Building blocks

Civil engineering students David Kurz and Kathryn Hearson were busy sorting through rocks last week. Once the rocks are sorted by size they’ll be used to build a model dam in the hydraulics research testing facility.

Proteomics lab opens in Buhler Centre

Winnipeg researchers showed off their new laboratory space as they officially opened the doors to the Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology on June 9.

Located on the seventh floor of the John Buhler Research Centre at the Health Sciences Centre, the 10,000 square foot facility will now be home to a multi-disciplinary team of scientists in systems biology research. The program, led by project leader John Wilkins, Faculty of Medicine, received $7.2 million in grants that included over $3 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) that was matched by $3 million from Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology as well as close to $800,000 in funding and 10,000 square feet of research space from the Health Sciences Centre Foundation. The Manitoba Centre represents a true collaboration with researchers and support being drawn from the University of Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre and its foundation. See RESEARCH/P 2.

Getting to know tornadoes

BY MICHAEL MARSHALL
For the Bulletin
John Hanesiak, assistant professor at the University of Manitoba’s Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS), doesn’t want to sound alarming, but the researcher says that when a destructive tornado touches down in Winnipeg, and chances are good that it will happen eventually, the potential results will be deadly and costly.

According to one scenario developed by a team of researchers led by Hanesiak and Environment Canada severe weather program manager Pat McCarthy, if a tornado the same size as the one that killed 27 people in Edmonton in 1987 cut a swath across Winnipeg’s south end, it would create $1.8 billion in property damage, kill more than 100 people and injure an additional 3,200 people.

“We didn’t do this project to be alarmists. We did it to bring the issue to the table,” Hanesiak explains.

By illustrating the reality of a major tornado disaster in Winnipeg, the researchers hope to create awareness about tornado safety with the public, media and local emergency officials, which in turn could help reduce human cost in the event of a disaster.

“We’re just trying to get the message out there,” he says. And apparently it’s a message that people want to hear.

“We expected the media to be there, but we were really surprised and happy with the number of people from the general public who came to the presentation,” says Hanesiak of the standing-room-only lecture delivered at the Millennium Library on June 7. See CHASE/P 2.
Chase a tornado? Sure, just try not to catch one

From Page 1.

Hanesiak adds that representatives from the city and provincial governments were also present; an indication that Manitoba’s leaders are taking the project’s warnings seriously and perhaps considering implementing a contingency plan and beefing up public safety awareness.

“As far as we know, the City (of Winnipeg) doesn’t currently have a detailed plan in place,” he says.

The weather expert points to Oklahoma City as one city that recognizes the danger of tornadoes. In fact, tornado safety has been part of its school curriculum for 25 years, which is why the dead and injured number much less when deadly twisters strike.

Here’s what you should do if there’s a tornado on the horizon

DO avoid windows. Flying debris, such as glass, is the greatest danger during tornadoes. Get away from windows, and forget that old myth of opening them, it serves no purpose.

DO head to the lowest floor. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection, such as a heavy table or work bench. If there is no basement, go to the lowest floor, to a small center room, under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows.

DO crouch as low as possible. Face down and cover your head.

In an office building or similar structure, DO go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building. Then, crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly.

DON’T get on an elevator. You could be trapped if the power is lost.

If a tornado is too close to drive safely out of harm’s way, DON’T stay in your vehicle. If there is a sturdy permanent building within easy running distance, seek shelter there. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can, they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

DON’T seek shelter under an overpass. They can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

DON’T worry about getting good video footage. If the tornado is close by, put your camera away and seek shelter.

Source: John Hanesiak and www.spc.noaa.govfaq/tornado/safety.html

Research centre draws range of talent

From Page 1.

“The fact that the Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology is here today is a testament to the commitment that we all have to world-class research here in Manitoba,” said Lynn Bishop, chair, Health Sciences Centre Foundation. “We recognize the importance of solving the mysteries of human disease and realize that the research that will take place within these walls will have a dramatic impact on the future of patient care.”

“The Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology – one of the first of its kind in Canada – will support basic biological and biomedical research relevant to transplants, autoimmunity, cancer detection and treatment, as well as viral infections,” said Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology Minister Dave Chomiak. “This facility is an impressive example of the type of partnerships that are essential to ensure Canada’s success in the knowledge-based economy.”

The group of 10 principal investigators that are working in the centre come from diverse fields including physics, genomics, proteomics, basic sciences and medicine.

“A goal of the Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology is to develop a detailed understanding of how the basic unit of life, the cell, functions in health and disease,” said Wilkins. “This type of information offers new approaches to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.”

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The Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology is one of the first of its kind in Canada – will support basic biological and biomedical research relevant to transplants, autoimmunity, cancer detection and treatment, as well as viral infections,” said Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology Minister Dave Chomiak. “This will help Manitoba’s research institutions and retain world-class researchers and assist Manitoba in becoming an internationally recognized centre of excellence in biomedical research and systems biology.”

The systems biology research group will be one of the first in Canada to undertake the study of the components of a cell to further study human disease. They will use genomics, the study of genes and their functions and proteomics, the study of proteins and their composition in human cells, to develop a detailed assessment of the composition and function of molecules produced in a cell.

“Dissection of the genetic and proteomic make-up and activity of the cell is enabling a new generation of scientists to ask and answer the most important questions in medicine,” said Suzanne Corbeil, vice president of external relations at the Centre. “We are all in the cell, and understanding how it works is important to understanding all human diseases.”

The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin

Manitoba Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology project leader John Wilkins guided people the centre, which is based in the John Buhler Research Centre, during its grand opening on June 9.
Roddick is the world’s most reluctant entrepreneur

Body Shop founder receives International Distinguished Entrepreneurial Award

Dame Anita Roddick, founder of the internationally successful skin and body care retailer, The Body Shop, has been named recipient of the 2006 International Distinguished Entrepreneurial Award (IDEA) in recognition of her outstanding success and exemplary contribution to economic life and the lives of men and women around the globe.

Roddick acknowledged the honour with a degree of playful reticence at a question and answer session held in the I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba on June 6.

“I have to tell you, I feel a tad fraudulent because whatever I do and have done in the last 30 years, it’s never seemed to me as remarkable. It’s like breathing, it’s instinctive. And you never think breathing is remarkable.”

Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop

Roddick was officially presented with the award by The Associates of the I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba at a gala dinner on June 6. The award includes a specially designed, five-ounce pure gold medal.

“We are delighted to recognize Dame Anita for her imagination and staff motivation. The company was campaigned on human rights. We did all that sort of stuff you’re not supposed to do in a business environment, but mostly we had fun,” she said. “We were daring and we were brave and we were definitely different. And we proved, finally, that you can open up 150 shops per year and still fight passionately for human rights.”

Roddick stepped back from daily operations of The Body Shop in 2003, but continues to be involved as a consultant advising on new ingredients, sourcing new community trade projects, and staff motivation. The company was sold to French cosmetic giant L’Oreal earlier this year.

“The Body Shop’s passion for activism to ourselves and to our employees. We campaigned on human rights. We did all that sort of stuff you’re not supposed to do in a business environment, but mostly we had fun,” she said. “We were daring and we were brave and we were definitely different. And we proved, finally, that you can open up 150 shops per year and still fight passionately for human rights.”

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Manitoba’s space industry and university partner for research

Three big players in Manitoba’s Aerospace industry, namely Boeing Canada Technology Winnipeg, Magellan Aerospace Company, and Standard Aero, along with Manitoba Aerospace Human Resources Coordinating Committee, announced a new NSERC regional office in Winnipeg.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) now has a Winnipeg office to call its own.

Industry minister Maxime Bernier, minister of industry and NSERC president Suzanne Fortier announced the official opening of the Winnipeg office on May 24.

Funds in the amount of $80,000/year for six years are being provided in support of the NSERC Design Engineering Chair activities, working toward change and improvement in the teaching and learning environments of engineering students.

This MOU will permit the design chair to continue to bring the experience and knowledge of the aerospace industry to complement the strengths of existing programs, and could be the catalyst to creating new programs.

“These companies realize their continued success relies heavily on continuing to have the best engineers on their staff. By actively partnering with us to help provide the best educational opportunities for future engineers, the aerospace industry in Manitoba is investing not only in their own future, but in the economic future of the province,” said Ron Britton, NSERC Design Engineering Chair at the University of Manitoba.

U of M is glad to have NSERC regional office in Winnipeg

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NSERC is the prime financial supporter of natural sciences and engineering research in Canada and supports some 22,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 10,000 university professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 800 Canadian companies to participate and invest in university research projects.

“This location will give NSERC a permanent “ear to the ground” in this region, and when new opportunities arise, this office will be in a much better position to take advantage of them,” Keselman said.
BY DALE BARBOUR

The teachers

Manitoba’s first nation communities have just gone from having only a handful of special education teachers to having over 30 thanks to a partnership between the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) and the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba.

The partnership drew first nation teachers from across the province and took them through a post-baccalaureate diploma in education at the University of Manitoba. Graduation day for the cohort was June 1 when 51 teachers received their diploma.

Similar partnerships were also formed with the University College of the North to train 35 students in the educational rehabilitation assistant diploma program, and with the University of North Dakota to ensure three students graduated with a masters in speech and language pathology.

“All of these graduates have developed the skills and training that will benefit them and their communities in the future,” center executive director Lorne Keeper said. “As graduates, they will now take this knowledge and information to their communities and apply the concepts and skills to the first nation community education programs. At the same time, they will be role models for others in the communities.”

Norma Roulette, Sandy Bay First Nation, said until recently there were only a couple of special education teachers serving first nation communities across the province – now there will be one in just about every community.

For Roulette and the others, the course was a unique opportunity. While they had been working as teachers – the program allowed them to upgrade their training to work with special needs students. But to get that upgrade, they had to travel to Winnipeg for the training and overcome significant challenges completing their program as they all continued working and completed a one-year program on a part-time basis in less than three years.

“They showed real dedication in achieving their goals as most teachers had to travel long distances, study over the summers and on weekends while balancing work, family and other commitments” said Jeff Toews, program director with the Faculty of Education.

Fortunately, because the group went through as a single cohort, they had other people in the same situation to lean on for support. As one student indicated, it was an opportunity to work with people from other communities across the province.

“We all share similar challenges and have to deal with a lack of resources. But now when we face a challenge we know we can call each other up and ask for advice or help,” Elma Arthurson, Hollow Water First Nation, said.

“We have a network with other First Nations communities,” Grace Svens, Ebb and Flow, said.

As part of their graduation, the Class of 2006 was treated to a celebration feast and presentations from their own communities. While it might have been a unique program and a unique cohort their feelings on receiving their parchments probably resonated with every other graduate.

“It feels really good,” Svens said.

Capital campaign to expand Health Sciences Library begins

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

A $2 million fundraising project aimed at expanding the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library kicked off on June 13 with a gala dinner and the announcement of a $50,000 donation from the Manitoba Medical College Foundation.

The H I P Campaign: Supporting Our Health Information Place will add an extra 9,160 square feet of space to the library’s upper floor.

“The goal is to finish off that part of the building,” HI P campaign chair Archie (Juliette) Cooper said. “When the Neil John Maclean library was built ten years ago that part of the building was not finished.”

It’s been used as a storage area since then. But with the St. Boniface campus growing, the library needs to put that space to better use.

“The Faculty of Pharmacy is set to move to the Banantyne campus and we’ll need to find room for their collection of library books,” Cooper said. “The Faculty of Medicine is drawing in more students and there have been changes to the medical rehabilitation program so it’s really important to finish off that space.”

Plans for the space include providing room for more books and a dedicated section for the Neil John Maclean Library’s Aboriginal collection. But Cooper said they are also looking to increase the space available for students to study in.

“There’s very little meeting room for students,” Cooper said. “And so much of what they do now involves small group projects.”

To that end the remodeled space will include five small meeting rooms and a larger meeting room – all of them, of course, wired for internet access.

Construction on the library expansion will kick off as soon as funding is in place.

U of M Employee Scholarship Deadline

Applications for the 2005-2006 University of Manitoba Employees Scholarship must be received by the financial aid and awards office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 30. The scholarship is available to University of Manitoba students who are the dependent child or spouse of a University of Manitoba employee or retired former employee. Applications and information are available at umanitoba.ca/student/fn_ awards or by contacting Diana Kaspersion by telephone at 474-9261 or by e-mail at diana_kaspersion@umanitoba.ca.

IN THE NEWS

• “It’ll be Schultz theatre,” Winnipeg Sun, May 13.
• “U of M Agriculture Alumni Honoured with Certificates of Merit,” Farmer’s Independent Weekly, May 25.
• “Chipping in,” (about $500,000 being given to aerospace research and development), Winnipeg Sun, May 27.
• “I’m an activist, I’m an agitator,” Winnipeg Free Press, June 2.
• “Commerice and conscience,” Winnipeg Sun, June 7.
• “Golf Herd turns corner. U of M golf program turning some heads,” Winnipeg Free Press, June 5.
• “U of M ag faculty celebrates 100 years,” Winnipeg Free Press, June 7.
• “Portage to be in study on how to help seniors,” Winnipeg Free Press, June 9.
First-year med students take a look at rural life

BY KIMBERLEY CORNEILLIE
For The Bulletin

Ninety-three first-year med students visited 30 rural and northern Manitoba communities during Rural Week at the end of May.

It provides students with great exposure to rural medicine. I wish I had had the opportunity to participate in such an initiative,” said Dan Ilchyna, (MD’97), family physician at Steinbach Family Medical Centre.

Kirschner, from Fort McMurray, Alberta, wants to focus in emergency medicine. Originally, he didn’t plan on studying medicine; he was studying Alberta, wants to focus in emergency medicine, but would prefer to make a difference by helping others. He wanted to be a doctor.

Kirschner adds that the rural week has given him the opportunity to take what he has learned from a textbook and apply it. He enjoyed his experience at Steinbach Family Medical Centre, where approximately 550 patients visit daily. That was Kirschner’s biggest surprise.

“I wasn’t expecting to be this busy, but I like it. I really liked my experience and the fast pace of the ER.”

Suzanne Ronald, first-year med, originally from Portage La Prairie, also enjoyed her visit to Pine Falls, Manitoba. Pine Falls is a community of less than 1,000 residents and approximately 140 km north east of Winnipeg.

“My favorite part was visiting Hollow Water First Nations Reserve with the public health nurse to give vaccinations to grade four students,” said Ronald.

She added that she was able to do more than just listen, she received hands-on experience. This is one of the best aspects of the rural week program. Medical students have the opportunity to apply textbook knowledge, develop patient relations skills, and learn more about rural Manitoba.

However, the program does offer the communities and their health clinics value too. Rural clinics receive the opportunity to provide rural living, and for one week receive free additional support, a much needed resource for remote areas.

Both Ronald and Kirschner said that they would participate in the rural program again. They enjoyed their practical experience, made new friendships and perhaps after graduation they may find themselves practicing in the rural communities they visited in their first year.

Dental hygiene students volunteering with the Centre for Community Oral Health also explained the link between oral health and diseases such as diabetes.

From left, medical student, Dave Kirschner, along with Agnes Janz, patient, and Steinbach physician Dan Ilchyna have a chat after a healthy check up.

Dentistry and med students celebrate Canada Health Day

Students in the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry joined hundreds of health facilities, agencies, community health organizations and public health units across the country to celebrate Canada Health Day on May 12.

The students offered the public a health check stop, blood pressure and knee reflex checks, as well as demonstrations of proper brushing and flossing.

Dental hygiene students volunteering with the Centre for Community Oral Health also explained the link between oral health and diseases such as diabetes.

The health care check stop included interactive games, giveaways and a prize draw for an Oral B Power Toothbrush. The event took place on May 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Health Sciences Centre, outside the Pedway Café.

Canada Health Day was launched in 1981 as a national celebration of health care in Canada. Held annually on the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, Canada Health Day is jointly sponsored by the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) and the Canadian Healthcare Association (CHA).

From left, second-year med student David Allen checks Faculty of Medicine dean Dean Sandham’s blood pressure during Canada Health Day on May 12.

Robson Hall’s head librarian, John Eaton, was awarded the Canadian Association of Law Libraries’ Association des bibliothécaires du droit (CALL/ACBD) Denis Marshall Memorial Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship at the association’s annual general meeting in Edmonton, Alberta on May 4. Eaton is one of only six Canadian law librarians to have received this prestigious award since its inception in 2001.

The award recognizes outstanding service to the association and/or the enhancement of the profession of law librarianship. It is named in memory of Denis S. Marshall who died prematurley in 2000. At the time of his death, Marshall was law librarian and associate dean at Queen’s University. He had been Law Librarian and a member of faculty at Robson Hall from 1978 to 1989.

John Eaton has been law librarian and associate professor at Robson Hall since 1999. Prior to that he was a reference librarian and sessional lecturer in the faculty from 1991 to 1995. Eaton was recognized for his commitment to teaching, his mentoring of other law librarians, and his writings on many aspects of legal librarianship. He served as president of CALL/ACBD from 2001 to 2003. In accepting the award, he paid tribute to Denis Marshall and expressed his “delight at being associated with the memory of a man who was a mentor and a friend and from whose legacy [he] benefits every working day.”

Short-Course Antibiotic Therapy
public lecture
Dr. Ethan Rubinstein
M.D. L.LB
Professor of Medicine
Head, Section of Infectious Diseases
H.E. Sellers Research Chair
University of Manitoba

World renowned leader in the field of infectious diseases.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006, 8:00 a.m.
Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 730 William Ave., Bannatyne Campus

One University. Many Futures.
University of Manitoba
From the French Revolution to the Cold War
The economic system underpins Heller’s books on French and global history

Books
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin


The first book is familiar terrain to Heller: he’s written three other books on early modern France on issues ranging from anti-Italianism to labour science and technology. Given his interest in the period, a book focused on the revolution was inevitable. “The subject of the French Revolution is one of the most important questions in European history and it also has world wide impact,” Heller said. “The modern world has been shaped time and again by revolutions and it all began in 1789.”

For many years it was taken for granted that the French Revolution was a bourgeois/capitalist revolution where the middle class took power. But over the last 30 or 40 years that concept of the French Revolution has been challenged and critiqued by the revisionist school – to the point where most Anglo-Saxon academics and a sizeable number of French academics now side with the revisionists.

“But while the revisionist school has offered many critiques of the French Revolution as a capitalist/bourgeois revolution, they have never been able to develop an effective counter explanation,” Heller said.

With his work, Heller is taking the revisionist school head on and arguing for a re-statement of the French Revolution as a bourgeois/capitalist phenomenon. “But I’m doing so based on the new research that has taken place over the last 30 or 40 years and also based on certain theoretical arguments,” Heller said. He also questions the ideology driving the revisionist school and asks whether revisionist researchers are falling inline with the neo-liberal ideology that has been dominant in the world over the past 30 years. “They don’t like the idea that the bourgeois might have emerged out of a revolutionary act. It’s threatening to them,” Heller said.

The Cold War and The New Imperialism draws from Heller’s lectures in his The World Since 1945 history class. While the United States figures prominently in the book, Heller said the impact and interests of the second world, led by the Soviet Union, and the third world are given their due.

While the Cold War is typically considered a struggle between the capitalist and communist blocs with the United States and the Soviet Union as the respective leaders, it was the third world, often countries that were in the midst of gaining their own independence from the imperialist European powers, that typically served as the battleground and had to negotiate between the two principle players.

When the Cold War ended at the beginning of the 1990s, the United States had every reason to believe that it had emerged triumphant and writers such as Francis Fukuyama talked about the “end of history.”

Reality turned out somewhat different. “Over the last 15 years, far from a unipolar world there has been a whole series of challenges to the United States emerge that put the idea of U.S. dominance into question,” Heller said. The economic dominance of the United States has declined because of competing blocs in China, Europe and India, populist governments have arisen in Latin America to challenge the United States and the U.S. has been unable to bring the Middle East under control. History, as it turns out, is alive and well.

If there is a common thread between Heller’s latest two books, it would be that both touch on the evolution of the capitalist system itself. With a nod to Karl Marx, Heller said capitalism can’t be avoided when trying to understand world events. “It’s what we live and breath. It’s the system which dominates our lives,” Heller said. “How it originated, how it works, it’s conflicts, it’s nature, these are really the consuming matters of our times.”

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Teaching excellence

IN MEMORY

Faculty of Law professor Barney Sneiderman, 68, died last month after a battle with pancreatic cancer. But before he passed on, the university community had a chance to honour his life and work with a set of events.

Sneiderman was honoured in May by the Faculty of Medicine for his contribution to medical ethics over the course of his career. And on May 25, McNally Robinson hosted a packed house for the pre-publication launch of Sneiderman’s book on military history – Warriors Seven: Seven Military Commanders, Seven Wars, and the Irony of Battle. Via video, Sneiderman gave a 20 minute talk outlining the theme of the book. During the talk, he explained how he chose each of the seven commanders for both their demonstrated courage under extreme conditions, as well as their military genius. An added twist to each story was highlighted by showing how each commander was involved in some ironic circumstance.

Reading from the book’s preface, Sneiderman indicated that the photograph of five Canadian airmen from the Second World War is included for study. Reciting each name, he asked people to look at the five young men and remember that only one returned; and that he remained burdened by the memory of their lost lives as the ultimate cost of war. Warriors Seven: Seven Military Commanders, Seven Wars, and the Irony of Battle has been selected by the American Military book of the month club and is under consideration for adaptation by the History Channel.

As noted in the Winnipeg Free Press, Sneiderman, an associate director of the university’s Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics, was a passionate advocate on a variety of legal and biomedical issues, most notably euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide and the decriminalization of marijuana and other non-medical drugs.
Learning Centre gives students someone to lean on

A Day in the Life of a learning specialist

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin
At the Learning Assistance Centre, the name says it all. “We are here to support and encourage student learning and that can take all kinds of forms,” learning specialist Anita Ens says. “We run the writing tutor program in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, we do one-on-one tutoring on writing and study skills in the LAC, hold workshops and offer online resources.”

Ens and Learning Assistance Centre coordinator Miriam Unruh are the principle resource people for the office, but they also rely on student workers to bolster their services. There’s two and half full time tutor positions at the centre during the summer and this past year, fifteen part time workers shared the workload during the regular session. Those numbers are also augmented by a group of volunteer tutors.

On any given day, there’s no telling what sort of questions Ens and Unruh will have to deal with.

“It’s a pretty vibrant place to be. We’ll get into all sorts of discussions about the meaning of words or the best way to transition a paragraph,” Unruh said. Students often come to the centre with their essays in hand asking for feedback.

“We had an online tutor request come in at 11 p.m. the other night from one of our graduate students doing research in Australia. She had a specific question about trying to explain something in her essay and was asking if we could give her some feedback,” Unruh said.

Feedback is no problem, but there is a limit to what people should expect from the centre.

“There is sometimes the perception that the Learning Assistance Centre will proofread an entire essay,” Ens said. “We’re trying to develop better writers but we can’t do the writing for them.” Rather, they will point out common patterns of error and give suggestions on how to organize and develop the essay.

The Learning Assistance Centre is located in 201 Tier Building, across the hall from the University 1 office, and some of its most frequent customers are University 1 students. But they also work with upper level undergraduates and, like the student looking for help after completing her masters in education after completing her masters in education, but previous to working on her masters she had spent 12 years working with adults with learning disabilities, people learning English as a second language and people upgrading their education.

“When this position came open at the university it seemed to fit my skill set and my interests,” Ens said.

Similarly, Unruh had worked in disability services at the University of Winnipeg and as a resource coordinator for the U of W’s Collegiate before joining the U of M.

“I’ve seen how students really need the support with the study skills and writing,” Unruh said.

Contact information:
Learning Assistance Centre
Phone: 480-1481
www.umanitoba.ca/u1/lac
Coordinator: Miriam Unruh
miriam_unruh@umanitoba.ca

A World-Class University

U of M student Nayak earns Trudeau Scholarship

MARKS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Prateep Nayak is one of just 15 Canadian doctoral students in the social sciences and humanities and the only U of M student to receive a 2006 Trudeau Scholarship.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation announced the scholarship winners on June 6. The scholarships are each worth up to $200,000.

Nayak, natural resources and environmental management, is researching fishing communities on the east coast of India and the loss of rights and local livelihood.

One of the only Canadian funding programmes for doctoral students in the social sciences and humanities, the Trudeau Scholarships are far more than just a monetary reward; they offer a unique opportunity for award winners to address the major issues affecting Canadian society – through research, learning, and debate – by interacting with an exciting community of great thinkers and leaders.

While the focus of the scholars research varies widely – from homelessness, to post-9-11 international law to photography and culture in native communities – each supports the Foundation’s goal of providing citizens of Canada and the world with a deeper experience of, and commitment to, democracy.

“Each year we search for young, influential minds capable of generating public discussion on important Canadian and global topics in a fresh way,” said Roy L. Heenan, chairman of the board of the Trudeau Foundation.

The 2006 Trudeau Scholars are pre-eminent young thinkers and scholars in the human sciences, and they are all at the top of their game,” said professor Stephen J. Toope, president of the Trudeau Foundation.

Created in 2003, the Trudeau Foundation Scholarship programme awards the largest scholarships in Canada for doctoral studies in the social sciences and humanities.

The foundation annually awards up to 15 exceptional students $35,000 per year for up to four years, plus up to an additional $15,000 annually each to support research-related travel.
St. Paul’s rector knighted by Pope Benedict XVI

BY MICHAEL MARSHALL

Pope Benedict XVI may have conferred the Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great on John Stapleton, rector of St. Paul’s College, but don’t even think of calling him ‘Sir’. “Sir John? I wouldn’t even dream of it,” says Stapleton with a smile.

Stapleton received word of the Knighthood on May 18 at a reception held to celebrate his two-term, 10-year tenure as rector of the Catholic college. Stapleton is retiring from the position at the end of June.

Stapleton says the event was enjoyable and humbling even before he knew that he had been knighted by the Pope. “Archbishop (James) Weisgerber said some very nice things about me and then suddenly he presented me with a papal bull,” explains Stapleton, referring to the official document from Pope Benedict XVI that recognizes him as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great.

The Knighthood, established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 and considered to be the most prestigious papal honour that can be bestowed on a layperson, is given to men who distinguish themselves through service on behalf of the church and society.

“I was thrilled,” Stapleton says.

Stapleton’s career as an educator is an impressive display of commitment and achievement and, according to the Archbishop of Winnipeg, was the primary reason for his nomination. He holds four degrees including a PhD in educational theory and has taught at the high school level in Newfoundland, British Columbia and Ontario; he has been a professor at various universities and served as dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba prior to his appointment as rector of St. Paul’s College; for his work in the Faculty of Education the university conferred the award of dean emeritus on him in 2002; he has published in excess of 30 articles for various scholarly, religious and secular publications and has been involved in the presentation of over 40 reports to various church and educational institutions.

Stapleton’s two-terms as rector of St. Paul’s College is equally impressive with several success stories highlighting his tenure, including: the construction of the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice; the introduction of several innovative and unique programs such as the Arthur Mauro Centre’s PhD program in peace and conflict studies and the BA (minor) in catholic studies program; and the development of a recruitment campaign that has nearly doubled the college’s student body.

Much of the college’s success, says Stapleton, is a result of the positive relationship St. Paul’s has developed with the University of Manitoba. “We have a very strong partnership right now,” he says.

Of his own success, Stapleton is quick to honour his colleagues. “In both the Faculty of Education and (St. Paul’s) College, I was blessed to work with many dedicated and talented co-workers, and I’m very conscious of the many, many contributions that they made on the various projects on which I have been involved,” he says.

As a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, Stapleton is in good company both internationally and locally. Other Manitobans who have received the honour are Arthur Mauro, former chancellor of the University of Manitoba, James Mahon, Joseph Stangl and Patrick O’Sullivan.

Stapleton will be invested with the official insignia of the Knighthood in the fall. In the meantime, Stapleton will be going on sabbatical at the end of June upon completion of his second term as rector of St. Paul’s College. He plans to return as a full-time faculty member in 2007.

U of M graduate is at World Cup

Vergara works as referee

BY MICHAEL MARSHALL

The 2006 FIFA World Cup tournament kicked off June 9 in Germany and although Canada’s soccer squad isn’t competing in what is considered to be one of the world’s largest and most anticipated sporting events, our country will still be represented – by a University of Manitoba graduate.

Assistant referee Hector Vergara, a Winnipeg native who graduated from the University of Manitoba with an arts degree in 1990 and a recreation studies degree in 1992, is one of 81 match officials who have been selected by FIFA to work the World Cup. Vergara will be teamed with referee Benito Armando Archundia and assistant Jose Ramirez, both from Mexico.

Vergara and his team will work Brazil’s opening match on June 13 when the defending champions take on Croatia.

Vergara, who is also the chief administrative officer of the Manitoba Soccer Association, has been involved in officiating over 90 international matches, including working the 2002 World Cup and the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Fortunately, Vergara is as comfortable on the internet as he is on the pitch. The referee keeps a blog of his experiences at all major international soccer events.

To keep up with Vergara at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, go to http://winnipegref.blogspot.com.

The university will also be keeping tabs on Vergara throughout the month and occasionally reporting on his experiences. Check online at umanitoba.ca.
The University of Manitoba Faculty of Pharmacy will be celebrating the Groundbreaking of the new Apotex Centre on Tuesday, June 27 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held outside at the new building site across from Brodie Centre. All staff and students are invited to attend.

This is an exciting time for the Faculty of Pharmacy and the health sciences. The faculty has been planning and fundraising for four years in order to bring this much needed facility to the University of Manitoba.

It will enhance the quality of education of their students by providing them with more space, better and advanced equipment as well as proximity to other health science students, faculty and library.

Team Canada will square off against Poland in international volleyball in pair of games on July 10 and 11 at the University of Manitoba home and in recognition of that relationship its offer of university staff members a break during the tournament.

The marathon will be via King’s Drive, Access to the university during the marathon will be via King’s Drive, which can be accessed from Pembina Highway via Dalhousie and Silverstone. Smartpark will be accessible via Dafoe Road.

The Iceland Reading Room, Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba

For more information, please call the Alumni Association at 474 9946.

Support Team Canada

Fort Garry Campus

The Iceland Reading Room, Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba

For more information, please call the Alumni Association at 474 9946.

Support Team Canada
Bison golf teams show strength at RCGA tournament

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

Two Bison swimmers earned their first career national senior medals during the Bell Grand Prix/Mel Zajac Jr International meet, June 2 to 4. Braden Taylor and Julianne Toogood earned spots on the podium during the three-day event. Bison Sports Female Athlete of the Year Landlize Yestrau had two Top 5 finishes. Taylor swam to a bronze medal in the 100m backstroke in a time of 1:23.38. He was also 2:10.0s from a second from a silver medal. Taylor also swam in A Final and finished ninth in the 100m freestyle. Yestrau had two Top 5 finishes. Toogood placed third in the 50m freestyle with a quick time of 27.24. She also swam in A Final and finished ninth in the 100m freestyle. Yestrau had two Top 5 finishes.

The goal of the Bell Grand Prix is to enhance the domestic competitive program and provide Canadian athletes with a strong competitive environment. There will be a series of three competitions held annually across Canada beginning in Vancouver, then in Montreal and finishing in Toronto (November).

TEAM CANADA ROSTER
Team Canada selected the 2006 National Senior Women's Volleyball Team roster of 38 players from their Selection Camp that ran from May 10-14 in Winnipeg. Among the 18, two former Bisons were selected – Tammy Mahon, Stephanie Penner and one new recruit – Ashley Voth.

In their Bison career, the two former players were involved in the back-to-back national championship teams in the 2000-01 and 2001-02 season.

Mahn, from Holland, MB, was a Bison Sports Female Athlete of the Year (2002-03), CIS First Team All-Canadian (2002-03), CIS Second Team All-Canadian (2001-02), CIS Championship MVP (2001-02), First Team Canada West All-Star (2001-02, 2002-03) and part of four medals during the three year run (two bronze, one silver and one bronze). Penner, from Dauphin, MB, is one of two setters on the National Team. She was third in assist in Canada West in assists and seventh in service aces in the 2002-03 season.

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2006 EAST WEST BOWL
On Saturday, May 13, the West Team rallied for a come-from-behind 54-26 (OT) victory at the fourth annual East West Bowl played at Laval University in Quebec City. The four Manitoba Bison football players selected to squad were instrumental in the win.

The West predominantly passed the ball after being behind 23-0 at halftime. Fourth year Bison running back Darwin Thompson was the West leading rusher as he produced 27 yards on 12 carries. His longest run was 14 yards and Thompson also registered one tackle. Second year Bison Jonathan Wade had a major impact as he was tied for second for the West with five tackles (three solo, four assists). He had 1.5 tackles for nine yard loss and was one of two West defenders with a registered sack for eight yards. First year Bison offensive lineman Ryan Karhub and fourth-year Bison running back Karim Lowen were on the West roster but did not register any stats during the game.

This was the fourth consecutive victory for the West team.

A National Committee of CIS and CFL head coaches and scouts selected the players who were first nominated by their respective teams. All 27 CFL football schools are represented each year in the East West Bowl. The East West Bowl, in partnership with the CFL, is designed as a showcase for athletes entering their CFL draft year in 2006.

National senior medals football players perform

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

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By the editor, photo ideas and event submissions.

For information call 474 8111.
Mouse model expert wins national recognition

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

In the two years since he arrived at the University of Manitoba, Hao Ding, biochemistry and medical genetics, has attracted increasing national recognition for his research expertise.

Last fall, he was named as a finalist in the biomedical category for the Massey Menten New Principal Investigator Prize, a national award given annually by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Genetics, based on his excellent performance in the CIHR grants competition.

In May 2006, he was named as the winner of the prestigious 2006 Young Investigator Award presented by Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. One award is presented each year based on his excellent performance in the CIHR grants competition.

Ding is studying a gene called PDGF-C and its role in the development of medulloblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumor in children.

"Using knockout mice isn’t the hard part," Ding said. "The difficult part is choosing the right gene, and then asking the right questions."

Ding is also working with several other genes that have been highly implicated in the development of human cancers and genetic diseases.

"Mouse, transgenic technology is the most powerful tool for understanding the in vivo function of these genes," Ding said. "In collaboration with Klaus Wrogermann, biochemistry and medical genetics, we are trying to dissect out the role of the Trim32 gene in limb girdle muscular dystrophy type 2H."

This work recently caught the attention of researchers in the United States who are investigating the involvement of the same gene in a genetic disorder called Bardet-Biedl Syndrome.

"A group at the University of Iowa was very interested to learn about our knockout studies of Trim32," he said. "I visited them a few weeks ago, and we have now set up a solid collaboration."

Long-term grazing experiment is first of its kind

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

Researchers from the University of Manitoba and the government of Canada have teamed up for a unique grazing experiment at Grasslands National Park of Canada in Saskatchewan. The twelve-year project will document the effects of different intensities of grazing by cattle on virtually all aspects of the park’s mixed-grass prairie ecosystem.

Much of Grasslands National Park has been left un-grazed for ten to twenty years. This has resulted in lower diversity, with generally taller grass structure and more litter, or dead plant material, than naturally-grazed grassland would have.

"Grazing is an important process in a mixed-grass prairie ecosystem," said Nicola Koper, Natural Resources Institute. "If you imagine bison going through a landscape, their grazing would result in some areas that have relatively tall vegetation, and others where the vegetation is in shorter. This diversity in the vegetation leads to a more diverse ecosystem, including various different kinds of insect and animal communities."

John Wilmshurst, an ecologist with Parks Canada, said this kind of diversity in plants and animals is essential for a healthy ecosystem.

"Right now, this landscape is fairly homogeneous, and it’s missing the kind of patchiness you get when different areas are at different stages of plant succession," he said. "The goal of this experiment is to return diversity to the park, so that there are different stages of succession in both plant and animal communities. Different animals make use of different plants, or the same plant at different stages of development, so returning diversity to the vegetation will have a direct impact on the diversity of animal life."

Wilmshurst said the idea for a long-term grazing experiment was planted about ten years ago, when a new management plan for the park began to be developed. Published in 2002, the finished plan allows for both managing for heterogeneity, or diversity, and an experimental approach to determine the effects of grazing.

The project officially started last year with a preliminary meeting in Swift Current that brought together experts in cattle, grazing systems, ecology and experimental design.

"I was invited to that meeting, and it was a great opportunity to be involved right from the beginning," Koper said. "I’m very interested in experimental design and in grazing ecology, particularly how grazing affects birds, so I was lucky enough to become involved in the field work right away."

Koper, Wilmshurst and other team members are making pre-grazing observations to determine exactly what the park’s ecosystem is like right now. This pre-grazing sampling will last for two years, with the cattle arriving in 2008 for the ten-year grazing phase of the experiment.

Different numbers of cattle will be brought into experimental pastures throughout the park so that researchers can study the effects of various intensities of grazing. Other sites will be left un-grazed for comparison purposes. Researchers will be looking at the effects of grazing on a wide range of species, including plants, grasshoppers, beetles, birds and ground squirrels. An important goal of the project is to understand how grazing affects species at risk, like the Sprague’s Pipit, a threatened prairie songbird.

"The effects of grazing interact with weather, how sites change over time when exposed to specific grazing intensities, and the interactions between a wide range of plant and animal species over time," he said. "We’ve had a lot of interest in this project from researchers in other parts of Canada and the U.S. who are very interested in seeing what kind of data we get."
In collaboration with U of M Jazz Camp

SMARTPARK
Research and Technology Park Presents:

A Summer Night Jazz Fest

Stefon Harris
New York

Steve Turre
New York

Miguel Zenón
Puerto Rico

Terreon Gully
St. Louis

Will Bonness
Janice Finlay
Dr. Richard Gillis
Ken Gold
Annie Lisa Kirby
Steve Kirby
Larry Roy

Thursday, August 17, 2006
7:30 pm

Place: The Max Bell Centre on The U of M Campus
Tickets: visit Ticketmaster.ca, call 780-3333, or $10 at the door,
FREE for children under 14
Parking: FREE in U Lot Seating: Bring your own lawn chair