Two Powerful Women

U of M scholars make Top 100 list for trailblazing accomplishments

BY JANINE HARASYMCHUK
The Bulletin

Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, an expert in genetic diseases who championed DNA-based diagnostics in Winnipeg, and Janice Ristock, a women's and gender studies professor and vice-provost (academic affairs), and Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, head, department of pediatrics and child health.

She and her colleagues have identified the molecular source of some of Manitoba’s most devastating inherited diseases, including those most prevalent in the province’s Aboriginal, Mennonite and Hutterite communities. As a clinical geneticist at the Winnipeg Children’s Hospital, she is the principal investigator of an international, multi-centre clinical trial involving a new treatment for hypophosphatasia, a genetic bone disease that is rare worldwide yet common in Manitoba and select communities in Canada. Dedicated to helping children and families in crisis, Rockman-Greenberg and her team successfully treated the disease in 2008 with a new investigational drug.

“I was truly very touched and actually quite amazed, first when I heard I was being nominated by the University of Manitoba for this award and then when I learned I was actually a 2012 Top 100 Women WXN award recipient! I sincerely hope my receiving this award can help focus even more attention on the important roles played by research and ‘knowledge translation’ in improving the health of our children and youth.”

Ristock, a community psychologist, is an international leader in the development of gay and lesbian studies and an advocate for some of society’s most marginalized members. Her work in gender and sexuality has changed how society thinks about domestic abuse. She began researching violence in lesbian relationships in the late 1980s when there was only one trade book on the topic and little academic research, and read through uncharted territory in her groundbreaking 2002 book No More Secrets: Violence in Lesbian Relationships. Her research has helped inform policy makers about the lack of services that exist for these women; her efforts have changed the landscape of support programming. In other areas of her community-based research program, she has made crucial contributions to our understanding of how diversity and discrimination affects the health and wellbeing of individuals from women’s, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit and Aboriginal communities. Committed to human rights and social justice, Ristock collaborates with many community groups and is currently U of M’s vice-provost (academic affairs). “I was very surprised and feel very honoured to be acknowledged alongside Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg and previous winners, Wanda Wuttunee [and President Emeritus Imókē Szathmáry],” she says.

“We are extremely proud of Dr. Rockman-Greenberg and Dr. Ristock. In their own way, they have proved themselves as individuals who think outside of the box. They are leaders whose hard work has benefited many people,” said Digit Jayas, vice-president (research and international) at the U of M.
The Bulletin – January 17, 2013

The U of M in the News

Outsourced January 4, 2013

Biological sciences professor James (Jim) Roth spoke to the CBC about the strange goings-on in the Arctic. Arctic fox sightings around Hudson Bay are at an unprecedented low this winter, yet red fox sightings have suddenly been abundant in the region. The surprising pattern prompted observers to question whether the elusive Arctic foxes are being driven out of their dens by invading red relatives. Roth told the CBC that while it is “possible,” the dip is more likely to have been caused by another factor such as food resources, disease or parasites. Roth’s annual observations of both Arctic and red fox dens around Churchill, Man., show that the success of the two species is highly correlated. “However, in 2011 Arctic fox den success was among the lowest ever recorded, while red fox den was among the highest,” he said. Roth went on to say that a different prey species such as snowshoe hare may have been abundant in red foxes’ forest habitat but was not available to Arctic foxes hunting on the tundra terrain.

Holley: Rules only work if enforced December 27, 2012

The Globe and Mail, Calgary Herald, CBC, CTV, Farmer, Canadian Press, Saskatchewan Star (Phoenix)

Food science professor Rick Holley gave comment to the media about recent food safety issues. In early September U.S. food inspectors found E. coli bacteria in a shipment of beef from the XL Foods Ltd. plant in Brooks, Alta. The U.S. quickly closed its border to beef from the plant, which slaughters up to 40 per cent of Canada’s cattle. The event was damaging to many lives. And Holley said there is no excuse for the sanitation problems that led to the Brooks plant closing. Canada, Holley said, is respected around the world for the rules it has in place, but the problem is the rules are not enforced with the required vigor. “We see too much pressure being put on inspection staff to complete reports,” said Holley, who added that some inspectors need more training to effectively do their jobs. “They just have to get better at the proactive end of things.” Holley said the responsibility for food safety also rests with company owners. Holley said managers and supervisors must set clear operating standards for hygiene and strictly enforce them. Part of that responsibility is to ensure workers, often immigrants who speak English as a second language, are fully trained to understand what is expected of them. Workers must also feel comfortable about being able to speak up if they have concerns. Holley said food safety in meat plants is everyone’s concern, but ultimately it is the federal food inspection staff that set the tone. “There is a constant requirement for regulatory oversight, but that regulatory oversight must be viewed by the plant’s managers and staff as competent,” he said. “When the actives don’t appear to be competent, then you end up with people taking shortcuts, and outcomes such as we have seen at XL Foods.”

Who decides? Dec. 9, 2012

CTV National News

Philosophy professor Arthur Schafer spoke to CTV about issues facing the Supreme Court of Canada. In early December last year the court was about to decide on a case that asked who decides when a hospital patient is about to die. Schafer, who has previously held a seat in the court in 2006, spoke about the case and gave his thoughts on who the decision should fall to. He is hoping for a ‘living will’ to be created that respects doctor’s wishes. Schafer said the case will head off a debate that will be decided in two court rulings in favour of the family, the doctors appealed to the Supreme Court. Schafer said the case will head off a debate that will be decided in two court rulings in favour of the family, the doctors appealed to the Supreme Court. The family said the doctors acted contrary to the patient and doctor’s wishes. Schafer agreed that the Supreme Court would have to rule on the matter. “It is a case where there is no right answer,” he said. “The actives don’t appear to be competent, then you end up with people taking shortcuts, and outcomes such as we have seen at XL Foods.”

Remembering food services manager Daryl Lucyk

On behalf of the University of Manitoba’s leadership team, faculty and staff, I want to express our deep sadness at the passing of Daryl Lucyk on December 12, 2012. As Associated University’s general manager of food services and caretaking for the University of Manitoba, Daryl provided dedicated and invaluable service to our community and was a trusted and respected member of our team. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

In addition, I want to express our condolences to his colleagues in food services and caretaking who share our sadness and will miss his sound counsel and strong leadership.

Paul A. Kochan, Vice-President (administration)

PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Starting the year by celebrating student success

THERE IS NO BETTER TIME than the early days of the new year to celebrate the success of our outstanding students.

Many of you may have already heard that Thomas Toles has been named the University of Manitoba’s 97th Rhodes Scholar, the most of any university in Western Canada. That announcement was made in late November. All of our faculties and departments are contributing to this culture of excellence. Our most recent Rhodes Scholars represent the breadth of our academic disciplines including, science, arts, and social sciences.

We were also proud of the success which has been achieved by graduate students Amy Scott and Harlyn Silverstein who in 2012 were recipients of Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships.

In addition to these academic individuals, we are proud to recognize others who are already embracing the unexpected, defying convention and blazing new trails.

Christiane Fischer, Laura Poppel, Mathew Stewart, Melina Djulianc and Rebecca Kuzmanka will be joining our faculty at the GZO Student Forum April 17-21 that will bring together over 1,500 student leaders and academics in St. Petersburg, Russia.

I am very excited about the opportunities this conference provides for these student leaders. They will participate in discussions and build relationships that will shape the rest of their lives and ultimately change our world.

In addition, two first-year students set themselves apart before they started attending classes here this fall. Kimia Sheikholeslami and Alexa McAidan were selected among the 977 Canadian nominees to receive the first-ever Schulich Leader Scholarships.

The Schulich Leader Scholarships program recognizes students from across Canada who demonstrate excellence in academics and/or community leadership and who plan to study science, technology, engineering or mathematics, during their undergraduate years of study at university.

Finally, I want to recognize two other groups of outstanding students at the University of Manitoba. While I would like to acknowledge each by name, I am proud to say there are far too many to do so.

In September, I attended a reception celebrating more than 400 President’s Scholars. I was moved by the level of intelligence and social commitment of these young people.

In order to be a President’s Scholar, a student must be a current University of Manitoba student with a minimum average of 95 per cent. In order to retain this distinction, an individual must achieve a 4.0 Grade Point Average.

The fact that we have so many President’s Scholars is an indication of the quality of students who attend this university and maintain those high standards throughout their academic careers and the faculty who teach and mentor them.

I also want to recognize our 1,043 University 1 Honour Roll students. These are University 1 students who have an average of 3.5 or better. I am told this is one of the largest honour roll classes in our university’s history.

Past President’s Scholars often the best predictor of future behaviour so I look forward to even more success in the future.

Throughout our university’s history, many outstanding people have had their lives transformed by their experience at the University of Manitoba. Their success requires the commitment of family, faculty, staff, alumni as well as our community and government partners.

The students we are celebrating today are not only continuing that tradition of excellence, they are taking us to new and exciting places.

I am proud to have the opportunity to share in that journey.

President’s perspective

President’s perspective

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President’s perspective
In October, I provided my second update on the work of the health sciences cluster to assess the benefits and risks of a more integrated academic structure. As you know, this work stems from the conversation initiated by President David Barnard earlier this year about ways to create an academic structure that better reflects our size and scope, and enhances our ability to deliver on our shared mission of learning, discovery and engagement. In my October update, I indicated that we anticipated being in a position to advance a proposal to the University Senate for consideration and debate during our collegial governance processes.

On November 15, 2012, a Town Hall was held to which faculty, staff and students of the units comprising the health sciences cluster were invited. At this Town Hall, the tool is already being used by thousands of individuals from our two campuses, I presented for consideration and initial feedback two options for a more integrated structure in the health sciences. At the same time, next steps and associated timelines were on display, in terms of opportunities for input and feedback, and the process for formally considering a proposal for structural change. A copy of this presentation is available on my website. At the President’s Town Hall on November 19, 2012, I had an opportunity to provide a summary of this presentation to the wider university community.

Consultation on the options presented for consideration is ongoing, and I look forward to participating in these discussions over the next two months. I want to thank, once again, all those who continue to contribute to this conversation and encourage others to participate in this important discussion. Feedback on or questions about this initiative can also be submitted through a ‘feedback button’ on my website.

I look forward to hearing your views and receiving your suggestions, and will continue to provide updates as this initiative evolves.

ROSE initiatives streamline application procedure, space management

By Sandy Klowak
The Bulletin

Two ROSE initiatives are aiming to streamline their services to better serve students, as well as maximize the time and resources of staff.

Grad student enrolment management
A pair of innovative web-based tools has just been rolled out in the Faculty of Graduate Studies to make its application process more efficient and its relationships with students more dynamic.

The implementation of UMGradConnect is part of the graduate student enrolment management initiative within the ROSE program. Launched less than three months ago, in November 2012, the tool is already being used by thousands of prospective graduate students.

One aspect of UMGradConnect is an online application system that allows students to upload their own documents for application, facilitating a faster admissions process, and making it easier for departments to review applications in a competitive timeframe.

The system also includes communication tools to help graduate program offices build a connection with admitted students, sending out information that is relevant to them via email, like registration procedures and student award deadlines. It also provides easily-accessible admission statistics to staff on a regular basis.

“The old application system was somewhat cumbersome,” explains Faculty of Graduate Studies communications coordinator Doug Barkman. “Now as students begin to upload their documents, departments and Graduate Studies can all view it at exactly the same time so it removes the backlog, and that’s a huge benefit. We can now use our time evaluating a student more intelligently, rather than just processing papers.”

The new digital tools have pared down a former application system that was often overwhelming for students and faculty alike. “The system now could take just a few days,” says Gayle Tillie, admissions assistant in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

In addition, the tools facilitate communication between the units of the Faculty of Graduate Studies via customized emails to applicants.

Terry’s cause on campus
On January 26, 2013, the U of M joins many Canadian colleges and universities in Terry’s College and University Student Engagement (CAUSE) on campus, an initiative focussed on student engagement to raise awareness about cancer prevention and to help fundraise for the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. This event is co-hosted by Recreation Services and Student Life.

The event takes place at the Max Bell Field House with check-in at 2:30 p.m. and the indoor and outdoor run starting at 3:30 p.m. The indoor course is a 5km relay with 10 teams of five participants per team. The outdoor course is an individual 5km route consisting of three laps around Fort Garry campus. If the temperature is below −30 degrees centigrade including wind chill, the outdoor portion of the event will be cancelled.

Online registration closes January 12.

Research Day on the road for dentistry
By Grant Warren
For The Bulletin

The annual showcase of oral health student and faculty research will now be easily available to oral health professionals from across the province at Research Day 2013.

Student scientists, along with their academic counterparts, will present their latest achievements on January 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in room 16 on the first floor of the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The poster competition will take place throughout the day on the second floor.

The 2013 event marks the first time Research Day will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of oral health professionals in Manitoba held by the MDA, one of the largest provincial gatherings in the province.

“Oral health professionals throughout the province now have the opportunity to see, first-hand the outstanding quality of research undertaken at the Faculty of Dentistry,” says Raj Bhullar, associate dean (research). “We hope that the many professionals gathered here will take the time to visit us and gain a new appreciation for the work being done by the students and academics of their former school.”

Speakers are once again expected to deliver presentations that run the gamut, from scientific research to topics that cover everyday social and societal issues. Several award-winning scientists are already confirmed for the event.

While the event should appeal to oral health professionals in particular, Bhullar notes everyone will find something of interest during the half day of presentations.

“Research Day always offers something of interest and discovery for everyone,” says Bhullar.

“We hope to see everyone for what is always a fascinating day.”

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For more information about registering, see: www.umanitoba.ca/terryscause/

For more, see: umanitoba.ca/dentistry/
True North, Canada’s ‘final frontier’? Discussion

BY MARIANNE MAYS WIEBE

The Bulletin

“Where is the North?” A seemingly simple question, and one used by Norman Halden, professor, geological sciences, and dean, Clayton H. Ridley Faculty of Earth, Environment, and Resources, at the recent Visionary Conversations installment, “The True North: Canada’s Final Frontier.”

It “very much depends on your perspective,” he said. The discussion in the Visionary Conversations series, in its second year, took place on November 21 and featured four expert panelists from the U of M.

As part of Halden’s presentation, a slide of a geological map of North America demonstrated the North as an area incredibly rich in geological resources. He called this “the base layer” for why the North has become a “hot topic.” In addition to concerns about renewable energy and shipping considerations, he said, “[the issue of resources] is a political question coloured by the many who have a stake in it,” from consumers to producers to Northern peoples who live on the land and are working towards their independence. “Who pays the price, and who gets the benefits?” he asked.

The following speaker, Chris Trott, Native studies, and warden and vice-chancellor, St. John’s College, questioned the word “frontier” in the title itself. As opposed to the word “wilderness” coined by the word “frontier,” said Trott, there are people who live in the North and make it their home. Their traditional activities, including hunting, comprise a “highly productive, viable economy,” one that is neither subsidized nor that operates on tax incentives, he noted. Because we are constitutionally obligated and have formally agreed, through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, to support this economy, he said, “Are we willing to subsidize this economy to that extent [in the case that the economy is damaged due to environmental degradation or other issues of resource development]?

Unut Ôzu, Faculty of Law, covered the development of the Northwest Passage as another consideration. The mass melting of Arctic ice due to climate change, he said, means “that the passage we used to imagine as navigable by non-strengthened vessels by at least a part of the year by mid-century.” If the passage is granted status as an international passage, “Canada would have a limited number of rights over it.” However, if Canada’s argument that the passage “has always been, and always will be, internal waters” holds up, he said, the waters would be “governed by Canadian laws and regulations.” This, he contended, is actually the claim that would best serve concerns about international security or environmental degradation.

The final presenter of the evening was James Fergusson, director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, department of political studies, Faculty of Arts. According to Fergusson, the Canadian Arctic is a potential “hot topic,” in which “potential [military] threats will emerge to Canada’s claims” can be traced back to the Cold War, he said. Another factor is national claims to the Arctic; “a race to resources,” in which “potential [military] threats will emerge to Canada’s claims” can be traced back to the Cold War, he said.

The evening culminated in a lively question-and-answer period with the audience. “How are we going to prosper and benefit with Canada?” asked one audience member who self-identified as Indigenous. Norm Halden responded by saying that working in the North for 25 years he had many one-on-one conversations, “trying to learn what these things mean to the people.”

He suggested “a new model of sharing ... based on equity [is necessary] if we are going to move forward on this.” James Fergusson added, that while he couldn’t answer the question, “As long as this issue continues to be raised in sovereignty, jingoistic and nationalist terms […], the real, key issue is the issue you’re speaking of: ‘Because that’s where investment and resources need to go, to improve on the lessons, hopefully, we’ve learned from our past experiences, which have not gone well.’

“And Canada must forge ahead in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.”

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“And Canada must forge ahead in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.”
Faculty of Education students go north for teaching practicum

BY ANDREA DI UBALDO
For The Bulletin

When people hear the name of the Northern town of Gillam, Manitoba, they might imagine something cold, small and remote.

In November, four teacher candidates from the Faculty of Education embarked on the faculty’s first practicum placement at Gillam School in the Frontier School Division in years. The Northern practicum cohort (NPC), comprised of Sarah Barton, Lynne-Marie MacDuff, Dave Overgaard and Allison Steedsman, immersed themselves in the community and gain new experiences.

Upon arriving in Gillam, the NPC was treated to some warm hospitality, with tours around the area and invitations to movie nights and gatherings where they found themselves being taught local customs.

“The first thing I learned is that I am a ‘Southerner,’” laughed Barton, after attending a get-together with some locals. “I have also learned that going to a campfire on a day where it’s only 0 degrees Celsius outside does not require your Arctic parka. Everyone will know that you are not from Gillam!”

The NPC was able to experience many of the opportunities Gillam has to offer its residents. Overgaard attended a trapping course and is now legally entitled to trap animals in Manitoba. He also learned about trapping in the area and how education meets tradition.

“I met a man from the small town of Byrd who was there with his three sons,” said Overgaard. “He explained the community trapping area is part of a youth wilderness traditions program that encourages aboriginal youth to experience a traditional lifestyle which indicates a strong local influence in the education of youth — something that is perhaps missing in formalized education.”

MacDuff connected her Grade 3 Gillam class with students she taught in Thailand this past summer with the help of the northern lights. She had the Gillam students make pictures and write something about the lights to teach the Thai students. The NPC is returning to Gillam next spring and she can’t wait to see the Thai students’ responses. “It was a great way to open up the world to both groups of kids!” said MacDuff.

“It’s even more special because I’m returning to Thailand to teach the lights to teach the Thai students. The NPC is returning to Gillam next May!”

Barton and Steedsman helped to coach and prepare the school’s soccer team for the Frontier Games in Churchill with Barton lucky enough to attend the games.

“What an eye-opening, life changing week,” said Barton. “I began the week with a busy Monday at Gillam School, preparing students for the week without me. I ended it very proud to have been able to coach and show support to all of the Gillam athletes while in Churchill. They made me proud, and I hope made themselves proud as well.”

Each teacher candidate had very different experiences while on practicum, but Overgaard was so taken by his that he decided to stay longer.

“Practicum is over and I am still in Gillam, spending the Christmas break at the lake,” said Overgaard, after attending a get-together with some locals. “I have also learned that going to a campfire on a day where it’s only 0 degrees Celsius outside does not require your Arctic parka. Everyone will know that you are not from Gillam!”

The five weeks of practicum in Gillam flew by; I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences and developed some great relationships with my students that I will cherish always. It was a very different practicum experience than what I had last year, and as such created some of the best learning experiences I could have.

~ Lynne-Marie MacDuff, early years teacher candidate

It’s been nine days in Gillam so far and the town has been very welcoming. Sarah and I were taken on a tour of the Long Spruce Dam. The tour was filled with laughter and good times, while learning about the processes of Manitoba Hydro. It was unreal to see how large the dam is and the process behind making electricity.

~ Allison Steedsman, middle years teacher candidate

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~ Allison Steedsman, middle years teacher candidate

~ Sarah Barton, middle years teacher candidate

I had a great time in Gillam during the first term practicum. I would encourage anyone who can live without the conveniences and routines of the urban environment to pursue such opportunities and gain a different perspective on just what the education system means.

~ Dave Overgaard, senior years teacher candidate

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>> Read more about the adventures of the NPC on the Faculty of Education newblog at blogs.cc.umanitoba.ca/education

Top, left: Lynne-Marie MacDuff works the clay in the art studio. Top right: Sarah Barton and Allison Steedsman at the beach. Above: Allison and Sarah at the Long Spruce Manitoba Hydro-Electric Dam.

Left: Sarah works on some math problems with her students.

Submitted photos.
SPECIAL FEATURE: STUDENTS AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

BRETT SHEFFIELD HAN'T LET A SECOND OF HIS TIME at the U of M go to waste. This busy agriculture diploma student nor only runs two businesses but also finds time to make a difference in the U of M community, and beyond.

Sheffield is the owner of Sheffield Farms, a farm near Pilot Mound he expanded from 160 acres to 1,700 acres, and Stay Fit Health Club, a community fitness centre he revitalized. Last November, he went to New York to compete as Canada’s representative in the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, an international competition for high school, college and university students running their own businesses. Sheffield placed third in the finals.

In addition to course work and managing his two businesses, this busy student, who plans to graduate this spring, was able to establish a local chapter of Enactus, an international organization that connects university students with corporate partners to enact collaborative projects. In Manitoba, says Sheffield, the organization is “working towards creating sustainable business ideas that will help create jobs and fight hunger across the province.”

How has it been working on your two businesses while being in school? I owe a lot of my success in both of my businesses to the Agriculture Diploma program. Professors and mentors that I met while in school allowed me to expand my business and to gain a second opinion on decisions that I thought were risky. The incredible staff in this program met with me for many hours outside of class to help me build my business to what it is today.

Describe an opportunity provided to you by the U of M that has been meaningful to you: One of the greatest opportunities so far has been teaching grade 6 students from Ecole Robert H. Smith in Winnipeg. I was contacted by the grade 6 teacher, and I agreed to come and speak to the class. The Faculty of Agriculture and I provided these young students with the first agriculture program in their curriculum in the history of their school. We also took them on a field trip to the Farm and Food Discovery Centre, and the reception from the students has been incredible.

KODLEY BOUCHANTHALA IS A MASTER’S STUDENT in the Physician Assistant program (PAEP) in the Faculty of Medicine. Offered through the faculties of Medicine and Graduate Studies, it was Canada’s first and remains its only university-based, master’s level physician assistant program. Bouchantala was three years old when the United Church sponsored his family to come to Canada after they’d fled Laos to Thailand. The family of five settled in Morden, where Bouchantala attended high school and became valedictorian. After graduation, he moved to Winnipeg to attend the U of M.

A self-described “steadfast science nerd,” Bouchantala says he chose the program because it aligned with his skills and interests. He enjoys applying scientific principles, but also wanted “to leave a footprint in the health care field.”

He also enjoys the close relationship and bond among those within the program. The program is a unique way to honour the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

On his plans and integrating his acquired knowledge: Given my history as a refugee, I am intrigued to explore the impact of a physician assistant in a specialized international clinic. When considering the determinants of health for refugees, it is apparent that there are concerns with socioeconomic status, education, family planning and mental health. Thus, it is imperative that an efficient health care system is in place to provide quality primary care for landed immigrants. A possible solution is the integration of physician assistants to mitigate the demands for health services. I am grateful to be a part of a program that creates an opportunity to research a topic that is so important to me.

MÁSTER’S STUDENT LEO BASKATAWANG has found a unique way to honour the stories of Indigenous people through his academic work.

“I committed myself to carry out a path of studies that would enable me to give something back to my community,” he says. And for Baskatawang, that path was a major in Native studies, under the wing of professor Renate Lingenbrock, head of the department. With her help, he has been able to shape his academic career to focus on Native studies through the lenses of politics and literature.

Leo Baskatawang.

“The knowledge I acquired through my study in Native Studies, enabled me to think in a proactive way about Indigenous issues, and my role in facilitating awareness about such issues. I wish to continue this line of research, as well as to make this knowledge accessible to the general public.”

On his educational career: The knowledge I acquired through my study in Native Studies, enabled me to think in a proactive way about Indigenous issues, and my role in facilitating awareness about such issues. I wish to continue this line of research, as well as to make this knowledge accessible to the general public.

BASKATAWANG MASTER’S STUDENT

BY SANDY KLOWAK

The annual Career Fair took place on January 16. It was a chance for students to get out and explore the employment options that await them.

Part of Career Week, which took place from January 9 to 16, the Career Fair hosted a number of employers interested in recruiting U of M students for summer, part-time and full-time and volunteer opportunities with their organizations.

Last year, the 2012 Annual January Career Fair was a huge success, with 95 employers participating and over 4,000 students attending. It was an opportunity for employers to connect with students from all university faculties.

The Career Fair is held by Career Services and the Career Development Centre at the Asper School of Business. The Career Development Centre provides a variety of resources for students looking for tips on how to market their skills, write a great resume, explore their career options, speak to a career advisor, or just collect salary or labour market information.

Career Services assists all undergraduates and graduate students (including incoming students accepted to the University of Manitoba and alumni up to six months after graduation) at the University of Manitoba with career planning and job search issues.

Career Services also works with employers to help meet their recruitment needs. With a student population of over 28,000, these services are available to employers all year.

Drop by the Career Services office at 474 University Centre from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, for assistance with your career planning needs and questions, or call 204-474-9456.

Stop by the centre, located in room 25 in Drake Centre, or call (204) 474-6596.

>> See more: umanitoba.ca/student/ counselling/2855.html

Kodley Bouchantala.
Emily Choy has always been passionate about the Arctic. Now her PhD research at the U of M allows her to work closely with northern communities as well as with a diverse array of science and climate change experts on campus. “I've always been interested in the Arctic and I wanted to do research that would help a community,” she says.

The doctoral student in biological sciences is working at the Freshwater Institute, studying the consequences of climate change on the Beaufort Sea. “I am very welcoming and approachable, rounding out a positive U of M experience.”

When she finishes her PhD, Choy says she hopes to become a university or college professor, and would also snap up a chance to work closely with another northern community.

Choy says she’s glad the U of M puts a high emphasis on Arctic and climate change research, an area she feels is very important, and one that helped her choose the U of M for her doctoral studies. “I love research and I love sharing that research with people,” she says.

Matthew Packer.

Matthew Packer.

Matthew Packer.

Matthew Packer.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.

Emily Choy.
January 17, 2013

FACULTY PROFILE

STEVE KIRBY, JAZZ STUDIES, MARCEL A. DESAUTELS FACULTY OF MUSIC

Steve Kirby finishes many of his sentences on the strings of his bass. That’s because for this veteran musician, a professor in the Faculty of Music who is also the director of jazz studies, jazz is a universal language, through which he strives to communicate with his students and fellow musicians.

Born of a confluence of African and European cultures, jazz has a unique ability to break down cultural and social barriers through its ability to communicate on a level all humans can tune in to, says Kirby. “I like the understanding of music that you get from jazz. It’s very organic,” he says. “Your instrument becomes your mouth — music becomes the language that you speak.” Kirby got an unlikely late start in the music biz. His youth in St. Louis was marred with gang violence that left many of his friends dead or maimed. Able to escape that life despite what he was used to, Kirby enjoys what he says is the “gentle giant” in recognition of his giant talent as well as his gentle and giant spirit. From 2009 to 2012, Jimmy made a tremendous impact in our Faculty as a performer, teacher, and colleague. Ana’s older brother Isaiah, a bright and exceptional boy, was in another classroom at the time of the shooting and was safely reunited with his parents. The Marquez-Greene family moved to Connecticut. One of the victims was a vivacious, talented, and beautiful six-year-old girl named Ana Grace Marquez-Greene. Ana’s dad is our colleague, Jimmy Greene. In the international jazz community, Jimmy is often called “the gentle giant” in recognition of his giant talent as well as his gentle and giant spirit.

He signed on as the director of jazz studies with the U of M in 2003. While a different pace from what he was used to, Kirby enjoys the new opportunity to teach and to have an impact on the lives of his young family, and Kirby was on the lookout for a job that would allow him to spend more time with his wife and three children.

Credited with helping turn his life around, it was only after getting a bachelor of music in St. Louis, Kirby acquired his master’s degree in jazz composition from the Manhattan Faculty of Music. He cut his teeth in many well-known jazz joints in New York, making a name for himself as a bass player. As time went on, though, he found the irregular musician’s schedule, which required a lot of time away from home, to be overwhelming. Ultimately the jazz took over.

“`It’s more suitable to have a mentor that helps you because you wind up having to discover yourself and who you are, to get what they want out of their musical education. That dream of themselves as more than just some person in a hallway working through this factory model of education. It encourages them to have an aesthetic opinion and share it, to work together with other students to create something beautiful.” — Sandy Klowak

Kirby: “I like the understanding of music that you get from jazz. It’s very organic”

IT’S EASY TO BE BEGUILED by the glossy, stylized world of forensic crime TV shows, in which science and law come together seamlessly to solve the perfect murder ever. But the reality is far more complex and imperfect, according to a new book authored by three professors. The Law of Science and the Science of Law: Cases in Forensic Science by Hyman Davidson Gesser, A. Burton Bass and Bradley Myers aims to break through the pop culture myths to explain how science really interacts with the law in a court setting. The international trio of authors consists of Gesser, a U of M professor emeritus of chemistry, Bass, a retired U of M law professor, and Myers, a law professor at the University of North Dakota.

The law and regulations governing law are well beyond the lay person and in many situations, a knowledge of science helps TV law is a major simplification of reality. The role of scientific evidence is seldom displayed, probably because the technical aspects of crime are inaccessible doors.

“The rules and regulations governing law are well beyond the lay person and in many situations, a knowledge of science helps to illustrate the practical application of science in real-life legal circumstances. The book provides a wealth of information for each case, including scientific data, scientific reports and court judgments.” — Sandy Klowak

BYU OF M STAFF AND FACULTY


What inspired you to write this book?

My next door neighbour in River Heights was a lawyer and we had many chats over the back fence about his cases. He (A. Burton Bass) often called on me as an expert witness for his cases. He eventually returned to university for a graduate degree and joined the Law School as a professor. While cleaning up my office at home I came across the file of all my legal cases and decided to put some of these into a book.

How do you feel television portrayals of forensic science differ from reality?

“`TV law is a major simplification of reality. The role of scientific evidence is seldom displayed, probably because the technical aspects of crime are inaccessible doors.” — Sandy Klowak

Hyman Gesser is professor emeritus in the department of chemistry.
The new state-of-the-art features of the Dafoe Library include access to high quality and personalized service at a new ‘one-stop shop’ service desk. Versatile furniture can be rearranged for individual or group work. The new space also features self-serve circulation kiosks, an open-access reserve collection for convenience and an interactive media space.

The renovations also include a stunning entrance with lots of natural light, warm and plentiful energy-efficient lighting, attractive mill and floor finishes, flexible display cases, photocopiers located in vented rooms, security cameras, and new signage to come. The cost of the first phase of the project was $5M and involved renovations of 24,000 sq. ft., including mechanical and electrical upgrades with additional computer wiring.

The next phase of the renovation project will involve the design of several wired group study rooms in the northwest corner of the floor by the windows. It will also include meeting rooms, multipurpose electronic classrooms, and a writing center, plus additional upgrades to the 2nd and 3rd floors.

For information, see: umanitoba.ca/libraries

THE NEIL JOHN MACLEAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY (NJM Library) is “getting graphic!” The library at the Bannanaye campus has acquired a comprehensive collection of health-related graphic novels for the Dr. Georgina Hogg Consumer Health Collection. All of these graphic novels have narratives that revolve around medicine and health care. The stories are often autobiographical, and sometimes take a quite-explicit look at the experiences of coping with illness and treatment.

Graphic novels use juxtaposed images and dialogue as a medium for storytelling. Not only are they entertaining, there is also an education element in many of the books. As Green & Myers write in their article on the use of comics in patient care, “Graphic stories have been used to promote public awareness and enhance patient care for various problems including substance abuse, HIV, diabetes and mental illness.”

A particularly interesting graphic novel series now available at the NJM library is the “With the Light” series by Keiko Tobe. These books are Manga (Japanese comics) and the story is of a young mother raising her autistic son. Beautifully illustrated and an accessible read, it may resonate deeply with readers who are parents of children with autism.

Another recommended choice is Epileptic by David B. This is a chronicle of Jean-Christophe (David’s older brother) who has severe epilepsy. Though many different and often spiritual treatments are tried, they are portrayed as dead ends. The author uses visual metaphors of writhing monsters to depict the effect of the illness on the characters.

The library’s collection includes graphic novels on a plethora of topics, including cancer, autism, mental health and mental illness, reproductive health and health practitioner’s stories. The graphic novels will be on the shelves and available for anyone to check out. These books are meant to be read and enjoyed. Graphic novels can be checked out if you have a U of M library card or a consumer health library card, available to anyone for free at circulation.

The NJM library is located on the second floor of the Brodie Centre at 770 Bannanaye.

>> The website of the Consumer Health Library (part of the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library) can be found here: libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/consumerhealth

– Kim Parry, consumer health librarian, NJM Library

ART EXHIBITIONS

What are you scared of?

January 18 to March 1

School of Art Gallery, 255 ArtLab, 180 Dalwood Road

Exhibition opening reception: Jan. 30, 12:00 p.m. | /opening reception, Jan. 31, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Home-grown collage artist Bonnie Marie’s newest project plays with the intersection of humour and the grotesque in a series of haunting images inspired by secret fears and anxieties as well as inner-most desires. The exhibition “What are you scared of?” includes wax reliefs and sculpture, and is on display at the University of Manitoba from January 18 until March 1.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

All music events at The Great Hall (186 - 188 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB). Tickets are $5 (unless otherwise noted).

Saturday, January 19 | 6:00 p.m. | University Singers annual fundraising dinner and auction. 6:00 p.m. cocktails & hors’ d’oeuvres, 7:00 p.m. dinner & entertainment. Tickets $75.00 per person or $25.00 for a table of eight. Fort Garry campus, 2nd floor University Centre, McLuhan Hall. For information, to purchase tickets, or to provide an auction item, contact Elroy Friesen, choral director: Elroy.Friesen@ad.umanitoba.ca

Sunday, January 27 | 7:30 p.m. | Faculty brass quintet concert. Richard Gillis, Paul Jeffery, Ken MacDonald, Steve Dyer and Chris Lee present a concert at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 850 North Dr. Tickets $10 or $25 family.

Wednesday, January 30 | 7:30 p.m. | University Wind Ensemble at the WSO New Music Festival. Under the direction of Fraser Linklater. The concert takes place at Portage Theatre. Selections include Staniland’s “Four Horsemen” and Reich’s “Vermont Counterpoint” (flutes only). Contact WSO for ticket information.

Monday, February 4 | noon | Faculty at midday. Laura Loewen & University of Western Ontario faculty members

Thursday, February 7 | School Concert: U of M Wind Ensemble. “An hour of great wind ensemble and wind chamber music for band students. Cost is only $2 per student; teachers and chaperones free. Seating is limited to about 120. To reserve seats, email Fraser Linklater. In Great Hall, University College.

Friday, February 8 | 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. | XIE at Midday. “Dance Fantastique” repertoire includes Serrano’s “Concertango” and Berlioz’s “March to the Scaffold,” along with other selections. At Jubilee Place, McNenney Brethren Collegiate Institute. Tickets $15/5/5.

Friday, February 8 | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. | University Wind Ensemble & Concert Band. “Dance Fantastique” repertoire includes Serrano’s “Concertango” and Berlioz’s “March to the Scaffold,” along with other selections. At Jubilee Place theatre, McNenney Brethren Collegiate Institute. Tickets $15/$5.

Monday, February 11 | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. | University Symphony Orchestra. Premier of a new work by our own composition student, Michael Ducharme, and Symphony No. 4 by Bruckner. Richard Lee, conductor. Tickets $15/$5 at the door. At Westminster United Church, 1750 Grosvenor Ave.

February 11 to 13 | 8:00 p.m. | Musical Theatre Performances. The university’s Musical Theatre Ensemble under the direction of Donna Fletcher presents “For Jay” in memory of Jay Dirks, a student in his final year of the Integrated Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education degree and member of the ensemble. Dirks passed away in late August 2012 after a six-month fight against cancer. The performances take place February 11, 12 and 13 at 8:00 p.m. at the Gas Station Arts Centre, 445 River Avenue. Tickets $15/$10 at the door.
FORT GARRY + BANNATYNE CAMPUS

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY SEMINAR

FORT GARRY CAMPUS

Friday, January 18 | 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.

“Superconductor and Dark Energy” by Christopher J. Pritchett, physics and astronomy, University of Victoria. In 320 Allen Building.

HLPRI SEMINAR SERIES

Friday, January 18 | 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.


NATIVE STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SERIES

WINTER 2013 — FORWARD MOTION:

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE

Wed., Jan. 23 | 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

“Language Rights in the Canadian Constitution” by Michel Bastarache, C.C. Counsel, Herman Blaikie, Litigation Department. In Moot Court Room, Faculty of Law, Robson Hall.

TWO LECTURES BY ROBBIE ETHERDIE, ANTHROPOLOGY

Thursday, January 24 | 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.


Friday, January 25 | 2:30 p.m.


SOCIAL MEDIA & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR

Friday, January 25 | 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

“Hi-tech is NOT always Hi-tech: A discussion on the effectiveness of social media” by Michael Bolden, Dr. Ira Cohen, Killam Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work, this seminar operates: Two decades of research on social media in a western health facility. He/she will teach medical students via lectures & in small groups.

SHANTOU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL, a rapidly growing medical school located in the coastal Guangdong Province of China (40-minute flight from Hong Kong) that is jointly funded by the government and Li Ka Shing Foundation, is recruiting full or part time clinical instructors. The school will provide a 12-month stay is most preferable, shorter duration is negotiable. The school will provide

For Information: Dr. K.S. Sharma, Head, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, CANADA R3T 2N2, email sharma@physics.umanitoba.ca, website physics.umanitoba.ca, tel. (204) 474-9817, fax (204) 474-6722.

SCHOOL OF ART

Friday, February 1, 2013

Full-time tenure track position at the rank of Assistant Professor, Contemporary Art History and Theory - Social and Cultural Theory.

Deadline: March 11, 2013 (review of applications continues until position filled)

For Information: Mary Ann Steggles, Chair, School of Art, Chair, Art, Design, Technology and Fine Art. Fax 204-474-8685, Tel. 204-474-6722. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for the position.

For Information: Mary Ann Steggles, Chair, School of Art, Chair, Art, Design, Technology and Fine Art.

U OF M PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES 2012-2013

Friday, March 1

René El-Gabalawy, clinical psychology, U of M. Veneberg award winner.

RESEARCHCOMPASS

Poster session & social hour

Friday, March 22

Dr. Ira Cohen, New York Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities. Talks start at 3:00 p.m. in P122 Dafoe Room unless otherwise noted. Refreshments and snacks served 30 minutes before all talks in the psychology lounge. A wine and cheese will follow.

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CLASSIFIED AD

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

U OF M PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES 2012-2013

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By Katie Chalmers-Brooks

For The Bulletin

Researcher Royce Koop has some good news for Canadian democracy: voters do in fact care about what members of Parliament do on the job, and will reward—or punish—them at the polls.

Koop is part of an international research group that discovered that MPs who introduced a private member bill had a seven per cent greater chance of winning their seat again.

“We were pretty shocked by this, shocked in a good way,” says Koop, noting that study after study reveals Canadians are disenchanted by how they’re represented in Ottawa. “It does seem that people are paying attention, maybe more than we give them credit for. Politicians should be aware of that.”

Proving whether or not representative democracy works as it’s designed to is tough. A key component of this political model requires citizens notice and respond to the behaviour of their elected officials. “But establishing that this relationship exists is actually tricky because many other variables intervene at some point,” says the political studies assistant professor.

He and his research colleagues (from Toronto, San Diego, Calif., and Williamsburg, Va.) figured out a way to eliminate these variables. They were first to recognize that the way private member bills are awarded to Canadian MPs provides the element of randomness required for a natural experiment. The Speaker of the House of Commons draws from a hat the names of those chosen to present a bill dealing with an issue of the MP’s choosing—from the repercussions of selling a local hospital to the creation of harsher penalties for offenders who wear masks during riots. The 308 MPs of the House of Commons are equally likely to be selected, Koop says. It’s random and requires no intervention from outside the political process.

Researchers south of the border have done a lot of this type of observational research but that hasn’t been the case so far in Canada. “We’re trying to be trailblazers in this area,” Koop says.

Political studies assistant Prof. Royce Koop of Political Science, widely considered the discipline’s top journal. The study stretched five years and covered the 2006 and 2008 federal elections. The researchers also compared their findings with Election Canada survey results which showed MPs who introduced bills experienced additional benefits: more campaign donations and greater likability among constituents.

Koop is now delving deeper into the phenomenon. The findings were recently accepted in The American Journal of Political Science, widely considered the discipline’s top journal. The study stretched five years and covered the 2006 and 2008 federal elections. The researchers also compared their findings with Election Canada survey results which showed MPs who introduced bills experienced additional benefits: more campaign donations and greater likability among constituents.

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The programming team is three third-year undergraduate students: Josh Jung, Aman Sachar and Alex Sachs. Jung is in computer science, while Sachar is in computer engineering and Sachs is in actuarial mathematics. The three met in high school at River East Collegiate. Jung notes, “I thought it would be a fun thing to do, so I recruited my friends to join in.”

To make it to world finals, more than 300,000 students participate in local contests worldwide, in which institutions select teams for the next level of competition. Nearly 30,000 students from 91 countries participated in regional contests this past fall, with the U of M team competing in the North-Central North America region that includes Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario as well as teams from across the American Midwest. Out of 259 teams, Manitoba placed in the top ten and snagged a wildcard spot for a berth in the world final.

Only 115 teams get an invitation to the World Finals, and only six Canadian university teams made the final cut: UBC, Calgary, Lethbridge, Manitoba, Waterloo and Toronto.

According to the sponsor of the contests, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, “These teams represent the best of the great universities on six continents — the cream of the crop.”

The contest pits teams of three university students against eight or more complex, real-world problems with a grueling five-hour deadline. ACM describes the contest as a “battle of logic, strategy and mental endurance” in which competitors race against the clock “huddled around a single computer.”

Bisons With Byte will travel to the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), International Collegiate Programming Contest 2013 World Finals in St. Petersburg, Russia, in June 2013.

L to r: Melina Djulancic, Rebecca Kunzman, Christiane Fischer, Matthew Stewart and Laura Poppel. The students selected to represent the U of M at the G20 Youth Forum April 17 to 21.

STUDENT DELEGATION SELECTED FOR G20 YOUTH SUMMIT

Five students and five professors from the U of M are going to the G20 Youth Summit in St. Peters burg Russia in April of 2013. Students selected for the delegation are: Melina Djulancic, a second year law student originally from the former Yugoslavia; Laura Poppel, a second year law student, significant focus on international law and human rights; Matthew Stewart, a second year B.Comm. student at Asper, International Marketing; Chrissi Fischer, a third year political studies student and an Academic All Canadian athlete (basketball) who is originally from Germany; and Rebecca Kunzman, a first year U1 student who participated in the G8 and G20 summits in 2010 in Toronto. Five faculty members have also been selected to make the delegation ten members in total. Look for future updates.