Hicks scores a knockout

Geoff Hicks, senior investigator at the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology (MICB), a joint institute of the University of Manitoba and CancerCare Manitoba, is co-leading the Canadian component of “The International Knockout Mouse Project," a genomics research project aimed at better understanding human genetic diseases.

Supported by Genome Prairie with funding from Genome Canada, Hicks and his team are working with scientists from around the world to create a library of genetic mutations in mouse cells - a powerful research tool with possibilities in furthering research on cancer and hereditary diseases. The project was launched at the Hotel Fort Garry on Oct. 14, with a broadcast link to Italy.

“The impact of this project is expected to be on the same scale as that of the sequencing of the human genome project itself," said Hicks, director of the Mammalian Functional Genomics Centre at MICB and a recipient of a Canada Research Chair in Functional Genomics.

“Indeed, with our approach, we will be able to identify and characterize the functions of mouse genes more rapidly and consequently speed up our understanding of the role of genetic changes in the development of human diseases.

Mice are excellent research models for studying human diseases. While it used to take one to two years to produce a cell line for a single knockout mouse, Hicks’ unique approach, using gene trapping techniques, is allowing the project and its international partners to each produce up to 1,000 distinctive cell lines each month. Currently, there are 16,000 cell lines located at MICB. This collection represents about 10 per cent of the total mouse genome, all of which has been completed in Winnipeg.

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Climb aboard the Amundsen

Research vessel tracks climate change across Canada’s North

BY DALE BARBOUR

Climb aboard the CCGS Amundsen – restocking its larder and compiling the results of weeks of sampling in Hudson Bay.

The Oct. 14 tour brought members of ArcticNet to see the Amundsen while it was docked in Churchill last week – restocking its larder and compiling the results of weeks of sampling in Hudson Bay.

The Oct. 14 tour brought members of the University of Manitoba, government officials and members of ArcticNet to see the Amundsen while it was docked in Churchill and learn about its mission.

The big picture that the Amundsen is looking at is global warming, which projects rising temperatures as the sustained combustion of fossil fuels increases the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gasses that trap solar energy.

“You hear a lot about climate change. It’s an important thing for the planet but it’s a really important thing for poles,” Barber said. Simulations of the possible impact of global warming show that the Arctic will be hit first and hardest by global warming.

As a theory, global warming is still hotly contested, but what researchers such as Barber do know is that the Arctic has been warming up – chopping the amount of perennial ice cover in the Arctic by 6 per cent per decade since 1979.

“Whether it’s going through a natural cycle or due to greenhouse gases these things are real and they are changing,” Barber said.

The Arctic could potentially be free of perennial ice cover by 2050 leading to dreams that the fabled northwest passage linking the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean via the Arctic Ocean might become a viable sea route – a northwest passage that would make matters of sovereignty in the north critical.

See ARCTICNET/P. 2

From left, University of Manitoba graduate student ZouZou Kuzyk explains the research she is conducting on the sea floor to president Emőke Szathmáry, Manitoba Advanced Education Minister Diane McGifford and Churchill high school student Ryan Wasylykoski during a tour of the CCGS Amundsen on Oct. 14.

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The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba
ArcticNet puts focus on climate change in the North

The University of Manitoba Bulletin is published by the Public Affairs department every second Thursday from September to May and monthly from June to August.

Editor: Dale Barbour
Contributors: David Leibl, Chris Rutkowski, Frank Nolan
Printing: Derksen Printers

From Page 1.

The mapping being conducted by the Amundsen will play a role in that discussion because offshore sovereignty is typically dictated by the breadth of the continental shelf.

The Amundsen, incidentally, was named after explorer Roald Amundsen who navigated the northwest passage in 1906. In 1907, he shipped the Gjoa.

In over Europe, similar dreams of navigating across the northern coast of Russia seem more real by the day – an idea that Barber saw for the first time this fall when he joined a Russian icebreaker for a trip that took them across much of Russia’s northern coast.

But the Amundsen is also about the small picture. All of that research data has to be gathered and studied, which is where the researchers and graduate students on the Amundsen come in, and where the magic of the Amundsen truly begins.

“There’s a great camaraderie among the students. We’re all focused on learning,” said University of Manitoba graduate student Zou Zou Kuzyk, her focus is on the sediment and earth samples drawn from the seafloor. “We’re constantly sticking our heads in each other’s labs and asking, ‘What are you seeing?’”

“I don’t know about zooplankton, but when I see the students looking at it and what they’re finding, it means I’m that much more likely to see the links between their work and mine,” Barber said.

Kuzyk said. Exactly the sort of big picture thinking that ArcticNet hopes can come of a research vessel like the Amundsen.

Kuzyk actually applied for the graduate program at the University of Manitoba with the hope of traveling through the north on the Amundsen. The six weeks of sampling she’ll do on the boat is really just the beginning of the process – she’ll spend the better part of a year when she gets home to Winnipeg converting those samples into useable information about the seafloor.

If Kuzyk represents one group of students on the Amundsen, the Schools on Board students represent a different group entirely. Six high school students and three teachers from across Canada joined the Amundsen in Churchill as part of the University of Manitoba-administered Schools on Board program they will travel on the final leg of the journey through Hudson Bay and on to Quebec City.

For Churchill resident Brian Wasylkoski the trip to the Amundsen was no trouble at all, he just climbed on board when it docked in his home town.

“I was pretty nervous at first, but now I’m getting to know everybody,” Wasylkoski said.

Windsor Park Collegiate student Kaye Lapenskie also received the nod to travel on the Amundsen. Like Wasylkoski, she sees it as the trip of a lifetime.

“For a career I’ve always thought of doing something in science. I never thought I would be on an icebreaker but I thought I would be doing some sort of research,” Lapenskie said.

Schools on Board program coordinator Lucette Barber said the students will be taught a different discipline of research during each of their 13 days on the ship. At the end of the trip they will be given a lecture about how all those different disciplines fit together – the sort of big picture that Kuzyk is getting when she peaks in at her fellow researchers.

As the name implies though, Schools on Board is intended to do more than just train six students and three teachers.

“We’re trying to involve the whole school, not just six kids,” Barber said. To that end, the students log their journey online at www.arcticnet-ulaval.ca so that their classmates, and any other interested groups for that matter, can follow their progress. And to have them on the trip ends in Quebec City, the job of telling people what they’ve learned will just begin.

“They’re going to come off the Amundsen with a power point presentation that they’ll be able to deliver to their classes or other groups,” Barber said. “We want as much outreach as we can get.”

In as much as it has been converted into a research vessel, the Amundsen is still a Coast Guard vessel, and is typically staffed by Coast Guard members at least part of the year. Riding shiped over the various researchers and students on Amundsen’s captain Alain Gariepy.

On some level, Coast Guard ships have always doubled as platforms for research, but usually only for short terms and none of them have been converted to do what the Amundsen can do.

“It’s great,” Gariepy said. “The more we get, the more we do, the better it is for us.”

The Amundsen has also worked closely with people in the north, inviting local people on board to share their knowledge of the local area and providing health outreach programs stretching into a research vessel into breast cancer screening and blood-testing facilities.

“We get along well. We’re not just scientists, we’re part of the community. We’re part of the team,” Barber said. “We’re not just collaborating, we’re part of it.”

The goal of the Churchill tour, organized by the University of Manitoba’s government relations officer John Alho, was to show people what the university is doing in the north. Advanced Education Minister Diane McGifford said the breadth of research that is happening came through loud and clear.

“I think I have a better understanding of what ArcticNet is doing as well as what we face through global warming,” McGifford said. “The work here in Hudson Bay is so intimately related to the province of Manitoba, I would consider it a very important day.”

President Eimike Zatzmihjan said she was impressed with the effort that has gone into converting the Amundsen into a state-of-the-art research vessel and with the tours of the ship conducted by Barber and ArcticNet executive-director Martin Fortier.

“Both Martin and David strike me as people who have a great deal of common sense in addition to being scientific leaders,” Zatzmihjan said. “I think it’s very important that we communicate the excitement they feel about their work to lay people.”

Zatzmihjan said. And of course there were the graduate students. Zatzmihjan said she enjoyed seeing how immersed the students were in their work and how easily the students from different backgrounds – the French and English languages share equal footing on the Amundsen – blend together.
**United Way kicks off its 2005 U of M campaign in style**

**BY DALE BARBOUR**

The Bulletin

The United Way launched its campaign at the University of Manitoba in style on Oct. 5 with Bison kicker Peter Scouras teeing up a football held by United Way Winnipeg 2005 campaign chair Tom Bryk.

"It was a terrific launch," United Way Fort Garry campus co-chair Dennis Hrycaiko said. "We also brought in the Bison dance team to get everyone's attention in University Centre."

The goal for the 2005 campaign at the Fort Garry campus is $250,000 – up from the $241,000 raised last year.

The campaign got a boost on the opening day with Aramark Foods donating all the proceeds from the sale of medium Tim Horton's coffees to the campaign.

The Fort Garry campaign launch is the start of a couple of months of intense fundraising at the university. The Bannatyne campus will launch its own campaign on Oct. 26 and the university-wide Rainbow auction is set for Nov. 5.

"We’ll start selling tickets for the Rainbow Auction on Oct. 24 and people can expect to see the prizes in University Centre between Oct. 24 and the draw on Nov. 3," Hrycaiko said.

Of course the greatest part of the United Way campaign is already happening at the grassroots level with volunteers in departments around the university distributing pledge forms and talking with fellow employees.

The overall goal for the United Way in Winnipeg this year is $16.6 million. The United Way helps support groups and charitable organizations throughout Winnipeg, meaning that everyone knows at least one person who has been touched by the United Way. The administration costs of the United Way are covered by a provincial grant so that 100 per cent of donations go directly to the member charities. Donors also have the ability to specify which of the member charities they wish to support.

**Mice provide a window into the causes of human diseases**

From Page 1

Reg Alcock, president of the Treasury Board and minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, participated in the Oct. 14 webcasted launch of this international project. The Government of Canada, through Genome Canada, is contributing $6.3 million in this $20.2 million genomics research project.

"This investment by the federal government through Genome Canada underlines the scientific excellence of research on human genetic diseases being done here in Manitoba," said Alcock. "The Government of Canada is committed to support world-class genomics research with socio-economic benefits for Canadians".

In Italy, Octavi Quintana Trias, director of health research, European Commission, a major partner in this project added, "Collaboration between the EU funded European Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis Programme (EuCOMM) and the North American Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis Project (NorCOMM) is essential to generate the full mouse genome mutant library. This library will greatly facilitate the identification of the genetic determinants underlying major human diseases such as cancer."

"The research that Dr. Hicks and his collaborators will undertake within the NorCOMM and the EUCOMM projects will make significant contributions towards attaining the goal of creating knockout mice for every gene in the mouse genome," said Manitoba Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, Dave Chomiak. "This accomplishment speaks volumes to the important contribution that Manitoba researchers are making in enhancing our understanding of the genetic determinants of disease."

"We are particularly proud that this project was approved through the rigorous review process of Genome Canada. It will significantly help further develop the already strong research environment here in Manitoba and contribute to the delivery of innovative therapies for the treatment of genetic diseases," mentioned Arnold Naimark, chair of the board, Genome Prairie.

"Dr. Hicks and his team have developed an innovative solution that will speed up a critical step and our efforts to understand vital gene functions," added Dhali Dhalwal, president and CEO of CancerCare Manitoba. "This will yield new insights and improve our chances of tackling cancer."

"This research will provide important new information about the functions of genes. With the significant overlap of mouse and human genomes, the research findings will apply to a wide range of genetically-based human diseases," said University of Manitoba president Emilek Szathmary. "That Dr. Hicks is leading an international project of this scale is a testament to the research expertise we have developed here."

"The Genome Canada approved portion of the larger international project is valued at $20.2 million over a three-year period (all values in Canadian dollars), of which Genome Canada is contributing up to a maximum of $6.3 million. The co-funding partners are the European Commission (EuCOMM), the US National Institutes of Health, the Province of Manitoba, Canada Foundation for Innovation and Core Cryolab Inc.

**Distinguished Visiting Lecturer**

**THE GREENLAND NORSE:**

**BONES, GRAVES, COMPUTERS AND DNA**

**public lecture**

**Dr. Niels Lynnerup**

Dr. Lynnerup is a medical doctor and biological anthropologist whose research expertise is in medicine, human osteology, biomedical imaging, paleopathology, forensic anthropology and the Norse in Greenland. The remains of the Greenland Norse provide material for examining human paleopathology, forensic anthropology and the Norse in Greenland.

**Friday, October 28, 3:00-4:00 pm**

Room 200 Robson Hall

Fort Garry Campus, University of Manitoba

**For information: contact Jill Latschislaw, Department of Psychology 474-6378**

Everyone Welcome

**Clockwise from left, United Way Winnipeg campaign chair Tom Bryk, Fort Garry campaign co-chairs Deborah Brown and Dennis Hrycaiko tee up the football for Bison Peter Scouras during the ceremonial kick off to the 2005 university campaign on Oct. 5.**
Winnipeg as seen through the eyes of its writers

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Imagined City: A Literary History of Winnipeg, a new book being released this fall by U of M English professor David Arnason and Winnipeg writer Mhari Mackintosh, began as a more modest project.

“It began many years ago when I first came here and was asked to write a paper about the literature of Manitoba,” Arnason said. That original paper evolved into a bibliography of Manitoba writers, then a course focused on Winnipeg in literature and with Mackintosh’s help, a larger bibliography that in turn became a CBC radio series.

So it was a natural evolution when the two proposed a book on Winnipeg literature to Turnstone Press.

But as part of that evolution the book has become far more than a bibliography of Winnipeg writers— it has become the story of Winnipeg itself as seen and portrayed through its writers.

“The Imagined City includes recitations from prose, poetry, and letters by 87 different writers and about 225 photographs of Winnipeg taken by University Staff.

As The Imagined City relates, that culture did not come by chance.

“From the very beginning, Winnipeg declared itself a great city, even though at its beginning it had only a few thousand people,” Arnason said. “Winnipeg, as it represented itself, was anything but modest. It planned on being one of the world’s great cities and it chose its art and architecture to represent its view of itself.”

In its relative isolation meant that it had to create its own culture and it had to provide the entertainment that people needed,” Arnason said. As one example, a presentation of Ben Hur at the Walker Theatre included three six-horse teams running on a conveyer belt with a cyclotron of the faces of Roman spectators rotating in the opposite direction to give a sense of speed.

“At the time, it was the very limit of technology,” Arnason said.

Of course, Winnipeg has always been about diversity and that diversity is reflected in the wide range of voices that showcase Winnipeg’s multicultural nature, its diverse neighbourhoods and the time periods that the writers cover from the early Red River settlement, to boomtown Winnipeg in the 1880s and 1890s, depression Winnipeg, war-time Winnipeg, the immigrant experience in Winnipeg’s North End and to the boldly postmodern Winnipeg.

The book is expected to be released this fall, but eager readers can get a sneak peek when Arnason and Mackintosh deliver a lecture at the Dalnavert Museum, 61 Carlton Street at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27. The lecture costs $5 to attend with a wine and cheese reception to follow.

“We’re having actors in period costumes read from the book and there will be a power point presentation to give a sense of the living language of the book,” Arnason said.

The Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics

Presents

Journalistic Ethics in Two Parts


- author of Cowboys and Indians
- National Newspaper Award Winner
- Manitoba Human Rights Award for his coverage of the police shooting of aboriginal leader J.J. Harper.

When: Monday, 7th November, 12:30-1:30
Where: Concourse Lounge, University College
Everyone welcome. Coffee and cookies served.

(2) “Journalistic Ethics: Hahaha” by Lesley Hughes, journalist, columnist, broadcaster

When: Wednesday, 9th November, 12:30-1:30
Where: Concourse Lounge, University College
Everyone welcome. Coffee and cookies served.

Co-sponsored by the University College Activities Committee

SECURITY SERVICES

In conjunction with the MPI Road Safety Department, Speed Readers Boards will be at the Fort Garry Campus from Oct. 17 to the 20. They are a road safety initiative for information to motorists on their speed and they are not an enforcement tool such as photo radar.

John Wilkins
Professor, Internal Medicine/Immunology
Director, Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology

Systems Biology: Putting the Pieces Back Together

Systems Biology aims to develop quantitative predictive models of biological systems. Achievement of such a goal will require collaborations that transcend traditional disciplines (e.g. biology, medicine, chemistry, physics, computational biology, engineering). Some examples of current capabilities and opportunities at the University of Manitoba will be presented.

Thursday, October 27, 2005
12:00 noon
Private Dining Room
The University Club, Pembina Hall

$4/person (lunch provided)
Space is limited. Registration is required. To reserve your seat, contact Phyllis Brown
Phone 474-6200
Email: brownmp@cc.umanitoba.ca

This series is sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Combining scholarship and teaching

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

If you conduct groundbreaking research at a university, it’s given that you’ll want to publish the results, get them into other people’s heads and generally tell the world.

So why, when you develop a better teaching technique, would you limit yourself to telling a fellow professor down the hall about it?

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning was the title and focus of the 5th annual University Teaching Services Teaching and Learning Symposium held on Friday, Sept. 30 in University Centre. It’s concept that calls on teachers to actively focus on improving their field and telling other people what they’ve done.

“There’s a difference between excellent teaching, scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning,” Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching senior scholar Richard Gale said.

An excellent teacher might not be up-to-date with the latest advances in the field while a scholarly teacher might be aware of the advances in his or her discipline but might not be an excellent teacher. The scholarship of teaching really demands the full package: excellent teaching, up-to-date knowledge of the discipline plus an effort to make advances in the field of teaching.

Gale said it’s a concept that is gaining strength thanks to groups such as the University Teaching Services at the U of M and his own Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As an example of what the scholarship of teaching and learning is about, Gale told the story of an economics professor who found that when he broke his students into groups to go over the material, their quiz scores improved; so, with their full knowledge, he recorded the students to find out how they approached the material. What he found was that the students spent the first 20 minutes talking about everything but economics, and then in the last ten minutes got around to focusing on the subject matter.

“He listened to this and did what any professor would do: he got angry,” Gale said. “And he set up the classes so that the students wouldn’t have time to focus on anything but the problems being assigned to them.”

The quiz scores immediately plummeted. So the professor asked the students to explain what was happening on the recordings and they promptly pointed out that the discussion that happened in the first 20 minutes was a critical part of the process of learning. The community building and social interaction in the first 20 minutes made learning possible in the last 10,” Gale said. Of course, conducting that sort of research in the classroom takes time. And Gale noted that often universities and university departments are reluctant to let their professors have that time.

“One of the biggest barriers to the scholarship of teaching and learning is the department and particularly departments that believe that the only kind of scholarship is disciplinary focused,” Gale added. To that mindset, how students learn is not part of disciplinary scholarship.

But that mindset is changing, professors are being recognized for scholarship in the classroom as well as the discipline. It requires a conscious effort by academic institutions to put a focus on teaching – and recognize that scholarship in the classroom does not come at the expense of scholarship in the field.

During the question and answer period, Engineering dean Doug Ruth asked how critical it is that professors share their efforts at scholarship in teaching.

“All of my professors are involved in research and they’re looking at ways to improve teaching, but they don’t publish the results,” Ruth said. “Do you need a scholarship of teaching to demonstrate excellent teachers?”

“Teaching is always improving, but before we didn’t have a way to systematically improve teaching,” Gale said. “In order to advance the field, it does have to be made public. I suspect your professors are sharing their experiences with each other and that’s why you have a good engineering program,” Gale said. “But if you want to attract students what better way to make that happen then by making what’s happening here known on a wider scale?”

Volunteers Required
The Faculty of Medicine’s Admissions Committee is seeking faculty members to interview applicants to the undergraduate medical education program.

The interview sessions will be held:
Saturday, February 25th & Sunday, February 26th
Saturday, March 11th & Sunday, March 12th
Saturday, March 18th & Sunday, March 19th.

Orientation sessions will be held during the month of February.
Volunteers would be asked to commit one or more weekends.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Faculty of Medicine by phone (204) 789-3213 or Fax (204) 789-5929 between Monday and Thursday (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or e-mail selvanat@cc.umanitoba.ca

Closing date: November 30, 2005.
Travel support is available for a number of interviewers from remote locations.
The University of Manitoba’s 38th Fall Convocation runs this week and will see parchments conferred to 1,216 graduates. It will be the largest fall graduation class at the University of Manitoba since 1971 and brings the total number of students graduating in 2005 to 4,696 – a record year for the University.

The first round of ceremonies ran yesterday at the Investors Group Athletic Centre and today’s ceremonies will take place 3:30 p.m.

An Honorary degree was conferred yesterday on the Hon. John Harvard, former broadcast journalist, member of Parliament and currently lieutenant-governor of Manitoba. Janice and Gary Filton, who are both graduates of the University of Manitoba, were co-recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Today the Dr. John M. Bowman Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation Medal will be presented to Lesley F. Degner, Faculty of Nursing. Ermitus appointments will recognize the scholarly careers of three people: Nathan Mendelsohn, mathematician, who will be appointed distinguished professor emeritus; Cibubja Bector, I.H. Asper School of Business, and Juliette E. Cooper, School of Medical Rehabilitation.

### Honorary degree

**THE HONOURABLE JOHN HARVARD**

John Harvard is a Manitoban who has made an outstanding contribution to public life and public service in Canada. His keen interest in public life and the democratic process has taken him from the newsrooms of four provinces to Parliament. From his days as an award-winning journalist through his 16 years as Member of Parliament, His Honour, the Honourable John Harvard, B.C., O.M., Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, always gave primacy to the interests of the common people he served.

From his Icelandic-Canadian roots in Glenboro, His Honour became a successful broadcast journalist, first with radio station CJOB and then with the CBC, where he soon became the leading personality on the Winnipeg television news program. He also contributed to CBC national broadcasts and served in key positions in Toronto and Vancouver. His talent for interviewing earned two television awards.

After three decades in broadcast journalism His Honour took his love for public policy and community service a step further by entering the political arena and was elected to Parliament in the 1988 federal election, serving in both opposition and government. During this time His Honour chaired three House of Commons committees and served as parliamentary secretary to the ministers of Public Works, Agriculture, and International Trade. After the 2000 election, His Honour was chosen to lead the Prime Minister’s Task Force on the Four Western Provinces.

Last year, His Honour was installed as Manitoba’s 23rd Lieutenant Governor. He is a member of the Queen’s Privy Council, a member of the Order of Manitoba, a member of the Order of the Falcon (Iceland’s only civilian decoration), and has received the Canada 125 and Queen’s Jubilee medals.

### Samuel Weiner Distinguished Visiting Lecture

**Structural Equation Models: Improving or Misleading Science?**

**public lecture**

**Dr. Peter M. Bentler**

Departments of Psychology and Statistics, University of California, Los Angeles

Monday, November 7, 7:00-8:00 pm
Room 122 Drake Centre, I.H. Asper School of Business, Fort Garry Campus

For information: contact Jill Latcheslaw, Department of Psychology 474-6378

Everyone Welcome

### SOL KANEE LECTURE

**On Peace and Justice**

**The World at a Crossroads: Dialogue and Coalition-Building Between Religions and Cultures**

**rabbi Michael melchior**

Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, and Sport Member of Knesset, Israel

Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room - 2nd Floor University Centre, University of Manitoba

Admission is free | Parking on campus is limited

Public transportation is highly recommended.

The Sol Kanee Lecture Series is made possible by a major grant from the Richardson Foundation Inc. The event is also sponsored by The Winnipeg Foundation and the University of Manitoba.
NATHAN MENDELSOHN
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Nathan Mendelsohn is such an authority on combinatorial mathematics and finite geometries that there is not a mathematician in the world who has not heard of, or read, his papers. He joined the department of mathematics in 1947 and established one of the world’s leading groups of algebraists in lattice theory and universal algebra.

CHHAJU R. BECTOR
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Chhajju Bector joined the Faculty of Management (now the I.H. Asper School of Business) in 1974 where he has taught courses in management science and operations research, and earned an international reputation for his contributions to the development of fuzzy mathematics. He has served as department head and earned a reputation as one of the faculty’s leading teachers of a subject many students find difficult.

JULIETTE COOPER
PROFESSOR EMERITA

Julliette Cooper joined the School of Medical Rehabilitation’s department of occupational therapy in 1974. Her research interests are in biomechanics and kinematics, occupational therapy practice, and occupational health issues. She has earned recognition as a superior teacher who implements innovations in curriculum and instructional technique. Cooper has also served as a valued chair or committee member at all levels of university governance, including Senate and the Board of Governors.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is an honour presented annually to a graduate who demonstrates outstanding professional achievement and community service, and who also maintains links with the University of Manitoba.

Janice and Gary Filmon are the recipients of the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of Manitoba Alumni Association.

The Filmons are being honoured for their contributions to the university, to the province, and to the community. Gary (BScCE/64, MSc/67) is being recognized for his public service and contributions to the community, while Janice (BScHEc/63) is being recognized for her tireless work on community organizations and committees.

Mr. Filmon is best known as Manitoba’s premier from 1988 to 1999. His public service also includes terms on Winnipeg city council. Among his community activities, he was president of the Association of Canadian Career Colleges, director of the Administrative Management Society, director of the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club and director of the Red River Exhibition Board.

He is currently vice-chairman of Wellington West Capital Inc., vice-chair and trustee of Arctic Glacier Income Trust, board member of FW’s Construction Limited, member of the advisory board of Marsh Canada, board member of Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. and chairman of The Exchange Industrial Income Fund. He is also chair of Canada’s Security Intelligence Review Committee.

Mrs. Filmon provided invaluable support to Mr. Filmon during his terms as premier. On her own, she has touched lives throughout the world and perhaps one of her greatest attributes is her ability to motivate others.

The scope of her voluntary contributions reaches the local, national, and international communities. She is presently the co-chair for Leadership Winnipeg, serves on the board of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation and the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul’s College, and continues to be involved in youth leadership. She was also chair of festivals for the 1999 Pan American Games. The Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and Great-West Life created the Janice C. Filmon Award for Leadership in Cancer Care in Manitoba, to honour those who make significant contributions in this field.

Both Filmons were active in student life on campus and have remained supporters of their alma mater. Both served terms as president of the Alumni Association and both were volunteers in the university’s 1999-2004 Building on Strengths capital campaign.
An interactive multimedia art installation by noted California artist Vibeke Sorensen is on display until Oct. 28. Gallery One One One in the School of Art. Sanctuary is a cross between painting and photography, animation and documentar, employing touchable and sensory media in navigating thousands of images, sounds, texts and movies recorded around the world. The interactive installation changes as visitors view, touch and walk through the space. Sorensen is an artist and professor of film and media studies and fellow in the Center for Film and Media Research at Arizona State University. She works in digital multimedia and animation, interactive architectural installation and networked visual-music performance. Robert Epp, gallerist at Gallery One One One, says, “Sorensen’s work is truly unique and it’s a great honour to have her premiere her work here at the University of Manitoba.” Sanctuary is Sorensen’s most recent interactive installation, made in collaboration with the midr(e)me Laboratory of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and professors Miller Puckette and Shahrokh Yadegari of the University of California, San Diego.

Medical rounds are typically targeted at university staff and professionals directly involved in the medical field.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Community Health Sciences, Using Health Care Administrative Data to Study the Origins of Childhood Asthma by Anita Kozinsky, assistant professor, department of community health sciences; associate professor, Faculty of Pharmacy; UM Director, Western Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Health Services Research, R060 School of Medical Rehabilitation, 12 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

Monday, October 24. Community Health Sciences, Usage of Airway Smooth Muscle Function and Phenotype by Dedmer Schaafsma, Visiting Trainee, Department of Molecular Pharmacology, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 500 John Buhler Research Auditorium, St. Boniface Hospital, 3:15 p.m., Monday, Oct. 24.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Tuesday, October 25. Internal Medicine/Section of Gastroenterology, Endoscopic Ultrasound: Current Indications & Future Directions by Michael Cantor, assistant professor, director, Endoscopic Ultrasound Program Section of Gastroenterology, Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25.
Institute for the Humanities, Esther Discheretz, poet, novelist and essayist, will give a reading in German of her work. Discheretz is the author of Joëmis Tisch (1988) and her works address the issue of broken identity for people of Jewish heritage in Germany. Classroom C, University of Manitoba Downtown, Aboriginal Education Centre, 11 The Promenade (behind Portage Place Mall), 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 24.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Soil Science, Title TBA by Andy Nadler, Centre for Food & Soft Materials Science, 441 Ellis Building, 12 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Centre for Hellenic Civilization, Hyphenated Lives: A survey of Greek-American and Greek-Canadian Fiction by John Danakas, Moot Court Room, Robson Hall, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Native Studies, Reforming the INAC by Ernest Prokopchuk, department of chemistry, University of Manitoba, 307 Tier Building, 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26.


Electrical and Computer Engineering MSc Thesis Presentation, Characterization of Electronically Active Defects in Hafnium Dioxide High-K Gate Dielectrics by Daniel Felshofer, E2 - 501 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26.


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Human Ecology, Transport phenomena in fibrous and biochemical materials by Wen Zhong, textile sciences, 504 Human Ecology Building, 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 27.

This Lunch Hour Has 33 Minutes Speaker Series: Systems Biology: Putting the Pieces Back Together by John A. Wilkins, internal medicine, Private Dining Room, University Club, 12 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27. RSVP to Phyllis Brown 474 6200. Cost $4.

Law: The Celluloid Lawyer, The Corporation will be presented with discussion to follow led by Darcy Macpherson, Moot Court Room, 12 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27.

Microbiology, Interspecies communication in Streptococcus Veillonella atypica biofilms: Signaling in flow conditions requires juxtaposition by Nathan Poysti, graduate student, 527 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27.

**Fort Garry Campus**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20**

**Learning Technologies Centre, Connectivity:** rethinking learning in a digital age by George Siemens, author of e-learning: everything e-learning exploring learning, knowledge management, networks, technology and community, E2 -150 Engineering Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20.

**Computer Science,** Betting Wheels, Lotteries and Lottery Designs by John van Rees, computer science, E2-401 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20.

**Physics and Astronomy,** Complex Fluids During Hole Growth in Freely-Standing Polymer Films by John Dutcher, department of physics, director, Centre for Food & Soft Materials Science, University of Guelph, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**Chemistry**, Topic TBA by Ernest Prokopchuk, department of chemistry, University of Winnipeg, 560 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, On the Environment and Manitoba’s Economy by Jon Gerrard, leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, 221 Wallace Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

**Economics,** Intra-Industry Trade Liberalization: Why Skilled Workers in Most Countries Resist Protectionism by Michael Benarroch, University of Winnipeg, 307 Tier Building, 2:40 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

**Biological Seminar Series** Ahh, there are nemesiots in my soil by Mario Te- nuta, assistant professor, soil science, 2311 Duff Roblin Building, 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

**Physics and Astronomy,** The Science of Soft Interfaces: Challenges and Opportunities by John Dutcher, department of physics, director, Centre for Food & Soft Materials Science, University of Guelph, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

**Mathematics,** Valuation rings by Tegreed Mohammed, graduate student, 415 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**Institute for the Humanities colloquium series:** Gender, Transnationalism and Public Feelings, Mama, am I Allowed to Sing the German National Anthem?, Jewish authorship and identity in Post-Holocaust Germany by Esther Discheretz, poet, novelist, essayist, 409 Tier Building, 2:45 p.m., Monday, Oct. 24.

**Materials Science and Engineering,** Slaving and associates Flow During Hole Growth in Freely-Standing Polymer Films by John Dutcher, department of physics, director, Centre for Food & Soft Materials Science, University of Guelph, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20.

**Computer Science,** Betting Wheels, Lotteries and Lottery Designs by John van Rees, computer science, E2-401 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20.
Preferences and choice-making
Improving quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

Most of us would agree that it's generally better to have a choice in a given situation than to have no choice at all. Whether we're choosing what to have for breakfast or what clothes to wear, we prefer to make those decisions for ourselves. For people with severe intellectual disabilities, however, the opportunity to make choices is very limited.

C.T. Yu, psychology, is researching ways to offer people with profound intellectual disabilities the opportunity to make choices and to communicate their preferences. Yu is director of research at the St. Amant Centre in Winnipeg, and his new study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

"St. Amant serves individuals with intellectual difficulties, and this population has a very wide range of developmental delays," Yu said. "Some of these people are non-verbal and they have difficulty telling you what they like or dislike, or expressing their wishes, preferences and desires."

Yu's program is aimed at improving the quality of life for these individuals by assessing their preferences and teaching them how to make choices. How choices are presented depends on an individual's specific abilities. Discrimination assessment tools are used to evaluate whether a person can best respond to tangible objects, pictures of objects, or spoken descriptions.

Some preferences are easier to determine than others. For example, to find out what foods are preferred, Yu and his team present an array of choices two at a time, and the item that is approached most frequently is likely the preferred one. This also works well with tabletop activities like puzzles or books. Determining preferences for more complex, prolonged activities, however, is more of a challenge.

"If we want to know if a person would like to play in the gym, we obviously can't bring the gym itself to present to them," he said. "We try to represent more elaborate activities using relevant items. So in the case of the gym, one of the objects we present might be a ball."

Yu is also investigating how to teach people to make choices in different ways. If individuals can learn to communicate their preferences based on pictures, for example, it would mean a substantial increase in independence and practicality.

"We're also looking at how we can represent things like going to the park or visiting the mall, including the use of videos clips. Preference assessment for these protracted, complex activities is very challenging and labour-intensive. I think some people may have shied away from it for that reason, but I think it's absolutely necessary in terms of improving the quality of life for these individuals."

A new perspective on Tibetans in exile

By Karen Christiuk, Communications Coordinator, Faculty of Education

Seonaigh MacPherson, curriculum, teaching and learning, is leading a new project examining how Tibetan communities in exile are conserving their language and culture. Earlier this year, the project received close to $109,000 in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The project will study Tibetan families in Canada, the USA, and India. MacPherson is collaborating with a research team of Tibetan community leaders in North America, which includes the representative of the Dalai Lama and the Exile Government to the Americas, the President of the Canadian Tibetan Association of Ontario, and the former President of the Tibetan Association of Boston.

"These families will be selected on the grounds that they have been successful at conserving their language and culture across generations in exile," MacPherson said. "The Tibetan Diaspora community is very well-organized, and they have helped connect me to locate the host families that we will study."

MacPherson said scholars predict that between 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the world's languages and cultures could be lost over the next century. She cites migration as the most significant threat to small languages and cultural groups.

"For example, since the colonial period of the 17th century, migration has been eroding small linguistic groups, beginning early on with languages like Cornish, Welsh, and Gaelic," she said. "Although Scottish Gaelic is still spoken in the Outer Hebrides and Welsh has been revived, Cornish was less fortunate and has disappeared entirely."

MacPherson said most of today's endangered languages are Indigenous languages with fewer than 10,000 speakers. Family use, education, public use, and media use are four key factors in the maintenance and loss of languages. MacPherson's research will focus on family use and educational use.

"Tibetan shows many of the characteristics, both in Tibet and in exile, of a language whose viability is threatened in the long term," she said. "The relationship between language and culture is difficult to establish definitively, but it is accepted that language loss is an indication of some degree of cultural decline or loss."

MacPherson said her Tibetan research could have applications right here in Manitoba.

"Manitoba has emerged out of the efforts of generations of Aboriginal and immigrant peoples who have experienced significant challenges to their languages and cultures to participate in our collective life," she said. "I believe that the Tibetan Diaspora community can offer important insights applicable to the development of community-based and bilingual education to the peoples of Manitoba. This may be particularly applicable to the increasing refugee populations of the province who face particular challenges in exile."

By Karen Christiuk, Communications Coordinator, Faculty of Education
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October 20, 2005

BY DALE BARBOUR

CHURCHILL – Churchill has seen it all: it was a campsite along the shores of Hudson Bay 4,000 years ago, a contested point of the fur trade in the 1800s, a Cold War military base in the 1950s, and today it’s a tourist mecca.

Churchill mayor Michael Spence said that if nothing else, people in his town know how to deal with change.

“During the Cold War we had 6,000 people living here, that’s settled down to around 1,100,” Spence said. “We had to turn the page and look at opportunities in our own backyard – the tourism industry centered around whale watching and polar bears,” Spend said. “I think a lot more people know Churchill internationally than Winnipeg because of tourism.”

So when the CCGS Amundsen docked this month it was welcomed both for the business it would bring to the community and for the research it is conducting – as part of the ArcticNet Centre of Excellence, the Amundsen is looking at the issue of global warming and its potential impact on the north.

In Churchill, the sort of climate change that the Amundsen is intended to track is something people can feel happening in their bones.

“I’m not a biologist, I can’t tell if the bears are changing in terms of how much weight they’re carrying,” Spence said. “But you know that the summers are longer and warmer and that the winters don’t seem to be as harsh.”

Churchill is aware of the potential impact of global warming

For Churchill, change could mean many things – it might mean that the polar bears that draw the tourists will move on to cooler climates, but it might also mean that Churchill’s port will reap the benefits of a longer season as the polar ice retreats.

“We need to change and adapt to the opportunities before us; in this case, climate change,” Spence said. “Climate change is not only an environmental issue but a potential economic benefit.”

University of Manitoba professor and director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science David Barber is in charge of the Hudson Bay-oriented portion of the ArcticNet program, known as theme three out of the program’s four themes. He’ll be looking primarily at the interaction between freshwater and marine water in Hudson Bay, which in many ways functions as a large estuary for many of Canada’s rivers.

Barber said the community of Churchill’s excitement at the notion of a longer shipping season is entirely appropriate; the question is, apart from the environmental impact, what will increased shipping mean for Canada’s north.

“We need to have this activity for economic benefit,” Barber said. “But are we ready for these kind of things? That’s what the Amundsen is here for. ArcticNet is preparing us to understand these kind of things.”

Window to the North

CCGS Amundsen takes researchers across Canada’s Arctic coastline

The CCGS Amundsen hosted a tour group on Oct. 14 to show university and government officials the latest in northern research. Clockwise from above, the Amundsen docked in Churchill last week to take on provisions and new passengers; University of Manitoba professor David Barber is in charge of one portion of the ArcticNet Centre of Excellence research project; the U of M graduate student contingent on the Amundsen includes, from left, ZouZou Kuzyk, Jens Ehn, Monica Pazerniuk, Mats Granskog and C.J. Mundy; ArcticNet executive-director Martin Fortier demonstrates one of the sampling devices on the Amundsen.