It’s been a busy and exciting year for the Office of Indigenous Achievement at the U of M. We want to share some of the highlights from the past year, and let you know that our office will be publishing a quarterly newsletter in order to keep you up to date with news and upcoming events, as well as introduce you to our incredible students, faculty and staff.

This past fall, the U of M released its new five-year strategic plan: Taking Our Place. Not only has Indigenous Achievement remained a strategic priority, supporting and advancing Indigenous ways of knowing is integrated throughout all areas of the plan. The Office of Indigenous Achievement brought together more than 40 members of the University community, including Elders, faculty and support staff, for three full-day planning sessions. The input from this group was used to create an implementation plan for the University’s goals for Indigenous Achievement.

This past year also saw the U of M’s Rec and Read program win the MacJannet Prize - an award for university programs that act as models of excellent global citizenship and civic engagement. Rec and Read is a mentorship program that works with Indigenous youth throughout Manitoba. A huge congratulations to all involved.

This fall and winter, a number of prominent speakers visited the U of M. Renowned environmentalist David Suzuki discussed Indigenous environmental stewardship and Treaty rights, as part of his Blue Dot Tour. The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission delivered the Knight Lecture to a standing-room only crowd. His talk was titled, “If you thought the Truth was hard, Reconciliation will be harder.”

A blessing ceremony was held on Nov. 5, 2014 to prepare Chancellor’s Hall for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). A Governing Circle and Survivors Circle were named. The NCTR will officially open this fall.

The College of Nursing brought the exhibition We Were So Far Away: The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools to the Fort Garry Campus. At the event’s closing ceremonies, U of M nursing students pledged their commitment to Indigenous communities.

“We commit to support health promotion and culturally safe delivery of health care in partnership with Indigenous peoples. We commit to affirming their cultural identities and celebrating their contributions to society.”

- U of M Nursing Students Association

In early February, the U of M hosted two sessions on “Decolonizing the University: What Can We Do?” Experts working at institutions across the country joined Executive Lead Deborah Young, to share best practices on bringing Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing to academic institutions.

The Office of Indigenous Achievement was a proud host of the Manitoba First Nations Science Fair for a second year. More than 400 students showed off their projects at Max Bell Centre in early March. Some of the future scientists were even featured on CBC TV.

Continued...
Continued from front cover.

Indigenous Achievement, along with the Aboriginal Student Centre and Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba held the U of M’s inaugural Indigenous Awareness Week, March 16-21. Elders, knowledge holders and academics, came together to discuss what Treaties are and why they are still relevant.

Another partnership, this time with the Urban Shaman Gallery, brought Winnipeg artist KC Adams’ art project to the U of M’s campuses in late March, early April. The provocative work asks audiences to challenge racism.

We are pleased to introduce the Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC). The IAC is made up of Elders-in-residence Margaret Lavallee and Norman Meade, along with nine faculty and staff members who were nominated. The IAC members are: Camille Callison, Christine Cyr, Frank Deer, Debra Diubaldo, Brenda Gunn, Brenda Lafreniere, Ry Morar, Justin Rasumssen and Wanda Wuttunee. The IAC will advise Young, who has the university-wide responsibility for overseeing the strategic directions of the University related to Indigenous activities, and for co-ordinating and facilitating the development of initiatives and programs that advance Indigenous Achievement.

The Engineering Access Program (ENGAP) honoured seven Indigenous graduates this year. ENGAP will mark 30 years in conjunction with homecoming celebrations this fall.

On May 2, 2015, the 26th annual Traditional Graduation Pow Wow honoured over 350 expected Indigenous graduates for 2015. We are so proud of all of our students’ accomplishments.

For more Indigenous Achievement news and events visit: umanitoba.ca/indigenous.

Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs build partnerships in communities

Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs (AAF) had an exciting and successful academic year.

Starting with this past summer, we had two exciting community graduation celebrations. AAFP collaborated with Southern First Nations Network of Care and Island Lake First Nations Family Services to offer a Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies: Child and Family Services, Entry Level Family Protection and Family Enhancement Program (CIS: CFSP Program). Through these partnerships, we brought specialized training to individuals in remote northern Manitoba communities only accessible by air and winter ice roads as well as to students from southern First Nation communities.

The CIS: CFSP Northern Program was offered in Garden Hill First Nation to Child and Family Services workers from the surrounding communities of Ste. Therese Point, Wasagamack First Nation and Red Sucker Lake. The CIS: CFSP-Winnipeg cohort was offered at the Southern First Nation Network of Care. The cohorts were very successful with 18 graduates from Garden Hill First Nations and 17 in the Winnipeg cohort. The certificate program established a strong foundation for many students who are now intending to pursue further post-secondary education.

In late August, AAFP hosted its first ever Indigenous Math & Science Symposium, which was a two-day symposium on how to develop and deliver math and science based curricula for Indigenous students. Speakers from as far away as the University of Alaska at Anchorage, Northern Arizona University, University of Kansas, and the University of British Columbia shared their experience and knowledge on the subject area.

During the winter months of January through March, with the support of a Canadian Heritage grant, AAFP offered the Aboriginal Families Learning Together Language Program at two inner-city locations, The Cree and Ojibway classes were offered at Dufferin School and the Dakota language class at the Aboriginal Education Directorate - Murdo Scribe Centre. It was an exciting opportunity for a number of families in the inner-city as there were four generations of learners in both the Ojibway and Dakota classes.

The principal of Dufferin School was excited to have the language program offered in the school. He indicated that there were parents who became engaged with the school for the first time because of their experience in the language classes. A second phase of the Aboriginal Families Learning Together program will be offered throughout the summer months in partnership with Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (Broadway Neighbourhood Centre) and Aboriginal Education Directorate - Murdo Scribe Centre.

Full Moon Ceremonies are held every month on the day before or after the actual Full Moon. Ceremonies usually start at 5:30 PM at Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge and are open to anyone and all women. These ceremonies are a time to come together and celebrate life.

Zongigabowen - a group for Indigenous men - meets Thursdays from 5 – 6:30 PM in the Circle Room in Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge.

For the latest on what is happening with the Aboriginal Student Centre visit: umanitoba.ca/student/asc or stop by Migizii Agamik.

Cultural supports at U of M

Did you know that the U of M has two Elders-in-residence available for students, staff and faculty to meet with? The Elders provide cultural and spiritual guidance.

Norman Meade (Métis) is the Elder-in-residence based out of Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge at Fort Garry Campus. Margaret Lavallee is the Elder-in-residence for the Centre for Aboriginal Health Education at Bannatyne Campus. A Medicine Garden of Indigenous Learning is located at Bannatyne Campus, where Elder Lavallee will be offering teachings on traditional medicines.

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Monica Cyr (Métis) is working on a new recipe for bannock. Don’t worry, she promises it will still be delicious. Cyr is graduating this year with a BSc from the department of Human nutritional sciences in the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences. We set down with her to find out what she’s doing with Turtle Island’s most famous food, and about her student at the U of M.

Where are you from?
Winnipeg, North End. Born and raised.

When did you start at U of M?
September, 2009.

Why U of M?
My sister had promoted it. She was an Aboriginal student recruitment officer for U of M at the time. She recruited me.

Describe the focus of your work.
The focus of my work is Aboriginal traditional food ways. What that means is not only the looking at the food that has been passed down from generations, but I’m also taking a look at Aboriginal food in the context of an urban setting.

Can you expand on that?
Last summer I received a U of M undergraduate research award. I went to the Faculty of Agriculture and Food department of human nutritional sciences at the U of M at the time. She recruited me.

Why is this your passion?
Even when I was five years old I was hugely into health and aerobics. I’ve always carried that with me. I did the financial industry thing, I worked for Bank of Montreal, but there was always that missing passion.

As soon as I entered school, in U1, I was directed towards nutritional sciences. Day one, I was hooked. I knew that taking nutrition and then putting it in a way that makes sense to me, and also my people, I knew that’s where my passion lied. I just needed to connect with individuals who felt the same way and it didn’t take long. I was very blessed to have found the Lodge (Migizii Agamik) and to have made connections with people who absolutely nurtured my dream, my vision for Aboriginal health, not in the context of what western society calls health, (but) more or less in the line of spiritual health and eating. Spirituality isn’t necessarily associated with eating. People will say grace at the dinner table, but that’s usually the extent, where in our tradition everything means something.

When I give food to Mother Earth at a ceremony, that has meaning behind that. You know, whether or not it would be something that has been thrust upon our community through colonization.

Participants, 14 of who were Elders, and under the context of an urban setting.

What is atta flour?
Atta flour is East Indian – used to make chapatis. You know when you use whole wheat and some people don’t like that grainy texture or taste? With atta flour you can incorporate that healthiness, that whole grain, without people saying I don’t like the texture or what have you.

This was our first time trying it out and it was a huge success. One diabetic who tried it tasted his blood sugar levels before and after, and they remained stable.

I began my masters in September, and that will go on step further. We know that traditional foods include wild meat, berries, rice, and these types of things. However, when we live in a city those items are not always accessible, or you have to know someone who knows someone in order to get goose meat. So how do Aboriginal communities nowadays, living within the city boarders, how do they conceptualize Aboriginal food? What do we call that? What does that look like? What ingredients do we use? So different food ways. It’s using what we have and making it our own.

Why is this your passion?
Yeah, I’ve always had a passion for nutrition since I was little, but my passion for helping Aboriginal communities has hugely grown since I’ve come to university.

What’s next?
Grad studies in September. After grad school, I’m not sure. I really love working in the community, but I love the university life and I could totally see myself teaching here. Mind you, my long-term goal is to open my holistic wellness centre, that’s with Aboriginal spirituality and nutrition.

What’s the best advice you’ve received during your academic career?
If you don’t have a campus family, get one. I’m a PACT (Promoting Aboriginal Community Together) mentor, so I mentor first year students. There are two types of students. There are the students who come, they go to class, they go home, they do what they’re told to do, they hand in their assignments, they get their grades and they walk away with a degree. And then there are other students who come here, who connect with their professors and with their peers and with their counsellors and then they begin to learn and grow and it’s through that networking, it’s through that building, that when they end up walking away from university they don’t just have a degree, rather they have this whole number of components that set them up for success in life going forward. I see it all the time. As university students we struggle in so many areas, and if you don’t have that campus family it makes it that much harder and your chances of dropping out that much greater; but when you have that campus family and that’s including your professors, and it has to, things just fall into place. When plan A doesn’t work out, plan B is totally doable and it’s okay.

I got that advice year one, and it was from my sister (Christine Cyr, who is now the director of the Aboriginal Student Centre) and what she had said to me was, ‘Monica I can’t express to you enough while but while you are here you it is your time to network’. So now, that’s what I tell people. If you don’t have a campus family, get one.

I was just going to ask, what is your advice for other students?
That.

When you’re not at school or studying what are you doing?
If I’m not doing academic work then I’m working on myself spiritually and I also work on my health. By that I mean I connect with my sisters. All of the time. And I love going to the gym, I love exercising, and I love experimenting with food. Plus, I have a little girl who’s 10 years old and I just love chilling with her. And I love spending time with my loving and supporting partner who has been my rock throughout university. So yeah, really getting right into family. That fills my cup. And watching Walking Dead of course.

One of the features our quarterly newsletter will include is a profile of one of the more than 2,000 Indigenous students who attend U of M. If you or someone you know is someone we all should be getting to know, please email ruth.shedid@umanitoba.ca
Aboriginal games day

Staff and high school students from the Rec and Read Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Programs for All Nations visited the Fort Garry campus for a full-day of activities, traditional Aboriginal games (TAG), and post-secondary education tours on Thursday April 16, 2015.

The games, with titles such as Fox Tail, Gentle Always Wins and Dog Soldier, challenge participants to focus on strategy. They also foster cooperation, friendly competition and physical development. Participants also had a chance to learn about the history of some of the games, which have been passed down through many generations, coming from Dakota, Métis, Inuit, Cheyenne, and Cree Peoples.

“TAG is more than a day of cultural games and activities and post-secondary tours; it is a communal celebration of the efforts and aspirations of our teacher champions, high school mentors, cultural teachers, and program staff and volunteers.” - Heather McRae, community scholar for Indigenous Achievement

Fifty students from six Winnipeg schools that take part in Rec and Read attended TAG day. Rec and Read brings together university and community mentors to work with high school mentors to deliver weekly physical activity, nutrition and education programs to elementary school students in their neighbourhoods.

Aboriginal people and their games day traditions were re-created at the Department of Native Studies, led by Fred Shore and Carl Stone. The Grand Entry at the 40th anniversary celebrations for the U of M’s Department of Native Studies, led by Fred Shore and Carl Stone.

Department of Native Studies marks 40 years

The Department of Native Studies celebrated 40 years on Sept. 17, 2014 with two events.

The first, “Celebrating the Strength of Indigenous Women,” was held in conjunction with Homecoming. It featured community leader Deborah Myran, and Nahanni Fontaine, special advisor to the province on Aboriginal Women’s issues. Myran and Fontaine each hold an MA in Native Studies.

A cultural celebration and feast were held in the afternoon. Native Studies professor Peter Kulchyski reflected on the department’s history and accomplishments. The event ended with round dance honouring former department heads Raoul McKay and Reneeight Eigenbrod.

A video of the 40th anniversary celebrations can be seen on the U of M’s YouTube channel.

New book: Rekindling the Sacred Fire: Métis Ancestry and Anishinaabe Spirituality

Why don’t more Métis people go to traditional ceremonies? How does going to ceremonies impact Métis identity? These are some of the questions Native Studies instructor chantal Fiola asks in her new book, Rekindling the Sacred Fire.

Fiola, who is Métis Anishinaabe-Kwe from the Red River region of Manitoba uses a methodology rooted in Anishinaabe knowledge and principles, along with select Euro-Canadian research practices and tools. Her work has been called a model for Indigenized research.

Alumnae recognized

Marion Meadmore, CM (LLB/77) is the recipient of the U of M’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement. Meadmore became the first Indigenous woman in Canada to be called to the bar. She has also dedicated her life to developing organizations that build community, equality and independence for Indigenous people. She is currently involved with the National Indigenous Council of Elders’ Creation of Wealth Forum. Meadmore will be honoured at a celebration on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

Elder Stella Blackbird, Dip (Hons) will receive an honourary degree on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 9:30 AM. As Traditional Healer, Medicine Teacher and facilitator of healing programs, Elder Blackbird is respected across Canada and the United States for her wisdom, kind spirit and dedication to the community. As a Survivor, Elder Blackbird has a clear dream: Never again will a First Nation, Métis or Inuit child have to feel the shame that she and others experienced in the residential school system. Instead, children will freely and proudly embrace their cultures and identities. She co-founded the Medicine Eagle Healing and Retreat Place for Elders’ Creation of Wealth Forum.

Nearly 200 nominations were received, and U of M Native Studies associate professor Niigaan Sinclair and third-year Engineering student Mihskakwan James Harper were named to the top 40.

Along with teaching Indigenous literature, culture, history and politics at the U of M, Sinclair was the co-editor of the anthologies Manitowapow and The Winter We Danced. Sinclair is regularly called on by the media to comment on Indigenous issues.

Harper was recognized for his volunteer work. He is mentor for Restoring the Sacred, a program that supports Indigenous youth from Northern Manitoba who have moved to Winnipeg. He is also a peer cultural leader at Ka Ni Kinchihi. Harper’s academic focus is in sustainable modes of transportation.
Métis student group gears up for a new year

It was a successful year for the Métis University Student Association (MUSA) and members are already looking forward to 2015/2016. Your MUSA council members are:

President - Brad Boudreau
Vice president - Chris Allard
Treasurer - Alana Robert
Executive co-ordinator - Chalena Mickay

How can someone become a member? You can access a membership form through our community link page: https://communitylink.umanitoba.ca/organization/musa. Fill out the form and then email us the form at information.musa@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can send all the info on the form to us in email form.

What can people do to get involved? If you wish to support our fundraisers or events, MUSA is consistently on social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram). We post all our events through social media. Simply contact us through email if you wish to help out with any of our initiatives.

What were your highlights from this past year?

Over the course of the fall and winter terms, we raised $800 dollars to go towards the Manitoba Metis Federation Bereavement Fund - a fund established for families who are struggling with funeral costs for their loved ones.

What are your looking forward to next year?

Going into the fall 2015 term, we hope to have a social (bud, spud and steak) with a silent auction to fundraise for the Métis community, the specific cause has yet to be determined. We hope to have another Adorning of the Sash Ceremony for Louis Riel Day along with small fundraisers such as bake sales to continue fundraising. We also hope to hold information sessions on Métis issues and how they affect this province and Canada.

Where can people connect with you on social media?

Twitter: @umanitoba_MUSA
Instagram: @musa_manitoba
Facebook: facebook.com/musamanitoba

Métis Federation president David Chartrand. The event highlighted the importance of Louis Riel and the Métis people connection they have with this province. The event ended with the tying of a sash around the Louis Riel statue followed by traditional Métis food and entertainment. This was the first event of its kind at the U of M and we hope it to make an annual tradition.

Science

The Faculty of Science is pleased to commend and congratulate our many successful Indigenous students. The latest figures show that over 225 self-declared students are registered in our Faculty, a number which has doubled over the past six years. Our students work hard and are successful, and they graduate from our programs all across mathematics and science.

All of our students, staff and faculty are committed to ever-increasing levels of participation and success in science, and we have launched a concerted effort towards this end: a team of over 30 committed individuals is working to develop a strategic action plan.

We’ve made a lot of progress in the past year, and much of it is attributable to our students. As soon as the idea came up, our Science Student Association created two new positions, an Indigenous Students’ Representative and an Indigenous Student Programmer. The first two individuals holding these positions, Amanda Fontes and Kelsey Papineau, have worked tirelessly and with incredible enthusiasm, promoting science and related activities to students.

As part of U of M’s commitment to fostering Indigenous student success, the Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC) and the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) have appointed Dr. Justin Rasmussen, a Métis scholar, to the newly created position of Lead of Indigenous Graduate Student Success. Justin has extensive experience as a graduate student in Biology at both the University of Manitoba (MSC/PhD) and Canterbury (PhD/14).

Our goals are broad and ambitious: we have one team building on the success of our existing outreach programs to promote mathematics and science to school kids across Manitoba, another team examining best practices and opportunities for incorporating Indigenous context and material in our undergraduate programs, and another one finding and promoting opportunities for our Indigenous students to be involved in research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our undergraduate summer research award programs, which are paid summer jobs in research labs, are one example of this kind of opportunity.

We believe in the power and beauty of science, that is important for everyone, and it is a joy to be part of. We encourage all students to explore the opportunities inherent in studying science.

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New partnership focused on enhancing Indigenous graduate student experience

In this new position, Justin’s role is to implement new services that enhance the graduate school experience of Indigenous students and that support the strong Indigenous community here at the U of M. He is currently assessing the needs of students and researching the types of support services that would best address those needs.

Justin is also implementing new recruitment initiatives that will inform undergraduate students about graduate school, about research opportunities available to them, and about the timelines involved in applying for admission and funding for a graduate degree.

In addition, Justin is available for advising current and prospective graduate students, from guiding students through the admissions process to successfully defending their dissertations. Justin can be contacted anytime to answer any questions you may have about the graduate programs available at the University of Manitoba, to help you navigate the administrative processes of your graduate degree and, to help you find and contact potential advisors for your graduate degree.

Justin can be reached at: (204) 230-2505 or justin.rasmussen@umanitoba.ca

To improve communication among Indigenous graduate students at the U of M, Justin is creating an email list where graduate students can share opportunities, social events, new publications, defense dates, and workshops. Please email Justin if you would like to be added to this list.

Indigenous graduate student community email list

to impro...
UMASA introduces new council members

The University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students’ Association recently held its annual election. Your new UMASA council members are:

Executive:
- Male President: Lionel Daniels
- Female President: Kristin Richard
- Male Vice President: Chance Paupanekis
- Female Vice President: Alana Whithford
- Treasurer: Chance Paupanekis
- Secretary: Chelsie Easter

Constituency Representatives:
- Arts Student Body Council: Brittany Morrison
- Science Students’ Association: Kelsey Papineau
- Engineering Access Students’ Association: Katrine Levesque
- Association of Aboriginal Commerce Students: Ashley Richard
- Inner City Social Work Student Council: Germaine Bear
- Education Student Council: TBD
- Faculty of Fine Arts: Kristin Flattery

University of Manitoba Students’ Union:
- Aboriginal Students Representative: Will Landon
- Aboriginal Students’ Association Coordinator: Jeremy McKay

How can people get involved with UMASA?
- Any student of the University of Manitoba can become a member of UMASA. Email umasacouncil@gmail.com to access membership forms and receive up-to-date information.

What were your highlights from this past year?
- 2014/2015 was a pivotal year for UMASA. Our focus was to update our approach to student leadership, the events we planned, and the spaces UMASA members enjoy. This has meant strategically restructuring our council, identifying priority areas for events, and making significant financial investments towards the UMASA student lounge located in Room 195 Helen Glass.

We believe that because of the efforts of the 2014/2015 UMASA council, the 2015/2016 UMASA council is well positioned to provide the leadership students are looking for; events that add value to the student experience, and a welcoming space for students to enjoy each others company.

Last year we were pleased to initiate partnerships with four Aboriginal constituencies from Arts, Commerce, Engineering, and Science. Inviting each of these constituencies to select a representative and carving out a space for them on the UMASA council achieved this. By doing so UMASA was in an improved position to organize events relevant to a much larger student community. The Canadians For a New Partnership event organized by UMASA on January 22, 2015 is an example of this. The Canadians For a New Partnership event engaged students, faculty, and staff from nine of U of M faculties and departments including Commerce, Engineering, Health Care, Architecture, Social Work, Native Studies, Political Studies, Law, and Education. Students were able to have a conversation about a true partnership between the First Peoples of this country and Canadians. The event was structured to give students an opportunity to discuss these ideas with peers in their faculty, which was informed by experts within their professional field.

To understand the importance of true partnership leaders such as Elders Dave Courchene, Ovide Mercredi, Stephen Kakwi, Phil Fontaine, Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, and President David Barnard were present to share their ideas and join the conversation. It is this magnitude and type of event that UMASA will continue developing as our capabilities permit.

Investing in long overdue renovations to the UMASA student lounge was also a highlight from the past year. The 2014/2015 UMASA council was able to purchase a television, a fridge, coffee table, and two new sofas that make the student lounge a much more inviting and comfortable space for students. This space will be a priority moving forward as it plays a key role in the sense of community amongst Aboriginal students UMASA seeks to encourage.

What are you looking forward to next year?
- 2015/2016 is going to be an exciting year for UMASA. We plan to continue to provide leadership opportunities for Aboriginal students as well and maintain a close relationship with other student groups, faculties and administration. We will also focus on bringing more Indigenous cultural events and workshops for students. A few examples of events we want to organize are sweats, drum groups, language groups, and hosting more speakers and feasts. This will help us set a sense of community within the Aboriginal student population on campus.

Like our friends at the University of Winnipeg we are considering ways to achieve a course parallel to their proposed mandatory Indigenous course requirement. Over the past year UMASA has met with many different groups on and off campus to gain an understanding of what such a course could look like at the U of M. Our short-term goal is to establish a co-curricular course focusing on historical and contemporary implications of treaty relationships between nation-states, for example First Nations, Métis, Inuit, federal, and provincial governments. We want to position this course a model that can be tried, tested, and perfected before moving forward and proposing a mandatory course for all U of M students.

Where can people connect with you on social media?
- Facebook: Join our Facebook group: University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students’ Association (UMASA).

An exceptional year for ABEP

Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) celebrated 20 years in November. Not only that, this year’s graduation honoured nine students - the highest number of graduates ever. This brings ABEP’s total number of graduates to 84.

Faculty and staff at ABEP are also pleased to report that four ABEP students received Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards (MAYA) this year. Brayden Harper (Business Entrepreneurship Award), Ashley Rochard (20th Anniversary Award), Karine Sabourin (Athletic Senior Award), and Zach Umrao (Personal Achievement Award) were honoured at a gala dinner hosted by MAYA in November. A total of eight U of M students won MAYA this year. In addition to the winners from ABEP and AKPP, Alana Robert (Faculty of Arts) won the Senior Community Involvement Award and Taylor Morrisseau (Faculty of Science) won the Academic Senior Award.

U of M acknowledges Traditional territories

If you’ve attended any major event at the U of M since fall 2014, you will have heard the following statement:

“The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.”

It is important that we not only state this at events, but consider the meaning it carries.
Grads honours at 26th annual Pow Wow

The 26th annual Graduation Pow Wow took place Saturday, May 2, 2015 to honour the more than 350 Indigenous students who are expected to graduate in 2015. That’s up from more than 250 Indigenous graduates in previous years.

The students who participated in the Graduation Pow Wow received certificates and scarves. Two students, Monica Cyr, BSc/HNS and Jeremy McKay, BComm (Hons.) each delivered a graduate address. Cyr (whose profile is featured in this newsletter) is Métis from Winnipeg and has been accepted into the Human Nutritional Science Masters Program for September, 2015. McKay is from Pine Creek First Nation. He is returning to the U of M to study Law.

The Office of Indigenous Achievement would like to say a huge miigwetch, ekosi, merci, thank you to all of the Elders, family members, honoured guests, educators, volunteers, organizers, drum groups, dancers, and the Pow Wow committee who made the day a huge success.

And to all of the graduates, you have worked very hard and we can’t wait to see the positive changes you will continue to make in our communities. Congratulations!
Thinking about attending U of M?

Aboriginal Recruitment Officer Jen Storm and Lead Aboriginal Recruitment Officer Chris Lagimodiere are available to introduce you to everything the U of M has to offer. (Not pictured: Marla Robson)

Aboriginal Student Recruitment provides information regarding programs offered at the University of Manitoba through school presentations, campus tours, career fairs or special requests.

To schedule a presentation regarding University of Manitoba programs or a campus tour please contact:

Chris Lagimodiere
chris.lagimodiere@umanitoba.ca
204-474-9983

Jen Storm
jen.storm@umanitoba.ca
204-474-7144

Marla Robson
marla.robson@umanitoba.ca
204-474-6398

If you would like to submit news, events, highlights, kudos, photos, etc. to the Indigenous Achievement newsletter, please contact: ruth.shead@umanitoba.ca. The next newsletter will be published August 2015. Deadline for consideration is July 15, 2015. We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

For more stories, events and program information be sure to check out our website frequently:
www.umanitoba.ca/indigenous

For Indigenous Achievement news visit:
http://news.umanitoba.ca/network/indigenous/

Upcoming programs and events

Verna J. Kirkness Science Education Program
For one week in June, we’re welcoming 46 Indigenous students from across Canada to experience cutting-edge research. The Verna J. Kirkness Science Education Program aims to increase the number of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students graduating from science and engineering programs in Canada.

National Aboriginal Day Celebrations
Friday, June 19 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Brodie Atrium, Bannatyne Campus
For more info email: darlene.lussier@umanitoba.ca

Indigenous Mini U
Indigenous Mini U returns this summer with another week-long camp, celebrating and sharing Indigenous culture. Traditional knowledge holders and Indigenous student leaders will introduce participants to Aboriginal games, dance and art. Come learn about traditional ceremonies, including smudging and teachings. Indigenous Mini U welcomes ALL who are interested in connecting with Indigenous culture. The camp takes place July 20-24 from 9 AM- 4 PM. It is for children ages 7-9. Cost is $180. For registration forms visit www.miniu.ca

International Indigenous Librarians’ Forum
From August 4-7, 2015, Indigenous knowledge keepers and allies will gather at the U of M to share and celebrate Indigenous knowledge, memory & culture, and Indigenizing practice.

Homecoming: Indigenous Achievement
Everyone is welcome to join and celebrate our Indigenous alumni and connect with the Indigenous community on campus. This year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Engineering Access Program (ENGAP). Guests speakers will share their stories of success and leadership. A celebration lunch will follow.

Wednesday, September 30, 2015
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Migizii Agamik – Bald Eagle Lodge

Indigenous Awareness Week
Save the date! Our second annual Indigenous Awareness Week will take place January 25-29, 2016.