The Bulletin
University of Manitoba

Sports Gala!
Sport Manitoba and the U of M are hosting an awards night and open house.

Science Gap
Universities and the media have to work together to bridge gap between science and society.

Green University
Find out how the University of Manitoba is helping create a sustainable environment.

Jam packed with generosity

Student volunteer Rebecca Ulrich dips into a jar of peanut butter to finish off one of the hundreds of peanut butter and jam sandwiches made by volunteers at the 10th annual Peanut Butter Jam, held on March 8. The sandwiches were then distributed through Winnipeg Harvest to soup kitchens and boys’ and girls’ clubs in Winnipeg.

I.D.E.A. award worthy

Dominic D’Alessandro, president and chief executive officer of Manulife Financial, has been named the recipient of the University of Manitoba’s 2007 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (I.D.E.A.).

D’Alessandro was selected by the Associates, a group of more than 200 prominent business leaders who support the university’s Asper School of Business. The award will be presented at a formal dinner in Winnipeg on June 11.

D’Alessandro, who received the Order of Canada in 2003, has led Manulife Financial since 1994, charting a course of unparalleled benchmarks in the financial services industry, including growing the company into one of the most profitable life insurance companies in North America. In 1999, D’Alessandro pioneered Manulife’s successful demutualization and conversion to public company status, which set the stage for it to become an industry world leader. Five years later he made Canadian history when he managed the largest cross-border transaction with a merger with John Hancock Financial Services, simultaneously creating the second largest life insurance company on the continent and the fourth largest in the world.

“I’m proud of the team. They proved that we belong with the best teams in the country. We gutted out the win and we always work and never quit during the game today,” Bison head coach Jon Rempel said after the game.

Manitoba Player of the Game Stephanie Messner said, “It was a tough and physically demanding game against Laurier. We are happy with the result and received the bounces at the end of the game.”

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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.

Students head to Brazil
March 3
The Winnipeg Free Press
Professor Eduardo Aquino and his environmental studies students from the Faculty of Architecture spent five weeks studying a deserted park in the middle of Sao Paulo as part of a class project. Details of the project, which involved the students’ interpretation of a highly urbanized space as a potential green and public-friendly space made for a wonderful feature and photograph of class and professor in the Saturday edition of the Winnipeg Free Press.

Alzheimer’s expert featured
March 7
The Winnipeg Free Press
Gordon Glazner was back in the news again, this time not as Yahoo!’s top math and science guru, but for speaking at a conference. Glazner spoke at a conference held by Alzheimer Society Manitoba on the possibility of long-term research breakthroughs in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

On children and money
March 10
The Financial Post
Professor Ruth Berry, department of family social sciences in the Faculty of Human Ecology, was quoted in two large articles in the Financial Post for her expertise on how children learn about money.

Two Bisons turn Blue
March 15
Big news in local sports came about when two University of Manitoba Bison players donned Winnipeg Blue Bombers jerseys in a press conference announcing their new team. Cory Hulack and Neil Fulgeares are thrilled to start training with the Bombers in the upcoming season.

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 months.

• “Astronomers are setting up telescopes in Birds Hill park,” the Winnipeg Sun, March 7.
• “A new face of the Arctic,” online Polar research news feature, the Nature Publishing Group, March 8.
• “Engineering students give green light to tuition hike,” CBC.ca, March 8.
• “Astronomers are setting up telescopes in Birds Hill park,” the Winnipeg Free Press, March 19.
• “New jazz instruction rambles into Winnipeg,” the Winnipeg Free Press, March 19.

From Page 1.

“When you consider Mr. D’Alessandro’s modest start as a young son of a family new to Canada you certainly get an idea he is one of those rare individuals who believed, persevered, and worked passionately to pursue his dreams,” said Kim Budzichuk, chair of the 2007 I.D.E.A. dinner and regional president of B.C. Royal Bank for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and N.W. Ontario.

In addition to his long list of professional successes, D’Alessandro has been frequently honoured for his personal excellence. His Officer of the Order of Canada appointment was in honour of his industry, exceptional leadership and commitment to the financial services industry and community. He has led major community fundraising campaigns for the United Way, Salvation Army and Corporate Fund for Breast Cancer Research. He was named ‘Canada’s Most Respected CEO’ in 2004 and ‘Canada’s Outstanding CEO of the Year 2002’ by peers for his contribution to business and the community.

The Associates are committed to ensuring that the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba remains one of the top business schools in Canada. Every year the Associates support and promote interaction between business executives, faculty and students, culminating with the I.D.E.A. award presentation in June.

“I am delighted to be honoured as this year’s I.D.E.A. recipient,” D’Alessandro said. “It brings me much pride to join the previous distinguished recipients of this international award as given by a group of business people who obviously care a great deal about management and the future of embryonic business. D’Alessandro joins past I.D.E.A. recipients, including Israel Asper, Richard Branson, founder Albert D. Cohen, Paul Desmarais, Akio Morita, Ross Perot, Heather Reisman, Dame Anita Roddick, Gerald Schwartz, Martha Stewart, and W. Galen Weston.

D’Alessandro will be presented at the gala with a custom-designed pure gold medal produced by the Royal Canadian Mint specifically for the award.

D’Alessandro supports community projects

Catfish, a book about a girl with diabetes, was published with the support of the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.

The BookStore has launched a new online e-mail notification service. Be notified about in-store sales and promotions, surprise sales and coupons, used textbook buy-back reminders, and computer product announcements.

Sign up today. It’s Easy!
• Sign up online at: www.umanitoba.ca/bookstore; click on “Be the First to Know by E-mail”
• Or fill out a form at the U of M Fort Garry Bookstore

Thinking of Building or Renovating? Visit us at:
www.fortunehomes.ca

Election results

The University of Manitoba Students’ Association 2007 election has reconﬁrmed Garry Sran for a return engagement as president. Sran and most of the UMSU executive slate ran uncontested for the election, but students were able to signal their views by voting yes or no.

The 2007-08 UMSU executive will include: president – Garry (Gurjeet) Sran, with 1353 yes votes, 463 no votes and 188 spoiled ballots; vice-president internal – Mike (Michael) Einanor, with 1249 yes votes, 462 no votes and 242 spoiled ballots; vice-president external – Amanda Joonson, with 1355 yes votes, 407 no votes and 212 spoiled ballots; vice-president equity – Rachel Heinrichs, with 1511 yes votes, 457 no votes and 217 spoiled ballots; vice-president student services – Marlo Ostrow, 1239 yes votes, 504 no votes and 221 spoiled ballots.

The community representatives will include: international students’ community representative Wang, Dai Xin, 195 votes, who defeated Toyin Malahi, 142 votes, and only 14 spoiled ballots; LGBTIT community representative – Daniel Draper, 856 yes votes, 417 no votes, 638 spoiled ballots; student with disabilities community representative – Larry Bailie, 1064 yes votes, 254 no votes, 588 spoiled ballots; women’s community representative – Robin Douarn, 1189 yes votes, 291 no votes, 501 spoiled ballots.

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Science and society: Can’t we be friends?

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

The growing tension between science and society was the subject of choice when Toronto Star science reporter Peter Calamai delivered the Robert and Elizabeth Knight Distinguished Lecture at the University of Manitoba on March 13.

There were over 150 people on hand to hear the lecture, including some of the University of Manitoba’s top researchers and Winnipeg Free Press managing editor Bob Cox.

Calamai, who has spent a dozen years as a science reporter and a lifetime working in the news industry in various positions, said the problem comes down to a matter of trust: how do you get the public to trust what science is telling them when the ability to judge that science has become so fractured?

Calamai said part of the problem is the nature of science itself. While people have romantic notions that science is intended to provide them with answers, the reality is that the scientific process more often leads to better and better questions.

Case in point? Whatever happened to Pluto? Last August the International Astronomical Union demoted Pluto from having full status as a planet.

“Most of my non-science friends had the same reaction: ‘If scientists can say that Pluto isn’t a planet anymore, then why was I ever told it was for so long, why should we believe anything that science says?’ And they largely still consider Pluto a planet,” Calamai said.

“For the Victorians, science made the world easier to understand. Since the then it has made it far more difficult,” Calamai said.

Case examples that science and society don’t always get along? Think about genetically modified food.

The U.K. government and British agribusiness believed they could introduce GM foods to the marketplace with minimal fuss by ‘educating’ the public about the underlying science. That would supposedly result in better public understanding and therefore acceptance of these substances as safe.”

Calamai said. “Government scientists swore up and down that the products were ‘functionally identical’ with non-GM produce. The campaign failed spectacularly.”

Walk into a supermarket in Britain and you’ll see the answer. Row upon row of processed foods with labels saying ‘GM Free.’ The big supermarket chains, like Tesco, take out costly ads to proclaim that they don’t carry GM products.”

Calamai said the romantic solution to the suspicion of science is that it can be countered with a public education campaign.

“Academics who specialize in the public understanding of science call this approach ‘the deficit model.’ It postulates that public opposition to a new development arises mostly because people are deficient in their knowledge. To put that right, simply pry open their heads and pour in information.”

“But the deficit approach didn’t work in Britain for GM foods, which instead became known as Frankenfoods.”

And I don’t think it’s worked in Canada either. The big supermarket in Canada, big enough to completely unreliable.”

To put that right, simply pry open their heads and pour in information.”

The focus has to shift from targeting large groups with a so-called public communication of science to targeting individuals,” Calamai said. “This doesn’t necessarily mean engaging the public one at a time. But it does mean investing time and energy in listening – there’s that word again – to people’s concerns and dealing with those first before pursuing your own agenda.”

The Bulletin

Creative Works Grants Program

The University Creative Works Grants Program is to support high quality creative works.

All full-time academic staff members with professional or academic librarian rank are eligible to apply. For further information, access to the guidelines and application, please visit our website at:

www.umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internal_funding_grantsforms.html

Deadline for receipt of applications is May 1st, 2007.

NATHAN LEWIS

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
California Institute of Technology

Nathan Lewis is a leading scientist and advisor in the field of sustainable energy, participating in the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Lewis has published over 200 papers in the field and has received numerous national and international awards. Professor Lewis will be presenting two lectures discussing scientific challenges for sustainable energy as well as new strategies for solar energy conversion.

Lecture - Thursday, March 22

7:30 p.m.

343 Drake Centre, Fort Garry Campus

Research Seminar-Friday, March 23

3 p.m.

221 Wallace Building, Fort Garry Campus

All are welcome | Free admission

For more information, please call 474-6243

Toronto Star science reporter Peter Calamai said researchers have to find more ways to engage the public if they want to begin solving the growing gap between science and society.
Funding is available for our students
The trick is getting the word out to the people who need it.

One fact that has consistently appeared in articles focused on student participation in higher education, including ones in the Bulletin (President’s Perspective, March 8, 2007), has been the low participation rate of financially disadvantaged students. Specifically, when you consider the student body in terms of their socioeconomic status from high to low, universities attract few students from the most disadvantaged group, less than 7 per cent at the University of Manitoba or less than 1,800 undergraduate students. However, rather than argue why this is so, I would like to focus on what we can do to help these students financially and what we might do.

First, what is the financial situation that students face when considering attending university? Certainly there are tuition fees and these account for about one quarter of the cost. The big ticket items are the cost of room and board. Even living at home will mean that the family will have to forego the income that would have been earned had the student been working full-time. Other notable items would include transport and supplies (books). At the University of Manitoba we suggest to Canadian students that they (the average student) will need approximately $12,000 per year to attend school full-time while living away from parents.

So what funds are available to support those students with limited income? Students have the opportunity to apply for Canada Student Loans and Manitoba Student Loans. Students from low-income families who apply for these loans may also be eligible for various grants of up to $3,000 each to income families who apply for these loans may also be eligible for various grants of up to $3,000 each to support annually.

Internal to the University of Manitoba there is further bursary support available, approximately $1.4 million, including support provided by the University of Manitoba Students’ Union (approx $600,000). In addition to this the University of Manitoba has an Emergency Aid fund that provides some $500,000 of support annually.

Given the level of financial support that is provided why does the University of Manitoba, along with all Canada’s other universities, have such a low participation rate from the most disadvantaged students? Notwithstanding the political arguments, what are some of the issues still unresolved? Perhaps the most obvious issue in that the current model assumes a level of support marginally below that which we, the University of Manitoba, consider adequate – $15,900 versus an assumed $12,000 cost for those students bearing their own costs (living away from parents and not sharing). This very small gap may grow significantly larger, of course, in the case of students who do not live at home. Step one then means finding the means to increase the level of financial support available. Here, there are many proposals. In her article the president referenced the Harvard model which is similar to the Ontario government’s 30 per cent set-aside model (30 per cent of every tuition increase had to be used for bursary support).

Such proposals however require changes in funding models that are beyond the control of a single institution. So, what might we do? If we look south we can find one of the few jurisdictions that have actually increased the participation rate of its most disadvantaged students – North Carolina. Now, this could be just a happenstance, or perhaps they have done something different that works. What they did is really quite simple, they told students that there was money available, told them often, and told them how and when to get that money. In other words they made it known through a massively broadly-based advertising campaign, and it worked. You might say, ‘and this is the problem’ in that we do not possess the funds to launch such a campaign. But the principle that underlies their success in North Carolina still exists, the challenge for us now is to find ways that we can apply that principle. I have to believe with the ‘grey matter’ available in this institution we will find a way to increase the assistance to those most in need. Stay tuned!

The good news is that students in Manitoba have the lowest average debt load in Canada and 50 per cent of students at the University of Manitoba have no debt. The bad news is that 50 per cent of students at the University of Manitoba do have some debt. The real bad news is that many are turning to bank loans, or lines of credit, which have no forgiveness and where the interest on the debt continues to grow. The really good news is that we as a university community have found a way to help more of those most disadvantaged students get the education that can change their future prospects.

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. Unlike other content submitted for publication, 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 or reject any submission that does not comply with policy. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.

The Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics

What are the limits of academic freedom?
Dr. James Turk
Executive Director, Canadian Assn of University Teachers
Editor Of: Free Speech in Fearful Times and Disciplining Dissent

Answers from such cases as:

i) Shiraz Dossa: the holocaust denial conference in Tehran
ii) Phillippe Rushton: the politics of race
iii) Peter March: posting the Danish cartoons of Mohammed
iv) Nancy Olivieri: commercial sponsors of research
v) Stef McLachlan: the University of Manitoba video controversy

Wednesday, 4th April, 2007 at 12:30 p.m.
Concourse Lounge, University College.

Everyone welcome. Coffee and cookies served.

Co-sponsored by the University College Activities Committee

The Sanofi Aventis/Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba Award in Cardiology

The objective behind the establishment of this award is to stimulate and support excellence in research and scholarly activity in the discipline of Cardiology at the University of Manitoba.

Eligibility: Cardiology residents within the division of cardiology in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba who are currently in their residency training. The clinical research/training will normally be conducted within Manitoba.

Award Amount: One annual award with a value in the amount of $10,000.

Guidelines and application information can be obtained from:

The Office of the Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba Room A108 Chown Building, Bannatyne Campus
Tel. 204-789-3375 Fax: 204-789-3942
e-mail: resbsc@ms.umanitoba.ca

One University. Many Futures.
umanitoba.ca
Moot talent

The Robson Hall team placed second at the national Wilson Mooir in Toronto March 4 to 5: Sarah Bahr, Eric Hachinski and Allison Fenske (counsel for the respondent). Manitoba was the top overall team with an aggregate score of 93.25. Manitoba’s success was particularly gratifying since the team had not participated in the final since 1999. The team was coached by Justice Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada. Allison Fenske was also awarded a Top Oralist Prize. The team is coached by Tony Kavanagh of Manitoba by Justice and professor Debra Parkes.

Earned some recognition or an award? The Bulletin wants to celebrate with you. Please e-mail information about your Marks of Achievement to barbourds@umanitoba.ca. Feel free to include a picture of yourself. We’ll need a 200 dpi jpg image. If you would like to chat about the details or picture, please call 474 8111.

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EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The Department of Interior Design at the University of Manitoba has earned a reputation in leadership and innovation in Interior Design education since its inception in 1948 as the first Bachelor’s degree programme in Canada, and more recently with the introduction of graduate level education offered in two streams - the post-professional Master’s (1994) and the professional Master’s (2001). The Interior Design Master’s programme is the first and only graduate level Interior Design education in Canada. The programme has received CIDA accreditation consecutively since 1974.

OPPORTUNITY

The Faculty of Architecture seeks an individual who will articulate and advance the mission of the Faculty and the Department. Opportunities exist to work in a collegial and supportive environment with colleagues from four professional allied design disciplines to pursue discipline-specific and interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and community involvement. The successful candidate will be a progressive leader with strong interpersonal and communication skills who will work collaboratively to consolidate and implement the vision of the Master of Interior Design programme.

THE PERSON

An appropriate professional degree (Interior Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture or a related discipline) is required. A Masters degree is required, PhD preferred. Professional registration and NCIDQ certification would be highly desirable. A demonstrated record of excellence in interior design teaching and scholarship is required. Teaching experience in design studio and/or core interior design courses, and practice and theses sup

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department Head represents the Interior Design programme within the University and to the public. He/she is expected to build partnerships in the context of University, professional and public venues. The Department Head works collaboratively to: formulate pedagogical goals; facilitate review and development of curriculum, departmental policies and procedures; manages budget requests and approves all expenditures; formulates long-range staffing and budget plans; conducts faculty evaluations; and guides and promotes existing and new scholarship and partnership agendas. The Department Head is expected to teach in one or more areas of expertise and maintain a personal agenda of creative/scholarly work.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN

The programme in Interior Design emphasizes an integration of design and scholarship in teaching interior design and promotes human-centered design and process. Students have access to an exceptional library collection, which is supplemented by a product library collection. Design inquiry and methodology, history, environmental and cultural theory, interior design technologies, professional practice, communication and digital media comprise the principal knowledge streams of the programme. The Department is committed to expanding off-site studio opportunities for students in city, regional, national and international settings. Studios to date have included the city’s core, northern rural communities, Canadian and American urban centres, Germany and Turkey.

THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY

The Faculty offers undergraduate and graduate level education leading to the Bachelor of Science (Environmental Design) and four accredited professional programmes (Architectural, City Planning, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture). At present, the Faculty’s extracurricular programme comprises a Gallery, showcasing professional and creative works by leading national and international designers and an ambitious cultural and professional visiting scholars series. The Faculty is engaged in a collaborative initiative with the School of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Music and Libraries to establish the Centre for Music Art and Design (CMAD). The Centre will house a new library and offer students expanded learning opportunities in multi-disciplinary new media technologies. The University of Manitoba is located in Winnipeg, a city with a long-standing cultural history in the performing and visual arts. The city’s reclamation and redevelopment of its turn-of-the-century Exchange District fosters many new business, housing and recreational opportunities and serves as a design laboratory for student projects at all scales of urban design. Winnipeg’s diverse multicultural demographic comprising many international ethnic origins and a growing aboriginal community creates a dynamic urban environment for the Faculty of Architecture, the Winnipeg professional design community and related design industries.

Application Details

The University encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Additional information on the Faculty and the Department is available at http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/architecture.

Applicants should submit all materials in a bound volume, in print format and contain the following.

• Curriculum Vitae
• Portfolio of recent and relevant examples of professional and creative work.
• Teaching dossier of teaching history, recent studio briefs and course outlines with associated student learning outcomes and products.
• Statement of pedagogical philosophy (2 pages maximum).
• Names and contact information for three referees (include: e-mail and telephone)

Review of applications is ongoing and will continue until the position is filled. Application materials, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba).”

Application and inquiries should carry the reference “Head of Interior Design Search Committee, Position Number AJ231” and be addressed to Dr. David R. Witty, Dean Faculty of Architecture and Chair, Head of Interior Design Search Committee, Faculty of Architecture, 201 Russell Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, R3J 2N2, Manitoba, Canada.
Calder studies meaning of her own poetry

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

For poet and English professor Alison Calder the joy of the message is in its ambiguity. "I find poetry fascinating because it contains so many contradictions," Calder said. "You can’t make poetry mean one thing."

Calder has had the chance recently to consider the meaning of her own poetry through the production of her first collected work of poetry, Wolf Tree, set for publication in April.

The book draws on poetry Calder has written in recent years and to followers of her work, for which she won the Bromwen Wallace Memorial Award in 2004, some of the poems will be familiar. But by pulling the work together in a collected edition reader, and Calder herself, finally have a chance to see the big picture.

"The hard part, writing the poetry, was already done. So getting to see how they all fit together was the fun part," Calder said. "I was able to see my prejudices that I wouldn’t necessarily be aware of.

The poems are on many different subjects, but often I seem to be talking about the same ideas," Calder said. It’s those themes that help order the poetry within the book.

"The poems consider power and the way that it works in the world," Calder said. "And I’m interested in the way that we as humans relate to our environment."

And to each other, for that matter. There’s a series of poems about sideshow freaks in the collection.

"These are people who are considered to be different in some way," Calder said. "But when you look at who is considered to be a freak, it tells you a lot about who is considered to be human and why."

I’m really interested in the question of regional identity and how people from the prairies articulate their sense of belonging to various communities," Calder said.

As if writing her own book wasn’t enough, Calder has also just completed editing two books.

"It’s quite unique, because the editors are all poets themselves," Calder said. The work is also collaborative, while Calder picked the poems and wrote the introduction for the book, Lilburn produced the afterword.

"I was happy to get the opportunity to put Tim’s poetry into a prairie literature collection because it’s part of a series of books put out by Wilfrid Laurier University Press."

The book, Lilburn produced the afterword, which is considered to be a prairie literary collection because it’s part of a series of books put out by Wilfrid Laurier University Press. "It’s quite unique, because the editors are all poets themselves," Calder said. The work is also collaborative, while Calder picked the poems and wrote the introduction for the book. Lilburn produced the afterword.

"I was happy to get the opportunity to put Tim’s poetry into a prairie literature collection because it’s not often seen through that perspective."

Pair of Bisons to try their luck at Bombers’ camp

On March 12, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers announced the signing of undrafted free agent linebacker Cory Hulchak and fullback Neil Fulgueras from the University of Manitoba Bisons.

Hulchak, 23, and a talented science student, was named Canada West Defensive Player of the Year in 2006. "Fulgueras, 27, and working on his second Arts degree with the U of M, "The two-time captain had a team-high 47 tackles, while registering two sacks, both interceptions and a forced fumble last season. The Winnipeg native was named as a CIS second team All-Canadian for leading a defense that contributed to a perfect 8-0 record."

The two-time captain had a team-high 47 tackles, while registering two sacks, both interceptions and a forced fumble last season. The Winnipeg native was named as a CIS second team All-Canadian for leading a defense that contributed to a perfect 8-0 record. "The 6’0”, 210 lbs linebacker made an impact on the Bison record book as he finished second in Bison history with 168 career tackles and placed sixth all-time with 10 interceptions."

"They both definitely deserve this accolade," Bombers general manager Brendan Taman said. "I’m really interested in the question of regional identity and how people from the prairies articulate their sense of belonging to various communities,"

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"Both Cory and Neil were a huge part of the ‘Bisons’ success this past season," said Bombers general manager Brendan Taman. "We are looking forward to bringing these two young prospects to training camp to compete for a roster spot."

"They both definitely deserve this CFL signing with the Blue Bombers. The Blue Bombers have been a strong proponent in finding talent throughout the country," Bison football head coach Brian Dobie said.
Getting our message out

A Day in the Life of a marketing manager

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

The academic world thrives on finding a diversity of messages in any given situation. But for the University of Manitoba’s marketing manager, Lori Yarchuk, the challenge is to distill all the messages coming out of the university into something that the general public can relate to.

A key component to promoting the university is helping people understand it. “My role is to develop initiatives to increase awareness of the university, whether that be through publications, advertising, or public events,” Yarchuk said. “I like being able to take information and shape it in a way that people can better understand – creating a connection that can ultimately help the university reach its goals.”

“I have a lot of people at the U of M, taking a job meant coming home for Yarchuk. She had studied interior design as a student before moving on to graduate from the School of Art with a bachelor’s degree (honours) focused on the history of fine arts.

After working in the marketing communications field in Toronto for several years, she returned home to Winnipeg, spending the last ten years with the province. When a chance to work at the University of Manitoba came up, Yarchuk said it was the right fit.

“I had a familiarity with the institution from an alumni perspective and knew the potential of the university if we could take what’s going on and make it relevant for people both in the province and nationally,” Yarchuk said.

The University of Manitoba has a lot to say. Marketing manager Lori Yarchuk’s job is to help the public hear that message.

“Plus it was a chance to work in a dynamic atmosphere where you’re surrounded by students,” Yarchuk said. “There are so many great things going on and so many compelling stories that it’s hard to stay on top of everything. You have the chance to learn something new everyday.”

But what makes the university such an interesting place to work is also part of what makes telling its story to the public so challenging – how do you promote an institution that is responsible for teaching and conducting research that spans the breadth of the human experience?

Step one, is simply finding out what is going on.

“A big part of my job is to work with my colleagues from across the university. It has to be a collaborative process – we need to be able to hear what’s going on to be able to market it.”

While public affairs works from the perspective of speaking for the university as a whole – it can’t work in isolation. Rather, it has to draw its message from the faculties and units that make up the university. To that end, Yarchuk chairs a group of communicators from across the university who meet every few weeks to exchange information and pool ideas.

“It should be a mutually beneficial relationship,” Yarchuk said. “We can help people across the university promote what they’re doing but we need them to feed us information in order to do so. And from there we can roll up everything the university is doing to capture a complete message.”

We need to combine what we know with what matters to people so we can make a stronger connection with people about what goes on at the university, Yarchuk said. “I find the key to communication is to make it relevant to people so they understand how it contributes to the city and the province.”

Climate change, the food you eat, and research on infectious diseases, for example, are all subjects that have immense currency for people and researchers right now. “It’s a natural fit to share the university’s progress in these areas with the public.”

Part of what the group is working on now is an overall marketing and communications plan for the university. “This will create a foundation upon which we can build our future efforts and help ensure that these efforts are in alignment across the university,” Yarchuk said.

A Day for Idonije

After a whirlwind season in which former Bison football star Israel “Izzy” Idonije signed a four-year deal with the NFL’s Chicago Bears and became the first Manitoba Bison and only third CIS player to ever play in a Super Bowl game, he has received another honour.

On Thursday, March 8, Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz presented Honorary Citizenship to Idonije at City Hall.

“Wow. It has been an interesting road since I arrived at the University of Manitoba in 1997, and who knew it would end up here,” Idonije said at the ceremony.

Idonije, 26, played in 13 regular season games and all three playoff games (including Super Bowl XL1) for the Bears this season. In the 2006 regular season he had 13 tackles (nine were solo), and in the playoffs he contributed to a crucial punt rush that helped set-up good field position in overtime for the Bears during their game against the Seattle Seahawks. In the NFC Championship game, Idonije had one sack and one tackle in the win over New Orleans.

Researcher in Residence

The Faculty of Nursing is pleased to present our second

Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence

Dr. Joy Johnson RN, PhD
Professor & Associate Director
Graduate Programs and Research
School of Nursing
University of British Columbia

From Neurotransmitters to Neighbourhoods: New Frontiers in Health Behaviour Change

April 11, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Room 370
Helen Glass Centre for Nursing
University of Manitoba

The New Public Health: Refocusing on the Ecology of Health and Health Behaviour

April 12, 2007 6:00 p.m.
Halen of The Forks, The Ballroom
79 Fort York Market Road, Winnipeg, MB

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
RSVP stating lecturer’s attending 474-9080

Researcher in Residence

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March 22, 2007
Fort Garry Campus

Microbiology. Role of rpoS in stress induced global regulation in E. coli by Thomas Rydzak, 306 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 27.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28


THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Institute for the Humanities, Postcolonial South Asian and African Studies research cluster, Remembrance of Things Present: A Personal Exploration of Marriage and Gender Ideals in Contemporary India by Chandra Siddan, independent filmmaker, 409 Tier Building, 2 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

Psychology. The constructive nature of scene perception and memory by Marvin Chun, department of psychology, Yale University, 412 Duboff Robin Building, 3 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

Advanced Plant Science, Why do potatoes contain Hemoglobin? A Study in Molecular Functions and Evolution by Kim Hebebrup, post doctoral fellow, plant science, Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre Agriculture Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

Microbiology, Bioremediation of chlorinated compounds by Jason Hamlin, 306 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

Institute for the Humanities Food for Thought, Moving Arts: Desdemona and Iago in Shakespeare’s Othello by Judith Owens and Glenn Clark, department of English, McNally Robinson Bookellers, Grant Park Mall, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rapid Isolation of Faults in Power Networks with Distributed Generators by Nuwan Perera, MSc Thesis Presentation, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 30.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29


Psychology, Item-specific congruency effects in nonverbal auditory Stroop by early weaned pigs subjected to Vitamin A deficiency by Zhenbin Zhang, PhD scientific, 219 Animal Science/Entomology Building, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 27.

Political Conversations, Feminism and Islamism in Iran and Iraq. Thriving on Crisis with Haideh Moghissi and Saeed Rahnejat, York University, 307 Tier Building, 1:30 p.m., Friday, March 30.

Mathematics Graduate Student Seminar, The Mathematics of Evenwents and Oddtown by Rob Borgersen, 415 Machray Hall, 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 30.

Chemistry, Five genes involved in biosynthesis of the pyrazylated GaP3, epitone in Schizosaccharomyces pombe N-linked glycans by Dr. J. Kunkel, Cangene, 539 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 30.

LINGUISTICS, Semantic Stipulation and Knowledge De Re by Chris Tillman, philosophy, 302 Tier Building, 2:40 p.m., Friday, March 30.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Classics, Before Aphrodite: The Island of Kythera and the Minoans in the Aegean by Cyprian Brookbank, University College London, 237 University College, 5 p.m., Sunday, April 1.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

Northern Scientific Training Program Grant. Students representing several departments across campus who have traveled to places such as Nunavut, Northern Manitoba and Northern Quebec will be speaking on a wide range of topics, Senate Chambers, E3-262 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 3.

Animal Science, Effect of crude protein content on the optimal TRP to LYS ratio in diets for early weaned pigs by Giancarlo Borgesa, Topic TBA by Ashley Stewart, and Hyperhomocysteinemia induced endothelial dysfunction by Vatsala Ediranne, 219 Animal Science/Entomology Building, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 3.

Events Continue on Page 10

A Sports Gala Weekend!!!

Women’s Hockey

Mar. 24 – Exhibition Game: Manitoba Bisons vs. Kazakhstan National Team, 2:30 p.m., Grant Park Mall, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

Tickets available at all Bison home games, Frank Kennedy, Max Bell Equipment Desk.

The University of Manitoba's McKenzie Arena, 409 Tier Building, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

The 2007 Tarnawecy Distinguished Lecture, How I lost my hyphen and found my groove by Myrna Kostash, L. Argyros Professor of Chemistry, director, Centre for Proteomics and cell polarization and motility by John Brimnes, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rapid Isolation of Faults in Power Networks with Distributed Generators by Nuwan Perera, MSc Thesis Presentation, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 23.

Rituals: Writing History with Songs by Allan Smith, 344 Ellis Building, 12:30 p.m., Friday, March 23.

There will be interactive displays, unique exhibits, and hands on demonstrations of soccer, lacrosse, hang gliding, gymnastics, baton, bobsleigh, volleyball and more. Canada’s top athletes will be on hand to chat and for photo opportunities and there will be a celebrity/media wheelchair basketball game at the Investors Group Athletic Centre from 1 to 2 p.m. Come watch the national team take on the local celebrities.

Thursday, March 22

History, Vikings against Tuberculosis. The International Tuberculosis Campaign in India 1948-51 by Niels Brinnes, Aarhus University, Denmark, 409 Tier Building, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

The 2007 Tarnawecy Distinguished Lecture, How I lost my hyphen and found my groove by Myrna Kostash, L. Argyros Professor of Chemistry, director, Centre for Proteomics and cell polarization and motility by John Brimnes, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

Microbiology, High content analysis of cell polarization and motility by John Brimnes, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.

Get to Know Research at Your University, On Thin Ice – Global Warming and Climate Change by David Barber, Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science, director, Centre for Earth Observation Science, Smartpark Lobby, University of Manitoba, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22.


Psychology, Item-specific congruency effects in nonverbal auditory Stroop by early weaned pigs subjected to Vitamin A deficiency by Zhenbin Zhang, PhD scientific, 219 Animal Science/Entomology Building, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 27.
Medical rounds are typically targeted at university staff and professionals directly involved in the medical field.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22
Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology, Pulsepod Canada. The National Molar Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance by Celine Nadon, NML, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9 a.m., Monday, March 26.


Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology Graduate Research Seminars. Variant epitope specificity and immunodominance of effector and memory CD8 T cells by Meika Richmond, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 9:30 a.m., Monday, March 26.

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics PhD Oral Examination, Molecular dissection of the role of cell survival and apoptotic signaling in normal and cancer cells by Subha Reddy Maddika, 341 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 26.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
Internal Medicine, is there evidence that diet and exercise can have a preventive role? by Karshheed Jeejeebhoy, emeritus professor of medicine, University of Toronto, Theatre A Basic Medical Sciences Building, 8 a.m., Tuesday, March 27.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
MEDICINE, Abrogation of RNAi During Apoptosis & Roles of PARP and Nicin in Cancer by Girish M. Shah, senior researcher and head, Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research, Laval University Medical Research Center, Laval, Quebec, Samuel Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface Research Centre, linked to A229 Chown Building, 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 28.

National Training Program in Allergy and Asthma Research: Visiting Professor Program, in conjunction with Biology of Breathing Visiting Speaker Program Venkatraman-Iyengar-lung injury and mechanotransduction by Minqiao Liu, associate dean, life sciences, school of graduate studies, professor of medicine and biomedical sciences, University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Immunology Library 605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 3:45 p.m., Wednesday, March 28.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Pediatrics Research Round, PTX3 in the lung, Friend or Foe? by Minqiao Liu, associate dean, life sciences, school of graduate studies, professor of medicine and biomedical sciences, University of Toronto, 500 Boardroom John Buhler Research Centre. 12 p.m., Thursday, March 29.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5
Annual Graduate Student Research Presentation, Effect of Leishmania-encoded arginase on immune response and pathogenesis of infection by Helen Muleme, 12 p.m., and The effects of TNF-a and IL-12-23p50-based vaccines in the downregulation of inflammatory bowel diseases by Qingdong Guan, 12:30 p.m., Immunology Library 604/605 Basic Medical Sciences Building, Thursday, April 5.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
Pathology Teaching Rounds, Title: V8A by Vladimir Iakovlev, fellow, molecular pathology of cancer, Princess Margaret Hospital, 540 Basic Medical Sciences Building, 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 26.

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month will feature Jazz. Every 2nd Thursday of the month will feature Opera or Musical Theatre. Every 4th Thursday of the month will feature Chamber and New Music.

Bill Wege: Peace is Patriotic
March 15 to 30
Peace is Patriotic features a portfolio of 25 anti-war collage prints from 1967, by American artist Bill Wege. Born in Wisconsin in 1955, Wege studied printmaking and sculpture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and became one of the fewest of most politically active artists. Using pop culture images and text, his collages and multimedia pronounces denounce the obscurity of war, military aggression and government propaganda. Reproduced as protest posters in the 1960s, Wege’s Peace is Patriotic fueled the peace movement in the United States. 

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

COMMONWEAL: An Evening of Theatre with the St. Paul’s Players
Saturday, March 24, 8 p.m.
The St. Paul’s Players, in conjunction with the Black Hole Theatre Company, will be presenting a staged reading of a new full length play, COMMONWEAL, by Robert Smith. Admission is free, but a silver collection will be taken in aid of a drama scholarship for St. Paul’s College. Based on ‘a true story’, COMMONWEAL deals with the experience of a group of college students who undertake a ‘utopian’ camp experiment in the hills of Vermont in 1940. In these hectic times at the end of the New Deal and prior to America’s entry into the second world war, a group of recent graduates of Dartmouth and Harvard chose to heed William James call for a moral equivalent of war by making war on the system. They set about to revive several dying communities in rural Vermont, and at the same time, to persuade the government to change the methods and goals of an already successful but bureaucratically rigid Civilian Conservation Corps. Their trials and tribulations, and the testing of their loyalty to the Dartmouth social philosopher Eugene Rosenberg, are filtered through the imagination and memory of one of the group who, later in life, is struggling with his traumatic wartime experiences. As the camp was an experiment, so the play is an experiment which invites the audience into the theatrical workshop, with the actors (all students of Theatre programme) in costume, though rehearsing the book. The St. Paul’s Player reflects the long tradition of drama education fostered by the Jesuits who founded St. Paul’s College. While the college has many scholarships the disciplines, there is none dedicated to the encouragement of students who choose to pursue a major in theatre in the universe. It is our hope with this performance that we can take the first positive steps.

Faculty of Music
The Faculty of Music hosts recitals and performances at Eva Clare Hall, located within the Faculty of Music building on Dafoe Road. Recitals and events are free unless otherwise noted.

FACULTY OF MUSIC AT THE DAILY BREAD CAFE

Arts & Entertainment
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.


Drop in and see TechMed

The University of Manitoba’s Technology Transfer Office and Westlink are supporting TechMed Manitoba 2007 Thursday, March 29 at Marshall McCaul Hall.

TechMed’s focus is on showcasing the latest in innovative technologies and research to help industry gain an understanding of the partnering/licensing opportunities available. The goal is to increase collaboration and transfer of knowledge and new technologies between academia and industry in the medical and assistive technology sector.

The event will also provide participants with the opportunity to connect with key people in industry and the research community, discover the latest in medical technology research, explore partnering and licensing opportunities and interact with experts in industry and research who have made commercialization happen. For times and more information visit http://www.westlink.ca/techmed/2007/techmedhtml.htm

The Bulletin

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Academic Job Opportunities

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at www.umanitoba.ca.

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, and individuals with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

FACULTY OF LAW

Position: Instructor II
Start date: July 1
Application deadline: April 22
Application number: 095659

For more information: Harvey Seker, dean, Faculty of Law, Robson Hall, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, e-mail: Harvey.Seker@umanitoba.ca

Archaeology, Case Study Building Envelope Retrofit Russell Building, department of archaeology by Dr. K.Fowke, LM Architectural Group, principal-in-charge of the building envelope retrofit, 214 Russell Building, 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 4.

Chemistry, Controlling HIV by Studying the Exceptions to the Rule by Dr. K.Fowke, department of medical microbiology, University of Manitoba, 559 Parker Building, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 5.

Microbiology, Inteins: why are we so fascinated with them? by Dr. O’Neil, 306 Buller Building, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

Physics and Astronomy, Parity-Violating Neutron Spin Rotation in Liquid 4He by Anna Micherdzińska, department of physics, University of Winnipeg, 350 Allen Building, 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 5.

Wednesday, April 11

Nursing, Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence, from Neurotransmitters to Neighbourhoods: New Frontiers in Health Behaviour Change by Joy Johnson, professor and associate director, graduate program, and research, school of nursing, University of British Columbia, 570 Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 11.

Thursday, April 12

Distinguished Visiting Lecture, The Construction of Meaning by Walter M. Kintsch, department of psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Senate Chambers 262 E3 Engineering and Information Technology Complex, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12.

Nursing, Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence, The New Public Health: Refocusing on the Ecology of Health and Health Behaviour by Joy Johnson, professor and associate director, graduate program, and research, school of nursing, University of British Columbia, Inn at The Forks, The Ballroom, 75 Forks Market Road, 6 p.m., Thursday, April 12.

Senate Briefs

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

The proposed indoor soccer project that had been eae-marked for a University of Manitoba location is on hold for now.

“We were excited about this project and the potential facility that would have been available to us through the $34.6 million lease-lease program,” vice-president (administration) Debbie McCallum told Senate on March 7. “But through no fault of our own the project has been cancelled and the city has re-issued an expression of interest.”

Restating the project means that its location is now up in the air, although the U of M is still supportive of having the facility based at the Fort Garry campus.

Capital Budget vs. Operating Budget

President Emeké Szathmáry took the opportunity at Senate to point out the difference between the university’s capital budget and its operating budget.

New building projects come out of the university’s capital budget and the money is usually targeted specifically towards those projects.

“The operating budget covers the actual running of the university and that’s where many of our problems lie,” Szathmáry said. Of course, the university is also facing the longer term issue of $165 million in deferred maintenance due to lack of funding on the capital side.

Building Projects

After fighting off some weather delays, the university is making good progress on its new Aboriginal Student Centre – currently going up next to the Education Building. The new student centre is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Also on track is the Apex Centre on the Bannatyne campus, which is expected to be completed by June 2008.

Emergency Response Practice

The Winnipeg Police will be using the Fort Garry Campus to test how their emergency response team would respond to a shooting incident at the university. The exercise is expected to take place in May.

“We’ll make sure you know when it’s going to be happening,” vice-president (administration) Debbie McCallum said at the March 7 Senate meeting. While it will ideally never happen, McCallum said the notion of a shooting incident on the campus is a serious issue and it’s prudent the university know how to respond.

Admissions

The university is tightening up its initial response time for admission requests from international students. According to vice-president (administration) Robert Kerr they have hired additional staff to ensure that students who apply to the university are being responded to, ideally, within a two week window. Kerr said the university will also be sending out an expanded brochure to applicants to help them pick the U of M when it comes to deciding where they plan to go to university.

Classified Ads

The Bulletin welcomes Classified Ads. The rate for ads is $5 for the first 45 words.

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RUMMAGE SALE, St. Mary’s Anglican Church, Charleswood, 3830 Robin Blvd. at Haney, Friday, March 30, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. White Elephant Tables! Fish Pond for Kids! Book Table. Bargains Galore! and much much more!!! See you there!!


Call for Applications

Gerry McDoile Professorship Award

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, invites applications for the Gerry McDoile Professorship Award. This award of $50,000 is presented annually to a deserving new academic faculty member in the Faculty of Medicine for research in health service delivery and/or health policy development. The new Professorship is to improve the delivery of healthcare services to rural, remote and underserved populations of Manitoba.

Funding of this award is through an endowment from AstraZeneca honouring the retirement of their President, Mr. Gerry McDole.

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Nematodes tell a lot about soil health

BY FRANK NOLAN

Research Promotion

If you want to know how healthy your soil is, just ask a nematode. These tiny worms are found in every type of soil, and they are active at every level of the soil food web, making them excellent “bio-indicators” of soil health.

“Working with bio-indicators means basically peering into soils and having the organisms that are present talking back to us,” said soil scientist Mario Tenuta, Canada Research Chair in Applied Soil Ecology. “I find nematodes particularly useful because different nematodes are active in different parts of the web, with some species eating plants, some eating bacteria or fungi, and other groups being carnivores or omnivores.”

Soil nematodes range in size from about a quarter of a millimeter to three millimeters. The biggest are the omnivores, which can be up to ten times larger than the ones that feed on bacteria.

“The number of different kinds of nematodes you find says a lot about the diversity of the soil food web in general,” Tenuta said. “For example, a sample of 200 grams of native prairie soil can contain anywhere from 40 to 70 different taxa of nematodes. In contrast, soil that has been altered by management, like that in a potato field, might contain only 15 different taxa.”

Tenuta said that because of their sensitivity to changes in the soil environment, nematodes are ideal tools for studying the impact of different agricultural management practices, as well as pollution and contaminants.

“Our major goal is to identify which practices are the most beneficial to soil health,” Tenuta said. “We’re looking at the whole range, from conventional practices to alternative agricultural practices, from systems that include pesticides and fertilizers to those that don’t.”

Part of the research includes nematodes that can be harmful to crops. For example, some potato producers have been concerned about the presence of a genus of nematodes that can kill potatoes (Pratylenchus), so PhD student Amro Mahran is screening potato fields across the province. So far, he has not found the very harmful species of this nematode in any of his samples.

Tenuta is also studying nematodes in northern Manitoba, where the focus of his work is climate change. His lab is trying to determine how changing air temperatures might affect things below the surface of the soil, particularly the structure of the soil food web, which has implications for carbon and nitrogen cycling in the environment. This stream of research begins this spring with the addition of visiting scholar Canyu Zhou and MSc student Rhea Lumactud to the Soil Ecology Laboratory. They will be studying how carbon and nutrients move through the soil food web under warmed soil conditions.

“Right now the study of climate change and its effect on the soil food web is still in its infancy,” Tenuta said. “We’re really interested in feedbacks and connections in the system so that we can understand what happens when there is a shift in soil temperature. For example, are there frozen soils that might have methane stored in them that could suddenly be released? It’s a serious question, and it’s all part of the big picture. To properly understand these things, scientists need to study systems in the soil, above ground, in the water, all over the place. In terms of the soil ecosystem, nematodes have a prominent spot in our toolbox of bio-indicators.”

Research News is Published by the Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Comments, submissions and event listings to: stefaniu@ms.umanitoba.ca
Phone: (204) 474-9020 Fax (204) 261-3475

Physicists create first “spin dynamo”

BY FRANK NOLAN
Research Promotion

Thanks to advances in nanotechnology and microelectronics, we can now make complex devices that are invisible to the naked eye. A major challenge is finding a way to power these tiny systems, and a team of University of Manitoba researchers may have found an answer.

Based in the department of physics and astronomy, the group has created a microscopic device that can convert microwave energy into electrical current. Called a “spin dynamo,” it generates current from the spin of electrons, rather than their charge, and it represents a major leap forward in our understanding of spin dynamics and magnetism.

Hu, by Can-Ming Hu, the team includes physics professor Gwyn Williams, research associates Yongsheng Gui and Xuezhi Zhou, and Nikolai Mecking, a visiting PhD student from the University of Hamburg.

The team’s findings were published in the March 9 edition of Physical Review Letters, the journal of the American Physical Society.

Hu said most of the electrical current we use everyday is produced by dynamos based on a principle first demonstrated by English physicist Michael Faraday in 1831. Faraday’s dynamo produced electrical current by rotating a copper disk inside a magnetic field.

“Electrons are charged particles, and when the copper plate is rotated in the magnetic field, electrons are deflected off, resulting in current,” Hu said.

Unlike Faraday’s model, the new spin dynamo produces current from the rotation of the electrons themselves. The process still involves placing a piece of metal in a magnetic field, but the metal does not move. The spin dynamo can also be made very small. “In our case, the metallic plate is actually a ferromagnetic strip that is thinner than a human hair.” Hu said.

“When we expose them to microwaves, the electrons on the strip dance like little tops, behaviour we call ‘spin precession,’ and in the magnetic field, this spin precession produces electrical current.”

Hu’s team has shown that it is possible to produce electrical current from electron spin, and that microwave energy is all that is needed. In theory, Hu said, this principle could be refined to the point where it might one day be possible to generate electrical current from the ambient microwaves that are all around us as a result of modern communications technology.

Hu said there is still a lot of work to be done before the new device could be used as a power source in practical applications. In the meantime, though, the spin dynamo will be a valuable tool for studying the nature of spin precession.

“Understanding electron spin is a fundamental question related to the origin of magnets, or why a compass is a compass,” Hu said. “By measuring current, this device will give us a new way to detect electron spin, which is very exciting indeed.”
We’re greener than you think
The university has met the Kyoto Protocol requirements

Sustainability on Campus

The University of Manitoba Bulletin is pleased to partner with the university’s sustainability coordinator to present a new Sustainability on Campus feature. Every month we’ll look at how the university is doing its part to help create a more sustainable world.

Quietly for almost a decade, with no fanfare or hype, the University of Manitoba has proven itself a leader in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gases.

In 1997, the university invested over $13 million in utility savings initiatives. Initiatives included upgrading over 85,000 light fixtures, cycling parking lot outlets, switching EXIT signs to LED lights, adding carbon dioxide occupancy sensors, and converting older, inefficient ventilation systems to efficient variable air volume systems.

Brian Rivers, director of physical plant, says one of the most successful recent upgrades was to recover the waste heat from the boilers located in the central energy plant. This piece of equipment recovers waste heat from the campus boiler plant chimneys and distributes this heat via the chilled water distribution system to various areas on campus that require heat.

“Improvements made to a number of areas on campus that require heat, water distribution system to various sinks and the ventilation systems to efficient variable air volume systems,” Rivers says he’s looking forward to working on a variety of issues, including investigating opportunities for further energy conservation measures such as heat recovery from the Max Bell ice rink and alternative energies such as landfill gas and bio-diesel. McDermott sees opportunities in demand-management, including anything from energy efficient appliances and electronics to an energy conservation campaign that focuses on shutting lights and computers off in offices and classrooms.

For the last three years, annual savings have exceeded $3 million in avoided utility costs.

While the financial savings are impressive, even more impressive is the energy conservation that’s resulted, including a significant reduction of fossil fuel consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Maire McDermott, the university’s sustainability coordinator who tracks the university’s emissions, says that physical plant has managed to reduce annual GHG emissions by an average of 8% per cent from 1990 levels.

“Physical plant has managed to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 8% per cent from 1990 levels.”

Maire McDermott, sustainability coordinator

To put this number in context, Canada’s commitment to the Kyoto Protocol includes reducing GHG emissions by 6% per cent below 1990 levels by 2006-12.

By this measure, the University of Manitoba has surpassed the Kyoto commitment well ahead of schedule.

“What’s even more remarkable” McDermott adds, “is that we achieved these reductions even with our campus growing approximately 10% per cent during that same period. If you adjust for the increase in square feet, the University of Manitoba has effectively reduced its GHG emissions by 17% per cent!”

What’s in store for the future? Rivers says…

Everyone in Winnipeg looks green from 1,000 feet up. The University of Manitoba is doing its part to ensure its campuses are as environmentally sound as they can be at the ground level too.

In 2006 we recycled:
341 Tonnes Office paper, newspaper and cardboard
3 Tonnes Aluminum cans
26 Tonnes Glass bottles
9 Tonnes Plastic

Every month we’ll look at how the university is doing its part to help create a more sustainable world.

SLAMM Symposium on Language and Memory at Manitoba

This international symposium will examine the interrelations between two themes central to the field of cognition. It will scrutinize basic principles of memory processing, with particular emphasis on their contribution to people’s comprehension and representation of language messages.

April 12-14, 2007
All presentations at the Senate Chambers, 262 Engineering EITC 3

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