

APRIL 2008

# OnManitoba

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



## Lending her voice

Life in the Middle East  
is both dangerous and  
beautiful for journalist  
Nahlah Ayed

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### ON THE COVER:

Nahlah Ayed [Bsc (Hons)/92, MA/02]  
foreign correspondent with the  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
Photo: Sarah Hunter



Potato chips and nachos beware! Food science student Alex Anton is cooking up a new breed of *healthy* snack foods. (Page 26)

Photo: Thomas Fricke

# Homecoming Weekend

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Save the date! See you  
in September 2008!



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC.

# OnManitoba

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## Welcome back!



**Denise Proulx [BA/99]**, our alumni office assistant, returned from maternity leave in January. We're delighted to welcome her back.

**This is not the *only* space for your feedback!**

Don't forget to fill out our survey on **page 33**.



## President's report strikes a chord with readers

Dr. Szathmáry,

I wanted to thank you for your president's message in the latest edition of *On Manitoba*.

Too often academics, politicians and the public see physical activity, sport and exercise as separate and in fact sometimes in opposition to academic excellence. After reading your article, it's refreshing to see that at least some in the academic world understand the critical link between the two.

I am sure you are aware of the enormous issues facing our country related to health care. Even though we know that virtually all chronic diseases (not to mention many acute health issues) are positively affected by physical activity, there is little to zero funding provided for exercise rehabilitation or maintenance. A few places have taken small steps to include this critical element of health care into the "fold".

Here in Ontario, kinesiology is now a regulated health profession since the Kinesiology Act received Royal Assent in 2007. After many years of review, public hearings, and analysis, it has been determined that the services provided by kinesiologists rightly belong in the same mix as other regulated health professions.

As an athlete and University of Manitoba alumnus, I appreciate your support of sport and exercise as well as your recognition that the link between academic achievement and physical activity is important.

Sincerely,

**Francis Puchalski [BPE/76]**

President

Ontario Kinesiology Association

Thunder Bay, Ont.

Hi Dr. Szathmáry,

I've just finished reading your report in *On Manitoba* and appreciated your commentary on academics and athletics. Having gone to school for 21 years (including six at the U of M) and still playing baseball and football with "20-somethings" at the ripe old age of 64 ... both academics and athletics are very important to me.

**Lorn Bergstresser [BSA/68, MSc/70]**

vice-chair of the board of Providence

College & Seminary

Morris, Man.



# Farewell From The President



This page clockwise (from left): Dr. Szathmáry at Convocation; at the 2007 President's Luncheon with Harold Irving (BA/47); on stage with the engineering band at Homecoming 2007.

The extent of On Manitoba's reach was brought home to me one summer, when my husband and I were vacationing with friends in British Columbia. I had some errands to run, and I was standing in the checkout line at a superstore in Nanaimo, attired in a tank top, shorts and sandals when a man behind me with his wife and son spoke -- presumably to break the tedium of our wait. He said, "My wife says you look like the president of the University of Manitoba." I think he was surprised when I replied that the explanation for the resemblance is that, I am the president of the University of Manitoba. With much animation and laughter, we then engaged in conversation - as we waited still, in the checkout line. He observed that he had earned his advanced degree at the Natural Resources Institute more than a decade earlier, and since graduation had been working in natural resources management in the Nanaimo area.

I was reminded of this incident near the end of February when similar recognition occurred during my trip to Adelaide, South Australia. I have found alumni all over the world in this fashion, and these encounters have enriched my experiences of alumni at more formal receptions and alumni gatherings. I am convinced that friendliness is an attribute of Manitobans, and that this characteristic is further demonstrated by those educated at the University of Manitoba. The opportunity to recall the days of one's youth arises spontaneously among mature and not-so-mature graduates when there is an ear to listen. And I listen, fascinated by the recounting of days and friends long gone, aware that lingering under the surface is a bittersweet wish that one could conjure up one's student days again. For most of us the past is coloured by the people with whom we have shared time. And though not every recollection is perfect, for the most part the golden glow of memory illuminates a time when we thought we were immortal and the world was ours for the taking. Well, most times, except perhaps during examinations!

My term as president of the University ends on June 30 this year, and I will have 12 years of memories grounded in my engagement with people. I have been asked what I have enjoyed the most here, and in truth, this question is hard to answer. Because learning does





# Farewell From The President



This page clockwise (from left): Dr. Szathmáry tosses the coin at a Bison Homecoming football game; with the staff of a U of M-supported clinic at the University of Nairobi; with his Excellency Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland, at an event for U of M graduates of Icelandic descent held in Winnipeg.

not cease with the conferral of a degree, it has been a pleasure having a seat in the front row observing the learning continuum, starting with students attempting to look assured on their first day at the Fort Garry campus, and ending with a conversation with alumni of 60 and 70 years ago, at the president's homecoming lunches. There is a sensitivity among the "oldsters" that is marvelous to see - a quiet satisfaction with lives well lived, pride in their *alma mater*, and a hope that their university will continue to do what it must do to educate those who have a desire to learn.

In between these extremes, of course, are numerous events, beginning in the fall with the Bison football team's dazzling show of competitiveness and determination. Then there are the discussions I have had from time to time with student leaders over informal lunches at Chancellor's Hall, lunches with faculty and staff members too, the public events in which I have participated - most focused on the achievements of the people who comprise the University - and of course, seeing the happiness of friends, family and grads at Convocation. I wish it were possible to transfer the pride I feel in the University of Manitoba to everyone I meet, for people here have ever dared to dream impossible dreams and they have achieved them. Understanding of this view of mine, as rational and evidence-

based as it is buffered by emotion, is manifest among alumni I have spoken with. Perhaps that is why these encounters, whether in a supermarket checkout line in Nanaimo, or at Homecoming, mean so much.

All good things come to an end for individuals, but for a university there is no ending. Universities create the future; that is their function and the reason why these institutions have persisted since their inception in the European middle ages. The community of University of Manitoba alumni will continue to grow worldwide, and the new grads will live lives with meaning, making a difference to their communities and to the world as much as their predecessors did. I know that, because I have seen the evidence from the past, and it is a good index of the future. May you be blessed in your lives, and may you continue to support your *alma mater* through thick and thin, through word and deed. She will always rejoice in your achievements, share your disappointments, and when you return home, rest assured that you will always be welcome.

EMŐKE J.E. SZATHMÁRY, CM, PhD  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

# Alumni Association News and Events

## Alumni Association Annual General Meeting Wednesday, June 4

Meeting 5:15 p.m. | BBQ 6 p.m.

135 Innovation Dr. (Smartpark),  
Fort Garry Campus

All alumni are welcome to attend.

RSVP to Denise at (204) 474-9946 or by e-mail at  
[alumni@umalumni.mb.ca](mailto:alumni@umalumni.mb.ca)



## Alumni day with the Manitoba Moose



Photo: Courtesy Manitoba Moose Hockey Club

Alumni Association President Brian Bowman is presented with an official game sponsor plaque from Manitoba Moose captain Mike Keane (left) and Chris Dant, corporate sales account manager with the Moose. The Alumni Association sponsored the game on March 2, which the Moose won (2-1) over rivals the Quad City Flames.

## To our south-bound snowbirds...

If you relocate to a warmer climate in the winter and have a temporary mailing address, please provide it to us so we can stay in contact year-round. The Alumni Association hosts receptions across North America and if we plan one near where you winter, we need the right mailing address to ensure you get the invitation. E-mail is another great way to keep in touch with us.

**Send us your updated information today:**

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*President and Vice-Chancellor,  
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**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

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**For your tickets contact:**

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Web: [umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni)



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# Alumni Association News and Events

## University of Manitoba night at CanWest Park

Winnipeg Goldeyes vs. Joliet Jackhammers

Saturday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.

Visit [umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni) for ticket information.



## We're heading east

Alumni events are being planned in **Toronto** and **Ottawa** in November 2008. Check [umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni) for event updates.

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## Class Reunions

## Class Reunions

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**Reunions in the works:**

Agriculture 1958

Architecture 1948, '58, '68, '78, '88, '98

Arts 1958

BPED 1958

Education 1983

Education (Diploma) 1948

Engineering 1948, '68

Engineering (Civil) 1958

Engineering (Mechanical) 1958

Home Economics 1948, '68

Law 1958, '78

Nursing 1993

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## INVESTING IN MANITOBA'S FUTURE

### *A message from your Alumni Association President*

Alumni don't like to see the image of their alma mater tarnished; they want the U of M's reputation as a centre for education and research excellence firmly intact for future generations. But it's hard to keep this promise when the amount of funding the provincial government has allocated to equipment and renovations is unchanged – at \$3,020,000 per year – over the last two decades.

Starting in 2000-01, the government provided the U of M with an additional \$2 million annually for infrastructure upgrades, but it still doesn't meet the needs. The roughly \$2.1 billion in building and infrastructure assets at the U of M carry a "deferred maintenance" price tag that currently runs about \$211 million. As a result, only minor repairs are addressed and a backlog of major infrastructure "to-dos" continues to grow in severity and cost.

The U of M would like the provincial government to provide the funding to fix what is broken and stay ahead of future problems, and for good reason. The university is to the provincial government what a house is to you or me: an investment whose future value depends on how well it's maintained. Who are the U of M's potential buyers? Students, faculty members and staff – and they're comparing our campus and facilities to others across the nation.

Speaking of comparison, the University of Saskatchewan – a smaller campus than ours – receives annual maintenance funding of about \$17 million. Administrators at the U of M say that if they received even close to that level of funding, they could



begin to make real progress in repairing the deteriorating infrastructure on campus.

The province and the people of Manitoba have high expectations of our university, not the least of which are to attract and shape the young minds that will bolster our economy in the future, and serve as a centre for research excellence on the world stage. But the university can't successfully and continually meet these high expectations without having the proper infrastructure in place.

University president Emőke Szathmáry puts it best: "You can't teach in a tent in Manitoba."

Whether you're one of the 78,000 U of M alumni living in the province or among the thousands scattered around the world, you have invested your tuition dollars and time into our university. And you deserve the best return on that investment—a degree from a university with a reputation for offering the finest educational environment in the country. You also deserve a school that can continue to offer the best education to your children, right here in Manitoba. So, if you feel the way I do, tell your member of the legislative assembly. We need as many voices as possible to drive home our message that an investment in the University of Manitoba is an investment in Manitoba's future.

**BRIAN BOWMAN [BA(Adv)/96]**

President, Alumni Association Inc. of the University of Manitoba



**What are your thoughts on this issue?**

Send an e-mail to  
[alumni\\_president@umanitoba.ca](mailto:alumni_president@umanitoba.ca)



Rennie Zegalski [BComm(Hons)/95]

## Board of Governors update

**Rennie Zegalski** has been acclaimed as your new alumni representative to the University of Manitoba Board of Governors for a three-year term ending June, 2011. A sales associate with commercial real estate firm CB Richard Ellis Manitoba (CBRE) since 1999, Zegalski is well-connected in Winnipeg's business community and is active on many boards including: the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Western Canada Aviation Museum, West End BIZ and

two committees of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ. Prior to joining CBRE, Zegalski worked for the Pan American Games Society as transportation services coordinator for the 1999 Pan Am Games.

Zegalski is actively involved with the university as well. He is chair of the Young Associates of the I.H. Asper School of Business and a past president of the University of Manitoba Alumni Association (2006-07).



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THE FIRST DAY I WALKED INTO THE UNIVERSITY I HAD NO IDEA WHERE TO FIND ANYTHING. THE BOOK STORE QUICKLY BECAME MY CENTRAL LOCATION AND A GREAT PLACE TO RUN INTO PEOPLE I'D ALWAYS BE HELD TO BE.

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## NOT YOUR AVERAGE JANE



Jane Polak Scowcroft

**Jane Polak Scowcroft** is a name to watch.

At 21, the University of Manitoba computer engineering student has already appeared in the *Globe and Mail* as one of Canada's 100 most powerful women. The national newspaper also chose her for a major profile that accompanied the 2007 ranking. Polak Scowcroft received the award, presented annually by the Women's Executive Network, in the future leaders category: women age 30 or under who have distinguished themselves early in their careers.

It's not the first list her name has graced – she was also a finalist for Youth in Motion's 2006 edition of Canada's Top 20 under 20.

During her second year of studies at the U of M, Polak Scowcroft was selected by Engineers Without Borders (EWB) for a project that took her far from home. She spent four months in Tanzania working on behalf of EWB. Their goal was to help develop affordable technologies for poor communities so Polak Scowcroft set to task building solar cookers, installing wind turbines, creating a library of farming manuals, even assisting students with organic farming and computer training.

In addition to her humanitarian work abroad, she volunteers at the U of M – both for her faculty and engineering-related professional organizations. She has served on the EWB's University of Manitoba chapter executive, is active in the University of Manitoba Engineering Society and helps with recruitment, alumni committees and events.

A tireless advocate for women in engineering, Polak Scowcroft regularly speaks to high school students, encouraging young girls to consider a career in her field.

She plans to graduate from engineering this spring and continue building a career in international affairs.

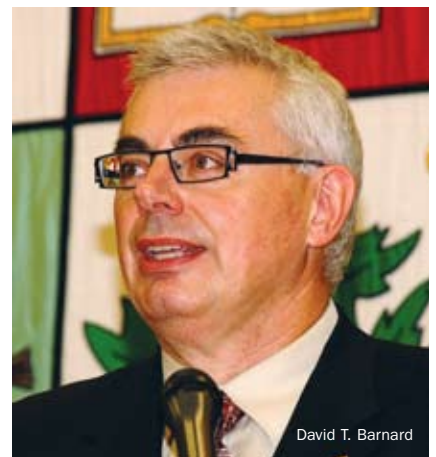
## Introducing the new prez

**David T. Barnard** is the University of Manitoba's next president and vice-chancellor.

The recent announcement, made before a room packed full of media, faculty and staff, laid to rest months of speculation about who might succeed outgoing president Emőke Szathmáry.

Barnard is a respected scholar, adminis-

trator, educator, businessman and author. Most recently, he was chief operating officer of an information technology company in Regina and was president of the University of Regina from 1998 to 2005. His five-year appointment begins July 1, 2008.



David T. Barnard



# A VOICE FOR JUSTICE



Mavis N. Matenge

The University of Manitoba recently welcomed its first Commonwealth Scholar.

**Mavis N. Matenge** came all the way from Botswana to pursue a PhD in peace and conflict studies.

Soft-spoken, articulate and passionate about human rights, Matenge has worked on democratic governance and peace building in southern Africa, and with refugee communities. At 31, she already speaks with the measured conviction, knowledge and experience of a seasoned peace rally leader.

"I am determined to make a difference in Africa by contributing to the continent's peace and conflict resolution initiatives," Matenge asserts. "My heartbeat is for peace and justice for those who are marginalized. I am doing this for victims of armed conflicts – not me. You don't see their faces or suffering in the fine print. I strive to be a voice for them."

The Commonwealth Scholarship Plan was designed to enable students of high intellectual promise to pursue studies in countries other than their own. Scholars eventually return to their country of origin to make what the program calls "a distinctive contribution."

During the next three to four years, Matenge will work towards her PhD, with her research focusing on conflict resolution and policy development. She already has extensive plans for her own distinctive contribution when she returns to Africa, which includes mediation and policymaking at the regional, national and continental levels.

"I want to be better equipped and in a better position to be a vessel of change," says Matenge, who took her undergraduate and master's degrees in the United States. "I am indebted to the commonwealth program to help me realize this goal."

Matenge will study at the Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, the only one of its kind in Canada, which is located in St. Paul's College.

## Maddin about Winnipeg

One of Canada's best-known filmmakers – who also happens to be the University of Manitoba's filmmaker-in-residence – got a giant nod from the movie industry last fall. Guy Maddin's documentary *My Winnipeg* took home the grand prize in the Canadian feature film category at the Toronto International Film Festival. *My Winnipeg*, winner of the Toronto-City Award, paints a personal portrait of Maddin's hometown and was co-written by George Toles, who is chair of the U of M's film studies program. In 2007, Maddin started a three-year term teaching film as part of a joint appointment between the U of M's film studies program and the Icelandic and English departments.



Guy Maddin

## A centre for storytelling



The faculty of arts will soon open a unique space where scholars, students and visiting artists can collaborate, create works of verbal art and study the relationships between oral and written culture.

The Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture – the first of its kind in Canada – will open its doors this spring at the University of

Manitoba. The Centre will offer lecture series, workshops and public events designed to bring oral stories and writing into Manitoba communities. It will also be home to research-based programs that complement the U of M's graduate and undergraduate courses in creative writing, oral history and cultural studies.

Warren Cariou, an award-winning writer and associate professor in the department of English, is the Centre's first director. He believes the stories explored at the Centre will represent the "multiplicity and the vibrancy of Winnipeg itself."

"The Centre will allow artists, scholars and students from diverse backgrounds to explore the transformative possibilities of the written and spoken word," Cariou says. "It will connect us to stories that are very close to home as well as ones that come from all over the globe."

Several programs will operate out of the Centre. A writer-storyteller in residence will visit classrooms, give readings, discuss poetry and offer mentorship and critiques to the university's developing writers and storytellers.

## First class of school psychologists make the grade

At fall convocation 2007, a handful of master's degrees were presented to the first graduating class of the University of Manitoba's school psychology program. The two-year course was launched in 2005 because no local training exist-

ed and the number of school psychologists in the province had dropped. Program coordinator Barry Mallin says all six graduates secured jobs before donning their caps and gowns.

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# SIMPLY THE BEST

Sure, they're savouring their Vanier Cup win, but the Bison football coaching staff is also focused on the 2008-09 season

Brian Dobie doesn't have to tell you he's an emotional guy. As the Bison football head coach recaps his team's 2007 Vanier Cup victory, the excitement of the day bubbles up to the surface. It's been a couple of months since the Nov. 23 victory but for Dobie, the moment – three decades in the making – is still vivid.

"I coached for 33 years and this was my dream, to win a Vanier Cup," he says. "I mean, how many people in their lives, regardless of what their profession is, actualize their dreams? I don't know how else to express it."

In a game as mentally and physically demanding as football, coaches like Dobie sometimes use their emotions and passion to motivate the team. The challenge becomes not letting those feelings get the best of you. Dobie admits this happened to him after a field goal early in the fourth quarter which basically secured the win for the Bison. "When Scotty (Dixon) hit that field goal, my heart went heart-attack rate," says Dobie. "It was just going 'bang-bang-bang-bang-bang-bang-bang' and I had to really consciously spend about a minute-and-a-half calming

myself. And when that happened, it was: 'Oh my God, we've just won the national championship' and I had to get those thoughts out of my head and just go one play at a time."

When the final whistle blew, the Bison had beaten rival St. Mary's Huskies by a score of 28-14 for their first national championship in 37 years. As Bison players and coaches pumped their fists and embraced on the field, Dobie says he stole away from the action momentarily to find his two biggest supporters – his wife Jackie and daughter Caleigh. "Every coach's family really sacrifices





“I coached for 33 years and this was my dream, to win a Vanier Cup.”

– Bison head coach Brian Dobie.

for that coach to have an opportunity to be successful,” he says. “My wife and daughter came over the stands and we just hugged as a family. And that’s when I let go. That’s when I started to cry. You cannot coach at this level without your family.”

About the same time, assistant coach Stan Pierre was waiting for an agonizingly slow elevator to take him down from the coaching booth to the on-field celebration. He called the win a “relief” and says it was about all the team had left to do to validate the program. “It was just euphoria,” Pierre says. “We were up until 5:30 in the morning. I did not sleep for three days. I was just wired. It was just a great, great feeling.”

But with the victory comes new challenges and maybe not the ones you’d expect. Both coaches admit that a national championship can intimidate would-be recruits from coming to the program. Other factors, like the departure of several key defensive players, will shape the squad heading into the 2008-09 season but Pierre says dealing with change is all part of a coach’s job.

“You gotta build a better mouse trap,” he says. “The game is always changing. If everyone just stayed the same it would get really unbearable. I’m looking forward to it.”



## Trio of Bison coaches tops in conference

Congratulations to Bison women’s volleyball coach Ken Bentley, Bison men’s hockey coach Don MacGillivray and Bison men’s track and field coach Claude Berube; each received Canada West Coach of the Year honours.



## Save the date

The 7th annual Bison Sports Golf Classic will be held at Bridges Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 21. Proceeds from the event fund student athletic scholarships and bursaries. For event updates and registration details check out the completely revamped Bison sports website at [gobisons.ca](http://gobisons.ca) or call Jennifer Everard at 474-8146.



## A bronze medal and some new records

The Bison women’s hockey squad took home the bronze medal at the Canada West Championships. The victory capped a 2007-08 campaign in which they set new team records for most points in a season, 38, and most wins, 18.



Frank Plummer

## DISTINGUISHED PROF EARNS MAJOR AWARD

Another major award for a University of Manitoba researcher has further boosted the school's reputation as a leader in HIV/AIDS research.

**Prof. Frank Plummer**, one of the world's foremost HIV/AIDS experts, was named the 2007 Canada Health Researcher of the Year in the field of Biomedical and Clinical Research.

He received the Michael Smith Prize in Health Research at the annual Canadian Institute of Health Research awards. The prize, presented to an outstanding Canadian researcher who demonstrates a high degree of innovation, creativity, leadership and dedication in health research, is named after Nobel laureate Michael Smith. Plummer received a medal and a \$120,000 grant.

He is known around the world for his groundbreaking research focused on naturally acquired HIV immunity and vaccine development. He currently

leads an international team of researchers studying groups of female sex-trade workers in Kenya who do not become infected with HIV despite repeated exposure to the virus. Plummer and his team are investigating the immune systems and genetics of these women to identify what creates the resistance. Their research is expected to provide vital new information for HIV vaccine and drug development. The project is funded by a 2005 Grand Challenges in Global Health grant of US \$8.3 million.

Plummer is a U of M distinguished professor of medical microbiology and Canada Research Chair in Resistance and Susceptibility to Infections. He is also the senior scientific advisor of the Public Health Agency of Canada, director general of the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control in Ottawa, and scientific director general of the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

## A global reach

Thanks to nearly \$2 million in recent funding, a pair of University of Manitoba researchers will lend their expertise to communities in Asia.

**Prof. Emdad Haque**, director of the Natural Resource Institute, will lead a team of fellow U of M researchers to Bangladesh, a densely populated country situated on the world's largest river delta. There, Haque and his team will help create community-based, sustainable resource management practices that provide economic benefits to the poor while protecting the environment. They will develop partnerships with local bureaucrats and non-government groups to help them achieve their project goals. The other team of researchers, lead by **Prof. James Blanchard** of the community and health sciences department is heading to China.

Blanchard is considered a world leader in creating community-based HIV/AIDS research and program development. Working with a local university in China, Blanchard and his research team will create



(from left) Emdad Haque, James Blanchard, Joy Smith MP Kildonan-St. Paul and Vice-President (research) Joanne Keselman

education, prevention and support programs to address the country's devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. Their efforts will target people most vulnerable to infection and those who already have the disease. Blanchard did much of his previous work in India.

Both projects will continue for six years and have each received \$998,886 from the Canadian International Development Agency.



Verena Menec

## Growing old gracefully

Despite your best efforts to the contrary, you will age.

It might comfort you to know that a University of Manitoba researcher is leading a five-year study investigating how the community around you can be adapted to ensure it is age friendly. **Prof. Verena Menec**, Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging and director of the Centre on Aging, will head this project to better understand issues linked to growing older. The study will be done by the Age-Friendly

Communities Active Aging Alliance – a group of university researchers, community organizations, government agencies and service providers. Their goal is to make Manitoba more age friendly.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada will provide \$1 million.

In October, the Centre on Aging celebrated its 25th anniversary.



# Kelley Beaverford

Assistant professor of interior design, faculty of architecture

- Beaverford [BID/92] founded the Manitoba chapter of Architects Without Borders Canada, an organization that helps lower-income communities around the world and those hit with a pandemic or natural disaster.
- She has worked on several humanitarian projects in Sri Lanka, including volunteering at an orphanage after the deadly tsunami.
- In remote Turkey, she and her students restored a 400-year-old bathhouse and built a tea house and garden; they also designed an eye clinic in India and a family clinic in Uganda.

## Here's what else we learned...

**How long you've been teaching at the U of M:** Since the fall of 2003. I was at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar before that.

**Your areas of interest:** Cross-cultural and humanitarian design.

**Your most valued possession:** A Canadian passport – it reminds me that we can go almost anywhere.

**As a humanitarian, the cause you care about most:** Matching the skills and commitment of designers with the needs expressed by disadvantaged populations. I believe that people affected by poverty, war, disability, or environmental conditions deserve equal access to innovative design solutions that will improve their day-to-day lives.

**A powerful image from your travels that has stuck with you:**

It is an image of strength, resilience, beauty, joy and culture. I have seen this image in the eyes of refugees, orphans, and mothers with AIDS.

**Your greatest fear:** That people will just stop caring about others.

**Your first job:** A dance teacher and choreographer for a community dance school. I was 15.

**Pets you had as a child:** I loved my horse named Amigo and our family dog named Jim.

**What drives you crazy:** That the design professions, especially interior design, are often underestimated and considered irrelevant to people in the Third World, in emergency situations or in situations of social exclusion. The truth is that architects and designers are trained to help create environments that support human goals. Given the opportunity, we can help communities achieve their objectives efficiently, effectively and economically.

**Your greatest strength:**

Eternal optimism; it is a source of inspiration.

**Your weakness:**

Eternal optimism; it gets me into trouble.







# The Road to Baghdad

Driving towards Baghdad in spring 2003, past burnt tanks and bodies strewn on the roadside, Nahlah Ayed knew this was where she had to be, despite her fear. “On the way in, we would occasionally hold a flag out the window that said TV so we wouldn’t get bombed by mistake,” recalls the 37-year-old journalist. “I was terrified. There’s no question.”

A few weeks earlier, as the U.S. prepared to launch its offensive against Iraq, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) had hired Ayed full time as a correspondent for the Middle East. She had already been freelancing for the CBC since coming to Baghdad in December 2002, only to end up back at her home base in Amman, Jordan, when the war started three months later. From that moment on, the CBC team’s primary goal was returning to Iraq. After several foiled attempts, the group joined a convoy of Canadian journalists at the border and pushed ahead all the way to Fallujah, 69 kilometres west of Baghdad. As warplanes buzzed overhead, Ayed, CBC producer Heather Abbott and a British reporter left the safety of their vehicle to talk with a group of American soldiers.

“They wouldn’t let us go any further,” Ayed says. “They were very nervous.”

That night, the journalists slept in their cars inside the American checkpoint, as bombs exploded over Baghdad. The next day, Ayed was in the capital, doing a live report as the statue of Saddam Hussein was about to be toppled in Firdos Square. Over the following year, the young journalist would continue to provide Canadians with insight into the situation unfolding in Iraq, covering the capture of Saddam Hussein and conducting interviews with such key figures as Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr while revealing the realities of life experienced by ordinary citizens of the war-torn region. Gradually, as the security situation deteriorated, her forays from Amman to Iraq would become increasingly infrequent.

Now relocated to Beirut, Ayed has only been able to enter Iraq once

a year since 2005. Yet she remains one of the most familiar voices to report on events and life in this troubled part of the world. “I never thought I’d be staying for five years,” she says. “I never planned on it.”

In fact, when she enrolled at the University of Manitoba in 1988, Ayed had no plans to be a journalist at all. Growing up as a first generation Canadian, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, she dreamed of being a doctor. Now, in hindsight, she realizes the signs were there.

Young Nahlah was always the one ready to write letters on behalf of the family. She kept a journal, volunteered for her high school newspaper and wrote poetry. Meanwhile, watching and reading the news was a large part of family life. “My mother is a walking broadcast,” Ayed says with a laugh. “When I worked as a journalist in Ottawa she would call to tell me what Mike Duffy (a political expert with CTV Newsnet) had said on the news that night.”

But long before Ayed would cover events on Parliament Hill, she was eagerly finding her way on campus—in more ways than she realized. “Those years are when you start really understanding who you are,” she admits today. “You think you know who you are when you’re 18. Then you go to university and meet all these people. Suddenly, your world expands by massive proportions. It’s like moving from the village to the city.”

In retrospect, it’s not surprising that one of Ayed’s defining university experiences was working as a reporter for the student newspaper, *The Manitoban*. “It really became my life,” she recalls. “What was a hobby



Photo: Sarah Hunter

was slowly becoming more than that. It actually affected my academic performance because I was putting all my energy into it. I loved the environment, the people who worked there and the chance to actually write for money—what a concept! It was a small amount, not enough to cover my oodles of parking tickets. But I loved it.”

In 1991, while attending a Canadian Association of Journalists conference with a colleague from The Manitoban, Ayed met Havoc Franklin who was working for CBC Radio in Winnipeg. Shortly thereafter, she sold her first mainstream piece to the CBC. This would not be the last time she worked for the CBC.

Around the same time, Ayed realized that her grades were not high enough to get her into medicine. Instead, she decided to concentrate her studies on human genetics. After completing a bachelor of science in 1992, she started a master’s under the tutelage of Dr. Phyllis McAlpine. Every morning, Ayed would stop in Winnipeg’s Little Italy district for a cappuccino before arriving at the Health Science Centre where she would don a white lab coat.

But on evenings and weekends, she started freelance writing. It was not long before McAlpine caught on to her student’s double life. “She saw one of my articles,” recalls Ayed. “She said to me: ‘You have to do some thinking. Either you focus on your master’s or you go the journalism route.’”

Taking a month-long leave of absence from her master’s program, Ayed finally made the leap. She applied to journalism at both Carleton and Ryerson Universities and waited. In the meantime, she developed a backup plan. “I decided that even if I didn’t get into Carleton or Ryerson, I couldn’t give up on journalism,” she explains.

With McAlpine’s help, she enrolled in the U of M’s interdisciplinary studies, pursuing a program that combined English, genetics and philosophy. The new focus for her master’s: How the media covers the Human Genome Project.

Although her father would eventually convince Ayed to finally finish her master’s thesis in 2000, this was one project that was meant to

be on the back burner for quite a while. Only a year after starting her research, she received letters of acceptance from both Ryerson and Carleton. Choosing the latter, she packed her bags for Ottawa. Little did she know it would be her home base for several years.

Upon graduating from Carleton in 1997, Ayed found herself without a job. With no long-term prospects, she accepted a professor’s offer for a contract with a charitable organization shooting a documentary in Nepal. Then, one day during the training period, she was riding her bicycle through Carleton, when she noticed a poster advertising a part-time job with Canadian Press (CP). A few days later, she was hired.

Ayed was in her element. Her writing received several accolades, including a citation of merit for the prestigious Michener award for a series on conditions in Canada’s prisons. But one of her favourite assignments for CP was a series of articles for which she had to travel across the country to such places as Pier 21, the legendary port of entry into Canada. “It was about Canadian immigration,” she says, “I love that story, not only because my parents were pioneers in our family, but also because that’s what being Canadian is all about. I’ve always been an unabashed nationalist.”

Then in 1998, a full-time position opened at CP and Ayed was chosen to fill it. “What better way to get your feet wet than to work on Parliament Hill?” reflects Ayed as she fondly recalls joining role models Eddie Greenspon, Craig Oliver, and Don Newman on the parliamentary beat. “My boss had decided to take a chance on a young pup. I’ll always appreciate that.”

In fact, his decision would have a tremendous impact on Ayed’s life. When Prime Minister Chrétien announced he would be touring the Middle East, she convinced CP that her Arabic background and language skills made her the ideal candidate to accompany the tour. During the trip, she met a number of experienced Mideast correspondents such as the CBC’s Neil MacDonald and Sandro Contenta from the Toronto Star.

“They kept asking me why I didn’t move to the Middle East and





1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Ayeed at Nahr al-Bared – a Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon
2. Interviewing Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki
3. In Beirut during Israeli-Hezbollah fighting
4. With Syrian refugees from the Golan Heights

Photos: The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

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make a living freelancing,” she recalls. “And I thought ‘why don’t I?’”

The seed had been planted but the time was not yet ripe. Then came the events following September 11, 2001. CP flew Ayed and photographer Kevin Frayer down to Afghanistan to meet the Canadian soldiers as they arrived.

Having miscalculated how long it would take the armed forces to get there, the CP crew had plenty of time to focus on other stories. “We went to Tora Bora when they thought Osama Bin Laden was hiding there,” Ayed says. But the story she recalls most fondly is the reopening of a girl’s school in Kandahar.

It was at that point the young journalist realized she wanted to have a role in telling the world about the Middle East. Beyond events and bombs were ordinary people grappling with the impact of the turmoil on their lives. She would lend them her voice.

“I’d been at CP for five years so it was good timing,” she explains. “I thought, I’m 32 years old. If I’m going to do it, I’ll do it now. Afghanistan gave me that last push to make the leap to foreign correspondence.”

Through her contacts at CBC, she secured a “tiny little” freelance contract. Maclean’s magazine and the Globe and Mail promised to publish her pieces as well.

After two days of camera training from the CBC, Ayed packed her

keeping Canadians informed through television reports and Mideast Dispatches—her blog postings on CBC.ca. “As a journalist, Lebanon is a great place to learn about the politics of the region,” she notes. “It’s a complicated place. Whether it’s the Sunni-Shia tension or the intra-Palestinian fighting, everything that happens in the Middle East echoes here. It’s obvious that there are lines being drawn and many issues to work out. The history of this region has always revolved around outside players and how they interact. Currently, there’s a lot of tension between Iran and the U.S. A lot of what happens in the Middle East revolves around that.”

Her role, as she sees it, is to tell Canadians, not only what is happening in the region but how people living in the Middle East feel about the impact of events on their lives. The story, she points out, is about more than political leaders and bombs. “In the media, there’s often not enough time for the human stories,” she laments. “It’s the everyday realities that connect Mrs. Ahmed in Beirut to Mrs. Smith in Winnipeg.”

To bring in that human element, she always strives to present the facts and let people speak for themselves. The truth, after all, lies in what the viewer takes away from the story.

Unlike in other Arab countries, Lebanon’s relatively free press

# Nahlah Ayed

[BSc(Hons)/92, MA/02]

**Most memorable U of M moment:** Putting The Manitoban together with paper and glue on production night.

**Her passion (other than journalism):** Latin music

**Canadian food she misses most:** Clamato juice

**Books on the night table:** *De Niro’s Game* by Rawi Hage and *Travels with Herodotus* by Ryszard Kapuscinski

**Mentor:** My mother. No one else has ever given me better or more considered advice.

equipment and boarded a plane for Amman. Once there, she found a place to live, dropped off her belongings and jumped on another plane—this time for Baghdad.

“I really didn’t know what my plans were,” she admits. “I just knew I needed to go and I would know what I had to do when I got there.”

She has been following that intuition ever since. Not that it has always kept her out of danger. Some time after being hired full time by the CBC, she was attacked by an angry mob in Baghdad after a bomb exploded at a mosque on Ashoura, one of the holiest days for Shiite Muslims. Bruised and bleeding, Ayed returned to her hotel only to find her cameraman had suffered even worse injuries. Nonetheless, the crew still managed to deliver a report on CBC’s The National news show that very night. The reportage was subsequently nominated for a Gemini Award later that year.

It was also in 2004 that Ayed and the CBC decided to change her home base to Beirut. Immediately smitten with this intoxicating city, she had barely settled in when the attempted killing of a cabinet minister foreshadowed a renewal of the sectarian violence that had devastated the country during the Lebanese civil war. A few months later, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri was assassinated and the eyes of the world turned to Lebanon as events began to unravel.

Ayed became one of the most recognizable voices from the region,

allows people to share their thoughts. Then, there’s the fact that many Lebanese are former Canadian residents, creating an opening for Ayed to enter into dialogue with locals. After living in this country of incredible beauty, many of the Lebanese Canadians who left during the civil war yearned to return to their beloved homeland.

It’s a feeling she understands. “Now in my sixth year, living outside of Canada, I feel like I’ve been away too long,” she explains. “This is a temporary assignment. I finally realized I was born to be a journalist, but I definitely was not born to be only an Arab world correspondent.”

In the near future, she hopes to have the opportunity to explore other places and cultures such as China, India and maybe even Nepal. Wherever she goes, the work is bound to be intense.

For now, when she needs a break, Ayed retreats into her collection of books and her passion for Latin music. Eventually, she hopes to leave the traveling life behind and return to Canada. “It’s home,” she says with a catch in her voice. “They say the hardest thing to do after being a foreign correspondent is coming home. I believe that will be the case. But trust me, it might take a few more years, but I’m definitely coming back.”

**CHRISTINE HANLON [BA/85, BEd/89]**

**April 2008 23**

# The family guy

Game show legend Monty Hall on what's important in life



Monty Hall [BSc/46, LLD/87] (right) with wife, Marilyn

He is a familiar face to millions of people around the world and one of Winnipeg's most famous exports but ask Monty Hall about his showbiz career and the legendary talk show host shifts the conversation to what he considers his greatest accomplishment: his family. "I think the proudest things in my life are my marriage and my children, who are so successful," the 86-year-old says before greeting fellow University of Manitoba alumni at a gathering in Los Angeles, CA, last fall.

Best known for producing and hosting the television game show *Let's Make a Deal* for nearly 30 years, Hall and his wife Marilyn

– also an Emmy-award winning television producer – say they've never let themselves get caught up in the trappings of Tinseltown.

"Normalcy was part of our life," says Hall, a member of both the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba. "And we could have had the same normal life whether we'd live in Winnipeg, Toronto or Topeka, Kansas, because that's the kind of family that we were."

For the couple, who have been married six decades, keeping life simple meant leaving work at work. Hall says "we never brought out business home" yet their children still caught the entertainment bug.

"They got it from us one way or another."

Their daughter Joanna Gleason is a Tony-award winning actress; their son Richard Hall, another Emmy winner, produces reality shows like *The Amazing Race* and *Celebrity Fit Club*; and their youngest daughter Sharon Hall is a senior executive with Sony television.

And still Marilyn insists they're not a "Hollywood family."

"I would say we're the least Hollywood family you'll meet" she says.

Growing up in Winnipeg's north end with little money, Hall knew nothing of glitz and glamour. Desperate to attend university and study medicine, he spent two years working in his father's meat shop to save the \$150 required for tuition at the University of Manitoba. After his first year at the U of M, Hall was broke and forced to drop out. Enter Max Freed, who owned a clothing store next to the shop where Hall was now working. Freed approached Hall's dad, Maurice, to find out why his son was working and not going to school. According to Hall, when Freed learned it was a money issue he said, "Well, does he wanna go to school? Tell him to come and see me." Hall received an offer that would change his life: Freed would finance his education provided he keep good grades, pay back every penny, do the same favour for someone else down the road and never tell a soul where he got the money from.

"Well, I followed three of the four rules," Hall says, "Years later I wrote my autobiography and I told this story and I revealed his name."

Hall returned to school but he never made it into medicine. While earning his bachelor of science degree, he made an important discovery – his true passion was entertainment. The clues were obvious. While in university, Hall produced and starred in theatrical productions, worked on weekends with a traveling army show that criss-crossed the province entertaining troops and dabbled in broadcasting with local radio station CKRC.

*(continued on page 30)*



# A Teke in Tinseltown

Collin Brown searches the globe for blockbuster movies



Photo: Jeremy Brooks

Collin Brown [BSc/63]

Universal Studios sprawls across 400 acres of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles. Entering this showbiz epicenter, you're greeted by an out-of-this-world theme park that overlooks the massive movie and television production sets below. This spectacle, known as the entertainment capital of L.A., is big business: in 2003, it became the first studio to have five summer releases break the \$100 million mark. The risks and rewards of working in the blockbuster-or-flop movie industry are huge. One of the guys playing these odds is University of Manitoba graduate Collin Brown.

A numbers guy, Brown is the director of finance for the international division of Universal Pictures. He admits that in spite of where he works, he doesn't spend his time hoping for on-set star encounters.

"We have *Desperate Housewives* shooting right outside of my office and I don't think I've ever seen any of them," says Brown, adding that celebrities aren't camera-ready all the time. "I think I walked by Felicity Huffman once and she said 'Hello' but you almost don't recognize her because she was just getting ready to go in and get prepped and get dressed."

Brown, 67, says he's got enough on-the-job excitement dealing with the unknowns of purchasing and distributing films for foreign markets – like investing in a production that he can't watch because it hasn't been made yet. Grasping the economics of the industry and realizing how hard it is to make a profit were the biggest challenges for Brown when he started at Universal. "You get one shot at releasing a picture and that's it," he says. "So, in order to decide what

to use in your cost analysis you have to go back and look at comparable pictures and hope that you've guessed right." According to Brown, one of the biggest (pleasant) surprises for Universal Studios recently was the success of the comedy *Knocked Up*, featuring Grey's Anatomy alumna Katherine Heigl and Canadian actor Seth Rogen.

Adjusting to life in L.A. was another challenge for Brown and his wife, who's also from Canada and works in the entertainment business. Quebec-born Brown – who estimated the population of Los Angeles County at about 13 or 14 million – said adapting to the size of the region was their first order of business. According to Brown, developing a group of friends to just casually hang out with took a long time as well because people are constantly coming and going in the city. "It's not easy to settle in and get a good collection of friends with whom you can just get together," Brown says. "You live in Canada, you have your parties and other people have their parties and you just sorta have this round of parties that (you) go to. So, that was the hardest thing (about life in L.A.) to which to adjust. It isn't like living in a town where you've been for a long time."

Getting used to new surroundings is something Brown has done his whole life. His family moved from Quebec to Hastings, Minn., when he was just out of high school. He applied to the University of Manitoba because it was close. After earning his science degree, he jetted off to England to earn his diploma in education. When Brown returned to Canada, he taught in Ontario, earned his master's in business administration, dabbled in the investment business, went back to teaching (including a stint in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe), and more teaching in Canada before finally settling as an analyst with an Ontario-based brokerage firm.

Sipping his coffee in a ranch-themed restaurant, the blaring soundtrack of Universal's theme park right outside the door, Brown says his decision to study in Manitoba was "fortuitous." Back in 1959, Brown joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon (Tekes) fraternity at the U of M. Then, in 1990, he was offered a job to work for Canadian liquor giant Seagram from a fellow grad and Teke, Arnold Ludwick [CA/62, BA/63]. "When opportunities (like going to Seagram) arise, you've got to take the chance," Brown says. "And it turned out to be a lot of fun."

Seagram bought MCA Incorporated (then owner of Universal Studios) in 1995 for \$5.7 billion. Brown packed his bags once again, this time landing in L.A.

When the end credits roll and Brown eventually leaves the Hollywood life, he and his wife plan to retire back in Canada to be closer to their three adult children.

JEREMY BROOKS [BA/98]



# Alex Anton

MASTER'S OF FOOD SCIENCE STUDENT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

The 24-year-old Brazilian led the U of M team who created Globix — a high-protein, high-fibre, fat-free and low-calorie snack made from whole wheat and navy bean flour. The crunchy sticks (which also contain all essential amino acids) earned top honours at an international new food competition in Texas last year. This latest kudos was in addition to several student awards — a baker's dozen to be exact — that Anton has received in the last five years.

**Why the science of food fascinates me:** It is very challenging and powerful in a sense that I can modify and create things that will have a direct impact on people's lives.

**In my opinion, the world's healthiest food is:** Beans, especially red kidney beans. (They are a staple in Brazil.)

**What I miss most about Brazil:** The daily contact with the ocean (I was born and raised (on) an awesome island with more than 40 beaches – Florianopolis) and my family.

**Who I look up to:** The three women of my life — my mom, my aunt and my partner Daiana. They really understand me and never let me feel lonely regardless (of) where I am.

**What I can't live without:** Human energy — a busy party, a street market, loud demonstrations of happiness — and fruits and vegetables.

**To me, success is:** A sustainable life, where suffering is minimized and pleasure maximized through innumerable surprising and surreal experiences shared with great people.

**My favourite food:** The wholegrain pie my mom and aunt make. It's filled with veggies, chickpeas, and lots of hearts of palm.

**What I'm passionate about:** Backpacking around an unknown destination, shivering with the sense of discovery and taking a deep breath before taking off for a day full of surprises.

**My favourite musicians:** Luciana Souza for bossa nova, Nando Reis for Brazilian rock, Maximo Park for rock, Infected Mushroom for trance, and Moby for electronica.

**How I like to spend my downtime:** Hanging out with people, friends or friendly strangers, having unconcerned conversations and just doing nothing that really matters.

**My greatest fear:** To lose my ability to move. There's so much to be seen and felt out there that the idea of getting stuck forever frightens me.



# BLAST FOR THE PAST KICKS OFF FACULTY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Cutting the cake (from left) dental assistant Joelle Roeland, alumni affairs officer Kathy Mastrobuono, dentistry Dean Dr. Anthony Iacopino, Dr. Charles Lekic, dental hygiene associate professor Joanna Asadoorian, school of dental hygiene director Salme Lavigne, Centre for Community Oral Health director Dr. Doug Brothwell, and oral biology assistant professor Dr. Abhijit Banerjee.



Fourth-year dental students (from left) Sandra Rosenberg, James Cadigan and Lori Simoens share in the good times.

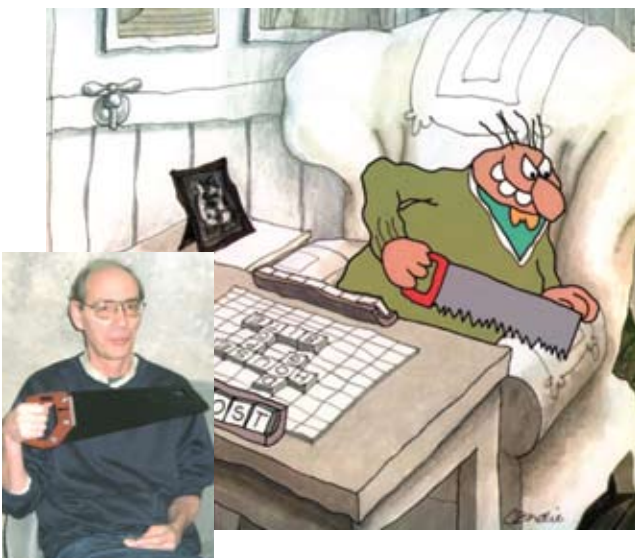


Japanese drum group Hinode Taiko provided the evening's soundtrack.

The roar of Winnipeg-based Japanese drum group Hinode Taiko kicked off celebrations marking the faculty of dentistry and school of dental hygiene's golden anniversary. About 200 students, faculty and staff gathered in the Brodie Centre on Bannatyne Campus – which was decorated in a montage of photos from the past – for the party dubbed: Blast for the Past and a Launch into the Future.

The evening included the roll-out of the new faculty logo and an overview of the Drive for Top Five – dentistry Dean Dr. Anthony Iacopino's vision to establish the University of Manitoba as one of the top five dental schools in North America. Iacopino hoped the event – the first of many planned throughout 2008 – would help get folks fired up about his plan.

"We wanted to start the year with something for our faculty members, students and staff, to really get them involved and into the spirit," Iacopino said.



## The best Scrabble-squabble ever!

Winnipeg-based artist Richard Condie, (inset) dropped by Gallery One One One recently where an exhibit of his work titled: AARRGG!! ran from Feb.7 to March 7. Condie is best-known for his Oscar-nominated animated short, The Big Snit. The exhibit – drawn from the collection Condie donated to the university's archives in 2006 – featured a selection of his animated cels, pencil drawings and dope sheets as well as background paintings from his sister, Sharon Condie.

## Graduate fellowship a tribute to conductor's career



Geraldine DeBraune with her father Henry Engbrecht.

**Henry Engbrecht** received two gifts arguably better than a gold watch when he retired from the University of Manitoba: professor emeritus status and a graduate fellowship named in his honour.

For 28 years, Engbrecht was director of choral studies and activities in the U of M's faculty of music. Elroy Friesen [MMus/04],

his former student and also his successor, says Manitoba is known as the "singing province" because of Engbrecht's mentorship to many generations of choristers and conductors.

Engbrecht's daughter, Geraldine DeBraune, created the Henry Engbrecht Graduate Fellowship to honour her father and thank him for the influence he has had on her life.

"I wanted to do this for my dad because he is a remarkable man," DeBraune says. "I've had the fortune to work with him in the professional world by producing his concerts and through my career in arts administration. I've had a lifetime of exposure to music because of him."

The fellowship celebrates Engbrecht's leadership contribution to choral music in the province. This includes nearly three decades directing choral studies and activities at the

U of M, conducting the University Singers and Canzona ensembles, and key roles in the Manitoba Choral Association and the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Engbrecht is also personable, says Friesen. "He genuinely cares for all of his musicians and students and he has the reputation as a professor whose door was always open," he says. "You will not find a single former student of Henry Engbrecht who does not admire him."

DeBraune is excited about the opportunities the award creates for students. "It's not just about Dad; that's really just scratching the surface. It's about every student who walks through those doors in the future. That feels very good for both Dad and me."

For more information, visit [henryengbrecht.com](http://henryengbrecht.com).

## Aggies jump on campaign to honour influential plant science professor



Anna Storgaard [BSA/49, MSc/51]

**Prof. Anna Storgaard** left a lasting impression on her students during her career at the University of Manitoba. A forage specialist with the department of plant science for more than three decades, Storgaard died last spring.

Her former student Nancy Romanow Cranston [MSc/78] was quick to pay tribute by creating an award in Storgaard's honour.

"It was pretty apparent that when students needed help or advice, the lineup was at Anna's door," Romanow Cranston says. "She never rushed you, she listened respectfully and problems were solved. If she knew a student was struggling with a concept, she would actually go down to the library looking for them to help them understand."

Romanow Cranston recalls how the focus of her own academic career shifted to plant breeding once she had spent time in Storgaard's classroom. "She was excited about what she did and she was academically stimulating."

Romanow Cranston's initial \$22,500 campaign goal was quickly surpassed as former students and colleagues of Storgaard came forward with donations. Many wrote letters about how she had touched their lives.

Brent Wright [BSA/80, MSc/84] remembers his former instructor as open, friendly and approachable. Now president of an agricultural research and consulting company, Wright says he supported the campaign because of Storgaard's significant impact on those around her. "She was very influential in a lot of students' lives and their decisions to pursue agricultural research or other areas of academics – not necessarily just in forage breeding," he notes.

Storgaard earned several awards for her teaching and research accomplishments. She is remembered by many for her boundless energy, generosity, good humour and enthusiasm for agriculture. Students applying for this award must demonstrate leadership qualities in another of Storgaard's passions – community involvement.



# Legal eagle honoured

One of Canada's top litigators, Queen's counsel, legal scholar, friend and colleague. All of these words describe **David Sgayias**, the former chief general counsel for the federal Department of Justice, who died suddenly in 2003 at age 52.

Family and friends of Sgayias contributed to the David T. Sgayias Graduate Fellowship which was initially funded by a \$100,000 gift from his aunts – Elaine Evans and the late Diane Sgayias. The Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative matched that amount.

Evans still contributes to the fund and recently gave \$10,000.

"My sister and I decided to do this to honour David's name and support the faculty of law's cause of educating upcoming legal minds," Evans says. The family is committed to the continued growth and success of the endowment fund and make regular contributions to build on the award. They've also donated \$100,000



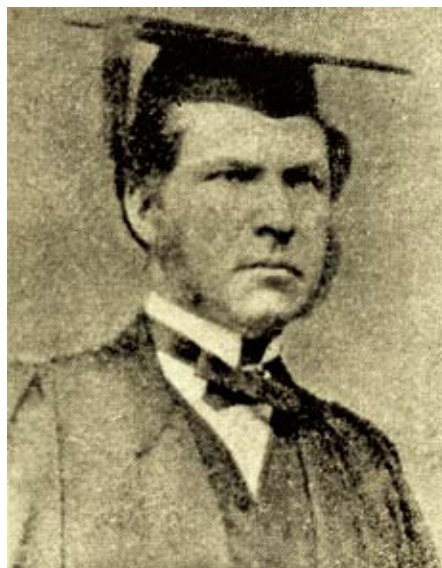
to create the David T. Sgayias Graduate Centre.

Melanie Bueckert, a practicing lawyer and the 2007-08 recipient of the fellowship, says Sgayias was highly regarded for his expertise in the legal community. "When federal cases came up everybody would always check Sgayias's book on Federal Court practice for how to proceed," she says. "It's a great honour to receive this fellowship that is named after him."

Sgayias's dedication to law earned him numerous professional awards and the esteem of the nation's elite. Evans recalls how she and her sister received a letter from the Prime Minister when Sgayias died.

Faculty of law Dean Harvey Sectar offered his appreciation for the gift. "This is a substantial award that offers significant financial aid and support for our graduate students," Sectar says.

# Leaving a legacy



Alexander Kennedy Isbister

Each May, the University of Manitoba and fellow charitable organizations in the province mount a campaign to remind the public that planned giving is vital — not only to an institution but to society as a whole.

The effort is called Leave a Legacy and its message hits close to home at the U of M. The university was one of the first beneficiaries of planned giving in Manitoba when **Alexander Kennedy Isbister** left \$83,000 and 5,000 books to the school in his will in 1883. He designated the funds to establishing scholarships and prizes for students who merited them "regardless of sex, race, creed, language, or nationality."

Isbister's gift recognized the importance of making education accessible to all. More than 5,000 Isbister Scholarships have been

awarded during the past 125 years, creating a cadre of "Isbister Scholars" who have left their mark on the world. The award continues to be among the most prestigious at the university. Isbister and others like him have set an example with their estate gifts and their legacy continues to guide our institution.

Planned gifts offer meaningful ways to support specific causes yet of all the donations that Canadians give to charitable institutions, only three per cent come from bequests.

For more information about how you can include the University of Manitoba in your estate plan, contact planned giving in the department of development at [planned\\_giving@umanitoba.ca](mailto:planned_giving@umanitoba.ca) or (204) 474-9195.

## The family guy (continued from page 24)

"By this time I had decided that I worked so hard all my life, waited for these moments, that I'm going to give up the idea of going into medicine and I'm going to go into radio broadcasting because this was exciting stuff," says Hall.

After a few months working full time at CKRC, Hall left Winnipeg for Toronto. There, he met Marilyn, who worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

"She was an ingénue on the CBC Radio when I met her," says Hall. "She was 18 years old...the Lindsay Lohan of her day."

"Not quite," says Marilyn.

Hall struggled to find steady jobs in Toronto, recalling how the CBC "sorta shut down the store." By this point he and Marilyn had two babies to feed. They decided he should set out for New York to find work. "I'm walking the streets trying to get appointments, trying to see people, without success, week after week after week," Hall says. "And she's back home with two kids. One of them who became ill. She's got these problems and no husband around to help her out."

Hall described this period of time as the greatest challenge in their lives but he just kept pushing forward. "In my day my only mantra was: 'No going back,'" he says. "You just pull up your socks and you keep going."

Of his talent and his drive, he was sure. What Hall needed was a break. "Success will come when your courage and your persistence and your talent intersect with that day. That lucky day," he says.

Hall landed a job emceeing a show called Video Village. Shortly after he was hired, the show transferred from New York to L.A. and Hall followed. He began creating his own TV productions, like the game show Your First Impressions, which he sold to the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in 1962. He hired Stefan Hatots to produce the show and it was during one of their regular idea-generating sessions that the pair developed the concept for Let's Make a Deal.

Once again, Hall found himself battling rejection – the networks did not initially like the show idea. Talent and persistence finally intersected with a lucky day, Dec. 30, 1963, "And the rest is history."

Fame and success didn't change Hall and his family but it did allow him to indulge his second greatest passion – charity work. Hall is credited with helping raise upwards of \$800 to \$850 million for various causes. Hall says he's not done yet.

"Recently I went to see my doctor for my annual check-up and I said 'Doctor, I'd like to keep going till I hit the billion dollar mark. But that's been my life. My family comes first, my charities come second and television comes third.'"

**JEREMY BROOKS [BA/98]**

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Associations and Corporations frequently select cities for their major conferences and conventions because of the drive of their local leaders. These events have a major impact on the commerce of Winnipeg when they are held here.

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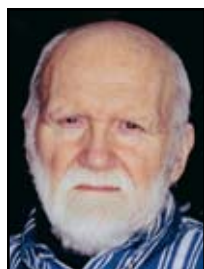


Promoting our City from within.



## 1950-59

**Caplan (Ciarrocchi) Sandra** [BFA/57] recently had a solo exhibit of her art at the Westbeth Gallery in New York, NY. Caplan studied art at the University of Manitoba and both Boston and Yale University. At present, she divides her year working in Italy and New York. Caplan's work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions throughout North America including the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Toronto's Quan Scheider Gallery and Brooklyn's Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In 2006, she had a solo exhibition at the Fortezza di Civitella – a 16th century fortress in Italy's Abruzzo region. Caplan's work can also be found in private collections in the U.S., Canada and Italy.



**Eyre, Ivan** [BFA/57] is a member of the Order of Manitoba and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and works from his Rue des Trappistes studio in St. Norbert, Manitoba. Professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba's School of Art, Eyre's work

spans five decades and has been exhibited in many galleries in Canada, New York, Frankfurt, Paris and London as well as in many private collections in Canada and overseas. He has promised or donated more than 200 paintings, 5,000 drawings and 16 sculptures to the Pavilion Gallery in Winnipeg – where the third floor is dedicated to his work – and many pieces to public galleries across the country. He is a Molson Prize nominee and the recipient of the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals, the University of Manitoba Alumni Jubilee Award and the subject of several films and books.

## 1960-69

**Dutka, June Dorothy** [BA/64] is featured in Herstory 2008: The Canadian Women's Calendar, a collection of inspiring stories of Canadian women. Librarian emeritus at the University of Manitoba, Dutka researched and wrote the English text for the commemorative book *St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church: Celebrating 100 Years - Together for Tomorrow*. The book received an honourable mention at the 2007 Manitoba Historical Society, Margaret McWilliams Awards.



**Katz, Leslie** [LLB/67, BA/69] has retired after a successful career as a legal academic and researcher, barrister, and judge. These days, he spends part of his time as an honorary consultant to the New South Wales Law Reform Commission

and much of the rest of it as a blogger: see <http://stumbling.tumblr.com>. PHOTO

**Kozar (nee Gibbs) Judith (Judy)** [BA/69, BEd/70] published her first book, *Canada's War Grooms and the Girls Who Stole Their Hearts*, in 2007. The book explores untold stories of love and marriage that resulted when non-Canadian Allied servicemen came to Canada during the Second World War. All royalties from the non-profit book will be donated to three aviation/military museums – the Western Canada Aviation Museum in Winnipeg, the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum in Brandon and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa – in memory of Kozar's father-in-law who was a war groom.

**Lyons, Edward A.** [BSc/63, BSc(Med)/68, MD/68] was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 2007. Dr. Lyons, a professor of radiology and obstetrics and gynecology is a world leader in ultrasound research and helped make ultrasound one of the most widely used and safest diagnostic tools in the world. Lyons has held numerous leadership positions with the Canadian Association of Radiologists and the Society of Radiologists and Ultrasound. He is also the president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

**Riley, Susan** [BA/67, LLB/95] has written a book *We Watch the Wave*, a memoir unraveling the mystery of her father's death in post-war Winnipeg 1947. She now lives in Vancouver, BC.

**Roberts, Donald John** [BA(Hons)/67] received an honorary doctorate of science from the University of Winnipeg in 2007. Roberts – whose expertise is the application of economic and strategic analysis to management problems – teaches economics and business at Stanford University. He is also an author and his book *The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth*, was named the best business book of the year by The Economist in 2004.

**Simons, F. Estelle R.** [BSc/65, MD(Hons)/69] received the World Allergy Organization's Scientific Achievement Award for 2007 "in recognition of outstanding scientific contributions in allergy and immunology which have aided clinicians around the world to treat patients more effectively." Simons is a professor in the department of pediatrics & child health and the department of immunology at the University of Manitoba, as well as past-president of both the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology and the Canadian Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology.

## The 2040 presidential race is officially on!



Brian [BA(Adv)/96], Tracy [BA(Hons)/96] and Hayden Thomas Bowman



Allison [BEd/97], Rennie [BComm(Hons)/95] and Zachary Lucas Zegalski

Congratulations to Alumni Association President Brian Bowman and his wife Tracy on the birth of their son Hayden Thomas Bowman, on Dec. 31, 2007. Hayden was seven pounds, three ounces at birth.

Not to be outdone, Rennie Zegalski (Alumni Association president for 2006-07) and his wife, Allison, welcomed their baby boy on Feb. 1, 2008. Zachary Lucas Zegalski weighed eight pounds, 13 ounces at birth.

We're pleased to say that babies, moms and dads are all doing well. As for which child will make a successful bid for Alumni Association president in 2040, we'll just have to wait and see.

(Brian and Rennie gave us their blessings to have some good-natured fun with their birth announcements. Ed.)

**Thomson, Wayne** [BSc(ME)/75] recently joined the board of directors of EnCana Corporation. Thomson is president and director of Virgin Resources Limited, a private junior international oil and gas exploration company with activities focused in Yemen. Prior to this position he served as president and as a director of several private companies, including Airborne Pollution Control Inc., Hadrian Energy Corp., and Gardiner Exploration Ltd. He lives in Calgary with his wife Pamela.

**Underwood, David** [BSc(CE)/64] was elected to the grade of fellow at the annual meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). This is the highest membership available in ASHRAE and recognizes a lifetime of contributions to the advancement of engineering. Underwood is a licensed professional engineer.

## 1970-79



**Lindblom, Brian** [BA/79] received the 2007 American Board of Forensic Document Examiners New Horizon Award. The honour recognized Lindblom's work as co-editor and principal author of Scientific Examinations

of Questioned Documents, 2nd Edition, as well as other articles, workshops and continuing education programs he was involved with. Lindblom also received the 2008 Ordway Hilton Award for ongoing contributions to the field of forensic document examination.

**Werner, Hans** [BSc(CE)/75, MA/96, PhD/02] has just published a new book, *Imagined Homes: Soviet German Immigrants in Two Cities*. Werner teaches Canadian history and Mennonite studies at the University of Winnipeg. His current research includes German and Mennonite migration in the Soviet Union and early Mennonite settlements in western Canada. He is the author of *Living between Worlds: A History of Winkler*.

## 1980-89

**Lexier, Jonathan** [BSc(ME)/81] has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Highpine Oil & Gas Ltd.

## 1990-99

**Thorkelson, Tory S.** [MEd/96] was recently elected to the position of first vice-president of the national council of KOTESOL (Korea Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). He will become president of the national council in October 2008 for a one-year term. KOTESOL has 661 members in 10 chapters all across the Korean Peninsula. Thorkelson and his wife, Hye-Ah Yoo, are expecting their first child in the spring.

## Weddings

**Jofre, Ester** [BComm(Hons)/04] and Michael Raftis [BComm(Hons)/05] were married on Dec. 29, 2007 in Winnipeg.



**Sauve, Christopher** [BSc(ME)/01] and **Tricia Bailey** [BEd/94, PBCertEd/01, MEd/05] were married Sept. 2, 2007 PHOTO

## Babies



**Unger, Gina** [BEd/97, BHEC/97] and **McMillan, Jeff** [BPE/95, BEd/97] would like to announce the birth of their second son, Hudson Unger McMillan. On July 21, at 9:56 a.m., Hudson Unger McMillan (nine pounds, two ounces, 22 inches) decided that after 41 weeks enough was enough! Although the birth was planned for home, Hudson arrived, unexpectedly, in the bathroom (plainly, two contractions are just not enough warning)! No medical personnel were present so daddy had to "make the catch", while 16-month older brother, Hayes, wondered what was happening. Paramedics and midwife arrived shortly after to give a helping hand to everyone. The whole family is doing very well.



**Dueck, Cheryl** and faculty of arts dean **Sigurdson, Richard** [BA/80, MA/83] welcomed Nola Marie Dueck-Sigurdson on Feb. 24, 2008. Baby Nola's birth weight was six pounds, 2.7 ounces and

she measured 19 inches. Nola is the third baby born to an alumni board member since December 2007.

## In Memoriam

The Alumni Association Inc. of the University of Manitoba extends their condolences to the family and friends of the following alumni:

## 1920-29

**McLachlan, Elsie Letitia** [BSc(HEC)/27] Nov. 9, 2007

## 1930-39

**Humphries, Elva Florence** [BSc(HEC)/33, BEd/53] Oct. 18, 2007

**Nielsen, Anna May** [BA(Hons)/39, MA/40] Dec. 22, 2007

**Railton Belyea (nee Railton), Jean** [BA/31, BEd/51] Jan. 21, 2008

**Remis, Leonard** [BA/33, MA/81] Oct. 16, 2007

## 1940-49

**Beverly, Eleanor Jane (El-Jane)** [BSc/46] Dec. 29, 2007

**Galan, Harry** [BSc/49, BEd/56] Nov. 19, 2007

**Geisler, Gordon** [MD/48] March 15, 2007

**Govan, Duncan Eben** [MD/48] Sept. 28, 2007

**Jackson, Andrew Sander** [CA/48] Oct. 23, 2007

**McKay, William Angus** [BA/44] Dec. 27, 2007

**Meredith, William (Bill) G.** [BSc/49, MD/55] Oct. 18, 2007

**Minuck, Max** [MD/46] Nov. 7, 2007

**Moore, Ellen M.** [BA/49] Nov. 11, 2007

**Myrdal, Gudmundur (Mundi)** [DipEd/49, BSc/49] Dec. 6, 2007

**Rennie, Charles S.** [MD/40] Oct. 17, 2007

**Robins, Harle Duncan** [BSc/49] Dec. 24, 2007

**Secter, Rose** [BA/44] Nov. 8, 2007

**Sproul, Stanley Kennedy** [BSc/44] Dec. 3, 2007

**Stuppard, Donald** [BComm/45, BComm(Hons)/47] October, 2007

**Todd, Stanley Thomas** [DipAg/47] Dec. 24, 2007

**Winston, Raymond Norman** [BSc(EE)/49, MBA/77] Nov. 7, 2007



# On Manitoba wants to hear from you

We use a variety of methods to communicate with our graduates like *On Manitoba* magazine, our e-newsletter Alumni FYI and our website ([umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni)). And we want to know: are you getting the information you want, how you want it? Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. **Participant information:** Complete this survey for a **chance to win one of five-\$100 prizes**. You are not required to provide us with your e-mail address – it's optional. If you do, and if you would like to receive our monthly e-newsletter, Alumni FYI, please indicate below.

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes, sign me up for Alumni FYI

\*Degree(s) earned from the University of Manitoba and date(s) of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Required for entry in prize draw)

## 1. I read *On Manitoba*:

☐ every issue ☐ sometimes ☐ never

## 2. We are redesigning the look of the *On Manitoba* starting with this issue. Your opinions on the following are appreciated:

a) Visual ease of reading (this has to do with type size, type placed on photos, etc.). On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being hard to read and 5 being easy to read.

1 2 3 4 5

b) Amount of content per page. On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being too crowded, 3 being just right and 5 not enough.

1 2 3 4 5

c) Ratio of pictures to text. On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being too many photos, 3 being just right and 5 not enough photos.

1 2 3 4 5

d) My attraction/enjoyment of articles is enhanced by photos/illustrations. On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being not relevant and 5 being very relevant.

1 2 3 4 5

e) Paper stock: I prefer ☐ glossy/shiny or ☐ matte paper

## 3. *On Manitoba* – content

a) Please rate sections of *On Manitoba* from the list below. On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being never read and 5 being always read:

	1	2	3	4	5
Cover profile:	1	2	3	4	5
Feedback:	1	2	3	4	5
President's message:	1	2	3	4	5
Alumni Association news and events:	1	2	3	4	5
University news:	1	2	3	4	5
Research news:	1	2	3	4	5
Bison news:	1	2	3	4	5
Bright futures:	1	2	3	4	5
Alumni stories:	1	2	3	4	5

b) Overall, how do you feel about the length of stories in *On Manitoba*? On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being too short, 3 being just right and 5 too long.

1 2 3 4 5

## 4. Web habits

a) How often are you on the Internet?

☐ daily ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ never

b) Do you visit any online versions of print magazines? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

## 5. How else do you keep in touch with the Alumni Association?

a) In addition to *On Manitoba*, I regularly check the Alumni Association website ([umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni)) for alumni-related information:

☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ several times per year ☐ never

b) I find the information on the Alumni Association website to be useful and interesting? On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being not of interest and 5 being excellent.

1 2 3 4 5

c) In addition to *On Manitoba*, I receive the Alumni Association's monthly e-newsletter – Alumni FYI: ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If yes, do you believe Alumni FYI contains information that is useful and interesting? On a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being not of interest and 5 being excellent.

1 2 3 4 5

d) In the future, how would you prefer to receive information from the Alumni Association?

☐ As-is ☐ More from the Web ☐ More from e-mail

6. Any other comments? Please attach a second page for your comments if replying by mail or fax.

Please submit your survey in one of the following ways:

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Alumni Association Inc. of the University of Manitoba  
180 Dafoe Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N2

**By Fax**  
(204) 474.7531

or visit our website  
[umanitoba.ca/alumni](http://umanitoba.ca/alumni)  
and click on the reader survey link.

**CLOSING DATE** for the survey is: **FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008!** THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

## 1950-59

**Arason, Herman** [Dip.Ag/50] Jan. 11, 2008

**Briercliffe, William Vernon** [BSA/51] Oct. 29, 2007

**Crawford, James C.** [BSc/58, LLB/64] March 16, 2007

**Fleck, David James (Jim)** [BA/55, BEd/57] Nov. 21, 2007

**Gauer, Lloyd Frederick** [BArch/51] Dec. 11, 2007

**Goyette, Paul L.** [CA/53] Oct. 22, 2007

**Harrison, William Edward** [BComm/59, LLB/72] Nov. 19, 2007

**Hutlet, Sister Apolline** [BA/53, MEd/69] Nov. 4, 2007

**Hyde, Robert John** [BA/50, BPed/59, BEd/62] Nov. 14, 2007

**Maharaj, Bharat (Charles)** [BSc/58] Sept. 25, 2007

**McAlduff, Sister Maureen** [BA/55] Jan. 18, 2008

**Mowat, Frederick Power** [BSA/51] Nov. 24, 2007

**Nagy, Katrina P.** [BSc/55, MD/59] Nov. 23, 2007

**Packer, Ross Reginald** [BSc(ME)/53] Dec. 8, 2007

**Roslycky, Eugene Bohdan** [BSc/53] Jan. 4, 2008

**Van Kessel, Helen** [BSc/54] Dec. 8, 2007

**Vogt, Ernst Richard (Ernie)** [BComm(Hons)/51] Jan. 9, 2008

**Winship, John** [BSc(ME)/51] Oct. 31, 2007

## 1960-69

**Braun, Miriam** [BPed/64, BA/68, BEd/68] Nov. 5, 2007

**Bugge, Norman Arnold** [CertEd/66] Oct. 15, 2007

**Clyde, Rosebjorg (Rose)** [BA/69, BEd/72] Oct. 11, 2007

**Dewar, Donald Gary** [BA/62, CertEd/68, BEd/71] Oct. 23, 2007

**Donnelly, Heather Lynne** [LLB/65] Oct. 15, 2007

**Ferries, Rose Gwendolyn** [BA/62, CertEd/65] Dec. 21, 2007

**Frost, Kenneth (Ken) R.** [BSc/68] Oct. 27, 2007

**Gray, Diane Frances** [BA/65] Dec. 10, 2007

**Heide, Abe** [BA/60, BEd/63] Nov. 16, 2007

**Heinicke, Allan G.** [BSc(Hons)/61, MSc/63] Dec. 6, 2007

**Konarski, Donald Edward** [BSc(EE)/69] Jan. 16, 2008

**Laughren, Jeanette Gayle** [BA/60] Aug. 26, 2007

**Mills (nee Knight), Martha Evelyn Joyce** [CertEd/64, BA/65, BEd/66] Sept. 27, 2007

**Payne, Winston St. Luke** [BA/64, MA/68, BEd/69, MEd/77] Oct. 30, 2007

**Prendergast, Harry C.** [BSc(EE)/66] Nov. 16, 2007

**Segal, Miriam** [BA/68] October, 2007

**Skinner, John Benjamin** [BSA/67] Jan. 1, 2008

**Storey, Judy Louise** [BHEc/67] Dec. 26, 2007

**Tough, David Carey** [BSc(CE)/64] Oct. 15, 2007

**Vanetti, Henry** [BA/64, CertEd/65] Oct. 8, 2007

**Vinsky, David** [BA/67] Nov. 1, 2007

**Wiebe, John F.** [BA/64] Dec. 16, 2007

**Young, Glen Alexander** [BSc/66] Nov. 13, 2007

## 1970-79

**Akister, Alan Mark** [BA/79] Jan. 5, 2008

**Baker, Patricia L.** [BA(Hons)/76] Dec. 1, 2007

**Benjamin, Richard John** [BSA/70] Nov. 25, 2007

**Bond, Stuart Brian** [BSA/70] Jan. 5, 2008

**Blyth, Charles Robert (Bob)** [BSc(CE)/71] Dec. 10, 2007

**Dawson, (nee Page) Judith Marie** [Dip.D.Hyg/73]

**Dreger, Hubert** [BSc/79] Oct. 12, 2007

**Enns, David Armin** [BEd/75] Nov. 3, 2007

**Gannon, Hugh Edward** [DipAg/70] Oct. 14, 2007

**Gauthier, Colette** [BID/70] Nov. 2, 2007

**Gooljarsingh, Lalchan** [BA/70, Cert.Ed/71, BEd/72, MEd/80] Jan. 11, 2008

**Graham, William (Bill)** [BA/75] Nov. 16, 2007

**Irwin, William (Bill) Alexander** [CertEd/72, BEd/75, MEd/79] Nov. 19, 2007

**Jegbefume (formerly Olomu), Michael O.** [PhD/71] July 4, 2007

**Lachuta, Randolph (Randy) Jeffrey** [DipAg/75] Dec. 5, 2007

**Lestition, Brian** [BEd/78] November, 2007

**Reimer, Clifford Milton** [BA/75] Oct. 25, 2007

**Russell, Donald (Donny) Hugo** [Cert.Ed/75] Jan. 17, 2008

**Stoyko, Raymond Frederick** [BA/72, CertEd/73, BEd/77, MEd/91] Nov. 16, 2007

**Tait, William Edward** [BSA/71], Jan. 20, 2008

**Werbosk, Larry** [BSc(Hons)/73, MD/78] July 17, 2007

**Yim, Alex** [BEd/79, BA/80] Dec. 13, 2007

## 1980-89

**Arnason, Brad** [BEd/87] Dec. 28, 2007

**Briggs, Lorraine Edith** [BN/84] Dec. 5, 2007

**Drozda, Jerry Jayson** [BA/84] Dec. 13, 2007

**Dyck, Ernest Henry** [BA/82, MA/84] Dec. 8, 2007

**Hanson, Drew** [BA/80] Oct. 31, 2007

**Kehler, Norman Kenneth** [BA/86] Oct. 26, 2007

**Maradyn, William (Bill)** [BSc/86] Nov. 11, 2007

**Schott, Eric John** [DipAg/81] Nov. 20, 2007

## 1990-99

**Coyle, Saowalee (Lee)** [MA/94] Sept. 12, 2007

**Frick, Peter John** [MA/93] Jan. 16, 2008

**McGuinness, Julie Lynn** [BSW/98] Dec. 4, 2007

**Winter, Robert James** [CA/98] Dec. 28, 2007

## 2000-present

**Morran, Roseann** [BSW/04] October, 2007

**Do we have your correct name and address?**

If not, please contact us:

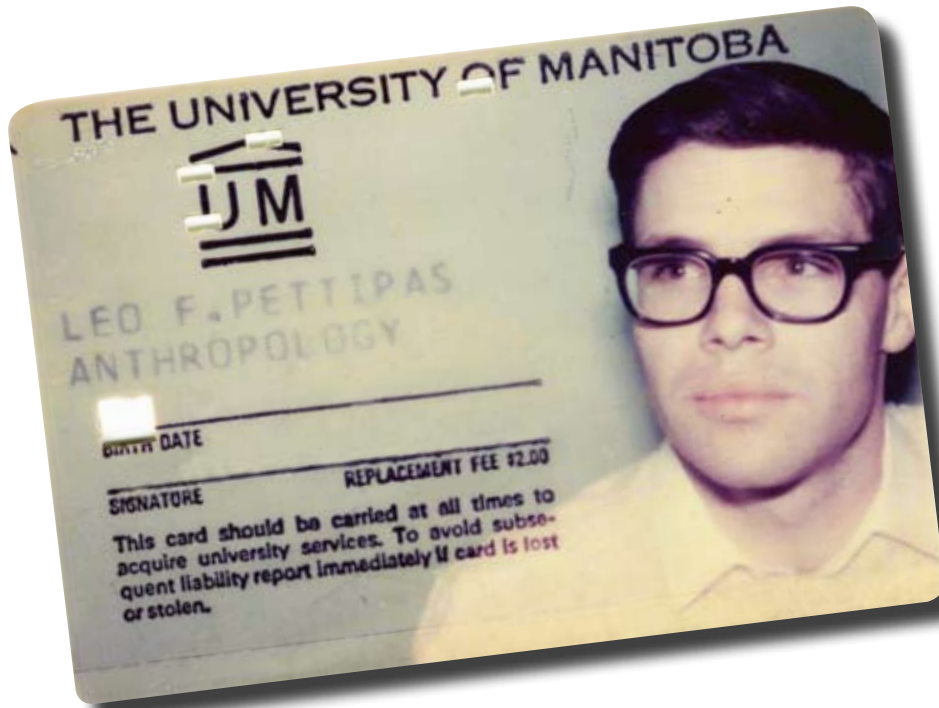
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Leo Pettipas: rookie professor and marked man.

# Adventures with architects

During the 1969-70 academic year, I was a rookie instructor in the University of Manitoba's anthropology department. As such, I was cheerfully assigned the new professor's reality check – a section of Introductory Anthro 120. Not only that, I was doubly blessed with that year's intake of environmental studies (architecture) students. Anthro 120 was compulsory for budding architects, a requirement that I soon gathered was not entirely to the satisfaction of all concerned. For fledgling designers of modern-day buildings and landscapes, the relevance of a discipline that focuses a lot of its attention on the relics and ruins of antiquity was a tad fuzzy.

The first overt expression of their rather casual view of anthropology came when I was teaching human evolution. After I'd called the class to order, one of them raised his hand and asked if I'd seen the article in yesterday's paper about the ape-man that was recently discovered in a jungle somewhere – a living fossil, as it were, of a distant time when life was nasty, brutish and short. Serious scholar that I was, I assured him that such a thing was highly unlikely, and that we must beware of sensationalist media "reports." At the same time, I was gratified that my efforts seemed to be engendering among them some modicum of interest in the world beyond drawing boards, buildings and bricks.

It was, of course, a set-up. The next thing I knew, one of them dressed in a shaggy vest, furry mukluks and a gorilla mask (the aforesaid ape-man, presumably) was bounding across the floor in front of me and issuing guttural sounds that were unmistakably simian. Clearly, I'd been had. As one who doesn't think very well on his feet, my only reaction to this ambush was a sheepish grin as the creature vanished into the wings and the class loudly applauded the theatrics so skilfully timed and executed at my expense.

The anthropology of religion had long been a particular interest of mine, so I included some of it in my course. If my grad school training had taught me anything, it was that an analytical, questioning, challenging turn of mind was good. So with reckless abandon I gave voice to the clinical, functionalist proposition that doctrines, deities and ceremonial trappings are cultural conventions devised by sages right here on Earth to address the social, intellectual and psychological needs of the hoi polloi. And one unavoidable corollary of this hypothesis is that the Supreme Being is an artifact.

I knew from the outset that my promulgating this heresy was going to mean trouble. The only question was, just who would be the first to hold me to account – my Creator, or my architects? The answer wasn't long in coming: The next day when I walked into class, there standing next to the lectern was a large plywood cross blackened with soot. Written on it in white chalk and bad Latin was an inscription bidding Professor Pettipas to Rest In Peace – a heartwarming sentiment at first blush, but ultimately one of questionable substance since it was obvious to my murmuring disciples that my forthcoming encounter with the Hereafter was going to be neither restful nor peaceful.

Without a doubt, my best teaching experiences came when the architects were among my students. I took their good-natured shenanigans as a measure of their comfort level with me as an authority figure and an affirmation of their approval of my performance as their instructor. Perhaps in the fullness of time they came to appreciate the value of anthropology to their chosen profession.

If any of them are reading this – and you know who you are! – may I offer a warm hello after all these years...and thanks for the memories.

**LEO PETTIPAS [BA/65, MA/67]**



## ***Pump up the volume!***

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