AIDS research gets $10 million boost
Plummer’s team receives Grand Challenges in Global Health grant

Three outstanding Canadian health researchers have been selected to receive grants from the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative. Their projects have been judged to be among those that have the greatest potential for solving some of the world’s most serious health problems.

Among the three Canadian researchers is the University of Manitoba’s own Frank Plummer, head of Canada’s National Microbiology Laboratory and the director general for the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control in Ottawa.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will contribute $5.6 million over five years for the three Canadian research teams. The Canadian funding commitments are in addition to those offered by the Grand Challenges initiative.

The three Canadian projects fall under three of the 14 goals of the Grand Challenges initiative: improving childhood vaccines, creating new vaccines and improving drug treatment of infectious diseases.

Plummer is receiving US$8.3 million or about $10.2 million Canadian to study factors associated with HIV resistance among women and their families.

The other Canadian researchers include:

- Lorne Allan Babiuk, total grant amount: US$5.6 million, University of Saskatchewan, who is working on a single-shot vaccine that can reduce the need for multiple immunizations and;
- Brett Finlay, total grant amount: US$8.7 million, University of British Columbia, who is exploring new ways to combat drug resistance by developing new medicine to boost the body’s own ability to fight infectious diseases – such as malaria, typhoid fever, E. coli and tuberculosis – found in developing countries.

“We are particularly pleased that three Canada-based teams are part of this initiative, contributing to this worldwide effort to harness science to improve global health,” Canadian Institutes of Health Research president Alan Bernstein said in a release. “CIHR has supported them throughout their health research careers, enabling them to reach this level of excellence.”

Ordinarily the university’s storm sewer system could cope with a thunderstorm, but physical plant director Brian Rivers said it’s the combination of the thunderstorm and the high river levels that created the problem.

“The unusually high river levels caused us to close the outfall gates that drain storm water into the river,” Rivers said. “Some of the basements are so low that we were forced to shut the outfall gates to prevent the river from backing up into the buildings.

The Red River is currently at its highest level since the 1997 flood. But when the storm sewer gates were shut at the end of June, the university was forced to rely on pumps to carry any rain water over the protective dikes and into the river.

Rivers said the downpour on July 2 was simply too much for the pumps to handle. A second storm on July 7 also created some problems.

“For a while we even had higher water in the campus than in the river so we temporarily opened the outlet gates to equalize the water levels,” Rivers said.

Usually the Red River is at flood levels in the spring, when thunderstorms are few and far between. But with June and July being the prime season for thunderstorms and downpours the drainage system gets hit from both ends.

“It’s just a bad combination this year,” Rivers said.

University hit by high water

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba suffered an estimated $500,000 in damages on July 2 when a downpour sent water into buildings throughout the Fort Garry campus.

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See STORM/P 2.
From Page 1.

The Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative was launched in 2003 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, to harness the power of science and technology to dramatically improve health in the world’s poorest countries.

“I think it’s a very innovative initiative coming out of the Gates Foundation. They put on 14 areas that were considered to be the most important challenges for problems of the poor and then they put over about $430 million into grants to solve these grant challenges,” Plummer told CTV news after receiving the grant.

“I’m excited about a few things. One is that there’s a lot of Canadian involvement including funding by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. And also the fact that Canada got three of the 45 grants. That’s amazing.”

The Grand Challenges initiative is supported by US$450 million from the Gates Foundation, $827 million from the Wellcome Trust, and CAN$5.6 million (US$4.5 million) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Storm damages campus buildings

From Page 1.

The water hit several buildings. The Gritty Grotto in Frank Kennedy, which had just finished wringing itself out from a May 7 flood, was hit again with some 30 to 45 centimetres of water. Other areas of Frank Kennedy and the Continuing Education Building were also hit by flooding.

University Centre suffered flooding in its lower maintenance level with some mechanical rooms and storage areas seeing as much as a metre of water.

“There was also water in parts of the University Centre Bookstore storage areas and water came across the Fireplace Lounge and into the Manitoban offices,” Rivers said.

The Arthur V. Mauro Student Residence suffered flooding in its lower level storage and mechanical rooms.

although none of the residence rooms were touched.

The plant science wing of the Agriculture block suffered flooding in its lower levels. The tunnel between the John A. Russell Building and Architecture II also saw up to 45 centimetres of water.

Rivers said insurance agents have been out to the university to assess damage – a list that includes everything from mechanical equipment and storage sections of walls touched by floodwater, to furniture.

Cromwell Restoration has been hired to clean up the areas but the restoration work itself is on hold.

“We're not going to do any restoration work until the river water subsides,” Rivers said. “Because with another thunderstorm this could happen again.”

Funding targets health challenges

The Office of University Accessibility would like to say Meegwetch/Thank You to the following Faculties and Departments for their generous contributions to the National Aboriginal Day on Campus which was held on Tuesday June 21, 2005 in the Quadriangle Fort Garry Campus.

• Office of the President
  - President Émoke Szathmáry
• Vice-Provost (Administration) – Debbie McCallum
• Department of Mathematics
• Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation Studies
• Faculty of Dentistry
• Faculty of Nursing
• Political Studies Department
• Housing & Student Life
• Faculty of Graduate Studies
• Student Counselling & Career Centre
• Student Affairs
• Faculty of Science
• Department of English
• University Teaching Services
• The Alumni Association

Meegwetch to our Elder Roger Armitte, for the opening prayer, and our great emcee Carl Stone, and to Vivian Gourcane for the great saw and banjo.

Special Meegwetch goes to Jason Cochrane and Candace Jourdain for all their time and excellent help in planning this event.
Under colonialism, Freeman said Europeans that weren't interested in exploiting Africa marched into the continent prepared to carry out the “white man’s burden” of uplifting the “savages.”

Freeman said that sense of dependency continued after the African countries attained their independence, particularly in the 1960s, with the new nations focusing on distribution and aid rather than production and trade.

In a similar spirit, people running assistance programs tried to solve a problem rather than working with the local people to develop a solution.

“One of the major barriers to achieving development is the dependency syndrome and that is rooted in history,” Freeman said. “Africa has been looking to the rest of the world to solve its problems and the attitude of northern countries has been that Africa can’t solve its own problems and the attitude of the rest of the world has been looking to the rest of the world to solve its problems and the attitude of northern countries has been that Africa can’t solve its own problems.”

People are saying Africa is our responsibility. We welcome outside assistance programs tried to solve a problem rather than working with the local people to develop a solution.

But having painted a bleak picture, Freeman said the attitudes in Africa and around the world seem to be changing and the change has taken place in just the past few years.

“People are saying Africa is our responsibility. We welcome outside assistance programs tried to solve a problem rather than working with the local people to develop a solution. It took longer for the essence of the principles of NEPAD to get across.”

Provincial education resources are supporting the province’s post-secondary education system as our institutions continue to provide a high-quality education to students.

Africa is ready to break with dependency syndrome

BY DALE BARBOUR

Nevermind the live 8 concerts held around the world and the G-8 Summit held in Scotland, the biggest changes happening in Africa aren’t about music or financial aid, they’re about attitude, according to Connie Freeman, the International Development Research Centre regional director for East and Southern Africa.

Freeman was at the University of Manitoba on June 24 to give a lecture entitled The New African Way.

IT'S A new way that Freeman says is breaking with the tradition of dependency in Africa.

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But having painted a bleak picture, Freeman said the attitudes in Africa and around the world seem to be changing and the change has taken place in just the past few years.

“People are saying Africa is our responsibility. We welcome outside assistance programs tried to solve a problem rather than working with the local people to develop a solution.”

IT'S different from previous plans that looked outward not inward. It’s about what Africans do, not what is done to them. First and foremost, NEPAD is a concept,” Freeman said.

It’s a concept that Freeman said was reflected in Tony Blair’s Commission for Africa, a document on African development released in the run up to the G-8 summit.

Freeman said NEPAD stresses African leadership in everything from agricultural development to establishing Africa’s place in global trade.

The Commission for Africa, meanwhile, is free of talk about the need to help Africa because of historic injustices and focuses on the need to work with Africa because it will create a stronger world.

It’s about time, Freeman said.

“IT’S time to move beyond the images of starving children. People see starving children instead of stock markets and thriving cities,” Freeman said. “I’d like to see the focus a little more balanced.”

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Education is an investment in our students and the future of our province.”

Eagle feathers find home at Aboriginal Student Centre

BY DALE BARBOUR

When public affairs administrative assistant Diana Gadway’s daughter Kelly found some eagle feathers by the family’s cottage on Granite Lake, near the Lake of the Woods, and thought they might make the perfect ingredient for an arts and crafts project.

But when Diana Gadway, Aboriginal Student Centre director Kali Storm, and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs received a giftbox and some tobacco in exchange for a collection of golden eagle feathers that she donated to Aboriginal Student Centre director Kali Storm. In this case the feathers were found and leaving the small bowl filled with the tobacco will ultimately be left for the eagles.

“We’re going to use them for an eagle staff for the office,” Storm said. “We’re going to use them for an eagle staff for the office.”

The feathers for the staff all have to be from the same family grouping.

As part of accepting the feathers, Storm gave Gadway a gift box in return and small quantity of tobacco. The box will go to Gadway’s family, the tobacco will be given to the eagles.

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Thomas takes philosophy journal under his wing

Journals edited by University Staff

By Dale Barbou
The Bulletin

When mathematics professor Robert Thomas first came across Philosophia Mathematica Series III it was a diamond in the rough. He couldn’t even find a publisher willing to print it.

But under his tutelage it has built up enough of a reputation that even Oxford University Press is willing to step forward and act as publisher.

Philosophia Mathematica has had several incarnations. It was created in the 1960s, died off and then was restarted again in the 1980s and then died off only to be relaunched in the 1990s.

“I first noticed it in the University of Toronto library when I was on sabbatical there in 1982/83,” Thomas said. At the time the journal rated a passing glance, but when Thomas was visiting Simon Fraser University in 1988/89 he looked it over with renewed interest.

While Thomas had made his academic career in mathematics, his undergraduate degree included a focus on philosophy. Years later, the subject was catching his interest again.

“I decided to look into this philosophy business a little bit more and Philosophia Mathematica was a natural place to go,” Thomas said. He did more than just pick up the journal, he entered into correspondence with the editor – so much so that when the editor decided to step down from the job in 1991, he asked Thomas to take over.

At the time there wasn’t that much to take over. The journal had a circulation of under 100, and the editor did most of the writing himself. Still, after some debate, Thomas decided to see what he could do with the journal.

“I sent him a dollar in return for the block. For more pictures of Sneaker Day go online to www.umanitoba.ca/news_video/ archive/sneakerday05/ “I arranged for about three dozen people to sit as an editorial board,” Thomas said. The board was international in scope, and while he looks after editing the journal, Thomas said it’s the editorial board that decides what the best articles for the journal are and which has the expertise to judge the articles that do come in.

“I couldn’t choose what to put in,” Thomas said. “I would probably end up putting in what I agree with.” Indeed he had only been involved in the study of the philosophy of math seriously for a few years before taking on the editor’s job with the journal. Now, nearly 15 years later, he is, of course, more proficient in the field – or as much as anyone can be when it comes to trying to understand math.

“The questions that we’re considering have been reflected on since Plato and before,” Thomas said. “People engaged in any intellectual activity want to make sense of it.” Math is no different because on the one hand people make math up, and yet they’re constrained in what they can make up.

The journal publishes three times a year. It could publish four times a year, but Thomas said the material just isn’t there to fill a fourth publication. It’s a tough field to write for and most of the material comes from philosophers, rather than mathematicians who decide to wax eloquent about their field.

Since Thomas took up the helm of Philosophia Mathematica, the number of people reading the journal steadily increased and it acquired a positive reputation. Enough so that when Thomas was juggling distributors in 2002 – one of the joys of being a self publisher – his editorial board told him that perhaps the time had come to see if a publisher was willing to take the job on.

“I started at the top and asked Oxford University Press,” Thomas said. They’re probably one of the world’s most prestigious journal publishers, and it didn’t hurt that Thomas was in Oxford on sabbatical at the time. “Immediately they came back and said, ‘let’s make a deal.’”

The transition has taken about a year and a half, but beginning this year the journal is now being published by OUP and that means that Thomas finally gets to focus completely on editing and not whether subscription funds are coming in or if the distributor is going to be able to send out the journal.

Another Sneaker Day success

People had plenty to walk about at the 16th annual Sneaker Day held June 15 at the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses. At Fort Garry, participants dressed up in colourful costumes and warmed up with Laurie Mustard before taking a walk around the campus. Bannatyne campus participants warmed up in the Brodie Centre before heading out for a walk around the block. For more pictures of Sneaker Day go online to www.umanitoba.ca/news_video/archive/sneakerday05/
Events
• The Bulletin publishes events involving the university community.
• E-mail events to barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca or fax, 474 7651.
• The deadline for the August 18 Bulletin is August 10 at 4:30 p.m.

Fort Garry Campus

THURSDAY, JULY 14

FRIDAY, JULY 15
Human Nutritional Sciences M.Sc. Thesis Defence, Dietary Soy Protein and Renal Disease Selectively Alter Cyclooxygenase Isoforms and Prostaglandin Production in Han-SRPRD-cy Rats by Claudine Peng, 206 Human Ecology, 3 p.m., Friday, July 15.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27
Philosophy M.A. Thesis Defence, Incommensurability Localized: Problems in Types of Justification by Ramon Rempel, 384 University College, 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 27.

Bannatyne Campus and St. Boniface Research Centre

THURSDAY, JULY 28
Division of Stroke and Vascular Disease, E2F6 Mediates A Repressive Regime Critical for Cell Cycle Control by Balwant S. Tuana, professor, department of pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Samuel Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface Research Centre, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, July 28.

Bannatyne Campus

Are you ready to hit the links?

This year it’s all about Room 229. The Making Links Enggering Classic is back on Aug. 17 with the goal of raising funds for the new engineering complex. This time the focus is on the APEGM Design Studio in Room 229 of the old Engineering 2 building, with the Faculty of Engineering, with the names and addresses (including email) of three references to:

- For information call 474 8111
- Letters to the editor
- Apply or to be nominated.

The University of Manitoba is seeking applications or nominations for a Canada Research Chair in the area of new building and design technologies.

Applications, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba).”

Remember, it’s YOUR Bulletin!

The Bulletin welcomes:
- news tips, photo ideas and event submissions.
- Letters to the editor
- Columns and opinion pieces on matters of interest to the university community

For information call 474 8111
Faculty of AGRICULTURE

Department of Crop Science

Position: Associate Professor

Start date: September 1

Salary: Competitive

For information: Dr. R.C. Swanton, Chair, Department of Crop Science,Box 732, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Department of Soil Science

Position: Instructor

Salary: Competitive

For information: Dr. A.K. Sunkel, Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Faculty of Arts

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Philosophy

Position: Assistant Professor

Salary: Negotiable

For information: Dr. Paul Cartledge, Department of Philosophy, Box 380, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Department of Physical Therapy

Position: Associate Professor

Salary: Competitive

For information: Dr. R. C. Swanton, Chair, Department of Crop Science, Box 732, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Department of Psychological Sciences

Position: Associate Professor

Salary: Competitive

For information: Dr. R. C. Swanton, Chair, Department of Crop Science, Box 732, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Department of Psychology

Position: Assistant Professor

Salary: Competitive

For information: Dr. R. C. Swanton, Chair, Department of Crop Science, Box 732, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6.

Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Position: Assistant Professor

Salary: Competitive

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Department of Physical Therapy

Position: Associate Professor

Salary: Competitive

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Department of Psychology

Position: Assistant Professor

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The impact of mad cow disease on prairie farmers

In the last two years, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, has had a devastating effect on Canada's cattle industry, but there has been very little research on how this crisis has affected individual farmers and rural communities. Stephane McLachlan wants to change that.

McLachlan, environment and geography, is studying the impact of mad cow disease on farmers and communities across the prairies. Over the next three years, his project will receive $182,062 in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

"Even though farmers are really important for the economy, they're marginalized as a voice," McLachlan said. "With this project, we're going to find out what's really happening in these communities with respect to the BSE crisis."

McLachlan said the mainstream media tend to focus on what he calls an "institutional analysis." They describe how governments are responding to the crisis, and the subsidization programs that have been put in place, while ignoring its effects at the community level.

"There has been virtually nothing describing the impacts of this disease on the individual farmers," he said.

"Even in Europe, and especially the UK, it's really striking how little is being done on the effects of BSE on the rural communities themselves."

The new research will examine how the risk and vulnerability to BSE varies among rural communities and between regions. McLachlan will draw on experience he gained in previous projects dealing with the impact of bovine tuberculosis and genetically modified crops, using surveys and focus group interviews to analyze the perceptions and experiences of the people who have been most affected.

The project will also study the ways in which rural communities have responded to the crisis. For example, many communities are looking at ways to increase their local slaughtering capacities.

"Part of this research is looking at what communities can do to increase their ability to cope in the future," he said. "Rural communities are all about volunteerism and people helping one another. We're trying to explore how to see not only how it's happening, but what people can do to facilitate it and to further adapt, and how that propensity towards adaptation might be applied to other kinds of crises."

McLachlan said society often underestimates the value of the traditional, experience-based knowledge found in rural communities.

"In a crisis like this, we tend to see them as passive, helpless victims, but this is simply not the case. Anybody who's spent a lot of time in rural communities realizes that they're adapting and responding, and meeting these risks head on."

Cameron's research focuses on the communication gap

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

If you're often surprised when your significant other doesn't give you the emotional support you need, maybe he or she is not as "oblivious" or "self-centered" as you suspect. It could be that you're just not as expressive as you think.

Jessica Cameron, psychology, is studying communication between partners in personal relationships, focusing on a phenomenon known as signal amplification bias. Over the next three years, her research will receive close to $62,000 in funding support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

"Whenever two people are communicating, they give each other both verbal and non-verbal signals," Cameron said. "With signal amplification bias, people may be amplifying the meaning of their signals, which means that they think they are coming across much more strongly than they actually are."

Signal amplification bias, Cameron said, is most likely to occur when insincere people are in situations that threaten their self-esteem. It can cause significant problems in personal relationships, especially when it occurs on a regular basis.

"This could be at least part of an explanation why insincere individuals tend to have less satisfying relationships," she said. "They're not as happy, and perhaps part of that is because they don't get the reaction they think they should get from their partners. With this bias, though, they may not have effectively communicated their needs."

Cameron uses two different techniques to study this phenomenon. The first involves interviewing people separately, asking them to imagine specific scenarios with their partners. Subjects are also asked to imagine the scenarios from two perspectives: asking their partner for help, as well as responding to their partner's request for help.

"Previous studies have asked the couple to simply talk about a personal problem, but couples experience a wide variety of problems, and it's difficult to control the type of communication they engage in," Cameron said. "What I try to do is give the partners a specific situation in the lab that will raise some anxiety, causing one to seek some sort of reassurance from the other. Immediately following the communication, I use questionnaires to assess exactly what a person's perceptions of that communication were."

The ultimate goal of Cameron's research is to develop some sort of intervention. "A broad intervention would be to simply teach people about signal amplification bias," she said. "For example, you could show someone a videotape of their communication to let them see that they're perhaps not as expressive as they perceive themselves to be. To get to that stage, though, we need to understand exactly why people are engaging in this bias."
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Venezuela

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New York

Miguel Zenon
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Date: Thursday August 18  Time: 8pm  Place: The Max Bell Centre on The U of M Campus
Tickets: Ticketmaster.ca 780-3333, $10 at the door, FREE for children under 14
Parking: FREE  Seating: Bring your own lawn chair