



Planning Matters USA

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Beth Proven,
Manager of Planned Giving

Welcome to our inaugural edition

The University of Manitoba has over 6,000 alumni living south of the 49th parallel. Recognizing that tax regulations for charitable giving are not always the same in the U.S. as in Canada, we have launched this newsletter to assist our U.S. alumni who wish to support their Canadian *alma mater*.

Did you know that if you are a University of Manitoba graduate, or the spouse or family member of a graduate, and you are living in the U.S., you may make donations directly to the university and receive a charitable tax deduction on your U.S. tax return? This applies to outright gifts of cash, gifts via credit card or pub-

licly traded stocks, as well as gifts in your will.

Many of our people living in the U.S. are making a big difference in the lives of students at the University of Manitoba. We hope you enjoy reading their stories in this and future editions of *Planning Matters USA*.

Science graduate got head start at U of M

After graduating from the University of Manitoba, Ritchie Hok [BSc/06] packed his bags and headed for Minneapolis. The young actuarial analyst was recruited by a U.S. insurance company looking for the training he had acquired in Actuarial Studies and Research. Hok specializes in math modeling, and applies his skills to estimate the impact of the economy on markets.

“The program I studied really prepared me well. The University

of Manitoba is well known in this field. A lot of recruiters come up from the U.S.,” Hok says. He maintains his education propelled his career and opened doors for him. “The program I studied gave me a head start.”

Graduating in the top five of his class also helped. During his years at university, he was awarded the Doug Strang Memorial Award and the Reid Crowther Scholarship, as well as the UMSU Scholarship and the Kraft University Scholarship. In

2003 Hok received an Isbister Undergraduate Scholarship in Science based on his scholastic achievements. “I enjoyed learning and this scholarship was a bonus. It helped relieve financial pressure. Whether we like it or not, financial pressures can affect our decisions.”

Designing the future

By Renée Barclay

Every year, the Faculty of Architecture awards approximately \$280,000 to students through bursaries, scholarships and fellowships. And soon students who choose to go into interior design will have one more award to motivate them.

Roy Rettinger (BID/53) recently established an endowment fund at the U of M to assist master's students entering interior design.

The Roy C. Rettinger Graduate Scholarship for Interior Design will be awarded to one outstanding student annually – an important award given that few graduate students in the Faculty of Architecture are fully funded.

“The scholarship will be the largest single financial award in the Department of Interior Design and will significantly contribute to our annual support for graduate students in the Faculty of Architecture,” says Doug Clark, executive director of the Partners Program in the Faculty of Architecture.

Rettinger himself has had a successful career in the U.S., where he continues to reside. After graduating from the U of M, he went on to study furniture design at the Royal College of Arts in London, England, and in 1959,



Work done by master's interior design students in 2008.

he received a Master of Science in Product Design from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

During his career he bought and renovated Victorian residences on the north side of Chicago and many of his renovations have been written up in several magazines, including *Walking Tours of Chicago* and *Professional Builder*.

Rettinger is giving back “to acknowledge appreciation to the University of Manitoba” for the “fine education” he received.

“No one can ever forget the rigour that is required to complete a degree in this program.” Clark says. “It is very rewarding to see alumni supporting the next generation of talented designers.”

Fast Fact

The Fraser Institute measures private monetary generosity in Canada and the U.S., and according to its 2008 Generosity Index, Utah placed first with a score of 8.8 out of 10.0. It was followed by Maryland with 7.6 out of 10.0, and Washington, DC with 6.5 out of 10.0. The highest scoring Canadian province was Manitoba with 3.9 out of 10.0.

Source: fraserinstitute.org/commerce.web/product_files/Generosity_Index_2008.pdf