The Bulletin
University of Manitoba

A brilliant fall
Scenes from autumn’s final days
Clean water
This year’s Critical Conversations topic is urgent
No small matter
“Genocide” workshop on the legacy of colonialism

Romeo Dallaire received an award on campus
See story, page 5

U of M Events
Active Living Centre Groundbreaking Celebration, Oct. 11
Mauro Centre Brown Bag Lecture - poetry, Oct. 12
Desirée Scott Day, Oct. 13
32nd President’s Reception for Retirees, Oct. 13
Mauro Centre Brown Bag Lecture - sociology, Oct. 19
Architecture: Food for Thought, Oct. 19
Canada Gairdner International Award Lecture, Oct. 24
‘The Winter’s Tale’ Seminar and Distinguished Visiting Lecture, Oct. 25

See page 10 for more

I am an explorer:
Nicole Wruth

Celebrate a new era of active living!

The Active Living Centre Groundbreaking Celebration takes place on October 11. The event celebrates the start of the centre’s construction and show how this world-class health, wellness and fitness centre will enhance the student experience at the U of M. The activities begin at 10:45 a.m., with the formal groundbreaking at 11:30 a.m. at X Lot, Frank Kennedy Centre, 17 Dafoe Road. Activities will include:
• Prize giveaways
• Pep rally atmosphere
• Live music by DJ Sallyboo
• Active living demonstrations

All attending will receive a two-day Recreation Services pass.

For more information, see: umanitoba.ca/activelivingcentre

I AM AN INNOVATOR.
Science Without Borders, Brazil, meet Manitoba

Two U of M professors shared their views on the National Hockey League lockout. In short, the impetus for the lockout was a disagreement between players and owners over revenue and how to share $3.3 billion. Arthur Schafer — a professor and director of the Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics — frames it as a fascinating morality play. “The ‘millions versus billions’ analogy is a catchy way of encapsulating it, but I don’t think that’s what it’s about,” began Schafer. “My sense is the dispute isn’t primarily about money. I think it’s about honour, a sense of fairness and respect and solidarity. It’s a kind of morality play. It’s the bosses versus the workers. Now, it’s true the workers aren’t living in hovels with coal in their bathtub. But honour really matters, sometimes more than money. They want a sense that they are respected, not that they are nothing.” Another view was offered by Sean MacDonald, an instructor at the Asper School of Business. “As an outsider who follows these things, I’m concerned this could be a very long labour-relations battle,” said MacDonald. “Whenever there are two sides bargaining, a variety of tactics are used. One of them that Don Fehr uses all the time is ‘deadline hunting.’ You push the deadline to whatever the perceived threshold is and at that time the hope is the other side will capitulate. But there’s no deadline yet. What we’ve had, instead, is this discussion where they’re not even using the same framework. One is talking about revenue sharing, the other is talking about a diminished share of growth revenue. It’s different languages and there’s no urgency.”

Moo-Madness
October 3, 2012
Ottawa Citizen, CBC

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has once again vowed to tighten the rules at slaughterhouses, as the country’s largest ever beef recall expanded recently to more than 1,500 products. But as the government continues to deal with the recall of Alberta meat, experts are asking why four years after the federal government vowed to fix problems of food safety following a deadly listeriosis outbreak in deli meats, big gaps in the food safety system still exist. Enter the U of M’s Rick Holley, a professor of food safety. He’s clear on one thing: Beef eaters should make huge comfort when the government talks about how much better equipped it is to prevent, detect and respond to potential food safety risks. “We’re no different from where we were four years ago,” said Holley.

New-style homes for new-style families
October 2, 2012
Winnipeg Sun, Winnipeg Free Press

Benjamin Gillies (BAAdv’10), a political economy graduate who studied urban development and energy policy, has been sharing his views on the merits of co-housing. Each self-contained house is a distinct private space, but what defines these “intentional communities” is the incorporation of a number of shared areas — such as gardens, guest quarters, exercise rooms or child-care facilities — meant both to reduce the size (and therefore cost) of each individual residence, and foster stronger community connections and allow for mutual assistance. Faced with the evolving nature of Canadian households, Gillies said governments at all levels should work to remove impediments to the establishment of co-housing: community mini-micro, micro-apartments, and other new developments in urban planning.

Headlines:

“Bold undertaking for U of M,” Sept. 27, and “U of M moving closer,” Sept. 29, both from the Winnipeg Free Press, are stories about the “bold vision from university president David Barnard, who wants to transform the image and place of the historic institution in the community.” The centrepiece of the plan is the former Southwood golf course, 48 hectares of pristine land owned by the university. The vacant green space is currently a barrier that reinforces the university’s isolation, but Barnard is staging an international design competition to reinvent the university precinct.

Resume coffee break

The Starbucks in Dafoe Library is now open. Hours of operation are: Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday: 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Stu Clark, the recipient of the 2012 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (IDEA), recently spoke to Asper School of Business students. The discussion between Clark, Asper professor Reg Litz and students took place on September 27. Clark earned his B. Comm. (Hons.) from the U of M in 1976, and in 2011 was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws. He received his award at a formal dinner at the Winnipeg Convention Centre later the same day.

Science Without Borders, Brazil, meet Manitoba

Stu Clark, the recipient of the 2012 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (IDEA), recently spoke to Asper School of Business students. The discussion between Clark, Asper professor Reg Litz and students took place on September 27. Clark earned his B. Comm. (Hons.) from the U of M in 1976, and in 2011 was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws. He received his award at a formal dinner at the Winnipeg Convention Centre later the same day.
Major investment from one of Canada’s largest funding agencies

BY JANINE HARASZYCHUK

Thanks to recent federal funding, more than 60 researchers—both established and promising—will set out to answer pressing questions in their specialized fields. Questions like: Why is clean drinking water not accessible for all First Nations communities? How does having a food-allergic child impact the family vacation? How can our responses to natural disasters help us make more adaptive?

U of M faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows will share $2,584,150 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) through grants, scholarships and fellowships, the funding agency announced.

An investment of $2,584,150 will go towards 18 research projects by professors through grants, scholarships and fellowships, we are more adaptive?

The Bulletin Page 3

BY CHRIS REID

Doug Buchanan, a professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Microelectronic Materials, has been named Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Microelectronic Materials at Innovate Manitoba. Innovate Manitoba is a not-for-profit, community-based organization that focuses on accelerating innovation and commercialization and improving access to capital for Manitoba's emerging and expanding high growth companies.

Buchanan joined the U of M in 2002. He is an established researcher in the field of physics and engineering of microelectronic materials and devices. Prior to joining the university, Buchanan was an associate professor at IBM's prestigious T.J. Watson Research Center in New York State. As the province's only research-intensive post-secondary institution, the U of M has a strong presence at Innovation Centres (Academic) and Provost, to initiate work with the deans and directors on the university's mission. The president tasked me, as vice-President (academic) and provost (graduate education) and dean, to lead this undertaking. I am proud of their accomplishments to date and anticipate more good things to come as they move toward their research goals.

But Dugal knows fitting the vast array of low-dollar items—everything from scientific chemicals, musical instruments, computing and devices—understanding where it's spending its money, allowing it to make more effective purchases—such as through the standardized and consolidation of products and services—and improvement of supplier performance. “EPIC will provide us with enriched data, helping us to recommend to Senate and the Board on changes to units within a faculty or school. Prior to any consideration by Senate and, in turn, the Board, deans and directors of the units involved will have to make both this proposal or series of options for discussion through their respective councils. The views of these units will be important in informing both our Senate and the Board's considerations, and ample time will be provided to develop these views.

Buchanan new VP, Innovate Manitoba

BY SANDY KLOKWA

After two years of meticulous consulting, engagement, planning and developing, the university is rolling out EPIC, a new system that will revolutionize the way the U of M makes purchases.

The new Electronic Procurement and Information Centre (EPIC) is an integrated procurement suite that will streamline purchasing, making it more efficient and cost-effectiveness to order what you need. How much more efficient? Previously, if you included a Purchasing Request, it took 8-12 days. Now, you’d have to wait an average of four days to get the request approved and over to purchasing services, and another four days just for the purchase request to make it out of the university to the supplier. “EPIC will bring that down to 24 hours,” says Paul Dugal, manager of purchasing services.

Dugal is the business lead for the EPIC project and says that the creation of EPIC couldn’t have been done without consultations with faculty and staff at every level. “The consultation process over the past two years has been an effort.”

Consultations with staff and faculty gave the EPIC team a sense of what efficiencies existed within the old system, and what a ‘best-case dream system’ felt like to users. They then created a plan to match that as closely as possible.

Previously, the system had each person making individual purchase requests without communication with other offices. The new system will bring together all the use of funds until the purchase was completed, leading to delayed budget updates.

The new system will be visible and documented electronically at every step of the way, making transactions more efficient and more cost-effective. “EPIC will simplify the way university staff order goods and services,” Dugal said.

EPIC will provide data that will help the university understand where it’s spending its money, allowing it to make more effective purchases—such as through the standardization and consolidation of products and services—and improvement of supplier performance. “EPIC will provide us with enriched data, helping us to enable us to buy what we need, how much we need, and at the right cost,” says Dugal.

Dugal says the purchasing system they’ve come up with is the most comprehensive system in place in Canada. Other institutions use parts of various eProcurement systems to, in their knowledge, no other post-secondary school in the country is using an eProcurement system to the extent the U of M is, which not only includes electronic purchases but also electronic bidding, contract management and data analytics.

But Dugal says the biggest impact of the system is its ability to make more effective purchases without the need for a paper trail, which means the university can make more effective purchases at a lower cost.

Another $1,654,000 will fund projects by 46 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows through Doctoral Fellowships and Joseph-Armstrong Undergraduate Scholarship. These awards support research skills and assist in training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students and faculty members in developing a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities.

"This funding was received in research at the University of Manitoba," says Dugir Jaya, vice-president (research) and international relations. "Congratulations to these successful researchers, I applaud them and look forward to hearing about their findings."

"The students and fellows who were awarded this funding are rising stars in research," added John (Jay) Doering, vice-provost (graduate education) and dean, graduate studies. "I am proud of their accomplishments to date and anticipate more good things to come as they move toward their research goals."

Academic Structure Initiative: Interim Report #2 on Health Sciences Cluster

Dear Colleagues:

In July, I provided an update on the work of the health sciences cluster to inform you of our new role as a cluster to advise and support the development of a more integrated academic structure. This work stems from the conversation initiated by President David Barnard in January of this year about exploring ways to create an academic structure that better reflects our size, scope, that one enhances rather than impedes our ability to deliver on the university’s mission. The president tasked me, as vice-President (Academic) and Provost, to initiate work with the deans and directors in the health sciences cluster to develop a proposal or set of options to improve the academic structure within this area by December 2012.

In February, I embarked on a series of perceived benefits of a more integrated structure in the health sciences had been identified through these discussions, further dialogue and analysis were required before a proposal or set of options could be developed. Since then, our work has continued and we anticipate being in a position to advance a proposal or series of options by early November for consideration and debate through our collegial governance processes.

I continue to be encouraged by our work to date and look forward to participating in the discussions that will take place in various venues once this proposal or series of options is advanced for broad consideration. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this conversation to date, in particular, the members of the health sciences cluster and its thematic working groups. I will be providing regular updates as this process evolves so that faculty, staff and students have a clear understanding of the opportunities for input as well as the decision-making process.

According to the University of Manitoba Act, the authority to make decisions regarding university academic structure rests with the Board of Governors, and the power to make recommendations on this matter rests with Senate. Faculty and School Councils have the power to recommend to Senate and the Board on changes to units within a faculty or school.

Prior to any consideration by Senate and, in turn, the Board, however, deans and directors of the units involved will have to make both this proposal or series of options for discussion through their respective councils. The views of these units will be important in informing both our Senate and the Board's considerations, and ample time will be provided to develop these views.

I look forward to the next steps and welcome continuing opportunities to speak with members of our university community about this important initiative.

Joanne Keselman, VP (academic) and provost, issued this report to all staff and faculty on October 2, 2012.
Critical Conversations: Safe drinking water for First Nations

BY KATLIN NEUFELD
For The Bulletin

On October 1, Melissa Hotain, policy analyst at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), and Karen Busby, a law professor and founding academic director of the Centre for Human Rights Research (CHRR), led a discussion on what to do about the federal “Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act.” Bill S-8.

Hotain and Busby are part of a large research group of about 50 academic researchers, First Nations partners, and community members working together to address First Nations drinking water supply and sanitation issues. Their presentation was part of a new series of the CHRR's talks called Critical Conversations. The weekly seminars, which take place on Monday afternoons, are free and open to the public.

According to recent federal reports, the presenters said, 39 per cent of First Nations water systems are considered high risk, and only 45 per cent of Manitoba First Nations homes have piped sewage.

Hotain: “Water is a fundamental and integral part of [First Nations’] inherent, Aboriginal and treaty rights and must not be circumscribed by legislation.”

Bill S-8 proposes that the Canadian government devise the first-ever regulations concerning water and wastewater in First Nations communities. Responses have been mixed. Some First Nations leaders, such as Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead of Treaty 7 in Alberta, feel optimistic that Bill S-8 will “lead to other measures necessary to ensure the safety of First Nations drinking water.”

However, AMC “does not support a legislative measure as an option to address safe drinking water needs for First Nations,” explained Hotain. “Water is a fundamental and integral part of [First Nations’] inherent, Aboriginal and treaty rights and must not be circumscribed by legislation.”

Both presenters noted that there are a number of problems with Bill S-8. If passed, the federal government, not First Nations, would be the primary lawmaker for First Nations water issues, and third parties could enforce the regulations. Both of these changes could weaken Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Also, Bill S-8 does not address the gap between current funds and the expected costs needed to meet new regulations.

Dr. Melissa Hotain (left) and Karen Busby (right) at the October 1 seminar.

Bill S-8 is expected to pass by the end of this year.

“Water is a fundamental and integral part of First Nations’ inherent, Aboriginal and treaty rights and must not be circumscribed by legislation.”

For the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. Many residents of poor countries — and of First Nations reserves in wealthier Canada — are looking for practical ways to realize that recently affirmed right.

In 2030, the United Nations declared that safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. Researchers will explore effective strategies to propel governments into action in spite of the hefty $4.7-billion price tag attached to achieving clean water on First Nations reserves. The legal component, led by Faculty of Law’s Brenda Gunn and Karen Busby, involves some of Canada’s top experts on water rights, including U of M graduate Merrell-Ann Phare, who runs the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources. Aimee Craft is a Metis scholar whose research and teaching focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law. “The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes that Indigenous peoples have rights to maintain and strengthen their relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used waters and coastal seas and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.”

“In Canada, we have failed to properly protect this relationship by recognizing Indigenous peoples’ water rights,” Gunn said.

Law experts Busby and Aimee Craft will evaluate Indigenous laws on water as well as how treaty, Aboriginal and inherent rights claims or the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could be used to further drinking water rights.

Busby teaches constitutional law or the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could be used to further drinking water rights. Busby teaches constitutional law and has decades of experience in human rights cases and campaigns; Craft is a sessional lecturer and lawyer at the Public Interest Law Centre. They also come from and U of M graduate, Merrell-Ann Phare, who runs the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources. Aimee Craft is a Metis scholar whose research and teaching focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law. “The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes that Indigenous peoples have rights to maintain and strengthen their relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used waters and coastal seas and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.”

It seems obvious: Of course we should care if fellow Canadians don’t have access to safe drinking water. Unfortunately, however, many Canadians are largely unaware of the conditions that have led to these concerns — and, what’s more, if you don’t live on a reserve, it can be much too easy to fall into the mistaken belief that the issue doesn’t apply to you.

These seminars examine many issues and the questions that arise from the right to clean water, including issues of inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples and treaty rights. Are treaties being upheld? Both Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian government are parties, and according to the definition by The Supreme Court of Canada in the Badger case, a treaty is “an exchange of solemn promises…whose nature is sacred.” Treaties are more than just contracts or real estate deals; they are nation-to-nation agreements. (From the modern perspective, a treaty is among those offering advice on behalf of Manitoba chiefs.

Each researcher brings different expertise to the mix. Gunn is a Metis scholar whose research and teaching focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law. “The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes that Indigenous peoples have rights to maintain and strengthen their relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used waters and coastal seas and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.”

“In Canada, we have failed to properly protect this relationship by recognizing Indigenous peoples’ water rights,” Gunn said.

Law experts Busby and Aimee Craft will evaluate Indigenous laws on water as well as how treaty, Aboriginal and inherent rights claims or the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could be used to further drinking water rights.

Busby teaches constitutional law and has decades of experience in human rights cases and campaigns; Craft is a sessional lecturer and lawyer at the Public Interest Law Centre and brings expertise in Indigenous legal traditions. A team of economists and health researchers, including Brenda Elias from the University of Manitoba, is also working on this project. They are among those offering advice on behalf of Manitoba chiefs.

Researchers will explore effective strategies to propel governments into action in spite of the hefty $4.7-billion price tag attached to achieving clean water on First Nations reserves. The legal component, led by Faculty of Law’s Brenda Gunn and Karen Busby, involves some of Canada’s top experts on water rights, including U of M graduate Merrell-Ann Phare, who runs the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources. Aimee Craft is a Metis scholar whose research and teaching focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law. “The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes that Indigenous peoples have rights to maintain and strengthen their relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used waters and coastal seas and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.”

“In Canada, we have failed to properly protect this relationship by recognizing Indigenous peoples’ water rights,” Gunn said. Law experts Busby and Aimee Craft will evaluate Indigenous laws on water as well as how treaty, Aboriginal and inherent rights claims or the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could be used to further drinking water rights.

Busby teaches constitutional law and has decades of experience in human rights cases and campaigns; Craft is a sessional lecturer and lawyer at the Public Interest Law Centre and brings expertise in Indigenous legal traditions. A team of economists and health researchers, including Brenda Elias from the Faculty of Medicine, will try to collect hard evidence of the impact of poor water services on health and social status.

“We know that water is really blessed,” Anishinaabe Elder Florence Paynter said recently at U of M’s Migizi Agamik (Bald Eagle Lodge), which houses the Aboriginal Student Centre. “Our relatives are suffering because they don’t have clean water to drink.”

This project on the background of First Nations water and the related research taking place at U of M was written by Helen Failing and a version of it originally appeared in the 2012 Robson Hall Alumni Report.
World Opportunities Week returns to the campus from October 22 to 25. This is the 12th year of the event that invites all members of the university community to explore the world. Presented by the World W.I.S.E Resource Centre and the International Centre for Students, World Opportunities Week (WOW) provides anyone looking for international experience with a convenient one-stop shop to discover international travel, exchange and volunteer opportunities provided by the U of M and others.

"World Opportunities Week is designed to inspire and motivate students to become involved in their local and international communities," says event organizer, David Arenas, International Centre for Students (ICS).

The three-day event provides information on a variety of international opportunities from internships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic exchanges, to volunteer opportunities here in Winnipeg. Highlights include the World W.I.S.E. Global Village, presentations on global issues and ideas such as food security and eco-tourism, information booths, and entertainment. Representatives from international organizations, NGOs, and U of M programs will be on campus to show students how they can become engaged in international activities. A host of special events promoting global citizenship and cultural awareness will also be taking place.

It is presented with the support of the Government of Manitoba – International Education Branch, Medical Ministries International and the ICS. All activities take place at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus.

A full schedule can be found at: umanitoba.ca/student/ics/world-of-m

WINNER OF THE “DEFINE YOURSELF” CONTEST, U of M student Nicole Wruth traveled to Greenland and Iceland as part of the ‘Northern Experience’ package she selected as her grand prize. In her winning video, she (appropriately!) identified herself as an explorer. The contest ran from October 17, 2011 to February 12, 2012, and grand prize winner Wruth traveled to Greenland and Iceland from September 10 to 21 with Lucette Barber, manager of community outreach, earth observation sciences, U of M.

The focus of her trip was Nuuk, Greenland, where she met scientists and students at the Greenland Climate Research Centre who are conducting ground-breaking work in arctic climate change research. She visited their facilities and observed field work; she also got to meet U of M researcher Søren Rysgaard, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change Research. The School of Art student graduated this year with a major in photography, so in addition to its science research aspects, her trip was also designed around culture, history and politics. She had the opportunity to meet locals, visit museums, art galleries and try local cuisine.

"After my Greenland experience I stayed in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland," said Wruth. "I arrived in the downtown area and instantly felt charmed by the city. While in Iceland, the University of Manitoba provided three tours. The first one I went on was a 14-hour bus tour! Yes, the bus trip was 14 hours! I traveled to the South Coast of Iceland and ultimately to the Glacial Lagoon. The interesting thing about Iceland is its varying landscapes: One moment you are surrounded by black volcanic rock, next moment black sand, then small green hills, farms, old sea cliffs. It is quite beautiful. The Glacial Lagoon was unique because we made our way around in a boat that also had wheels for land. We were lucky because that day there were a lot of icebergs in the lagoon ... and I love icebergs!"
Keynote: Colonial genocide and residential schools

BY IRENE FUBARA MANUEL
For The Bulletin

Marshall McLuhan Hall is standing room only as the crowd settles in for the triple-keynote public event that opens the three-day workshop entitled “Colonial genocide and Indigenous North America.” Sociology professor Andrew Woolford introduces university Elder-in-Residence Florence Paynter, who begins with a blessing and a statement that the treatment of Indigenous Canadians in residential schools is cultural genocide and should be referred to as such. Her words resound through the discussion as remaining speakers share their understanding of the topic.

Justice Murray Sinclair, Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), discusses the significance of the word “genocide” in the TRC. With his definition of genocide, which characterizes the act by the intent to destroy and actions to fulfill this intent, he argues that residential schools were genocide. The words of Duncan Campbell Scott, to “kill the Indian in the child,” drives his argument that genocide moves beyond the physical killing of people.

Next, residential school survivor Theodore Fontaine shares his experience in residential schools. He breaks it down into four phases: the physical and spiritual abuse he endured in residential schools; the development of his mind to embrace the racist ideals of the church and schools; his freedom from the residential schools; and remembering what happened in the residential school and why it happened.

Closing the discussion, Daniel Paul livens up the room with a communal stretch exercise and stories of his activism in Mi’kmaq Indigenous community in the U.S. Paul speaks about the history of colonization of the Americas and contemporary issues concerning Indigenous peoples such as the naming of streets and buildings after colonizers.

The event concludes with a question period in which another survivor of residential schools tells his own story and asks an important question — how can restorative justice for Indigenous people be effected at the personal level?
Genocide in North America?

BY MARIANNE MAI'S MEEBE
The Bulletin

“Genocide” is a charged word. According to Andrew Woolford, a professor in the department of sociology, Faculty of Arts, it’s also a word that can — and should — be applied within the North American context.

The recent workshop co-organized by Woolford in collaboration with Jeff Benvenuto and Alex Hinton of Rutgers University explored often unacknowledged examples of colonial genocide in North America. The three-day workshop, which began with a packed-out event at the Fort Garry Hotel from September 20 to 22, was followed by a panel discussion, with participants from the U of M, including genocide expert Senator Romeo Dallaire, Krishnamurti Dakshinamurti, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, and Andrew Woolford, a professor in the department of sociology, Faculty of Arts.

Dallaire’s book, Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda, was published in 2003. He was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2005.

The breadth of Indigenous rights and human rights scholarship at the university was another factor in deciding to hold this workshop here — and in 2014, the U of M will host the annual IAGS conference. Why a workshop? Woolford says the idea was to bring in a multitude of voices, to include both those from the field of genocide studies and others as presenters. The keynote event also opened the topic for public discussion.

Woolford: ‘Our understanding of colonialism is moving beyond individualist interpretations, towards comprehension of the harm done to Indigenous Peoples here by colonial genocide’

According to Woolford, the workshop is a small start on showcasing and sharing the extent of genocide research being done across North America, including much of it at the University of Manitoba. He mentions several colleagues whose work is notable, and was presented at the workshop, and says the process of planning turned up many others as well.

The plan is to compile the papers and presentations on colonial genocide and Indigenous North America in an edited volume. He hopes that the upcoming international conference to be held at the U of M in 2014 will yield further opportunities for public events and dialogue.

“There’s the scholarship aspect of colonial genocide — and the Indigenous North American context as well as the political element, and both are important,” Woolford says. “Partly these are societal questions: What can be done today to redress this? What can be done to educate non-Indigenous North Americans about these harms?”

“From genocide to serenity”

Humanitarian, witness to genocide receives peace award

Senator Romeo Dallaire struggled to find the will to live after witnessing the worst side of humanity during the Rwandan genocide. Learning to take the long-term view is what saved him. In a public lecture at the U of M on Friday, October 5, the former commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda encouraged Canadians to take whatever small steps we can to help humanity progress from conflict to serenity.

At the event, Dallaire was presented with the 2012 Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award of Canada, after which he spoke on lessons learned from the 1994 Rwandan genocide. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion, with participants from the U of M, including genocide expert Andrew Woolford and Sean Byrne, executive director of the university’s Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice.

Dallaire’s book, Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda, was published in 2003. He was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2005.

The event was co-sponsored by the University of Manitoba’s Centre for Human Rights Research and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Canada, whose president, Krishnamurti Dakshinamurti, is professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba. The peace award recognizes original thinkers and initiators of conflict resolution.
A HAUNTED HOUSE NOVEL was on his “to do” list for a long time, but David Annandale knew that he would have to breathe life into a story that’s been told many times before. That’s precisely what he’s done with his newest novel, Gethsemane Hall.

The U of M instructor and horror fiction writer stuck with “the classic structure of the team of investigators gathering to learn the truth of the house,” as he puts it – but at the same time found a way to ensure the truth was just as surprising to readers as to the characters.

“What if the group is made up of both total skeptics and fervent believers, and both sides are wrong?” Annandale said.

“The challenge I set for myself was to come up with what, in that case, the truth would actually be. This opened up some very dark possibilities.”

Part old-fashioned ghost tale, part existentiallyyoristic story, the novel is set at the eerie ancestral home of the protagonist, Richard Gray. Gethsemane Hall exerts a magnetic pull over a diverse group of skeptics and believers, all clamoring to understand the mysteries that lie within its walls, for different reasons. What they find is a truth none of them could have fathomed.

Annandale teaches in the department of English, film and theatre and is the author of Crown Fire, Kornkupola and The Valedictorians. His short stories have been published in several anthologies of horror fiction.

How did you come up with the setting for Gethsemane Hall? Was there a specific location that inspired you? [There are two primary locations] that inspired me, which were important to me as a child, and for which I retain an abiding love today. The town of Amminster, in Devon, is the model for Roseminster. Gethsemane Hall itself is based on Ightham Mote, a medieval manor house in Kent.

What drew you to the horror genre? What doesn’t or won’t a writer or reader that other genres don’t? I have been a horror fan for most of my life. What first drew me to it as a child were monsters, and I still love them. There is, of course, much more to the genre than that. In its very being, it is a mystery (why do we want to be terrified?) and a challenge (as a writer, what must I do to terrify my readers?). It is a genre in which the great metaphysical questions of life, death, meaning and truth are explored and it is driven by an imperative to look into the dark, but utterly vital, corners of what it means to be human.

— Sandy Klowak

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Faculty of Medicine Archives at the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library

THE GOOD DOCTOR: As Winnipeg’s first medical specialist and the second dean of the Manitoba Medical College, Dr. James Wilford Good is remembered as a pioneer in the history of medicine and a founder of medical education in Manitoba. He was the first physician in the Canadian west to specialize in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ears, nose and throat. Good was also the first in western Canada to purchase and use radium for the treatment of cancer.

A professor of clinical surgery and lecturer in ophthalmology and otology, Good taught at the Manitoba Medical College during its first three years of operation and soon after became dean of the college.

Following his 11-year deanship of the medical college, Good travelled to Yuen in 1899 where he became the medical health officer for Dawson City during the twilight of the Klondike Gold Rush. It was during this time that Good met Sam B. Steele of the Northwest Mounted Police, who praised the doctor for his ability to reduce the numbers of sick to one-tenth of what they had been in the previous year. Through rigorous inspections of the Dawson City’s water supply, Good was also instrumental in preventing another outbreak of the cholera which had previously devastated the community in 1897. Good returned to Winnipeg in 1900 to resume teaching responsibilities at the Manitoba Medical College. During the First World War he served with the French Red Cross and was later posted to a British surgical center.

In addition to his prestigious medical career, Dr. Good is also remembered by his friends and colleagues for his repartee, wit, and numerous social exploits. For example, Dr. E.W . Montgomery describes how on one afternoon in the 1890s Good rented the entire board of Trade Saloon on Lombard Street and there took on the role of bartender, dispensing liquor to the standing-room-only crowd well into the next morning. Other recorded testimonials from this time describe how Good alternated between left and right-handed clubs throughout games of golf.

Once, after telling a patient that his eye condition was incurable, he was asked “Surely you can do something to alleviate it!” To which Dr. Good replied, “I’m sorry sir, I spell me name with two O’s, not one.”

Dr. James Wilford Good retired a wealthy man and died in 1926. He bequeathed his estate to a number of institutions, including the tuberculosis sanatorium in Ninette, Manitoba, and the Children’s Home of Winnipeg.

— Jordan Bass, archivist, Faculty of Medicine Archives

Access these archives online at: > umanitoba.ca/libraries/health/archives/
Aramark launches survey, consults with students

The Bulletin Page 9

At the UMSU-hosted forum on food services, Aramark representatives fielded students’ questions.

A panel of representatives from Aramark were on hand to answer students’ questions during the UMSU-hosted open forum on food services and meal plans on Oct. 4 at the Fort Garry campus.

The panel representing Aramark included Tina Horsley, national director of wellness and sustainability, Nathan Lo, operations coordinator, Joan Mandziuk, manager of the fresh food company, Ainsley Mitchell, Aramark’s Manitoba marketing manager of food services for the fresh food company, and Dean Duff, food services director.

Aramark has been improving its services and has pledged to work with students and employees on building a better menu. “Bison Lasagne,” a new menu item consisting of all-local ingredients, was on hand for students to sample at the event.

The day following the forum, Mitchell commented that she was pleased with what they had learned from meeting with students, and was excited to continue working with students on the issues addressed.

“There was a lot of constructive discussion regarding Food Services on campus and we are grateful to UMSU for putting on the event,” she said.

Aramark’s fall “Dining Styles and Facility Focus” surveys have arrived. This is the survey that Aramark conducts twice a year to gather information from students and visitors to the campus as to their feelings about both Food Services and Custodial Services. Participants have the opportunity to win a $150 Visa Gift Card or three $50 Visa Gift Cards.

The survey will be live from October 1 to October 26, 2012 at college-survey.com/manitoba

Inclusive schools for all students

Three U of M researchers will serve as co-investigators on a new project called the “Every Teacher Project,” a SSHRC-funded study of Canadian teachers on LGBTQ-inclusive education, Janice Ristock, vice-provost (academic affairs) and professor, women’s and gender studies, Faculty of Arts, Tracey Peter, sociology, Faculty of Arts and Donna Short, Faculty of Law, are working with the Manitoba Teachers’ Society and countrywide researcher Catherine Tailford of the University of Western Ontario. So far, every provincial, territorial and national teacher organization in English Canada has signed on to the project, which tackles this important issue affecting LGBTQ students, students with LGBTQ parents, and everyone is affected by a school climate hostile to LGBTQ people.

The project will launch on October 11. The “Every Teacher Project” is a national study designed to identify and make widely available the collective expertise that exists among Canadian teachers on LGBTQ issues to provide teachers with strategies to work with minority students. This study will enable researchers to learn what educators think about the climate of Canada’s schools for LGBTQ students; which approaches to inclusion of these students seem to work, and in what contexts, and which don’t; what supports educators in doing this work, and what holds us back.

Every teacher organization in English Canada has enthusiastically agreed to support this project.

“We are so pleased to have the support of teachers across Canada who will work with us on this project to improve the climate in schools for LGBTQ students,” said Ristock.

Media Lab updated

In 2012 the department of English, film and theatre’s Media Lab underwent a major expansion as part of the rejuvenation of University College. Now located in 233 University College, the lab has more than doubled in size. The new space offers a dedicated screening room/creative incubator, sound-recording and editing pods, workstation hives, and a fully-interactive instructional setup for demonstrating a range of film, media and computer-based skills.

The Media Lab was established in the fall of 1995 as a pilot project to facilitate digital instruction in the Faculty of Arts. Today’s Media Lab seeks to give scholars and students access to an ever-expanding selection of digital and online resources for the study of literature, film and theatre and the generation of leading-edge creative work across the disciplines. In 2012 the Lab will host masterclasses, the Film Fridays screening series and the 2012-13 DigitalWorks new media competition. A grand opening for the Media Lab is planned for October.

Agricultural innovators receive Manning

Innovation Award

Two U of M graduates built a better crop fertilizer and their trailblazing efforts have earned them a coveted Innovation Award from the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation.

Kerry Green [DipAg’83] and Geoff Gyles [BSA’79] are the founders of Wolf Trax, which in the 1990s developed DDP Micronutrients. This micronutrient system features a patented technology Green and Gyles engineered: dry dispersible powder (DDP). They formulated DDP to coat and stick to each and every granule of macronutrient fertilizer in a blend. This patented technology results in even, blanket-like coverage of micronutrients across a field, allowing the designer to get the crop off to a good start immediately and delayed uptake of micronutrients, extending overall plant feeding. Wolf Trax is located in Smartpark, a subsidiary of the largest potato company in Canada, Manitoba. Smartpark’s vision is to “Build a Community of Innovators” on the doorstep of the University of Manitoba, facilitating university-industry research collaborations and innovation.

“The University of Manitoba community is extremely proud of these outstanding alumni,” says David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. “Receiving this prestigious national award is a well-deserved honour for these innovators.”
events

University of Manitoba

FORT GARRY + BANNATYNE CAMPUSES

DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR
Thursday, Oct. 11 | 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.
"Biological Glut: How Inflammatory Bowel Disease" by Charles Bernstein and Jean-Eric Ghia, department of internal medicine and immunology, U of M. In 477 Apex Centre, Bannatyne Campus.

PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM
Friday, October 19 | 3:30 p.m.
"Biomedical Applications of Microwave Imaging" by Martin O’Halloran, electrical and electronic engineering, National University of Ireland, Galway. In 330 Allen Hall.

PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM
Friday, October 19 | 3:30 p.m.
"Initial Analysis of Novel Multimodal PEM-UWB Technique for Breast Cancer Detection: Localization of Cancer in Homogeneous Model of the Breast and Breast Tumour Classification" by Raquel Conceição, Instituto of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering, University of Lisbon, Portugal. In 330 Allen Hall.

ARCHITECTURE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Friday, Oct. 19, 12:00 to 1:45 p.m.
"The Quasi-Judicial Imagining: Restoring and Generating Justice in Post-Unification German Literature" by Jill Scott, Queen’s University. At Inn at the Forks, Forks Ballroom East. To listen to this lecture, register as a one-day participant at umanitoba.ca/faculties/art/department/german_and_dutch/3363.html.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Friday, October 19 | 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
"Whither the Premodern?" by the Group for Premodern Studies. Short papers on the topic of premodern studies with discussion to follow. In 409 Tier Bldg.

PHYSICS SEMINAR
Friday, October 12 | 3:30 p.m.
"High current sources of free electrons for the electron accelerators of tomorrow" by Russell Dawes, Macalester College. At Inn at the Forks, Forks Ballroom East.

PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM
Friday, October 12 | 3:00 p.m.
"Listener’s role in the nonverbal communication of depression" by Zdena Winsel, U of M. In 330 Allen Hall.

MAURO CENTRE BROWN BAG LECTURE - POETRY
Friday, October 12 | 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM
Friday, October 12 | 3:45 to 4:35 p.m.
"The Iterated Carminic Lambda Function" by Nick Harland, department of mathematics, U of M. In 111 Armes Bldg.

2ND PATIENT’S RECEPTION FOR RESEARCH
Saturday, October 13 | 2:00 p.m.
In Marshall McLucan Hall, Room 204 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus.

PARTNERS PROGRAM - ARCHITECTURE
Monday, October 15 | 12:00 p.m.
Lectures at 1500 Portage Avenue, registered Access Consultant. In Centre Space, John A. Russell Bldg.

MAURO CENTRE BROWN BAG LECTURE - SOCIOLOGY
Friday, October 19 | 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.
Elizabeth Comack will speak about her recently published book, Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People’s Encounters with the Police. In 252 Arthur Mauro Centre.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Position: Professor/Associate Professor Position number: 14770 Deadline: Screening to start on November 20, 2012 Start Date: July 1, 2013 For Information: Judy Noble, Administrative Assistant, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Manitoba, E2-390 EITC, 75A Chancellor Circle, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 5V6, email Judy.Noble@ad.umanitoba.ca

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING Position: Research Grants Facilitator Position number: 15526

NATIVE STUDIES COLLOQUIUM: INITIATIVES FOR VIBRANT CHANGE
Wednesday | 12:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
In 223 Migiizi Agamik (Aboriginal Students Centre).

Thursday, October 17 | 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.
"Indigenous Poetics" by Noel McLeod, associate professor. Indigenous studies, Trent University. In Main Foyer, Migiizi Agamik.

Thursday, October 25 | 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.
"Programming of DNA Methylation" by Howard Cedar, Recipient of the Canada Gairdner International Award. 2011, Department of Developmental Biology, and Cancer Research, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In Frederic Gaspard Theatre, Basic Medical Sciences Centre, 727 McDermott.

STATISTICS SEMINAR SERIES
Thursday, October 25 | 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.
"Copula-Based Regression Estimation and Inference" by Taeufik Bouezmarni, Department of Mathematics, Université de Sherbrooke. In 316 Machray Hall.

DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR
Thursday, October 25 | 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
"Host-Pathogen Interactions Impacting Pulmonary Immune Tolerance and Inflammation" by Anuradha Ray, professor of medicine & immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. 477 Apex Centre, Bannatyne Campus.

The WINTER’S TALE SEMINAR & DISTINGUISHED VISITING LECTURE
Thursday, October 25 | 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.
"Mind, Nature, Heterodoxy, and Iconoclasm in The Winter’s Tale” by Richard Sieri. Seminar followed by a lecture at 4:00 p.m. Faculty and students welcome. In 409 Tier.

PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM
Friday, November 2 | 3:30 p.m.
"X-ray view of Magnetars, the strongest electron accelerators of tomorrow" by Russell Dawes, Macalester College. At Inn at the Forks, Forks Ballroom East. To listen to this lecture, register as a one-day participant at umanitoba.ca/faculties/art/department/german_and_dutch/3363.html.

Off-Campus
TUBERCULOSIS: THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC

Most Canadians think that tuberculosis (TB) is a disease of the past. In reality, while general rates of TB in Canada are slowly decreasing, in some regions such as Nunavut and Manitoba, they have risen over the past decade. In this Café Scientifique, we explore, through the lens of research, clinical care, public health, human rights, advocacy and personal experience, the story behind the numbers – how socioeconomic, environmental, biologic and cultural factors are affecting the incidence of TB in Canadian communities, and how our experience fits within the context of global TB and the pursuit of TB control/eradication.

Experts:
Dr. Anne Fanning
Dr. Pamela Orr

Moderator:
Dr. Brenda Elias

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012, 7:00 pm
McNally Robinson Booksellers
1120 Grant Avenue – Event Atrium
RSVP to:
Research_Communications@umanitoba.ca
or (204) 474-6689

Computer science professor John van Rees uses math and programming to provide guarantees when playing the lottery.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS
For The Bulletin

Playing the lottery comes down to pure luck and chance. But what if you removed this element of unpredictability? Computer science professor John van Rees is trying to do just that.

He studies lottery designs and over 10 years has proved several major theorems that can predict — on a small scale — how many tickets a person would have to purchase to ensure a win.

“We want to find the minimum size set of tickets you would have to buy to guarantee you would have to win the minimum prize,” van Rees explains.

He uses mathematics to develop computer programs to identify these formulas. So far he has figured out the equations for draws that require choosing numbers from a pool of 20 (as opposed to 49, the amount used for Lotto 6/49). His findings, which he worked on with Ben Li (once his PhD student and now his colleague at the U of M), are published in the prestigious Handbook of Combinatorial Designs.

“Knowing these smaller numbers hopefully will help you get bigger numbers,” van Rees says, noting that other academics have come up with a winning scheme that would work for the popular Lotto 6/49, but not one that would necessarily be profitable.

To guarantee winning a prize in the national draw, with its jackpot often in the millions, you would need to buy between 87 and 163 tickets. At $2 a ticket, a win of $10 would be a certain financial loss.

“You think why in the world would you ever do that, but of course you may get bigger prizes — that’s not ruled out, it’s just giving you the guarantee that you’ll win,” he says. “You’re guaranteed 10 bucks back, but in fact you may get a lot more.”

A more precise theorem may exist, but it has yet to be discovered.

“There may be better schemes, we don’t know them yet,” van Rees says.

Much thought goes into the development of van Rees’ lotto-related programming but, fittingly luck can also play a role. He designs the programs to launch searches, the results of which to some degree are unpredictable. “It’s kind of funny, sometimes you can get numbers right on because some nice theoretical design exists and you can use it. And the number next door doesn’t use the theoretical design and it doesn’t do anything for you and you have to stick with more rudimentary things.”

“There’s no shortage of online pitches selling supposed mathematical tools that claim to improve your odds of winning. Amateur computer programmers are developing crude programs all the time, van Rees says.

“We think why in the world would you ever do that, but of course you may get bigger prizes — that’s not ruled out, it’s just giving you the guarantee that you’ll win,” van Rees says. “You’re guaranteed 10 bucks back, but in fact you may get a lot more.”

A more precise theorem may exist, but it has yet to be discovered.

“There may be better schemes, we don’t know them yet,” van Rees says.

Much thought goes into the development of van Rees’ lotto-related programming but, fittingly luck can also play a role. He designs the programs to launch searches, the results of which to some degree are unpredictable. “It’s kind of funny, sometimes you can get numbers right on because some nice theoretical design exists and you can use it. And the number next door doesn’t use the theoretical design and it doesn’t do anything for you and you have to stick with more rudimentary things.”

“There’s no shortage of online pitches selling supposed mathematical tools that claim to improve your odds of winning. Amateur computer programmers are developing crude programs all the time, van Rees says.

Van Rees admits his research is theoretical and garners quite a bit of interest, given the popularity of playing the lottery, but his findings prove useful well beyond this realm. His work could help computer scientists develop programs in areas like communications theory which studies how messages are sent across various channels. That could mean eliminating noise in satellite imaging from Mars to Earth, or, on a smaller level, retrieving data on a disc that has gone wonky.

Van Rees predicts these innovative design studies will be even more relevant as time goes on and technology catches up. “It’s not one of the big applied areas yet but I think give it 10 or 20 years and it will become a very applied area. It’s partly waiting for computers to get faster and faster,” he says. “I think it will come.”

For now, he finds himself clarifying to people that his research doesn’t provide ways for people to make money playing their lucky numbers, but rather provides mathematical guarantees. And in the end, there really is only one way to guarantee you won’t have to part with your hard-earned cash. When delivering seminars on his lotto designs, one of his slides asks the audience—in big, bold letters—“How do you stay ahead in the lottery game? In fine print beneath, the reply reads: ‘Don’t buy any tickets.’”

“If you don’t buy any tickets, you don’t lose anything,” van Rees says. “You buy a ticket, you almost certainly lose.”

Photo by Mike Latschislaw

A game of chance?

Innovator in computer science provides more than lottery guarantees

Computer science professor John van Rees uses math and programming to provide guarantees when playing the lottery.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS
For The Bulletin

Playing the lottery comes down to pure luck and chance. But what if you removed this element of unpredictability? Computer science professor John van Rees is trying to do just that.

He studies lottery designs and over 10 years has proved several major theorems that can predict — on a small scale — how many tickets a person would have to purchase to ensure a win.

“We want to find the minimum size set of tickets you would have to buy to guarantee you would have to win the minimum prize,” van Rees explains.

He uses mathematics to develop computer programs to identify these formulas. So far he has figured out the equations for draws that require choosing numbers from a pool of 20 (as opposed to 49, the amount used for Lotto 6/49). His findings, which he worked on with Ben Li (once his PhD student and now his colleague at the U of M), are published in the prestigious Handbook of Combinatorial Designs.

“Knowing these smaller numbers hopefully will help you get bigger numbers,” van Rees says, noting that other academics have come up with a winning scheme that would work for the popular Lotto 6/49, but not one that would necessarily be profitable.

To guarantee winning a prize in the national draw, with its jackpot often in the millions, you would need to buy between 87 and 163 tickets. At $2 a ticket, a win of $10 would be a certain financial loss.

“You think why in the world would you ever do that, but of course you may get bigger prizes — that’s not ruled out, it’s just giving you the guarantee that you’ll win,” he says. “You’re guaranteed 10 bucks back, but in fact you may get a lot more.”

A more precise theorem may exist, but it has yet to be discovered.

“There may be better schemes, we don’t know them yet,” van Rees says.

Much thought goes into the development of van Rees’ lotto-related programming but, fittingly luck can also play a role. He designs the programs to launch searches, the results of which to some degree are unpredictable. “It’s kind of funny, sometimes you can get numbers right on because some nice theoretical design exists and you can use it. And the number next door doesn’t use the theoretical design and it doesn’t do anything for you and you have to stick with more rudimentary things.”

“There’s no shortage of online pitches selling supposed mathematical tools that claim to improve your odds of winning. Amateur computer programmers are developing crude programs all the time, van Rees says.

Van Rees admits his research is theoretical and garners quite a bit of interest, given the popularity of playing the lottery, but his findings prove useful well beyond this realm. His work could help computer scientists develop programs in areas like communications theory which studies how messages are sent across various channels. That could mean eliminating noise in satellite imaging from Mars to Earth, or, on a smaller level, retrieving data on a disc that has gone wonky.

Van Rees predicts these innovative design studies will be even more relevant as time goes on and technology catches up. “It’s not one of the big applied areas yet but I think give it 10 or 20 years and it will become a very applied area. It’s partly waiting for computers to get faster and faster,” he says. “I think it will come.”

For now, he finds himself clarifying to people that his research doesn’t provide ways for people to make money playing their lucky numbers, but rather provides mathematical guarantees. And in the end, there really is only one way to guarantee you won’t have to part with your hard-earned cash. When delivering seminars on his lotto designs, one of his slides asks the audience—in big, bold letters—“How do you stay ahead in the lottery game? In fine print beneath, the reply reads: ‘Don’t buy any tickets.’”

“If you don’t buy any tickets, you don’t lose anything,” van Rees says. “You buy a ticket, you almost certainly lose.”

Photo by Mike Latschislaw
A BRILLIANT FALL: FINAL DAYS OF AUTUMN ON CAMPUS

A change in the weather

The campus is perhaps most beautiful in autumn — but the cerulean skies and bright leaves of a gorgeous, seemingly endless fall suddenly turned to cold winds and slushy snow last week. Is winter upon us? Or will we see more days like these?

The Administration Building. Left: Tier Building, Faculty of Arts. Right: View to Faculty of Arts buildings from the Quad walkways.