Award winning research

A world-class team of researchers at the University of Manitoba has just earned some world-class recognition.

On Jan. 31, Suzanne Fortier, president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), announced that the Kenneth Standing led team and its collaborators at MDS Sciex and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, have won the third annual Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering.

The Brockhouse prize includes $250,000 in funding for future research activities.

Members of the U of M team have spent more than a decade refining proteomics techniques that can be applied to a wide range of problems in medicine and biology.

One of their greatest successes came in 2003 when team members were the first worldwide to determine the structure of the protein component of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus. Along the way, the team has also developed patented improvements to their key tool, the mass spectrometer.

While genes provide a blueprint, proteins actually carry out the cell’s work. Because proteins are so numerous, analyzing them is a far more complex process than sequencing a genome.

In addition to Kenneth Standing, the University of Manitoba researchers being honoured with the Brockhouse Prize include chemists Harry Duckworth and Hélène Perreault, physicists Werner Ems and Oleg Krokhin, and cell biologist John Wilkins.

Other members of the winning team are Steve Haber, a plant virologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and MDS Sciex scientists Igor Chernushevich, Alexandre Loboda and Bruce Thomson.

The involvement of MDS Sciex, a world leader in the design and manufacturing of mass spectrometers, has enabled some of the team’s innovations to be incorporated into equipment that is used by researchers around the world.

See BROCKHOUSE/P . 2

Toboggans away!

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

They picked one of the coldest days of the year to compete, but there’s no doubting the warmth of spirit involved in the 33rd annual Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race.

The event brought over 500 students from across Canada to the University of Manitoba last week and to the Springhill ski slope for a day of racing on Feb. 3. And yes, the toboggans really are made out of concrete – but put any thought of cinder blocks out of your mind. These slick sliders top out at around 70 kph.

The competition wasn’t just about speed, though.

See CONCRETE/P . 3.
In The News

University of Manitoba members are always making news – demonstrating the university’s impact on the community. Here’s a look at the stories and headlines that show how U of M faculty and staff impact the world around them.

HIV/AIDS lab opens
Jan. 19
East Africa’s first state-of-the-art infectious diseases research facility was officially opened in Kenya by the University of Manitoba and the University of Nairobi. The news received significant media attention around the world. The official opening of the $4 million lab was attended by federal Health Minister Tony Clement, U of M president Emílie Szathmáry, and George Magoha, vice-chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

Reg on Board
Feb. 1
News of former senior cabinet minister Reg Alcock joining the Asper School of Business as executive in residence received a good deal of local coverage. Alcock’s term as advisor to business students and faculty and as guest lecturer was well-received in particular by CBC Radio One and University of Manitoba students.

Standing Team Awarded
Feb. 2
The Winnipeg Free Press

The Winnipeg Free Press published an inspirational story and photo highlighting the important work of nuclear physicist Ken Standing who, along with his colleagues, was recently awarded the $250,000 Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering.

Concrete Toboggan Race
Feb. 3

Local newspapers and every local television station covered the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race, hosted by the University of Manitoba. University of Manitoba Engineering students were joined by a cast of engineering students from all over the country for another year of fun in the educational competition.

Israel Idonije a star

The entire month of January and the first part of February was dominated by one University of Manitoba story over and over again, repeatedly giving kudos to the university and Bison Football. Former Bison football star Israel Idonije went all the way to the Superbowl with his team, the Chicago Bears.

Headline News

Where else has the U of M been making news?
Here’s a look at just a few of our headlines over the past few weeks:
• Asper grads bank on food,” Winnipeg Free Press, Jan. 27.

Brockhouse award recognizes multidisciplinary research

A team of University of Manitoba researchers and their research partners were awarded the Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering on Jan. 31. The team, with Mark Whitmore, dean of Science, gathered for a picture after the award ceremony. Back row, from left, Igor Chernushchev, MDS Sciex; Bruce Thomson, MDS Sciex; Hélène Perreault, chemistry; Steve Haber, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada; Alexandre Loboda, MDS Sciex; Harry Duckworth, chemistry; Oleg Krokhin, physics and astronomy. Front row, from left, John Wilkins, immunology/internal medicine; Ken Standing, physics and astronomy; Mark Whitmore, dean of Science; Werner Ens, physics and astronomy.

From Page 1.

“This year’s winners form a ‘virtuous circle’ where academic researchers and private sector engineers collaborate to develop the leading-edge equipment needed for new discoveries,” said Fortier. “I’m especially impressed to see the team combine such a wide variety of disciplines, including physics, engineering, chemistry and cell biology.”

University of Manitoba president Emílie Szathmáry said the winning team is a perfect example of the level of collaboration and partnership vital to scientific research in the 21st century.

“We are extremely proud of these outstanding University of Manitoba researchers,” Szathmáry said.

“They and their colleagues at MDS Sciex and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have done some truly remarkable work that has already advanced proteomics capabilities around the world. I can’t think of any other team more deserving of this prestigious national award.”

Named after Bertram Brockhouse, the Canadian Prairie-born Nobel laureate, the prize honours teams of researchers that combine different disciplines to produce achievements of international scientific or engineering significance.

NSERC is a federal agency whose role is to make investments in people, discovery and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency invests in people by supporting some 23,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 11,000 university professors every year. NSERC makes innovation happen by encouraging about 1,500 Canadian companies to invest in university research and training. Over the last 10 years, NSERC has invested more than $8 billion in basic research, university-industry projects, and the training of Canada’s next generation of scientists and engineers.

“The year’s winners form a ‘virtuous circle’ where academic researchers and private sector engineers collaborate to develop the leading-edge equipment needed for new discoveries.”

Suzanne Fortier,
President,
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

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UMSU puts a green shine on Degrees
Take-out containers, straws, and cups now fully biodegradable

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Degrees Diner has taken “thinking green” to a whole new level by switching over to completely biodegradable take-out containers, coffee cups, lids, utensils and straws.

“It’s one of the first university restaurants in Canada to make the switch,” said University of Manitoba Students’ Union restaurant manager Drew Pelton.

“You can toss your package material into recycling bins on campus where it will be composted by the Campus Compost Program.

“It’s something the students have been pushing for,” UMSU vice-president internal Amanda Jonson said. “We always hear concerns about 50 cent foam on campus and if we can help do something about it we’re willing to try.”

What UMSU has done is sign an agreement with Winnipeg-based Happy Planet Productions for a full slate of packaging material. The products are fully biodegradable with zero petroleum content and zero chlorine exposure. Typically, paper coffee cups are treated with a petroleum based wax to render them waterproof – the problem is it also means they can’t be recycled or composted which is why the University of Manitoba’s recycling program admonishes people not to throw their paper cups in the recycling bins.

However, the new paper cups that Degrees will be using are treated with a corn based product that will break down naturally. The new food containers are made from sugar cane; while the lids, plastic cups, sauce cups and straws are corn-based, and the utensils are potato based.

Degrees manager Drew Pelton said the new packaging material has a slightly different texture, but if anything the forks, spoons, knives and containers are stronger than the conventionally produced material.

The Pelton said he’s been looking for more environmentally friendly material for a long time.

“Just the alternatives that were out there were so expensive that it rendered it useless,” Pelton said.

That was until Happy Planet put together its package and approached UMSU.

“They have the best price I’ve seen for their style of packaging,” Pelton said. “When I saw what they had to offer it was like a bolt of lightening. I thought, ‘this is it’.”

UMSU president Garry San said taking a leadership role on the environment is something people expect from a students’ union.

“It’s something we’ve committed to. We think it’s important that we set the tone here at the university and show that it can be done,” San said.

“The feedback has been really great,” Jonson added. “People are glad we’ve taken this step.”

There is a 25 cent surcharge for the new packaging but Pelton said they’ve tried to balance that off by offering lower prices on coffee when people have it inside or bring their own mugs. Even though the new take-out material is fully biodegradable, people can still do the environment a favour by using their own mug.

Investing is a reverse beauty contest and Canada is the least ugly country in the world.”

Francis told the standing room only crowd that her own views on entrepreneurship have been influenced by an encounter she had with a businessman when she was kicking off her career in print in Chicago.

“Entrepreneurship were influenced only crowd that her own views on entrepreneurship were influenced by an encounter she had with a businessman when she was kicking off her career in print in Chicago. The man she talked to at the time was a large real-estate owner in Chicago – but he had treated the fortune from virtually nothing.

His advice: “If you make everyone you deal with better off having dealt with you, then you’ll be better off,” Francis said. “So if you make everyone you deal with rich, then you’ll get rich.

“The key to entrepreneurship is creating a sustainable win/win situation. It’s not education and it’s not I.Q. It’s having an observational awareness on the part of an individual who wants to conduct business.”

As for the economy, Francis said a comment she heard from an investor about Canada’s potential back in the 1970’s holds true today: “When quizzed by Francis on why he was interested in investing in Canada despite a potential string of problems, the investor replied:

“Investing is a reverse beauty contest and Canada is the least ugly country in the world.”

Francis was born in the United States, but her name has become synonymous with business writing in Canada – she currently divides her home life between New York and Toronto.

“The fundamentals for the economy look good,” Francis said. “Most commodities are not at their peaks so there is more room to grow.

The Canadian dollar will continue to move around because there are so few of them being moved on the international market – meaning those that do move have more of an impact. But the long term trend for the dollar is up and probably to eventual parity with the U.S. dollar. The reason has everything to do with oil.

“The Canadian dollar is going to become more of a petro-currency,” Francis said. “By 2020 when the oil sands fully come online Canada will be exporting more oil than Iran and Iraq combined.”

Oil sands production hasn’t been without controversy. The production process expends billions of cubic feet of natural gas. Francis said the logical step for Canada is to use Nuclear energy to run the processing plants.

“Nuclear energy has received bad press for a number of years but in France 80 per cent of their energy production is nuclear and we have 15 reactors in the suburbs of Tokyo and nobody thinks much about them,” Francis said. “If sensibly used nuclear power is a good option.”

Meanwhile, instability in other areas will continue to ensure oil prices stay high.

“The Middle East will continue to be a mess,” Francis said. “Basically the problem is you have three nation states in Turkey, Egypt and Iran and everything is messed up in between.”

Blame European interference for scrambling borders and creating countries with no ethnic cohesion.

“It will be a Yugoslavia for the next 20 years,” Francis said.

While oil sands production will ensure Alberta’s economy keeps humming, it will also challenge provinces such as Yukon to hang on to their skilled workers. But Francis said the same problem exists across Canada – she noted there’s an estimated 300,000 to $500,000 Canadians making a living in New York City.

Globally, the world is getting richer and the changes are due to the economic growth in India and China. Francis said the west shouldn’t see their growth as a threat.

“All the people there want to do is have a better life,” Francis said. “It’s important that we support China and India.”

Concrete toboggans feature flair and skill

From Page 1.

“We’re judged on speed, the best braking system, the technical system, team spirit and on who has the most spectacular run involves – chances are the winning team has to have somebody become airborne before the end of the race. It’s not necessarily a category you want to win.

The team spirit competition was in full swing in the Engineering and Information Technology Centre arena on Feb. 2 with every team flaunting their theme and talent.

The University of Sherbrooke’s toboggan – themed Pimp My ‘Boggan – looked sleek enough to compete in the Olympics and the team went on to win the overall prize; but different teams were trying different approaches.

“We’re going for versatility,” Vervaeke said, of Carleton’s Smart-themed toboggan. “It can be used in all kinds of conditions.”

Last year some teams tried to get by with narrow ski-style running blades and were completely unprepared for the snowy conditions that they encountered on the course.

Vervaeke said their team can run on blades if they have icy conditions but they also built the sled with a wide drop down runner to handle thick snow – it is at heart, an engineering competition after all.
Support staff awards

Do you work with a support staff member or team whose contributions are exceptional? We are pleased to invite you to nominate them for one of the four Awards of Excellence for Support Staff – The President’s Award, Leadership Award, Service Award, or Team Award. This is the second year of the recognition program, put into place to recognize the outstanding efforts of support staff throughout the university community. You can get started with your nomination by going to: umanitoba.ca/admin/human_resouces/labs/ recognition/$2.htm

At this website you will find nomination forms for the various awards along with helpful tips. Nominations are open until March 2. Please show your appreciation for your colleagues by submitting their name. To show our appreciation to the nominators, we will enter their names into a draw for a $50 bookstore gift certificate.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Mark O’Riley of learning and development services at 474 9124.

Come celebrate hockey!

The University of Manitoba is celebrating hockey and its place in Canadian culture. It’s an event ideally suited for international students – friends and family are welcome to attend, including welcome families and homestay family members.

There will be pizza, prizes, hockey trivia, hockey activities, and free tickets to the game. The event runs 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16, in 204 University Centre with pre-game activities, including pizza, prizes, hockey trivia and activities. From University Centre, participants can head to the Max Bell Arena at 7 p.m. and catch the Bison men’s hockey team versus the Regina Cougars. Tickets are free.

To register, contact Carol Williams at ICS in person (541 University Centre), by e-mail (cwilliam@cc.umanitoba.ca), or by phone (474-9901). Please indicate the number of people you are registering.

Letters Policy

The University of Manitoba Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor from readers about matters related to content in the Bulletin, the university or higher education. Letters must be original and addressed to the editor. Opinions expressed are those of the writer. The Bulletin does not publish anonymous letters. Please include your name, affiliation and phone number. Letters should be submitted to barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca. The Bulletin reserves the right to edit letters to address style, length and legal considerations.

Viewpoint Policy

The University of Manitoba Bulletin welcomes submissions for Viewpoint from members of the university community. Unless otherwise discussed in advance with the editor, articles should range between 600 and 700 words and should address issues related to the university or higher education. Speeches related to issues of interest to the university community are also welcome. E-mail submissions to barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca. The editor reserves the right to edit submission that does not comply with policy. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.

The R. Samuel McLaughlin/MMSF Research and Education Fellowship Award

Announcement

The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, invite applications from medical residents for The R. Samuel McLaughlin/MMSF Research and Education Fellowship Award. The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, invite applications from medical residents for The R. Samuel McLaughlin/MMSF Research and Education Fellowship Award. The award is intended for residents who have successfully completed their CFPC/RCPSC-track residency training and are wishing financial support to fund further medical fellowship training in research or medical education useful to the University of Manitoba. Candidates in their senior year(s) of residency training may be considered for this award should they be able to combine their current residency training with the terms of the award.

The R. Samuel McLaughlin Research and Education Fellowship has a value of $25,000 (Can $) per year, and funding will normally begin by July 1st. The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF) will provide matching funds for this award. The combined funding of the award is $50,000 per year. The term of the award is for one (1) year.

Full guidelines and application forms can be obtained by visiting: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/research/other_funding.html. Complete application packages must be submitted by March 9, 2007 to:

Dr. P. Choy, Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
Room A108 Chown Building
753 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0T6

Manitoba Medical Service Foundation
Faculty of Medicine

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Dr. George Zhanel
Professor, Medical Microbiology

Infections Caused by Antibiotic Resistant Superbugs: Are We Doomed?

This presentation will describe how and why we are ending up in a “pre-antibiotic” era. Dr. Zhanel will discuss the major superbugs and describe some innovative solutions to the growing problem of untreatable infections.

Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 7:00 pm
Smartpark Lobby Boardroom
135 Innovation Drive, Fort Garry Campus

Free admission and parking, everyone welcome!
Mental illness examined through art

BY KIMBERLY CORNEILLIE
For The Bulletin

This year marks the 6th annual University of Manitoba Medical Art Show. Medical students will showcase their exploratory art talents to deliver a message on Mental Illness: Perception versus Reality, opening night on Feb. 12 at Bannanayve Campus.

Committee members have been coordinating the event for several months and are excited about the exhibit.

“This year's exhibit delivers new perspectives about mental illness and how it affects those living with the disease,” said Maxim Choptiany, med II, senior coordinator.

The goal of the art show is to blend two unrelated disciplines: art and medicine; using a new medium so that medical students and health care professionals can see that providing health care requires more than knowledge and understanding of the science of the disease alone.

Medical students were motivated by guest speaker, Nigel Bart of the Artbeat Studio located on Albert Street, who suffers from mental illness.

“Nigel was great. He really helped us to understand what it means to have a mental illness and how others see you,” said Michelle Nostedt, med II.

This is Michelle’s second year participating in the art show. This year her piece is made of sand blasted glass and focuses on the struggles and reach for help by the patient. Another piece created by Robin Ducas, med IV, is a conceptual painting which tells a story of how challenging mental illness is to deal with alone and how patients see their world.

These pieces and others will be on display from Feb. 12 to 17 at the Bannanayve Campus and then at the GOSA Gallery, Fort Garry Campus, from Feb. 25 to 29.

Health care grows when practitioners collaborate

BY RACHEL INES
For The Bulletin

In the field of medicine, the walls are coming down. Working across disciplines isn’t just a buzzword, it’s a way of life.

And that cross-discipline way of life was showcased nicely last month when 14 members of the Faculty of Pharmacy’s Interprofessional Education for Geriatric Care (IEGCP) Project and Faculty of Medicine’s Manitoba Initiative: Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice (IECPCP) took part in an advanced training course for educators involved in Health Canada interprofessional education (IPE) initiatives.

The goal of the course was to get professionals working together in interprofessional teams. Health Canada is currently funding 20 IECPCP initiatives nationally until 2008, including the U of M’s Pharmacy and Medicine projects.

“For most Canadians, the future of health care service is a top priority and for health care educators, this issue is of equal importance,” said Michelle Nelson, IEGC research director. “During the five day course, Jan. 15 to 19, IECPCP faculty completed a number of exercises focusing on professional and collaborator roles, collaborative teams, facilitator skills, curriculum development, change management and evaluation, and a summary on putting all the information together.”

Ruby Gromyongre, IEGC Project principal investigator, said that participating in the course with health care educators from IECPCP projects in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Ontario, was an invaluable experience.

“It was an opportunity to live the experience of team development within a safe environment interspersed with ‘snippets’ of knowledge gained through educational training. We were also provided the opportunity to reflect on and openly share our own experiences and learn ‘with, from and about’ other members of the team.”

CENTRE ON AGING
STUDENT AWARDS

Award (Value)

• Centre on Aging Betty Havens Memorial Graduate Fellowship ($4,000.00)
• Jack MacDonell Scholarship for Research on Aging ($4,000.00)
• Esther and Samuel Milmor Scholarship ($500.00)

Purpose

• To encourage and stimulate student interest in research activity in aging.
• To encourage and stimulate student interest in research activity in aging.

Eligibility

• For the Centre on Aging Betty Havens Memorial Graduate Fellowship and Jack MacDonell Scholarship for Research on Aging: Full-time Master’s students, medical residents pursuing full-time research, and Ph.D. students, at the University of Manitoba whose studies focus on aging.
• For the Esther and Samuel Milmor Scholarship: Full-time students pursuing a program which bears on gerontology either in the Faculty of Arts or in the Faculty of Graduate Studies with the principal field of study in a department of the Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba.

Conditions for All Applicants

• Applications and references must be received no later than April 2, 2007.
• Applications must include a description of the proposed research including a statement of its relevance to aging.
• Applications must include all University transcripts. Two references from faculty familiar with the applicant’s work are to be forwarded by the referee directly to the Centre on Aging, on appropriate forms.
• The awards will be payable in installments during the period September 1, 2007 to May 1, 2008.
• All recipients will be required to submit a progress report by May 1, 2008. Any resulting publications must also acknowledge financial support.
• These awards may not be held more than once during a specific degree program.

Additional Conditions for Graduate Students

• In addition to the two references noted above, a supporting letter must be forwarded by the applicant’s faculty advisor.
• A copy of the recipient’s thesis/dissertation, when complete, must be submitted to the Centre on Aging. Financial support from the Centre must be acknowledged.

Committee of Selection

• The selection committee for this fellowship will be appointed by the Centre’s Advisory Board. Various disciplines will be represented.

Application forms are available from:

Centre on Aging
338 Isbister Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2
(204) 474-8754
Closing date for applications: April 2, 2007

Lisa Lix
Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Services

Statistical Solutions for Problems in Health Research: The Benefits of Collaboration

New statistical methods are often developed to address unique scientific challenges encountered in health research. Find out how collaborations among statisticians, clinicians, and mathematicians are helping to solve problems such as estimating disease prevalence from administrative data and monitoring quality of life of chronically ill patients.

Thursday, February 22, 12:00 noon
Private Dining Room
The University Club, Pembina Hall

$4/person (lunch provided)
Space is limited. Registration is required.
To reserve your seat, contact Kim Stefaniuk
Phone 474-9020
Email: kim_stefaniuk@umanitoba.ca

This series is sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Society and the law: who makes who?

Books
by University Staff

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Sociology professor Elizabeth Comack takes a double look at the law in Criminalizing Women. Gender and Dis/justice in Neo-Liberal Times, edited with Gillian Ballour and released last spring, and in Locating Law: Race/Class/Gender/Sexuality Connections (Second Edition), released last fall.

While the focus of each book is different, both look at the law/society relationship and consider how law has a distinctly social basis in that it both shapes and is shaped by the society in which it operates. In other words, we make the law and the law makes us and what evolves out of that relationship can say a lot about who is allowed access to power in society and who isn’t.

Ballour, Comack’s former PhD student and now a professor at Trent University, and Comack co-wrote The Power to Criminalize: Violence, Inequality and Law two years ago. So the partnership was already well established when they sat down to produce Criminalizing Women.

“I’ve taught in the area of women, crime and social justice since I came to the University of Manitoba in 1999,” Comack said. “The books I was using were getting out of date and there was a real need to bring up the current research and available data.”

Artwork for the book’s cover was produced by Jackie Traverse, a student in the U of M’s Fine Arts diploma program. Along with contributing their own writing to the book, Comack and Ballour approach social justice, gender, and sexuality from different angles.

Locating Law: Race/Class/Gender/Sexuality Connections (Second Edition) is the latest in Comack’s work of providing accessible access to information about the ways in which law and society intersect.

In recent years, some students have been signing teaching contracts several months before graduating and consequently, they’re not always making the most informed choices. We tell students that they shouldn’t feel rushed or pressured to sign a contract. Instead, Ed Expo should be seen as a fun and informative experience, and a chance to practice their networking skills.

Prior to Ed Expo, students also had the opportunity to attend several career-related workshops. “The Manitoba Teachers’ Society gave two presentations on contracts and due process to our students,” said Ed Expo coordinator Nadine Philippot.

“Sociology professor Elizabeth Comack has two new books out, both looking at how law and society intermingle. To contribute to Criminalizing Women, the writers consider everything from how women are regulated in the welfare, psychiatric, and criminal justice systems to how they are represented in the drug and sex trades. The sex trade is work that has been criminalized, but many of the women in the in-call (escort) business see it as a job,” Comack said. “So the question is, is it a deviant act or is it just work?”

While the subject matter of Criminalizing Women focuses on women, the authors aren’t restricted to one gender.

It’s not just women contributing here. There are men doing important work in the field and we wanted to be sure to include them.”

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The impact is felt in areas such as welfare reform where the cures to social assistance have a greater impact on low-income people and single moms.

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Comack said the joy of editing both books was the diversity of people and ideas she was able to work with. Both books are written to be accessible to a general audience but they were really produced with students in mind.

“I think our intention is to inform students and to challenge them to think about the issues,” Comack said.

Ed Expo helps students make informed decisions

BY KAREN CHRISTIUK
For The Bulletin

Education Expo 2007 (“Ed Expo”), Manitoba’s largest information fair for graduating bachelor of education (BEd) students was held from Jan. 24 to 26 in the Education Building.

For nearly two decades, the Education Student Council has organized and hosted Ed Expo as a way to help students gather more information about different school divisions, independent schools, and teacher recruitment agencies. Although most BEd students were interested in obtaining teaching positions in Manitoba, recruiters from England, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Korea, Thailand and the United States also attended the event.

“We really tried to put the emphasis on ‘information gathering’ rather than ‘jobs’ this year,” said Janet Lee, one of two volunteer Ed Expo coordinators. “In recent years, some students have been signing teaching contracts several months before graduating and, consequently, they’re not always making the most informed choices. We told students that they shouldn’t feel rushed or pressured to sign a contract. Instead, Ed Expo should be seen as a fun and informative experience, and a chance to practice their networking skills.”

Prior to Ed Expo, students also had the opportunity to attend several career-related workshops. “The Manitoba Teachers’ Society gave two presentations on contracts and due process to our students,” said Ed Expo coordinator Nadine Philippot.

“Sociology professor Elizabeth Comack has two new books out, both looking at how law and society intermingle. To contribute to Criminalizing Women, the writers consider everything from how women are regulated in the welfare, psychiatric, and criminal justice systems to how they are represented in the drug and sex trades. The sex trade is work that has been criminalized, but many of the women in the in-call (escort) business see it as a job,” Comack said. “So the question is, is it a deviant act or is it just work?”

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Behind the scenes in research services

A Day in the Life of a research grant/contract services director

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba’s Office of Research Services is more than just the institutional stamp of approval for researchers applying to granting agencies – it’s there to act as a resource throughout the entire research process.

“Our primary goal is to act as the liaison between the sponsor and the institution,” director of research grant/contract services Barbara Crutchley said. All of the university’s research grants and contracts come through research services – a figure that includes over 1,800 proposals and some $140 million per year in funding.

In that sense, the office serves as traffic control. But increasingly, it’s also taken on the job of helping researchers ensure their grants stay on track.

“Back in the 1970s and 1980s we mostly focused on the pre-award stage – ensuring the application and everything involved met the eligibility rules and the program requirements,” Crutchley said. But that was when research grants were awarded to individual researchers who justified their award by completed research. If a project took three years the researcher would be granted the money up front and be expected to just the expenditure at the end of the three-year period.

“Now awards have become more complex and reporting has become a huge issue in all grants,” Crutchley said. “We’re involved in the pre-award and post-award stage ensuring that the award use and output is on track.” So rather than an end of project financial report, Crutchley’s office helps with the interim reports every three months, in some cases, to show where and how the funding has been used.

“We also have a good sense of what the programs will fund and will not fund,” Crutchley said. “It saves researchers looking for funding from applying to programs that don’t really fit their research needs. We try to ensure they’re not applying somewhere that won’t fund their planned activities.”

And research services staff work with individuals and departments that have not actively applied to likely funding programs. If the University of Manitoba isn’t getting an acceptable number of proposals in a given area, Crutchley said they’ll help review the situation to see what should be done different during the application process. Along with helping the grant process along, the Office of Research Services ensures there is support in legal, purchasing and budgetary departments for researchers.

Given that the Canadian Institutes for Health Research had a national success rate of 16 per cent in the last round of funding, it’s a competitive business.

Crutchley’s position takes her across the university to meet with administrative officers with department heads and deans to make sure research services is meeting the needs to researchers. She also connects with universities across the country to track trends in the field.

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Dr. F.W. Du Val Clinical Research Professorship Award Announcement

The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, invite applications from individuals as candidates for the Dr. F.W. Du Val Clinical Research Professorship Award, to be effective July 1, 2007, or later by arrangement. The intent of the award is to promote clinical research in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba for the general benefit of health research in Manitoba by supporting clinical scientists in the early stages of a research career of exceptional promise.

Candidates should have been engaged in independent research for not more than 7 years and should have received one or more grants from a national granting agency, such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He/she should have a publication record in peer-reviewed journals demonstrating his/her career potential.

The Award is given for a period of three years. It may not be held concurrently with another personal career award and is not renewable. The Award consists of a contribution to the awardee’s salary of $50,000 per annum during the three-year term. Successful candidates are expected to devote at least 50% of their time to research. The appointment will be subject to annual reviews. A one-year term grant-in-aid to the appointee of up to $20,000 may be made during the first year of the appointment.

Applicants shall use the CIHR New Investigator Award application form which consists of a CV Module and a Research Module. The original plus eight copies of the application with supporting letters of recommendation, must be submitted no later than March 31, 2007 to:

Dr. P. Choy, Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba Room A108 Chown Building 751 McDermot Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3E 0T6

The Queen Bee Motel

Located next to the University of Manitoba at 2615 Pembina Highway, the Queen Bee Motel opened for business this month offering quiet and comfortable rooms at a competitive price. The Queen Bee Motel offers:

- Single and Double Bed Suites
- Microwave and Undercounter Refrigerator in every Suite
- Televisions - Full Cable/Internet - Free Long Distance calls
- Full Climate Control
- Quiet Professional Atmosphere
- Special Rates for University Guests, includes Continental Breakfast

To book your stay: The Queen Bee Motel Phone (204) 269-4666, or toll free 1-866-431-4666
2615 Pembina Highway
The Faculty of Education is jazzing it up to raise awareness and funds for Campus Life Manitoba. “We’re having a Campus Life Manitoba Jazz Social on March 10 at the University of Manitoba,” explains Laurelyn Cantor, coordinator of the Campus Life Manitoba Program. “We’re delighted that UMJO (University of Manitoba Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Kirby) and the University of Manitoba Swing Dance Club have both volunteered their amazing talents for the event.”

Campus Life Manitoba is a program that enables people with cognitive disabilities to attend the University of Manitoba. Students in the program audit courses, and also participate in several friendship building activities on campus.

“Our program began in January 2004, but we’ve struggled for recognition, both for the importance of the program, and for sustainable funding,” explains Cantor.

Tickets for the fundraiser are $25 and can be purchased in 203 Education Building during regular office hours. For more information please see: umanitoba.ca/education or e-mail education_events@umanitoba.ca.

U of M Bookstore’s Inventory Blow Out Sale
Fort Garry & Health Sciences locations. Feb. 15 to 24.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Human Nutritional Sciences, Building Effective Nutrition Interventions in Communities by Nigar Sultana, candidate for the position of Community Nutritionist, P412 Duff Robin Building, 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8.

COMPUTER SCIENCE MSc Thesis Defense, Global Illumination and Approximating Reflection in Real-Time by Tyler Nowicki, E2-461 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8.

Pharmacy PhD defense, Sree Kasichayanula, 570 Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, 3 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8.

Advanced Plant Science, High-throughput SNP Genotyping, Genomic Organization and Molecular Evolution of Genes underlying Quality Traits in Bread Wheat by Xiaofang Huang, post doctoral fellow, CRC, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre, 130 Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8.

Microbiology, Cytoysin-mediated translocation in Streptococcus pyogenes by Jerrynh Bruh, 506 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Architectural Engineering, Manitoba Chapter, Canada Green Building Council, A Design Colloquium featuring speakers discussing LEED, Integrated Design Systems and Emerging Green Builders, Bring a bag lunch! Centre Space John A. Russell Building, 11:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 9.


Elizabeth Dafoe Library Graduate Student Lecture Series, Channeling Eco Tourism Profits to Community Members – Kenya’s Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve by Susan Collins, Natural Resources Institute, Iceland Board Room, Third Floor. Elizabeth Dafoe Library, 12:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9.

Chemistry, Battling Biofilms by Dr. S. Madiyastsa, Kane Biotech, 559 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9.

Religion, Images of the End Time: al-Mu’ayyad (d.c. 1078 C.E.) on the ‘Seal of the Satans’ by Lisa Alexandrin, 113 St. John’s College, 2:45 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9.

Mathematics, Unbalancing lights by Karen Johannson, graduate student, 415 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9.

Psychology, Multiple inversion effects in biological motion perception by Nikolau Toye Canadian Research Chair in Vision and Behavioural Sciences, department of psychology and school of computing, Queen’s University, P412 Duff Robin Building, 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Computer Science, Coast to Coast Seminar Series with Sidney Fels, department of electrical and computer engineering, University of British Columbia, E2-508 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13. To register contact Jon Aronsson, High Performance Computing Analyst, aronsson@cs.umanitoba.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Entomology, Environmental effects of freshwater cage aquaculture; results from a whole-lake experiment by Cheryl Podemski, Freshwater Institute, 220 Animal Science/Entomology Building, 10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Social Work, Building a United Campus with Sidney Fels, Sherrill Myers, manager, tri-mentoring program, University of British Columbia, 205-207 University Centre, 10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Get to Know Research at Your University, Infections Caused by Antibiotic Resistant Superbugs: Are we Doomed? by George Zhanell, medical microbiology; Smarpark Lobby Boardroom, 135 Innovation Drive, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Architecture, Built Upon Love: Architecture Longing after Ethics and Aesthetics by Alberto Perez-Gomez, Saidye Rosner Bronfman Professor of Architecture, McGill University, Centre Space, J.A. Russell Building, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20.
**Elders Gathering returns**

The sixth Annual Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering will be held Feb. 25 to 19 in the Manitoba Room, Second Floor University Centre. The theme of this year’s elders gathering is Retracing our footprints. For more information and registration: Aboriginal Student Centre at 474-8850; fax: 275-3142; e-mail asl@umanitoba.ca. Also check the website at umanitoba.ca/student/asc.

**GALLERY ONE ONE ONE**

Gallery One One One is located on the main floor of the FitzGerald Building. It is open Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

**THE BLACK HOLE THEATRE**

The Black Hole Theatre is located in the lower level of University College. For tickets call 474-6880.

**FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON**

March 6 to March 17

March 6, 7 p.m., March 7-10, 8 p.m.,
March 13, 5 p.m., March 14-17, 8 p.m.

The Black Hole Theatre presents Footprints on the Moon, an early play by Winnipeg playwright, Maureen Hunter, who has gone on to become MTC’s “house playwright” with works such as Beautiful Lake Winnipeg, Atlantis, and Transit of Venus. Footprints on the Moon is a charming, sly funny look at why some people leave small Manitoba towns, and why some people choose to stay, what we make of our lives, and what we decide to settle for.

The Black Hole has a long connection with this play. Professor George Toles helped Ms. Hunter with feedback during its writing, and the first production of the play, at the Gas Station Theatre in 1988, was directed by Craig Walls, who was our technical director for a time in the 90s. Our current technical director, Dennis Smith, was the lighting designer; the stage manager was alunna Charlotte Wiest; and the part of Ieryl was played by alunna Sharel McClullock. This version of Footprints on the Moon will be directed by senior student, Robert McCormair.

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Continued from Page 8.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21


Centre on Aging, Inside Personal Care Homes.. Insights into the Work of Long Term Health Care Assistants in Rural Manitoba by Bonnie Hallman, 207 Ibister Building, 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Agricultural and Food Science, Food Aid and the WTO: The Effects of Trade Rules on Food Aid Shipments by Ryan Cardwell, department of agribusiness and agricultural economics, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre, 130 Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Research: This lunch hour has 33 minutes, Statistical Solutions for Problems in Health Research: The Benefits of Collaboration by Lisa Lux, associate professor, department of community health services, Private Dining Room The University Club, Pembina Hall, 12 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22. $4/person (lunch provided) Space is limited. Registration is required. To reserve your seat, contact Kim Stefaniuk, Phone 474 9020, e-mail kim_stefaniuk@umanitoba.ca.

Soil Science, Food Chain Partitioning and Bioavailability of Plant-Cd to Humans are Critical to Valid Cd Limits in Crops and Diets by Rufus Chaney, research scientist, USDA-ARS, Athens, Maryland, USA, 344 Ellis Building, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22.

Physics and Astronomy, Tidal Heating of Black Holes by Eric Poisson, department of physics, University of Guelph, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22.

Microbiology, Mechanism of Gene Silencing by Small Interfering RNAs by Misty Balcewich, 306 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Mathematics, Ramanujan Graphs by Mike Nikkel, graduate student, 415 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23.

Religion, Religion or Spirituality: The Politics of Emphasis by Esther Toews, Quiet Room 311 St. John’s College, 2:45 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23.

Psychology, When is Dominance Attractive? Examining the Influence of Status on Mate Choice by Lynne Honey, department of psychology, Grant MacEwan College, P412 Duff Roblin Building, 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23.

Zoology, Skinks on a hot sand slope: habitat preference of the northern prairie skink (Eumeces septemtemporalis) by Pamela Rutherford, department of zoology, University of Brandon, Z201 Duff Roblin Building, 3 p.m., Feb. 23.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Anthropology, Between States and a Hard Place: The Impact of State Policies on Nomadic Mobility, Territoriality, and Tenure in Southern Siberia by Brian Donohoe, 307T Building, 1:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26.


Institute for the Humanities: Spotlight Colloquium, Did the Jews rent out Christian Churches? Origins and Significance of a Theme in Ukrainian Literature by Myroslav Shkandrij, German and Slavic studies, 499 Tier Building, 2:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26.

Look at the prairies in 3-D

St John’s College is hosting its fourth multidisciplinary conference on the Prairies, entitled The Prairies in 3-D: Disorientations, Dispersals, Divergences on Sept 27-29. The deadline to submit proposals is Feb. 23 (but please submit a 300-word abstract in MS Word format, along with a brief biographical note and contact info). For further information, see the conference website: umanitoba.ca/conferences/prairie/

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full listing of employment opportun- ities at the University of Manitoba can be found at www.umanitoba.ca. The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and per- sons with disabilities. All qualified candid- dates are encouraged to apply, however permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for openings at the University.

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of History

Position: Instructor I in the history of western civilization and modern world history

Start date: July 1

Salary: Will reflect the qualifications and experience

Application deadline: March 8

Position number: 04t87

For information: Professor Mark Gabbett, department of history, 400 Flichter Argue Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V5.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Winnipeg Regional Health Sciences Centre

Department of Community Health Sciences

Position: Head of the department of community health sciences

Start date: July 1

Application deadline: March 8

Position number: B10849

For information: Dr. J.D. Sandham, dean, chair, community health sciences research committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, A101 – 753 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 0R3.

A Grand Slam opportunity

The department of psychology at the University of Manitoba is hosting The (Grand) SIAMM: Symposium on Language and Memory on April 12 to 14. The international conference in cognition, will focus on the examination of two important themes: language processes; and memory, with an emphasis on recognition. For more information see umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/psychology/language_memory_conference/

Alzheimer Society

Manitoba

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Purpose

• To enhance knowledge into the cause, treatment, cure and effects of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders

• To encourage graduate student interest in Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders

• To stimulate graduate student research activity in Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders

Value

$3,000.00

Eligibility

• Full-time Master’s, post-graduate medical program (medical residents electing to take a year off from residency to pursue full-time research) and Ph.D. students, attending universities in Manitoba

• To be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for openings at the University.

Conditions

• Applications and references must be received no later than April 2, 2007.

• Applications must include a description of the proposed research and a statement of its practical applicability and relevance.

• Applications and references must be given priority. A supporting letter must be forwarded by the applicant’s faculty advisor. Two further references from faculty familiar with the applicant’s work are to be forwarded by the ref- eree directly to the Alzheimer Society Manitoba Graduate Fellowship Awards c/o Centre on Aging, on appropriate forms.

• The scholarship will be payable in instalments during the period September 2007 to May 2008.

• The recipient will be required to submit a progress report by May 1, 2008 and a copy of the thesis/dissertation, when complete, acknowledging financial support.

• This award may not be held more than once during a specific degree program.

Committee of Selection

• The selection committee for this scholarship will be appointed by the Advisory Board of the Centre on Aging.

Application form and a copy of the thesis/dissertation are to be forwarded by the ref- eree directly to the Alzheimer Society Manitoba Graduate Fellowship Awards c/o Centre on Aging, on appropriate forms. For more information see umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/psychology/language_memory_conference/

Closing date for applications: April 7, 2007

The Bulletin

February 8, 2007

Page 10
It's that time of year again. The Academy Award nominations are out, and film buffs everywhere are waiting to see if their favourite movies will get an Oscar nod.

For most of us, movies represent two hours of entertainment or escape. They make us laugh, cry, or scream in terror, but when the lights come up, we rarely reflect on why films elicit such powerful emotions.

The experience of crying at the movies is the subject of an ongoing research project led by Brenda Austin-Smith, film studies. She is looking at the “weepies” produced in Hollywood during the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and examining the experiences of women who remember being moved to tears by these films.

“During Hollywood’s golden age, these over-wrought melodramas were extremely popular,” Austin-Smith said. “It was the one genre made specifically for female audiences, and nobody has really studied why these films became so popular, or specifically how women responded to them.”

The project grew out of an assignment Austin-Smith once gave her first-year students. She asked the students to watch one of these melodramas with an older family member, and then to record a conversation about the movie to compare the student’s responses to the film with those of the older person.

“The results were fascinating, and I realized that this would make a really interesting research project, and it has really snowballed from there,” she said. Austin-Smith is interviewing women aged 60 and over about their experiences of crying at the movies. She is also looking at what lives the women were like at the time, and the degree to which they identified with the women on screen.

“Many of these films were very grim,” she said. “Characters died of cancer, their kids were killed, families were broken up, and so on, and yet women went to see them in droves. This period was also a time of major upheaval, including things like the Great Depression and the Second World War. Women had to be very strong, and in some cases, the theatre became the only place they could find comfort and release.”

At the height of their popularity, these films featured some of Hollywood’s brightest stars, and were regularly reviewed in top publications like Variety, Time, and Life. By the 1960s, though, they began to fall out of favour. Austin-Smith said a number of factors, from the second wave of feminism to the radical social changes of the 1960s, contributed to the notion that films aimed at female audiences were lightweight and irrelevant.

Even today, in spite of the continued popularity of genre films aimed at men, like gangster films and spy movies, Austin-Smith said films aimed at women continue to be disparaged and women often as “chick flicks.”

“That is likely one of the reasons that nobody has really taken a close look at the impact of these Hollywood melodramas,” she said. “For the women who went to the theaters, they weren’t trashy, and they weren’t silly. They gave women a way to organize their emotions and to make sense of what they were feeling. The characters in the movies reassured women, especially during times of hardship when many families were dispersed. There’s a history of connection associated with these films that really needs to be excavated.”

Austin-Smith is interested in participating in this study is invited to contact Brenda Austin-Smith by e-mail at basmith@ms.umanitoba.ca.

Looking for ways to stop the superbugs

How do you treat an infection that is resistant to antibiotics? How can you stop the spread of so-called “superbugs,” when traditional treatments only seem to make them stronger?

Bacteria are microscopic marauders. They make us laugh, cry, or scream in terror, but when the lights come up, we rarely reflect on why films elicit such powerful emotions.

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Welcome to the university, Reg

Now what can we learn from each other?

Asper School of Business students at the University of Manitoba now have a direct line to a former Liberal cabinet minister and one of Canada’s most influential voices on government and the public sector.

Reg Alcock was a member of parliament for 13 years and a minister for two years. As president of the Treasury Board, Alcock was responsible for controlling the purse strings of the government.

On Feb. 1, Alcock settled into his new seat in an office in the Asper School of Business where he will provide experience on governance issues via guest lectures and one-on-one interaction with students.

“The Government of Canada – the largest organization in the country – affects everything, especially the business world,” Alcock said. He has a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University and is a long-time member of the Harvard Policy Group and a past chairman and director of Air Information Technology on the public sector. “Business students need to know how to deal with government – it is that pervasive.”

The Asper School of Business is equally thrilled with the partnership.

“Working with our future business leaders is the perfect fit,” says Dean Glenn Feltham. “Few people have the kind of first-hand knowledge and experience in the area Mr. Alcock does. This is an extremely special event and we’re proud and excited to have him join us.”

Executives-in-residence are considered part of the faculty. The position is designed to enhance the exposure to Asper?

Previous appointments have been occupied by Kevin Kavanagh former CEO of Great West Life and the first Executive-in-Residence John D. Stenner, past chairman and director of Air Canada; and Donald Swanson, past vice-president of Canada Post. Alcock will join current executive-in-residence Charles Curtis, former Deputy Minister of Finance for the Province of Manitoba.

The dean (Glenn Feltham) took me out to lunch about six months ago and raised the idea with me. I also went out and met with Charlie Curtis, (former Deputy Minister of Finance for the Province of Manitoba and Asper’s current executive-in-residence), who I have a tremendous amount of respect for, and heard his perspective on the school. My wife and I thought about it over Christmas and I got back to the dean in January.

What had been your previous exposure to Asper?

Well, I’ve been very interested in the development of that school. There is a lot of energy there. One of my own interests is development of the public sector and I have argued in the past that one of the things that we lack in our approach to public management is the harder kind of analytic skills that are resident in the business schools. Some business schools have become more active in looking at those issues. If the government has such a huge impact on business. So, when the dean asked me if I was interested, I thought it was quite farsighted on his part.

So, the school is moving in the right direction.

I certainly think so. I see a school that is reaching out all over the place and not trying itself to the strict methodologies of old. We live in a world today that is changing continuously and the management of change across all disciplines is as much a challenge as the specifics of a particular issue at a particular time.

Has the relationship between business and government also changed over the years?

Yes. If you step back and think of the Government of Canada just in structural terms, it is the largest organizational entity in Canada. There’s nothing that comes close. It has the times the labour force as the next largest business, seven and half times the revenue of the wealthiest business in Canada, it’s regulatory sweeps impact all aspects of life and there’s very little that isn’t touched by it in some fashion.

And the problem we have in the public sector – and this is not just a Canadian problem but a problem faced by countries around the world – is that the kind of transformations that have taken place on the private sector side have not been integrated in the same way in the public sector.

So, you have a world business community that is moving faster and you have this big instrument that is moving slowly and this creates a rather substantial drag. And it really doesn’t matter whether you’re talking social policy, or economic policy, or tax or whatever, the very fact that the instrument can’t respond in a timely fashion creates huge problems for Canadian businesses trying to do work.

How do you think the students will benefit from your involvement at the Asper School of Business?

When you start to think about the big businesses in the country – finance, banking, investment, transportation, medicine – they all have regulatory issues around them. Knowing how to navigate that and understanding how government thinks will be very helpful to students as they go out and do the work that they do and begin to confront these issues.

The fact that large companies maintain groups of senior staff who focus on government relations is no accident because they all know this is something important. It’s not that they want to become politicians or be part of government, it’s that they have no choice but to deal with it.

How do you think you will personally benefit from being involved with the Asper School?

For me, it’s an opportunity to sit within a community of individuals and interesting people who I hope can help me think through some of these things that I think are important.

What’s the biggest challenge that you think you will face as the new executive-in-residence?

Well, it’s a new world for me, and in part that’s what makes it exciting. I’m going to have to take some time to get to know the faculty and the school and get a feeling for how I can best serve the organization.

I’m sure there will be a lot of room for you to blaze your own trail.

(Laughing) I hope so. I will tell you that they have been terrific. They way they have treated me, I couldn’t have asked for a better situation.

Awards dinner has a brown and gold tint

At the 51st annual Manitoba Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association Dinner at the Delta Winnipeg on Sunday, Jan. 28, the University of Manitoba was well represented with five nominees in three major categories and two winners.

For the year 2006, the Bisons football team was named the province’s team of the year and former Bison and current NFL stars Israel “Izzy” Idonije was selected as Manitoba’s Male Athlete of the Year. Cindy Klassen. Fifth-year football player Cory Huclack was recognized as a nominee for Manitoba’s Male Athlete of the Year.

The Bisons football squad completed the season with their second unbeaten (8-0) regular season. They lost to the eventual CIS finalist Saskatchewan in the Hardy Cup (Canada West Semi-Final), which was the farthest the Herd had advanced since the team made the Vanier Cup in 2001 campaign. Cory Huclack was named as Canada West Top Defensive Player of the Year and Brian Dobie was selected as Canada West Coach of the Year.

Izzy became the first Manitoba Bison alumnus to make the Pro Bowl, and only fourth CIS player to ever earn a trip to the NFL Super Bowl. In 2006, Idonije, 26, played in 13 regular season games and both playoff games for the Bears this season. In the 2006 regular season, he recorded 13 tackles (nine were solo) and in the playoffs, contributed a crucial punt rush that helped set up good field position for the Bears in the game versus Seattle. In the NFC Championship game, Idonije won the award in 2002 New Orleans. The Indianapolis Colts spoiled the storybook ending to the season with a 29-17 victory over the Bisons on Sunday.

Other Manitoba Bison athletes nominated were second year women’s soccer player Desiree Scott, first year women’s volleyball player Ashley Voth for Manitoba’s Women Athlete of the Year – given to speed skater Cindy Klassen. Fifth-year football player Cory Huclack was recognized as a nominee for Manitoba’s Male Athlete of the Year.

The Bison nominees for this year’s Manitoba Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association included, from left, Ashley Voth, Desiree Scott, Cory Huclack, Brian Dobie, Terry Watson.