Welcome to a new academic year

September is a busy time for new and returning Indigenous students. I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone - students, staff and faculty members!

The Office of Indigenous Achievement has planned many events for this academic year. On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, we are celebrating the accomplishments of the U of M’s Indigenous alumni during Homecoming Week.

This year I have partnered with the Engineering Access Program (ENGAP), Faculty of Engineering, and the Access and Aboriginal Focus Program, Extended Education, as these programs are celebrating important anniversaries. ENGAP is turning 30 years old, while Access is marking 40 years. Jerry Henderson, ENGAP alumnus, and Dr. Lisa Monkman, Access alumna, are this year’s guest speakers. The Indigenous Homecoming celebration starts at 11:30 AM, and will be held at Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle lodge. A light lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome!

Indigenous Awareness Week is scheduled from January 25-29, 2016, with this year’s theme focusing on Integrating Indigenous Perspectives into the Learning Environment. Once the details are confirmed, the agenda and guest speakers will be posted on our website: umanitoba.ca/indigenous. Stay tuned!

These are exciting times for the U of M, as we move forward on a number of strategic commitments to attract and retain more Indigenous students, staff and faculty members, to incorporate more Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into our curriculum and program offerings, and to honour First Nations Métis and Inuit traditions and cultures into our collective spaces.

We now acknowledge Treaty and Métis lands at every major University event, and at convocation we honour the graduating class with a traditional drum song. Our University also has an annual graduation pow wow that celebrates all of the Indigenous graduates. The U of M demonstrates our commitment to Indigenous students through these culturally-affirming statements and ceremonies.

Students are our most important and precious resource. They are the future leaders, and the tools, skills and knowledge that our University equips them with will lay the path for generations to come. Providing opportunities for all of our students to learn about Indigenous histories, Treaties, residential school systems, and contemporary Indigenous issues will promote greater awareness and reconciliation. It is only by sharing and learning about our collective history and walking together that we can begin to dismantle the impacts of colonization.

It is going to be a productive year as we continue to plan and implement various activities to advance Indigenous Achievement!

Deborah G. Young
Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement

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Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement
Wow! Over 100 Indigenous student graduates with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering have come through ENGAP. The upgrading support program for Indigenous engineering students began in 1985 and has been touted as the most successful program of its kind in Canada.

As a part of Homecoming 2015, ENGAP will be having a wine and cheese in the Engineering Atrium on Friday, October 2, 2015 at 1 PM to celebrate the achievement of its last 30 years. A beautiful Indigenous art piece will be unveiled commemorating the 100 plus ENGAP graduates since 1985.

The first ENGAP student to graduate was Dan Brown and he will be coming from Fort McMurray to speak at the festivities. Rene O’Laney is ENGAP’s 100th graduate and he will be acknowledged as well.

ENGAP is a friendly, warm and supportive community of staff and students that originally evolved to bring about a greater representation of Indigenous students within the engineering profession as less than one percent of engineers in Canada are Indigenous.

The success of ENGAP can be attributed to the wide array of supports it offers students, from academic, personal and financial to employment and community connections. If the Indigenous student does not have the university entrance requirements, the ENGAP program offers upgrading classes in math, physics, chemistry and computer science to help the students meet the highly competitive demands of engineering. ENGAP then continues to support its students throughout their engineering degree and welcomes new Indigenous students at any stage of their degree.

Once the ENGAP students have completed at least one year of studies, they become eligible for the ENGAP Scholarship and Bursary. Every year we give away approximately $80,000 to students, dispersed according to their previous year’s GPA. This amazing fund comes from our generous corporate sponsors such as APEGM, Engineering Endowment Fund, HATCH Ltd, Manitoba Hydro, Nexen Inc., Petro Canada, Shell Canada, Vale, and the Manitoba Aerospace Human Resource Council. StandardAero, Magellan Aerospace Corp, Bristol Aerospace Limited and Boeing Canada.

Our Indigenous engineering students have great career opportunities as they are sought after and hired for interesting summer jobs and are then hired soon after, or even before they graduate. In addition, when students are part of an engineering department they can experience term work positions through the Co-op program.

A community student group called EASA (Engineering Access Student Association) offers ENGAP students a variety of opportunities to participate in organized activities, to volunteer and run a fund-raising fridge filled with snacks. The entire community of ENGAP becomes a bridge from an often small and isolated northern town to the vast university campus.

Please join us on Friday, October 2 at 1 PM in the Engineering atrium as we celebrate the success of ENGAP and all of the Indigenous engineering graduates.

For more information please call: 204-474-9872 or visit: www.engap.com
Coming soon: My Silent Drum

Ovide Mercredi, advisor to the U of M, is best known for his work as a political leader. In particular, for his contributions to constitutional discussions in Canada. But did you know that he is also a poet?

“Poetry has become an extension of my advocacy for fairness and justice” - Ovide Mercredi

Mercredi has recently completed a book of poetry called My Silent Drum, which is being published by Aboriginal Issues Press.

“Writing poetry provides me with a creative outlet that allows me to let my imagination dream thoughts into an expressed form of communication,” says Mercredi in the foreword to My Silent Drum. “I share with others, in a style that is mine and intensely Indigenous, for the most part, in the content and expression.”

Books will cost $20, with all proceeds going to the Ovide Mercredi Bursary Endowment Fund at the U of M. The launch date for My Silent Drum is Thursday, October 22, 2105. Details are still being confirmed, visit umanitoba.ca/indigenous for updates. In the meantime, copies can be pre-ordered by emailing: kaela.dickieson@umanitoba.ca

Medical picking in Peguis

Recently a group of U of M students traveled to Peguis First Nation, where fourth-year psychology student Vanessa Kislovskey and Indigenous Student advisor Carl Stone shared their knowledge of sacred medicines.

The group picked enough sweetgrass to make 53 braids, which will be used in ceremonies at the Indigenous Student Centre.

The trip was sponsored by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, NSERC’s Create H2O program, and the Indigenous Student Centre.

To see more photos of the excursion, visit Indigenous, Student Centre at U of M on Facebook.

A beautiful blue sky sets the background for a day of learning from the land. (photo by Justin Rasmussen)

Researching water rights for First Nations

Katelin Neufeld is investigating what causes public support for providing clean running water to First Nations’ communities. Some of the funding for her research comes from an Aboriginal Issues Press (AIP) scholarship, which is awarded to students who are enrolled full-time in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, either in a Masters or PhD program and who have registered in or completed a graduate-level course covering Aboriginal issues, with a research focus on Aboriginal issues. The scholarship recipients must also demonstrate a commitment to disseminating the results of their research.

Neufeld is a PhD student in the Department of Psychology. She presented some of her original findings at the 2nd annual University of Manitoba Water Rights conference this past June. The conference was hosted by the CREATE H2O science and engineering training program and the right to clean water in First Nations -- a university and community research partnership that is developing new approaches to confronting public apathy about the serious problem of insufficient clean water and sanitation.

"Last year I got to travel up to Nisichawayshak Cree Nation to hold some roundtable discussions with community members to get their feedback on what sorts of advocacy messages they thought would be culturally appropriate and also be effective,” said Neufeld.

"We try really hard to be award of our positions as researchers, as white people, as from the university, et cetera. That’s not normally something that comes up in other research, but we’re trying to do research in a good way. I think it’s necessary and important.

There is much more focus on relationship building and just trying to be sensitive to all the other forces at play. Despite those extra steps, it’s certainly worthwhile, and there are also extra benefits in that the results that we get are much more rich than if they were ideas that we had just come up with on our own," she said.

At the Water Rights conference, Neufeld explained how altering advocacy messages can change whether or not Canadians are willing to support the right to clean water in First Nations communities. “The goal is to make Canadians care. If we talked about it as a Canadian value, that wasn’t helpful. If we frame it as a Canadian right, that’s helpful,” she said.

“In my own research, or in research not associated with this grant, we found a number of other things: so when we make people feel connected to their own communities, when non-Indigenous people feel connected to their own community, they see more value in all communities, and that, in turn, leads them to be more supportive of government action for First Nations water issues.

“I’m so excited to see the University put more emphasis on Indigenous issues and on human rights and I think it’s really powerful when researchers realize or when researchers choose to use their skills to better our communities and our country as well.”

The AIP scholarships have been awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year. Applications for the 2016-2017 academic year are due in February. You can find out more information about the AIP scholarships at umanitoba.ca/faculties/environment/undergraduate/awards/aip.html
ABEP student scores touchdown with summer job

Ask Brayden Harper what he did with his summer vacation and you might end up feeling a little jealous. And exhausted. Harper is the type of person who just goes and goes and goes. He landed a summer job with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, is taking a couple of evening courses, and is preparing to leave to study in Hong Kong next semester. Harper, a third-year commerce student, is a member of the Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) program at the I. H. Asper School of Business.

Where are you from?
I’m born and raised in Winnipeg. My dad’s side of the family is from Peguis First Nation. My mom moved here from Windsor, Ontario and met my dad here, so this is where I grew up.

When did you start at U of M?
September 2012. I was a direct entrant to the Asper School right out of high school. I haven’t taken a semester off. I always take a full-course load when I’m not working co-op (the Asper Co-operative Education Program).

Why did you pick U of M?
I like embracing the fact that I’m a Manitoban and a Winnipegger. U of M was the right fit for me because Asper had direct entry. I always wanted to go to law school. I never liked the idea of going through with University and wanting to figure out what I wanted to do, so I thought that I’d get a commerce degree before doing law school. But now that has changed. I actually really want to pursue architecture after I finish my commerce degree.

Through my travels I’ve seen the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, Big Ben in London, and so much more. I want to be behind something out of this world and have my name on it. It’s kind of like my way of leaving a legend when I’m gone.

Working for the Bombers has been really interesting because at the end of the day, when the game is done, you were behind the scenes production of that in some capacity. You helped put on an event and it was a success. I like seeing stuff from start to finish.

Tell me a little bit about your university experience.
For my first and second semesters I stayed in Winnipeg and did first-year Asper courses. That summer, I had it in my head that I had to find the perfect summer job. After many interviews and job offers, I took a position with the government simply because it paid the most. Unfortunately I hated the work that I was doing. I was also re-doing calculus at the time. I never failed calculus, but I never got a high grade either. That summer I received my calculus grade and I still only got a C. That kind of threw my summer off. I was feeling lousy and burnt out and I was walking around the University and I saw a poster for an India travel study trip. I thought, that’s it. I’m going to India. So booked a plane ticket – all of my summer money went to that, and it was amazing. I received six credits for school, which I later used for my Asper electives.

When I came back in the fall I was refreshed and ready to focus on studying again. I stayed in Winnipeg for the next two semesters. That coming summer I was accepted into the Ami C. Thorsteinson Israel Study Trip and went to Israel to study international management. When I got back, I was already planning my first Asper student exchange to England.

That experience ignited my passion to do another exchange, so this September I’m going to Hong Kong for four months. I’m basically finishing up the rest of my marketing courses there. I’m also trying to connect with Asper alumni located in Hong Kong because I want to find an internship there.

Oh yeah, I forgot that I also traveled to Toronto this past winter. I literally moved to Toronto on New Year’s Eve, exactly two weeks after returning from studying in Europe. I fulfilled my second co-op work term at General Electric’s Mississauga headquarters. In May, I flew back to Winnipeg and started working for the Bombers right away. I had a phone interview while I was in Toronto and was hired on the spot.

How do you deal with costs?
I definitely rely on scholarships and bursaries. The U of M has been really helpful and ABEP has been totally supportive. Also, my parents are amazing – they’ll help cover a flight here or there and they help with accommodation. Also, I just work a lot. I usually work seven days a week and would do more if I could. If I’m not working on a co-op, I’m serving at a restaurant or doing community work with youth groups. I’m just always working. I’m always on the go. You will never find a time when I’m not doing something.

What do you like about studying commerce?
Commerce has really helped me learn how to deal with people more, how to manage more, how to be a better leader, and build better relationships – on a personal level, but also within the workplace. I have learned that networking is very important. If I wasn’t pursuing meaningful work outside of the classroom, my commerce degree wouldn’t be as valuable.

What’s next?
I’ll definitely be graduating in 2016. It all depends if I find that internship in Hong Kong, which I really desperately want, so I will find it. So far right now, let’s just say that I’m graduating in fall 2016. I probably won’t take time off of school or work before I move onto the next big thing because that’s just not me. I’ll either dive right into studying architecture or else I hope to get hired by a design or property development firm right after I graduate. I just want to stay focused.

Another cool thing is that I am connected well with my friends Ami Thorsteinson (president, Shelter Canadian Properties Limited) and Susan Glass (vice-chair, National Arts Centre), who I originally met through the Ami C. Thorsteinson Israel Study Trip. I’ve been able to keep that connection close and they’ve provided me with a lot of opportunities. They’ve been able to open up my network more, so that I’m able to meet different leaders and influential Canadian business people, so that I can get different perspectives. It’s because of them that I was able to meet Prince Charles.

Prince Charles?
When I was studying in England, they invited me to join them at a symphony orchestra. Ami said that there was a VIP reception during intermission and that they would be mingling with Prince Charles, and that I could join them. So there was Prince Charles just chilling with us and we were talking about Canada and there was some nice champagne and wine. It was a once in a lifetime experience.

What’s the best advice you’ve received during your academic career?
Professors are always available to answer questions, even if they seem busy. I think a lot of people don’t take that opportunity or they’re too scared to talk to them. My advice is to not be afraid to ask a question because you have nothing to lose.

For example, Gail Asper (president and trustee, The Asper Foundation) was at Investor’s Group Field while I was working. Part of my role at the Bombers is to build closer relationships with our Indigenous population. I thought that one of the best ways to bring Indigenous youth to games is to get local organizations to sponsor tickets. Typically the youth ticket donation program is a charitable ticket donation program, so tickets can only be given to registered charities. So I wondered, how can we bring Indigenous youth who are not part of a registered charity to games?

The point is, if you don’t ask, it simply will not happen. So I threw out a pitch about what I want to do to Gal, and she was really open to it. After going through some hurdles for approval and planning, The Asper Foundation ended up sponsoring season tickets on behalf of The Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg to be used for youth.

What are you doing when you’re not at school, studying or working?
I’m an active person and I actually love baking. I live in North Kildonan, so I bike from there to the University every day. It takes about an hour. I also do yoga in the morning. I try to walk around at lunchtime a little bit. I don’t like to take a lunch, I usually like to just eat while I’m working because I feel more productive that way. Continued on next page....
Brayden Harper continued.

Before evening classes I like to get a workout in. Usually I do some type of CrossFit and circuit training exercises. I also love running and regularly run half-marathons. My family is great too and I’m a proud uncle of two little Harper minions.

What are you doing for the Bombers? My position is tailored to community relations and I also help with group sales.

I first started reaching out to youth groups like those at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, just to see how the Bombers can better engage Indigenous youth. After making a few visits to these places, I realized that it’s not that these youth don’t want to go to a Bomber game; it’s just that there is no money to go to one. I mean our most affordable ticket is only 25 dollars, but these families just don’t have the disposable income for tickets when they are living paycheck to paycheck.

So, this problem lead me to find a way to fund tickets for our Indigenous youth. I personally reached out to Indigenous groups and asked them to write us letters for tickets because they just don’t know that ticket donations are available. As soon as I get their letter, and as long as we have a surplus of tickets, we try to send them. It’s about getting these fans engaged now, so that in the long run, when they’re older and they can afford tickets, they remember how much fun they had at a Bomber game and how well we treated them. I’m really just kind of starting that close community relationship for the Bombers because it’s never fully been there before.

It’s challenging and it’s interesting and I’m actually getting a lot of trust from everyone. The ideas that I’m coming up with are being approved, which is really cool.

When I met with Justin Rasmussen and Christine Cyr (from the U of M’s Indigenous Student Centre), we thought about planning an Indigenous-themed tailgate. So, on September 25 of this year, that is the plan, and although I won’t be here because I will be away in Hong Kong, I cannot wait for it.

They also showed me the Traditional Territories Acknowledgement statement that the University shares at every event and I thought that it would be great if the Bombers could do something like that. At the time I was thinking, I don’t know because this might be a Canadian Football League (CFL) issue, so I don’t know if it’s actually possible. But who knows? Like I said, never be afraid to ask.

Now, there is a spot reserved for the Traditional Territories Acknowledgement statement before O Canada and it’s read at every home game. That’s a huge achievement.

A feature of our quarterly newsletter is a profile of one of the more than 2,000 Indigenous students who attend the U of M. To recommend a student for this section, please email: ruth.shead@umanitoba.ca

Science research talks at Migizii Agamik

Join us Mondays at 12:30 PM to learn about current research opportunities with scientists at the University of Manitoba and about undergraduate research awards. The talks will take place in the Circle Room in Migizii Agamik. Light refreshments will be served.

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<th>Schedule</th>
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<td>Dr. David Herbert</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Learning from nature: inorganic chemistry, personalized energy and sustainable resources.</td>
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<td>September 21, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Juliette Mammei</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
<td>Cosmic connections: learning about neutron stars without leaving the earth.</td>
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<td>September 28, 2015</td>
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<td>Nature vs. nurture in Lake Sturgeon: what we need to know to improve stock enhancement efforts of this ancient species.</td>
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<td>October 5, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffrey Marcus</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>On the wings of butterflies: genetics, fieldwork, and molecular biology.</td>
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<td>October 12, 2015</td>
<td>NO TALK THIS WEEK</td>
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<td>October 26, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Sean McKenna</td>
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<td>Chemistry with computers.</td>
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<td>October 29, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Georg Schreckenbach</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Judy Anderson</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Muscle in movement, growth, atrophy and repair and, why I love satellite cells.</td>
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<td>November 9, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Ranganathan Padmanabhan</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Equations common to addition and subtraction.</td>
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<td>November 16, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Kevin Fraser</td>
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<td>Can migratory songbirds keep up with the pace of global change? New insights from migration tracking research.</td>
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<td>November 23, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Scott Kroeke</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>In resonance with the Earth: NMR spectroscopy and materials research.</td>
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<td>November 30, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Jay Kormish</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Big ideas from little worms; lessons learned in organ development and plant parasites.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information contact Justin Rasmussen: (204) 230-2505 or justin.rasmussen@umanitoba.ca

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUCCESS

Indigenous students impress at national SEM summit

A number of Indigenous students from U of M and Red River College shared their ideas on how to best recruit and support Indigenous students with more than 120 academic administrators and support staff from post-secondary institutions across Canada. It was part of the SEM (Strategic Enrollment Management) Summit on Indigenous Student Success held in Winnipeg in April.

The students stressed the importance of offering cultural and academic supports. There is also a need to introduce Indigenous perspectives and experiences into curriculum.

As part of the five-year strategic plan, the U of M set out the goal to ensure that every student graduates with a basic understanding of the importance and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba and in Canada.

Lionel Daniels, Chance Paapanekis and Robert Caribou use a Medicine Wheel as a guide to describe the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual supports that the U of M offers Indigenous students.
MUSA: year in review

Submitted by Brad Boudreau
president, Metis University Students’ Association (MUSA)

Hello fellow students!

The 2014-2015 academic year was eventful for the Metis University Students’ Association. Over the course of the year, we raised a total of $823.75 dollars to go towards the Manitoba Metis Federation Bereavement Fund.

In addition to our fundraising activities, we set a precedent this year, not only for our association, but for the U of M. On February 13, 2015 MUSA, in partnership with the Indigenous Student Centre, hosted the inaugural “Adorning of the Sash” Ceremony to commemorate Metis leader and Founding Father of Manitoba, Louis Riel.

As Louis Riel Day is a provincial holiday, MUSA found it appropriate to set aside a day to honour the legacy of Louis Riel. The event was a huge success; speakers included Metis Elder-in-residence Norman Meade, executive lead for Indigenous Achievement Deborah Young, associate professor Fred Shore, University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students’ Association co-president Nathan Legace, MUSA president Brad Boudreau, and Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand. The adorning of the sash was followed by a feast of stew, bannock and Metis traditional music.

We would like to thank our members for donating their time to make our fundraising events and our Louis Riel Day Ceremony a success, and everyone on campus who came out to support our association and the Metis community.

One of our initiatives as an association is to keep our Metis community on campus informed of current events pertaining to Metis people. Towards the end of every month we will be releasing updates through our social media sites that will be available for download. We will also be printing hard copies for students to view in the Indigenous Student Centre and UMASA lounge. These updates will include news happening across the Metis Nation homeland, information on material covered in MUSA biweekly meetings, upcoming MUSA events, initiatives, and resources that are available to students.

Our Initiatives for 2015-2016

Our executive is still in the early planning stages of what our advocacy issues will be for the upcoming academic year. Currently, we are exploring four options:

- The exclusion of Metis in the TRC final report and 60s Scoop
- The FFRA and destruction of the Metis community of Ste. Madeleine
- Planning to improve Metis education and cultural awareness at the University of Manitoba
- Resolution 8: The Crown’s Duty to Consult

As for fundraising, we would like your input on charities, organizations, causes and initiatives that we can fundraise for throughout the year. You can do so by emailing us or contacting us through social media; we would love to hear back from the Aboriginal community and our Metis students!

We’re excited for this upcoming year as we continue to grow and work towards an increase in Metis representation and inclusion at the University of Manitoba. We would like to thank the Indigenous Student Centre and UMASA for their support and encouragement as we look forward to new initiatives that will not only enhance the campus experience for Metis students, but for all First Nations and Inuit students attending the University of Manitoba.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on MUSA activities:
- Facebook.com/musumanitoba
- Twitter.com/UManitoba_MUSA
- Instagram/musa_manitoba

If you have any questions, suggestions regarding MUSA or how you can become a member, please email: information.musa@gmail.com

News across the Metis Homeland

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Record-setting year:
Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program

It was the biggest year yet for the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program. From June 1-5, 46 Indigenous Grade 11 students from across Canada came to the U of M to work with professors and researchers in labs and in the field. This year’s attendance beat last year’s record of 34.

It wasn’t just a record-setting year for visiting student participation. Mark Whitmore, a professor in the Faculty of Science says, “we had a total of 114 volunteers work on this program: 36 faculty, 16 staff, 56 students and 6 post docs.”

During their week at the U of M, the students blogged about their experiences. They also had a chance to meet Verna Kirkness, an Honorary Degree recipient (2008) as well as a distinguished alumna of the U of M.

“The success of the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program is a result of the dedication and commitment of the U of M community,” says Deborah Young, executive lead of Indigenous Achievement.

*The goal of the program is to increase the number of Indigenous students graduating from science and engineering programs in Canada.*
National Aboriginal Day celebrations a huge success

U of M’s Indigenous community and allies came out in droves for National Aboriginal Day celebrations, which took place at the Bannatyne and Fort Garry campuses on June 19, 2015.

At Bannatyne, a teepee was set up in the Medicine Garden of Indigenous Healing, a feast was held in the John Buhler Atrium, attendees were treated to cultural entertainment, and craft vendors had work for sale.

At Fort Garry, the Circle Room in Migizii Agamik saw people get in touch with their inner artists, as participants decorated hearts for reconciliation. The idea was to plant a Heart Garden, but due to rainy weather, the hearts were instead displayed on the Circle Room walls. Following lunch, graduate student Monica Cyr lead a healthy bannock making bake-off, which saw many first-time bannock makers in the kitchen.

International Indigenous Librarians’ Forum comes to U of M

More than 100 Indigenous knowledge keepers and allies came to the U of M this August for the 9th annual International Indigenous Librarians’ Forum (IILF). This is only the second time IILF has been hosted by Canada. Camille Callison, Indigenous Services Librarian and Liaison Librarian for Anthropology, Native Studies and Social Work for the U of M chaired the forum.

“It is a great honour to host this forum in Canada, especially as our country works towards reconciliation. It is vital that Indigenous knowledge keepers and our allies take care of cultural information in a good way. We have much to learn from our Elders and each other,” says Callison.

Callison worked closely with a number of community Elders in order to make sure the vision and purpose of the forum was kept alive. The Elders gave this year’s forum the theme Anikoo Gaagige Ganawendaasowin, which means: “As Keepers of Knowledge that came from the Creator and that we are tied to our mothers through the umbilical cord, it is the responsibility of each child to pass down this knowledge from one generation to the next generation. In Anishinaabe the word aniko means to ‘extend,’ gaagige means ‘eternal,’ and gaanawendaasowin means ‘keeper.’

Along with keynote speakers and breakout sessions of a standard forum or conference, this year’s IILF included a day-trip to Turtle Island Lodge, where participants learned about and participated in Anishinaabe ceremonies. There were also sunrise, pipe and water ceremonies on the second day of the forum, along with an Elders’ and Traditional Knowledge Keepers’ sharing circle.

Another important aspect of the forum was the arrival of the Mauri Stone, which was created especially for IILF. The Stone travels from forum to forum and holds the essence of the discussions that take place, spiritually binding those who attend the forums. As a gift to IILF, Canada presented a Bentwood Box for safekeeping of the Stone as it continues its travels.

IILF was created in 1999 in Aotearoa, New Zealand with the purpose of providing a “focused exploration of significant issues facing libraries and institutions that care for Indigenous and cultural information.”

The Mauri Stone holds the essence of IILF discussions past, present and future. It was carved by Bernard Makoare and formally blessed by the Taranaki elder, the late Te Ru Korirī Wharehoka. Each host adds something to the Mauri Stone that represents the Host Indigenous people. (photo by Camille Callison).
Spotlight on Indigenous graduate student success

On April 29, 2015, Stewart Hill, PhD candidate in the Natural Resources Institute and the Create H2O (NSERC) program, successfully defended his research proposal for his dissertation titled: “Nipi Onaschikewin: Developing source water protection plans for the communities of Bunsabonibee Cree Nation at Oxford Lake, and God’s Lake First Nation and Manto Sipi Cree Nation at God’s Lake located in Manitoba, Canada based upon science and Cree traditional knowledge”.

On June 1st, 2015, Stewart co-presented his research with Keith Peskoonas, Traditional Land Use and Treaty Land Entitlement Coordinator, from God’s Lake First Nation at the annual Create H2O Conference on June 1, 2015. The title of his presentation was “Nipi Onaschikewin”, which means Water Planning in Cree.

And, on July 17, 2015, Stewart passed his PhD candidacy exam. Congratulations Stewart!

In July 2015, Linda Diffey, PhD candidate in Applied Health Sciences, was awarded the CIHR-Institute for Aboriginal Peoples’ Health Scientific Director’s Award in the PhD student category at the CIHR’s National Gathering of Graduate Students in Vancouver for her presentation titled: “Teaching Indigenous health using anti-racist pedagogy: Exploring the experiences of medical school instructors with the two-eyed seeing framework”. Linda’s advisor is Dr. Javier Mignone. Congratulations Linda!

On June 30, 2015, Crystal Cook, a Masters candidate in the College of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences, successfully defended her proposal titled: “First Nations Families’ Experiences of a Family Member Requiring Renal Replacement Therapy in the Pas, MB: A Descriptive Qualitative Study”. Congratulations Crystal!

On July 28, 2015, Kerry Spence, Master of Science (Human Nutritional Sciences), Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, successfully defended her thesis. The title of her thesis is: “A Mixed-Methods Case Study Evaluation of a Community-Based Food Literacy Program in the North End of Winnipeg: Community Tables”. Congratulations Kerry!

In July 2015, Linda Diffey, PhD candidate in Applied Health Sciences, was awarded the CIHR-Institute for Aboriginal Peoples’ Health Scientific Director’s Award in the PhD student category at the CIHR’s National Gathering of Graduate Students in Vancouver for her presentation titled: “Teaching Indigenous health using anti-racist pedagogy: Exploring the experiences of medical school instructors with the two-eyed seeing framework”. Linda’s advisor is Dr. Javier Mignone. Congratulations Linda!

Registration is now open for the GradSteps professional development workshops. The GradSteps workshops, given by experts at the University of Manitoba, are available to you (at no cost) to help you with every step involved with your graduate degree and with your future career.

To be featured in this section, please email: justin.rasmussen@umanitoba.ca
Upcoming programs and events

Coffee with the Executive Lead
Please join Deborah Young, executive lead for Indigenous Achievement for an informal chat over coffee. Coffee and questions, and have your voice heard. Everyone in the U of M community is welcome. This semester’s dates are:

- Friday, September 11, 2015 9:30-10:30 AM
- Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:30-10:30 AM
- Thursday, November 12, 2015 9:30-10:30 AM

Coffeees are held in the foyer of Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge.

Bannatyne Campus Welcome Feast
All new and returning First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in the Faculty of Health Sciences are invited to a Welcome Feast on Monday, September 14, 2015 in the John Buhler Atrium (715 McDermot Avenue) from Noon - 1:30 PM.

Indigenous Orientation: Celebration Stations
The Indigenous Student Centre, Indigenous Achievement, UMASA and MUSA welcome you to participate in an Amazing Race-style event on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 from 11 AM - 1 PM. Students will discover Fort Garry campus, while visiting Indigenous-themed stations. The event will wrap up with a free barbeque at Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge. For more information please email: karen.richard@umanitoba.ca

Closing the Gap - Public Lecture and Q & A with Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde
AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde is coming to the U of M to deliver a public lecture: Closing the Gap: First Nations’ Priorities are Canada’s Priorities. The event will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) - 2nd floor of University Centre from 11:30 AM - 1 PM. This event is free and everyone is welcome.

WISE Kid-Netic Energy 25th Anniversary Celebration
Since 2000, WISE (Women in Science & Engineering) has delivered 132 week-long camps to 35 locations across Canada, including 17 First Nations communities. WISE has also delivered 10,055 workshops to 561 schools, reaching more than 250,000 students. On Thursday, September 24, 2015 a celebration will take place in the Engineering Atrium from 5-7 PM.

Student Meet and Greet Luncheon
Please join Deborah Young, executive lead for Indigenous Achievement, and staff members from the Indigenous Student Centre Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs, together with students from our dynamic Indigenous campus on campus for an informal lunch. This semester’s dates are:

- Thursday, September 24, 2015 Noon - 1 PM
- Thursday, October 19, 2015 Noon - 1 PM
- Thursday, November 26, 2015 Noon - 1 PM

All students are welcome. Lunch will be held in the foyer of Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge.

Asper Indigenous Speakers Series
The Association of Aboriginal Commerce Students (AACS) is hosting a Speakers Series aimed to increase your knowledge on issues affecting non-Indigenous and Indigenous students. The talks will take place in the Asper Fishbowl. Food will be provided, as well as time for you to voice your opinions and ask questions.

Launch Date: September 28, 2015 at 6 PM
Topic: The Importance of Building Bridges Between Indigenous/ Non-Indigenous students in Business.
Keynote Address: James B. Wilson, Treaty Commissioner of Manitoba
Greeting: Ashley Richard, President of AACS

Other dates: October 26, 2015 at 6 PM
Topic: The Top 5 Issues in the Indigenous Community Post Election November 30, 2015 at 6 PM
Topic: Canadians For a New Partnership: What Does This Mean to us Today?
Keynote Address: Michael Benarroch, Dean, Asper School of Business

Indigenous Graduate Student Writing Retreat
The Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Indigenous Student Centre and the Academic Learning Centre are hosting an Indigenous Graduate Student Writing Retreat November 7, 2015 from 8 AM - 5 PM at the Sobhban Richardson Field Station at Fort Whyte Alive. Enjoy distraction-free writing in nature. Get ahead on your grant applications, proposals, manuscripts, and thesis chapters. Work together in a supportive environment with other graduate students. To attend, register by 4 PM, Thursday, October 22, 2015. Registration forms are available at the front desk of Migizii Agamik. Fee is $20 and includes food (snacks, coffee, lunch, supper), writing support, Wi-Fi, walking trails, nature, and fun! For more information, contact: Justin.Rasmussen@umanitoba.ca.

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

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

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

What’s in a name?
The Aboriginal Student Centre has changed its name. As of June 1, 2015, it is officially called the Indigenous Student Centre. Christine Czy, director of the Indigenous Student Centre says, “the term Indigenous has become increasingly preferred by Indigenous people in Canada. It has many positive associations with self-determination and human rights.”

In addition to the titles of those who work in the centre, for example the Aboriginal student advisors are now known as Indigenous student advisors, the centre’s web and email addresses have changed. You can now find the Indigenous Student Centre online at: umanitoba.ca/student/indigenous and you can reach the centre at laci@umanitoba.ca.

Tipi outside Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge which houses the Indigenous Student Centre