POOR HEALTH NO MORE
Feb. 11, 2013
On Feb. 4, Manitoba magazine hosted “Health Care in Canada: Poor Health No More,” a town hall discussion at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The conversation on the effect of social disparities on health will continue in the coming months in the magazine but leading up to the Winnipeg event, the magazine spoke with Barry Lavallee, a family doctor and the director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health Education at the U of M. Lavallee told MacLean’s he favours a separate Aboriginal health care system that values indigenous tradition and experience.

It’s medical advice on one such successful program, the run-away diabetes integration program, which serves 13 Manitoba communities, focusing on prevention, clinical management and intervention. Many of the staff are Aboriginal, all are non-smug and “inculcably literate” about their culture, he says. The result is a significant drop in diabetes complications. Lavallee calls social determinants a “bull–”-term that makes other words like racism, colonialism, class, “all those same,” he says. In fact, it is in frustration that the Idle No More movement has developed, he said. The demands for an equitable share of resources, safety, better housing and education are only part of the answer, he says. “If you don’t address racism in the background, entrenched by policy, then we’re still not going to achieve true [health] equity.”

SOON YOU WON’T EVEN BE ABLE TO DROWN YOUR SORROWS IN IT
Feb. 11, 2013
Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg, The Bulletin, Carriere, Christine Cyr

Pope Benedict XVI recently said he lacked the strength to fulfill his duties and on Feb. 11, 2013 will become the first pontiff in nearly 600 years to resign. A conclave will select a successor on March 12, the Pope said, during a joint audience with Friedman, President of the World Jewish Congress. The conclave will select a successor on March 12, the Pope said, during a joint audience with Friedman, President of the World Jewish Congress. The conclave will select a successor on March 12, the Pope said, during a joint audience with Friedman, President of the World Jewish Congress.

Business competition draws out wannabe entrepreneurs from across campus

By AMY BRESCIE
Six teams of students, dreamed to impress, put their best foot forward and competed in the WesNong Entrepreneurship Competition recently at the 1 st Asper School of Business.

The event drew entrants from four different faculties at the U of M. In the end, Simon Burns emerged victorious with Diver Electric, a renewable hybrid propulsion system which enables consumers to drive cars for free regardless of their fuel costs, range or power requirements. The first runner-up went to Nick Danziger, whose Piggy Dijkstra proposal focused on the “buy before you buy” concept of electronic goods and accessories. Although these items will not carry a brand name, customers will be allowed to test items before they make a purchase decision and pricing will undercut competitors significantly.

“I had an excellent experience with my first entry into the world of high pressure presentations,” says Burns, a first-year entry asper University student. “The judges demanded a level of professionalism and dedication that you would professionally." The judges were Shawn Hampton, entrepreneur consultant with the President’s Circle of the Asper School in entrepreneur in residence with the West Clark Centre for Entrepreneurs at the Asper School of Business and Stuart Hertoguin, executive director of the West Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship. “We were extremely impressed by the depth of research and vision exhibited by the presenters and the viability of each of the Champions Round concepts," says Hampton. “There is no doubt that we have some exceptional student businesses coming out of the University of Manitoba. The WesNicol program was launched in 1997 and now awards $170,000 in prime money each year to individual students or student teams who submit winning plans for their entrepreneurial business ideas. The national program seeks to generate and reward interest in entrepreneurship by undergraduate students in any faculty at participating Canadian universities. The event is run by the University of Manitoba through the Asper School of Business, but is open to all undergraduate students on campus.

On March 26, six winners chosen from across the province when submissions will meet in Ottawa to battle it out for the national title.

CARPORUS’s PERSPECTIVE
EMBRACING CHANGE AS WE PURSUE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

While we pursue a culture of continuous improvement, the process of change can be difficult. We have asked much of you, our faculty and staff, and we appreciate the patience and effort you have shown; the rewards have already been great.

Together we reached some major milestones last year, including a record enrollment of 28,600 students, which is expected to grow to 29,000, and nearly $100 million in sponsored research income. Continued work will now ensure that the provincial government, as our largest provider of the core resources necessary for our vital mission, will see these investments achieved.

None of this would have been possible without support and input from our university community.

Our university serves as a workplace for 8,000-staff members, many of whom have been working within the Outstanding Workplace Initiative to raise our standards ever higher. In our first employment survey of faculty and staff, 80 percent of respondents declared that our workplace was an ideal place to work. Your feedback led to the University of Manitoba being recognized as a top employer last year by Manitoba. Top 20 employers who participated in our survey said this is a great place to work. We recognize that there is still a long road ahead and continued effort is necessary to attract and keep the high-quality employees our university needs in order to serve our province well.

We also recognize the need to provide optimal and inspiring spaces for learning and working. To that end, nearly $614 million in infrastructure projects has been invested over the past 10 years. High-profile new learning and research facilities like Douglas and St. John’s Science and new and revitalized space at the Botanical Science and Bell Hall buildings, Pembina Hall facilities, and the U of M’s $263 million Business Research Complex will open in the next two years. We are in a period of development and growth, and committed to creating campuses that both reflect and serve of the and important work we do.

As we fulfill our important mandate for this province, we keep in mind always that students are the lifeblood of this university. The student success at the University of Manitoba is wide ranging. The presidents of the University of Manitoba Students’ Union and the University of Manitoba Graduate Students’ Association serve on the University’s Senate and Board of Governors. Students are directly involved in processes as diverse as faculty committees, senior leadership hiring, and innovative new vehicles for encouraging student input into university affairs, such as the student experience committee. We truly value student voice and ideas on a variety of issues, including information technology, housing, library hours, daycares and academic awards. This engagement and input from students ensures that decisions made about our university reflect their needs and desires.

I often refer to the notion that working at a university is so fulfilling because both the cause and the company are great. Together we continue to transform our campus and provide transformative experiences for our faculty, students and staff as well as the broader community.

David