Seven new research chairs

Seven University of Manitoba researchers, including six newly-recruited from other universities in Canada and the United States, have been awarded Canada Research Chairs in recognition of their research achievements.

This brings the total number of Canada Research Chairs at the University of Manitoba to 43.

The announcement was made April 28 at Université Laval by Maxime Bernier, minister of industry and minister responsible for the Canada Research Chairs Program.

“The important investments made in university research have re-energized our campuses and given the country’s top researchers – our Canada Research Chairs – the support they need to fully realize their innovative ideas,” said Bernier.

The seven new Canada Research Chairs represent an investment of $5 million for the University of Manitoba. The Canada Research Chairs Program will contribute $4.4 million, while an additional $600,000 for infrastructure support will come from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

“These seven researchers truly are leaders in their fields, and I congratulate each and every one of them on this significant achievement,” said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research).

“Today’s announcement is further proof that our researchers are among the best, and the fact that six of these seven new chairs have been recruited from other institutions underlines the success of our university in continuing to attract some of the very best scholars, scientists and engineers.”

See RESEARCH/P. 2

By Dale Barbour

Think you know your way around the former Engineering I building? Think again.

When the building opens this summer, the only thing the same about it will be the outer walls – virtually everything else will be brand new.

“We’ve completely gutted the building and rebuilt it. The only things that stayed the same were three labs on the 400 level,” physical plant construction manager Ken Berman said. “I don’t think there’s an original wall standing and we’ve replaced all the flooring.”

One of the oldest campus buildings, Engineering I is being rebuilt as part of the Engineering and Information Technology Complex. The new EITC building, complete with its spacious atrium, officially opened at the beginning of this year and is often seen as the focal point of the project, but what has been going on in the rest of the engineering complex is at least as impressive. Berman said this summer they’ll move into Engineering III and complete upgrades there – however the impact on that building won’t be as dramatic as in the other areas.

As part of that, the stairs in Engineering I have been rebuilt to configure with the rest of the EITC – the only stairs that didn’t need to be redone were at the front of the building. A new airhandling system has been installed – the building never had one before – which matches the style of the rest of the complex and the building has been brought up to current safety codes with a new fire protection system, including sprinklers.

Berman said they’ve even increased the square footage of the building by taking over space used by the old structures lab and filling in a courtyard area at the back of the building.

See ENGINEERING/P. 2

Inside Stories

1. It’s never been easier to see a dentist at the U of M
2. Novel solutions needed to deal with today’s environmental problems
3. Planning for natural disasters can save lives and money
4. Outreach, lab work and teaching, the key for Freer is diversity
5. What we can do to stabilize Winnipeg’s riverbanks
6. Design-build project challenges architecture students
Engineering I is being remade from top to bottom

From Page 1.
The addition left room for a small atrium. Most of Engineering I will be used for lab space, although there are several suites of offices throughout the building and the student space on the top floor has been improved and expanded. The hallways in the building have also been moved to integrate with the rest of the complex and to allow as much light as possible into the building.

While most of Engineering I was emptied for the construction to take place, Prof. Lotfollah Shafai’s antennae lab kept working until just a few weeks ago. Now it is being redone as well.

“PCL Constructors did a great job of accommodating him during the project,” Berman said.

Research support draws faculty to University of Manitoba

Canada Research Chair in Globalization and Cultural Studies: Diana Brydon, English, whose research on the effects of globalization is providing new insight into Canada’s social, economic and cultural development. Brydon is coming to the University of Manitoba from the University of Western Ontario. (Photo not available)

From Page 1.
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The new Canada Research Chairs at the University of Manitoba are:

Canada Research Chair in Advanced Composite Materials and Monitoring of Civil Infrastructure: Ehab El-Salakawy, civil engineering, whose research on advanced fibre-optic sensing technology and fibre-reinforced polymer materials is aimed at increasing the service life of concrete structures. El-Salakawy is coming to the University of Manitoba from l’Université de Sherbrooke.

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance: Kierra Ladner, political studies, whose community-based research into constitutional reconciliation and decolonization is aimed at creating a deeper understanding of these competing ideas, both within communities and between First Nations and Canada. Ladner is coming to the University of Manitoba from the University of Western Ontario.

Canada Research Chair in Applied Soil Ecology: Quan Wang, mechanical and manufacturing engineering, whose work with advanced sensors and innovative materials is aimed at improving damage detection and repair in everything from aircraft and automobile components to civil and mechanical structures. Wang is coming to the University of Manitoba from the University of Central Florida.

Students from the Faculty of Medicine will have a chance to graduate at the Brodie Centre at 10:30 a.m., May 12 – meaning they’ll celebrate in what has come to be their homebase throughout their studies.

“It is meaningful to all faculty, staff, and particularly our students and their families for the convocation to be located in what has become the centre of our academic in professional lives,” Faculty of Medicine dean Dean Sandham said.

The university agreed earlier this year to support a Bannatyne campus convocation.

Arnold Naimark, University of Manitoba graduate, MD/57, Order of Canada recipient (1991), past dean of the Faculty of Medicine, (1971-1981) and past dean emeritus, Faculty of Medicine will be honoured during the convocation ceremony with the title president emeritus. Naimark served as the university’s ninth president from 1981 to 1996.

Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health Risk Communication: Michelle Driedger, community health sciences, whose research on advanced fibre-optic sensing technology and fibre-reinforced polymer materials is aimed at improving the understanding of Aboriginal public health concerns. Driedger was recently recruited from the University of Ottawa.

Canada Research Chair in Soil Ecology: Mario Tenuta, soil science, whose research on improving soil management practices and developing bio-indicators of soil health is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from soil and reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Canada Studies: Joyce Green, Native studies/political studies, who is examining the nature of colonialism in Aboriginal and Canadian political cultures, with a focus on human rights, the right to self-determination, and contemporary power relations. Green is joining the University of Manitoba from the University of Regina.

Canada Research Chair in Environmental and Health Risk Communication: Michelle Driedger, community health sciences, whose research on advanced fibre-optic sensing technology and fibre-reinforced polymer materials is aimed at improving the understanding of Aboriginal public health concerns. Driedger was recently recruited from the University of Ottawa.

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance: Kierra Ladner, political studies, whose community-based research into constitutional reconciliation and decolonization is aimed at creating a deeper understanding of these competing ideas, both within communities and between First Nations and Canada. Ladner is coming to the University of Manitoba from the University of Western Ontario.

Canada Research Chair in Solid Mechanics: Quan Wang, mechanical and manufacturing engineering, whose work with advanced sensors and innovative materials is aimed at improving damage detection and repair in everything from aircraft and automobile components to civil and mechanical structures. Wang is coming to the University of Manitoba from the University of Central Florida.

From electrical systems to flooring built for laboratory work, Engineering I is going to be a brand new building when it reopens this year.
Biotemperatures technology eases visit to the dentist

The future has arrived in the Faculty of Dentistry’s Graduate Orthodontics Clinic. The clinic recently introduced biometric technology that allows patients to sign in for an appointment without verbally announcing their arrival to a receptionist. The technology is being used at the clinic merely touch a fingerprint keypad at the front desk, which alerts the computer system to summon a receptionist directly to a computer at their orthodontist’s work station. A clinic upgrade is currently underway to equip each orthodontic resident’s dental station with a chair-side computer to receive the biometric data sent when patients arrive. For more than 15 minutes, the computer will flag that the patient has been waiting a long time,” says Keyur Shah, a second year orthodontics resident. The upgraded system amounts to an $80,000 investment funded by private contributions, donations to the Arthur Storer Memorial Fund, and a substantial contribution of software by ViewPoint”. A 1988 graduate of the orthodontics program, Kris Row contributed $20,000 to purchase the chair-side computers.

"This has all been self generated by grateful and dedicated alumni. It hasn’t cost the university anything,” Wiltshire explains. Wiltshire adds that the graduate orthodontic program is among the first in Canada to incorporate biometric technology into clinical practice.

He says the new technology enhances the quality of the orthodontic program and gives students state-of-the-art training in dentistry. While the new system will replace some of the work currently handled by clinic receptionists, Gail Kauk, office assistant, is not worried it will threaten her job in any way. “It’s not taking away our jobs but it is faster and more efficient,” she says.

Kauk adds the technology offers more patient privacy than conventional clinic environments because patients’ names cannot be overheard, and patient records will be stored electronically with encrypted software rather than in hard-copy format. She adds that the fingerprint sign-in will also shorten the lines for the nearly 1,000 patients that visit the University of Manitoba orthodontics clinic every year. Wiltshire expects the system to be thoroughly operational within two months. For now, patients are registering using their fingerprints and the system recognizes them at future visits.
We need a sustainable and culturally vibrant world

The bulletin welcomes viewpoint articles from members of the university community. Call 474 8111 or e-mail barbour@ms.umanitoba.ca to learn more.

The NRI was established in 1968 with a mission to build capacity in graduate research and professional development in natural resource management in the Province of Manitoba. Over nearly 40 years of existence, the institute has successfully graduated more than 800 master's graduates, who have not only succeeded in developing successful professional careers but have also assisted with local community issues and problems through building and learning processes, and affected and formulated policies at various levels in Canada. With its roots in the University of Manitoba, the NRI is fully committed to these causes and to play its role in the Canadian and world stages.

ELENA BARABAN
Assistant Professor of Russian Department of German and Slavic Studies

Elena Baraban is an assistant professor of Russian in the Department of German and Slavic Studies. She earned her Ph.D. degree in comparative literature at the University of British Columbia in 2003. At the U of M, Elena has been teaching courses on Russian language and literature. Elena’s research interests include history of Russian literature, Russian women’s rights movements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, contemporary Russian popular culture, and the influence of both Russian and Soviet literature and history, especially the literature of World War II. She presently conducts research in the archives in Moscow with a view to writing a history of Soviet and post-Soviet representations of World War II from the perspective of trauma theory.

TIMOTHY P. RACINE
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Timothy Racine joined the psychology department at the U of M in 2006 after completing a Ph.D. at Simon Fraser University that was supported by doctoral fellowships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. His research into the relation between parent-child interaction and the development of children’s cognitive flexibility, emotion regulation and understanding of self is ongoing. As his previous research, this work will also have implications for children’s healthy development.

The University of Manitoba has always focused on the twin goals of teaching and research. With those goals in mind, The Bulletin is proud to welcome the university’s new faculty members. As a new feature, The Bulletin will be profiling new professors, looking at where they’ve come from and where their teaching and research projects will take the university in the future.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The bulletin welcomes viewpoint articles from members of the university community. Call 474 8111 or e-mail barbour@ms.umanitoba.ca to learn more.

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Students cut their teeth in the field of criminology

By Dale Barbour

The criminology field experience course offers the best of both worlds – it combines work in the classroom with real-world placements that take students into the community.

“I like to be a police officer so this was a good way to get experience in the field and make contacts. It was a chance to see how things really happen,” criminology student Scott Webber said. He teamed with Ashley Pearson to investigate child pornography on the internet for the Manitoba Criminal Justice Association and Forensic Psychological Services.

“In September, I didn’t know anything about child pornography, but after this I’ve learned quite a bit about it through speaking with different agencies,” Webber said. “We were able to look at treatments and at the factors that contribute to the person’s behaviour both from a personal or a child psychology long story.”

Criminology field experience coordinator Frank Cormier said the third-year course is designed for students looking for a career in justice or who are looking at furthering their studies.

They design and execute a project for their agency or group; in some cases the agency has a project in mind,” Cormier said. “The students usually spend five hours per week in their placement along with a full complement in the classroom as well, so it does involve a little extra work.”

The classroom time focuses on applied field research methods while the field placements help put those research skills to use. The placements ranged from the RCMP to the John Howard Society or the University of Manitoba’s own Security services, which was looking for consultation on the possibility of adding more surveillance cameras to the campus.

“It was interesting,” criminology student Heather Noga said. Her placement was with the Choice Youth Program, which is focused on improving school attendance for at-risk students. Part of her task involved interviewing people, including kids, about the program to find out how it’s being received and how it could be improved.

“It was difficult to get the interviews in, because you’re busy, your supervisor is busy, the people you want to interview are busy: you have to get other people interested in what you’re doing and convince them to help you,” Noga said.

Pearson said investigating child pornography was an eye opener.

“The worst part was interviewing an offender and realizing it’s true and it’s really happening,” Pearson said. They didn’t have to look at child pornography themselves or comb the internet to see what sort of sites are out there; the focus was more on finding out what people know about it and how much research has been done.

“The answer is, not a lot.

“There is a complete lack of research on the subject. The internet is new and it has made child pornography a bigger crime so it’s hard to keep up on the field,” Pearson said.

On April 21, the course wrapped up with a poster display and presentation. Ultimately the benefit of the program is more through what it teaches the students to do than the results of their individual projects.

“It will be really helpful preparation for having a child pornography case,” Pearson said. She worked with Manitoba Justice to assess the Thinking for a Change Program. As part of the project she interviewed offenders about the program – a process that meant acquiring ethics approval from the university.

“I had to submit my proposal six times to the ethics committee before it was finally approved. If I do a thesis I’ll have a better understanding of how much time is involved and what is needed to gain ethics approval for interviews,” Bachalo said.

Medical surveillance program offered for staff members

The University of Manitoba is once again offering its medical surveillance program to any employee who has undertaken type I or type II asbestos work for more than 100 hours in any given year. The surveillance program is offered every two years as part of the university’s asbestos management program.

Due to the latency of the effects of asbestos, this program will also be offered to anyone who had a significant exposure to asbestos more than 15 years ago.

No clear evidence of asbestos related disease has been identified in past survey populations. Based on these results, the long latency period between first exposure and health problems, and the fact that unnecessary x-rays can increase health risks to participants, the university’s medical consultant has convinced them to help you,” Noga said.

The Department of Environment and Geography, Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources Department of Environment and Geography

The University of Manitoba invites applications and nominations for the position of Head, Department of Environment and Geography, position # KY301. This is an internal search; therefore, applications are invited from persons holding a tenure-track/tenured position within the University of Manitoba. The appointment will take effect July 1, 2006 or as soon thereafter as may be mutually agreed.

The Department of Environment and Geography is the largest of three units within the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources (est. 2003) with 19 full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty and over 80 graduate students. The Department delivers degrees at the Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ph.D. levels in physical geography, human geography and environmental science and studies.

The prospective Head of Department will welcome the opportunity to guide a diverse group of scholars in developing this new unit that dynamically brings together faculty in environmental science and studies, physical geography and human geography. The successful candidate will have demonstrated leadership ability, administrative experience and an understanding of interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. Credentials must include a Ph.D., preferably in a related discipline and experience in some area of environment and geography. Further information can be obtained from http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/environment/envirogeog/index.htm.

The Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources is the newest faculty at the University of Manitoba. It also houses the Departments of Geological Sciences and the Natural Resources Institute. The Faculty has a unique ‘partnership approach’ with over 20 disciplines; this is seen as the key to developing synergy for the study of all aspects of the environment. Earth and resources which will translate into enhanced research, teaching, and linkages to government, industry, and non-government organizations at the local, regional, national and international levels.

The duties of the Head of the Department of Environment & Geography are governed by University Policy 1009. Some of the responsibilities of the Head are also governed by the terms and conditions of relevant Collective Agreements.

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. Applications, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba).

Deadline for applications (including curriculum vitae and the names of three references) is June 1, 2006. Please send applications to: Dean Leslie King, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, 445 Wallace Building, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2.
Planning for natural disasters saves money and lives

Books
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

What you do before a natural disaster strikes is at least as critical as what you do after it’s over.

Whether it’s building skyscrapers that can withstand an earthquake or, to cite the Winnipeg example, constructing a floodway to alleviate flooding, working to prevent damage can be a whole lot more effective than cleaning up the pieces afterwards.

Mitigation of Natural Hazards and Disasters: International Perspectives, edited by Natural Resources Institute director Emdad Haque, looks at what people around the world are doing to prevent natural disasters and, in some cases, considers what they should be doing.

“Mitigation of Natural Hazards is a groundbreaking contribution because for more than a century the typical public policy across the world has been to take a post-disaster emergency response,” Haque said.

“The book stems from a discussion at a conference held in 2003 in Boulder, Colorado. We asked the question, ‘Why can’t we sell ideas concerning mitigation to top decision makers? Where is the evidence that mitigation works? Can we show best practices on the ground?’”

A lot of times, the common notion is that it’s cheaper to simply pick up the pieces when disaster strikes than to pay the price of trying to earthquake-proof or flood-proof an entire city.

But Haque says the research in Mitigation of Natural Hazards shows that sort of reasoning doesn’t hold up under examination.

“This book shows the nitty-gritty numbers of why it does make sense from an economic as well as political standpoints,” Haque said. “Evidence from different parts of the world shows that mitigation does make sense. It shows the cost benefit of keeping the community safe and less vulnerable.”

Australia’s efforts along its northwest coast are used as case example of mitigation at work. Recognizing that the region is vulnerable to hurricanes, Australia has developed an integrated disaster response plan that focuses on community involvement and capacity building. The result, when the area was hit recently by Hurricane Lucy, was an efficient evacuation that included ensuring the region’s most vulnerable people and those unable to evacuate on their own were looked after.

Among the other case examples considered in the book is an examination of Turkey’s responses to two earthquakes that struck in 1999. Written by Polat Gülkan, Disaster Management Research Centre, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, the article notes that the two earthquakes left 20,000 people dead and as many as 600,000 people homeless.

As Gülkan notes, Turkey has come a long way in rebuilding after the earthquakes but it has done so without a comprehensive risk mitigation policy framework.

“After the earthquake there were hundreds of millions of dollars spent on reconstruction. That’s when the earthquake proofing should have been implemented,” Haque said. “But the government and private sector ignored that option. It was a missed opportunity and now Turkey remains extremely vulnerable.”

As the book makes clear, all of this discussion takes place in the context of global warming, which has gone hand in hand with more severe weather phenomenon across the world.

“If global warming continues we’ll see more extreme events and more fluctuations and ecosystems regions,” Haque said. “It’s not a linear progression but the evidence is clear. The question is, given these facts, how do we prepare ourselves for the 21st century?”

Clayton is the latest Bison to catch the CFL’s eye

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

The Manitoba Bison’s Riley Clayton was picked by the Calgary Stampeders last month in the 2006 Canadian Football League (CFL) Canadian College Draft.

The Stampeders selected Clayton, a third-year offensive lineman, in the fourth round (27th overall).

Clayton, 22, had a fantastic 2005 season. He bolstered an offensive line that allowed the least amount of sacks for the conference during the 2005 regular season (ten in eight games). The Winnipeg native was named a 2005 Canada West All-Star and a team captain during the 2005 season.

Former Bisons Currently Playing Professional Football (as of April 20/06)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel Idonije</td>
<td>Chicago Bears (NFL)</td>
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<td>Scott Coe</td>
<td>Calgary Stampeders</td>
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<td>Craig Carr</td>
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<td>Wes Lysack</td>
<td>Calgary Stampeders</td>
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<td>Will Lofthus</td>
<td>Edmonton Eskimos</td>
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<td>Jamie Boreham</td>
<td>Hamilton Tiger-Cats</td>
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<td>Dave Donaldson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darnell Edwards</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Roughriders</td>
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<td>Wayne Weathers</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Roughriders</td>
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<td>Chris Hardy</td>
<td>Toronto Argonauts</td>
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<td>David Hewson</td>
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<td>Boyd Barrett</td>
<td>Winnipeg Blue Bombers</td>
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<td>Scott Mennie</td>
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<td>Matt Sheridan</td>
<td>Winnipeg Blue Bombers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Lancaster Jr</td>
<td>Edmonton Eskimos (coach)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bobby Dyce</td>
<td>Winnipeg Blue Bombers (coach)</td>
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Clayton attended the 2006 CFL Evaluation Camp in March. He played in the East West Bowl prior to the 2005 campaign.

Overall, 14 Manitoba Bisons have been picked during the last five CFL drafts. The U of M has accounted for the most players drafted by a school over the last six years with 16 players being drafted.

Heading into the 2006 season, the Bisons have the most alumni players playing in professional football of all of the CIS teams. They have 15 players listed on CFL rosters and one player on a NFL roster. As well, there are two coaches who were part of the Bison staff that are working for CFL clubs.

Riley Clayton looked good in a Bisons uniform last year. But after getting drafted by the Calgary Stampeders he’s got a shot at logging time in the Canadian Football League.
Searching the past can lead to new discoveries

A Day in the Life of an anthropology lab technician

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Stan Freer gets to be a little bit of everything. As an anthropology lab technician, he looks after the series of anthropology labs, works with students, manages the department’s collection of archaeological and physical samples and acts as a resource for professors in the department. As a sessional instructor, he also teaches anthropology courses in the evenings, including courses that focus on Meso-American archaeology, his area of specialization.

“I have training in a number of different areas (ie.: paleobotany, zooarchaeology, lithics, ceramics, GPS, resistivity) in archaeology and anthropology and related areas, which is ideal for working in the lab area because when someone asks you a question or wants you to make a decision you’ve got to know what they’re talking about,” Freer said.

Anthropology is probably as diverse a field of study as you’re going to find: students in the lab are doing everything from trying to understand culture, to examining artifacts from archaeological digs, to eviscerating animals. The latter is a critical step in zoo-archaeology. The goal is to gain access to an animal’s bones so that they can be used for comparative purposes.

“The students have to cook and process the bones and I help them as they go through that process,” Freer said. “Along the way, they learn a lot about the anatomy of the animal.”

One of the things the students are doing is helping bolster the university’s collection of animal bones – a physical reference library that includes thousands of bones. In an ideal situation, the university would have samples from every living creature – creating a model for comparison when anthropologists working in the field bring in bones for identification.

Many of the animal remains in the collection have been donated by the federal Natural Resources department. For example, when five bears were killed by poachers a few years back, the remains ended up in the university’s collection.

The physical anthropology lab also examines bones and teeth – slicing off portions that can be studied under a microscope to reveal everything from the condition of the animal to what its diet was. Of course, as with everything else, technology is changing the face of anthropology creating the Bioanthropological Digital Image Analysis Laboratory, which has equipment capable of scanning bones or x-raying a mummy’s face and producing a physical replica of the skeleton inside.

For Freer, the goal is to make sure activities in the lab can keep going and keep going safely. Eviscerating animals, for example, requires the use of chemicals that can be dangerous, so ensuring proper procedures are used is critical.

Freer also maintains the department’s lithics collection, which has an estimated 250,000 objects produced by different societies – from arrowheads found in Canada to 500,000-year old hand axes found in Europe.

“We’re hoping to catalogue the entire collection on a computer and then be able to upload onto the Internet through a web site and to places like Artifacts Canada,” Freer added.

Freer plays an outreach role for the department by welcoming visitors to the labs and providing talks for school aged and retirement aged people on anthropology and archaeological sites.

Freer’s own involvement in the field came by way of Mexico.

“I went down to Mexico intending to get my masters with a specialization in paleo-anthropology,” Freer said. Instead, he would end up working on a masters and PhD focused on Mayan and Aztec cultures. He has also worked in Ontario and Manitoba and the Southwest, totaling some 18 years of fieldwork.

“Archeology is ‘right there’ in Mexico. You’ve got the prehistoric and present cultures around you. The archeological sites are nearby, so you’re kind of absorbed by it all,” Freer said.

He cut his own teeth in the field first working on the Cholula Pyramid Complex in Central Mexico and then working on the Rio Bec/Becan Archaeological Expedition as the ceramicist and laboratory director in the Yucatan peninsula. The Mayan site had only been rediscovered by the National Geographic Society a year before. The site is important because Rio Bec is the “type site” for that form of architecture but never dated until Freer dated it through ceramics.

“It’s a neat feeling when you make a discovery and you find something that no one’s ever reached before. I can’t quite describe it.”

Freer originally joined the U of M as a field archaeologist in 1982 after doing cultural resource management or contract archaeology at New Mexico State University. He took on the full-time position of lab supervisor.

Engineering students put their skills to practical use

If engineering is all about building things then graduating students such as Paul Surgeoner, electrical engineering, and Tahd Dell, computer engineering, have proven they’re in the right field.

Surgeoner and Dell delivered their completed industrial project to the Canadian Grain Commission’s grain research laboratory last month. The project involved the complete upgrading of the hardware and software for a XY Table. The table is used for analysis of grain kernels linked to an automated camera vision system.

Stephen Symons, section head of the grain quality assurance lab at the Canadian Grain Commission in Winnipeg, sponsored the project after being contacted by U of M engineering-in-residence John E. Kaye from the department of electrical and computer engineering.

The project combined many facets of electronics including stepper motor control, printed circuit board design and parts specification along with the development of a custom DLL (dynamic linked library) for the Windows environment used to control the position of the table.

Earlier, the students presented their fourth-year thesis project as part of the fulfillment for their engineering degrees and received an A for their project.

Unlike most thesis work, this project resulted in a deliverable product which the students designed and constructed for laboratory use. Their industrial supervisor, Kaye, apart from his work at the university, is also involved with automation in several Winnipeg manufacturing facilities. Typical of a “real world” engineering project, attention to wiring interfacing, EMI problems and cabinet cooling all had to be addressed in addition to the electronics and software design.

The success of the program is reflected in Symons’ enthusiasm with the results of the work and his interest in sponsoring future industrial projects. The engineering-in-residence program is part of the design engineering section in the Faculty of Engineering established to foster a real-world experience for student engineers as part of their fourth year thesis work.

From left, Stephen Symons of the Canadian Grain Commission and University of Manitoba engineer-in-residence John E. Kaye, chat with fourth-year engineering students Tahd Dell and Paul Surgeoner. The two engineering students just completed the delivery of their completed industrial project to Canadian Grain Commission’s Portage Avenue Grain Research Laboratory.
Research Associate Positions

The University of Manitoba anticipates research associate positions will be available over the next six months beginning May 1, 2006 and October 31, 2006 in the following fields: grain drying, handling and storing, selective activation of Th1 vs. Th2-like populations in vivo, cytokine-mediated regulation of immune disorders (ie. allergy, HIV) in humans and experimental animals, signal transduction mechanisms regulating B lymphocyte activation and migration, molecular regulation of antibody responses, natural killer cells biology, Lymphotoxin-based gene therapy, induction of transplantation tolerance, role of human neutrophils during allergic immune responses, molecular regulation and the inactivation of epidermal and cytokine receptors in allergic diseases, host-pathogen interactions leading to resistance or susceptibility, immune responses to pathogens that cause chronic diseases maintenance of established infection (memory) and strategies of vaccination, mammalian cell culture transgenic and knockout mouse models, cell biology, cell culture and transfection, cell biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, molecular basis of human disease, analysis of gene function by gene knock-out techniques, transgenic and knockout mice, immunohistochemistry, mammalian cell culture, recombinant DNA technology, transgenic models, cell biology; tissue culture; RT-PCR, protein electrophoresis, western blot, public health; social and behavioural sciences, protein chemistry with specialization in peptide purification and LC/MS , characterization of peptide structure/sequence, molecular biology, epidemiology; drug development, plant molecular biology; experimental condensed matter, galactic plane survey, high energy astrophysics, condensed matter theory and statistical physics, mathematical physics, atomic mass measurements on nuclei far from stability with ion traps, time-of-flight mass spectrometry of biomolecules, atomic and molecular physics, electronic properties of nanostructures, spin transport in quantum systems, electron conduction in the DNA, spintronics, sub atomic physics, plant biology, microbiology, animal behaviour, swine nutrition, beneficiary genetics, poultry nutrition, poultry management, nutritional biochemistry, organometallic chemistry/homogeneous catalysis, proteomics and mass spectrometry, cell biology, cancer biology, cancer chemotherapy, matrix proteins, microbiology, mineralogy, crystal chemistry and Crystallography, exercise and environmental medicine, sport and human performance, disability, culture and diversity, health and wellness, leisure and tourism, reproductive physiology, animal genetics, poultry nutrition, poultry management, nutritional biochemistry, mycotoxin metabolism, environmental physiology, physiology, molecular biology, microbiology, animal behaviour, swine nutrition, beneficiary effects of nutraceuticals & herbal medicine in vascular disorders, nutrient management, nutrient movement, rumen fermentation, microbiology, ruminant nutrition.

Normally all positions require a Ph.D. and relevant experience. Minimum starting salary: $30,000.00 /annum. Full range of staff benefits.

The University encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, bibliography, names of referees and the specific field mentioned above for which you are applying should be sent to:

Kathy Niziol, Academic Advertising
Human Resources Department, University of Manitoba
Room 309 Administration Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3T 2N2
www.umanitoba.ca
email: Kathy_Niziol@umanitoba.ca

Your application will be forwarded and the Researcher responsible will contact you directly, should the anticipated research positions become available.

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

Let’s clean up our campus

Campus Beautification Day will be back for its ninth edition on Thursday, May 25. Once again staff, students, faculty and retirees are invited to participate on a voluntary basis to help beautify the campus.

Jobs will include picking up paper, raking, sweeping, pulling weeds and planting flowers.

The project will commence at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Everyone is invited to participate for as much time as their schedules permit. In the event of poor weather, the rain date is Friday, May 26.

Volunteers will be organized through their local departments and units and are asked to bring gloves, rakes and spades from home, although some will be provided by physical plant.

On Campus Beautification Day, a barbecue lunch sponsored by ARAMARK will be held at noon in the quadrangle on the Fort Garry Campus and in front of the Brodie Centre on the Bannatyne Campus for all volunteers. Pepsi will be providing the refreshments. The BookStore as well as various other businesses on campus will be donating “door” prizes for the event.

Following the barbecue on the Fort Garry Campus, there will be a tree planting ceremony in the quadrangle commemorating the ninth annual Campus Beautification Day.

As always, physical plant deserves credit for helping organize and make Campus Beautification Day possible. Physical plant will also be hiring additional grounds staff during the summer to ensure that all the effort put in by university volunteers will be maintained during the summer.

Bisons kick off 2006 on the road

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

The Manitoba Bison football team is okay with a bit of travel to start the 2006 schedule. The schedule is subject to small changes and begins with the first two games played away from University Stadium.

Bison head coach Brian Dobie stated, “We are pleased with the schedule. It has been awhile since we’ve started the season on the road and we will give our team a chance to bond.”

“Playing the Rams and Clan on the road will be a challenge but we then look forward to returning to University Stadium for the annual Homecoming Game against Calgary.”

The Herd schedule is different than past years as the team begins the 2006 campaign on the road for the first time since the 2002 season. The team will play four consecutive games and then receive the bye at the halfway point of the schedule before ending the season with four consecutive games prior to the playoffs.

Bison Football Home Dates to highlight on your calendar:

September 2: Season Opener at Regina Rams.

September 17: Homecoming Game against Calgary Dinos at 1 p.m.

October 7: Battle Vanier Cup Finalist Saskatchewan Huskies at Griffiths Stadium.

October 21: Final regular season home game against arch rival Regina Rams at 1 p.m.
EVENTS LISTING

Library campaign to be launched

The UM Libraries is hosting a gala fundraiser dinner on Tuesday, June 15 for the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library. The event celebrates ten years of excellence and marks the launch of the “HIP Campaign: Supporting Our Health Information Place,” which promises to complete the unfinished 9,160 square feet in the library.

HIP campaign chair Julie Cooper and Carolynne Presser, director of libraries, will host the event in the Brodie Centre Atrium with a reception at 6:15 p.m. and a dinner at 7 p.m.

Guest speakers Arnold Naimark and Naomi Levine will deliver a talk entitled Medical Ethics in the 21st Century. If you would like to attend RSVP by May 30.

For information call Marina at 470-3657 or marina webster@umanitoba.ca.

BANNATYNE CAMPUS

FrIDAY, MAY 5

England M.A. Thesis Defense, A Case of Mysterious Death: Materialism and Professionalism in Bleak House and Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Christopher Mead, Haney Reading Room, 627 Fletcher Argue Building, 1 p.m., Friday, May 5.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Psychology, I will work out more frequently when I don’t pay attention to others, by Fang Wan, I. H. Asper School of Business, P12 Duff Robin Building, 3 p.m., Friday, May 12.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Smartpark INTERACTIVE Speaker Series presents: ‘The Power 30’ with Frank Plummer, scientific director general, National Microbiology Laboratories. Moderated by Geoff Kirbyson of the Winnipeg Free Press. Smartpark Lobby Boardroom, 135 Innovation Drive, 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 18. Seating is limited. E-mail wiebe7@cc.umanitoba.ca or call 480 1454 to reserve a seat.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

Engineering PhD Candidacy Examination, Energy-Aware Distributed Multi-Hop Wireless Networks: Cross-Layer Analysis and Design by Afrin Fallahi, E2-561 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 19.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Characterization of Hyaluronic Acid (Hiyal3) Knockout Mice by Vasantha Aghaei, 12:30 p.m., Immunology Centre, Queen’s University, PX-236 Regional Assessment and Resource Centre.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Creeporosversion Of Human Oocytes And Ovarian Tissue by Suma Shastry, resident, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Thursday, May 18.

Thursday, May 14

National Training Program in Allergy and Asthma Research, IgE and TH2 cytokine messages in the down-regulation of allergic responses by Zhikang Peng, immunology and pediatrics child health, Immunology 604/605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 3:30 p.m., Monday, May 15.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Role of calreticulin chaperone in reguliation of ubiquitin-proteasome pathway by Antun Uvarov, Theatre A Mezzanine Basic Medical Sciences Building, 7:45 a.m., Wednesday, May 10.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Role of calreticulin chaperone in reguliation of ubiquitin-proteasome pathway by Antun Uvarov, Theatre A Mezzanine Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 17.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Immunology Annual Graduate Student Research Presentations, Carla Krueger, 12:30 p.m., Guohao Ma, 12:30 p.m., 500 John Buhler Research Centre, Thursday, May 18.

MEDICINE

Medicine: The D.A. Stewart Lecture, Germs and Genes: Historical Continuity in Modern Medicine and Bioethics by William Seidelman, emeritus professor, family and community medicine, University of Toronto, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, Bannatyne Campus, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Medical Genetics Academic Session, Overview of Children’s Special Services by Jeanne Strutsinski, 181/183 Children’s Hospital, 840 Sherbrook Ave., 3:15 p.m., Friday, May 19.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Internal Medicine, Update on Stress Echoangiography Indications, Clinical Utilization, New Modalities by Ian Barac, assistant professor, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 23.

Community Health Sciences HEAL (Health, Ethics and Law) Rounds, Biobanks and Bioethics: The Consent and Confidentiality Dilemma by Christine Macnaughton, Jim Caulfield, director, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta, Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy, associate professor, faculties of Law, Medicine and Dentistry, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 23.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Clinical Health Psychology, ADHD in Adults: Diagnostic Considerations by Jan Wilson, Clinical Psychologist, Regional Assessment and Resource Centre, Queen’s University, PS-236 PsychHealth Theatre, 771 Bannatyne Ave., 3 p.m., Thursday, May 25.

Immunology Annual Graduate Student Research Presentations, Sherey Hebert, 12 p.m., Nazim Aghaie, 12:30 p.m., Immunology 604/605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, Thursday, May 25.
U of M writers earn a set of Margaret McWilliams awards

BY STEPHANIE CHRISTIE
For The Bulletin

Congratulations are in order for two faculty members at the University of Manitoba, whose books have been recognized with a prestigious literary award. Alvin J. Esau, professor in the Faculty of Law and Jim Blanchard, head of reference services at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library were both recipients of this year’s Margaret McWilliams Awards.

Professor Esau, author of The Courts and the Colonies: The Litigation of Hutterite Church Disputes, won in the category of best scholarly book on Manitoba history. The book provides an in-depth account of the dispute that arose within a Hutterite colony in Manitoba when the Schmiedeleut leaders attempted to force the departure of a group that had been excommunicated but would not leave. The result was dozens of lawsuits in both Canada and the United States that forced the justice system to look at how their laws related to the traditional lawside the Hutterite community.

The Margaret McWilliams Award was established by former Lieutenant-Governor Roland F. McWilliams as a memorial to his late wife and to encourage the study and interpretation of history in Manitoba. 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the awards, making them one of the oldest literary prizes in Canada.

ER-’ve Breast Tumors.

Alzheimer’s Disease and “Expression Proteins on Synhaptophysin Levels in...
Working to stabilize Winnipeg’s riverbanks

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

In Winnipeg, a total of about 120km of riverbanks line the city, and given our clay-rich soil, riverbank failure is an increasingly serious problem.

The biggest threat to our riverbanks is the movement that happens about 12 to 15 metres below the surface, where the soft clay meets the harder till material, which can cause entire sections of riverbank to collapse.

"For the last decade or so, the city has been using rockfill columns to stabilize riverbanks," said Marolo Alfaro, civil engineering.

"Basically, what they do is dig a hole down to where the clay meets the surface of the till material, and then they fill this hole with crushed rock."

Alfaro is leading a project aimed at understanding how these rockfill columns work, so that the design can be refined to be both safer and more economical.

"The economic benefits could be enormous, especially when you consider that the city owns about 40 per cent of the riverbanks in Winnipeg, and it costs millions of dollars to reinforce them. Rockfill columns will also be used in the expanded floodway, as well as to stabilize the approaches to bridges, so there is a great deal of interest in anything that can improve our understanding of exactly how they function."

The first phase of the project, completed last year, involved characterizing both the clay and the rockfill material. Alfaro and his collaborators also wanted to characterize the rockfill and the clay together, so that they could understand how the composite material responded to shear, water pressure, and the other forces experienced in the field.

"We wanted to get undisturbed samples of the actual material from 15 metres down," Alfaro said. "We work with samples that are about 70 centimetres in diameter, and nobody had ever been able to get such a large sample from that depth. The contractor we work with found a very innovative way to collect these large samples, and we were able to characterize the exact material we would be working with in the field."

Once the materials were characterized, the data was fed into numerical modeling software that predicted how the columns would perform in the real world. The current phase of the project involves testing this data in the field.

"We will install columns at real sites on riverbanks, and we may also use the floodway," Alfaro said. "We will place sensors in the columns to measure several parameters, including deformation and load, and then we will purposely load the stabilized ground until it fails."

This will give us data about the exact mechanism involved, allowing us to refine the design of rockfill columns. This project is really about improving our understanding of this method, so that we can design rockfill columns that are more economical, and so we can determine accurate safety margins that will protect structures built near riverbanks.

Examining the health benefits of buckwheat

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

A collaborative research program based in the Faculty of Human Ecology is examining compounds found in buckwheat that might prove useful in managing diabetes.

Carla Taylor, human nutritional sciences, is investigating bioactive components of buckwheat that may be able to reduce blood glucose levels. The three-year project, which recently received $528,000 in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), also involves Peter Zahradka, physiology, and Liam Murphy, internal medicine/physiology.

The collaborating organizations include Kade Research Ltd., a buckwheat developer based in Morden, Manitoba, and the Canadian Special Crops Association.

"There are indications in the literature that buckwheat may contain compounds which are beneficial for lowering blood glucose in diabetes," Taylor said. "We have done some work with animal models of diabetes, and we showed that an extract prepared from buckwheat was effective in lowering blood glucose concentrations in animals that were a model for type 1 diabetes. These animals already had hyperglycemia, or high levels of blood glucose. We conducted what are called acute tests, and they involved giving the animals a dose of buckwheat extract, and then monitoring the blood glucose levels in those animals compared with the placebo group over a period of two hours."

These tests showed that animals given buckwheat extract experienced a blood glucose reduction of about 20 per cent over the two-hour monitoring period. Taylor’s team is now using cell culture to study how the buckwheat extract affects specific signaling pathways, and whether or not it performs functions similar to that of insulin.

"That’s the exciting thing about this project," Taylor said. "It spans the whole range from plant breeding, through to analytical chemistry, whole body and metabolism studies, to cellular and molecular levels. We are now focusing on whether or not certain compounds in buckwheat might be able to mimic the effects of insulin."

Over the next three years, Taylor would like to identify exactly which buckwheat compounds are insulin-mimetic, and possibly begin a pilot study in humans. She is quick to point out that even if buckwheat compounds prove effective in lowering blood sugar in individuals with diabetes, people should not expect it to replace insulin or oral diabetes medications. A more realistic expectation, she said, would be for the beneficial compounds to be incorporated as part of an overall diet management plan.

"Identifying functional foods which are helpful in managing blood glucose levels could be especially important for people with type 2 diabetes, since the early stages of this disease can be managed by diet and lifestyle changes," she said.

Carla Taylor, human nutritional sciences

Bringing Research TO LIFE

Carla Taylor, human nutritional sciences

As a nutritional scientist, I’m interested in disease prevention, not just management or treatment. From a functional foods point of view, if we know that we’re consuming dietary components that are helpful for keeping blood glucose in its normal range, that can have an overall benefit to the population."
Design project provides real-life experience

Architecture students complete their project, but new challenges surface

BY MICHAEL MARSHALL
For The Bulletin

Like a scene out of a makeover-style television program, 11 students from the Faculty of Architecture recently transformed a tiny, neglected inner-city green space into a relaxing and stylish meeting place for adults and kids.

The students descended on the rather cheerless 16 by 28 foot yard that sits adjacent to Welcome Place, located on Qu'Appelle Avenue near downtown’s Central Park, on April 19 and 20, and when they were finished the yard had become a welcoming green space with a fluid two-tiered wooden bench.

The event was the final phase of a year-long, student-driven design project.

“This entire thing has been a very positive experience,” said Matt Roper, one of 11 students who participated in the Faculty of Architecture Special Topics 079.371 class that partnered with Welcome Place, a downtown apartment complex for international refugees, in developing the space. The student group was involved in the project from start to finish – from the design and planning stages, to fundraising, to construction and installation.

“It’s shed a lot of light onto practical issues that a typical design studio couldn’t supply you with,” he added.

As a quick example, Roper points to the students’ attempt to auger a hole for one of the bench’s support posts during the installation phase.

“We went down about 12 inches and hit concrete,” he explained.

As a quick example, Roper points to the students’ attempt to auger a hole for one of the bench’s support posts during the installation phase.

“We went down about 12 inches and hit concrete,” he explained.

“At that point, all high-concept design ideas give way to real-world resourcefulness.

“Situations like that you can’t foresee, so you have to adapt,” he said. In this case, the students were able to come up with a workaround.

Unfortunately, the students received another dose of the real world when their structure was vandalized only days after being installed. The situation even escalated to a confrontation when the students were at the site doing final touch-ups. A neighbourhood resident arrived and made a thinly veiled threat that the structure would be destroyed if it remained.

“I can safely say that all of [the students present] were shaking in our boots,” Roper said of the incident.

Regrettably for the students, who spent a lot of time and energy on the project, and the residents of Welcome Place, who weren’t able to enjoy the transformed space, the structure was removed. Undaunted by the recent negative events, Roper said the student group is determined to see a positive resolution to their project.

Landscape architecture professor Jean Trottier, who helped the student group with the project, is currently negotiating with Welcome Place to piece together an alternate plan.

“I think we might have a happy ending to this,” he said.

Although nothing has been finalized at print time, Trottier said that one idea is to install the structure at another site associated with Welcome Place.

As for the original location, Trottier said the group will do some more landscaping on the space and purchase portable chairs for the residents to use.