Visionary: New U of M research chair of infectious disease

The creation of Manitoba’s first-ever research chair in the immunobiology of infectious disease at the University of Manitoba will further develop the province’s internationally-recognized expertise in infectious disease research, Premier Greg Selinger announced June 15 with Paul Lucas, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Inc. president and CEO and University of Manitoba President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David Barnard.

“Manitoba is an international leader in infectious disease research,” said Selinger. “This new research chair builds on Manitoba’s world-class infectious disease research cluster and uniquely positions our province as the Canadian centre of excellence in the study of emerging infectious diseases.”

The $3 million investment for the Chair in the Immunobiology of Infectious Diseases will help focus existing research at the U of M in the areas of immunology, infectious diseases, systems biology and public health while continuing to build Manitoba’s reputation as a global leader. The Province of Manitoba is investing $500,000, the University of Manitoba is investing $1 million and GSK’s Pathfinders Fund is providing $1.5 million.

“As a leader in infectious disease research, this funding will help us to attract leading talent to our top research programs in these areas,” said Dr. Barnard. “The research breakthroughs that are happening right here in our own province demonstrate the value of investment in public and population health research.”

The GSK Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research fosters medical innovation in Canadian universities, and helps schools like the University of Manitoba attract and retain leading talent—ultimately strengthening Canada’s place as a world leader in innovation,” said Lucas. “GSK believes that innovation is the only way to ensure healthcare system sustainability. Together, through these partnerships, we are proud to be playing a role in strengthening Canada’s healthcare system.”

“We are pleased to work with the University of Manitoba in support of this important position,” said Innovation, Energy and Mines Minister Dave Chomiak. “This funding supports critical scientific research that is directly linked to innovation, productivity and economic growth.”

A world-renowned researcher in infectious disease will be recruited to fill the chair and will study the increased prevalence of infectious diseases that originate in animals but are transmitted to humans.
In the News

The buzz about town

June 29, 2011
Agence France Presse (English), National Post, CBC

Following a massive bee die-off in parts of the world, the University of Manitoba and the University of Guelph recently launched an effort to breed honey bees resistant to pests and diseases. The program will screen new products for pest and disease control, and try to come up with new ways of managing pollination colonies facing risks that include parasitic, bacterial infections and pesticides. "We're looking for bees [for the breeding program] that are resistant to mites and with a greater tolerance to viruses because these appear to be the two main factors behind colony loss," said Rob Currie, entomology professor. Currie said the university has had success so far in keeping bees low down to 40 per cent in tests exposing them to diseases, down from 75 per cent. "It's not a total success, but it's a significant improvement and that makes quite a lot of economic difference."

Plagiarizing policies merit equal application

June 13, 2011
The National

Philosophy professor Arthur Schaefer commented on a story about allegations that a medical school dean plagiarized parts of his convocation speech. Naturally, the University of Alberta has a tough policy for independent-minded students: they fail a course or be expelled. These strict consequences, Schaefer said, should apply to all. "If universities persist and are kicking them out when they steal someone else's ideas, the hypocrisy of not having serious discipline for an administrator who commits the same sin, it would send a terrible message to the students."

Terminally ill find meaning of life with dignity therapy

July 7, 2011
Winnipeg Free Press, Edmonton Journal, The Leader-Post, Montreal Gazette, WMBD, French Tribune, MD News

Harvey Chochinov, psychiatry professor and Canada Research Chair in palliative care, was the lead researcher in a study recently published in The Lancet Oncology. The study, conducted alongside researchers in New York and Australia, assigned 326 terminally ill adults to receive one of three kinds of palliative care. Chochinov and his team found that one approach, dignity therapy, helps patients find peace in their final days. Dignity therapy asks the terminally ill about their wishes, lessons learned and how they want to be remembered with questions such as, "What are the most important roles you had in life?" and "Are there specific things you want your family to know or remember about you?" The conversations with therapists are recorded and transcribed to create a permanent record, which the person can share with loved ones or leave in their will. "Dignity therapy tries to look at things that might boost or undermine dignity toward the end of life," said Chochinov. "Some of the areas we found were, for example, a loss of sense of meaning, a loss of sense of purpose, the feeling that one's life hadn't made a difference." Patients who received dignity therapy reported more significant improvements in quality of life, spiritual well-being and sense of worth, as opposed to care that provided only physical comfort or empathetic discussions with a nurse.

Dam ideas

July 6, 2011
Winnipeg Sun, CBC

Manitoba Water Stewardship officials recently said if an extremely aggressive schedule is followed, a drainage channel to help lower Lake Manitoba could be operating between Lake St. Martin and Lake Winnipeg by 2012. Civil Engineering professor Jay Doering, who worked on tasks for management to cancel the $197 flood response and who worked on the technical committee for the floodway expansion, called the plan vague and possibly ill-motivated. "It's naive of us to believe that we can completely control the level of Lake Manitoba," he said. "My concern is the government is simply looking for a quick fix to a politically contentious issue."

HEADLINES

"How Do We Solve Energy Poverty?" Scientific American, June 30, 2011, story about energy that quotes Distinguished Professor Vadav Smil: A cellphone's embodied energy is one-quarter of a car, said the environmental scientist Smil.

"Big issues, creative ideas," the Globe and Mail, June 2, 2011, story about award recipients who are working to solve big problems. The article highlights Coret C, 17, who received an eagle feather two years ago at the opening of the U of M’s Aboriginal House Migizii Agamik. He earned the feather by agreeing to speak at the opening ceremony about how living the "good life" without drugs or alcohol is helping him build a better future and can do the same for others.

Employee experience survey now closed

BY LINDSAY STEWART GLOR
For The Bulletin

From June 15 to June 29, academic and support staff at the University of Manitoba were invited to participate in the university’s first confidential employee experience survey. Results of the survey are expected to be released in the fall. "We would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the survey," says Ros Howard, director of learning and development services. "We will continue to tap our community assets to enhance the U of M as a great place to work."

Ensuring that the U of M is an outstanding workplace is one of President David Barnard’s four priorities, as outlined in the university’s strategic planning framework. If you are interested in finding out more about the university as a workplace, the outstanding workplace initiative (OWI) or the employee experience survey, please take the time to explore the OWI website. The site includes links to a variety of workplace-related documents, events and activities.

Information on the prize draw will be available soon at: www.umanitoba.ca/owipo/owipoevents. Find the complete draft framework at: > > > umanitoba.ca/admin/human_resources/ids/outstanding_workplace/

New UManitoba mobile app

Now students have a convenient option for checking grades and schedules, orienting themselves on campus, searching library catalogues, finding places to eat, viewing real-time bus departures from campus, and more.

The new UManitoba mobile app, the only higher-ed app of its kind in the province, is now available for iPhones, iPads and Android devices.

The app, which was developed by the University of Manitoba’s web services team, benefits the entire University of Manitoba community, including faculty and staff, alumni and campus visitors and enhances student experience, giving both new and returning students the convenience of having online tools in their pocket.

Features include: news, events, directory, grades, schedule, library search, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, transit, new student resources, campus maps and emergency contacts and information.

Select and download your version of the app at:

New features for the UManitoba app are already in development for future updates. Additionally, a Blackberry version of the app will be available soon.

Editor

Marianne Mays Wiebe
Phone: 474 7395 Fax: 474 7914 E-mail: bulletin@umanitoba.ca

Academic Advertising
Kathy Niziol
Phone: 474 7195 Fax: 474 7505 E-mail: kathy_niziol@umanitoba.ca

This issue's contributors: Pat Goss, Sean Moore, Lindsay Stewart Glor, Chris Reid, Chris Rutkowski, Mike Latschislaw, Mark O’Riley, Michael Marshall, Heather Madill Jordan, Joanne Brutocao, Sjoerd Dahle, Taha Pura

Schedule
( ) Please note summer schedule

Issue Date: August 11, 2011
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Events

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.

Send events notices to: bulletin@umanitoba.ca

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The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin
NSERC funds of M research

Faculty and students at the University of Manitoba will be receiving almost $4 million in innovative grants and scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

The awards were part of a national announcement made on June 17 by the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), Rick Dykstra, Member of Parliament for St. Catharines, and Suzanne Fortier, State (Science and Technology), Rick Dykstra, Member of Parliament for St. Catharines, and Suzanne Fortier, Governor General of Canada (NSERC).

This investment is investing in the people and ideas that will produce tomorrow’s breakthroughs in order to keep Canada’s economy growing and create new jobs, said Minister Goodyear. “This research will improve the quality of life of Canadians, while helping universities develop, attract and retain leading scientists and engineers.”

Some of the researchers will receive $2,854,783 in funding from the NSERC Discovery Grants program in the categories of individual, subatomic physics and research tools and instruments. An additional $80,000 is being awarded under the Discovery Accelerator Supplements program, and another $790,800 to 39 young researchers at the graduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral levels.

“These awards are not only an investment in science and technology, but also recognize the degree of excellence we are known for at the University of Manitoba,” said Digvir Jayas, vice-president (research) and Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba. “I congratulate all our deserving recipients.”

The fellowship funds provided by NSERC make it possible for us to attract and retain the brightest talent in Canada, and we are very proud of the work that is generated here,” said John (Jay) Doering, dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba. “This support is both appreciated and well-deserved.”


Heart work: New funding for U of M

Heart work: New funding for U of M

At a reception held in Winnipeg on June 22, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba (HSFM) presented Digvir Jayas, VP (research) and Distinguished Professor at the University of M with a cheque for $880,000 in support of 14 researchers focused on leading-edge heart disease and stroke studies. “This investment of funds not only enhances our research infrastructure, it also highlights the shared dedication both the HSFM and the University of Manitoba have to the health of Manitobans,” said Jayas. “The synergy between the University of Manitoba and the Heart & Stroke Foundation is immeasurable. Their vision and vision and vision and vision and vision of the very reason our team of scientists are dedicated to cardiovascular disease research.”


Health and housing research funded

Health and housing research funded

Healthy, affordable housing is a primary concern for people living in Canada’s North, but one that is not being recognized. Extreme weather and social conditions are contributing to poor housing conditions for First Nation communities, threatening the health and safety of residents.

To address these problems, University of Manitoba researcher Dimos Polyzois will receive a $475,050 research grant. The Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSFM) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) will also provide funding for this work. “This major grant reflects the enormous importance of Dr. Polyzois’ work,” said Digvir Jayas, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. “The CHRP program is substantial funding for a project clearly demonstrating the link between housing conditions and health, and leading to improved quality of life for many Canadians.”


MS research receives major investment

One of the world’s leading policy researchers has awarded a major research grant of $22,000 to a University of Manitoba research team. Past research by the team is division is funding the study of the neurological disorders and sensory abnormalities that are hallmarks of multiple sclerosis.

The research is headed by associate professor Michael Nakama and associate professor Eleousa Polyzois, both of the university’s cellular neuroscience research team. “I congratulate all the members of the research team for securing this important investment,” says Digvir Jayas, VP (research) and Distinguished Professor at the University of M.

The new research is a natural progression for Nakama, whose past research has focused on MS and pain. “We are very excited about this new study with Pfizer and thank them for their support,” says Nakama. “Our team is ready for the challenge and we expect it will lead to important new information towards our understanding of how this devastating disease works.”

The restructured website will bring with it a more user-friendly structure, allowing potential students to explore what the university has to offer at their own pace. Through intuitive search tools and links, the website will guide users to program pages, which will in turn outline a variety of relevant courses, available degrees and potential careers within that program. “It’s all about having pointing students in the right direction,” says Adams. “We want them to find the information they need in an efficient manner.”

For more information on specific ROSE initiatives, click Updated Stream Pages on the ROSE website at www.umanitoba.ca/admin/rose.
Staff recognized for service and leadership excellence

BY MARK O’RILEY
For The Bulletin

Learning and Development Services and the Awards of Excellence Selection Committees unveiled the recipients of the 2011 Awards of Excellence for Support Staff. The contributions of support staff are celebrated with four awards: the President’s Service, Leadership, and Team awards. The winners were recognized at a reception at the President’s house on June 9.

Congratulations to all the winners. Congratulations also to all whose contributions were recognized with a nomination. The committee found it difficult to make selections from the many high calibre nominations.

Listed below are brief biographies of this year’s winners, including some quotes from the nominations.

Leadership Award, Carol Anne Northcott (undergraduate education): Carol has successfully led and supported the undergraduate medical education staff during a time of significant change at the Medical Education building. Carol is a powerhouse of energy whom students often refer to as a “superman.” She has a one-of-a-kind sense of purpose that puts students first, even during the most hectic and stressful periods. She is truly a wonderful role model for us all.

Leadership Award, Lois Ward (International Centre for Students): Lois has a very influential thousand of lives with the numerous and diverse programs she has developed for international students. These programs welcome students to Canada and provide them with a road map for success, at the university and in life. Her programs enrich the student experience and others who are involved in them. "Lois’s work ethic, caring, humility and excitement make her a true leader. She has one-of-a-kind sense of purpose that puts students first, even during the most hectic and stressful periods. She is truly a wonderful role model for us all." Lois’s innovation has been recognized with the CBIE (Canadian Bureau for International Education) award.

Leadership Award, Elizabeth Boyle (student counselling and career services): Elizabeth provides outstanding service to the many students, staff, faculty, and alumni that seek her assistance: her contributions are enduring and frequently altering. She shows initiative and innovation, keeping her on the leading edge of her field. Her warm and friendly personality great sense of humour, and ability to create community has had a profound effect on those that she serves and works with. Elizabeth’s efforts have gone a long ways to provide an exceptional student experience that is critical to us all.

Leadership Award, Janice Sisson (information services and technology): Janice’s service focus and drive are making customer service paramount in the office. She actively works to form partnerships with various groups and her thoughtful approach has her always looking for opportunities to strengthen the technical core of the University. Janice’s common sense of mission, centered around client support. Despite the fact that she has taken on, she still gives selflessly to her team. “Her door is always open. She always makes time for everyone regardless of her busy bulging schedule.” It is through the hard work of leaders like Janice that the university’s technical infrastructure will continue to grow and evolve to meet our needs in innovative and impactful ways.

Service Award, Bev Getty (Aboriginal Student Centre): Bev is a powerhouse of energy whom students often refer to as a “superman.” She has a one-of-a-kind sense of purpose that puts students first, even during the most hectic and stressful periods. She is truly a wonderful role model for us all.

Service Award, Dennis Kohut (facilities, physical plant): Dennis is creative and diligent in ensuring the many communication systems of building planning and wayfinding are clearly articulated. He is part of the bedrock that supports the tremendous change occurring in the University’s infrastructure. The demands for his services are extraordinary, yet Dennis always manages to form positive partnerships with his clients. As a result of Dennis’s hard work the campus exterior environment is safe, accessible, functional and beautiful.

Service Award, Mary Kuzmeniuk (department of psychology): Mary has a busy and complex role in one of the largest departments at the university, with many diverse working partnerships. She is always well organized, thoughtful and thorough. Her encyclopedic knowledge and creativity have been essential in dealing with past challenges, like the SARS outbreak. Dennis has a way to provide an essential foundation as the department moves in to the future. “Her outstanding service and professionalism have affected the working lives of every member of the psychology department.”

Service Award, Susan Petrychko (extended education): Susie’s dedication to the staff in extended education is matched by her dedication to the more than 10,000 non-degree extended education students. She exemplifies the highest attributes of professionalism, is always pleasant, flexible and gets problems resolved. “It is difficult to fully appreciate the high level of personal, one-on-one service provided by Susie. She works tirelessly and is often referred to by her coworkers as the Energizer Bunny.” Through her selfless action, Susan has established herself as an essential staff to the extended education’s student services area, thereby allowing it to offer outstanding service.

Team Award, OPAL Project Team: Members are Jocelyn Advent, Micah Garlich-Miller, Tania Gottschalk, Melissa Grapentine, Marvin Kocay, Laura Kruger, Bruce Martin, Keith McConnell, Jeannine Neesh, Nonato Nifatan, Carol Anne Northcott, Alison Pattern, Andrew Perchaluk, Tara Petrychko, Malathi Raghavan, Josh Rempel, Ira Ripsen, Sat Sharma, Ilana Simon, Lonnie Smetana, Kathy Sobba, Ed Spencer, Mark Torchia and Michael West. OPAL is a curriculum management system that was developed to support academic scheduling & faculty/students communications, and to act as a repository for electronic learning resources. Since OPAL was launched in August 2009, over 1600 students, faculty, and staff have been trained to work, teach, learn, and communicate using it. Students have consistently given it a high approval rating, saying they would not want to return to paper-based curriculum. The OPAL project has also recently been given the Project Management Institute (Manitoba) “Project of the Year” award.

Team Award, student advocacy office staff team: Members are Angelo Thirion, Heather Morris, Brian Barth, All Wood Warren, Diana Nguyen and Jena Colpitts. The students have one key resource for students, professors, administrators and administrative support staff to assist with any student issue. They are consistently informed, professional, fair and respectful. They work one-on-one with students, sometimes when those students are particularly vulnerable. They also offer workshops, on-line resources and programs such as the Peer program. This office is a unique service amongst post-secondary institutions in Canada. The team continues to set new standards in service in innovative ways and are models for collaboration and integrity.
Mini U off to a hot start this summer

BY CHRISS REID

The Bulletin

The U of M’s Mini University program, started in 1979, has exposed more than 130,000 children aged four to 16 to hundreds of physical activities, creative arts and innovative learning opportunities.

“Mini U has been around for more than 30 years because it is constantly evolving with new program ideas, innovative teaching methods and a variety of research projects that assist in discovering new knowledge related to the health of children. Our programs are set apart from others because this academic approach as well as our energetic and well-trained student instructor staff, says Jay Gamey, interim director of Children’s Programs, Bison Sport and Active Living, University of Manitoba. He adds the program has a knack for setting the stage for children who come back as U of M students and/or Mini U instructors.”

“The position and the campus planning office will focus on planning and development of the university lands: Fort Garry Campus, Bannatyne Campus and other major holdings such as SmartPark and Southwood Golf Course.”

The creation of the new office signals a very exciting time for the university, and an opportunity for the university to plan collaboratively with the province, city and the broader community as well. It will also be a time to focus on integrated design of key development projects, and looking at the planning and design process as integrated: sustainability, land use, design, transportation, infrastructure and energy all have to be planned for in an integrated and transparent way.

A critical first step will be to take a look in the current University of Manitoba campus plan.

Director of campus planning installed

BY MARIANNE MAPS WEBE

The Bulletin

Michelle Richard has come a long way since her days of living on campus in Mary Speechly Hall. As M of Business and accomplished city planner has been hired to provide her expertise to questions of campus development as director of the new campus planning office (CPO).

With two degrees from the U of M (BA, Masters of City and Regional Planning), and substantial economic and development planning experience at the local and provincial levels of government, Richard recently coordinated the largest planning exercise ever undertaken in the city of Winnipeg.

“Our Winnipeg” resulted in an impressive planning package to guide the city’s growth and development over the next 25 years. The companion program to Our Winnipeg, Speak Up Winnipeg, engaged over 44,000 Winnipeggers for input into the plan through forums and social media.

Richard cites as her areas of interest the creation of Aboriginal urban economic zones, area redevelopment, sustainability and community engagement. Those areas will also be of benefit to her new role.

“The CPO will provide oversight and direction for this kind of mixed-use, higher-density development with multi-modal transportation options and will support the university in undertaking innovative infrastructure solutions,” McCallum said.

The Bulletin spoke with Michelle Richard about her new role.

What is the mandate of the new office of campus planning (CPO)?

Michelle Richard: The position and the campus planning office will focus on planning and development of the university lands: Fort Garry Campus, Bannatyne Campus and other major holdings such as SmartPark and Southwood Golf Course.

The creation of the new office signals a very exciting time for the university, and an opportunity for the university to plan collaboratively with the province, city and the broader community as well.

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What do you see as the opportunities and challenges for the office? Richard: The University of Manitoba is being looked to as a champion of quality, sustainable urban development.

Southwood Golf Course holds enormous potential to demonstrate how areas can be redeveloped to be exciting and vibrant, with transit-oriented development and the idea of live, work, learn and play. The Southwood Golf Course redevelopment will be complex, innovative and large scale, which presents both opportunity and a challenge.

What do you envision the next few years for the university with regard to planning and development? Richard: Focus over the next few years will be to foster the desired direction for development. This will be important dialogue with both the university but the broader community as well.

It will also be a time to focus on integrated design of key development projects, and looking at the planning and design process as integrated: sustainability, land use, design, transportation, infrastructure and energy all have to be planned for in an integrated and transparent way.

A critical first step will be to take a look in the current University of Manitoba campus plan.

Director of campus planning installed

Michelle Richard, new director of the campus planning office.
This is a great thriller made much more interesting because of the underlying tensions in a rapidly changing war-torn country. It takes place in the late 1960s, recovering from the prior 10 to 15 years of their lives: the depression and the war. Great escapist but also very thought-provoking stuff that will lead to vigorous conversations around the barbeque.

A second favorite of mine is also a first novel, The Master of Bruges by T. Morgan, an English teacher. This is a mystery thriller that takes place in the late 18th century. It starts out with Hans Memling as a young apprentice painter (later to become famous; Google his images and you’ll recognize them) and follows him through his life. As a historical novel, it captures the daily life of someone who comes to be successful. Well-drawn characters, some excellent twists and turns and insight into how (and with whom) painters chose to attach faces to the angels. Madonna’s and devils that populate their paintings. Being an artist has never been uneventful.

My last recommendation is Kent Follett’s Fall of Giants, a sweeping historical drama/thriller/mystery novels where you can hear symphonies swelling and crashing in the background as you read. Follett creates a number of families in Tarist Russia, Wales, England, Germany and the U.S. in 1900. This is the first of a series in which the characters are well drawn, the scale is gigantic and the individual stories are engaging. Great book for the beach. Kent HayGlass is a professor in immunology and a CRC in immune regulation. He enjoys mysteries because, unlike what he finds in his day job, a clear conclusion appears at the end of the book.

KATHY BLOCK: Of the books I’ve read this year, one of my favourites is Shauna Singh Baldwin’s What the Body Remembers (1999). The story centres around Roop, who leaves home after his father arranges a marriage to the powerful Sikh man, Sardarji. The story takes place in Punjab, just prior to the partition of Pakistan and India. Roop’s life is deeply affected by the political uncertainty of the times and by her gender. The writing is beautiful, especially in the passages that touch on the enduring philosophy that strengthens Roop. She says, “The futility of tears is for those who have not, as I have, rolled the dice a few times.” I dog-eared many pages of my copy and intend to re-read sections, if not the whole book.

I’m now reading Hisham Matar’s The Invisible Life of Addis (2006). Although the story begins in 1979, it is timely. The narrative is told from the point of view of a nine-year-old boy living in Tripoli, Libya. Political thugs, followers of the unnamed Guide and his Revolutionary Committees, harass the boy’s family and kidnap his younger brother. After WWII. At that time, the far end of Long Island was semi-rural and acted as both a summer playground for ultra-wealthy New Yorkers and working villages for common people lived close to the edge economically.
By the way, I’m reading Wells’ book on my iPad, having downloaded a free copy of it from projectgutenberg.org, and I’m reading Bergen’s book in hardcover, purchased from McNally Robinson, Canada’s best bookstore. I’ve also visited the Project Gutenberg website, and I’m reading Bergen’s book in English, film and theatre.

BIRNA BJARNADÓTTIR: Every summer, the U of M’s department of Icelandic language and literature travels to the Westfjords in Iceland. For centuries, this region has been the setting of great pieces of literature, ranging from medieval sagas to Halldór Laxness’ Gerpla (The Happy Warrior). This time around, Gunnar Gunnarson’s novel The Black Cliffs is on our agenda. Published 1929 in Denmark, and reminiscent of Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, the dramatically charged novel is based on historical events that took place in the submarine Westfjords around 1800. An existentialist at heart, and the predecessor of Guðbergur Bergsson, Iceland’s leading contemporary novelist, this is what Gunnarsson hoped for when writing this piece: “If successful, the story unfolds as it should have. There is nothing more to achieve.”

This summer, a book by another existentialist has travelled with me across the Atlantic Ocean. It is titled Works of Love and was written in 1847 by Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher. A friend has received it as a gift. I am going to borrow it in Halormsstaður, Iceland’s only forest, this book that is full of sentences like: “out of the heart are the issues of life.” In 2003, Birna Bjarnadóttir moved to Canada to take on the position of the chair of the Icelandic department at the University of Manitoba. Her book Recesses of the Mind, Aesthetics in Guðbergur Bergsson’s Work will appear in January, 2012.

economy of his new world. Of course, having been asleep for a couple of centuries, the Sleeper is a little unsure of what exactly is going on around him, and he’s at the mercy of competing factions, all trying to control him and his wealth.

Asleep for a couple of centuries, the Sleeper is a little unsure of what exactly is going on around him, and he’s at the mercy of competing factions, all trying to control him and his wealth.


Photos, l to r: David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor; Kathy Block; Kent HayGlass; Carla Loewen, Jonah Corne, Örjan Sandred; Lyle Ford; photo (above) taken in Haukadalur, Iceland. Birna Bjarnadottir is at the far right, with the group of the Icelandic Field School students and others.
U of M artists, curators, find love in Paris, France

Everyone loves Paris, but at the moment Winnipeggers are having the love reciprocated. A Parisian art gallery just opened the sprawling art exhibit “My Winnipeg,” named after Guy Maddin’s film. Films by Maddin, along with artwork by many other local and Winnipeg-connected artists—71 in total, approximately 75 per cent of whom are faculty members and former students from the U of M’s School of Art—are included in the show, which consists of several separately-curated sections.

Mounted by La maison rouge gallery in the Bastille district of Paris and co-presented by Winnipeg’s Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), the exhibition began June 22 and continues until September 24. The Winnipeg Free Press reported that 800 people attended the opening and that, “The show itself occupies 1,300 square metres and offers an unprecedented view of Winnipeg’s artistic output.” Both audiences and the Paris media have been enthusiastic. “We love,” said Valérie Duponchelle of Le Figaro, a Le Monde headline proclaimed that “the Canadian city of Winnipeg produces very good artists” (in the cold and boredom.”

The show’s opening and performances saw a large contingent of those Winnipeg artists joining in the celebration of all (art) things Winnipeg. Among the celebrants was Sigrid Dahlé, galleryist of Gallery One One One at U of M’s School of Art. She curated “There’s no place like home,” part of the larger “My Winnipeg” exhibit. It’s offspring of her month-long 2004 exhibition “The Gothic Unconscious,” organized as part of her work as curator-in-residence at the U of M in 2003-4.

Other Winnipeggers, including U of M painting professors Cliff Eyland, Alex Poruchnyk and Sharon Awardur, accompanied the show to Paris to help set it up. Two School of Art students, Chantal Degagne and Geneviève Levasseur, will stay on at the gallery as interns for the duration of the exhibit, a bonus opportunity initiated by Le maison rouge.

“There were about 30 people working in advance of the opening,” said Dahlé. “The commitment and professionalism was impressive.”

“One of the things people wonder about, with the kinds of artwork currently coming out of Winnipeg and gaining international recognition, is where does this stuff come from? There are certainly influences from the social history of the city and province as well as from precedents of previous Winnipeg and Manitoba artists, she said.

Her section of the show, “There’s no place like home,” like her previous “The Gothic Unconscious,” draws on a vast repertoire of artwork and archival images. In addition to traumas of historical extreme weather or environmental events like floods and fires, said Dahlé, “The history (of the city and province) includes mistreatment and disenfranchisement of Aboriginal peoples and dispossession of the Métis, hardships endured by Icelandic immigrants founding a new republic at Gimli, arrivals of Russian Mennonites fleeing persecution and Jewish Holocaust survivors in search of a safe haven, the exploitation of impoverished European immigrants, culminating in the spectacular 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, and the struggles of women to attain full citizenship.”

“The image-making speculates—wildly—that Winnipeg is a city haunted by the ghosts of its traumatic social history.”

Dahlé said that in curating her section of the show, she was interested in taking it a step further with the question of how place becomes “home.”

“Winnipeg is a city that might generate compelling images and tall tales that startle, confront, amuse and excite the imagination. But for those of us who have lived here, who will live here and who are living here, Winnipeg is, first and foremost, home—with all the profoundly conflicting associations the word conjures,” she said.

The show comes home to Plug In ICA in 2012.

From the archives: Jets game-programs collection

RETURN OF THE NHL. As Winnipeggers celebrated the announcement that the NHL is returning to our city it is time to take a look back at the history of professional hockey in Winnipeg. Investigating the recent donation to the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections of 741 Winnipeg Jets home game programs is a good place to start. These programs, ranging from December 1975 to the Jets last home game in April 1996, were donated by Ken Turner, a season-ticket holder and devoted fan of the Jets since their inception in the early 1970s to long past their move to Phoenix in 1996. Turner exemplifies the “hot seat” fan base that supported the Jets throughout their victories and their sometimes tumultuous tenure in Winnipeg.

In order to bring the history of the Jets and professional hockey in Winnipeg closer to the community an online exhibit has been created along with a physical display, which is located on the main floor of the Elizabeth Dafoe Library. The online exhibit consists of numerous images from the extensive Winnipeg Tribune fonds and the Henry Kalen fonds. These images showcase the players, fans, coaches, management and community figures who were connected to Winnipeg’s hockey history. From hockey greats, like Bobby Hull, Dave Christian, and Lars-Erik Sjoberg playing in the old arena, to prominent hockey fans, like Winnipeg Mayor Stephen Juba and Manitoba Premier Duff Roblin, the online exhibit offers a glimpse into Winnipeg’s hockey heritage. The physical exhibit displays a few tangible remnants of the Winnipeg Jets, and includes a selection of Winnipeg Jets home game programs. The program from the Jets last game in Winnipeg is featured, as is their 1980 exhibition game against the Soviet Dynamo, along with programs from the playoffs and a few which highlight a sampling of the many great Jets players. Winnipeg Tribune photographs of fans and players are displayed, as well as articles about “the Hot Line” of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg has always been a hockey town and the excitement over the NHL’s return is just the most recent example of the enthusiasm many Winnipeggers have for hockey. The history of professional hockey in Winnipeg is full of both victories and losses, but Winnipeg fans have been devoted supporters in the past and will continue to be as they eagerly wait for the next chapter of Winnipeg’s hockey history to start.
The Department of Icelandic Language and Literature is celebrating its 60th anniversary in the series of major cultural events, the first of which began June 18. The New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli, MB will show an exhibit of photographs by famed Museum in Gimli, MB will show an exhibit of photographs by famed

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July 14, 2011

Classified Ads

The Bulletin welcomes Classified Ads. Rate for ads is $5 for the first 45 words.

By appointment, 261-1016 or jlow@mymts.net

Sabbatical home in River Heights, Winnipeg, 1 September, 2011 to 31 August, 2012 (negotiable). Upscale, 2,600 sq. ft., split-level, furnished. Three bedrooms, equipped exercise-room, piano, sun-room, 3.5 washrooms, finished basement, central a/c, alarm. Two-car garage + car-port. $1,800 + utilities. Email: nahir@cc.umanitoba.ca

Visiting Toronto? Family-friendly accommodation. Rooms with kitchen access or suites, convenient downtown location. www.ashleighheritage.com

NDM, 2 bedroom/2 bathroom, For sale next to U of M. Large, 1105 sq. ft., open concept, 2 bedroom/2 bathroom condo at Brian Dr. and Pembina, one and a half years old, immaculate condition, 5th floor east view into U of M campus. 9 ft. ceilings, 1 heated indoor parking spot, six appliances, three storage lockers, huge balcony, large windows, walk-in closet, ensuite, ceramic and laminate flooring, granite kitchen counters, custom blinds, biometric lock. Exercise and party rooms. Fees include water, Walk to U of M, Hospital, Tim Hortons, Superstore and banks. Great residence or investment opportunity. $289,000. On Kijiji and MLS #1112687.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics

Position: Department Head for the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics for a five year term (present incumbent will be applying)

Deadline: September 14, 2011

For Information: Dr. Brian Postl, Chair, Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Headship Advisory Committee, Faculty of Medicine, U of M, 260-727 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P5, fax (204) 789-3928

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine

Position: Geriatrician, geographical full-time, contingent position at the rank of Assistant Professor

Deadline: September 30, 2011

Start Date: Immediately

Position Number: 10521

For Information: Chair, Geriatric Search Committee, Health Sciences Centre, GC430-820 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 1R9

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Section of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery

Position: Academic Pediatric and Congenital Neurosurgeon; Geographical full time Neurosurgeon with fellowship training in Pediatric Neurosurgery to further develop the program in Pediatric Neurosurgery at Winnipeg Children’s Hospital

Deadline: November 1, 2011

Thank you for Funding Excellence... U of M is part of the $1.3 million campus support to World-class cardiovascular research in Manitoba

Although there are many treatments currently available for heart disease and other diseases of blood vessels, they are merely temporary measures. There is still no cure for cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death for Manitobans. When a person has a heart attack, the heart cells do not divide or repair very well, which diminishes the heart’s ability to pump blood. Through cellular and genetically-based research, Dr. Kirshenbaum is looking to correct the underlying problem that leads heart cells to die or become damaged due to a heart attack.

Kirshenbaum’s work has revealed that a protein known as p53, a gene often associated with cancer, plays a major role in killing heart cells, resulting in heart disease. Kirshenbaum’s lab is employing cutting-edge technology to manipulate p53 and related genes in order to extend the life of heart cells, thereby reducing the damaging effects of heart disease.

“We are now looking at ways to prevent heart cells from dying or to generate new ones; we are looking for a cure.”

Dr. Lorrie A. Kirshenbaum, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba Funded Researcher

Thank you

We truly appreciate your contributions to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba through the University of Manitoba Campus Campaign. Your donation will help the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba continue to fight cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in Manitoba.

For more information, or to donate, please contact HSFM at Ph: 204 949 2000 Toll-free: 1 888 473 4636 heartandstroke.mb.ca

Academic Job Opportunities

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

Nominations for New Pension Committee

The recent amendments to the Pension Benefits Act require that the University of Manitoba Pension Plan (1993) be administered by a newly constituted pension committee. The committee must be established and begin administering the plan by September 25, 2011. Human resources conducted a nomination and election process in April/May and Mr. Guy Beaudry was the successful candidate in the election. However it was discovered that a number of employees who were members of the Pension Plan but not actively working at that time did not have an opportunity to participate in the nomination or election process. As a result the nomination and election process is being conducted again.

The human resources website has a nomination form which can be completed by active pension plan members. Alternatively active pension plan members can obtain a hard copy from Human Resources at either the Fort Garry or St. Boniface campuses. 9 ft. ceilings, 1 heated indoor parking spot, six appliances, three storage lockers, huge balcony, large windows, walk-in closet, ensuite, ceramic and laminate flooring, granite kitchen counters, custom blinds, biometric lock. Exercise and party rooms. Fees include water, Walk to U of M, Hospital, Tim Hortons, Superstore and banks. Great residence or investment opportunity.

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Bringing Research to LIFE

In brief

Update on CORE and CHRPP
For Researchers and Research Coordinators
The Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) has now launched the online tutorial, TCPPS 2: Course on Research Ethics (CORE).

For all researchers submitting an ethics protocol, the deadline to complete the CHRPP or CORE tutorial remains September 1, 2011. Those who have already completed the CHRPP tutorial will NOT be asked to complete the CORE tutorial.

For further information, please feel free to contact the Research Quality Management Office (Rm 053, Apotex Bldg., Bannatyne Campus):

- Monica Woods
  Research Quality Manager
  Ph: 204-272-3122
  Fax: 204-272-3122
  Monica_Woods@umanitoba.ca

Gina Armellino
Research Quality Assurance
Phone: 204-789-3698
Fax: 204-272-3122
armellin@cc.umanitoba.ca

Research Quality Assurance Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Published by Research Communications and Marketing
Comments, submissions and event listings to: research_communications@umanitoba.ca
Phone: (204) 474-7300 Fax: (204) 261-0325

Working to save our skin
BY JOHN RYMON

Dermatopathologist Darryl Oble’s lab is validating new technology shown to improve clinical diagnoses and lead to better patient care.

Did you remember to wear sunscreen today? Enjoying a sunny day without proper sun protection can result in more than just a sunburn. Skin cancer is now the most common cancer in the country, according to the Canadian Cancer Society. Over 5,000 new cases are being diagnosed in Canada each year, resulting in more than 900 deaths. Even moderate sun exposure without proper protection has been shown to increase a person’s risk, and so has a severe sunburn, using indoor tanning beds, or repeated exposure to x-rays or radium.

Darryl Oble is no stranger to diagnosing skin problems. An assistant professor in the pathology department in the Faculty of Medicine, and a dermatopathologist at the Health Sciences Centre, his clinical practice is focused on all aspects of skin disease. His specialty of dermatopathology, or pathology of the skin, is complex. With an estimated 1,500 different diagnoses that need to be contemplated while reviewing skin biopsies, an in-depth understanding of skin disease is essential, and acquired through subspecialist fellowship training.

Out of this myriad of diseases, Oble believes that the diagnoses of melanoma is arguably the most challenging task in dermatopathology. Not only are the stakes very high, as this deadly disease often affects people in the prime of their life, but melanoma can also be very subtle to recognize. Furthermore, numerous benign lesions can mimic melanoma. Given that melanoma is increasing in frequency, Oble concedes that this problem requires more public health awareness as well as more up to date tools to better diagnose the disease and to reduce the number of false positive and false negative diagnoses.

Oble’s lab is attempting to bring such tools to Manitobans by validating a new technology which has already been shown to increase the diagnostic accuracy of difficult pigmented lesions of the skin. This research, funded by a grant from Diagnostic Services of Manitoba, focuses on fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH). Chromosome-binding fluorescent probes visualized under the microscope help detect common mutations known to occur in melanoma, thereby revealing the so-called genetic “signature” or “bar-code” of this disease.

“By having these tools, pathologists can conduct this analysis in house rather than sending it elsewhere,” he says. “The process will be less expensive for tax-payers, give faster results for the patients, and develop the local expertise needed to perform this kind of sophisticated testing. This will have widespread benefits for Manitoba research and clinical care.”

Oble also has an interest in the study of blood cancers that primarily involve the skin (cutaneous lymphomas). For which, common genetic pattern has now been recognized. Diagnosis is again notoriously difficult, often requiring multiple biopsies performed over a period of years. Oble hopes that the techniques utilized for melanoma FISH testing may eventually be applied to this blood cancer research, and hopefully aid in the routine clinical diagnoses of these cancers as well.

In addition, Oble is collaborating with colleagues at CancerCare Manitoba including Ralph Wong, assistant professor of internal medicine, and dermatologist Marnie Wiseman. Their work involves the study of various novel therapies for metastatic malignant melanoma, the treatment of which has been largely unchanged for decades and minimally successful. Some of these therapies attempt to modulate the immune system’s response to melanoma while other strategies involve a “personalized” approach that relies upon the detection of specific mutations. The identification of specific genetic mutations can indicate which chemotherapy protocol a patient may respond best to.

The Oble lab is also studying other elements of skin disease including certain inflammatory skin diseases, for which they recently received funding from the Dr. Paul H.T. Thorlakson Foundation Fund as the top ranked proposal in their research category.

Oble explains, “When immune cells are no longer in the correct balance, individuals develop disorganized immune responses that lead to immunopathology, commonly referred to as autoimmune disease - a category of immunologically-mediated diseases that includes Type 1 diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, lupus, and numerous others.

Oble say this research will lead to a better understanding of immunobiology enabling the development of specific pharmaceutical agents that can modulate the immune response. Such biological agents have already proven to be effective in cancer therapy, such as with melanoma, as well as for numerous autoimmune diseases.

Oble believes that “supporting these research endeavors and embracing the resultant technology will strengthen our province’s reputation as a world class research environment and lead to more successful patient care for Manitobans.”

Summer safety: University of Manitoba Pharmacy grad student Darryl Feduck discusses his research, which examines the potential health risks of applying sunscreen and insect repellent at the same time. http://youtu.be/Dllhw9elsV4
U of M makes a strong showing at annual theatre festival

BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE
The Bulletin

Looking for summer fun? Folk Fest may be over, but the annual Winnipeg Fringe Festival is just getting underway. U of M is well-represented at this year’s “Big Top Fringe.” Choose from the sampling of productions that include staff, faculty, students or alum—and step right up and take in a show or two!

Mary Rose

Mary Rose is an example of a Fringe production with numerous familiar and new U of M faces. For its director George Toles, film chair and English and film prof, the production has greater significance. Toles has created a special version of J.M. Barrie’s ghost drama Mary Rose, which also happened to be Alfred Hitchcock’s favourite play. Hitchcock confessed to weeping copiously at its ending, and tried for many years to procure funding to produce it. In the early 1960s, Jay Presson Allen, the female screenwriter of Hitchcock’s Marnie, wrote several drafts of a Mary Rose adaptation in close consultation with Hitchcock. The final screenplay was never produced, but Toles has used it as the basis for this play. Anyone who’s taken classes with Toles knows he loves Hitchcock. But this production is also special because it features his son, a U of M student, as an actor.

The Bulletin spoke with Toles about Mary Rose.

Tell us about this show’s significance for you.

My first public acting performances were as Peter Pan—several years running, in the garages of Neverland. My first public acting performances were ticking alarm clocks within crocodiles, never growing up anything even slightly redolent of lost shadows, audibly strong obsession of mine. I was devoted to the Barrie Peter Pan. Peter Pan was, for many childhood years, a things of great value to me have powerfully converged.

I don’t believe I’ve ever worked with a stronger cast, or a more gifted, committed production crew. Robert Smith, who teaches in the English Department, plays Mr. Moreland. Jane Burpee plays his wife, Fanny. Tobias Hughes plays Cameron, a visitor to the island on which Mary Rose disappears. Talia Pura plays dual roles of Mrs. Otery and Sarah Amy. And two U of M Black Hole alumnae, Jane Walker and Ivan Henwood, play Mary Rose and her husband, Simon Blake.

What was it like to work with your son?

I think you’re very muchled by the Barrie son, a U of M student, as an actor.

What is it about the play itself that appealed to you?

Mary Rose has much to say about amnesia, and, like so much of Barrie’s work, is deeply concerned with the identity of a mother figure and the mysteries of mother love. My own mother, now in her nineties, is suffering from dementia. The recognition and recurring disappearance issues on which the play hinges have unusual poignancy for me at present.

What was it like to work with your son?

It’s stage-managed by theatre student Matthew Lagace, written by alumna Joseph Aragon, directed by alum Leith Clark and produced by Heather Madill Jordan, communications officer at the Faculty of Music, who will also appear in So You Think You Can Be A Music Theatre Idol: Allstars, a musical spoof of reality TV. Others: Catching Shadows, For Tea and Country, Criminal Genius, Hamlet, Master Orloff & Madame Clodi’s new Penny Arcade Frakeshow Beautiquest or The Illusionary Box, Rogue Cop, Full Screen Ahead: The Sketch Show Show.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE

NEW!

The Leadership and Management Development Certificate Program is suited to highly motivated individuals who wish to develop leadership and management skills they can use immediately in a practical work environment. The program is for those who have leadership qualities, are critically reflective about their practice, are a problem solver, and have effective interpersonal communication skills.

Students participate in this program as a cohort and complete it within one year. Program begins September 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact: Jo-Anne Thompson
email: joanne.thompson@umanitoba.ca
phone: 474-8030

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Program tuition is $5565.00.
SPECIAL 25% DISCOUNT
for University of Manitoba employees!

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM
• leadership and management knowledge, skills, & abilities; personal and professional development; recognition of career interests by employers; in-class exercises and activities, small group discussion, role-playing, and the use of case studies; effectively lead and work in teams; creative solutions to workplace problems.

PROGRAM OUTLINE
The Program consists of the follow 12 required courses totaling 260 hours of classroom instruction supplemented by on-the-job experience and is completed within a 12 month period:
• Group norms and Introduction to Management (12)
• Project Planning and Management (24)
• Creative Problem Solving (24)
• Communication and Assertion for Managers (24)
• Program Evaluation (24)
• Organizational Behaviour and Leadership (24)
• Strategic Resource Management (24)
• Human Resources Management (24)
• Business Strategy (24)
• Marketing: Its Role in the Organization (24)
• Information Management (24)
• Program Wrap-up (8)

ADMISSION
The Program is designed for those whose next career step is to lead or manage a unit of professionals. It is appropriate for individuals who have worked three or more years in first line or higher levels of management, or a professional position, or a position which provides leadership and management skills.

SPONSORSHIP
Participants must be sponsored by their employer or supervisor, or by a manager who is familiar with the candidate and their work.

WHY BE A SPONSOR?
Employers who invest their staff into the program invest in their corporate well-being. The program offers employers:
• A structured and integrated program for preparing and developing employees for leadership and management positions;
• An intensive instruction program to meet the need for particular skill competencies;
• An opportunity to recognize and support employees with leadership and management potential; and
• An opportunity to broaden their understanding of the major functions of a particular business.

The show is stage-managed by U of M alum Katie Man and another alumna, Kerri Woloszyn, designed the lighting and set. Other alumnae involved with the show are Aynsley Moorhouse, who did sound design and costume coordinators Alana Pyrch and Angela Heck (also a former Bulletin editor). Mary Rose opens July 15 and runs until July 23.

The musical fairytale Zanna Don’t! features an array of current Faculty of Music students, including Nelson Bettencourt (cast), Katy Thurmeier (accompanist) and Paul De Gurse as musical director. It’s described by the company as “a fabulous musical fairy tale set in a parallel universe where homosexuality is the norm and a magical matchmaker brings true love to one and all, a mix of Grease and Glee.”

Musical theatre instructor Donna Fletcher is part of Herstoria, a musical that celebrates the unlikely friendship of four women who come together after being betrayed by their therapist—and that is also funny.

Illuminati 2: The Second One, billed as a “conspiracy-filled musical extravaganza,” is the sequel to 2005’s smash hit Illuminati: The Musical. The company says “it has more singing, dancing, kung fu, boat chases, dolphins, explosions, mimes, plus all the conspiracies we couldn’t fit into the first one!”

For more on shows and for showtimes, go to: winnipegfringe.com

So You Think You Can Be A Music Theatre Idol: Allstars,

A musical spoof of reality TV

Grease

The musical fairytale Zanna Don’t!

Illuminati: The Musical

For Tea and Country

Catching Shadows

Master Orloff & Madame Clodi’s new Penny Arcade Frakeshow Beautiquest or The Illusionary Box

For more shows and for showtimes, go to: winnipegfringe.com