The Arts Take Centre Stage

Peter Herrndorf restores the sense of purpose (and fun) at Canada’s National Arts Centre

Meet the U of M’s Latest Rhodes Scholar

Hockey Night in China

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ASPER MBA

Today’s challenging economic times call for inventive and courageous approaches to enriching your life and furthering your career.

“Don’t hesitate. Every moment spent speculating about whether the time is right is time taken away from your learning. Be deliberate and decisive. NOW is the time to take an MBA.”

Michael Rodymiu, Senior Vice President & Airport Chief Operating Officer, Winnipeg Airports Authority Part-time Asper MBA student

Invest in Yourself
Four Bison hockey players turned in medal-winning performances playing for Team Canada in China.

From left: Mike Hellyer, Stacey Corfield, Rick Wood and Stephane Lenoski

See Bison News on page 24.
Homecoming & Reunions

September 9-13 2009

This September join your fellow University of Manitoba alumni and come home for Homecoming 2009.

Whether you live up the road in Fort Garry or down south in Fort Myers, Fla., Homecoming is sure to take you back to your fun-filled days on the U of M’s campuses. We’ve planned an outstanding week of activities; all we need now to make the experience perfect is you.

Close to 20 class reunions are in the works for Homecoming 2009 already. Log on to the alumni website (umanitoba.ca/alumni) to see if your graduate group is one of them.

If not, then why not get the ball rolling on your own class reunion? Pick up the phone or e-mail our special event and reunion coordinator Tammy Holowachuk today at (204) 474-6455 or holowac@cc.umanitoba.ca.

Homecoming list of events:
Check out the Alumni Association website (umanitoba.ca/alumni) for more details.

**Wednesday, September 9, 2009**
- Faculty of Education Homecoming Reception featuring keynote speaker Dr. Gordon Neufeld

**Thursday, September 10, 2009**
- Isbister Legacy Society Luncheon
- Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music Homecoming Gala Concert
- Faculty of Kinesiology Wine & Cheese Reception
- Faculty of Social Work Reception and Awards

Friday, September 11, 2009
- Fort Garry Campus Tours
- Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences - Dean’s Reception and Tour
- Faculty of Architecture Tour and Luncheon
- Arts Celebrating Arts Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
- Asper School of Business Homecoming Reception
- Faculty of Engineering Alumni Wine & Cheese Reception
- Faculty of Human Ecology Faculty Tour and Reception
- School of Medical Rehabilitation Reception
- Faculty of Nursing Dean’s Reception
- Department of Psychology Speaker Series, Wine & Cheese, and more
- Faculty of Science Dean’s Luncheon
- Home Economics/Human Ecology 2010 Centennial Kick Off Event
- Faculty of Law Reception
- Perogy Luncheon - more details soon! (Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies)

Saturday, September 12, 2009
- Medicine Homecoming Breakfast and Tours
- Homecoming Reunion Dinner

Sunday, September 13, 2009
- President’s Luncheon, Honouring the Classes Celebrating their 60th, 70th and 80th Graduation Anniversary
- St John’s College Chapel Service
- St Paul’s College Christ the King Chapel – Roman Catholic Mass

For more information on Homecoming contact Denise at:
Phone (204) 474-9946  Toll Free (800) 668-4908
Email: alumni@umalumni.mb.ca  www.umanitoba.ca/alumni

The Alumni Association thanks its generous partners:
Greetings from Italy

I'm writing from a small town called Udine. It's located in Italy. I've been receiving On Manitoba for quite some time now. It's always nice to see what's going on in my old (and first) university. (I was there from 1977 to 1983, then I did an MA at Queen's and many years later an MSc at the University of Leicester, England).

Ciao, Mario Rimati [BA(Adv)/82]

P.S. The picture of Trudeau (in the August 2008 issue of the magazine), for me at least, brought back wonderful memories of that great Prime Minister and those days at the U of M. Trudeau was speaking to students the same day that picture was taken. I wanted to go but it was jam-packed. I noticed a line was forming leading up to his official car so I took a chance and lined up too.

Sure enough, he walked by me. I shook his hand and said, 'Good luck Pierre!' (for his upcoming election against Joe Clark). With a warm smile, he looked at me and said, 'Thank you very much.'

Mario Rimati has lived in Italy since 1989 and keeps a blog of his life in Europe. On the Web: acrazycanucklivinginzanitalia.blogspot.com.

Ranked by Macleans’ rankings

Last fall, Macleans published its ranking of Canadian universities. Once again the U of M ranked dead last among the schools in its class. In my habitual reading of The Manitoban, I come across the occasional comment by a student about the university's perceived deficiencies that no doubt have a bearing on its standing in the Macleans survey.

I am not involved with the university in any direct way, but I gather from the media that my alma mater falls rather short of the ideal. All things considered, the U of M, it would seem, faces some real challenges, particularly when it comes to educating its students. One might conclude that the school, with its myriad problems, is not capable of turning out a very good product. But this seemingly logical cause-and-effect conclusion raises a number of questions in my mind, specifically with regard to the research conducted here and the quality of students graduated. Given the consistently low Macleans ranking, I’m left to wonder if medical doctors produced by the U of M, as a group, are more incompetent than those turned out by other schools. Do they get sued more often for botching operations?

Do our lawyers lose more court cases than those who have graduated from other universities? Do our BAs, like, seem to have more difficulty, like, you know, putting a sentence together than do those of other institutions of higher learning? Do articles submitted by our faculty members to refereed journals get turned down more often than do those written by scholars at other universities? Does the U of M have a bad reputation in the workplace because its graduates are consistently shown to be second-rate?

In sum, what’s the “track record” of the people out there in the working world who have graduated from the schools included in the Macleans survey? Is there any follow-up?

Note that all of my questions bear directly on the results of programs at the U of M. Does Macleans do a survey of the success rates of Canadian university graduates and compare these results to come up with their rankings? Or is the ranking based entirely on existing policies and conditions within the subject institutions at the time of the survey? My impression is it’s the latter that form the criteria for the evaluation of the institutions, not the success rates of their graduates “in the field.” Theoretically, I suppose, there’s no need to check out the track record of U of M graduates; if it’s a weak school, it logically follows that it produces a sub-standard product.

Well, that’s not what you read in On Manitoba or in The Bulletin, both of which understandably go out of their way to trumpet the stellar accomplishments of the school’s graduates and current professors and students. But of course, what can you expect from media such as these? They’re biased.

Yes of course they’re biased, but that fact can’t be casually dismissed – they have the luxury of being biased precisely because the U of M has its fair share of graduates, professors, students, programs and Rhodes Scholars that give the alumni magazine and The Bulletin plenty to crow about.

I gather that there are systemic problems with the Macleans survey, and that these have prompted a number of schools that have actually fared well in its rankings to withdraw from actively participating. I’m not in a position to judge the survey on those grounds, but if I were to assess the quality of a school, I’d be inclined to take into account the success rate, or lack of same, of a large number of persons who have completed its programs. That is probably logistically impossible from Macleans’ point of view, but at the end of the day, what really does count is the individual’s ability to succeed in the real world given (1) his/her innate intelligence and (2) the quality of education or training he/she has received. The final arbiter, then, is not Macleans magazine but the workplace, and from what I’ve seen so far a U of M degree is anything but a liability.

Like any other institution of its kind, the University of Manitoba no doubt has its share of the good, the bad, and the ugly; but being the meat-and-potatoes school that it is, I don’t expect it to have any more or any less than its share of any of these qualities. Until we have the means of reviewing and assessing the performance of its graduates as a whole, and not just the overachievers or the underachievers, I’ll be fully content to give it the benefit of the doubt.

Leo Pettipas [BA/65, MA/67]
It’s hard not to feel energized in spring. The hours of daylight increase; the temperature creeps steadily above zero; and fresh air and sunshine work their way back into our daily routine.

On the campuses of the University of Manitoba, much like other universities and colleges, the springtime also represents a near seismic shift as thousands of students receive their parchment and begin the next chapter of their continued or post-university lives. Certainly for many of these students, spring and convocation afford them opportunity to take stock, to look back on where they’ve been as they fix their glance on what is to come. As president of the institution tasked with preparing these young men and women for the future, I too find myself in a reflective-yet-forward-looking frame of mind.

Part of this certainly owes to the fact that I am still in my first year at the U of M and have yet to experience a calendar year’s worth of events. And part of it has simply to do with the fact that, in glancing back on the past few months, we’ve accomplished a great deal and there is much to feel proud about.

With the news of the world presenting itself in varying shades of doom or gloom, I hope stories about the many positive steps our institution, faculty, staff, students and alumni, are taking into 2009 play like music to our graduates’ ears.

I also hope they raze the spectre of doubt regarding the U of M’s place among its peer institutions, for this is a centre for post-secondary educational excellence. I echo the sentiments of graduate Leo Pettipas, whose letter to the editor (opposite page) correctly suggests one good measure of the value of a University of Manitoba education necessarily rests in the contributions of our graduates to the betterment of our world.

In this issue of On Manitoba, we profile two such individuals: Peter Herrndorf and Raed Joundi.

Herrndorf, in his current post as president and CEO of the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa, has led the effort to re-establish the NAC’s position as Canada’s finest showcase for performing arts. He has also revived the NAC’s role as a bandwagon that travels across the country to illustrate – through performance and education – how the arts help us celebrate and better understand our shared, diverse culture. His career accomplishments as a journalist, TV producer, magazine publisher and business leader are manifold, and his accolades – Officer of the Order of Canada, his four honorary doctorates (including one from the U of M) to name but a few – staggering. Several decades his junior, Joundi too has already amassed an impressive list of accomplishments, most recently as the U of M’s latest Rhodes Scholar. We now have the most of any western Canadian university with 88, a tally that puts us in the top three across the nation.

Within the walls of our campuses, our researchers continue to receive awards for their work while their investigations garner significant financial support from provincial and federal bodies.

As well, our ongoing efforts to redevelop and upgrade our campuses to create a leading-edge learning and living environment for students received a significant boost. The Province of Manitoba announced $26 million would be put towards addressing the many infrastructure issues plaguing our campus.

As spring convocation ushers new U of M graduates into the world, they face the challenge of a global community reeling from investments gone awry. I say to them, and to all our alumni, the U of M remains a safe investment in your future; one that promises significant return.

David T. Barnard
president and vice-chancellor
Thanks
to all the alumni who participated
in our engagement survey.
And congratulations to John Russell
[BSc/77, BN/85] of Brandon, Man.,
who won our $1,000 prize.

From Manitoba to Malaysia
While on a student recruitment trip, vice-provost (academic) David Morphy
and director (admissions) Iris Reece-Tougas (standing far right and seated
at centre in the image) met up with several U of M grads in the Malaysian
capital of Kuala Lumpur.
Dedicated Manitoba Moose fan and future U of M alumnus Evan Proulx had a blast at University of Manitoba Night with the Moose on March 6. The home team gave the toddler plenty to smile about as they bested rivals the Providence Bruins 3 to 2 in a shoot out.

Get connected
Want to stay on top of what’s happening at your alma mater? Want to be on the invite list to alumni receptions in your area? Send us your e-mail address and we’ll keep you in the loop.

▷ We’re at alumni@umalumni.mb.ca.

Find a lost classmate
Trying to locate that long lost classmate, study buddy or sweetheart? We can help.

▷ Visit the Find-a-Friend page on our website at umanitoba.ca/alumni/find_a_friend.html.

Upcoming Events

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▷ Visit umanitoba.ca/alumni for full event details.
CANDIDATE 1
Janice Coates
[BSc(Pharm)/73]

A rural student, Ms. Coates enjoyed the richness of life in residence as part of her University of Manitoba experience. Ms. Coates served as an alumni campaign cabinet leader for the faculty of pharmacy’s $1.63-million Prescription for the Future building campaign. Frontline to senior management roles at facilities throughout the WRHA, including her current position as manager of pharmacy services for Victoria General Hospital, have provided Ms. Coates extensive leadership experience and professional recognition.

Ms. Coates is active in executive roles with various professional organizations and boards, including a decade as member and then board chair of St. John’s Ravenscourt School, where she led governance initiatives, strategic planning and implemented organizational performance measures supporting principles of transparency and accountability.

A life-long learner, Ms. Coates holds certification in board governance and management from Banff Centre of Management, I.H. Asper School of Business, WRHA/RRC Health Services Management Program, and Health Leader’s Institute. Ms. Coates’ community participation has included leadership roles with Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Pan Am Games and Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

janicecoates.wordpress.com

CANDIDATE 2
Romel Dhalla
[BA/99, BComm(Hons)/04]

Mr. Dhalla is an investment advisor with BMO Nesbitt Burns and is a passionate advocate for his alma mater, his city and his province.

A six-year veteran of the University of Manitoba Board of Governors, Mr. Dhalla currently serves on the board’s executive committee and as the board’s representative on College Housing Holdings Inc. As an alumni member, he offers an independent perspective and values accountability and performance. He works to increase the value of the university’s degrees and to heighten the perception of the university in the public domain.

During the past 13 years, Mr. Dhalla has served on 19 university committees, notably the senate executive, senate planning and priorities, and budget advisory committees. In addition to the board, Mr. Dhalla also serves as a member of the campaign cabinet for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and as secretary of the Winnipeg Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

www.romeldhalla.com
Ballots will be accepted in the following ways:

**IN PERSON AT ALUMNI HOUSE** Office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (the house is closed from noon to 1 p.m. daily).

**ALUMNI HOUSE MAIL SLOT** Located at the back door of Alumni House; provides 24-hour public access.

**BY MAIL** Send to: Board of Governors Election, Alumni House, 180 Dafoe Rd., Winnipeg, Man., R3T 2N2

**BY FAX** (204) 474-7531

**BY E-MAIL** alumni@umalumni.mb.ca

 Voters must clearly indicate their alumni number and who they are supporting. Only one vote is allowed per e-mail. If two or more votes are included within the same e-mail, they will all be considered spoiled.

**Alumni numbers can be obtained:**

**BY LOOKING** on the back of your mailed issue of *On Manitoba.*

(For example)

1234567
JOHN ALUMNUS
123 ANY ROAD
WINNIPEG, MB, R2D 2L8

**BY PHONING** the Alumni Association at (204) 474-9946 or 1 (800) 668-4908

**BY E-MAILING** alumni@umalumni.mb.ca

**BY FAXING** the Alumni Association at (204) 474-7531

For more information visit umanitoba.ca/alumni.

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Election of Alumni Association Representative to the University of Manitoba Board of Governors

**My seven-digit alumni number is:**

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Clearly indicate your choice of candidate below by marking the box beside their name.

☐ Janice Coates
☐ Romel Dhalla

The election closes **MAY 12, 2009** at 3 p.m. (CDT).

Ballots will be counted on May 21, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m. (CDT).

Ballots without proper alumni numbers will not be accepted.

Ballots can also be found on the website: umanitoba.ca/alumni.
Howling wind and dropping mercury did not deter these dippers.

About 50 students from the I.H. Asper School of Business dressed down to their bathing suits and T-shirts, and took a leap of fundraising faith into an ice-cold inflatable pool – in early November. The purpose of their polar bear-like swim, called Chillin’ for Charity, was to raise money for United Way Winnipeg. The group, who go by the name Team 'Toba, raised $5,000. Royal Bank of Canada was on hand and topped up that total with a cheque for $4,500. Local radio personality Ace Burpee handled emcee duties.

“I’ve never seen so many people so clearly pumped to jump into a freezing pool when it’s minus five and the wind is gusting from the north at 70 clicks, all in support of United Way Winnipeg,” says Burpee. “The future is in good hands.”

A trip down memory lane

Float down the spiral staircase of Taché Hall like you’re Richard Gere in the movie *Shall We Dance*. Or, listen for the stories its near-century-old walls would tell if they could talk.

Taché Hall, one of the University of Manitoba’s oldest student residences, is opening its doors to the public as part of Doors Open Winnipeg. They’re offering a guided tour and a day’s worth of fun activities on May 23.

A residence since 1912, Taché Hall has hosted students from around the world. The building has retained its original structure and architectural details, making for a superb historical architecture tour. Tour participants can walk backstage in the auditorium or peek into some of the 390 unique residence rooms. This is a rare opportunity for former Taché tenants and history buffs to experience this space, which is normally off-limits to casual visitors. With renovations and a new purpose on the horizon courtesy of the university’s $100-million redevelopment initiative Project Domino, this inside glimpse at residence life at the U of M is all the more timely.

If you would like to share your stories about Taché Hall, volunteer at the event, or get more information, please contact Siobhan Kari at (204) 474-9022 or siobhan_kari@umanitoba.ca.

Some kind of mentor

On a bitter cold Saturday in February a crowd of people – mostly young athletes, their coaches and parents – packed into Winnipeg’s Norwood Community Centre to feel the warmth of performance enhancement coach Phil Towle.

Based in California, Towle has spent decades working with elite professional athletes, coaches and businessmen on ways to overcome their self-imposed barriers to success.

Though not a household name, he might blip the pop culture radar of rock ‘n’ roll fans for his role in the 2002 documentary *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*. The film follows the band, with therapist Towle in tow, through the construction/deconstruction process of creating a new album while struggling with the loss of a longstanding member, their mega egos, and substance abuse.

Towle and wife Gail were invited to Winnipeg to join a panel discussion with a trio of University of Manitoba graduates: sport psychologists Cal Botterill and Adrienne Leslie-Toogood, and mental trainer Jason Brooks. Olympic archer and Winnipegger Jay Lyon (whom Towle worked with this past summer during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games) rounded out the group.

Topics explored included living your life fully, acknowledging the role that fear plays, stepping outside your comfort zone, and embracing your own personal greatness. Leslie-Toogood says Towle “encouraged each participant to consider making this world a better place and realize their ability to do that through their daily actions.”
Like knowledge, a planned gift has a lasting impact on the future.

Planning a gift to the University of Manitoba helps students who need it while maximizing tax savings on your estate. You can make a gift in any of the following ways:

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- Flow Through Shares
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To find out how you can leave your legacy, visit: umanitoba.ca/dev_adv

Development & Advancement Services
Tel: (204) 474-9195    Toll Free: 1-800-330-8066
Email: planned_giving@umanitoba.ca

“Everybody wants to save money tax-wise and if someone else can benefit it makes sense to make a gift in your will.”
Mary Louise Young [AMM/48] founder of the Mary Louise Young Scholarship in Music.
An art print titled Maize invites you to guess what its abstract mess of purples, pinks and blues represent. Lifting the folded label tacked below reveals the ugly truth: it’s thyroid cancer cells.

Maize – captured through the lens of an electron microscope – was one of 70 images in a unique exhibit celebrating the artistic side of research at the faculty of dentistry’s Research Day 2009 celebration. All of the displayed artwork came from U of M researchers – mostly in dentistry – and was for sale as part of a fundraising effort supporting student research in the faculty.

Dr. Thomas Klonisch (pictured), head of human anatomy and cell science in the University of Manitoba’s faculty of medicine, with his work of art Maize.

Extending the U of M’s reach

It’s pretty mind-blowing to consider the myriad ways in which the world has changed during the last 60 years.

And while the University of Manitoba’s extended education (extended ed) division has kept step with the changing needs of its students over the past six decades, it has also managed to remain committed to its mandate of serving local and global communities through outreach.

“That has been the constant over the years,” explains Lori Wallace, dean of extended ed.

Most academic and support units at the U of M engage in outreach, but extended ed is unique because it’s the only department to make it their primary mandate, Wallace says.

Established in 1949 to coordinate adult education efforts in the province – with a focus on adult learners whose career and family responsibilities prevented them from attending university full-time – extended ed soon grew to incorporate non-degree programming, off-campus and correspondence courses, and even summer session into their operations.

Their budget has grown from $16,000 to $18 million over 60 years, and they currently boast 25,000 registrations in degree credit courses and 5,700 registrations in certificate and non-credit courses.

And as the world – and the workplace in particular – continues to change, so too does the department continue to respond to a greater variety of learning needs through innovations in content and delivery, increased flexibility for working students, recognition of prior learning and a renewed focus on non-traditional and underserved learners.

“We continue to extend the resources of the university that we’ve become known for,” says Wallace. “Innovation and flexibility in meeting changing needs.”

David Schmeichel

More information at www.umanitoba.ca/extended
It’s the summer of 1964 and Beatlemania is crashing upon the shores of North America. A plane carrying the Fab Four – their egos, their lyrics, their looks – from London to California is scheduled to make a stop at the Winnipeg International Airport.

The reaction to this development among the senior reporters in the CBC Winnipeg newsroom is lukewarm. To them, the Beatles are just another rock band stopping in the city to fuel up their Good Ship Rock ’n’ Roll, wave to their teenybopper fans, then continue on their journey.

But rookie CBC reporter Peter Herrndorf (who would one day help redefine broadcast journalism with shows like The Fifth Estate, be named to the Order of Canada and resuscitate the nation’s premier performing arts centre) is young enough to know better. With camera crew in tow, he dashes to the airport to meet the members of the most important pop band of his generation.

Following John, Paul, George and Ringo across the tarmac and into a makeshift interview room in the airport, Herrndorf lobs his half-dozen or so questions at the lads, and then...

Nothing.
“Their idea of doing an interview was mostly just to kibitz,” 68-year-old Herrndorf recalls with a laugh. “I got nothing but kind of jokes…fooling around, having a good time. They were fun.”

The Beatles may have said squat to Herrndorf, now president and CEO of the National Arts Centre (NAC), but their actions likely taught him a valuable lesson about how to succeed in life: stay loose, have fun.

And have fun he certainly does.

When Herrndorf emerges from his Ottawa office for our interview, his first order of business is to crack a joke with co-workers. He’s 6-foot-3 with long arms and legs, but he’s not lanky. When he moves, he’s fluid. Maybe it’s a byproduct of a childhood spent golfing, or maybe it’s osmosis – Herrndorf spends his days surrounded by dancers, musicians, rhythm.

He doesn’t sit for our interview, he slouches, legs stretched out, hands clasped at rest below his chest or behind his head as though he’s cradled in the gentle, imaginary sway of a summertime hammock. It’s a polite slouch. He speaks at an even pace, never impatient, never as though his focus is shifting mid-interview to what he has to get done as soon as our conversation ends.

He’s there in the moment; he laughs at his own anecdotes. Mark Starowicz, executive director of documentary programming at the CBC, likens Herrndorf’s persona to that of the United State’s new commander in chief. “He’s remarkably like (Barack) Obama. Always cool but still energetic without being frantic.”

We’re en route to our photo shoot in the NAC’s grandest performance space – the 2,300-plus-seat Southam Hall – and Herrndorf is poking his head into one office after another. The people he pops in on seem genuinely excited to see him. They swap hellos, even high fives. Herrndorf elaborates: “The old cliché about managing by walking around has always been what I do. I spend a lot of time in the green room at the Arts Centre. It’s important for me to have lunch one day with the stagehands and the next day with the musicians and the next day with actors. So, there is a sense that first of all you’re learning from all those people and secondly you communicate very clearly that you’re accessible.”

Starowicz, from his Toronto office, confirms that Herrndorf did not merely trot out a nice-guy act for On Manitoba. He describes the unique challenges Herrndorf faces running a cultural organization – the chaos, the individualistic personalities – and suggests success demands a willingness to let the limelight bathe those around you. “You require a very, very embracing, mature personality to be able to do that,” Starowicz says. “Because your ego is never going to shine through. Your job is to make other people look good.”

Herrndorf’s accessibility in the workplace mirrors the NAC’s mission to expose all of Canada to the performing arts. He says the arts define society and tell the story of a people.

“(Canada) is a big country and there’s lots of forces that isolate us from one another,” says Herrndorf. “What you hope that the NAC does is that you foster a sense of kind of pan-Canadian cultural feeling.”

It’s not a new idea. On Canadian $20 bills a sentiment from renowned Manitoban Francophone author, the late Gabrielle Roy, reads: “Nous connaitrons-nous seulement un peu nous-mêmes, sans les arts?” In English: “Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts?”

According to Herrndorf, one of the first things he had to do when he joined the NAC in 1999 was restore a feeling of vibrancy to the organization. Starowicz describes Herrndorf’s unique talent for rallying the troops within artistic organizations. “He pulls together disparate people, enables them to collaborate, and inspires them towards the larger goal,” says Starowicz, who worked for Herrndorf at the CBC as executive producer of The Journal – one of many genre-defining news programs Herrndorf helped create when he was vice-president of the English language side of the network. “He’s a genius at that. He’s able to cross political lines, cross artistic lines and make everyone feel like they’re part of a greater enterprise.”

Herrndorf knew the NAC’s future depended on reclaiming its reputation as a centre for performing arts excellence so their productions demanded a return to top-notch form. The NAC is the only multidisciplinary,
Herrndorf as an “arts turnaround artist.” It’s a recurring theme throughout his career starting with the CBC, then Toronto Life magazine where he was publisher, and TVOntario where he was CEO and chairman.

Herrndorf thrives on the challenge of righting a creative organization before it teeters too close to capsizing. “It’s always been a similar kind of challenge,” he says. “How do you turn an organization that’s having some kind of difficulty into an organization that’s vital, vibrant, where people enjoy working there, where they do great work?”

With Herrndorf at the helm, the publicly funded NAC has taken greater action – like the creation of a fundraising body, the National Arts Centre Foundation – to raise the dollars required for its ambitious productions and national programs. Between 1999-2000 and 2006-07, the NAC grew its annual revenue by more than $8 million.

It’s no coincidence; Herrndorf has Ivy League business schooling – courtesy of the CBC – on his scroll-length résumé.

By age 37, Herrndorf had risen from the rank of reporter to vice-president and general manager of the CBC’s English radio and television networks. He produced award-winning documentaries and developed shows like The Fifth Estate. And along the way he discovered a chasm in the corporate culture: “I concluded that the CBC had a lot of people in management who didn’t seem to know enough about programming and a lot of people in programming who didn’t seem to know enough about management. I was cheeky enough to say to the CBC, ‘Why don’t you send me to Harvard Business School and we’ll get this new generation of people who actually are interested in both programming and management?’”

For Herrndorf, the arts represent a cumulative experience, the roots of which trace westward from Ottawa to a little city with a big reputation for embracing culture and creative expression: Winnipeg.

When Herrndorf talks about his family’s journey from their home in Amsterdam to Manhattan, where they lived for a few years, and on to Winnipeg by train when he was seven, weather is what he remembers most.

“We took the train from Grand Central Station to the CPR train station in Winnipeg in mid-March of ’48 and it was one of those days I’ll never forget,” Herrndorf recalls. “It was about 30 below and it was a classic, classic Winnipeg day. Bright, clear, cold as hell, and that was my introduction to Winnipeg.”

He adds with a chuckle:

“I thought ‘Holy Christ’ you know, there I was seven years old thinking this was colder than I’d ever been in my entire life.”

Herrndorf’s parents Bob and Anna Marie (Mimi) chose Winnipeg for their family because Stanley Knowles, a local member of Parliament, was committed to helping them successfully immigrate. (Herrndorf’s uncle, who was already in Winnipeg, had established a relationship with Knowles.) As Herrndorf recalls: “We were like millions of other people at that point. In my case it seems odd now to even describe it, but I was at that point seven and I had no citizenship and so it was a big deal that Stanley Knowles helped us get into Canada.”

Herrndorf says he and his sister Catherine (Kiki) Delaney [BA/69] grew up in a household where dialogue between parent and child was the norm and the arts were always a part of their life. “Our house was a house in which there was a preoccupation with ideas and lots of debate, a place where you could talk about the arts and film,” he says. Herrndorf took part in various choirs throughout his school years. His crooning chops are routinely employed, according to Starowicz, who says Herrndorf still calls him each year to sing Happy Birthday over the phone.

Herrndorf spent much of his professional life plotting the map for others. “My job is to chart a very clear sense of direction for an organization,” he says. “To try to find the resources that liberate creative people to do great work, to cheer them on, to make sure they get lots of positive reinforcement and to run as much interference as possible.” Yet he admits he never really planned his own journey or destination.

After completing his studies at Ridley College in St. Catharines, Ont., the next stop for teenage Herrndorf was the University of Manitoba. Like many students, he chose his courses based on personal interest, which in his case encompassed English, history and political science. (Herrndorf describes himself as “an incredible political junkie.”) He worked for the student newspaper The Manitoban and in no time found himself in the position of editor, and smitten with journalism. However, upon completing his arts undergrad at the U of M, Herrndorf headed east to Dalhousie University in Halifax to earn a law degree. But the day after graduation Herrndorf, having shelved any legal eagle ambitions, was back in Winnipeg and working as a reporter with the CBC.

Herrndorf’s choice of journalism as a career instead of law or business may not have been what his father envisioned – his dad ran a successful small investment firm in Winnipeg – but that apple in due course fell from the tree and landed in the lap of Herrndorf’s younger sister.

“There’s no question that my father would have liked it if I would have gone into business. I think he was very pleased that (Kiki) did.”

Delaney, much like her older brother, is a pioneer in her profession. In her case, as founder of one of Toronto’s top female-led wealth management firms: C.A. Delaney Capital Management Ltd. And like her brother, Delaney has received the Order of Canada and numerous other esteemed honours. She suggests her and her brother’s penchant for over-achieving owes heavily to their parent’s influence.

“...both law school and business school give you a built-in bullshit detector.”
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Champion of the arts

“They were unbelievably proud Canadians who felt they owed a great debt to Canada,” she says. Delaney also credits a strong “prairie work ethic.”

Herrndorf may not have practiced law for more than a couple of weeks, and he opted to toil primarily in the broadcast booth not the boardroom, but he has still employed his Dalhousie and Harvard experiences throughout his career.

“I think what both law school and business school did was give you a kind of intellectual rigour,” Herrndorf says.

“The other thing – and it’s a phrase I’ve always loved – is that both law school and business school give you a built-in bullshit detector. And I found having that bullshit detector was useful in my career in broadcasting and journalism and publishing and the arts. It prepared me for the kind of flim flam that I occasionally ran into.”

Knowing how to avoid getting burned is important, but another pitfall Herrndorf eschews is letting others define success for him.

“I think the trick, always, is if you walk away from something whether it’s successful or not and you’re not proud of it, that’s a problem,” he explains. “If you walk away and, whatever the outcome, you still feel good about having done it, you still feel good about the people you worked with, that’s pretty good.”

Herrndorf admits there were times in his career when his view of a program’s worth and that of the viewing public probably didn’t jive. Such was the case with 90 Minutes Live, a short-lived late-night TV show he produced which was hosted by the late Peter Gzowski. Later, during his vice-presidency at the CBC, Herrndorf sparked controversy when he moved the national news from 11 to 10 p.m. Starowicz describes the experience as “jumping off Niagara Falls and hoping you come to the surface below” and suggests it was probably the single biggest risk of Herrndorf’s CBC career. “His vice-presidency, everything he believed in, depended on that,” Starowicz says.

For almost 30 years Herrndorf has shared his life with his wife Eva Czigler, whom he describes as “a remarkable woman.” She works as director of talent development for the CBC. Together they have two children: Katherine, 27, and Matthew, 22. Herrndorf says he enjoys the child-teaches-parent dynamic emerging between his kids and himself. Whether it’s the annual showdowns on the golf course with his son or a discussion of the recent U.S. election with his daughter, Herrndorf appreciates how his children both challenge him and keep him and Eva on the ball. “It’s gotten to the point where they teach us a lot more than we teach them.”

Two years shy of 70, Herrndorf seems young at heart. He greets every day safe in the knowledge that “there will be adventures; I’m always persuaded there will be adventures ahead of me the next day.”

For now Herrndorf spends those days flanked by some of the finest creative talents in the country and, well, he’s among their biggest fans. He estimates that since arriving at the NAC, he’s watched about 400 concerts and seen an additional 250 dance performances. He likes to be in their company. “What’s so great about this (job) is not only do I get to hang out with some of these folks, but they pay me too.”

Former colleague Starowicz has equally high praise for Herrndorf, who was always cracking jokes and smiling while being a father figure to those he worked with. “It just felt good having him walk by,” Starowicz says.

It seems fitting then that behind Herrndorf’s office desk, on a wall of frames documenting some of his career accomplishments, one image stands out as a testament to his nurturing side. It’s Herrndorf, flanked by pals like Ernie and The Count from Sesame Street, the neighbourhood synonymous with caring and fun.

Jeremy Brooks [BA/98]
Seven members of the class of 1948 Bachelor of Science/Home Economics [BSc/HEc/48] gathered for a reunion at Homecoming 2008.

Back row from left: Carolyn (Midforth) Brown, Patricia (Batchelor) Shand, Miriam (Fairbairn) White, Lois (Fyfe) Totton, Daphne (Parker) McCammon

Front row: Barbara (Hall) Duval, Eleanor (Dewar) Cameron

We’ve got 23 class reunions already planned this year; that’s fantastic! I’m excited to see so many graduates taking the initiative to get together with former classmates. Thank you everyone who has contacted me so far in 2009.

The University of Manitoba represents a magical time in the lives of so many alumni. At the Alumni Association, we make it our top priority to help you recapture some of that magic through reunions, receptions and our annual Homecoming celebrations. If you or someone you know is interested in arranging a reunion but don’t know where to begin, please contact me. My job is to help you by offering guidance on everything from finding classmates to organizing mailings, planning activities or booking venues. You can reach me by phone at (204) 474-6455 or e-mail holowac@cc.umanitoba.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks, Tammy Holowachuk
Special Events and Reunions Officer
Millions for research

Nine projects at the University of Manitoba covering topics as varied as songbirds and sea ice received several million dollars in support recently.

In January, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) announced $2,091,296 for these research endeavours. The money was awarded through the CFI’s Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF). The recruitment and retention of top researchers is an intense international competition. To assist Canadian institutes – like the U of M – in this regard, LOF dollars help finance the acquisition of the infrastructure required to perform leading-edge research as well as covering some of the costs associated with the research.

Shortly after this announcement, the Government of Manitoba announced matching funding of $2,157,211 for 16 projects previously funded by CFI. This support – awarded through the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund – is part of a shared commitment between the province and CFI to increase the capacity of Manitoba’s universities, colleges, hospitals and other institutions to carry out important, world-class research and development.

Scott Kroeker (pictured) is one of the U of M researchers whose work will benefit from this recent funding announcement. Kroeker is working on designs for effective nuclear waste storage materials, resulting in safe disposal solutions. Part of the CFI-LOF money will go towards the acquisition of a nuclear magnetic resonance console, which will greatly support Kroeker’s investigations.

Leaders in their field

A University of Manitoba-led team recently won the fourth annual Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering.

Team leaders – U of M biosystems engineer Digvir S. Jayas [MSc/82] and entomologist Noel White [PhD/79], who is with the Cereal Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – have spent more than two decades studying the causes of grain spoilage, from excess heat and moisture in storage bins to damage caused by insects, fungi and bacteria. Jayas and White have developed internationally recognized prevention techniques proven to reduce spoilage for a variety of cereals, oilseeds and legumes under a wide range of environmental conditions.

The Brockhouse award – which includes $250,000 in research funding – has been conferred only four times, and twice to University of Manitoba research teams. (A team led by U of M Prof. Emeritus Kenneth Standing won the award in 2006.)

Established by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada and named after Nobel laureate Bertram Brockhouse, the prize honours research teams that combine expertise in different disciplines to produce achievements of international scientific or engineering significance.
It takes more than a foreign language dictionary and a handful of frequent flyer miles to cultivate a truly international mindset.

But fortunately for those seeking help from the University of Manitoba’s International Centre for Students (ICS), director Tony Rogge has been building up his credentials since he was a kid.

Rogge’s father – a German refugee who emigrated to Winnipeg in the mid-1960s – taught geography at the U of M for 30 years, during which time he also served as mentor to the growing population of international students.

“I think back to our household, and how exciting it was as a youngster to have students from all over the world staying with us,” says Rogge, who’s served as ICS director for almost four years. “Students from Guyana, Sudan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Zambia, Iceland, all over Europe – these people had a real impact on me as a kid and I was really curious about them. I remember them very well and I’m still very fond of them.”

Rogge’s childhood experiences at home – coupled with a series of extended family sojourns to Africa in the 1970s (not to mention his own subsequent travels as an adult) – prepared him well for the task of heading up the ICS, which exists to help students from outside Canada make a smooth transition to life on campus.

To that end, the Centre helps match foreign students with temporary host families and campus buddies, organizes out-of-town excursions to facilitate new friendships and cultural exchanges, and provides year-round assistance with everything from income tax preparation to winter survival.

“The stakes are really high for international students – they can’t just go home for the weekend if something goes wrong,” Rogge explains, after noting this population account for an estimated 10 per cent of the U of M’s student body.

“And they’re an important part of our community. They make our campus vibrant and they’re a resource for other students. We need to make sure our campus is welcoming, and that domestic and international students recognize the value of connecting with each other.”

And as Rogge points out, the Centre is equally devoted to helping Canadian students work and study abroad, whether through full-time enrolment at a foreign school, or one of 40 existing university-wide exchange agreements (the latter option allows foreign credits to be transferred to your degree, and doesn’t require any out-of-country tuition).

Though the ICS recently doubled its number of exchange participants, Rogge says he’d like to see even more students taking advantage of the opportunity, since the skills they garner will become increasingly valuable as the boundaries of the global village continue to expand.

“Whether you’re an academic or a business leader or a civic leader, more and more people are saying that a cosmopolitan world view is a really important skill – it’s a predictor of success in a lot of areas,” says Rogge. “You’re becoming more flexible and nuanced in your thinking, while becoming more fluent with the challenges faced by people around the world.”

David Schmeichel
Rogge [BA(Adv)/93], centre, with staff and students at the U of M’s International Centre for Students

Photo: Thomas Fricke
Imagine you’re back in elementary school and your class is about to take part in an anti-bullying workshop. Who would you pick to lead the discussion? Your teacher? The school principal? What about a 200-plus-pound linebacker from the University of Manitoba Bison football team or a power hitter from the women’s volleyball team, the ones who crush the volleyball into the gym floor with a cannon-like boom.

If you chose the athletes, then you’re on to what Curt Warkentin describes as the “magic connection” of the Bisons Against Bullying outreach program.

“If I’m a kid in that age range, to have a student athlete come in who’s a little older, wearing cool clothes, you can kind of picture them being a student and identify with them,” says Warkentin, assistant athletic director in the U of M’s faculty of kinesiology and recreation management.

Former Bison hockey player Jordan Little came up with the idea for Bisons Against Bullying. Since the program launched in 2006, Bison athletes have delivered their anti-bullying message 100 times to more than 5,000 kids in Grades 4, 5 and 6 at schools across Manitoba.

According to Warkentin, Bisons Against Bullying does not seek to resolve any specific in-class conflict; it’s about raising awareness.

“We have rules at the beginning: no gossip, no names,” he says. “We’re not getting into those kind of specifics. We’ll just talk about bullying. When we have the kids do skits, they have to act, but they can’t put kids down in a personal kind of way.”

The kids are given wrist bands that say Bisons Against Bullying to remind them what they were taught to do if they encounter a bullying situation. And at the end of each session, students are taught the program’s pledge.

First-year Bison athletes Chris Voth (men’s volleyball) and Lesley Worsnop (women’s soccer) were the recent co-recipients of a unique scholarship.

Voth and Worsnop received $5,000 each as winners of the one-time only University of Manitoba Bison Vanier Cup Scholarships. Selection criteria for the awards – established by the Province of Manitoba in recognition of the Bison football squad’s 2007 Vanier Cup win – included the athlete’s sport and academic standing as well as their volunteer commitment to amateur sport.

Keep pace with the Herd on the Web at gobisons.ca
Rock stars – even the most marginal ones – like to brag about how they’re “big in Japan.”

And now certain members of the University of Manitoba’s Bison hockey teams can make a similar claim, having been treated, well, just like rock stars during a recent trip to China.

The players – three from the men’s team (pictured from left: defenceman Stephane Lenoski and forwards Mike Hellyer and Rick Wood) and goaltender Stacey Corfield from the women’s squad – were chosen to represent Team Canada at the 24th Winter Universiade in Harbin, China in February.

They all acquitted themselves admirably: The men’s team took a silver after losing 4-2 to Russia in the final match, while the women won a gold medal after besting China 3-1.

But more importantly, all four came home with valuable insights about hockey in the Far East.

On hockey’s place in Chinese culture:
“Hockey is becoming more important in China. The Chinese are very competitive and place a lot of emphasis on all sports development. The national men and women’s hockey programs are only going to get stronger in the years to come.” – Lenoski

On representing Canada:
“The first time we pulled on those jerseys was unbelievable and we will never forget it. Representing Canadian hockey was a huge honour and it seemed to drive us to play above and beyond.” – Wood

On the Chinese people’s love for Canadians:
“They loved us. It was kind of funny, almost like we were celebrities, just random people off the street wanted to take pictures with us.” – Corfield

“We were kind of treated like rock stars – they really love Canadians. Every time we had our Canadian jackets on, we were treated really well. Cab drivers wouldn’t accept our money sometimes.” – Hellyer

David Schmeichel
Giving Back

A natural gift

Eberhard Scherer’s love of nature grew out of his childhood in Germany. He often spent hours with his mother in the garden as a budding birdwatcher and outdoor enthusiast.

Scherer came to Winnipeg in the late 1960s to work as a biologist for the Freshwater Institute at the University of Manitoba’s Fort Garry campus. He maintained his research at the Freshwater Institute even after his retirement in 1994. “His work and the articles he published were his contribution to the world,” says Julia Fulford, Scherer’s partner of seven years.

That’s not his only contribution to the greater good. Scherer, who died in 2007, left a legacy gift to the U of M that could reach as much as $335,000 once his estate is settled. His generosity will establish scholarships for biological sciences graduate students pursuing ecology research.

“He wanted this gift to help good students continue with their studies at the PhD level,” explains Fulford.

And it certainly will, according to the head of biological sciences Judy Anderson. “This award means graduate students will have funding and can focus on their work instead of working an extra job,” Anderson says. “It’s very topical and urgent that we have people trained in this area. Policy makers are looking for advice and scientific evidence when confronted with large ecological issues like biofuels or protecting the polar bear.”

Scherer spent a lot of time at the U of M. According to Fulford, he swam at the pool every day and could often be found at the library where he was a mentor to graduate students. Anderson says: “The university has a lot of support in the community and we appreciate that support. This gift means a lot to us and helps us contribute to the community.”

Stephanie Fehr

A legacy of education

William Smith lost his father as a young boy and at 16 he reluctantly dropped out of school to help support his family.

But Smith was determined to further his education. He went on to graduate from high school and then completed his CA designation at the University of Manitoba in the 1930s. His wife Evelyn, who was a teacher before she married, also came from modest beginnings and felt strongly that a post-secondary education was important not only for herself but for her children.

All grown up now, sons Donald Smith [BSc(ME)/61], David Smith [BA/63] and daughter Nancy Hodgson [BA/67, CertEd/68, BEd/79] have set up a bursary in honour of their parents’ commitment to higher learning. They established the Evelyn and William Smith Award with a combined gift of $100,000.

“My father recognized the importance of education,” says Donald, adding university studies also fostered a love for literature in his mother.

Nancy, whose children became the third generation of Smiths to attend the U of M, says her parents’ support was unwavering. “School was hard for me, but my parents always supported me,” she says. “At one point in high school I was told that university probably wasn’t the best choice for me, but my parents never gave up on that idea for me.”

David credits his parents for driving home the connection between an education and future success. “Through our parents, all of us recognized it’s important to take education as far as you can,” he says. “It’s even more important today as the economy shifts from a manufacturing base to a knowledge base. If we want to have an advantage in Canada it has to be through education.”

The Evelyn and William Smith Award will provide monetary support to students working towards an arts degree. “Our parents were always so proud of us and our accomplishments. This award is a way for us to give back to them for all they gave to us,” Nancy says. “We are proud of them too.”

Stephanie Fehr

William [CA/31] and Evelyn Smith [BA/27]
The right decision

When Arnold Frieman missed the train to Auschwitz in 1944, it was a twist of fate that would ultimately save his life, and lead him to Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba.

He was just 16 when his Hungarian Jewish family was taken to the Nazi concentration camp, a place where his parents and three siblings were killed. Frieman was sent to a German/Hungarian slave labour camp and endured terrible suffering and physical abuse until he “miraculously” managed to escape.

“It was a horrendous adventure but I was fortunate. Luck has been on my side,” he says.

Frieman eventually reunited with two of his sisters who survived. He ended up in a Norwegian school where he apprenticed in electronics – a skill he would use later in life to build the highly successful Advance Electronics in Winnipeg.

After volunteering for a tour of duty with the Israeli air force during Israel’s War of Independence, Frieman returned to Norway. But with threats of Russia invading Norway during the Korean War, he set his sights on North America.

“I didn’t want to be another POW. I picked Canada because I heard it was a big, free country, and Australia was too far from Europe.”

Frieman worked as a cabin boy on the boat that took him across the Atlantic. While at sea, he met a Hungarian Jewish family and asked where they were going.

“They said ‘Winnipeg’ and explained it was an old western town. I was always fascinated by cowboys. I wanted to go to Windsor, but I decided ‘I’ll go to Winnipeg instead,’” Frieman recalls. “When I came off the CNR train onto Main Street in May of 1951 and saw Winnipeg’s bright prairie sun, I said ‘Yes, I made the right decision’, and I have never looked back.”

Frieman arrived penniless, but he got by working in a warehouse. In 1956 he entered the University of Manitoba. “Those years at the U of M gave me a tremendous base on which to plan my life. I would not have been as successful if I had not been able to graduate from the U of M,” says Frieman, who to this day is surprised he passed the entrance exams.

Shortly after graduating, Frieman met his wife, Myra, and decided to make Winnipeg home. “I was a European at heart and what I liked about Winnipeg was it was a cosmopolitan city where you could hear Ukrainian, Norwegian, German and Hungarian. Winnipeg was just the right place for me; I had the best of both worlds.”

But Frieman never forgot his Hungarian roots. He didn’t think twice when the U of M approached him for a gift to support the Hungarian Exchange Program. “The decision was simple,” he says of his $50,000 contribution. “I want to give Hungarian students an opportunity to experience Canada and to understand that they are not isolated – that we are aware of their struggles.”

Conversely, says Frieman, students traveling to Hungary will experience first-hand the magic of that country, a place he still holds dear to his heart.

“Of all the countries in Europe that U of M students could visit, they will find Hungary most unique,” says the 80-year-old father of two. “They are in for a very unusual cultural experience and they will meet very interesting people.”

“I am proud of my Hungarian heritage. I attribute my survival of the Holocaust to the fact that the Hungarian government steadfastly refused to implement the Nazi’s final solution concerning the fate of the 650,000 Hungarian citizens of the Jewish faith.”

Renée Barclay
William James Mayer-Oakes was the first head of the University of Manitoba anthropology department back in the early 1960s. As an archaeologist, he took great interest in the Ice Age history of Manitoba when Glacial Lake Agassiz covered huge areas of the countryside. In addition to that enormous inland sea, massive glaciers also buried much of the province, and the place in which we now live was vastly different 10,000 years ago from what it is today. In 1965, Mayer-Oakes initiated a four-year research project called the “Glacial Lake Agassiz Survey,” the purpose of which was to seek out archaeological evidence of the ancient peoples who inhabited the shorelines and hinterlands of that gigantic lake that variously inundated most of Manitoba for some 4,000 years. The Survey field crew varied from three to six individuals, one of whom was an experienced professional archaeologist who led the operation. Most of us were graduate students. The project provided us with the opportunity to learn many interesting things about ancient Manitoba history, and a number of masters theses were written on the findings. It also laid the foundation for follow-up research and publication in subsequent years.

And like any other human enterprise, it had its moments. For example, in the summer of ’65 we set up our base camp for a week or so near Garland, a small village on the CNR line north of Dauphin, Man. The work required a high degree of mobility, and our means of transportation was an International Travelall, a sort of cross between a station wagon and a van. On the front doors of the vehicle were painted the words “University of Manitoba Laboratory of Anthropology.” This immensely impressed some of the local teenagers, who were agog at the idea of “scientists” working out of Garland, of all places.

Now it just so happened that one of the senior residents of the community made a habit of telling the local youngsters tall tales, claiming that they were God’s Truth. His doubting audience persistently tried to trip him up by pointing out the flaws in his yarns, but the old trout always had a quick answer and he out-maneuvered them every time. But with “scientists” in town, the tables were turned, and the youngsters came to us one day with the following plan: they’d tell the geezer that the scientists camped near town could make trees grow six feet overnight. To prove the point, we’d come into town in the full light of day and plant a tiny spruce sapling somewhere and sprinkle it with a dose of contrived fertilizer, with the old fellow watching the goings-on. Then, in the dead of night, we’d sneak back and replace the sapling with a six-foot tree. The next day the codger would gaze in wonder and disbelief at the miraculous spruce tree, and the kids would at long last have the old rascal right where they wanted him.

Being young and foolish myself, I was all for going along with this masterpiece of rural hi-jinks. Our older and wiser crew leader, however, wasn’t interested in getting entangled in local inter-generational warfare, and outright refused to participate in the conspiracy. So ended Garland’s brief flirtation with “science”.

Archaeology, etc. (mostly etc.)

Graduate Leo Pettipas talks about off-road mishaps and small town Manitoba
One problem with the Travelall: it was very light – sort of a big green eggshell on wheels. Early one morning while going about our business in the bush, we parked the vehicle on a grassy incline. Alas, the grass was wet on account of a heavy dew the night before; and when we tried to back out onto the road, the tires spun on the wet grass for lack of traction, leaving us stranded. How did we overcome this dilemma? We waited 'til the grass dried!

Our 1965 experience revealed that the Travelall was not the ideal machine for back-country survey, so we got a Land Rover with a winch on the front. If we got stuck, all we had to do was tie the end of the cable to a good sturdy tree, activate the winch, and pull ourselves out. Armed with this mechanical marvel, we thought we could conquer any quagmire Mother Nature could place before us. Now it just so happened that the summer of 1966 was a wet one. We were working in the Kettle Hills south of Swan Lake using the Rover, and one day we elected to negotiate a mudhole on the brazen assumption that we could simply winch ourselves out if necessary. We did indeed get bogged down, but no problem ... we had the winch. Except for one thing: a forest fire had raged through the area a few years previously, and all the trees were dead. Furthermore, the soil was very light and sandy, and every time we hitched the cable to a tree, we hauled it out by the roots. Within half an hour we'd extricated every tree and charred stump within reach, all the while remaining firmly embedded in the ooze. By the grace of God, a couple of Natural Resources personnel happened by in a tracked vehicle and pulled us out. If they hadn't entered the picture, we'd probably still be there.

One procedure we followed in seeking the locations of archaeological sites was to visit the local museums and examine their artifact collections. In the Swan River valley there lived one Fred A. Twilley, a little 90-years-young Englishman who had set up his own private museum on his property east of Swan River. I was quick to learn that Mr. Twilley had a sense of humour that didn't quit. One day he showed me an ancient tinplate photograph of a strapping young lad who looked like he was ready to take on the world. “Now that chap,” he said, “should have become the Prime Minister of Canada.” “Who is it?” I said. “It's me,” he said. He had an 85-year-old friend in Swan River he referred to as “that young feller in town.” Being a wise old owl and me a young pup still wet behind the ears, Mr. Twilley assured me that a long and successful life was to be had by “keeping my mouth shut and my bowels open.” More than forty years later I still don’t quite know how to interpret that murky piece of philosophy nor, in retrospect, how it may have subconsciously helped shape my subsequent career! It sounded funny when he said it, though.

In the fall of 1966 after the end of the field season, a number of us went in the Travelall to a conference in Nebraska. In those days, the Travelalls were popular with rock 'n' roll bands when they went on the road. One of my fellow students, Dennis, had a Beatle haircut – a rather unusual sight locally but familiar to many, thanks to television. The Beatles were in high gear at the time, and Dennis looked like one of them. On the way back from the conference we stopped for gas somewhere in North Dakota. The pump jockey looked at the Travelall, then at Dennis, and concluded we were a band in town for a gig. He said to Dennis, “What’s the name of your group?” Not quite understanding the question, Dennis replied, “Um ... Laboratory of Anthropology.” “Great,” said the kid, “where’re you playing?”

Leo Pettipas [BA/65, MA/67]
The path to Rhodes

Raed Joundi’s resumé is impressive, no doubt. Not only was the 22-year-old in the top of his class at the University of Manitoba, he’s climbed the 6,000-metre Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa’s highest peak), mentored underprivileged teens, and earned a black belt in karate. Now, he’s a Rhodes Scholar.

But ask the medicine student (who grew up with the nickname The Human Dictionary) to fix some grub in the kitchen and he falls a little short. “Sometimes the things I cook are not suitable for anyone to eat besides myself,” jokes Joundi, the 88th U of M graduate to receive Oxford University’s prestigious scholarship – the most of any university in western Canada.

After learning he made the cut, the Winnipegger admits to “plopping down on the couch and staring at the wall in disbelief.” A humble Joundi attributes his successes to finding something he’s passionate about. He recalls vividly, as a kid, his first introduction to a model of the human heart and how he immediately fell in love with science. Now he’s zeroing in on the brain, what he describes as “three pounds of flesh that makes us who we are” and “the most amazing object in the known universe.”

A second-year med student at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ont., Joundi plans on specializing in pediatric neurology. He’s headed to England’s Oxford University this fall.

Going forward, Joundi’s goals – which he has the habit of tacking on the wall to serve as reminders – are not necessarily to make “a monumental discovery” or perform “earth-shattering research” but to somehow make a tangible difference in patients’ lives.

A recent trip to a Tanzania hospital as a volunteer gave Joundi such an opportunity. He looked down to find a seven-year-old boy tugging on his pant leg. Alone, the child had made the hour-long walk from his home to get help and medical supplies for his paraplegic father who suffered from a pressure sore; the boy’s mother had died of AIDS, making him the head of his household. “When you’re there you feel like you’re making a big difference on an individual level.” Joundi says. “That feels good but at the same time you realize the magnitude of the problems.”

Championing human rights is nothing new for Joundi. Born to Lebanese immigrants – a doctor and a teaching assistant – who fled civil war, Joundi founded an Amnesty International club at his high school.

Finding the time to squeeze in all his extracurricular activities, in addition to his studies, while maintaining relationships with family and friends, is no easy feat. But Joundi figures 24 hours in a day is a lot – especially if you limit snooze time. He says eventually he’ll scale things back, settle down with a family of his own, have “a normal life” and “get some sleep.”

Katie Chalmers-Brooks
Duckworth, Henry Edmison. [BA/35, BSc/36, DipEd/37, LLD/78], Dec. 18, 2008

Henry E. Duckworth was the 10th chancellor of the University of Manitoba [1986-1992]. He had an extraordinary career as a scientist, educator, university administrator, author, editor and public servant. During his six years as chancellor, he championed Bison sports, one year even arranging for a live “Billy the Bison” at a football game. He worked to enhance the appearance of the Fort Garry campus by encouraging donations for a series of plantings in what became known as the Duckworth Quadrangle and through a unique program of placing historic monuments with biographies of people after whom buildings and spaces are named on each campus.

Born in Brandon in 1915, he grew up in Transcona and St. James. After receiving his degrees from the University of Manitoba he received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1942. During his distinguished career he taught at several universities before returning to Winnipeg in 1965 to become vice-president (development) and later vice-president (academic) at the University of Manitoba. From 1971 to 1981 he was president of the University of Winnipeg. One of his early scientific accomplishments was discovering what turned out to be the last stable isotope, Platinum-190.

Duckworth received many honours in recognitions of his achievements and service, including Officer of the Order of Canada, the Tory Medal of the Royal Society of Canada, and nine honorary degrees. He was professor emeritus of physics and astronomy and chancellor emeritus of the University of Manitoba.

1930-39

Steingarten, Anne [BA/30, BEd/61] Nov. 29, 2008
Spigelman, Max [BSc(EE)/33] Dec. 3, 2008
Ehrlich (Brown nee Waters), Edythe Millicent (BScHeC/36, BEd/63) Sept. 13, 2008
Yaremovich, Dr. Leonora [MD/37] Oct. 4, 2008
Akman (Wolch), Beatrice R. [BA/38] Nov. 19, 2008
Sirett, Dr. Nancy K. [BSc(Hons)/39, MSC/41, MD/52] Oct. 3, 2008

1940-49

Harack, Nestor [DipDairy/40] Dec. 9, 2008

Parker, Rose [BA/42] Nov. 18, 2008
Lindsay, Colin [BSc(EE)/43] Dec. 16, 2008
Downie, Kenneth A. [BSc(CE)/48] Nov. 7, 2008
Anderson, Kristjan G. [BSc(EE)/48] Nov. 14, 2008

1950-59

Douglas, Alex H. [BSA/50] Nov. 6, 2008
MacDonald, Donald A. [BSc(Pharm)/51] Dec. 11, 2008
Main, Charles J. [BSc(CE)/52] Dec. 11, 2008

1960-69

Wawrykow, Anne  [CertNurs(PH)/62, BA/75] Nov. 27, 2008
Howell, Delorje W.  [BA/63, BEd/65] Nov. 10, 2008
Rentz, David R.  [BSc(EE)/63] Jan. 8, 2009
Pichurski, John W.  [BSc(CE)/65] Dec. 25, 2008
Bowman (Elders), Olive E.  [BHEc/68] Dec. 27, 2008
Bond (Shea), Sharon R.  [BA/69] Dec. 10, 2008

1970-79

Wilder, Patricia Maxine  [Cert Ed/71, BEd/72, MEd/77] Nov. 30, 2008
La Claire, Vance  [BSc/71, BComm(Hons)/76] Dec. 14, 2008
Patrician, John Michael  [BA/72, Cert Ed/73] Nov. 9, 2008
Teskey, Paul Steven  [BA/72, LLB/78] Dec. 12, 2008
Fraser, Dennis Rodney  [BScA/73] Dec. 7, 2008
Mann, David D.  [DipAgric/73] Jan. 9, 2009
Foerster, Bruno R.  [BA/75, BEd/75] Nov. 18, 2008
Arnot, Kay  [BEd/76, MEd/77] November 2008

Hickson, Allister Brian  [BComm(Hons)/76, MSc/78, PhD/83] Dec. 11, 2008
Peabody, Brian Arthur  [BSc/76, Cert Ed/77, MEd/97] Jan. 9, 2009

1980-89

Kostesky (Kuzina), Diane L.  [BComm(Hons)/81] Oct. 25, 2008
Leipsc, Brenda Joy  [BA(Hons)/85] Dec. 9, 2008
Tymchyshyn, Lloyd Daniel  [BSc/71, BComm(Hons)/76, MEd/00] Oct. 6, 2008
Cahill, Mary Anne  [MEd/87] Dec. 30, 2008
Regush, Bruce Allan  [BComm(Hons)/89] Dec. 4, 2008

1990-99

McLeod, Marcia Moreen  [BSW/92] Oct. 9, 2008

2000-present

Whitehill, Gloria Jean  [ExtEd/06] Nov. 13, 2008
Scott, Alison Leslie  [MLArch/08] Nov. 14, 2008

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1950-59

Roland, Dr. Charles G.  [MD/58, DSc/97] has published a biography of Dr. Archibald E. Mallach, who was the first Canadian surgeon to introduce antiseptic surgery into the country in 1869. The book is titled Notable Surgeon, Fine Citizen: The Life of Archibald E. Mallach, MD, 1844-1919.
Mckinnon, John Kenneth (Ken) [BA/66], is currently chair of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board. He is also a member of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

McPherson (McLean), Margaret Gayle [BA/60] is the newly appointed president and chair of the board for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. McPherson is the first-ever woman elected to fill this role in the Fair’s 87-year history.

1970-79

Pennycook, David [BComm/76] was named president of Sceptre Investment Counsel Limited, a leading Canadian independent investment management firm.

1980-89

Adams, Christopher [BA(Hons)/83, MA/86] recently published his first book titled Politics in Manitoba: Parties, Leaders, and Voters. Adams’ book is the first comprehensive review of the Manitoba party system that combines history and contemporary public opinion data to reveal the political and voter trends that have shaped the province of Manitoba over the past 130 years.

Appleyard, Lyle [BSc/84] was recently elected to the board of directors of Toastmasters International.


Hrap, Don [BSc(ME)/82] was recently named president of ConocoPhillips’ Lower 48 Region in the United States.
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Find A Friend

Mikuska, Vincent [BFA/85] is the new provincial coach of Swim BC (British Columbia). In this role, Mikuska is responsible for the provincial team programs as well as overseeing the regional training program.

Rogge (Rehders), Helma [BFA(Hons)/87] is pleased to announce the dates for the 8th annual WAVE Artists Studio Tour (June 13 to 14 and Sept. 5 to 6). Essentially a self-guided tour, WAVE focuses on the work of artists from Manitoba’s Interlake region. Visit watchthewave.ca for more details or contact Rogge directly by phone (204) 389-5633 or e-mail hrogether@mts.net.

Schnittjer (Burdett), Carol [BHEc/82, ExtEd/97] recently graduated with a masters of science in health promotion from the Centre for Health Promotion Studies at the University of Alberta. Employed with the Parkland Regional Health Authority in Dauphin since 1986, Schnittjer is currently a community health nutritionist and healthy baby coordinator in the public health program.

1990-2000

Kiska, Roger [BA/96] was recently appointed legal counsel for The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) in Europe. His main responsibility will be the development of an attorney network across Europe to litigate and win religious liberty cases. Before joining ADF, Kiska served as legal counsel for the European Centre for Law and Justice.

MacLatchy, Deborah [PhD/91] was appointed to the position of vice-president academic and provost at Wilfred Laurier University.

2000 to present

Braunstein, Gilli [BA/08] had his book Swing For The Fences published recently. The story, a fictional adventure/romance, is intended for young adults. On the Web at swingforthefences.ca.

Harmatiuk (Wilson), Andrea [BA/02] has “gone green” and launched Little Tree Hugger. Little Tree Hugger sells modern cloth diapers/accessories online and locally in Fredericton, N.B., and Edmonton, Alta. On the Web at littletreehugger.ca.

Births

Baccus (Escobar), Claudia [BComm(Hons)/02] and Baccus, Grant [BSc/02] would like to announce the birth of their son Marco Thiao Baccus on Dec. 18, 2008 in Winnipeg. Marco weighed six pounds, three ounces.

Boschmann, Erich [BN/91] and Boschmann (Hanan), Kathy [BSc(Hons)/93] wish to announce the adoption of their son Samuel Johannes. Born in Mizan, Ethiopia on Nov. 15, 2007, Samuel came home to Winnipeg on Dec. 25, 2008. It was the best Christmas gift ever!

Epp, Christine Hauri [BSc (Hons)/92], Bill, and big sister Shianne are pleased to announce the birth of Nicholas William on Jan. 22, 2008. The family resides in Winnipeg.

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Harmatiuk (Wilson), Andrea [BA/02] has “gone green” and launched Little Tree Hugger. Little Tree Hugger sells modern cloth diapers/accessories online and locally in Fredericton, N.B., and Edmonton, Alta. On the Web at littletreehugger.ca.
Open Wide

University of Manitoba third-year dentistry students get real-life practice on volunteer patients.
Faculty of dentistry clinical lab, Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Photo: Jason Halstead [BPE/92]
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