United Way success

The University of Manitoba United Way campaign had a record breaking year in 2006. In total the campaign raised $411,816, up nearly 5 per cent over the previous year.

That total includes $204,648 from the Fort Garry campus, up 3.6 per cent, $129,973 from the Bannatyne campus, a 5.4 per cent increase, and $77,195 from retirees, a 7.8 per cent increase.

“We’re really happy with the way things went,” Physical Education and Recreation Studies dean Dennis Hrycaiko said. Hrycaiko chaired the Fort Garry campaign with Roslyn Howard, director, learning and development services, while Janice Dodd, physiology, chaired the Bannatyne campaign and Irv Goudal chaired the retirees campaign. Howard will be back next year with new co-chair Education dean John Wiens.

Hrycaiko said the strong core of support in the university for the United Way - from consistent leadership to volunteers willing to pitch in year after year - helps account for the campaign’s success.

United Way success

Eleven health research projects at the University of Manitoba have received close to $3.4 million in new funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

A total of $3.5 million was awarded to nine projects focused on a range of health research topics, while almost $400,000 was awarded to two new projects aimed at preparing for a possible flu pandemic.

The announcement was made at the Bannatyne Campus on April 5, by Steven Fletcher, MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia, and Parliamentary Secretary for Health, on behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health.

“Promoting ground breaking health research is a crucial component of our government’s plan to build a healthy, prosperous and innovative Canada,” Fletcher said. “The funding highlighted today is helping to enhance the health research capabilities of the University of Manitoba, which will benefit all Canadians.”

The nine new projects that received $3 million in new CIHR funding will be carried out over periods of one to five years, and will be conducted at the University of Manitoba and partner research institutions, including CancerCare Manitoba, St. Boniface General Hospital, and the Health Sciences Centre.

“These nine projects encompass a broad range of specialized health research, from investigations at the molecular level, to comprehensive studies of population health,” said University of Manitoba president Emöke Szathmáry.

“This latest CIHR support is a welcome recognition of both the very high calibre of our health researchers and the importance of their leading-edge work.”

The CIHR funded researchers include:

- Sarah Bowen, community health sciences, will address major challenges surrounding the communication of research evidence within the health system, and incorporating it into health planning.

- Judith Chipperfield, psychology/Physical Education and Recreation Studies, will look at the relationship between everyday physical activity, such as table-setting and stair-climbing, and short and long-term health.

- Shyamala Dakshinamurti, pediatrics and child health/physiology, will examine the effect of low oxygen on the lungs in newborn babies.

- Michael Czubryt, physiology, will examine how genes involved in fuel consumption are controlled, focusing on a family of proteins called MEF2. The study will look at a specific gene involved in fat consumption in the heart, how it is controlled by MEF2, and how this control mechanism is affected by gender.

- Shyamala Dakshinamurti, pediatrics and child health/physiology, will examine the effect of low oxygen on the lungs in newborn babies.

See CIHR/P. 2
Security and Counseling note

In light of the tragedy which took place at Virginia Tech yesterday, the University of Manitoba wishes to assure students, parents, staff and faculty that their safety and security is a top priority. The university has in place an emergency response plan, including a communications component, which is continuously tested and improved to assure the safety of the University community. It is important that students, staff and visitors feel safe and comfortable when on campus. The University of Manitoba enjoys a strong relationship with the Winnipeg Police Service which is immediately available to respond to issues which arise on campus. The university also has its own security officers whose campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those same officers are also available at any time to escort students or staff to their cars or on-campus residences through our SafeWalk program. Additionally, there are red phones located in every building on campus which provide a direct link to security services. Code Blue emergency stations are located outdoors around campus and also provide an immediate link to security personnel. Students who feel the need to speak to someone regarding the Virginia Tech incident are encouraged to take advantage of the student counseling services available on the 4th floor of University Centre. These services are available to all registered students. The counseling office is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

SafeWalk 474-9312
SafeWalk (from any on-campus phones) 555
SafeWalk (from any MTS or Rogers cell phones) #555
Student Counseling and Career Centre 474-7093

CIHR helps diverse projects

Two additional projects received close to $400,000 in new funding under the CIHR Pandemic Preparedness Strategic Research Initiative. They will be carried out over two years in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg. They are:

• Developing an effective Avian Flu vaccine strategy; Gary Kobinger, medical microbiology, is leading a three-proposed research program aimed at testing a new conventional flu vaccine against different Avian influenza viruses; testing experimental immunization strategies, including vaccines based on DNA or adenoviruses; and studying which components of the immune response provide the highest levels of protection against the disease.

• Virus to Cells: It has Been Hijacked; Kevin Coombs, medical microbiology, leads a team studying how flu viruses alter the process by which cells make proteins.

“The University of Manitoba is internationally recognized as a leader in infectious diseases research, and the success of our scientists in this rigorous competition underlines that fact,” said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. “By addressing issues at the heart of this global health challenge – how viruses work, and effective vaccine development – these projects will play a key role in Canada’s national pandemic preparedness initiative.”

Norrie re-elected as Chancellor

Chancellor William Norrie has been elected to a third three-year term as Chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

A former school trustee, mayor, and a community leader, Norrie has built lasting relationships with various ethnic groups, government officials, professional groups, the private sector and voluntary agencies.

As the titular head of the university, the Chancellor confers all degrees and is a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate. In accordance with past practice, the Chancellor also assists with the advancement of the university and when appropriate acts as a university ambassador.

Norrie’s re-election as Chancellor was confirmed at the April 4 Senate meeting to a round of applause from Senators.

“I’m honoured to receive your acknowledgment and will do my very best for the university for the next term,” Norrie said.