University of Manitoba students managed a big upset last month when their entry in an international robot plane competition, a plane that was lovingly nicknamed “The Turkey,” beat out 17 other institutions from around the world, including MIT, Cornell and Virginia Polytechnic.

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International and the Program Executive Office for Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aviation hosted the fourth annual student competition for unmanned aerial vehicles at the Webster Field Annex in St. Inigoes, Maryland.

The University of Manitoba team succeeded in taking overall first place in the competition, and first place in the flight category.

The object of the flying portion of the competition was to launch an unmanned radio-controlled aircraft and transition it to autonomous flight. It was then to navigate a specified course and use onboard payload sensors to locate and assess a series of man-made targets before returning to the launch point for landing. Each team was required to complete the task within 40 minutes.

Computer science student and team leader Paul Furgale notes: “On landing we retrieved imagery from our onboard camera and were able to identify five out of six targets in the search area.

We completed our mission with seven minutes to spare – by all accounts, the fastest time of any university.”

John Bate, head, computer science, says: “The U of M plane was completely autonomous and completed its flight with no human control, including takeoff and landing. The team was composed of computer science and engineering students and is a good example of what can be accomplished by interdisciplinary cooperation.”

See COMPETITION/P. 2.

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The University of Manitoba has broken ground on a new home for the Faculty of Pharmacy. The Apotex Centre is set to go up on McDermot Avenue at the Bannatyne campus – cementing the area as the health sciences learning centre of the province.

Faculty of Pharmacy dean David Collins told more than 200 people who were on site for the ceremonial groundbreaking on Tuesday, June 27 that the new building represents more than just a change of location for the faculty – as it moves from the Fort Garry campus to the downtown campus – it represents a change in philosophy.

“We’ve outgrown our current building and we need additional space to train more students – a critical step in dealing with the province’s shortage of pharmacists,” Collins said. “But the demands from the health profession have also increased. The role of pharmacy practitioners has changed from manufacturing and dispensing medications to one focused on patients. Pharmacists need a thorough knowledge of drugs and the people who collaborate with them in health care.”

And what better way to get that collaboration than by locating pharmacy in the heart of the university’s health district where students and professors can work more easily with their counterparts in the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and the School of Medical Rehabilitation.

“We’ll be bringing our students together and we’ll be doing it at the formative stage of their education,” Collins said. As students from pharmacy and the other health related fields move through their education, collaboration with other groups will be taken as the given rather than the exception.

See PHARMACY/P. 2.
MMF brings Aboriginal Centre closer to reality

On behalf of the Manitoba Metis community, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) president David Chartrand presented a $100,000 cheque to president Eméoke Szathmáry, towards the future construction of the Aboriginal Student Centre.

The cheque, presented on June 20, is the first of three annual installments that will see the MMF contribute a total of $300,000.

“The MMF is committed to the education of our Metis students – this is an investment in their future,” said Chartrand. “Our support for the centre will increase the profile of Metis students and Metis culture on campus.”

“Of our Metis ancestors were founders of the University of Manitoba,” noted Medicine dean Dean Sandham. “Metis such as Alexander Kennedy Isbister took a lead role in education in our province and left a legacy for future generations of students. Today’s contribution is evidence of continued leadership by the Metis people."

“I welcome the generous support of the Manitoba Metis Federation for our new Aboriginal Student Centre,” said Szathmáry. “This significant gift will help provide students, especially those of Metis heritage, with a much appreciated physical facility that provides great opportunities for peer to peer interaction and enhances learning.”

The University of Manitoba’s new Aboriginal Student Centre, to be built just west of the Education Building, will provide Metis students with an environment that is both culturally appropriate and conducive to academic success. The contribution continues the work the MMF has done to support Metis education at the post-secondary level throughout the province.

“We always say our youth are the leaders of tomorrow. But in order to have your leaders, you have to give them the tools to become leaders,” said Chartrand.

The MMF president went on to say that his organization’s relationship with the University of Manitoba was “a model of true partnership.”

Pharmacy is a good fit for Bannatyne campus

From Page 1.

University of Manitoba president Eméoke Szathmáry said it wasn’t an easy decision to relocate the Faculty of Pharmacy, but it was the right move.

“This new home for the Faculty of Pharmacy will enhance its ability to educate more pharmacists and carry out research with allied health professionals to meet the needs of Manitobans,” Szathmáry said.

Medicine dean Dean Sandham and Dentistry acting dean Randall Szathmáry said they look forward to the opportunities that will arise from having pharmacy downtown.

“All of us here want you to know that we’re here to help, that you’re welcome and that we all look forward to the collaboration,” Manurat told Collins and the pharmacy students on hand for the event.

Construction on the new building kicks off this summer and it will be ready for students to move in by the fall of 2008.

The four-story 95,000 sq. ft building will more than double the space available for pharmacy students allowing the faculty to expand its capacity to train pharmacists and includes room for future campus projects.

Jack Kay, president and COO of Apotex, was at the groundbreaking. His company has donated $3 million and its name to the project.

“Apothek, as the largest R&D company in Manitoba with hundreds of employees, is very pleased to be part of the groundbreaking for the new Pharmacy building. It shows our commitment to this province by investing in the future of our healthcare system, and the value we also see in the high quality of education provided by the University of Manitoba Faculty Of Pharmacy,” Kay said.

Components of the new facility will include advanced lecture theatres, an undergraduate teaching laboratory with bench space for 75 students, a manufacturing lab designed to provide hands-on experience in table and sterile formulation production, a pharmaceutical care lab which will include a simulated dispensary system and patient counselling area, and a research centre for new drug development and delivery systems.

The new facility was made possible through the generosity of a number of government, corporate and private donors, including: Government of Manitoba ($7,000,000); Apotex ($5,000,000); Procurity ($1,000,000); Kristjan Thorckelson ($500,000); Shoppers Drug Mart ($250,000); Super Thrifty Drugs ($100,000); Corbett Cabinet Architects ($50,000); McKesson Canada ($50,000).

Competition links students with industry

From Page 1.

Industry sponsors and the US Navy support the competition, which allows both industry and government to talk to the next generation of unmanned systems designers and developers in an informal environment. It also allows the students to meet and talk with industry and government employees about career options in the unmanned systems industry.

“The competition is designed to spur interest in the next generation of students in unmanned aerial vehicle technology,” says Purgale. Although the U.S. military sponsors the competition, Purgale says military use of this technology is only one possible application, adding that robot planes have civilian uses as well, specifically in scientific research.

This year, the association awarded a total of $29,500 in prize money for various efforts including technical papers, an oral brief, mission performance and safety. The Manitoba team took home over $6,500 US.
Ronald joins select group as Wightman award winner

University of Manitoba professor played pioneering role in HIV/AIDS research in Africa

Allan R. Ronald, a pioneer of the University of Manitoba’s world-renowned infectious disease research program in Africa, has been named the recipient of the 2006 Wightman Award.

The Wightman Award, which is given by the Gairdner Foundation, recognizes Canadians who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in medicine and medical science.

The announcement was made on June 22 by John Dirks, president of the Gairdner Foundation. The Gairdner Medical Advisory Board cited Ronald “for his leadership in developing the specialty of clinical infectious disease in Canada and for his exceptional international contribution in Africa.”

“We are most pleased that Dr. Ronald was chosen from a group of outstanding Canadians for his special achievement in medicine, not only in Canada, but the world,” said Dirks.

An extraordinarily modest man, he has quietly and determinedly pushed for improvements in those afflicted with infectious disease, including HIV/AIDS, without fanfare or desiring public acclaim. He is there simply to help and to lead.”

Ronald has spent the better part of three decades studying infectious diseases in Africa including helping to establish one of the first clinical investigation units studying HIV/AIDS in Africa in 1978. In 2002, Ronald retired from a distinguished 35-year career as a professor and medical researcher but has kept busy fostering the HIV/AIDS care and prevention program in Uganda. This successful launch of a drug distribution program has received worldwide media coverage.

Born in Portage la Prairie, Ronald received his medical degree in Manitoba, Maryland, Washington and Pakistan before returning to the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Medicine in 1968 to head its infectious disease unit.

Ronald was promoted to the rank of professor in 1976. He led the first department of medical microbiology (1976-1985) and then the department of infectious diseases (1990-1993) there.

Ronald also applied his expertise in Winnipeg’s teaching hospitals, initially as head of clinical microbiology and later as physician-in-chief at the Health Sciences Centre, and subsequently at St. Boniface General Hospital as head of infectious diseases.

In 1979, he was invited to coordinate a research training centre in Nairobi, Kenya where he and other members of the Faculty of Medicine have significantly advanced HIV/AIDS prevention programs and the understanding of HIV transmission. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Nairobi on over 40 occasions and at the University of Hong Kong, where he assisted in the development of an infectious disease program.

In addition, he has written more than 400 publications and served on various boards and councils including the International Society of Infectious Diseases (as president), the American College of Physicians and the Medical Research Council.

He has received awards from, among others, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Canadian Association of Physicians of Medicine, the American Venerable Disease Association, and the Canadian Medical Association, which in 2003 presented him with its highest honour, the F.N.G. Starr Award. Ronald is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Established in 1957 by Toronto businessman, James Gairdner, the Gairdner Foundation (www.gairdner.org) first recognized achievement in medical science in 1959.

Since then, the Gairdners have grown to be one of the most prestigious international awards in medical research, recognizing outstanding contributions by medical scientists worldwide whose work will significantly improve the quality of life. The award includes a $30,000 prize.

Since 2003, the lead national sponsor of the Gairdner awards has been the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the major federal agency responsible for funding health research in Canada, supporting the work of 10,000 researchers in universities, teaching hospitals and research institutes across Canada. It aims to excel in the creation of new health knowledge, and to translate that knowledge from the research setting into real world applications. The results are improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system.

The Gairdner Foundation’s Wightman Award is named after the late Professor K.G.R. Wightman, former president of the Gairdner Foundation and Eaton Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

The Wightman has now been awarded 11 times, with the latest in 2001 when it was given to Henry Friesen, distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba. Friesen was the driving force behind the creation of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, and the chairman emeritus of Genome Canada.

Planning for Orientation 2006 is well underway

By DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

It’s the height of summer but for the team behind Orientation 2006, thoughts are focused entirely on the fall.

Currently, the orientation team is busy signing up volunteers to greet students when they arrive on campus on Sept. 5 and to staff the homeroom and orientation sessions set for Sept. 5 and 6.

“Right now we have 70 meeters and greeters signed up but we’d like to have over 100 ideally,” meeters and greeters coordinator Jessica Nagamori said. “People can sign up anytime throughout the summer.”

Signing on as a meeter and greeter is a chance for students to make new friends and other members at the University of Manitoba to welcome the new cohort of students.

“It’s something that can be really enjoyable for staff members,” Nagamori said. “We even have retired staff members who come back to volunteer for orientation because they enjoy it so much.”

Volunteers are not too onerous either: meeters and greeters rally at the Tier Building at 7:45 a.m., where they hand out t-shirts and donuts before heading off to welcome the incoming students.

By 9:30 a.m., the new students have found their way into their homerooms and the welcoming crew can be at their desk or heading home.

As an upside, meeters and greeters receive a free t-shirt and a bright blue coffee mug for their efforts. To sign on, contact Nagamori at 474-9948 or e-mail nagamori@cc.umanitoba.ca.

Once the new University 1 students arrive on campus they’ll head to their homerooms and get a primer on university life.

This year we’ve decided to go without a theme or tagline,” orientation coordinator Ashley Tolton said. “We’re putting the focus on the students and making sure they get the information they need.”

“A lot of times students would remember the theme but not the orientation,” academic support leader coordinator Jenn Sykes added.

The result will be an orientation that is a mixture of business and pleasure. The mornings will feature homeroom seminars and special workshops that focus on student responsibilities, academic honesty, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to respect diversity. Afternoons feature additional training sessions that go beyond the basics with lessons on note taking, claiming your ID on campus and how to get involved in campus life. While the morning sessions are mandatory for University 1 students, the afternoon session is voluntary.

But the serious side of orientation is only part of its purpose. It’s a chance for students to meet one another, get a feel for the campus and have a good time. To that end there will be a rally at the Investors Group Athletic Centre at 12:15 p.m. on Sept. 5 to welcome students.

People who opt out of the afternoon sessions can catch a hypnotist, drag show or try their hand at rock climbing.

“On Sept. 6 we’re having our student resource festival,” special events coordinator Tina Riggs said. “We’ve invited all the different faculties and student groups to have a display on what they have to offer. There will be interactive games and students can come and get the information they want and have a good time.”

Orientation will round out with local band J.P. Hoe and the Truly Richards.

It takes about 360 volunteers to pull off Orientation 2006. Most of those people are already in place and interestingly only a small percentage pay to round out the group. Volunteers attend a training session over the summer and then work two full days during orientation. In addition there are eight super volunteers who put in about 100 hours of time throughout the summer assisting the orientation crew.

University orientation coordinator Ashley Tolton, front, from left, Tina Riggs, Jenn Sykes and Lyndsay Hersikorn are busy lining up the volunteers needed to run University 1 Orientation 2006. Expect to see over 100 meeters and greeters and 360 orientation volunteers hard at work when the university’s new class rolls onto the campus on Sept. 5.
Debating course credit hours and graduate students

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The debate over how many credit hours in course work should be demanded of graduate students was alive and well at the June 28 meeting of Senate.

The touchstone for the discussion was the minimum standard of 12 credit hours of course work. The bulk of the graduate student’s education would then come from their work in the lab and on research projects rather than in the classroom.

Medicine associate dean (academic) Judy Andreola said the change brings the question of whether the university should have a base level of course credit hours that people need to take in their graduate program.

“We need to discuss what is a credit hour? What does it entail? Our goal is to put out good researchers but we need to not forget that education is part of that. We need to know these people can incorporate a body of work in an education setting,” Anderson said. “I don’t care if there are no credit hours so long as there is education of a body of literature.”

Graduate Studies dean Jay Doering said his faculty has had the exact same sort of discussions. The faculty officially recommended that all departments have a base of 12 credit hours of course work for their masters programs. But the final number for each program is decided on a case by case basis.

In the case of botany and zoology, the decision to drop the course credit requirement from 12 to 6 for masters’ program followed an external review that pointed out that the U of M’s sister universities, such as the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa and the University of Alberta, to name a few, all go with a 6/12 requirement for masters/PhD students. Britain and Australia have no formal course requirements for graduate degrees.

“My first gut response when I saw the request to lower the course credit requirement was, ‘I don’t think so,’” Doering said. But he acknowledged the departments are following the lead of other universities.

student survey continues to benefit U of M

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

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Seed for partnership was planted here

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

President Emöke Szathmáry credited associate vice-president (research) Digeor Jayas with setting the process in motion which led to this spring’s, to the creation of a new Manitoba-based fund to support research exchanges between Israeli and Manitoba universities.

The fund, announced in May, is a partnership between the Province of Manitoba and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada Prairie Region.

The province has already kicked in $1 million and the JNF has set a goal of raising a matching amount.

Research projects will focus on the construction of rapid-growth greenhouse technology, water conservation and forest diversification.

It was exactly that sort of partnership fund that Jayas suggested we go along with Szathmáry and Asper Chair in International Business and Trade Linda Rosen. The idea is that we establish a fund that will allow for the creation of a small research facility on the east side of the university campus. The facility will be named after Jayas and Rosen.

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paying respect

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

President Emeritus Ted Townsend at its regular meeting on June 28.

Ritchie died on April 13 at the age of 66. An honorary fellow of St. John’s College, Ritchie worked as a professor in the Faculty of Music for 36 years before retiring in 2004. Ritchie’s talent in music ranged across boundaries from piano and the clarinet to the organ.

a professor emeritus of anthropology, Townsend died on May 23. She had joined the U of M in 1964 and retired in 1999. Townsend was a founding member of the department of anthropology and one of the creators of its graduate program. In retirement, she remained active in research, looking for ways that Anthropology could use traditional practitioners in Nepal and elsewhere.

ROAD WORK

Construction has begun on Chancellor Matheson Road. Traffic lights have also been installed at the intersection of Research Road and Chancellor Matheson Road. The lights will be switched on when the construction project is completed.

Student survey continues to benefit U of M

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba has been tapping the brains of its students and students for years now as part of the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium.

“This year 26 universities participated. We usually get the results by the end of June and we’re always pleased with the response rate,” student services executive director Lynn Smith said. Each year, 1,000 surveys are sent out to students at the U of M with an average response rate of 47 per cent. The survey taps the thoughts of nearly 15,000 students across Canada for their views on their undergraduate experience.

Smith said the university the area needs it to improve and let it know how it compares against universities across Canada.

The U of M is a founding member of the 2.0 million and the JNF has set a goal of raising a matching amount. The survey taps the thoughts of nearly 15,000 students across Canada for their views on their undergraduate experience.

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You might say that Terry Hogan and University College Sedaya International have come full circle.

Recogntively 20 years ago, the University of Manitoba was one of the first universities that then fledgling Sedaya college from Malaysia approached about forming a partnership. Hogan – then associate vice-president (academic) for the U of M – was charged with checking out the college and seeing if a partnership would make sense for the U of M.

Now, with the partnership having helped hundreds of Malaysian students earn degree from the University of Manitoba, the greatly expanded Sedaya College in recognition Hogan was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Letters degree at its next invocation on July 22.

“I’m thrilled at getting the degree. I feel it’s a real honour,” Hogan said.

“I’ve seen the college grow over the past two decades and this is their way of recognizing my contribution to it. I’m really thrilled with what they’re doing.”

The first time Hogan saw Sedaya College it was tucked into a strip mall with three or four floors of classrooms and almost no laboratory space.

But they had the right intentions. The college had contacted the University of Manitoba to set up a partnership. Students would go through the formative years of their university experience in Malaysia and then transfer to the University of Manitoba for the final two years of their program in engineering or management and receive a U of M degree.

“Joseph, who would go on to serve the U of M as the vice-president (research) and is now a senior scholar, chatted with the president of Sedaya College and was sent over with two of his colleagues to look at the college.

We discussed it and said let’s take a chance on them,” Hogan said. If Sedaya College was looking to open up options for its students by linking universities around the world, then the University of M was also looking to expand its own enrollment with more international students. And the chance Hogan took paid off.

Sedaya College was granted university status by Malaysia in 2003 and is now known as University College Sedaya International. It has its own campus just south of Kuala Lumpur and a range of international partnerships with universities around the world.

“It’s come from really being a college to a degree granting institution with approval from the government of Malaysia,” Hogan said. Since the first agreement with the U of M, Sedaya College College has sent hundreds of students through the university. A range of different programs have been tried, but the students have remained the engineering and management programs. And for Hogan, receiving the Honourary degree will be one more chance to head to over to Malaysia, see how the college has grown and to look up the partners he’s worked with over the years.

Delta Marsh Field Station transferred to the University of M

Delta Marsh, a wetland located at the south end of Lake Manitoba, will receive further protection as the province will designate the area as a wildlife management area. The province is doing so in an effort to secure this important habitat for future generations.

“The Delta Marsh Field Station is extremely important to this province,” said Premier Gary Doer.

“Designating this internationally-renowned wetland as a wildlife management area and ensuring full protection of the property in Manitoba’s network of protected areas will secure this important habitat for generations to come,” said Premier Doer.

“We are also pleased to transfer ownership of the Delta Marsh Field Station to the University of Manitoba so that outstanding research work may continue.”

The minister also noted the renewal of the lease with the University of Manitoba for 700 hectares of Crown land at Delta Marsh for another 21 years.

“We are grateful to the province of Manitoba for its support of the Delta Marsh Field Station, as shown by this generous gift of the land and buildings at our site. This will enable us to provide better support for teaching and research at Delta Marsh and to promote good land stewardship,” said Gordon Goodwin, field station director.

“We are delighted that the province continues to build on the strong relationship it has with the field station,” added Elaine Goldie, vice-president (external), at the announcement held in the Harold E. Welch Museum inside the Duff Roblin building.

“The Delta Marsh Field Station is one of the University of Manitoba’s, and indeed the province of Manitoba’s, crown jewels. The work carried out by the faculty and students at the field station is extremely important to Manitoba’s future.”

The University of Manitoba established the Delta Marsh Field Station in 1966 through an agreement to use the former Donald Bain holdings at Delta Marsh that were purchased by the province. The centre of the property is Mallard Lodge built in 1932 by Bain, a prominent Winnipeg sportsman and businessman.

Delta Marsh is recognized as an intergovernmental Ramsar Convention on Wetlands site of international significance, a Canadian Important Bird Area and a Manitoba heritage marsh.

Some 8,000 hectares of the 11,000-hectare Delta Marsh wildlife management area will be included in Manitoba’s network of protected areas. The designations will prohibit logging, mining, hydroelectric activity, and oil and gas exploration. Protected areas still remain open for activities such as hunting, trapping or fishing and respect First Nation’s rights and agreements such as the Manitoba Treaty Land Environment Framework Agreement.

“Delta Marsh is an extensive freshwater coastal wetland and the next few weeks will be an ideal time to explore the marsh and appreciate the variety of plants and wildlife that call it home,” said Struthers. “The university has a rich history of ecology research and we are pleased to ensure the marsh remains available and protected for years to come.”

As if the title of new够 good news, the Delta Marsh Field Station celebrated its 40th anniversary on June 23, along with the unveiling of the Mallard Lodge history project by the Friends of the Field Station, and the launch of the DMFS cookbook.

MARKS OF ACHIEVEMENT

John J. Stapleton, former rector of St. Paul’s College, was presented with a Distinguished Service Award on May 29 at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for the Study of Education Administration (CASEA). These awards are intended to recognize those who have had a career in K-12 and post-secondary Catholic education, conducted program renewals, inspired graduate students to present at CASEA every year and supervised doctoral students, many of whom now hold professorial positions around the world. At the same time he has maintained active involvement in a number of national and international educational organizations.
It was a good day for “sneakering” around

Foerster is 2006 DAA winner

The Alumni Association recognized John Foerster (BScMed/61, MD/61), recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award, during a reception on June 21.

Foerster is recognized for his contribution to the university, to the medical profession and to advancing medical research in the province. He is a professor at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine and a specialist in hematology and oncology. For 20 years he was also executive director of research at St. Boniface General Hospital.

After conducting post-graduate studies in Salt Lake City, New York City and at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, he returned to the University of Manitoba in 1969 and, until 1975, worked at the Cancer Foundation and Children’s Hospital. He came to St. Boniface as head of the department of internal medicine in 1975 and was instrumental in the development of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, of which he became director in 1986.

The research centre itself opened in 1988 and grew from a zero base line to a staff of 300 today, while its research budget increased from $1 million to $20.5 million today. The centre has developed outstanding programs in research on heart disease, magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy, nutraceuticals, degenerative diseases of the nervous system, including Alzheimer’s disease and strokes, as well as laboratories dealing with sleep-related breathing disorders, panic disorders, anaesthesia, robotics, kidney diseases, infectious diseases, and nursing research.

A doubling of the research space at the centre, with emphasis on clinical research, is in the process of being completed. This Asper Clinical Research Institute will focus on clinical trials, robotic assisted surgery and robotically controlled IV pharmacy systems, the development of health information system programs, and a special emphasis on clinical cardiovascular research. These developments are expected to increase the total amount of research space at St. Boniface Hospital to 200,000 square feet and the total research staff to 600, including some 60 principal investigators.

In the medical community, he has served on numerous local, national and international committees and for his accomplishments, Foerster has received many awards and honours.

Foerster continues to give back to the community as both he and his wife are active members of the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church in Winnipeg. He has served as a board member of the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls. In the local community, he has served as a board member for Meadowood Manor.

Foerster and his wife have three children David, Steven and Susan and six grandchildren.

Foerster was nominated by Allan Ronald (BScMed/61, MD/61) and will officially receive the award at the university’s fall convocation.
Extended Ed grads make learning a lifelong affair

For Faculty of Extended Education graduates there’s no such thing as standing still.

“We celebrate your achievement as graduates,” said Kathleen Mathieso, associate dean of Extended Education, in her address at Extended Education’s graduation ceremony. The evening was warm with smiles, family and friends, and representatives from the community, faculty and campus partners.

Extended Education graduation exercises were held June 15, honouring graduates of both certificate and diploma programs. The ceremony follows the university’s regular convocation when degree students studying through the division marked their graduation.

Mathieso extended congratulations and welcome to open an evening dedicated to the celebration of student achievement. Guest speaker for the evening was Mike Mager, president of the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA). Mager has been an instructor in accounting for the University of Manitoba, and a moderator for professional programs for the Society of Management Accountants. He was named a CMA Fellow in 2005.

“As a result of your achievements, you have acquired new skills and knowledge that will enable you to move forward personally and professionally,” Mathieso told graduates. “It is a time of constant change. You have earned a credential. That credential will make you more effective and prepared within a changing workplace environment.”

This same theme is true for educational institutions, including Extended Education.

“We have changed our name to Extended Education to better describe the diversity of learning opportunities we offer potential students. There will be even more choices in the future. We are currently working to develop a new degree, integrated studies, that we believe will bring a whole new group of learners to the university.”

“All of us are here tonight to recognize this milestone in your lives. You managed course work while continuing to meet the ongoing commitments to personal, professional and community responsibilities,” said Mathieso, adding, “Remember, keep pace with change. We look forward to seeing you back again for more lifelong learning in the future.”

Awards winners use education to bolster their careers

The Continuing Education Division of Extended Education handed out a number of awards during its graduation ceremony on June 15.

GRANT KERNESTED
CMA – Manitoba Award Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting
Grant Kernested expresses feeling up of pride as an award recipient and a graduate of the Financial and management accounting program. At 49 years of age, the husband and father of two teenagers says that this recognition gives him a “very good feeling.” Currently a financial officer for the Property Registry, he has worked for the provincial government for almost 30 years. “I told myself I am not that old, and I wanted to move ahead,” he explains. “You need to stay current, and learn new skills.” It is never too late to return to the classroom, and Kernested is proof. In fact, he regrets not returning sooner. “In my experience, the program and instructors were excellent.” The primary benefit will be the opportunity to move ahead in his career. “In fact, I want to further my education to match my experience,” he adds. Kernested is now considering pursuing a bachelor of commerce degree as the next step in his education.

CARRIE KLEKTA
Certificate Program in Human Resources
ASQ Award for Academic Achievement
Carrie Klekta, a bio-medical technician with Canadian Blood Services, wanted to expand her understanding of quality management. “The program was work related, and will be very useful in my current job,” says Klekta. Her work involves the calibration and maintenance of bio-medical equipment.

“The program was very interesting, and easy to follow. I learned a great deal that I can apply in my work. I am also appreciative of the recognition given to me by the Award for Academic Achievement,” Klekta took the quality management program by distance education, allowing her to plan studies based on her personal schedule. “I also have a degree in electrical engineering, and I am very interested in pursuing a future career in that field. My work experience and the program will add to my opportunities in the long term.”

CAROLEN MACKAY
Certificate Program in Quality Management
CMA – Manitoba Award
Carleen MacKay, executive director, CMA Manitoba (left) presents the 2006 CMA Manitoba Award to Grant Kernested in recognition of his achieving the highest academic standing from among this year’s graduates of the Financial and Management Accounting certificate program.

THE DR. RONALD KRISTJANSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Gail Hoddinott and Deana Shykaloo were named the Kristjanson Scholarship recipients at the June 15 Extended Education Division graduation ceremonies.

The scholarship was established in 1992 to commemorate the life and work of adult educator and professor Ronald Kristjanson. Sponsored by the University of Manitoba, and a moderator for professional programs for the Society of Management Accountants. One of the most unique and challenging aspects of this program is that it can be pursued on a part-time basis. The student body is mainly composed of working adults with mental disabilities, on both the practical and emotional sides. With two years bachelor’s degree, the student body is mainly composed of working adults with mental disabilities, on both the practical and emotional sides.

“A new look for your University of Manitoba Bulletin.
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New awards recognize the U of M’s support staff

If she had her way, Debbie McCallum, vice-president (administration), would have handed out 47 Awards of Excellence to support staff this year. “Every one of the 47 nominees was worthy of an award,” said McCallum, who chaired the Awards of Excellence selection committee made up of representatives from different groups in the university community.

The Awards of Excellence, which recognize the outstanding contributions of university support staff, were introduced by learning and development services earlier this year. McCallum says having to choose six individuals and two teams out of all the worthy nominees was extremely difficult for the selection committee. “We sincerely hope this will be the start of something new,” she said of those who weren’t selected this year.

President Emőke Szathmáry echoed McCallum’s praise at the June 28 meeting of Senate. “I’d like to underscore the importance of our support staff. They’re as important as the teaching and research awards,” Szathmáry said. “The people who work here are the ones at this institution can do their work without the help of the support staff.”

In the four categories—The President’s Award, The Leadership Award, The Service Award and The Team Award—there are several recipients of the 2006 Awards of Excellence:

**LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Carol Buecker (business manager - Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation Studies)

Carol has been an instrumental member of the middle managers group providing leadership and counsel about the management of administrative and financial issues the group faces. During the VIP process and financial system changes, Carol used her expertise and knowledge to bring about improvements and relieved many of the tensions that arose in the middle managers group during this challenging time.

**SERVICE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Robbin Watson (administrative assistant (finance) - Faculty of Architecture)

Robbin has consistently provided the extraordinary and exceptional service. She regularly takes on new, challenging projects that play a critical role in the Faculty of Architecture. This year, she was involved in coordinating several elements of the Russell Building renovation.

**SUSAN LEESON (REGISTRAR - FACULTY OF MUSIC)**

The critical role that Susan plays in the Faculty of Music was made clear by interim dean J.E. Cooper in a letter of support: “Susan is the heart and soul of the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Faculty of Music. She is a leader. She is respected by each and every student and serves them not just as the registrar, but as a sensitive and sensible counselor.” Susan’s office is flooded with marriage and birth announcements from past students who have stayed in touch with her over the years.

**DIANNE BULBACH (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - RESOLVE Research Centre)**

Dianne’s nomination clearly showed what an impact she has had as the ‘Administrative Centre’ for RESOLVE. ‘Dianne’s quiet, calm and competent demeanor steadied us through some very tense times. Her generous, hard working and cheerful approach to colleagues, community and staff has been an essential component to our success in the past ten years.”

**FLOOD PROTECTION TEAM**

The Flood Protection Team is made up of support staff who are involved in maintaining the Forks Garden and keeping the campus from flooding. This team monitors water levels and acts to deal with any issues as they arise. The team could involve maintaining electrical plumbing systems, sandbagging or building other structures to protect the campus. When the campus is at risk, this team makes itself available 24/7.

**27 UMFA Members Receive Merit Awards For 2005**

The Collective Agreement between the University and the University of Manitoba Faculty Association includes provision for merit awards, granted to Members to recognize outstanding achievement in a given calendar year. Thereby each member of a award is $5,000.

The two joint University-UMFA committees responsible for administering the merit awards recently made their decisions for the calendar year 2005. Each recipient received a joint congratulatory letter from University President Emőke J.E. Szathmáry and UMFA President Tom Booth.

The following individuals were the recipients of merit awards in the categories specified:

**Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts**

Russell Smandych, Sociology; Mohmed Moghadossian, Human Nutritional Sciences; Joan Durrant, Family Social Sciences; Kurt Markstrom, Music, for research, scholarly work and other creative activities.

Tania Gottschalk, Libraries; Rod Yellon, Political Studies; Brenda Austin-Smith, Film Studies, for service.

Neil Fassina, Business Administration, L. James Shapiro, Psychology, for teaching.

Jennifer B. Macavish, Physical Education and Recreation Studies; Seonaigh MacPherson, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; Karen Veitch, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; Dawn Wallin, Educational Administration, Foundations and Psychology, for any combination of teaching, research, scholarly work and other creative activities and service.

**Life Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering**

Nazim Gcek, Biosystems Engineering; Tom Hack, Nursing; Richard A. Holley, Food Science; Spencer Bruce Gibson, Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, for research, scholarly work and other creative activities.

Randy Herrmann, Engineering Access Program; John Bate, Computer Science; Thomas G. Berry, Mathematics, for service.

Norman Charles Kenkel, Botany; Nipon Rattanawangchaoren, Civil Engineering; James Blatz, Civil Engineering, for teaching.

Sabine Mai, Physiology; Charles Martin Nyachoti, Animal Science; Ruth Dean, Nursing; Kathleen M. Gough, Chemistry, for any combination of teaching, research, scholarly work and other creative activities and service.
Agriculture reunion set to leave a legacy

Graduates of the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences will celebrate the faculty’s 100th anniversary with a reunion, scheduled for July 21 to 23, and centennial celebration plans that include establishment of a $500,000 scholarship fund.

“Nearly $250,000 has already been committed to the AgCentennial 2006 Scholarship Fund,” said Al Raine, chair of the scholarship fundraising committee. “A number of companies are still considering making a contribution to the scholarship fund. We will achieve the target for the scholarship fund, if these and the already committed contributions come in and if attendance at the reunion by graduates reaches projected levels, since every registration in part directly contributes to the fund.”

Raine noted that 56 different ag-sector corporate organizations have made contributions to the AgCentennial 2006 Scholarship Fund, including a $15,000 commitment from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Endowment Fund.

“We particularly want to express our appreciation to Manitoba Agriculture Minister Hon. Rosann Wowchuk and to Deputy Minister Barry Todd for a Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives commitment to matching funding of up to $150,000 in scholarship fund contributions,” Raine said.

While the terms of reference for the AgCentennial 2006 Scholarships have not been finalized, Raine said it has been proposed that the money be utilized for undergraduate scholarships, which would have a direct impact on enrollment numbers in the faculty.

Michael Treven, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, said that he is excited by the prospects of a new $500,000 endowment. “The terms of reference for awarding of the scholarships or bursaries made possible by the fund will be defined in consultation with the AgCentennial 2006 planning committee. This will be a very significant addition to existing programs and, I would think, will be a very prestigious award in the eyes of future recipients.”

Reinforcing the committee’s desire to have a positive impact on future enrolment, Treven said the AgCentennial 2006 Scholarship Program will present an exciting opportunity to reaffirm the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. “Job opportunities in the agriculture and ag-sector continue to be greater than the number of our graduates - we can’t possibly supply the demand,” he said.

“Given the traditional strength of our rural numbers and the reality of Manitoba demographics, a key area for that future marketing must be students from urban areas – after all the supply of adequate and nutritious food should be everyone’s concern,” Treven said.

Annually, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences enrollment numbers comprises approximately 50 per cent undergraduates with rural Manitoba origins and 30 per cent with urban Manitoba origins.

About 20 per cent of undergraduate graduates come from outside Manitoba with most from offshore.

It is anticipated that the first scholarships from the AgCentennial 2006 endowment would be made available in September 2007.

There are nearly 5,800 living degree and diploma graduates from the U of M’s Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (under various names since it was established in 1906). This includes graduates in home economics from the years prior to 1970 when home economics was a part of the same faculty. In the past 100 years, there have been over 10,000 diploma and degree graduates from the faculty.

The deadline for registering for the reunion was June 30. More information can be found online at www.umanitoba.ca/afs/agcentennial.
Kirton bound for Italy, Sirant is headed for Denmark

BY CHRIS ZUK
Bison Sports Information Officer

Bison men’s golf member Brad Kirton has qualified for the 2006 World University/College Championship held in Broendby, Denmark. Kirton led the Bison men’s team to an overall third place showing.

Kirton qualified as one of the six Team Canada members on the strength of his third place tie at the 2006 Canadian University/College Championship held late in May – he shot a cumulative four round score of 291. His best round was a 69 fired in the second round and Kirton led the Bison men’s team to an overall third place showing.

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Canola genomics research receives $600,000

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

Canola research at the University of Manitoba received a significant boost on June 28, with the announcement of $600,000 in new funding from the Province of Manitoba.

Announced by Energy, Science and Technology Minister David Chomiak, the new funding will support a genomics research team led by Genyi Li, plant science, which is working to improve canola seed for animal feed applications.

“The University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences played an important role in the development of canola and rapeseed cultivars and the funding being announced today will ensure that Manitoba researchers continue to play an important role in development of oilseeds for future markets,” Chomiak said.

Oilseeds like rapeseed and mustard seed contain natural compounds called glucosinolates, which are also found in vegetables like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. By definition, canola contains lower levels of glucosinolates than other Brassica crops, and the University of Manitoba team is using genomics tools to investigate ways to reduce these levels even further.

“There are many kinds of glucosinolates, but we’re looking at a specific one, called progoitrin, which can have some undesirable effects when it is present in animal meal in high levels,” said Li, who holds the Associate NSERC Industrial Research Chair in High Erucic Acid Rapeseed. “About 60 per cent of canola seed is used for animal meal, because it is a good source of protein, while about 40 per cent is used for its oil. Our research will not affect oil in any way, but by reducing the level of this glucosinolate, we hope to improve its effectiveness even more for animal meal.”

Li’s team includes fellow plant science department members Rachael Scarth and Peter McCvetty, NSERC Senior Industrial Research Chair in High Erucic Acid Rapeseed. They have narrowed their research down to a specific family of genes that is involved in progoitrin production, and their goal is to identify the single gene responsible.

“One way we could change the gene expression that would result in lower levels of these glucosinolates in the seed,” Li said. “There are different ways we can manipulate the gene pathway or change the gene expression that would result in lower levels of these glucosinolates in the seed.”

The new funding for Li’s research was announced at a special event in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences that also included the official announcement of a new Winnipeg office for Genome Prairie. A not-for-profit corporation, Genome Prairie works in partnership with Genome Canada to fund and manage large-scale genomics research.

In addition to Li’s canola genomics project, Genome Prairie also supports the $28 million North American Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis Project led by Geoff Hicks, biochemistry and medical genetics, and Canada Research Chair in functional genomics. This project is the North American arm of a world-wide effort to characterize every gene in the mouse genome. Since mice and humans are genetically very similar, it will ultimately provide new information about thousands of genetically-based human diseases.

State-of-the-art Nano-Lab set to expand

By Amber-Anderson Skrabek, External Communications Coordinator

The University of Manitoba’s Nano-Systems Fabrication Laboratory (NSFL) will soon be expanding, thanks to $1.2 million in new funding from the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The funding, announced on June 29, will provide for new equipment and improved laboratory infrastructure, and the expansion will give more students and researchers access to new technologies, as well as increased commercialization opportunities made possible by the lab’s advanced prototyping capabilities.

According to principal researcher Cyrus Shafai, electrical and computer engineering, one can think of the Nano-Systems Lab as a full-service “machine shop” for custom made micro-devices with features ranging from tens of nanometers to several microns in size (about one hundredth the width of a single strand of human hair).

Shafai is a member of the Nano-Systems Group that includes fellow electrical and computer engineering faculty Doug Thomson, Greg Bridges, Derek Oliver and Doug Buchanan, who all use the lab for their own research.

The funding announcement was made in the Faculty of Engineering by Rod Bruinnoote, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, and Fort Garry MLA Kerri Irvin-Ross. Both agreed that our economy depends on our ability to move new ideas and technologies out of the lab and into the marketplace. Manufacturing, telecommunications, aerospace and life sciences, they said, are just some of the sectors that will benefit from a state-of-the-art nano-fabrication facility in Winnipeg.

The NSFL, established in 2002, is completely self-contained and produces its own purified water and nitrogen gas on-site. All of the “machining” takes place in a clean room that looks like a bio-safety lab with its sealed environment, and researchers and technicians wear gowns, headgear and little booties. This is done to ensure particles of dust, huge in comparison to items being produced, are not brought in from the outside.

The lab has already supported the research of close to 50 University of Manitoba faculty and students, along with researchers from outside industry and organizations. Shafai stresses that the Nano-Systems Fabrication Laboratory is a “common-use university facility” and encourages anyone who can make use of its services to do so.

“Nano-technology is changing manufacturing processes,” Shafai said. “It has an enormous potential for a wide array of commercial applications, such as microscopic medical devices, cell phone batteries, or computer chips that could fit through the eye of a needle.”

Research News is published by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) www.umanitoba.ca/research
In collaboration with U of M Jazz Camp

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