ISIS Canada to receive $9.6 million

Research focuses on building materials and health monitoring technology

The ISIS Canada Research Network—Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures—will receive $9.6 million in new federal funding over the next three years to continue its innovative work with advanced building materials and structural health monitoring technology.

Headquartered at the University of Manitoba, ISIS Canada is a national Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) that includes 14 universities across the country. Research is focused on the development and application of fibre reinforced polymers (FRPs) in the construction of civil infrastructure, as well as integrated intelligent fibre optic sensing and monitoring technologies.

Allocated through the federal government’s NCE program, the new funding extends ISIS Canada’s mandate for another three years.

“Since we began in 1999, we have made great progress in developing innovative construction materials and sensing systems,” said ISIS Canada president and CEO Aftab Mufti, civil engineering.

“For the next three years, this new funding will allow us to focus more on our field work and incorporating FRPs and sensor technologies into structures like bridges. Many of the principles we have developed are becoming a part of the vocabulary of civil engineers across North America, and we will be working to change public policy by having our research findings incorporated into building and bridge design codes.”

“This new funding for the ISIS Canada Research Network is great news for all Canadians,” said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research). “We are very proud to host this national network that has already made tremendous advances in construction materials and sensor technology. Over the next three years, the continued funding from the NCE program will allow ISIS researchers to further apply their expertise to improve Canada’s civil infrastructure.”

ISIS Canada gained national attention in 2004 during the restoration of the Golden Boy statue at the top of the Manitoba Legislature. As part of the restoration process, ISIS engineers installed fibre optic sensors to continuously monitor the statue’s health, including how it responds to wind and precipitation.

ISIS Canada received $9.6 million in new federal funding over the next three years to continue its innovative work with advanced building materials and structural health monitoring technology.

When it comes to the United Way, things just keep getting better. The University of Manitoba raised a total of $443,440 towards the 2005 United Way campaign, a 1.4 per cent increase over the 2004 results.

In all, Winnipeggers raised $17.1 million for the United Way in 2005 and because the Manitoba government covers the United Way’s operating expenses every bit of the money raised will go towards helping groups and people in the community.

The $17.1 million tally represents the United Way’s most successful campaign in its 40 year history.

The University of Manitoba’s donation includes donations from staff, students and retired staff members with $306,622 coming from the Fort Garry campus campaign and $1,155,818 from the Bannatyne campus.

We thought things went really well. It was really an enthusiastic group,” Fort Garry campaign co-chair Dennis Hryciaiko said.

The Rainbow Auction was bigger than ever and we really got support from across the university. We had retired employees calling us as soon as the campaign launched wondering when they could bring their cheques in.”

The Rainbow Auction raised over $10,000 for the United Way, thanks to donations from across the university.

Hryciaiko chaired the Fort Garry campaign with Debbi Brown and said he appreciated the work and commitment she put in to the effort.

Hryciaiko will be back as co-chair next year with Rosalyn Howard.

“I thought the campaign committee did a great job this year and I’m looking forward to next year’s campaign,” Hryciaiko said.

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U of M raises $443,440 for United Way

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It’s time for a national dream focused on education

I was one of the dozen or so people who represented Manitoba at the national summit on post-secondary education, which took place in Ottawa on Feb. 24. The initiative was led by Premier Jean Charest of Quebec and Premier Dalton McGuinty of Ontario, on behalf of the Council of the Federation, which represents the 10 provincial and three territorial governments. Premier Doer attended, along with at least six of his colleagues, and later that evening the premiers all had dinner with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. What has become of the issues raised at the summit? No report of the conclusions reached has been released as yet to the participants – the 300 people who had attended, representing educators and students among a plethora of stakeholder groups. This will come, but I was also interested in the immediate aftermath of the summit, specifically how it was covered in the print and electronic media.

Five weeks later, I am sorry to say I am disappointed in what I have heard and read. The coverage by the national papers was lacklustre in comparison to their focus on the lack of the national child care program promised by the previous government. As one who gave birth and am back teaching 250 undergraduates four days later – a fact of life for academic women who dare to have children in the days when the university recognises that there is something wrong with a news item?

 фактов жизни для академических женщин, которые смеллись и стали иметь детей, и в дни, когда университет признаёт, что что-то идет не так с новостями, это стало фактом жизни.

I am disappointed in what I have heard and read.

The first time I was mentioned in the media was incongruous at the Taliban’s ban on education. Whether it is a matter of appreciating the human condition, the nature of the world or the workings of the universe, there is no question that university education matters. Universities create the future, not only through academic pursuits but also through the help they give students to have a future better than their past. Margaret Mead once said that “a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens could change a nation in a generation.” We need a national dream on higher education. We need it if we are to shape our future and we need it while we still have time to dream.

A few websites provided thoughtful commentary on the reasons why there should be a debt-free transfer into higher education, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada added several reasons for a continuation of federal commitment to university-based research. For example, the A-U-C-C noted that investment in education and research is critical to deal with Canada’s demographic reality and to meet the challenges of increasing competition abroad. Canada needs highly skilled workers to replace the retiring baby boomers. Foreign governments, in their own quests for ascendancy in the global knowledge economy, are spending enormous sums improving and expanding university facilities and increasing university research. The knowledge economy requires educated people, and the university educated are less likely to be unemployed than others. Whether one considers higher education and research as matters of social, national and individual benefit, A-U-C-C said it all, but its views did not get into the press.

The federal political parties have all expressed support for more investment in higher education and university research, and our own premier has said that without educational advancement there can be no economic advancement. And yet, one has to wonder, why hasn’t the idea of higher education captured the media’s imagination? Why hasn’t the public spoken out? If we want our nation to have a future that is both more prosperous and more equitable, higher education and innovation are the keys. We know this, and yet we do not have a national dream about higher education. Why? Perhaps there is no collective voice that shows the depth and breadth to which we believe in higher education, that shows how much we hold it dear.

One could write essays exploring the reasons why we take education for granted in Canada, and why we are so unprepared to make the necessary mixed feelings about higher education in particular. It is only when faced with it being taken away that attachment emerges, much as that expressed recently in a national newspaper by a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan, who was incongruous at the Taliban’s ban on education. Knowledge is power, which is why some would take it away even in its most elementary form.

There are many routes to knowledge, but the easiest and most accessible path is through a formal education. Whether it is a matter of appreciating the human condition, the nature of the world or the workings of the universe, there is no question that university education matters. Universities create the future, not only through academic pursuits but also through the help they give students to have a future better than their past. Margaret Mead once said that “a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens could change a nation in a generation.” We need a national dream on higher education. We need it if we are to shape our future and we need it while we still have time to dream.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation’s (CFI) is investing $100,000 to support a new project led by zoologist Gary Anderson. “This award represents a strategic boost to the research capacities of the University of Manitoba, said Elliot Phillipson, president and CEO of the CFI. “It’s investments like those that have transformed Canada’s research landscape over the past decade and made the country a destination of choice for the world’s best researchers.”

The funding was announced on March 27 and will support Anderson’s research program investigating endocrine and environmental influences on human renal and cardiovascular disorders. This research will aid in maximizing the survivability of endangered species such as lake sturgeon in Manitoba, and it will also provide important information for eventual development of new and innovative pharmaceuticals for human renal and cardiovascular disorders.

“Dr. Anderson’s success has shown again that University of Manitoba researchers are among the very best in the country,” said Joanne Keeselman, vice-president (research). The U of M project was part of $24.65 million in new funding announced by the CFI for 35 institutions across the country. It also marks the inauguration of the CFI’s new Leaders Opportunity Fund, and $9.5 million under the Infrastructure Operating Fund, which assists universities with the increasing operating and tuition costs associated with new infrastructure projects.
Smile, you could be in a U of M photojournal

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

By Dale Barbour

Keeping the peace and building a future in Afghanistan

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

By Dale Barbour

What is Canada doing in Afghanistan? Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan David Sproule said the answer is disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and that all three are critical to lay the groundwork for economic growth in the future.

Sproule spoke to 150 students at the University of Manitoba on March 23. It was a charged event with protesters greeting Sproule and students peppering him with hard questions about the war.

Convocation, of course, is a little more structured but apart from catching the nervous intensity of students at the personal level, it provides a visually spectacular event with the movement of students and colour patterns of the convocation dress. Thomson also took part in president Emőke Szathmáry's recent trip to India.

Along with award-winning events, Thomson has been getting a feel for the university, how it looks at different times of the day and how it can be photographed in the right lighting conditions.

In those situations, the challenge has been find a good way to get the sort of pictures he's looking for.

Thomson will be shooting photographs throughout the summer and into the fall. The images in the book will be backed up with commentary from students, staff and other members of the university community.

Julie Mikuska, executive assistant to the vice-president (external), said Thomson will provide a snapshot of a year in the life of the U of M.

"We're calling it a documentary book. It's not meant to be a history, although there will be some room for reflection in the book," Mikuska said.

The university is supportive of the project and is working with Thomson to secure sponsors for the book.

"We expect it will be popular with alumni," Mikuska said. "But really it should have something to offer to anyone who has an interest in the university."

During the summer, Thomson will be capturing events such as miniature university, but the next few months also provide a window of opportunity for people to suggest other activities that should be included in the book.

"If people know of something going on they can certainly contact me," Mikuska said. She is acting as the university contact for the project and can be reached at 474 8198, or at Julie_Mikuska@umanitoba.ca. The project's website can be viewed at www.tomtomson.com/umfm.

"Visually, I thought the University of Manitoba on April 6, 2006 kept the peace and building a future in Afghanistan," Sproule said.

"Canada’s work – its 2,200 soldiers are on the ground – is being goofy and they're dressed up in convocation dress. Thomson also took part in president Emőke Szathmáry’s recent trip to India.

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"Photographer Tom Thomson is in the midst of compiling a photojournal on the University of Manitoba. Expect to see more of him as he captures the people and things, such as this original King James edition Bible, that make the university unique."

"If demobilization does not take place, we can not have a long term peace," Sproule said.

"Reconstruction includes everything from setting up a viable court system to trying to restart the country’s agriculture program. Currently, 60 percent of the Afghan economy is based on the narcotics trade."

"We need to provide alternatives to poppy growers," Sproule said.

"Agricultural reform – the trick is restoring irrigation systems and getting farmers back growing fruits and other cash crops. Perhaps most significantly, there are millions of landmines that need to be removed from Afghanistan’s agricultural land. While poppies might seem like a lucrative cash crop, Sproule pointed out that most of the money is made by people marketing the narcotics made from the poppies – not by the growers themselves."

"We need to strengthen the Afghan government and judicial system," Sproule said. "After 30 years of war, it is quite broken down and lacks the capacity to support a modern economy."

"A case in point is land titles – ownership of land in Afghanistan is often in dispute, so any business looking to buy land and set up shop faces the possibility of having four or five people come forward to claim the land as their own."

"They’re still in the process of developing legislation and there’s a limited number of people who can do that," Sproule said. "It’s not something you would expect to hear in Canada, but in Afghanistan they don’t have enough lawyers."

"Other challenges include creating a functional police force, national army, restoring the education system and trying to spur development in an effort to alleviate poverty."

"Canada’s military involvement in Afghanistan will be reviewed as time goes on. On the financial side, Canada has committed to provide $650 million in financial aid to Afghanistan in the period between 2001 and 2009."

"Sproule fielded questions on everything from whether Canada has the right to be in Afghanistan to whether women’s rights have really improved with the change of government. As an appointed ambassador he was hesitant to be drawn into debates about Canadian and U. S. foreign policy."

"But on issues such as women’s rights, Sproule said there was no question that the status of women was better compared to what it had been during the Taliban era."

"Have we gotten where we want to go, no, but we’ve achieved a lot so far," Sproule said.

"What is significant about the compact is that the international community takes on certain obligations and the Afghan government also takes on certain obligations," Sproule said.

"We’ve also developed a monitoring system."

"That was something that Canada pushed for."
Emphasizing obesity in children, women and First Nations, University of Manitoba researchers will play a major role in a new national network focused on preventing and reducing the consequences of excess body weight. The Canadian Obesity Network is one of five new initiatives created under the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program and supported by $4 million in new funding over the next two years.

Funding to the five new NCE initiatives will support the networking activities of established research groups to develop new partnerships with receptor communities. Headquartered at McMaster University, the Canadian Obesity Network will receive $800,000 in federal funding over the next two years. It will involve researchers and health professionals from 21 universities across the country, along with 20 industry partners and a variety of government agencies, non-government organizations and professional associations.

The new network will encompass a broad range of research in the health sciences, the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, engineering and agriculture. At the University of Manitoba, Heather Dean, pediatrics and child health, will coordinate the efforts of researchers across the country in the fields of ethnic and gender studies on a population basis.

Dean is an internationally recognized expert on type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome and obesity in children. She is actively involved in extensive clinical and educational outreach programs in rural and remote communities in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

“The obesity epidemic that has developed over the last two decades is having a profound impact on both the health and economic well-being of Canadians,” Dean said.

“Twenty-five years ago, type 2 diabetes was unheard of in children, and now it’s growing at a truly alarming rate. Every one of us has a stake in reducing the prevalence of obesity in this country. By bringing together leading researchers and health professionals, the Canadian Obesity Network will allow us to focus our efforts to reduce the physical, mental and socioeconomic effects of obesity in Canada.”

The NCE program is managed jointly by the three federal granting agencies – the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – in partnership with Industry Canada.

Problem with university’s sanitary sewer system corrected

The University of Manitoba has corrected a problem with its sanitary sewer system and is actively working to estimate the total volume of domestic wastewater discharged to the Red River with a combination of meter readings and estimates of water use per building area.

As noted on the Province of Manitoba website, the University of Manitoba discovered on March 22 that domestic wastewater from a sanitary sewer had been discharging from a storm water outfall into the Red River since late August of 2005. During August 2005, a contractor conducting sewer line work at the Fort Garry Campus accidentally connected a sanitary line to the storm water outfall that discharges directly to the Red River. Domestic wastewater from up to 15 buildings on the University of Manitoba campus was discharged directly to the Red River.

According to Manitoba Conservation, it is expected that the wastewater will have been diluted by the relatively high flows in the Red River. Elevated bacterial densities are not expected in the Red River. Escherichia coli densities downstream of the University of Manitoba in the Red River at Selkirk during the release (280 colony forming units per 100 mL) were half those observed during the same period in 2004-2005 (554 colony forming units per 100 mL). Given the long travel times between the Red River and Lake Winnipeg, the expected high dilution, and the high rate of bacterial die-off due to UV radiation from sunlight, elevated bacteria densities would not occur in Lake Winnipeg due to the release.

The pipe connection was corrected immediately upon discovery by the University of Manitoba and the system is now operating normally.

Retiree’s reception is on April 22

The 20th semi-annual President’s Reception for University of Manitoba retirees will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m. at Marshall McCluhan Hall, University Centre. All retirees, spouses of retirees and survivors are invited to hear our guest speaker, Jan Teller, tell the story of Winnipeg’s prehistoric past. It’s the story of Lake Agassiz and its role in triggering a mini-ice age some 8,000 years ago.

Joaanne Keselman, vice-president (research), will provide an update on the major activities and progress at the university. A brief update of the activities of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) will also be given. Refreshments and opportunity to visit with former colleagues will follow. Kindly RSVP to Linda at 474 9124 or linda_lassman@umanitoba.ca by April 18.

2005 Support Staff Endowment Fund Awards

The Support Staff Endowment Fund is a University trust established for the purpose of supporting activities and projects that promote excellence among the members of the support staff of the University of Manitoba. Individual Awards (a minimum of ten awards up to $100.00 each) are presented each year.

Awards may be used to purchase:
- books required for credit courses, work related non-credit courses, or work-related reference purposes;
- audio or video tapes on work-related topics;
- other work-related purchases considered by the SSEFAC and judged to be eligible on their merits; and
- partial course fees not otherwise covered.

Priority is given to applicants who have not received a recent individual award. Lifestyle or general interest courses or materials may be considered, if funds permit.

Congratulations to the following support staff members who are recipients of an award for 2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/Field</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shayla Barr</td>
<td>University 1 Environmental Health &amp; Safety</td>
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<td>Richard Chapat</td>
<td>Faculty of Nursing</td>
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<td>Lynda Clason</td>
<td>Libraries – Director’s Office</td>
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<td>Marion Dejong</td>
<td>University College</td>
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<td>Shelley Foster</td>
<td>Community Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Janine Harasymchuk</td>
<td>Faculty of Dentistry</td>
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<td>Sandra Iwanowski</td>
<td>L.H. Asper School of Business</td>
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<td>Jennifer Jones</td>
<td>Extended Education</td>
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<td>Shawn Jordan</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<td>Laksh Khatter</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<td>Sylvia Lapointe</td>
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<td>Shauna Leeson</td>
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<td>Dalia Nagubu</td>
<td>Natural Resource Institute</td>
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<td>Susan Nazarewicz</td>
<td>Faculty of Dentistry</td>
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<td>James Norris</td>
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<td>Karin Nowak-Bailey</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Panel</td>
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<td>Heather Paterson</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Kimberlee Potter</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
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<td>Joao Sapienza</td>
<td>Physical Plant</td>
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<td>Nicole Storozuk</td>
<td>Development &amp; Advancement Services</td>
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<td>Michelle Strutt</td>
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<td>Sylvia Sunstrum</td>
<td>Community Oral Health</td>
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<td>Bonnie Warkentine</td>
<td>Agriculture and Agricultural Economics</td>
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<td>Denise Williams</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>Victoria Wilson</td>
<td>L.H. Asper School of Business</td>
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<td>Elise Young</td>
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This fund is made possible through personal donations. Please contact Private Funding for a pledge form.

For more information about the Support Staff Endowment Fund, please call Norma Alexander at 975-7735 or Kurt Christoph at 474-9312.
BY BENÉ BARCLAY
For The Bulletin

The Faculty of Dentistry, Centre for Community Oral Health (CCOH) has entered a new partnership with St. Amant to deliver ongoing dental care to its special needs residents.

Effective April 1, 2006, a dentist and a dental hygienist from the CCOH will visit St. Amant once a week to provide dental care for the long term. The CCOH has provided a similar service to the Manitoba Developmental Centre, Portage la Prairie for more than 10 years.

St. Amant previously had private dental service available in its facility, so it is fully equipped with a two-chair dental clinic and an x-ray machine. However, the centre has been without a dentist since last summer. Carl Stephens, president and chief executive officer of St. Amant, is enthusiastic about the partnership with the university.

“We are very pleased about this,” said Stephens. “We have heard that similar programs run by the Faculty of Dentistry are very highly thought of. We’ve heard very positive feedback. We understand this will be a comprehensive plan that will make sure the care is personalized to (each patient’s) needs,” he said.

Doug Brothwell, director of the CCOH, said the oral health team will offer specialized dental care to approximately eight to 10 patients per clinic day.

“This will be a modern special-needs clinic. The standard of care is a minimum of one examination visit per year per patient, and that will be implemented across the board. But we will also customize the recall interval for each client based on individual needs.”

Brothwell said the approach to dental care for these special clients is different from that usually used in dental care. St. Amant clients with more severe mental disabilities will require more frequent appointments, smaller steps during the process of care, and regular changes to treatment plans, Brothwell said.

Patients with mental and physical disabilities are more likely to be taking prescription medications that cause side-effects affecting oral health. As a result, many patients suffer from gingival hyperplasia, an overgrowth of the gums, which requires oral health management. In other cases, antidepressant prescriptions can cause dry mouth, which can result in the risk of cavities or require changes in local anesthetic choice (freezing) to maintain patient cooperation.

The main way to prevent cavities in this population is through topical varnish fluoride that is brushed on and sticks to the teeth. Brothwell explained, adding regular fluoride trays are not suitable for persons with mental disabilities, public to the risk of ingesting large quantities of fluoride. It is also difficult to perform x-rays due to the uncontrollable movements.

The CCOH plans to introduce a computerized system at St. Amant that will track patient visits, dental services, and recall intervals.

The computerized system is expected to be fully operational within one year.

Starting next academic year, Brothwell plans to have all University of Manitoba first-year dental hygiene students and second-year dental hygiene students do rotations at St. Amant, giving them an opportunity to serve patients with special needs.

“There is a benefit going both ways,” Stephens said.

ENSURING SOLDIERS CAN STILL BE STUDENTS

BY DALE BARBOUR
For The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba might be closing the books on the Canadian Forces University Program, but that does not mean it is turning its back on Canada’s military.

The CFUP was launched in 1974 and has since helped over 1,200 Canadian Forces students and family members receive a degree from the university – in all over 8,700 student visits to the program.

However, last year the Canadian Forces announced it was going to stop funding the program – although the U of M and other universities will have the option of submitting proposals for a revamped and less comprehensive Canadian Forces university partnership.

Extended Education, which operates the CFUP, held what was called a commemorative luncheon for the program on March 22, but it also made it clear that support for military students will continue.

“We are going to maintain a military support office for another year,” CFUP co-ordinator Stephanie Doerksen said.

“There will be two student advisors and a secretary who will continue to provide specialized study advice and academic counseling that they have had all along.”

While funding has been identified for the next academic year, Doerksen said that Extended Ed is looking for ways to continue funding the new military service office for the long term.

Of course, students in the Canadian military can always take courses with the University of Manitoba through distance education – the same as any other student looking to study off campus.

However, what the Canadian Forces University Program did was recognize the unique challenges facing students in the military. The U of M was the first university to adopt such a partnership with the Canadian military, making it in some ways the default university for Canadian Forces students seeking a university degree.

“It really gave us an edge over other universities,” Doerksen said. “Now it will be up to the new military support office to differentiate us from other programs. We’ve had the pentest in student population and most of them came through word of mouth. I’m hoping we’ll be able to continue to provide good enough service that they’ll want to continue their relationship with the university.”

The commemorative luncheon was also a chance to look back on what the university accomplished through the CFUP. In some ways, the program was the bar for what distance education could do – providing some critical lessons for today, when the university is trying to expand links in places such as China.

“The reason the program was so successful was because it was so innovative,” vice-president (academic) Robert Kerr said. Like Doerksen, he said the university will need to keep it going in some new form.

“It found ways to give credit for things people were doing in the military and it found ways to deliver the program on sites across the world,” Kerr said. “They had to get creative in the way they did things.”

As one example, military students continued to take courses during and following the invasion of Afghanistan. The challenge for students serving in the navy was that there were periods when Canada’s ships serving in the Gulf would have to adopt communications silence for weeks at a time. “They wouldn’t be able to communicate for two or three weeks and we’re busy trying to get assignments from them,” Doerksen said.

Back in the 1970s, U of M staff used to travel to Canadian bases in Germany and actually teach onsite for part of the year. With the winding down of the Cold War at the end of the 1980s, the removal of Canadian bases in Europe and the contraction of the Canadian military, that sort of hands-on approach was phased out.

But throughout most of the program, the university did have to deal with the challenges of sending and receiving assignments from across the world – a process that has become substantially easier over the last ten years with the innovation of the internet and e-mail.

Doerksen, a retired Air Force pilot, served as director of the CFUP from 1995 until this year. Mike Piercey, a former RCAF navigator, held the position from the launch of the program until 1993 and Guy Trudeau, also a retired Air Force pilot, held the job from 1993 to 1999.

For all of them, the background in the military helped them establish a critical bridge between the military and the university – linking two different cultures. Doerksen said it was learning how to bridge that gap that might have been one of the primary benefits of the program to the university.

“I brought the university community into contact with a piece of our society that it didn’t know a lot about,” Doerksen said. “A lot of the instructors came away with a better appreciation for people in the military after working with the program.”

UNIVERSITY ROUNDUP

A scholar specializing in human rights, international law and international relations has been appointed the 12th president of The University of British Columbia.

Stephen Toope, president of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, succeeds Martha Piper, who completed her nine years’ service to the university on June 30, 2006. Toope will take up his duties as president on July 1 for a five-year term.

He will also hold a UBC academic position as tenured professor of Law.

Courtesy www.ubc.ca

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

President David Naylor, in a strongly worded statement issued at the March 23 meeting of Governing Council, stated that the university condemns all forms of racism.

“Racism and discrimination on the basis of religion or ethnic identity are unacceptable in any of our three campuses,” Naylor said. “For decades, this university has placed a special emphasis on creating the most diverse academic and cultural community.

“I am concerned that a number of incidents in the past few weeks have made the current environment difficult for members of our Muslim community,” Naylor stated.

The president was responding to a number of recent instances of apparent Islamophobia on campus, including a verbal attack on a woman wearing a hijab, who also had a poster shoved into her chest; eggs being dropped from a residence onto three students, including two female students in hijab; and offensive flyers containing the infamous Danish newspaper cartoons of Muhammad.

Courtesy News@Uoft
The classical music version of a one-man band

Compact Discs
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Thanks to technology, you really can be in two places at once.

Faculty of Music professor Oleg Pokhanovski proves that in Oleg Pokhanovski: The Mirror Image, a CD that showcases his talents with the piano and the violin.

The twist in this CD is that Pokhanovski is playing the instruments at the same time.

"The idea was to record both instruments. So I recorded the violin first and then played the piano to that recording. It sounded great because I knew exactly where I was going because I was playing in duet with myself," Pokhanovski said.

"It's an interesting art form to be able to play in ensemble with yourself. It's absolutely limitless. You could do chamber music by yourself, I think it's something that we really haven't tested. It could be an art form of the future."

Putting the CD together was actually more difficult than it sounds. Pokhanovski had to put on headphones when playing the second instrument and timing, adjusting himself to the recorded music was critical.

The CD includes music by Tchaikovsky, Faure, Schubert, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin and Brahms and a tango by Pokhanovski himself. Pokhanovski looked after arranging all the music and it is in the arrangements that the second unique feature of The Mirror Image becomes evident: all of the pieces were originally composed for the piano, Pokhanovski also arranged the violin versions of the CD and piano compositions himself.

"I had listened to these pieces on piano and I thought they would sound good on the violin," Pokhanovski said. The benefit, of course, is that converting the music expands the repertoire of pieces available for the violin, something that will benefit other musicians that wish to step forward and play the pieces. Pokhanovski said he will ultimately be publishing the violin arrangements for other musicians to use – but he wanted first crack at recording them.

Googing one step further and creating a duet with the piano – which seemed the logical step and when Pokhanovski was looking for a musician to play the second instrument, he didn’t have to look any further than his own reflection in the mirror.

"We could share your interpretation of music better than yourself," Pokhanovski said.

While the music is available on CD, Pokhanovski said it will likely not be performed on the stage much because of its difficulty.

"Both violin and piano parts are almost unplayable." The perk of working in the studio was being able to do a rerake if he made a mistake while playing the pieces – if the results sound like perfection it came with a lot of hard work.

Pokhanovski was born in Russia and performed for the first time with the Krybeshay Symphony when he was six years old. At 10 he was accepted into the Special Music School for Gifted Children in Moscow and later studied at the Moscow State Conservatory. He came to North America 15 years ago and studied at the Julliard School for Music, University of Toronto, then was employed at Lake State Superior University before joining the University of Manitoba nearly five years ago.

Idonije is back with the Bears

BY CHRIS ZUK
For The Bulletin

After being the first Bison football player to be signed and make the roster with a NFL team – the Chicago Bears – in the 2004 season, former Bison football star "Izzy" Idonije has played with the Bears the last two seasons. In the off-season, Idonije was a free agent and the Buffalo Bills committed an offer sheet for four seasons that the Bears have matched. Idonije, 25, played in 11 games as a defensive lineman and made 16 tackles and one sack in the 2005 campaign. In his first season with the Bears, the 6’6’, 275 lbs. player registered 21 tackles and one sack in 15 games.

It is reported that Idonije will earn approximately $1.85 million over the next four seasons and receive a $1.6 million signing bonus with the Bears.

I donije had a stellar career with the Bisons. In his four seasons at Manitoba, he was the third Bison to capture the J.P. Metras Trophy for outstanding lineman in Canadian university football in 2002. The Brandon native was the team’s MVP in 2002, selected to two Canada West all-star and CIS first team All-Canadian selections in 2001 and 2002 and help lead the team to a Vanier Cup appearance in 2003.

I donije was also invited to the play in the 2003 East-West Shrine Bowl and named the Manitoba Male Athlete of the Year by the Manitoba Sportswriters and Sports Broadcasters Association in 2002.

Riel fund bolstered

BY MICHAEL MARSHALL
For The Bulletin

The Manitoba Métis Federation and the Louis Riel Institute recently announced the addition of one million dollars to the Louis Riel Endowment Fund, bringing the fund’s total to $5.9 million, a boon for Métis students at the University of Manitoba.

William Mowat, executive director of the Louis Riel Institute, said the endowment fund not only contributes to the economic well-being of Métis students by awarding bursaries to deserving students, it also contributes to their sense of pride and confidence.

"In the past there has been a reluctance for Métis students to self-identify, but the endowment fund is giving them the opportunity to declare themselves as Métis and take pride in that," Mowat added.

The Louis Riel Endowment Fund was established in 1999 and has since awarded bursaries and scholarships to 474 students from the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University and College universitaire de Saint-Boniface. At the University of Manitoba, as with the other universities in the province, the Louis Riel Bursary program is set up from equal contributions by the Manitoba Métis Federation and the university.

Currently, the University of Manitoba awards 22 $1,500 Louis Riel bursaries each year. According to Peter Ducek, executive director of enrolment services, there has been no specific changes to the 1/3 of M’s Louis Riel Bursary program since the announcement was made, but he expects that the increase in the endowment fund will eventually have an effect on the program.

"It will probably mean either an increase in the number of bursaries available, or an increase in the amount of money given to each student who is awarded a bursary," he said.

Mowat said a Louis Riel bursary of $1,500 may not seem like a lot when faced with the overall cost of attending university, but his experience with some of the award recipients has given him a different perspective. "I’ve had students tell me that it was the difference between them being able to go to university and not being able to go," he said.

The University of Manitoba’s Louis Riel bursary is open to full-time first-year Métis students with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and demonstrating some economic need.
McLean plays matchmaker for students and schools

A Day in the Life of a placement coordinator

By Dale Barbour
The Bulletin

Teaching is a hands-on kind of business. Nobody knows that better than the Faculty of Education and that’s why students spend 24 weeks of their two-year bachelor of education degree in schools across the province.

Of course, that means finding space for 600 university students to work in each year, which is where placement coordinator Terry McLean and the rest of the School Experience Office come in.

“I coordinate the placements through the schools and work with the principals,” McLean said. It’s a bit like playing matchmaker. Students have an idea of where, to what age groups and in what field they’d like to do their practicum and McLean does the best he can to match up those requests with the available schools.

But it’s not easy. The process of lining up schools starts long before students make their placement requests and not every school can accept students every year.

“We strive to make a perfect match but it doesn’t always work because it’s difficult, for example, when the students live across the city from the schools that are able to take them,” McLean said. In those cases, placement usually trumps location and the student has to travel to the school that will best fit his or her needs.

The university also tries to place students in groups, so that they have members of their own cohort to turn to when they’re working on their practicum. That doesn’t always work either though, some schools are able to take five or six students while, and particularly with smaller rural schools, others can take only one student.

In any given year, McLean works with 100 to 150 schools across the province. In some ways the process is a well-oiled machine.

“The University of Manitoba enjoys a cooperative relationship with the schools with whom we do business,” McLean said. “The work system was pretty well established when I came along.”

McLean has only been the placement coordinator for about a year, before that he worked as an advisor for the school system.

School Experience Officer placement officer Terry McLean and his assistant Martha Nauta look over the map of school districts in Winnipeg. The trick to McLean’s job is finding the best possible match for each of the 600 education students looking for work experience each year.

With the Aurora Student coaches, an engaging training program is quickly approaching. This new student information system will enable students, faculty, advisors, and administrative staff to conduct much of their administrative business from standard web browsers. Registration for the fall 2006 and Winter 2007 terms will be done using Aurora Student in July and August. Both staff and students will have many supports to assist them in using the new system.

Training sessions and materials, on-line help, and web-based tutorials are being developed. Training will be starting in late May and an e-memo inviting people to register for sessions appropriate for their uses will be sent in April.

Also, in order to make the transition to a new system as smoothly as possible, the Aurora Student project has created a team of coaches to assist staff. Ten coaches have been hired and are currently in an intensive training program.

Coaches will help in conducting the training sessions, and as the registration period approaches, they will be assigned to more academic units to assist administrative staff and faculty members in learning to use Aurora Student in their everyday tasks. As on-site representatives of the Aurora Student project, coaches will also mentor staff on how to make best use of the new system, illustrating the systems functions that will be of benefit to the faculties and departments.

They can also assist in changing current work processes to best take advantage of the system.

Coaches will troubleshoot problems that are identified by staff, and in between the advising sessions, they will be working with users and the Aurora project team. It is intended that coaches will work on-site with unit staff from June 2006 to March 2007.

With the Aurora Student coaches, an engaging training program, and on-line supports, the university community will be ready for the dawn of Aurora Student.

Athletes compete at Commonwealth Games

You could say University of Manitoba students were testing the water at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Bison first-year swimmer Landlice Yestrau swam in three events and placed sixth in the 50m backstroke.

Yestrau, 18, swam in her first major international competition as a senior and came away with two events and placed sixth in the 50m backstroke in a time of 2:20.20. Yestrau was also 12th in the 200m freestyle and 11th in the men’s 10-meter platform where he finished ninth with a score of 764.30 and in the men’s three- and final.

Bison swimming head coach Vlastimil Cerny commented, “The experience of reaching a world-class athletes is a success.”

The Winnipeg native also placed tenth in the 100m backstroke and set her new personal best in a time of 1:03.63. Yestrau was also 12th in the 200m backstroke in a time of 2:20.20.

U of M student and diver Kevin Geyson competed in the men’s 10-meter platform where he finished ninth with a score of 764.30 and in the men’s three-meter platform where he also finished ninth with a score of 652.85.

School Experience Office placement officer Terry McLean and his assistant Martha Nauta look over the map of school districts in Winnipeg. The trick to McLean’s job is finding the best possible match for each of the 600 education students looking for work experience each year.

Maintaining links with Iceland

From left, David Arnason, acting head, department of Icelandic, Sigrid Johnson, head, The Icelandic Collection U of M Libraries, Emoke Szathmáry, president, Markus Örn Antonsson, Iceland’s ambassador to Canada, Steinunn Ármannsdóttir, wife of the ambassador, and Birna Bjarnadóttir, chair in Icelandic Studies toured the Iceland Reading Room on March 21. The University of Manitoba maintains a strong relationship with Iceland through studies at the department of Icelandic and art shows in the Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson Gallery.

Getting ready for Aurora Student

The Go-Live of Aurora Student is quickly approaching. This new student information system will enable students, faculty, advisors, and administrative staff to conduct much of their administrative business from standard web browsers. Registration for the fall 2006 and Winter 2007 terms will be done using Aurora Student in July and August. Both staff and students will have many supports to assist them in using the new system.

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With the Aurora Student coaches, an engaging training program, and on-line supports, the university community will be ready for the dawn of Aurora Student.
Medical rounds are typically targeted at university staff and professionals directly involved in the medical field.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Immunology, The three-dimensional organization of telomeres and chromosome territories by Sabine Mai, departments of physiology, biochemistry and molecular genetics, director, The Genome Centre for Cancer and Cognition Research, 604 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, April 6.

Pediatrics Research Rounds, Growth Factors: Grow little heart, grow…! by Alfredo Zavala, endocrinology and metabolism, Pediatric Research Unit, 100 Health Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Thursday, April 6.

Brain Awareness Week, Strategies for delaying cognitive decline with age and Alzheimer’s Disease by Carl W. Cotman, director, University California Institute of Brain Aging and Dementia Professor, Univ. California, Irvine, departments of neurobiology and behavior, school biological sciences and neurology in the College of Medicine, Samuel Cohren Auditorium, 1 Chalmius mursucia Research Centre, 7 p.m., Thursday, April 6.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Pharmacology, Environmental Toxicology, Chemical Agents For Mosquito Control In Winnipeg by Frank Labela, pharmacology and therapeutics, Pharmacology Library, A229 Chown Building, 9 a.m., Friday, April 7.

Brain Awareness Week, Mechanisms underlying early neuronal dysfunction during brain aging: Amyloid and pro-inflammatory cytokines suppress BDNF signal transduction by Carl W. Cotman, director, University California Institute of Brain Aging and Dementia Professor, Univ. California, Irvine, departments of neurobiology and behavior, school biological sciences and neurology in the College of Medicine, Theatre C, Second Floor, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Friday, April 7.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Parenteral Opioids for Labour Analgesia: What’s Best by Cindy Baron, director, obstetrics and gynecology, Women’s Hospital/Regional Health Authority, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 12.

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Regulation of eNOS expression and function by Calreticulin by Melanie Durston and Investigation of intron 1 splicing event of SRA mRNA by Jimin Guo (Alex), Theatre A Mezzanine Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12-15 p.m., Tuesday, April 12.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Pediatric Grand Rounds, Title TBA by Ana Hanlon-Deaarme, child development, Theatre A Basic Medical Science Building, linked NG002 St. Boniface Hospital, 8 a.m., Thursday, April 13.

Medical Genetics Academic Session, Neurological Protection of Metabolic Disease by Marla Krouse, CHU 18/383 Childrens Hospital, 840 Sherbrook Ave., 3:15 p.m., Friday, April 7.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Internal Medicine, Physicians Interaction with Industry by Jeffrey E. Blackmer, physician, University of Ottawa, medical director Neuropsychol Serv. & Clin Ethicist, The Rehabilitation Centre, ethicist for the Canadian Medical Association, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, linked to NG002 St. Boniface Hospital, 8 a.m., Tuesday, April 11.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Parenteral Opioids for Labour Analgesia: What’s Best by Cindy Baron, director, obstetrics and gynecology, Women’s Hospital/Regional Health Authority, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 19.

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Ureteral Injury, Unraveling the Basis of Ureteral Injury by Fadwah Tahir, resident, obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, National Training Program in Allergy and Asthma Research, linked to NG002 St. Boniface Hospital, 201 Thompson General Hospital, Brandon General Hospital, 7:45 a.m., Wednesday, April 19.

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Immunosuppression of B-2 Correlates With Decreased Sensitivity to Endotoxin in Chinese Hamster Ovary Cells by Shauna Loewen and CHO E-126: Tryptophan resistance and beyond by Menenil Moudgil, Theatre A Mezzanine Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12-15 p.m., Wednesday, April 19.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Immunology, Mislocalization of CREB and its Diverse Functions in Neurodegenerative Disorders by Sheri Blake, professor Sheri Blake’s film documentary, Detroit Collaborative Design Centre: A Praxis of Architecture, which looks at how the community can be brought into the design process.
CFL players selected for evaluation camp

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

The Manitoba Bison football team had two players selected to the 2006 Canadian Football League (CFL) Evaluation Camp held in Calgary and Oakville, Ontario from March 23-25. There were 48 players represented from Canadian universities and nine American colleges.

Third year offensive lineman Ryan Karhut, fourth year running back Kevin Caruth, and second year running back Adrian Thompson and second year Jonathan Wade were competing for a spot on the West roster.

Karhut, 24, was a 2005 Canada West All-Star and played on the offensive line for the University of Manitoba. He started all three games for the conference during the regular season (ten in eight games). Lowen, 26, set personal career high in rushing with 252 yards on 29 attempts for a whopping 8.7 average and two TDs.

Thompson, 27, led the Bisons with 788 yards in the 2005 season. He rushed for 145 yards in the West Bowl but did not move on to the playoff record at the end of round robin play and missed out on playoff contention.

Wade lost 6-5 to the University of Winnipeg in the completion of the round robin but lost 10-9 to Brock University. The women Regina and Lakehead University and a third player Dobie commented. “This is an excellent opportunity for all four players to be selected and to represent Manitoba at this selected group camp. The Manitoba Bison football head coach Brian Dobie has been selected to the fourth CFL All-Star team.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Position: Instructor I in Arts and Senior Years Teacher Education
Application deadline: May 1
Start date: Aug. 1
Position number: 03979
For information: Dr. Francine Morin, head of department of curriculum, teaching and learning, 264 Education, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, fax 474 7550, phone 474 9054, e-mail fmorin@cc.umanitoba.ca.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE

Position: Student life coordinator at the rank of instructor 1
Application deadline: July 1
Position number: 07467
For information: Judy M. Delhyn, director, English Language Centre, 520 University Centre, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Internal Medicine
Section of Cardiology

Position: Chair Search Committee, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, GC423 Health Sciences Centre, 820 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1R9.

FACULTY OF NURSING

Position: Two instructors UI in the following areas, child health (position #JM662) and nurse practitioner (position #GR938)
Application deadline: June 16
Start date: Aug. 1
Position number: 02148
For information: Chair Search Committee, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, GC423 Health Sciences Centre, 820 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1R9.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Mathematics
Position: Instructor II in Mathematics
Application deadline: May 6
Position number: 05624
For information: Dr. James Tam, Chair of the search committee (position no. 05624), department of mathematics, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2, e-mail mathematics.dept@umanitoba.ca, phone 474 7803, fax 474 7611.

Department of Statistics
Position: Head of the rank of professor or associate professor
Application deadline: June 15
Position number: AP631
For information: Dr. Mark Whitmore, dean, Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba, 250 Machray Hall, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, phone 474 9348, e-mail mark.whitmore@umanitoba.ca.

FACULTY OF MUSIC

Position: Assistant professor in choral conducting/music education
Application deadline: July 1
Position number: 05996
For information: Dr. Professor Paul Paterson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Music, University of Manitoba, 65 Dalhousie Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, e-mail wewers@cc.umanitoba.ca.

University of Manitoba Employees Scholarship

Applications for the University of Manitoba Employees Scholarship are now available at www.umanitoba.ca/student_fin_awa... Applications are also available for pick-up at the Financial Aid & Awards Office, Room 422 University Centre and on Bannatyne Campus at S107 Med Services. These applications pertain to the academic year May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006.

Please note that the application deadline is June 30, 2006.

For additional information, please visit www.umanitoba.ca/student_fin_awa... or contact Diana Kaspercyn by telephone at 474-9261 or by email at diana_kaspercyn@umanitoba.ca.

U of M students hit curling ice

BY BJORN BILLHAUUG
For The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba had three teams on the ice when the 2006 Asham University Curling Championships were held March 22 to 26 at the Asham Arena and West Kildonan Curling Club.

The University of Manitoba was represented in the women’s division by skip Sam Owen, third Tracy McCrea (management), second Stacey Hinds (U1), and lead Alicia Pierson (management).

In the men’s division, U of M was represented by two teams. Manitoba #1 was comprised of skip Cory Champion (arts), third Michael Martin (science), second David Kraichy (arts), and lead Ryan Blundon (management). Manitoba #2 was made up of skip Adam Walker (science), third Adam Norget (management), second Blake Zawadowski (U1), and lead Corey Gibb (science).

The women’s team had a rocky start, losing to the University of Winnipeg in the semi-final play.

Three Manitoba members were named to all-star teams, which were picked by their peers. Manitoba #2 skip Adam Walker and lead Corey Gibb, and women’s skip Sam Owen.

The University of Saskatchewan men and the University of Calgary women were the eventual champions and will represent Canada at the 2007 World University Games in Torino, Italy in 2007. Curling will be held in Pinerolo, the same site as the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

The event will become an official CIS Championship next year.

BY BRYAN BILLHAUUG
For The Bulletin

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New device makes video games a powerful therapy tool

Who knew that shooting alien invaders or playing virtual ping-pong could be good for you?

A team of University of Manitoba researchers has created a device that can transform any object into a video game controller, providing physical therapy clients with a fun way to practice specific hand or arm movements or repetitive balance exercises.

"It's a great way to motivate people to do their exercises," said lead researcher Tony Szturm, medical rehabilitation. "It can be a challenge to perform repetitive movements in the clinic for twenty minutes, and then come back tomorrow to do it again. By incorporating video games coupled directly to the exercise, we find that a therapy session goes by very quickly for the clients, and they're much more motivated to come back for another treatment." 

Szturm's team includes electrical and computer engineering graduate student Chris Otto, and medical rehabilitation graduate student Ankur Desai. The new device is a USB interface built by Otto that connects a motion sensor to a computer, and the motion sensor can be attached to virtually any common object, like a ball, a dowel or even a toy car.

"You can put it on some really interesting things," Szturm said. "We use a large ball to build custom shapes, for instance. You can use objects like corks to practice rotation movements, or you can attach it to a cup, a pencil, or really anything that will allow for the specific movement you need to practice."

Szturm is currently using a prototype of the new interface to work with clients at the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Manitoba's Bannatyne Campus.

"A lot of the people we work with can't even lift their arms up, and this is a great way to get them to start exercising those muscles," he said. "You can use all kinds of different shapes. You can add things that are slippery, things that are more compliant, large objects, very small objects, things that rotate or things that roll on a table top. We can use virtually any object that meets the therapy needs of the specific person we're working with."

As clients progress, Szturm said, the objects can be changed to fine-tune the desired movements. For example, a smaller ball could be used to further improve a client's grip.

To apply the interactive video gaming approach to balance and stepping exercises, a separate system was developed by electrical and computer engineering graduate student Aimee Betker. This system can be used with a foam pad or irregular floor surface to emulate outdoor walking conditions or for training sitting balance by using it with a large ball. Clients can stand on the foam pad or sit on the ball to control the game by shifting their weight.

Szturm's goal is to provide clients with an interface they can take home to use with their own video games.

"Most of these clients aren't going to get better just by coming here to see us," he said. "These exercises really need to be done regularly at home to make a difference. We would like to be able to have clients log in at home so that we can monitor their progress over the Internet, and that's why we've developed a USB device that's external to the computer."

Szturm hopes to further develop the interface so that clients could also connect it to commercial gaming consoles, like an XBOX or a PlayStation, which would allow them to play any of their favourite games.

"It's all about using game play to motivate people," he said. "Video games are everywhere and they're inexpensive. When somebody gets bored with one, they can move on to a different game and stay motivated."

Environmental service delivery in northern communities

In northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, many Aboriginal communities are faced with poor drinking water quality, overcrowded and inadequate housing, and a lack of environmentally friendly waste disposal systems.

While steps have been taken in recent years to address some of these concerns, many of the new policies have been ineffective, simply because they fail to recognize the many barriers to service delivery that are unique to Aboriginal communities on the northern prairies.

"Yes, federal dollars are being spent on infrastructure, but there are huge gaps," said Shirley Thompson, Natural Resources Institute. "There needs to be a new focus that recognizes the barriers and the knowledge of local people. This requires that communities be involved in designing and implementing their housing, water delivery and other environmental services delivery programs.

Thompson is leading a new research project examining the delivery of environmental services in northern communities from an Aboriginal perspective. The project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), will focus on ways to improve essential services, including drinking water quality, housing, waste water treatment and food security.

Thompson said the project grew out of discussions she had with First Nations communities and Aboriginal organizations.

"It became very clear that lack of infrastructure, including housing and water, are serious problems in themselves, and are not disconnected from social problems," she said. "In meetings with representatives of Aboriginal organizations, community development to deliver environmental services was seen as the solution to alleviate both poverty from high unemployment and the environmental health problems from lack of adequate infrastructure and insufficient training. So with Aboriginal communities and organizations we will find success stories in Aboriginal northern communities, and we will look at how these successful approaches can be adapted and applied elsewhere."

This research will really just scratch the surface to identify the issues and determine what needs to be done. We're really looking at some very basic needs that are essential to improving the quality of life."
RH Awards offer six degrees of innovation
University of Manitoba professors recognized for research efforts

Six University of Manitoba researchers have received 2005 Rh Awards in recognition of their outstanding research accomplishments.

The Rh Awards were established in 1973 by the Winnipeg Rh Institute, now the Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation. These honours are given to researchers who are in the early stages of their research careers and who display exceptional innovation, leadership and promise in their respective fields.

One award is normally made in each of the areas of applied sciences, health sciences, humanities, interdisciplinary studies, natural sciences and the social sciences. Each winner receives $10,000 for future research.

The following researchers have received 2005 Rh Awards:

**APPLIED SCIENCES**

Cyrus Shafai, electrical and computer engineering, for his groundbreaking research on micro-electro-mechanical systems, or “MEMS”. He has pioneered the use of MEMS components to directly control the physical spacing between a microstrip transmission line and its ground plane, and to create geometrically adaptive antennas. He has also developed an electric field sensor 2,000 times more sensitive than previous MEMS electric field sensors. Shafai established the University’s Nano-Systems Fabrication Laboratory (NSFL), a state-of-the-art facility for the design, fabrication and testing of microelectronics and nano-scale technologies. His experience and expertise in nanotechnology techniques have already inspired other investigators to undertake new research in this area and to make use of this facility.

**HUMANITIES**

Tina Chen, history, for her innovative studies of the cultural and intellectual history of modern China. Her research on the constructions of self and modernity in Chinese popular culture include a highly original examination of the relationships between media technologies, the stories they propagate, and the people who produce and consume these stories. This project includes studies of film viewing practices and the role of Soviet film in Chinese nation-building and citizenship formation. Chen’s research has received international recognition, and her work has been published in leading history, Asian studies and cultural studies journals. She also co-founded the Interdisciplinary Reading Circle on Globalization and Cosmopolitanism, which has stimulated research collaboration and intellectual exchange across the humanities and social sciences at the University of Manitoba.

**NATURAL SCIENCES**

Gerald Gwinner, physics and astronomy, for his broad and innovative research program that applies precise atomic physics techniques to problems at the forefront of nuclear and particle physics. A rarity in the physics world, Gwinner is a recognized expert in both atomic and particle physics. His many research accomplishments include a measurement of the world’s most precise test of time dilation in Einstein’s theory of special relativity, and the establishment of a novel laser trapping facility at the University of Manitoba which will introduce new capabilities to the field of nuclear physics. Highly sought after for his unique expertise in ion and atom trapping, Gwinner has been invited to join a number of established national and international collaborations.

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

Keith Fowke, medical microbiology, for his research into the generic basis of immune responses to infection. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the immune response to HIV infection, and a key member of the University’s world renowned HIV/AIDS research program in Kenya. He is studying how variations in the human genome that code for specific receptors on immune response cells and effector mechanisms can alter an individual’s susceptibility to infection. The major focus of his research is to determine how specific individuals avoid becoming infected with HIV/AIDS despite prolonged exposure to the virus. His ultimate goal is to develop an effective vaccine against HIV acquisition and to prevent or prolong the progression to AIDS of an already HIV infected individual.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY**

Mario Tenuta, soil science, for establishing a unique, multidisciplinary research program that combines the fields of biology, soil science and atmospheric science to study crop disease, greenhouse gas emissions and soil ecology. A leading expert in greenhouse gas emissions from manured soils, he is using advanced micrometeorological techniques to monitor methane levels at test sites in Manitoba, and he is experimenting with different types of manure and manure storage systems. Tenuta is also conducting innovative research on the use of nematodes as bio-indicators, along with bacterial and fungal levels in soil. This pioneering work will contribute to a fundamental shift in how we produce food, relying more on the action of beneficial soil organisms rather than solely upon inputs of agrochemicals.

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Sandra Kouritzin, curriculum, teaching and learning, for her significant research contributions in the field of multilingual education. An expert in the teaching and learning of English as a second language, Kouritzin has initiated a number of cross-disciplinary projects that centre on the theme of multilingual development in the context of globalisation, including examinations of language education policies and the social conditions that foster or hinder second language development. One of these projects is an innovative study of the experiences of immigrant school children that looks at the ways in which peer interactions influence language socialization, social role formation and identity development. Kouritzin has also published a number of articles related to her studies of qualitative research methodologies.