It’s hot, it’s cool: U of M’s Faculty of Architecture heats up, back page

U of M Events


SCHOOL OF ART LECTURE: “Introduction to Inuit Art,” Feb. 28

CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND APPLIED ETHICS EVENT: “Should We Forgive Tiger? A public forum on sex addiction and moral responsibility,” Mar. 2


INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES PANEL DISCUSSIONS: “The Social Role of Film and Film Festivals” and “Activism and Filmmaking in Argentina, 1968-2004,” March 6

>> See page 10 for more

U of M’s very ‘cool’ research facility opens

BY CHRIS RUTKOWSKI

The Bulletin

It may seem a bit idiosyncratic for a Canadian university to build a special experimental facility for making ice (hockey is not involved), but this research laboratory may be the key to helping scientists better understand climate change.

The Sea-ice Environmental Research Facility (SERF) is the first of its kind in Canada: a large, outdoor, saltwater pond equipped with a suite of state-of-the-art analytical instruments. Researchers will watch and monitor the formation of sea ice on the water for comparison with what occurs in the high Arctic. By “growing” sea ice under controlled conditions, scientists will better understand how sea ice forms and melts on polar oceans and gain insight into the processes that regulate the exchange of molecules between the ocean and atmosphere.

With a total funding of $1.38 million, the SERF facility is of fundamental importance to the research mission of the university, which has identified climate change and northern studies as a major thrust for research and research training.

“By creating sea ice at a land-locked prairie research facility to study the impact of climate change, we are turning innovative ideas into reality at the University of Manitoba,” said President David Barnard. “I congratulate our visionary researchers for finding solutions to real-world problems and our partners for their support and commitment.”

Along with concurrent field studies onboard the Canadian Research Icebreaker CCGS Amundsen in the Arctic Ocean, experimental studies at SERF are expected to improve our ability to predict the impact of the rapid sea ice loss on the marine ecosystem, on Arctic and global climates, on transport and biogeochemical cycles of greenhouse gases and contaminants and on the human use of sea ice.

“The state-of-the-art facility will help researchers advance our understanding of the complex dynamics of sea ice and its impact on climate,” said Gilles G. Patry, president and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). “SERF will draw on the talents of top investigators from around the world whose work will have a real and positive impact on Northern communities and ecosystems.”

“This is an example of the innovative and cutting-edge projects the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund supports,” said Innovation, Energy and Mines Minister Dave Chomiak. “Understanding the effects of climate change has never been more important and I wish the University of Manitoba continued success on this initiative.”

Søren Rysgaard, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change, received funding in January from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), some of which will be put to work in this facility. What will be learned will have broad economic and environmental impact and will be applied to environmental assessment and resource development in the Arctic and its resultant impact on Indigenous peoples of the region.

The SERF is funded by CFI, the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund and the University of Manitoba. The project is led by Feiyue Wang, Tim Papakyriakou, David Barber (Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science) and Søren Rysgaard of the Centre for Earth Observation Science in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources at the University of Manitoba.
THE U OF M IN THE NEWS

Robert Turner
<Corrected Notice>
The Winnipeg-based composer, music producer and U of M music professor emeritus Robert Turner died on January 26 at the age of 91. Born in Montreal, Turner studied piano at an early age and received his bachelor of music degree at McGill University. After enrolling at Colorado College to work with Roy Harris, he met a composition student in Colorado also studying with Harris, Sara Scott, whom he later married. Turner went on to study composition at the Royal College of Music in London and received his Master of Music degree from Vanderbilt University’s George Peabody College and his Doctorate of Music from McGill University. In 1968, he accepted a professorship at U of M and influenced many future composers throughout his tenure; he retired from teaching in 1985. Robert Turner composed over 70 compositions in all forms from symphonic and chamber works to operatic, vocal and ensemble pieces, including three symphonies, four concertos, three string quartets and two operas.

Mosquito-free summer?
CBC.ca
February 10
The sudden return to bone-rattling cold temperatures in Manitoba a few weeks ago was not gladly received by many people, but it could be worse — if you’re a bug. The mild weather threw some bugs off their normal routine, bringing them out and setting them up for the possibly fatal cold snap. U of M entomologist Terry Galloway received rare reports of Winnipegers collecting wood ticks when the temperature soared to 6 C and melted so much snow. That’s a first for February, he said. But the return to frigid temperatures means most of those exposed critters are likely dead. Mortality rates of culex tarsalis mosquitoes, the ones that carry West Nile Virus, could also be high, Galloway said. But it’s too soon to say how much they will be affected or if any other mosquito populations will be affected.

Headlines

“The Trouble With Spanking,” Vancouver Sun, February 10
U of M child clinical psychologist Joan Durrant and social worker Ron Ensom of Ottawa’s Children’s Hospital found that not one of the more than 80 studies they analyzed found any positive long-term effects associated with spanking.

“Of profs’ projects earn research funding,” Winnipeg Free Press, February 13
article about Pourang Irani, founder of the Human-University of Manitoba. In 1968, he accepted a professorship at U of M and influenced many future composers throughout his tenure; he retired from teaching in 1985. Robert Turner composed over 70 compositions in all forms from symphonic and chamber works to operatic, vocal and ensemble pieces, including three symphonies, four concertos, three string quartets and two operas.

SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES! What is believed to be the world’s first hockey-playing robotic humanoid has been born from a project based at the U of M. While there are many improvements on the horizon for the robotic player, its progress so far is impressive. It is currently able to shoot a ball with a hockey stick and slowly shuffle along the ice on skates that were added to the humanoid robot, which is from Korea-based Robotis. Chris Iverach-Bereton, a 25-year-old computer science graduate student, has been working on “Jennifer” — whose namesake is women’s hockey player Jennifer Botterill — for months and said to be the first to focus on hockey for the robot model is rewarding. “I was surprised nobody had tried this before,” Iverach-Bereton said. “There’s a lot of Canadian and North American teams of computer scientists . . . but to our knowledge, we’re the first ones to do it. And that’s pretty great.” See Jennifer and more at the U of M’s Autonomous Agents Lab:

Cheers! to the winning squad
U of M Cheerleading squad athletes Meaghan Giesbrecht and Mark Loughery.

TWO ATHLETES ON THE U OF M CHEERLEADING SQUAD have been selected to represent Canada at the International Cheer Union World Championships in April. They are the first Manitobans to ever be selected for Canada’s national team. Meaghan Giesbrecht and Mark Loughery placed second at Canadian Nationals this season in the partner stunt division and were later chosen to join the national squad by a panel of Canadian judges. Giesbrecht is a student in the Faculty of Architecture who has been cheerleading for four years, and Loughery is a student in the Faculty of Arts who has been cheerleading for two years.

What’s more, the Bison cheerleading squad is currently on their way to Atlanta, Georgia, to compete for the first time in Cheersport Nationals (the USA Nationals). They will compete alongside 900 teams from across North America.
The buzz around town

Rob Currie, honey bee researcher and head of the department of entomology, was presented with the “Bee Hive Award” by the Manitoba Beekeepers Association for his commitment and dedication to the industry. The award was presented at the national banquet of the Canadian Association of Professional Apicultural and Canadian Honey Council, held in Winnipeg on January 27. Currie’s studies have focused on honey bee health, a critical factor in maintaining these important pollinators, and he is currently working with other Canadian researchers to breed honey bees resistant to pests and diseases.

U of M librarian awarded for distinguished contributions

Terry Klassen, professor, pediatricians and child health in the Faculty of Medicine and director of Research for the Manitoba Institute of Child Health (MICH), and his research team at the Pediatric Emergency Research of Canada (PERC), were the recipients of the Bruce Squires Award for the article entitled “CATCH: A clinical decision rule for the use of computed tomography in children with minor head injury.” The Bruce Squires Award is given to the top health research article to appear in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in the calendar year.

Another ed expo success

Thirty-five schools and divisions, both local and from out of province, set up reception booths in order to personally meet University of Manitoba teacher candidates as part of EducationExpo. Ed Expo chair Kris Drophomereski and Kyla Michalski explain that, “Our experience through the Faculty of Education has shown us that the job market is ever changing. Teacher candidates are beginning to look at alternative and new teaching opportunities. We hope to make Education Expo a positive experience for both the candidates throughout the province and beyond.” Ed Expo ran from January 30 to February 1.

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

Introducing your MCO

Pioneers, trailblazers, visionaries — all have helped define the U of M through its most recent branding campaign. Responsible for the campaign, and facilitating its integration into all areas of university marketing, is the marketing communications office (MCO). The former public affairs department has itself undergone a significant transformation recently, with the support of the ROSE program.

One of two initiatives within the external relations stream — the other is philanthropy — the mandate of the marketing communications office initiative has been to unite the entire university community in a common marketing communications vision, while continuing to celebrate what makes each unit and faculty unique.

To accomplish this goal, the office has developed a new internal social network with a dedicated blog, a dedicated blog, at blogs.cc.umanitoba.ca/rose, and a dedicated blog. The new MCO is a dedicated blog, at blogs.cc.umanitoba.ca/rose, and ROSE is also on Twitter @ROSEumanitoba.

NEW EMAIL AND CALENDAR SYSTEM STARTS FEBRUARY 21

The university-wide migration to the Microsoft Exchange email and calendar system began February 21. After a successful pilot migration of 280 users, new users will be migrating, beginning at a rate of 200 a week, until all faculty and staff are operating on the new system.

Microsoft Exchange is an integrated system that, along with Microsoft’s Active Directory, provides a complete solution for file and print sharing, email, calendar, and collaborative communication. This phase of the project is focusing exclusively on the email and calendar solutions.

The Oracle (Corp Time) calendar will be retired as the calendar of record as of June 1, 2012. As calendar content from Oracle will not be moved to the Exchange system, all users will be asked to manually transfer their calendar information once they have migrated to Exchange.

Political lobbying was a lot more complex in the past. Today, we deal with a whole range of stakeholders. It is now a dedicated blog, at blogs.cc.umanitoba.ca/rose, and ROSE is also on Twitter @ROSEumanitoba.

For more information please visit: umanitoba.ca/computing/ist/email/exchange/
Now hear this: A call to action for environmental health

BY SHIRLEY THOMPSON
The Bulletin

Over fifty participants attended the “Linking Environment and Health” workshop on February 3, organized by Shirley Thompson from the U of M’s Natural Resources Institute and Donna Martin from the Faculty of Nursing with Melissa Hotain and Kathi Kanew of Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

A research process on environmental health in First Nations, based on respectful relations and action research to improve the determinants of health, was started. The workshop demonstrated a strong interest in improving health outcomes and environmental sustainability.

Held at Thunderbird house, the workshop included elders, community members from Manitoba’s First Nations, government agencies, researchers, health authorities, and students who sat in a circle to hear speakers and define a research agenda for environmental health in First Nations communities. Elder Lyna Hart started the event with a song to begin our journey towards healthy First Nations communities and respectful research.

Byron Beardy with his son, Jackson Beadry, carried out a spectacular drumming and hoop dancing performance with animal shapes transforming into different forms.

The experts shared their knowledge. Michael Anderson, senior policy analyst from Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) spoke about the impacts of uranium mining on First Nation lands, which led to high mercury rates in many of the northern communities impacted by flooding. Shirley Thompson and Jacinta Williams shared their findings of food insecurity in northern communities that are eight times the rate across Canada. Kimlee Wong aired her recent 2012 Aboriginal People Television Networks (APTN) special on the social determinants of health and racism called Civilized to Death. Lalita Bhadravaj, a toxicologist from the University of Saskatchewan spoke about Saskatchewan’s working group on environmental health where regular meetings and results in the government meeting demands such as those for safe drinking water and healthy housing. Community members described many impacts including the flooding of their communities.

The workshop has already jumped-started the first meeting of a provincial environmental health working group including university researchers, government and First Nations to be held on Monday, February 27 at the U of M. Melissa Hotain from Manitoba Chiefs will speak from 12:30 to 1:30 at the Natural Resources Institute and there will be an inaugural meeting at 2:00, between First Nations community leaders on environmental health, along workshop participants and researchers on environmental health discussing how to improve the situation across the board in First Nations communities and on environmental health issues that face First Nations communities.

Submitted photos
Above: Byron Beardy at the event. Right: Donna Martin from the U of M’s Faculty of Nursing addresses the circle.

Futuristic fingerprinting

BY JANINE HARASYMCHUK
The Bulletin

Two U of M professors will receive a combined $1,226,640 for research over the next three years — one is developing see-through display devices and software to track data, the other aims to improve water quality.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) announced funding on February 13 for two projects led by Pourang Irani, founder of the internationally recognized Human-Computer Interaction laboratory, and one project led by David Lobb, an expert in water quality systems.

Through the Strategic Project Grants program, the funding supports early-stage projects that encourage collaboration among academic researchers, industry and government partners. The goal of these grants is to get training in areas that could strongly influence Canada’s economy, society or environment in the next decades.

“These partnerships demonstrate how the NSERC community can rise to the challenge and lead projects that directly impact communities,” said Lobb.

Irani’s research project will be one of the first to combine design and technical challenges of supporting multiple users — rather than just one — and their interactions with objects behind these large transparent displays. Large touch-edge devices are already being used by stores where an interactive touch screen allows shoppers to browse product images and purchase with their fingertips, all through their store-front display window. His research project will be one of the first to examine the design and technical challenges of supporting multiple users — rather than just one — and their interactions with objects behind these large transparent displays.

Irani will also receive $408,750 to develop technology that will make it easier for large touch-edge devices to share information among multiple users. This research involves hand detection through thermography, nuclear and neural fields to track daily activities.

David Lobb (soil science, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences) will receive $523,920 to track and source sediments and phosphorus in two watersheds — one in New Brunswick, the other in Manitoba. Lobb will use a combination of fingerprinting, geophysics and chemical and physical fingerprints to determine the presence of phosphorus, one of the sources of sediments, and ultimately, improved water quality.

The problem, MacDonald believes, is how these issues have been framed. The emphasis on Indigenous issues often focuses on the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. There is an imbalance with many non-Indigenous people believing that Indigenous people are being given more rights than other Canadians. This does little to mobilize public will and, if the people are not behind it, the government isn’t behind it either. She used the example of the gay rights issue in Canada, which, framed in terms of equality, had the support of the public. The government therefore backed it and gay marriage was legalized. (In the US, gay rights is framed as an issue related to the family, and hence, there has been more resistance to it.)

Indigenous rights, however, are seen in terms of inequality, she said. The media does not help either. MacDonald referred to a study where researchers coded articles on Indigenous justice in leading Canadian newspapers from 1995, a year in which there was a great deal of protests and collective action. They found that the dominant frames for these issues were criminal and unlawful ones. The media often perpetuated negative terms using words like “Indian radicals,” “terrorists” and “guerrilla.” This negative discourse also contributed to the lack of government action.

To shift the conversation, MacDonald argued. She plans to run focus groups this summer to gauge how Canadians are currently thinking about this issue and hopes to begin to answer the questions she is proposing.
**Metis Learning Day: ‘We’ve got our own holiday!’**

On February 16, Renate Eigenbrod, department head of Native studies, quoted Louis Riel’s words of more than a century ago to open the university’s first Metis Learning Day: “My people will sleep for 100 years but when they awake it will be the artists who give them back their spirit.”

The morning-long celebration, hosted by Deborah Young, executive lead for Indigenous achievement, was mounted in advance of the upcoming Louis Riel Day on February 20, and, appropriately, featured poet and writer Gregory Scofield and storyteller and educator Shirley Delorme Russell, along with musical guests Al Desjarlais and Darren Lavallee.

Scofield read moving poems from his new book about Riel, Louis: The Heretic Poems. Divided into four sections — the boy, the president, the spokesman and the statesman — the book presents different sides of the Metis leader. It was written, Scofield related, over a period of four years, while the author “waited for [the] visitors” whose voices populate the book to show Riel “not as a leader, or the father of Manitoba, not as a visionary or a madman,” but as a person and a poet.

After a lively fiddle and guitar interlude by Desjarlais and Lavallee, Delorme Russell took the stage. Delorme Russell, who calls herself a “proud Metis and humble Ojibway woman” and regularly presents at elementary schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, and to support the ongoing healing process of residential school survivors.

The bilingual exhibit, free and open to the public, was opened on February 9 by Deborah Young, executive lead, Indigenous achievement, Brian Postl, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Florence Paynter, elder at Migizii Agamik (Aboriginal House).

The exhibit’s goal is to sensitize and educate Canadians, challenging stereotypes and fostering dialogue about residential schools.

“I want to explore ways to educate our university community about residential schools here on campus,” said Young. “This exhibit also demonstrates the resiliency and strength of our people.”

The Legacy of Hope Foundation’s mandate is to educate and to raise awareness and understanding of the legacy of residential schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, and to support the ongoing healing process of residential school survivors.

**BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE**

**The Bulletin**

On February 16, Renate Eigenbrod, department head of Native studies, quoted Louis Riel’s words of more than a century ago to open the university’s first Metis Learning Day: “My people will sleep for 100 years but when they awake it will be the artists who give them back their spirit.”

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After a lively fiddle and guitar interlude by Desjarlais and Lavallee, Delorme Russell took the stage. Delorme Russell, who calls herself a “proud Metis and humble Ojibway woman” and regularly presents at elementary and secondary schools throughout Manitoba, presented the audience with a very animated history of Riel’s life and death.

“We have got our own freaking holiday named after Louis Riel!” she began to the amused audience. She went on to describe Riel’s years away from the Red River Settlement after he went to Montreal to attend school in training for the priesthood starting at age 14. On his return at the age of 24 in 1869, the area was set to become a colony of the newly confederated Canada, against the wishes of the people. When the government tried to bring in a land surveyor, the Metis, led by Riel, blocked entry to the territory and this signaled the start of the Red River Resistance. He headed the resistance to protest the transfer of Hudson’s Bay Co. lands claimed by the Metis to Canada.

Riel was elected by the Metis to negotiate with the Canadian government for the settlement to become a province, and was also elected as leader of a provisional government. In 1870 the settlement finally became a province when the Manitoba Act was passed in parliament, but a bounty on Riel’s head for his part in the resistance meant he was forced to flee, and subsequently was unable to represent his people in the House of Commons in spite of being elected three times. When he returned to the prairies in 1884 to lead the Metis in the Northwest Resistance, Riel was captured and tried for his role in the Métis victory, and hanged in Regina in 1885.

As Delorme Russell says, the province of Manitoba continues to be the only province formed by Indigenous peoples.

Metis Learning Day is one of three Indigenous learning days hosted throughout the year by the executive lead for Indigenous achievement, president’s office. First Nations Learning Day took place on November 17 and Inuit Learning Day will be held before the end of the school year. See more on the Indigenous Connect website: > umanitoba.ca/indigenous/
Giving back, sharing in a vision for the future

BY MARIANNE MOYS WEBE

The Bulletin

Thelma Lussier, a two-time graduate of the U of M (BA/72 and MEd/95) and current director of the institutional analysis unit, sees giving as both a privilege and a responsibility — and she strengthens her connection to her alma mater and workplace through philanthropic support.

As an advocate of life-long learning, Lussier feels connected to the university in other ways as well. "When I'm learning something new, it's a good day. That's why I like the Visionary Conversations series so much," she says.

"The people here at the university and the fact they are always making an effort to make this institution and our community a better place makes me want to give back as well, in order to support that vision for the community and the future."

Every year, the faculty and staff giving campaign, which kicks off next week, collects just these kinds of stories from those who work at the university and offer their own philanthropic support here.

Ashley Davidson, annual giving manager, hears such inspiring reasons for giving every day. "Our staff and faculty are so generous," she says.

"In addition to their dedication on the job, many also support the world class teaching and research through charitable gifts at the U of M."

She notes that there are many options of how and where to donate a gift to the university. Some decide to give to a specific project such as Project Domino or the Taché Hall renovation, some give to a series so much," she says.

"An 'easy choice to make!' Campaign co-chairs Jean Anne Paterson and Gary Thompson each regularly give back to the units they feel passionately about.

"I chose the library because I really felt that this is a resource that benefits every group that works in the health profession," she says. "It's a resource that benefits students because of the books and the video aids and it also benefits researchers and clinicians."

"I choose the library because I really felt that this is a resource that benefits every group that works in the health profession," she says. "It's a resource that benefits students because of the books and the video aids and it also benefits researchers and clinicians."

Paterson sees her financial support of the U of M as a wise investment in a valuable resource and encourages others to do the same. "To encourage others to give, I would say that their money will be well used," she says. "It will be used not only for the present but to invest in the future because students are our future." "I chose to support the Active Living Centre and the active living fund because that's my life's work, that's where my passion is," says co-chair Thompson, who is the director of active living. "I believe in the role of active living in chronic disease prevention and treatment."

"I chose to support the Active Living Centre and the active living fund because that's my life's work, that's where my passion is," says co-chair Thompson, who is the director of active living. "I believe in the role of active living in chronic disease prevention and treatment."

Soon, Thompson’s passions will be realized with the opening of the new Active Living Centre. Slated to be completed as early as next year, the centre will be the university’s new fitness facility. The centre will be the largest active living facility in Manitoba, with a capacity of up to 1,200 people.

"I think in some way all Manitobans are touched by the work the university does," he says. "It's a really easy choice to make for me." Visionary giving: For now and for the future

Renee Dupuis, an architect in physical plant, has given gifts to support the Taché redevelopment and the School of Art. "I choose these funds because I work with the faculty and staff who will eventually be in these buildings and I can see the great need for improved teaching and research space," she says. "There is a lot of appreciation for the support they receive."

And for Dupuis, supporting the university is more than just business, it’s personal: “My family and I are all alumni and I hope that my daughter will become a U of M student one day,” she says. Current students benefit from giving, too. Hossein Pourreza, a PhD in computer science, says, "The turning point in my
Applications and nominations for the Merit Awards for UMFA members are now being accepted. The awards are for the 2011 calendar year.

Article 25 of the Collective Agreement between The University of Manitoba and The University of Manitoba Faculty Association provides for Merit Awards of $3,000 each. Awards are available in four specified categories:

a) Teaching - up to eight (8) awards;

b) Research, Scholarly Work, and Other Creative Activities - up to eight (8) awards;

c) Service - up to six (6) awards; and

d) Any combination of Teaching, Research, Scholarly Work and other Creative Activities, and Service - up to eight (8) awards.

Applications and nominations must be made using the forms available online at the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost website: www.umanitoba.ca/admin/vp_academic/awards_honours.html

Applications must be received by the Joint Committees, c/o Dr. Karen R. Grant. Vice-Provost (Academic Affairs), 208 Administration Building, no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 23, 2012. Late applications and nominations will not be considered.

Please contact Paula Chorney, paula_chorney@umanitoba.ca or 474-8170 if you have any questions.

academic life was the moment I heard I would receive a four-year scholarship and a graduate fellowship. “These awards gave me the opportunity to spend more time on PhD research. I am so thankful to the U of M and for all the generous donors whose support changes the lives of many graduate students.”

The University of Manitoba is incredibly lucky to have a committed group of supporters, says David Barnard, president and chancellor of the U of M. “Made up of alumni, faculty and staff, students, parents, friends and community members, the combined dedication of this group shows our students and researchers that we stand behind them as they invent, grow, create, thrive and embrace the unexpected. “I am particularly proud of the members of our campus community who have chosen to enhance their daily contributions to the university through their philanthropic giving. Each and every one of the over 2,000 faculty and staff members who have made a donation to the people and places of our institution have shown that they are committed to inspiring and challenging our campus community,” he says.

John Keansey, VP (external), notes that giving is personal as well as visionary. “It is my hope that all faculty and staff participate in giving through this year’s campaign; give as you are able — but do give, and be a part of the satisfaction that comes from building our future together,” he says.

“We all thank you, because through your giving, the students, researchers and staff here at the University of Manitoba can continue to do the trailblazing and innovative work they do.”

The campaign kicks off February 27 at the Fort Garry Campus and February 28 at Bannatyne.
LISA ALEXANDRIN: I recently read Téa Obreht’s The Tiger’s Wife. Better than anything I’ve read in ages, it’s a bittersweet anatomy and, as a new homeowner, spends a lot of time puzzling over plumbing repairs. The book’s themes (of immediate experience, memory and history) and the way Obreht sets up Natalia’s personal accounts as armatures within the novel’s other storylines: Natalia’s love of tigers from her childhood trips to the zoo, and the night her grandfather took her to see an elephant swaying down an empty city street (too “organic” to be a bus). Finally, The Tiger’s Wife is a bittersweet collection of sort-of-love stories about Natalia’s grandfather, a bright-striped tiger full of rancour, Luka’s battered wife, the deathless man who politely requests water to drink and Karan’s dancing bear, Lola.

Lisa Alexandrin in Istanbul.

Taking research beyond the university is the social part of her work, as she sees it, “bringing research to that general audience, to serve that interest in language.” What else inspires her? “Watching children play is inspiring,” she says. “Almost awe-inspiring. They take play and imaginative activity very seriously.”

Ghomeshi is fascinated by language processes and the ‘pre-structures’ that allow humans to acquire it. “We don’t have to think about learning language,” as she puts it. “It happens effortlessly.”

She became interested in the field after taking several linguistics courses during her undergraduate arts degree. The problem-solving aspects offered within linguistics (“solving problems with a limited data set,” as she describes it) appealed to her, as did the fact that it was relatively new area, with “room to explore new ways of thinking about language.”

Linguistics, as she notes, draws from a long and rich philological tradition — largely textual analysis and grammar or comparisons across languages, most often pre-modern — but with the emergence of linguistics with new developments in cognitive science, and how the working mind and its underlying structures, says Ghomeshi, explaining her interest.

So how did you come to your particular branch of linguistics? “I like noun phrases,” she says, smiling. Now that she’s teaching, people have approached her with their own descriptors like “awesome”; As in: “She’s the best teacher I’ve had. She’s so...charming. With her thoughtfulness and bright, open smile, it’s easy to imagine her presenting for a general audience and to understand why her students like her. But people do care about language and there’s a real public hunger regarding questions of ‘correctness’ in language, she adds. This is why, in addition to her academic teaching, research and publications (including work on noun phrases and determiners), Ghomeshi recently published a slim book for a general audience that calls out the superiority complex people apply to language use, called Grammar Matters, and it’s received quite a lot of press, both locally and beyond.

The linguistics prof, who’s taught at the U of M for over ten years, also occasionally speaks to groups outside of the university, something she finds rewarding.

Like her well-known brother Jian, who hosts the national CBC radio show Q, Jila Ghomeshi is quick and charming. With her thoughtfulness and bright, open smile, it’s easy to imagine her presenting for a general audience and to understand why her students like her. One is happy to know who have taken courses with her apply descriptors like “awesome”; As in: “She’s awesome.”
Can you tell the story from the storyteller?

**BY TOBY CYGMAN**

*For The Bulletin*

While listening to a story, Kay Stone suddenly found herself in a hot air balloon. Though it was nearly thirty years ago, the experience was so real that she can, to this day, describe the balloon’s colour and what the weather was like. This was when Stone realized the power of storytelling.

“That’s what gives me the courage to do it with others,” she said, “because you might not get it the first time, but when you get it, that’s how you listen to a story — it’s actually happening to you.”

Stone, along with Mary Louise Chown, host a weekly storytelling circle through the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture. They were welcomed at an event on January 11 where they both captivated the small audience with their talent.

“Stories are explored and stories are told,” says Stone. “Whether it is innate, in terms of evolution, or innate psychologically, there is something in us, at any age, that is a storyteller. The creative process of collaborating with another storyteller is infectious.”

**“The Curious Girl” by Kay Stone**

From an original story (©Kay Stone 2009) in which a disobedient girl is punished by a crone for being too curious. She is turned into a bird and sent out into the world to learn a story that’s never been heard before.

After the girl’s last question, the angry crone turned her into a log and tossed the log in the fireplace. When the flames blazed up, a shower of red sparks flew out. “AHA,” cried the crone, “clever girl.”

She caught the glowing sparks in her hands and turned them into a fiery red bird.

“No, my girl, I’ll make a bargain with you. Fly away and bring back a story that’s never been heard before and I’ll give you your own shape back. But if you fail….”

- an excerpt from one of Stone’s stories

**TRAILBLAZER PIONEER EXPLORER INNOVATOR VISIONARY**

**THE CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL & APPLIED ETHICS INVITES YOU TO**

**a public lecture**

**IS THERE A HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD?**

**Charles Jones**

University of Western Ontario, Author of Global Justice: Defending Cosmopolitanism (Oxford University Press, 1999).

**Friday, March 9, 12:30 - 1:30 pm**

Concourse Lounge, University College

Everyone is welcome.

umanitoba.ca

**TRAILBLAZER PIONEER EXPLORER INNOVATOR VISIONARY**

**THE CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL & APPLIED ETHICS INVITES YOU TO**

**a public lecture**

**HUMAN RIGHTS: ‘THE COMMONS’ AND THE COLLECTIVE**

**Laura Westra, PhD**

Author of Globalization, Violence and World Governance (2012); Editor of Human Health and Ecological Integrity: Ethics, Law and Human Rights (2012)

**Tuesday, March 6, 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

Concourse Lounge, University College

Everyone is welcome.

umanitoba.ca
UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

All events at Eva Clare Hall (Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music, 65 Dafoe Road) unless otherwise noted

For more music events:
> umanitoba.ca/faculties/music/events/index.html

Some events subject to change; please check Faculty of Music website for updates

February 28 | 7:00 p.m. | The University of Manitoba Chamber Choir performs the world premiere of Monteverdi’s Selvaggia.

March 1 | 8:00 p.m. | Musical Theatre Ensemble presents…
March 2nd & 3rd, 2012
The 13th Annual Education Graduate Student Symposium
Education Today
With education graduate students
March 9, 2012
Join the Faculty of Education at:
Education Today
The 13th Annual Education Graduate Student Symposium
March 2nd & 3rd, 2012
The 13th Annual Education Graduate Student Symposium
Education Today
March 16, 2012
Full-time, probationary appointment at the rank of Instructor II in the area of Chinese language
Deadline: March 9, 2012
Start Date: July 1, 2012
Position number: 14728
For Information: Karen Adams, University Librarian, of M Libraries, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Women’s Health Program
Position: Reproductive Endocrinologist at the rank of Assistant Professor to join the clinical, academic and research activities at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre, the St. Boniface General Hospital and the Heartland Fertility and Gynecology Clinic
Deadline: April 30, 2012
Start Date: August 1, 2012
For Information: Margaret Morris, Head, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, Program Medical Director, Women’s Health, WR120 - 735 Notre Dame Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3E 0R3, tel. 204-787-2899, email mlmorris@hsc.mb.ca

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA LIBRARIES
Position: Biological Sciences Liaison Librarian at a General/Assistant Librarian rank
Deadline: March 23, 2012
Start Date: June 1, 2012
Position number: 13994
For Information: Karen Adams, University Librarian, U of M Libraries, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, email Karen_Adams@umanitoba.ca

— The Bulletin publishes events involving the university community at no cost.
— The deadline for the March 8, 2012 Bulletin is February 29 at 4:30 p.m.
— Email events to bulletin@umanitoba.ca
Virtual medicine melts away miles
Researcher looks at how technology brings care to isolated communities

Research associate Sharon Mah investigates telecommunications technology used in First Nations communities.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS
For The Bulletin

When your loved one is sick, time matters most and you want them to see a doctor sooner rather than later. For people living in isolated First Nations communities, this could require a pricey plane ride or driving for hours on a remote winter road.

But a growing number of these patients are meeting with a doctor via a computer screen without ever setting foot outside the community. In her recently defended PhD thesis, Faculty of Medicine research associate Sharon Mah explored how telecommunications technology is being used on remote reserves and how it can be better employed.

“We are privileged to have good care and I think as Canadians, First Nations particularly deserve good care. To see a population go through such difficulty to access care is just wrong,” she says, noting many of these communities don’t have a doctor, and some don’t even have a nurse.

As a result, research shows, chronic disease in Aboriginals is often diagnosed late. This is particularly troubling given the high incidence of Type 2 diabetes, as well as the high risk for complications like blindness, circulatory problems and renal failure.

“Late diagnosis is a common thing in First Nations. Their mortality rate is incredibly high because of late diagnosis for chronic disease,” says Mah, who came to the U of M two years ago from the University of Calgary and joined the Manitoba First Nations Centre for Aboriginal Health Research.

Telehealth aims to improve access by providing streaming video for consultations between the patient (accompanyed by a nurse) and doctor; remote image scanning of organs such as the heart, eyes or skin; and even remote surgeries that have a specialist surgeon operating a robotic arm from afar.

Mah says her research was the first to zero in on how people are using these virtual tools rather than simply identifying whether or not they work. She completed more than 60 interviews with healthcare providers, administrators, staff and patients in three Alberta communities — Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKeay, and Chipewyan Prairie — over a two-year period. She observed and lived in these First Nation communities.

Mah discovered that telehealth techniques are changing the responsibility of nurses. They are playing a greater role than ever before and actually have an increased — rather than decreased — workload.

Remote consultations are also putting more focus on the relationships among healthcare providers, as well as the relationships with their patients. “Trust is very important between all of those people on the healthcare team,” says Mah.

As responsibilities change so too should policies concerning privacy and liability. For telehealth meetings, the doctor is off-site, communicating with the nurse and patient at the same time. This creates a different care dynamic, since the patient becomes privy to the conversation.

Mah also noted that basic telehealth services require extra resources, planning and scheduling, which can be difficult despite good intentions. “People have to be very flexible and forgiving of the technology. We expect things to be run very efficiently and that doesn’t always happen.”

She believes the tools used should cater to the community’s needs. Her research is intended to help policymakers, First Nations leaders and healthcare providers to improve medical access for the residents of these distant communities.

“Often times healthcare providers get frustrated by the technology and don’t want to use it, so for them it would be good to know how to make this work better,” says Mah.

Her current work on the Medical Relocation Project looks at the challenges patients face when they have to leave their community to seek care. When they are away from home, Mah says, patients struggle both financially and emotionally because they are without family and friends.

These individuals also have stories about the devastating consequences that result from having limited access to doctors. One patient spoke of a family member who wasn’t diagnosed until they had only one week left to live.

“And that’s shocking,” says Mah.
Centre on Aging presents

It Takes a Village (and University) to Care
Dr. Michael Sharratt
Professor, Department of Kinesiology, University of Waterloo (UW)
Executive Director, Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging

Dr. Sharratt will describe an ambitious partnership involving the Ontario government, postsecondary sector and Schlegel Villages that resulted in the development of a centre of excellence for research, training and innovation in senior health care and wellness at the University of Waterloo.

The presentation will focus on the philosophy that is required to ensure success of a village concept—to provide holistic health care in a home environment, located within an internal neighbourhood design that promotes a caring community, with emphasis on optimal health and life purpose for each resident.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
University Senate Chambers
E3 – 262 EITC Engineering Complex
Fort Garry Campus

Following Dr. Sharratt’s presentation, join us for lunch and further discussion (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.) in room E2-223 EITC.

RSVP for the lunch only by Tuesday, March 6, 2012.
Phone: 474.8754 or email aging@umanitoba.ca
All are welcome to attend!

The Bulletin
February 23, 2012

Architecture heats up

A 1,350 KILOGRAM HUNK OF FOAM may be a bit of a challenge to move, but its mass and density ensures that it is going to do what it’s designed to do: keep skaters warm out on the ice.

This year, U of M’s entry to the annual ‘warming hut’ competition at The Forks is Hot Hut, a huge red foam structure carved out to allow skaters shelter from the wind. Eduardo Aquino, a professor in the department of architecture in the Faculty of Architecture, and the 18 students who worked on the project, decided to paint it red.

Because “red is the hottest colour,” said Karen Shanski, an architect and instructor in the department who also worked with the students to design and make Hot Hut.

Looking for summer housing at the UofM?

Summer leases available in Pembina Hall Residence, Arthur V. Mauro Residence, and University College.

Leases run from May 1 - August 14, 2012
Applications available online starting March 1, 2012.

Open to anyone affiliated with the University of Manitoba

For more information, please visit umanitoba.ca/housing

The Robin Connor Lectures in the History and Philosophy of Science 2012

Did Leonardo da Vinci’s machines really work?

Public lectures presented by

Prof. Dr. Dietrich Lehmann
Historisches Institut der Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule Aachen (Historical Institute, RWTH Aachen University)

Monday, March 26, 7:30 - 10:00 pm
Schultz Theatre, St. John’s College
University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus

Leonardo’s known and unknown treatises on mechanics
Tuesday, March 27, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
408 Tier Building University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus

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Centre on Aging 2012–2013 Student Awards/Fellowships

The Centre on Aging has several funding opportunities (open to both undergraduate and graduate students) that are meant to encourage the furthering of studies in aging.


The following will be awarded:

• Centre on Aging Betty Havens Memorial Graduate Fellowship ($4,000)
• Jack MacDonell Scholarship for Research in Aging ($4,000)
• Esther and Samuel Milkmot Scholarship ($3,000)
• Alzheimer Society Graduate Student Fellowship (Two awards of $4,000 each)

For further information contact the Centre on Aging at (204) 474-8731.

umanitoba.ca