New program provides dental implants for Winnipeg homeless

BY GRANT WARREN
For The Bulletin

On January 12, U of M launched the Niznick Overdenture Program, which will provide dentistry students the unique opportunity to pioneer a new dental implant technology and program while they install new teeth in the mouths of 35 homeless people.

The Faculty of Dentistry has partnered with Siloam Mission’s health centre to offer complete dental implants to 35 patients of Siloam’s dental clinic.

The implants usually cost upwards of $10,000 per patient but in September of last year Gerald Niznick [DMD/66] donated $500,000 to the faculty to develop and launch the novel program.

Siloam Mission’s dental clinic has been offering basic dental care for Winnipeg’s less fortunate for years — including full teeth extractions and new dentures — but could never afford these kind of high-tech implants.

“Then there are few things worse than broken, rotting or missing teeth,” says Floyd Perras, executive director of Siloam Mission. “Bad teeth lower your self-esteem, get in the way of eating properly, affect your speech and hurt your chances of getting a job. That’s why we’re thankful beyond words for this opportunity.”

The program is also pioneering new technology that may revolutionize the field by making implants more accessible to the Canadian public.

“These innovative implants reduce the cost of treatment, making implant-retained overdentures affordable to a greater segment of the population,” said Igor Pesun, associate professor and head of the program.

Bryon Ohrling, Siloam Mission patron, and third-year dental student Amrit Bains.
News

M-m-m-muffins

January 5, 2012

CTV.ca

U of M professor Michel Aliani has been given a $160,000 grant from the federal government’s Canada Foundation for Innovation to help him in his quest to build a better flaxseed muffin. Aliani needs his muffins to contain 30 grams of flaxseed each — about ¼ cup. And it has to be tasty. Aliani, who has a background in chemistry and flavour formation, knows it won’t be easy.

“This is the challenge, because when you add that much flaxseed to the muffin, it’s not going to be very tasty,” he told CTV Winnipeg, Aliani and his team can’t use the usual methods of making something taste better — adding a whole lot of sugar or salt or fat, That would defeat the purpose of a healthier muffin. Too much sodium, for example, negates the beneficial effects of the flax would likely be outweighed by the blood pressure-raising effects of the sodium. Aliani is using $160,000 grant to establish a functional foods research laboratory. The money will help pay for state-of-the-art mass spectrometry technology which helps identify several hundred metabolites in the blood of the muffin-tasting volunteers.

U of M honours Icelandic female doctor

January 16, 2012

CTV.ca

A new award honours the first Canadian woman of Icelandic descent who became a doctor. Dr. Sigga Christianson Houston started a medical dynasty that now spans four generations. Her son Dr. C. Stuart Houston and his family have given nearly $100,000 to the University of Manitoba to establish the Sigga Christianson Houston Travel Award. It will offer travel bursaries to medical students who participate in a summer early exposure program or clinical elective in a remote northern community with a general practitioner or pediatrician. Sigga Houston earned her medical degree from the University in 1925. She married and settled in Yorkton, Sask., with her husband in 1928 and established a medical practice.

Airship to the rescue

December 29, 2011

Yahoo News

The Canadian Forces in Nunavut has put the issue of getting supplies to remote northern communities to the forefront. Right now, most of the supplies have to be flown in or transported along ice roads in the couple months a year rivers and lakes are frozen, but a U of M professor and his team may have a solution to transport goods in a less expensive and more environmentally-friendly manner. Barry Prentice unveiled a 25-metre long airship called Gwichiga-Mi’amiq (in Cree), or Sky Whale, last week in the atrium at U of M’s Faculty of Engineering. The ship has been built as a research vessel to study construction and operation of airships in colder weather.

Headlines

“Put an end to city’s cab “cartel”, Winnipeg Sun, January 2, 2012. Barry Prentice, a transportation economist at the U of M, has raised the issue of taxi deregulation arguing the city’s taxi regulations are based on “no competition.” Local taxi drivers are said to participate in a cab owners club, limiting competition. The city’s taxi regulations are being challenged in court.

“Feds no threat to same-sex marriages”, Winnipeg Free Press, January 13, 2012, article quotes U of M law professor Karen Busby on a legal brief made by the Department of Justice, which stated that same-sex couples married in Canada, but who live in countries or states where same-sex marriage is not recognized, may not have a valid marriage and may be subject to discrimination. Busby said her study found that states with such laws “Frankly, it was virtually impossible for them to do that,” said Busby.

The Bulletin January 19, 2011

The Bulletin is the newspaper of record for the University of Manitoba. It is published by the communications marketing office every second Thursday from September to December, and monthly in December, from September to December. The Bulletin is distributed to all University of Manitoba faculty, staff, and students, as well as from the larger Winnipeg community.

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community or the general public on subjects of interest to the university community. There is no charge for running notices in the events columns.

Send event notices to bulletin@umanitoba.ca

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Issue Date: February 8, 2012
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Copy/advertised deadline: February 15

The survey shows that there still is a significant gap between those who think an equitable and respectful workplace is important and those who believe the university is this type of working environment.

More than 30 per cent of employees participated, which is a very good response rate, especially since this was our first-ever staff survey conducted.

We learned that most of our respondents agree that the University of Manitoba is an excellent place to work. In addition, we are able to present important information on where we need to improve.

Overall, 86 per cent of our respondents indicated they were either very satisfied (35 per cent) or somewhat satisfied (51 per cent) with their workplace experience at the University of Manitoba.

This satisfaction rate compares favourably with the University of Toronto, which received a 78 per cent overall satisfaction rate when it surveyed employees in 2006 and the University of British Columbia, which received a 70 per cent satisfaction rate in 2009.

And while the University of Manitoba does not quite rise to the 91 per cent job satisfaction rate that Manitoba workers enjoyed in a 2010 survey, it is significantly better than the overall Canadian job satisfaction rate of 73 per cent that Manitoba workers enjoyed in a 2010 survey.

Respondents highly rated their sense of contribution to society, friendly and supportive colleagues, good pension and benefits and appropriate flexibility.

While these results are encouraging, we cannot rest on our laurels. In fact, there were several key areas identified where we need to make improvements and we are committed to doing so.

For example, there is a significant gap between those who think an equitable and respectful workplace is important and those who believe the university is this type of working environment. The gap ranges between 26 and 54 per cent, depending on the specific statement referenced.

In the survey, employees also placed significant value on cooperation among departments, confidence in senior leadership, absence of red tape and support for career and professional development. However, progress is needed to ensure we meet the standard of an outstanding workplace in these areas.

The results of this survey are helping shape our next steps in ensuring we become a more outstanding workplace. Work that will address some of these concerns is already underway through many university activities. In addition, plans are being put in place to achieve progress. It’s other areas for improvement referenced above.

As well, specific discussions have been initiated with distinct populations of employees such as Indigenous employees and employees with accessibility concerns.

In addition, faculties and large administrative units are discussing their particular workplace results and identifying areas for improvement.

This is only the beginning of the process, not the end. Our goal is to regularly assess if we are meeting our workplace improvement goals while taking further action where necessary.

Please take a look at the survey online if you haven’t already. Together we can ensure the University of Manitoba continues to prevail as an outstanding workplace. It’s up to us.

For a comprehensive breakdown of survey results, please visit >> uumanitoba.ca/admin/human_resources/ids/outstanding_workplace_framework/survey%20results.html or http://bit.ly/uILKBK
Faculty of Nursing goes seven for seven
Since 2010, researchers in the Faculty of Nursing have submitted eight proposals to the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). Meetings Grant applications and all have been successful in receiving funding. The principle investigators and their projects are: Diana Clarke, research planning and development and young women living with schizophrenia; Marie Edwards, ethics and the interface between long-term care and emergency settings; Tom Hack, community-based primary care, health care and lungedhema and investigating the problem and potential for care; Donna Martin, linking environment and health in Manitoba’s First Nations communities; a research agenda; Susan McGlemont, second annual dignity therapy educational workshop; Andrae Moroch, developing a research agenda for children living with parents who have mental illness and their families; Lynn Scruby, improving access to community-based health services in the inner-city; advancing a research agenda.

Professor named fellow of American Physical Society
Tapash Chakrabority, professor in the department of physics and astronomy, has been named a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the division of plasma physics. His pioneering contributions to nanoscale physics, predominately his understanding of the spin structure of the fractional quantum Hall effect and the electronic properties of quantum dots, resulted in a successful nomination. The Canada Research Chair in Nanoscale Physics is an internationally recognized condensed matter theorist. His research focus is on many-body effects in nanoscale electronic systems, which he often studies by sophisticated numerical methods. Chakrabority is the fourth U of M researcher to be named a fellow of the APS.

Keyhole takes top film prize
The latest feature film by director Guy Maddin, U of M filmmaker-in-residence, and co-writer George Toles, professor in the department of English, has been named the winner of the coveted Barson Competition for best Canadian feature film at the recent 2011 Whistler Film Festival. Keyhole stars Isabella Rossellini and Jason Patric in a typically Maddin-esque surreal tale of gangsters and ghosts that is based loosely on Homer’s Odyssey and James Joyce’s Ulysses. The film was credited for its “inventiveness, audacity and humour.” The award, named for the late Canadian filmmaker Phillip Borsos, includes a $15,000 cash prize. The film will be released across Canada this spring.

Send your campus news and kudos to: bulletin@umanitoba.ca

After major successes in 2011, ROSE looks forward to 2012
By Lindsay Stewart Glor
For The Bulletin

A year ago, the ROSE program entered its third phase, which saw many initiatives go from planning to implementation.

Since then, the ROSE team has celebrated major successes, from the introduction of exciting online tools to the onboarding of a new e-recruitment tool called REACH-UM. This tool was developed in-house by a team of IT professionals and the division of HR.

While many initiatives are still underway, the ROSE team is pleased with the progress made in their first year of operation. They have been able to implement many of the systems and tools aimed at improving employee experience and the success of the program.

In the end, a panel of judges chose REACH-UM, an acronym meaning Recruitment Electronic Application Change-UM. REACH-UM was designed to improve the onboarding experience for new hires at the U of M. It provides new employees with a central online portal where they can access all the resources and information they need to get started.

In addition to REACH-UM, the ROSE team has introduced several other initiatives throughout the year. These include:

- An online bursary application, which was introduced by the Faculty of Education in the fall.
- A new email/calendar infrastructure that was completed and the first pilot was launched in the fall.
- A new point of contact system for IT-related questions, which is rolling out to the rest of the university in 2012.
- An exciting online tool called “Eat Like a Local” that provides employees with information on local restaurants and food options.
- An online tool called “Keyhole” that is being used by the Finance team to streamline procurement processes.
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In the coming year, the ROSE team is looking forward to continuing to make progress on these initiatives and implementing new ones.

ROSE BY THE NUMBERS

1. The number of entries received by the human resources team to name the new e-recruitment tool.
2. The number of employees who have used the ROSE system to apply for the new e-recruitment tool.
3. The number of employees who have received funding through the ROSE program.
4. The number of employees who have completed the new onboarding process.

With the ROSE program, the U of M is making progress towards its goal of creating a more efficient and effective employee experience. The ROSE team is committed to continue to improve and expand the program in the coming year.

Mercredi delivers health keynote
Ovide Mercredi delivers dean’s lecture in Indigenous health to a packed house.

By MARIANNE MAYS WEEBE
For The Bulletin

On Thursday, January 12, Ovide Mercredi spoke to a large audience about Indigenous health at the Frederic Raphael Leonard Lecture. The talk, entitled “The right action at the right time,” was part of the 2012 lecture series in First Nations, Metis and Inuit Health.

Mercredi, a native of Grande Rapids, Manitoba, recounted stories about his life as a child and young man to illustrate the challenges of Aboriginal peoples.

Growing up with few outside role models and the systemic racism that pervaded society, a “sense of inferiority” was difficult to overcome, said Mercredi.

“Of course some are, but many are not,” Mercredi said. “We want racism to end, but we don’t need an atomic weapon to do it,” he concluded. “Just kindness and compassion.”

He extended the need for understanding to present-day difficulties of Indigenous peoples, including delivery of health care. “We may be people with problems, but we are not a problem people,” he said.

Challenges remain. “Poverty does not generate wealth,” he said, “and many good ideas never come to fruition.” He noted that support and mutuality were needed.

Mercredi provided examples from his own experience in Grande Rapids. With decisions made locally, he said, expanding health facilities and levels of care can transform a community — adding both a higher standard of service and a sense of ownership, “empowering people to take responsibility,” he said.

AND more can be found Online at ROSEumanitoba.ca

> > For further information, go to: umanitoba.ca/admin/rose
Fire teachings bring ‘Occupied’ moment home

BY MARIJANNE MAR'S WEBE
The Bulletin

Part two of a two-part series. Dave Courchene Jr. began his “fire” teachings on November 25 at the tenth annual Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa as about what had been learned from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). This year’s theme was “water and fire,” chosen to convey the traditional teachings of women and men in Indigenous culture.

The fire presentations were given by the men on the afternoon of the first day. Other presenters were Terry Wasteste, from the Dakota tribe, and the youngest of the three, Colby Tootosis, a Cree youth.

Wasteste, the first teacher to open the fire teachings, asked a question: “How do we choose as a people to become better people?”

“I was here 10 years ago at the opening of Aboriginal Housing,” he said. “Coming back to this place today with the support of staff and entering a place in which to be yourself is beautiful,” he said.

Reflecting over the time that had passed, he spoke about what had been learned from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa as something that could be applied to the Canadian TRC.

“We now practice openly and honestly our God-given ways,” he said. “It has given strength to our peoples.”

Wasteste used the ceremonial feather lance as an example of “an understanding of male and female responsibility” and working together.

There are 26 feathers on the lance, he said, 13 for men and 13 for women. “Our men are starting to stand up and receive our responsibilities,” he said. “From there, the children will grow strong. The elders told me to think about seven generations to come.”

With the fire, “we acknowledge creation,” he added. “In the sweat lodge, the first words when the water is brought in are ‘water is the gift of life. Water is being added to the fire to create air, and air is what helps us to live.”

Courchene also spoke about the sacredness of fire, and the sun as the clearest physical symbol that there is a God, the Creator. “The sun shines on everyone,” he said.

“The fire is here to offer us the connection to the spirit world,” he added. “It is the door.”

When people come to him for guidance, he said, he would send them to sit in front of the fire. They would come back and say that they had learned and seen nothing. “Go back,” he would instruct, and sit there longer.

The sacredness of the fire, he explained, tells us not to destroy life but to nourish it.

“Speak to the beauty of who we are as human beings. Help and care for one another,” he said.

He explained the “occupy movement” as a spiritual movement as well: “One that is swaying the world. But it will not go anywhere until the Red man comes to the North.”

“We’re happy to contribute our applied research expertise in aerospace to the airship project team,” said Ken Webb, vice-president, academic & research for Red River College (RRC). “This will be a great opportunity for our staff and students to gain hands-on experience working with this emerging technology that holds so much promise for the development of Canada’s North.”

“We are interested in the potential of airships to transport supplies and materials to our northern facilities and also to service construction projects in remote areas,” said Bob Brennan, Manitoba Hydro president and CEO. Manitoba Hydro contributed to the purchase of helium for the airship.

Prentice explained that the difficult living conditions of the remote communities in the North can be directly related to the high cost of transportation. Food prices in Island Lake, Manitoba, for example, are two to three times higher than those in Winnipeg. Climate change is beginning to shorten the length of the ice road season, and as this trend continues ice roads are becoming less economic to construct. Finally, advances in materials, control systems, propulsion and design had eliminated all the technical problems that had held back buoyant aircraft systems and airships are becoming more appealing as a solution to many transportation problems.

“The fins, gondola and envelope of the airship were constructed at RRC during the summer of 2011. Subsequently all materials were moved to the U of M to complete the final seafall of the envelope, the fins, nose cone and landing gear. Following final assembly inside the EITC Atrium at the U of M, the airship (designated the MB80), will be taken to the BASI hangar at St. Andrews Airport to begin flight tests.”

To best determine if the airship is feasible as a northern workhorse, BASI will undertake a research program on cold weather operations, ballast exchange, robotic flight, electrical propulsion and fuel cells.

Prentice noted: “The airship industry will need many engineers and technicians, as well as pilots and ground crews as the technology becomes accepted and expands. It is our hope that Manitoba can be the centre of this educational and research activity because it will help attract other airship companies to establish a presence in the province of Manitoba.”

He added: “Airships may seem to come from the past, but they represent the future.”

Photograph by Marianne Mays Wiebe

Left: The airship Giizhigo-Misameg unveiled at the U of M on December 3. Above: Barry Prentice, professor of supply chain management at Asper School of Business, stands with his airship.
Circle of sharing’ explores next steps

BY MARIANNE MAYS VIEBE

After he gave the opening prayer, Garry Robson, elder-in-residence at the Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC), told the audience at the President’s Circle of Sharing that the greatest problem was that “we [as Indigenous people], at some point, stopped talking.

‘But we must also listen,’ he said. ‘All of us need to listen to one another.’

For all the parties involved, listening held a significant role at the event that took place at Migizii Agamik (Bald Eagle Lodge) on December 12.

Students, staff and faculty gathered to share perspectives on how the university can move forward to ensure Indigenous success and achievement. The discussion was a follow-up to the University’s Statement of Apology and Reconciliation that was presented at the end of October in Halifax to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada.

President Barnard: ‘The apology is one step. Our sincerity will be judged by what we do’

For Margaret Lavelle, a Sagkeeng First Nation band member who was in the audience, the apology by the U of M echoed the one given by the Prime Minister. At first she was unable to watch it, she said, but seeing the effects of the TRC “touched her spirit.” The apology later gave her a feeling of freedom, she said. “It gave us the freedom to talk and share. We told the truth; it sets us free.”

On the apology by the U of M, she commented that “it takes courage to be able to do that: to say that from a good place in your heart. And we say ‘megwetch’ from a good place in our hearts for doing that.”

“Let’s set us free to be partners,” she concluded. President Barnard agreed that “telling the truth about where we are” is a good place to start. “If you don’t tell the truth about where you are, it’s like you are standing in one place, pretending to be standing in another. You can’t get very good directions to where you are going if you don’t tell the truth about where you are. You need to start from the right place,” he said.

He remembered the analogy of the turtle, the animal stitched into the ribbon shirt with which he was presented by ASC, as thanks for the university’s commitment. “When I received the shirt, I was told that the turtle needs to stick his neck out, to be vulnerable. We make ourselves vulnerable when we share, and when we listen to one another.”

Barnard concluded by affirming the significance of entering a shared conversation about the actions necessary to ensure Indigenous achievement and success.

‘Like dropping a pebble in a pond,’ he said, “ripples will move out from here.”
A change in the weather

BY TOBY CYMAN
For The Bulletin

The unseasonably warm winter Winnipeg enjoyed until recently may not seem frightful, but it’s ensured that our changing climate will be largely determined by our changing climate.

The first speaker of the evening was David Barber, Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science and director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science at U of M. Barber presented the seemingly mild statistic that, in the last 150 years, the earth’s surface temperature has increased between 0.5 and 0.8 degrees Celsius. Though this may not seem like a huge increase, it is, 15,000 years ago the global temperature was only 4 degrees colder and that put Manitoba under the Wisconsin ice sheet.

Brooke Milne, the second speaker, approached climate change from an anthropological perspective. While it’s hard to reconcile the two topics, Milne, a professor of anthropology, explained how the long-term perspectives of archeology (and the related field of paleoanthropology) can offer valuable insight on how humans have dealt both with climate change as it relates to thunderstorms. The four ingredients for thunderstorms—moisture, instability, a lift mechanism or trigger and wind shear—are also changing with the climate.

An agricultural perspective was brought by Paul Bullock, the final speaker of the evening. A professor of soil science in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Bullock began by saying what an impressive feat it is that we can produce and distribute enough resources for the seven billion people on the planet. “Resources are finite,” he said, “but our intellectual and adaptive capabilities have so far overcome those limits.” But, he questions, will the challenge of feeding the population for the 21st century finally outstrip our ingenuity?

A question-and-answer period followed with queries and comments regarding food security, the role of the sun in arctic warming and the ethics of geo-engineering. Responding to a question about resource exploration in the arctic due to the melting sea ice, Barber said that, “thirty-five per cent of the world’s undiscovered fossil fuels are in the Arctic Ocean.”

Bringing the evening to a close, Digvir Bapuji, panel organizer and associate professor, Asper School of Business and Hari Bapuji, panel organizer and associate professor, Asper School of Business, followed with queries and comments regarding food security, the role of the sun in arctic warming and the ethics of geo-engineering. Responding to a question about resource exploration in the arctic due to the melting sea ice, Barber said that, “thirty-five per cent of the world’s undiscovered fossil fuels are in the Arctic Ocean.”

Bapuji: “It’s time for business to start thinking about climate change as it relates to thunderstorms. The four ingredients for thunderstorms—moisture, instability, a lift mechanism or trigger and wind shear—are also changing with the climate.”

Though it may have faltered at times for its lack of a definitive aim, the Occupy movement has had obvious moral authority and influence. The protests that were sparked in response to the recent global financial crisis spread across North America like wildfire after beginning on Wall Street last fall. If the movement has accomplished anything, it’s certainly put economic inequality on the radar for public debate.

On December 8 and 9, the I.H. Asper School of Business hosted “Occupy Lombard,” two interactive public forums to discuss the relationship between businesses and societal inequality, the basis of the Occupy movement.

The public forums featured panels of experts exploring the issue, followed by a moderated discussion with the audience.

The first panel took place in Asper’s downtown location on Lombard Street, the James W. Burns Executive Education Centre. Designed for business professionals and tailored for a downtown audience, the first event featured panelists Art DeFehr, president and CEO, Palliser Furniture, Alan Freeman, economist, Michael Benarroch, dean, Asper School of Business, and vice-chancellor, hosted the conversation at the Schultz Theatre.

Business and Hari Bapuji, Asper School of Business.

The second panel at Fort Garry Campus attracted students and staff from across the U of M. Panelists were Rick Workman, CEO, Workman Associates and formerly with IBM, Brent Bailey, Winnipeg Foundation, Art DeFehr, David Barnard, president and vice-chancellor, Radhika Desai, political studies, and Bapuji.

To open the second panel, moderator Reg Litz, professor, Asper School of Business, quoted economic expert Richard Reich from his bestselling 2010 book AfterShock: The Next Economy and America’s Future. “How much more inequality can we take?” Reich outlines the perils of an economy with wealth concentrated in the top one percent. Structurally, contends Reich, the model is unsustainable. America’s wealthiest continue to use their wealth for market speculation, while the middle class goes deeply into debt to maintain a decent standard of living.

As an Occupy Winnipeg representative noted, “Occupy reflects a major dissatisfaction with the results of the response to the economic crisis,” said Litz.

Hari Bapuji, panel organizer and associate professor in the Asper School of Business at the U of M who is researching the financial crisis, further illuminated the dissatisfaction. In spite of calls for change, he noted, no one in the business community is doing anything.

He demonstrated the instability of an economy characterized by wealth concentration in 1 per cent of the population with an illustration of an inverted pyramid. “How stable can it be?” he asked.

“Inequality is like wildfire after beginning on Wall Street last fall. If the movement has accomplished anything, it’s certainly put economic inequality on the radar for public debate.”

“Who made the decision to allow banks to lose 1 trillion dollars?” he asked. “That’s the fault of the system. Wealth concentration in one per cent of the population is the fault of the system.”

“High economic inequality lowers human development, increasing human resource costs for organizations. Low trust levels result in low motivation and low productivity.” He suggested a number of strategies that business leaders can use to reduce inequality within their own organization and in society.

Radhika Desai focused on macro-economic trends to show that the rising divide between the rich and poor during the last 30 years constrained growth and was bad for business. Historically, she said, greater equality lead to higher economic growth. She further argued, paraphrasing Marx, that business and capitalism can self-destruct by reducing wages to workers and the middle class, who are the consumers for products of businesses themselves.

Art DeFehr suggested business leaders contribute to increasing economic inequality through unethical practices and a lack of vision about broader roles of business in society.
Bapuji: Bringing Occupy to business world

Panel organizer Hari Bapuji has been instrumental in bringing home the pointed questions forwarded by Occupy Wall Street and other Occupy movements to business, where he believes they belong. “They address their subject right in the name of the movement,” he points out, “Wall Street, the heart of business.” The Occupy movement has made its point, says Bapuji. “And it’s time for business to start paying attention.”

The professor in business administration who studies crises at the intersection of business and society has been putting those questions to business since last fall. His article on the online Harvard Business Review, co-written with Suhab Riaz from the University of Massachusetts, was the first to address the question of an appropriate response to the Occupy movement from business and business schools.

In that article from October 14, 2011, the authors contend that Occupy Wall Street has a lot in common with India’s anti-corruption movement. “A glance at what’s happening in India shows the potential power of Occupy Wall Street and its potential weaknesses. Such a comparison also reveals the need for businesses to address the issues raised by the Wall Street protesters before it’s too late,” they write.

In his own research, Bapuji asks why the problems of common people are not reflected in economic crises. “There is mostly a dismissal of those problems, people losing their jobs, for instance,” he says. “Business is the focus of Occupy Wall Street but no one is talking from the business side,” he points out. “Consumers are the stakeholders in business. We need to remember that and engage with them.”

The urgent nature of the economic crisis and the lack of response from business compelled him to think about ways to “bring [this part of the] conversation into the public domain.” It prompted him to organize the panel, with the help of Asper’s Scott McCulloch, community & alumni relations adviser in the dean’s office.

Bapuji has also been writing to other business schools across Canada and the U.S., to spread the idea of similar public forums across the continent. He established a basic panel format to include an economist/political scientist, a community leader, an industry leader, a business academic and a business school/university administrator.

Specifically, says Bapuji, the questions that need addressing are: Do businesses contribute to economic inequality? Does economic inequality affect businesses? How should businesses address these issues? An online presence has also been added, which is intended as a hub where business can address the urgent issues forwarded by the Occupy movement.

> > For more, see www.beif.net

Define yourself

Giving should be personal. It’s always best to choose a cause that has special significance to you. For me, that means the University of Manitoba. My family and I are all alumni and one day I’d like my daughter to join that group, so my connection to the university is very personal.

I define myself through my work, my family life and how I give back to my community. How do you define yourself?

— Rejeanne Dupuis
Architect, Physical Plant
FACULTY PROFILE

YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER MATH FORMULAS or characters from the novels you studied in public school, but chances are, you remember gym class — perhaps all too vividly.

For Joannie Halas, professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, the goal is to take that embodied experience, as she calls it, and turn it into opportunity.

In educating future physical education (phys. ed.) teachers at U of M, one of her goals has been to encourage and to model a holistic approach to phys. ed. that takes into account diverse physical abilities and cultural experiences.

“Phys. ed. can be a challenging space for young people to navigate because of its social hierarchies. Our bodies and our abilities are exposed. As physical educators, we need to create learning climates that affirm all bodies, all body types, all backgrounds,” Halas says.

“[Phys. ed. educators] have to take into consideration that entire continuum, from those who love physical activity and are successful and those who struggle with it,” she says.

Many of the students entering university come from relatively privileged positions, notes Halas, and there can be a blind spot when it comes to understanding others’ less-advantaged experiences. In classes they learn about colonization, the residential school system, poverty and other factors that carry present-day effects for Aboriginal and other marginalized youth. They also write “auto-ethnographies,” in which they explore their own cultural backgrounds, which can be very different from the backgrounds of the young people they will eventually teach.

Growing up in the North End of Winnipeg, Halas worked at summer drop-in centres; after returning to Winnipeg in 1999, she’s been working at the university to the community.”

For Halas, research and teaching practice are intertwined. By recognizing and nurturing leadership in the community Rec’ and Read builds upon the strengths of inner city youth. “It would be great to have more diversity reflected within our faculty and in future phys. ed. teachers,” she says. A new faculty diploma is in the works that “will bring the university to the community.”

Halas also concurs with Aboriginal teachings about the interconnectedness of life. For her, phys. ed. and activity are more than sports: it is a physical, emotional, social and spiritual engagement leading to a healthy life. These are the benefits that she hopes future phys. ed. teachers will appreciate and communicate in their teaching.

In light of all this, her teaching motto is not that surprising; she takes it from a mentor of hers: “I cast my line and I reel myself to the fish.”

Motto: ‘I cast my line and I reel myself to the fish’

Q&A with Joannie Halas

Perfect weekend: Skiing, skating, sauna, a glass of wine and reading a (really great) thesis.

Recent book: The Book of Hours by Thomas Merton. My mother, who passed away recently, always carried it with her.

Great movie: The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, for its compelling female protagonist and dark story.

Inspiration: The energy and spirit of the Aboriginal youth I work with.

Interested in Science Outreach for Youth?

This is a free workshop, but space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

February 17, 2012, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Engineering Building, Room E2-223, University of Manitoba
Facilitator: Nicole Kaiser

To register or for more information contact:
Susie Taylor, sciencemom@letstalkscience.ca or 1-877-474-4081
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Canada
New website: Connecting with community at U of M

BY TOBY CYGMAN and MARIANNE MAYS WEBE
For The Bulletin

For Deborah Young, coming back to the U of M, and to Winnipeg and Manitoba, was coming home. Young wants other Aboriginals to have that same feeling about and experience with the university. That’s why one of her priorities when she started her role as executive lead for Indigenous Achievement was to create a website which would be both a welcome and support for Aboriginal students on campus.

Indigenous Connect, launched at the end of December, is the result. Providing a place and creating a community for Indigenous students on campus, the website features links to Migizii Agamik (the Aboriginal student centre), information regarding the graduation powwow and the elders and traditional teachers gathering and ways to connect with Aboriginal staff and students through social media.

One of the first things visitors will notice on the website is the welcome message which can be listened to “hearing our languages spoken by our people.” A member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Young had her own struggles with school, experiencing racism “while a large percentage of Aboriginal high school students have a home. They are more likely to succeed in secondary education or training, they are more likely to obtain a university education by making the school a place where all Indigenous students have a home.”

Recognizing that she needed a high school education, she returned to finish her diploma, was accepted into university and slowly developed the passion and love for learning she continues to have today.

This passion and love is something she hopes to instill in other Aboriginal students and Indigenous Connect is an important step in that process. The website is a big part of Young’s four pillar approach to Indigenous achievement which includes: supporting students; building partnerships and supporting communities; promoting Indigenous knowledge and research; and celebrating First Nations, Metis and Inuit successes.

The website will also serve a larger audience as a place to learn about Indigenous issues, and extend Indigenous knowledge into the larger university community and beyond. A link to “Quick Indigenous Facts” explains terms such as “Indigenous” and “Aboriginal.” Another page provides information about the Indigenous population at the U of M. The page also links to the Four Directions Teaching website, a beautifully illustrated interactive audio narrated resource for learning about Indigenous knowledge and philosophy from five First Nation communities in Canada.

The current website is the groundwork for what will be a constantly evolving entity. Phase 2 of the website will include student voices and video to create a more interactive site that actively engages with the Indigenous community. A calendar will list all of the Indigenous events at all of the U of M campuses. A series of YouTube videos will feature elders speaking about the significance of Migizii Agamik and traditional teachings. “Our elders and their teachings are a gift,” Young says.

Providing a community for Indigenous students at the U of M is crucial, says Young. A document put out by the Manitoba Government in 2006 pointed out that while a large percentage of Aboriginal high school graduates pursue post-secondary education or training, they are more likely to attend community colleges or other non-university education or training.

Indigenous Connect is one of the steps U of M is taking to encourage Aboriginal people to pursue university education by making the school a place where all Indigenous students have a home.

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GET THE FACTS

Indigenous community and website at U of M

• Indigenous Connect can be found at umanitoba.ca/indigenous
• U of M’s department of Native studies is 37 years young
• Manitoba has 63 First Nations communities and numerous Metis settlements
• In 2006, almost 10 per cent of the population of Winnipeg identified as Aboriginal
• First nations, Metis and Inuit students currently represent 7.1 per cent of the U of M population
• “Aboriginal peoples” is the collective name for the Indigenous peoples of North America and their descendants. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: First Nations, Metis and Inuit. “Indigenous peoples” are cultural or ethnic groups who are indigenous to a land or region, especially before the arrival of a foreign and/or a possibly dominating culture. Indigenous peoples share a cultural identity that has been shared by their geographical region.

The Manitoba NEAHR Program is currently accepting applications for the following research awards:

New Investigator (due February 28, 2012)
Graduate Fellowship (due March 1, 2012)
Summer Internship (due March 2, 2012)

Information and applications are available on our website: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/units/community_health_sciences/departmental_units/cahn/training/6016.html

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ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at umanitoba.ca. If you are interested in a position, you can apply online through the Human Resources website.

FACULTY OF ARTS
Position: Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice
Deadline: March 2, 2012
Start Date: July 1, 2013
Position number: 10974
For Information: Jeffrey Taylor, dean, c/o Janice Gripp, confidential assistant to the dean, Faculty of Music, 495 Health Sciences Library, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5V5, fax 204-474-7590, email jjgripp@cc.umanitoba.ca

FACULTY OF EXTENDED EDUCATION
Continuing Education
Position: Director, Continuing Education
Deadline: February 19, 2012
Start Date: July 1, 2012
Position number: 14004
For Information: Lori Wallace, dean, extended education, email L.Wallace@umanitoba.ca, tel. 204-474-8010

FACULTY OF EXTENDED EDUCATION
Continuing Education
Position: 2-year term Instructor
Deadline: February 19, 2012
Position number: 14007
For Information: Lori Wallace, dean, extended education, email L.Wallace@umanitoba.ca, tel. 204-474-8010

FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT
Position: full-time two year position with the Instructor 1 or 2 level
Deadline: March 2, 2012
Start Date: July 1, 2012
Position number: 14092
For Information: Jane Waterman, dean, and Joanne Halas, chair of undergraduate programs, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, 307 Tier, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, email watkinj@cc.umanitoba.ca

carlhalas@cc.umanitoba.ca, tel. 204-474-8764, fax 204-474-7634

FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT
Bison Sports
Position: Women's Soccer Head Coach
Deadline: March 2, 2012
Start Date: April 1, 2012
Position number: 14094
For Information: Jane Waterman, dean, and Coleen Dufresne, athletic director, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, 307 Tier, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, email watkinj@cc.umanitoba.ca or dufres@cc.umanitoba.ca

carlhalas@cc.umanitoba.ca, tel. 204-474-8764, fax 204-474-7634

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Community Health Sciences
Position: full-time tenure track appointment

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS
All events at the University of Manitoba are free and open to the public. No tickets are required. For more information, please visit the University of Manitoba website at umanitoba.ca.

Saturday, January 28 | 8:00 p.m. | ASUS Arts Centre, 445 River Avenue
- A Night of Opera
- Featuring the University of Manitoba Opera Theatre Ensemble
- Free admission

Sunday, January 29 | 11:00 a.m. | St. James United Church
- “Sacred Sites in the Territory: Gifts/Artifacts” by Marlene Atleo, Faculty of Education; “The Idea of a Human Rights Museum” by Louise Chown. In the Creative Communities Studio, 390 A University College. To open to all students. Mini workshops and entertainment. Includes a performance by the UM Jazz Orchestra. Location TBA.

Friday, January 27 | 3:30 p.m. | Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture
- Storytelling Circle led by CCWOC's storytellers-in-residence Kay Stone and Mary Louise Chown. In the Creative Communities Studio, 390 A University College. To sign up contact the centre at ccwoc@cc.umanitoba.ca or 204-480-1065.

events

University of Manitoba

FORT GARRY + BANNATYNE CAMPUSES

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, SEMINARS

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS: THE IDEA OF A HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM SEMINAR SERIES
Thursday, January 19 | 2:30 p.m.
“The struggle for human rights in sports” by Bruce Kidd, PhD, University of Toronto. In 136 Frank Kennedy Centre. Reception by Bruce Kidd, PhD, University of Toronto.

Friday, January 20 | 2:30 to 3:40 p.m.
“Googling for Good Evidence.” You can make Google work for magic finding hidden human information, In Rossall - Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library. Registration required. Tel. 204 789 3464, email healthlibrary@umanitoba.ca

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS SEMINAR
Friday, January 20 | 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
“Price Transmission in the North American Oil and Gasoline Industry” by Janne Mann, Queen’s University in 307 Tier Bidg.

NATIVE STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SERIES
Friday, January 27 | 12:30 to 1:20 p.m.
“Community Development in the North End: Winnipeg’s Lord Selkirk Park Public Housing Developments” by Jim Silver. In 206 Robson Hall, Faculty of Law.

PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM
Friday, January 20 | 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

STATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES
Friday, January 27 | 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14 | 12:00 to 1:20 p.m.
“Food Sovereignty in Skownan, Anishinaabek Knowledge in the Practice and Discourse of Resurgence” by Marcia De Harnasch, PhD. In 206 Robson Hall, Faculty of Law.

SEMINAR
Department of Recreational and Sport Management
Friday, January 20 | 2:30 p.m.
“The struggle for human rights in sports” by Bruce Kidd, PhD, University of Toronto. In 136 Frank Kennedy Centre.

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS: THE IDEA OF A HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM SEMINAR SERIES
Monday, January 30 | 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

POLITICAL STUDIES STUDENT CONFERENCE
February 1

“20 Years of Western Military Intervention: Protecting Whose Rights?” In the Great Hall, University College. For info: otis@cc.umanitoba.ca

ELIZABETH DAFOE LIBRARY GRADUATE STUDENT LECTURE SERIES
Friday, February 3 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
“Managerial Support for Fathers? Parental Leave Use in Canada” by Rachael Pettigrew, family social sciences. In the Iceland Board Room, 3 Floor, Elizabeth Dafoe Library.

CENTRE ON AGING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Monday, February 6 | 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
“WAND: A highly sophisticated robot animal helping nursery home residents and their families to communicate and interact” by Lorna Guse and Eleanor Morroch, assistant professor, Faculty of nursing. In 348 Helen Glass Centre.

DEGREE EXPOLOATION DAY
Wednesday, February 8 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
An event designed to help answer students’ questions about choosing a degree program, open to all students. Mini workshops presented by career services at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. In Manitoba Room, 2nd Floor, University Centre.

ELIZABETH DAFOE LIBRARY GRADUATE STUDENT LECTURE SERIES
Friday, February 10 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Talking to the 24-hour poker people
A ‘netnography’ explores a popular online casino game

Navin Bahl was awarded $5,000 by the MGCC to support his innovative gambling-related research.

BY MELNI GHATTORA

The University of Manitoba is an institution filled with visionaries, pioneers, innovators, mavericks, and creators. These individuals walk amongst us in many forms: students, athletes, academic and support staff, professors and researchers.

One young researcher—an explorer, if you will—was awarded Manitoba’s first studentship for gambling research. Navin Bahl, an I.H. Asper School of Business marketing graduate student, examines the motivations of professional poker players.

Supported by the Manitoba Gambling Control Commission (MGCC), Bahl’s unique project uses new qualitative methodology called “netnography.”

Netnography adapts traditional, in-person ethnographic research techniques of anthropology to the study of the online cultures and communities formed through computer-mediated communications. Bahl’s research includes a content-analysis of posts and discussions on online poker forums as well as online interviews with online poker players.

He narrowed in on the most prominent online poker forum. “Of the top 30 online poker forums, there are over 40 million posts on this particular site. Using theoretical sampling, I gathered relevant quotes and conducted a content analysis on that data,” explains Bahl. “At this stage I am contacting poker players from this forum and have conducted 15 online interviews thus far.”

Twoplus2.com is an international online poker forum. Bahl posted on the site to find participants for an online interview. He also connected with potential interview candidates through individuals commenting on an interview with Bahl.

His next step is to approach forum opinion leaders. These individuals are identified as those most likely to write messages to transmit factual information or knowledge and can easily influence attitudes and behavior.

Bahl notes that there are successful poker players making hundreds of thousands of dollars and leading a successful lifestyle.

“However,” he says, “what I’m trying to get at is that these [online] poker players feel stigmatized and live in a marginalized – or at least isolated – community.”

He explains: “If you compare a casino gambler who is successful and making hundreds or thousands versus an online poker player, I think more people would have a negative attitude towards the online player versus the professional casino gambler.”

Most of the people Bahl has interviewed are in their 20s and predominantly male; the eldest interviewee is 52. To date he has conducted interviews with two female online poker players.

“I’m studying it from a social marketing perspective,” says Bahl. “Some of the websites that are purely profit-driven, and not government-run, state that you shouldn’t gamble if you are undergraduate but do so in very fine print.”

He does recognize that socially responsible websites are addressing these issues and putting safeguards in place. “But,” he adds, “most sites don’t offer any additional links or information on problem gambling and they aren’t offering any safeguards to slow down your playing. In fact, they try and increase the pace of your gambling.”

Manitoba is investigating the possibility of joining provinces with provincially-governed online gambling sites; B.C. was one of the first provinces to launch an Internet casino operation. Bahl believes that in order for the MGCC to run a successful online gambling venue, it must put safeguards in place.

“Stricter laws are needed,” he says. “If Manitoba was to start an online poker venue, it should have self-limiting programs for problem gamblers or even programs to encourage self-exclusion,” says Bahl. He also believes that there should be better age restriction, more accounting for problem gambling and that all gambling sites should be required to advertise solutions for problem gambling.

Though he can’t say for sure when the province will make its move, he is studying the issue and feels Manitoba will follow suit and embrace the online gambling industry. “In my humble opinion, we’re far from doing it within the next couple of years,” he says.
"If our communications go down, lives could be at stake. My job is to inspect and maintain my team’s communications equipment. Keeping them in touch and keeping them safe."

 Corporal HAEBE BAGUIDY

Scan here to watch a video and learn more.
Balayez ici pour regarder une vidéo et en savoir plus.

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