorus spurred growth of organisms

Montreal Gazette, Vancouver Sun, Nature
October 28, 2010

Law professor Karen Busby explained aspects of the law apply to a police investigation into events that involve the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and a man named Brian Sinclair who died in a hospital emergency waiting room. Busby said criminal negligence is a difficult charge to prove in court, but not impossible. “It’s really hard to show reckless disregard,” she said, further noting that two Canadian cases saw corporate executives face criminal charges — Nova Scotia’s Westray coal mine explosion in 1992 and the Canadian Red Cross tainted-blood scandal in the 1990s. Ultimately, the criminal charges were dropped in both cases, but Busby said HSC, the WRHA, or individual staff members could be charged in the Sinclair case.

Headlines

“Prospective lawyers get loan break,” Globe and Mail, Oct. 13, 2010, brief story about Faculty of Law and Law Society of Manitoba teaming up to provide free legal education to people from remote communities if they return to them after graduation.

“Foreign students flocking here,” Winnipeg Free Press, Oct. 28, 2010, story about the high rate (highest in the country) of international students coming to Manitoba, particularly to the U of M.

Norrie Walkway unveiled

The University of Manitoba recently honoured William and Helen Norrie by naming a popular campus walkway after them.

David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor, unveiled a brass plaque and Tyndall stone monument that pays tribute to the alumni who have supported the U of M in numerous ways, from serving on the Student’s Union (UMSU) when they were students, to their establishment of the Bill and Helen Norrie Society and their support of the Inner City Social Work Program at the William Norrie Centre downtown.

“The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper.”

The William and Helen Norrie walkway is bordered by native foliage and modern wood benches. Its patio-stoned path runs between the engineering complex and University Laboratory and Abdulla Brooks of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

“Because there is no approved vaccine available, the best option to control dengue epidemic is to control mosquitoes, the vector, it is not easy to control and human interaction where poverty is pervasive. Our main goal is to understand the dengue disease transmission better and know more about how to mobilize effectively the community members to change their behavior and plan local community development programs better,” said Haque.

The collaborative research initiative is being funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa to cover a four-year research period from 2010 to 2014.

New U of M-Bangladesh partnership

BY MARIANNE MAYS WEIBE
The Bulletin

A new research project aimed at identifying and testing community-based interventions to prevent and control the spread of dengue virus among the population of Bangladesh has been announced. The U of M will join the Public Health Agency of Canada (National Microbiology Laboratory) in this project, with the Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, and North South University, Bangladesh.

Emdad Haque, director and professor at the Natural Resources Institute at U of M leads the research to advance knowledge and practice regarding prevention and control of dengue disease, along with G.U. Ahsan of the North South University, Bangladesh, Michael Drebot of the Microbiology Department.

Norrie Walkway unveiled by SEAN MOORE
The Bulletin

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“The Norries demonstrate an unfolding dedication to the well-being of our university community, our city and our province,” said Barnard. “Our school’s motto is Floreat, which can mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper. The Norries have lived up to this motto and mean to flourish, or prosper.”

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The collaborative research initiative is being funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa to cover a four-year research period from 2010 to 2014.
Multi-million dollar fund benefits researchers

BY KATIE CHAMLIERS-BROOKS
For The Bulletin

The Manitoba government will provide more than $9.5 million in funding to support 25 diverse U of M research projects.

Innovation, Energy and Mines Minister Dave Chartrand announced The Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund (MRIF) on October 26. The MRIF projects have also been approved for funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation, an independent corporation created by the government of Canada to fund research infrastructure.

“We thank our funding partners, both provincially and federally, who provide important infrastructure support to our research endeavours,” said Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, vice-president (research). “It allows our researchers to do cutting-edge research in many areas of study and to continue to be leaders in their fields.”

MRIF FUNDING RECIPIENTS

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<th>Name</th>
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Water damage to Wallace Building

Large amounts of rain last week, coupled with ongoing construction work, resulted in water damage to the Wallace Building at the U of M. A number of classrooms, offices and laboratory spaces in the building have been affected. The fourth floor has suffered the brunt of the damage. The dean’s office has moved to the boardroom in room 453. Damage to the 100, 200 and 300 levels is being assessed and updates will be provided on their status and impact when they become available. Students and staff will find more detailed information on the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources website.

New physician assistant degrees conferred

BY SEAN MOORE
The Bulletin

For the first time in Manitoba history, physician assistants were a part of the University of Manitoba fall convocation. The 10 graduates completed the country’s first master’s level education program for Physician Assistants (PAs).

The two-year master of physician assistant studies degree, administered by the faculties of Medicine and Graduate Studies, launched in September 2008. Previously, the only Canadian Medical Association-accredited physician assistant training program has been through the Canadian Forces.

“The University of Manitoba is a national leader in Physician Assistant education, a field which improves patient care and satisfaction,” said Brian Postl, dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Under the supervision of a physician, PAs can perform a spectrum of duties including conducting physical examinations, ordering diagnostic tests, providing therapeutic procedures, prescribing medications, and providing patient education and counseling.

“Adding PAs to health care teams can help reduce wait times, curtail rising health care costs, and alleviate workload issues,” said Ian Jones, Acting Program Director, Physician Assistant Education Program. “They are an important component to addressing our province’s health care human resource needs.”

John Page, $399,525, Mesoscopic Wave Physics and Characterization of Composite Materials

DENIS KRAUSE

Photo by Chris Reid

Phil Fontaine in advance of receiving his honorary degree.

In 1997, Fontaine became the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, the highest elected position in First Nations politics. He served in that capacity for an unprecedented three terms, and during which he advocated for self-determination and the implementation of treaty and land rights as crucial means to alleviating poverty among First Nations peoples. One of the greatest achievements of Fontaine’s career was in leading the successful resolution and settlement of claims arising out of 150 years of Indian residential schooling. The Final Settlement Agreement now being implemented is the largest, most comprehensive settlement in Canadian history and also includes a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an education fund, healing resources and commemoration funding. Fontaine retired as National Chief of the AFN in 2009.

Fontaine has received many awards and honours for his work, including the first Equitas Award for Human Rights Education, a number of honorary degrees and membership in the Order of Canada.
Outstanding workplace initiative

One of the priorities in the U of M Strategic Framework is to be an employer of first choice — a workplace offering and expecting respect for all staff and faculty, providing opportunities for leadership, growth and development and recognizing the contributions made at all levels of the organization.

Our challenge is to launch in an initiative to build on the many strengths of the U of M workplace. We want to ensure that as we move into the future, supports offered are the ones you value and that your workplace works for you and your colleagues.

As part of working here is a dream come true. As our president says, universities are places where both the cause and the company are great. Some people may be less enthusiastic — let’s work together to change that.

Outstanding workplace-employer initiatives focus on people. They assess current practices to make sure the bases are covered in things like compensation, pension, benefits, workplace health and safety, IT infrastructure and other tools. As well, attention is paid to how much organizational goals are clear and shared, how meaningful people identify their work to be and how people describe their workplace culture and leadership. Attention to recognition, learning, challenges and career development are also important.

We will be reaching out to our U of M community to learn about workplace experiences, both the great and the not-so-great. We’ll be sharing what we learn with you. That information will inform a framework to identify what matters most to U of M faculty and staff and what supports to keep, start and stop. Please join us in as we extend invitations to meet with groups and web-based input.

To start, please give us some quick workplace impressions by going to the meetings and forums and web-based input.

Leadership. Attention to recognition, learning, challenges and career development are also important.

We want to ensure that as we move into the 1890s and re-launched in 1994, that recounted the story of Hemings and Jefferson relationship. Spillers named the cleavage between these private and public codes as fundamental to identity-formation of the citizen within the nation-state.


Spillers joined Vanderbilt University in 2006 as the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair. She lectures widely across the U.S. and abroad.

Winnipeg to New York: Double bill

BY MARIANNE MAYS WEBBE

The Bulletin

This year Winnipeg will be represented at the 2010 New York Art Book Fair by two book series — and three names familiar to the University of Manitoba. Featured at the fair will be an eight-book set by Rob Kovitz, instructor in environmental design (Architecture) and a book collaboration by Cliff Eyland, professor in Fine Art and Winnipeg filmmaker (and former U of M filmmaker-in-residence) Guy Maddin. Ice Fishing in Gimli by Kovitz and Maddin and Eyland’s “silent books” will make their international art debut at the fifth annual fair, which runs from November 5 to 7.

Kovitz: A Prairie epic in eight volumes

The Winnipeg-based artist and architect Rob Kovitz has for 20 years been creating unique “bookworks” under his own imprint, Trefy Books. Ice Fishing in Gimli, his latest, results from 10 years of work and includes historical accounts among its panoply of compiled source materials; influences include Walter Benjamin’s Arcades Project and the more experimental books of Manitoba-based Marshall McLuhan. The entire project is replete to contain nary a passage written by Kovitz.

Filmed nearly 5,000 miles and eight books, this obviously is no ordinary “novel.” Readers will find writings by explorers Alexander Mackenzie and David Thompson intersected by a section of Mann’s The Magic Mountain. In the chapter “road up,” photos made by beyond the target muscle.

Instead of holding stretches for late the target muscle

The books feature illustrations and paintings by Eyland that accompany — and often interpret and expand — Kovitz’s film stills and other images. In the book, images are arranged and rearranged, shadowed, reiterated. The dislocated images and repetitive illustrative figures somehow reverberate hauntingly in their very lack of context, explanation or narrative. And it’s clear that Eyland is playing with the idea of the scrap as much as he is exploring himself, all of which seem to be disintegrating and/or reinventing themselves before our eyes.

Indeed, the books grew out of a “fragments” project Eyland and Maddin collaborated on with Bath Bajec. Bajec, a professor of English at Vanderbilt University, has also competed at the 2005, 2007 and 2009 FISU Games in Melbourne, Australia, where he placed 5th with Cam McLean on 3 m synchro, and 9th on both the tower and 3 m.

The 26-year-old, who is an athletic therapy student at the University of Manitoba, also has competed at the 2005, 2007 and 2009 FISU Games and also in Beijing at the 2008 FINA World Cup.

No pain, no gain: Should fitness hurt?

BY BRYON BABUKN

For the Bulletin

Many of us suffer from tight muscles or pain and attempt to improve the situation by stretching.

Evidence has shown that muscles are more effectively stretched after they have been warmed up. A warm-up should involve light aerobic activity (such as walking, a light jog or cycling) for at least 10 to 15 minutes. An active warm-up increases blood to all muscles, reducing stiffness and making muscles easier to work with. Stretching should only feel mild, tolerable discomfort in the muscle you are attempting to stretch — not pain! Muscles also need oxygen to work. Often, however, we hold our breath during strong muscular effort.

Instead of holding stretches for 30 seconds, try breathing slowly and deeply four times. Be smart with your stretching routine. Work within YOUR joint or muscular limits.

Stretching Tips

• Stretch muscles before activity.
• Do not stretch muscles after exercise while they are still warm.

Successful stretching:

• Use proper positioning to isolate the target muscle.
• Breathe correctly.
• Don’t “force” any position; only go as far as you feel comfortable.

No pain, no gain: Should fitness hurt? (text by Phil Koch)
The revolution: Coming to a hockey rink near you

BY MARIANNE MAYS WEBBE

Prepare yourself for the 2010 Black Hole Theatre season: it opens with a bang and a whimper. The play Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing by Manitoba-born Aboriginal playwright and musician Tomson Highway burns up the Black Hole stage starting November 16.

The now-famous play by Highway, who has been called “the greatest Canadian playwright to emerge in the 1980s,” is generally considered less sanguine than The Rez Sisters, his first work. Both plays have been acclaimed as revealing portraits of reservation life and as penetrating examinations of issues confronting Natives in a contemporary world.

Dry Lips revolves around a female Nanabush trickster-spiritual figure and seven men. When the women of the fictional Wasagamigan Hill reserve in Northern Ontario decide they are going to play hockey, pandemonium ensues. The men of the reserve are up in arms — almost literally. As Pierre St. Pierre, one of the play’s main characters says, incredulous, “The women. I’m gonna be smack-dab in the middle of it all. The revolution. Right here in Wasagamigan Hill ... They’re playin’ hockey. The women are playin’ hockey. Dead serious they are too.”

U of M’s Bill Kerr, who directs the play, says that the tension between comical, sad and spiritual is typical of Highway. The idea of the reservation women starting a revolution by playing hockey is a light one, but the underlying insights of the play are sharp.

Dry Lips has some very dark corners, and addresses issues of alcoholism, rape, violence, religion and misogyny. Like Highway’s other works, however, the story moves from the hilarious to the poignant and tragic and back again, sometimes within moments.

It’s so quick, he says, how the play moves through these emotional surges. Tapping into the musicality of the language (parts of the play are in Cree) and rhythms of the characters helped the actors to find their way through the trajectory.

The actors also worked with Kristin Kusanovich, who teaches modern dance technique at Santa Clara University and who just happened to be at the U of M working with other students. She helped the actors embody the characters through movement.

Then there was the challenge of staging a play that leaps between real-time and dream-time, which Kerr says takes place on different (literal) levels to represent the changes in time and space. Was he worried about peopling a play about serious issues full of Aboriginal characters with mostly white actors? At first he was, he says, but it helped that Highway was here, as playwright-in-residence. Kerr recalls Highway’s laughing response: “Do whitey good to walk in my moccasins.”

Highway spoke extensively with the cast about the play. “He is uncommonly generous,” says Kerr.

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing won the Floyd S. Chalmers Award for Outstanding New Canadian Play and the Dora Award in 1989.
The LETTERS OF FREDERICK D. BARAGAR provide a moving vision of the First World War. He grew up in Elm Creek, Manitoba, received his BA from the University of Manitoba in 1914 and in 1915 he enlisted with the Canadian Field Artillery in the 2nd Canadian British Expeditionary Force. He fought in a number of seminal battles such as the Somme, Vimy and Amiens, and he wrote many letters home to his family and his long-time love Edith Anne Robertson, whom he married in 1919.

The following are excerpts from his letters, which are preserved in the University of Manitoba Archives.

Aug. 23, 1915, Otterpool Camp
Dear Frank:
... Morning dawned and thro the mist gray forms appeared which in the clearing light showed to be more destroyers. Many of them lay about, in fact the whole harbor is alive with the smaller naval craft. After the mist lifted we could see the great rock hills that frown upon the harbor. I’ll bet they are alive with evil machines.

Dearest Edith:
Ten minutes after 1915 I’m wishing you a splendid New Year, rich in God’s greatest blessings, and, little girl, how I’m praying that 1916 may see this war over and me home with my love. There, comrade-wife-to-be, what more could I wish?

Jan. 5, 1916, Kent
Dearest Edith:
... the following is only begun.... Often I think of Tennyson’s [poem] Echoes Blow, breezes, blow, set the wild echoes flying Answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying. Oh, love, they die in you rich sky Think, faint on forest, field and river Our echoes roll from soul to soul And grow forever and forever

Jan. 25, 1916, Somewhere
Dear Mother:
... I spent one wretched day after Dick C dropped in to tell me that Bill C was killed, but today I hear after four days, he had been found by a couple of scouts, dangerously wounded but alive... At least I am able to hope.

Dear Father, Mother and All,
Merry Xmas to you all, that is what I’ve been wishing all day... I’m not having exactly a Merry Xmas... There is little to tell that I haven’t already told in the censored letter, we saw more real war, war in all its awfulness and grandeur and gallantry and waste. We were in several big bombardments and had several positions, each taken up after an advance. We saw hard service but it was real work, tho we surely did rejoice when at last we were really on the march from that region of awful mud. And yet we know that we have left in that shellshorn region some of our best and truest comrades.

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All INTERESTED ARE INVITED TO ATTEND Refreshments will be served!
Coffee with a Co-Worker

The Bulletin plays 10 or 20 questions with Michael Domaratzki

Coffee or tea? Neither. I get through the day by napping. If there’s a chance.

For a guy in computer science, Mike Domaratzki seems to have a lot of other interests going on. He’s an avid cyclist and music-lover (punk, in particular) and one part of his research, in bioinformatics, combines biology and computer science. The branching out started while doing his doctoral work, which he describes as a narrow application of computation in computer science. “I was at a conference and someone told me, ‘Hey, this stuff could have a broader application.’”

He notes that the past 20 years have produced a remarkable amount of new data available to biologists about genomes. “They need more computational tools. There’s been a big spillover from biology into computer science and [software] programming for help with solving these problems.”

The potential for computer science applications is something he tries to convey to his students as well. Develop outside interests; “There’s no limit,” he says. “People used to think computer science was a bunch of computer geeks sitting in the dark with duct-taped windows and no natural light, but many non-traditional fields also need computer science.”

How did he wind up doing this? Mike played around with computers as a kid, and it seemed like a natural choice for me. It felt like fun,” he says.

“Neither. I get through the day by napping. If there’s a chance.”

Which is another thing he tries to impart to students. “Computer science is more fun than it may seem. There’s a lot of problem-solving; it’s rewarding.”

Mike Domaratzki, assistant professor in computer science.

Something that surprises you about your natural choice for me. It felt like fun,” he says.

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Mike Domaratzki, assistant professor in computer science.

A favourite childhood memory...

I developed my love of road trips during my childhood. Travelling with my family across the country was always one of my favourite things as a kid.

Something few people know about Mike Domaratzki:

I can’t get through a day without music. I’m vegetarian and have been for about 15 years. People always seem surprised when I tell them.

More Rock by Propagandhi; Red Medicine by Fugazi; How Memory Works by Joan of Arc; Nothing Feels Good by The Starless Way

Motto: ‘Don’t you worry about blank. Let me worry about blank.’

The country was always one of my favourite things as a kid.

Favourite music: I started this list and it only grows: Less Talk, Dame called Spring Roll, Bad Religion, by Joan of Arc; More Rock by Propagandhi; Red Medicine by Fugazi; How Memory Works by Joan of Arc; Nothing Feels Good by The Starless Way

Favourite summer activities?

Cycling. It doesn’t matter where, streets, trails, country roads, or with whom. Alone, my kids, friends. Though my advice is to avoid Winnipeg traffic at all costs.

And in the winter? I think my favourite winter activity is waiting for summer. I have fun in the winter but I think I always prefer summer.

Place you’d like to visit: I’d like to see Mont Ventoux in France. It’s a famous cycling climb, I may not be able climb it, but I’d like to try someday.

Your motto is: “Don’t you worry about blank. Let me worry about blank.”


with my daughter. I wish more books for younger people were so readable for adults.

A film you love: Star Wars Episode III. I know that’s not supposed to be anyone’s favourite Star Wars, but I think it’s my favourite of all of them.

Cooking at home or out at a restaurant? I like to cook and it’s fun to host, but I like trying out new places so I’m always up for someone else picking.

My favourite places to eat in the city are Delicious Vegetarian on Pembina and this place on Notre Dame called Spring Roll.

Sweet or savoury? Between those two options: sweet. But if spicy is an option, then spicy. Always spicy.

‘More’: student perspective

U of M launches “Be More” marketing campaign for fall/winter 2010/2011

BY MARIJANNE MAYS WIEBE

No one knows more about what university life is like than students. And no one knows better than University of Manitoba students that the U of M offers “more.”

For the past three years, we have featured the “more” theme on marketing and recruitment materials as part of our goal of building recognition, pride and support for the University of Manitoba both inside and outside of the province.

Why “more”?

That’s the focus of this year’s itsmyfuture.ca website. This year’s theme of “Be more” continues to showcase the U of M’s strengths in delivering more academic options, more campus life opportunities and more student support than any other postsecondary institution in the province.

Students bloggers tell the story through blogs, videos, news and more, of just why students can “Be More” at the University of Manitoba.

It is the students’ voices, through their profiles and blogs, that describe the real university experience both in and outside of the classroom.

This year the site features four new student bloggers and four returning bloggers, representing a wide variety of program areas. Check out their blogs to find out more about our university from the student perspective.

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Research Associate Positions

The University of Manitoba anticipates research associate positions available over the next six months beginning November 1, 2010 until April 30, 2011. Successful candidates must hold a doctoral degree or have equivalent qualifications and experience. Minimum starting salary is $40,000. Prior research experience in acute or chronic disease, inflammation and modelling of biomass energy conversion systems, high velocity kinetic turbines, icing of wind turbines, droplet and spray vaporization and combustion turbine airflow, aerospace engineering, acoustic wave propagation, supercritical flow stability, computational fluid dynamics, complex flows, industrial multiphase flows, ice accretion measurement, steam condenser modelling, computational fluid dynamics, transport phenomena in porous media, core analysis, two-phase flow in condensers, heat transfer augmentation, experimental fluid dynamics, turbulent flows, laser doppler velocimetry, computational fluid dynamics, turbulence modeling, large-eddy simulation, direct numerical simulation, environmental fluid mechanics, transport phenomena.

Cell Biology: cell signaling, cancer, hormones, growth factors, apoptosis, biochemistry, epigenetics.


Electrical & Computer Engineering: stochastic modeling of communication systems, market models, queueing theory, stochastic ordering of queuing systems, matrix-analytic methods, call admission control, capacity analysis of CDMA systems, tail probabilities, channel coding, LDPC codes, Gilbert-Elliott Markov channel modeling, sensors and actuators, biosensors, computational electromagnetics, mass and density for biomaterial analysis, and conducting polymer devices, biomedical imaging, and electromagnetic inverse problems, high voltage engineering, specifically in the following areas: condition monitoring in high voltage engineering, energy harvesting in high voltage systems, numerical simulation of high voltage transformers.

Physics and Astronomy: high resolution microwave and infrared spectroscopy, experimental condensed matter physics, neutron scattering and hyperfine studies of rare-earth compounds, condensed matter theory and statistical physics, magnetic materials, computational modeling of point defects in insulators, graphene-structured systems, atomic and molecular physics, electronic properties of nanostructures, spin transport in quantum systems, electron conduction in the DNA, spintrons, precision atomic mass measurements on stable and unstable nuclides using ion traps, time-of-flight mass spectrometry of biomolecules, experimental subatomic physics, lasers, laser trapping and cooling, ion trapping and cooling, radioactive beams, subatomic physics theory, high-energy astrophysics, galactic plane survey, astrophysics of compact objects and supernova remnants, detection systems and signal processing for medical imaging applications, biological physics, microfluidics, medical physics.

Internal Medicine, Sections of Endocrinology & Metabolism: diabetes, insulin, resistance, insulin resistance, diabetes, insulin secretion studies, inflammatory signals, in vivo models, feto-maternal factors on adult disease, insulin-like growth factors, genetics and epigenetics.

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Twinkle, Twinkle Research Stars
Poster competition gives undergraduate students an opportunity to shine

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

Undergraduate students will get a chance to show off their research endeavors to the public during an upcoming competition of posters outlining their projects and findings. Fifty-eight budding researchers will go head-to-head in a handful of categories at the Fifth Annual Undergraduate Student Poster Competition scheduled for Nov. 5 at University Centre. These categories include: applied sciences, health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences/humanities, and—new this year—creative works.

Fourth-year human ecology student Melissa Senez created a poster that depicts her investigations into the benefits of yoga on cancer patients and survivors. She explored mounds of research done locally across Canada and internationally and learned the positive benefits can be far-reaching. For example, findings showed that yoga-practising patients experienced less fatigue, anxiety, depression, and insomnia; improved stamina; heightened senses; and a better quality of life. They also felt an increased sense of community, one that freed them from the stigma of being sick.

This analysis has planted the seed for Senez to do her own studies on the topic, one that is close to her heart. “I feel like everyone I talk to knows someone who is affected by cancer,” says the 23-year-old. “It was actually mind-blowing the amount of research that is out there on this topic. I’d love to redo one of the studies.”

She also hopes to apply what she’s learned in her future career as an occupational therapist.

The poster competition is not just to reward students based on the scholarly, scientific or creative content, but moreso on the visual display, the clarity of free explanations to their audience, and how well they can provide jargon-free explanations to their audience.

Winnipeg's Pembina Health Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) launched to combat problems with gambling among university students. AFM workers set up a booth on campus and engaged students as they passed by, showing them an interactive video game that included a “cost of play calculator” that would reveal how much money they were really losing to gambling over an extended period of time.

During the last year, Swan surveyed a random sample of students before and after the AFM workers were on campus and found that 25 per cent of respondents were aware of the programming.

“People were actually stopping and recalling information from this prevention program, which is good,” Swan says, noting historically research has shown that gambling is prevalent in undergraduate populations.

She is now in the process of writing up her results for publication consideration.

The poster competition, organized by the Office of the Vice-President (Research), takes place from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5, in the Manitoba Rooms 210-224 in University Centre. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m.

Students Jennifer Swan from the Faculty of Arts (left) and Melissa Senez from the Faculty of Human Ecology are among the entrants for the Undergraduate Student Research Poster Competition.
THERE ARE MYSTERIOUS ALTERATIONS AFLOAT on the south lawn at the Architecture 2 Building. Earlier this fall, one of the grand white pines there was transformed into what looked like a kind of musical instrument, with beautiful chimes constructed of copper piping and limestone fragments hung from branches on the outer radius of the large tree. An interview with the students who built it found that the project was inspired by questions in their architecture landscaping course, about possible “traces” of human-nature interaction.

Their challenge was to construct a “drawing apparatus” based on their group investigation of what drawing is, or could be. They were asked, “Can nature, the wind, rain, sun, etc., be a drawing machine/apparatus? How can you record traces left by nature; how can nature contribute to or express traces left by humans?” Their answer to the question was to build an apparatus that made a sort of “audio drawing” of the wind in the trees. (The audio drawing and photos of the project can be found online on the U of M facebook page.)

The project was based on the theme of genius loci, or “the spirit of a place,” explored in the architecture landscaping course led by instructor Vaike Ruus, M. Arch., and her TA Allie Birkett. Ruus says that the natural environment is of primary significance to her in architecture: “All of the architects whose work I most admire say they have been inspired by nature for their own designs. I feel that instead of looking at an architect’s built work, one must look to the source of her inspiration, so I look at how nature builds, the spaces created by nature, the detailed connections in nature.”

As serendipity would have it, a few weeks later, the same lawn was the site where a group of “lawn fairies” appeared on a chilly fall morning to plant 20,000 mauve crocus bulbs as part of a project conceived by architecture prof Dietmar Straub and funded by the U of M Creative Works Fund.

Part “social gathering” and part “intervention,” according to Straub, the metamorphosis of the lawn, if all goes according to plan, of pale purple bulbs that will crop up in early spring is hoped to inspire people to transform other spaces. Said Straub, “I look for spatial expressions that fall between the everyday and the extraordinary. Here the means are simple, but ‘magic fields’ offer an intrinsic poetic value to stir people’s imagination and draw them back again and again. The transformation goes beyond the decorative and converts the space into a spatial and seasonal stimulus to revitalize everyday life.”

And because people come back, he says, the project also encourages people “to get involved in their environment and start to identify themselves with a place.”