Spring is around the corner and so is our President’s Reception

What a winter we have been having—the weather has been so unpredictable and so variable! At times we were wondering if the snow (or rain if you live outside of the prairies) would ever come. And then it did with a vengeance, accompanied by high winds and falling temperatures right across the country. Given this experience, we can say there is one thing that is predictable: the President’s Reception for Retirees. It will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007, in the Brodie Centre on the Bannatyne Campus beginning at 2:00 p.m. We will start off the afternoon with presentations in Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building, right next to the Brodie Centre, and then a reception in the Atrium of the Centre.

Concerned about that arthritis?

...Come out to learn about the research of our colleagues at the Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology. They are looking for the secrets to relieve, or maybe even cure, your aches and pains.

Our guest speaker, Dr. John Wilkins, Director of the Centre, will answer the question: “What in the World is Proteomics and What Will It Do for Me?” Over the past decade we’ve all heard a great deal about the mapping of the human genome and we know our genes influence who we are—the colour of our eyes, whether we’re tall or short, etc. But as we grow and develop, it is through the interaction of these genes with the constituents of our cells, the majority of which are proteins, that we become who we are today. Thus, genomics and proteomics go hand in hand. At our age, we want to know how we can prevent the development of ailments such as arthritis or osteoporosis, and if we are now sufferers, how they can be treated. These conditions, together with early detection of breast and prostate cancer and the reduction of kidney transplant rejection, are the research areas that Dr. Wilkins and his colleagues are investigating in the new state-of-the-art facilities at the Centre for Proteomics and Systems Biology located on the 7th floor of the John Buhler Research Centre. If you are interested in seeing these research facilities, kindly indicate your wish when you RSVP. (See excerpt from The Bulletin regarding the award received by the Centre’s team.)

Ms. Elaine Goldie, Vice-President (External), will bring greetings from President Szathmáry. Following these presentations, refreshments will be served in the Atrium of the Brodie Centre and, for those who are interested in seeing the research facilities on the 7th floor, Dr. Wilkins and his colleagues will conduct tours for us in groups of 20 persons.

Park and/or Ride

Because of the construction taking place on the Bannatyne Campus, parking is at a premium. Given this circumstance, arrangements have been made for those who wish to park on the Fort Garry Campus in Parking Lot U, immediately west of the Visitor’s Centre, to take the

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What in the World is Proteomics Continued

University’s shuttle bus to the Bannatyne Campus and be dropped off right at the entrance to the Brodie Centre. The bus will leave the Fort Garry Campus at 1:15 pm and will pick you up at the Brodie entrance at 4:00 pm to return to the Fort Garry Campus. There will be no cost for parking or riding. If you prefer to drive to the Bannatyne Campus, parking will be available at no charge in Parking Lot E which is at the corner of McDermot Avenue and Tecumseh Street.

Don’t forget to bring your spouse to this event and invite those survivors of retirees whom you know to come along. Please RSVP by Friday, April 13th, to Linda Lassman, 474-9124 or e-mail her at linda_lassman@umanitoba.ca. Please let her know if you want to take the shuttle bus and the tour of the new Proteomics and Systems Biology Centre.

*Shuttle Bus Pick-up/Drop-off

You wanted to know what other university retiree associations are doing?

The College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), of which UMRA is a founding member, has just published its first Newsletter. In it you will find an interesting article on Health Care for retirees and reports on what university retiree associations are doing in other parts of Canada. You will notice that several associations have or are considering some of the same issues as UMRA. To find the Newsletter, go to www.curac.ca and click on your choice of format for the Newsletter. Let us know what you think of this venture so that we can provide feedback to CURAC. UMRA members who serve on CURAC committees are John Mundie on their Communication Committee and Marilyn Stothers on their Housing Committee.

Did you know?

The Manitoba Council on Aging serves in an advisory capacity to the Minister responsible for seniors to ensure their perspectives are considered in government programs and policies. The Council reviews and provides recommendations on projects, programs, proposals and legislation referred to it by the Minister to ensure they reflect the changing needs, issues and concerns of seniors. It also advises government of opportunities to adapt programs, policies and services to accommodate seniors. Several members of UMRA serve on this Council.

The Manitoba Society of Seniors (MSOS), a charitable non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 1979, is a voice for Manitoba seniors with government, the media, and business and employer groups. MSOS works to promote a positive image of older adults and encourage a healthy, active lifestyle. Their monthly journal, Fifty and Beyond, provides information on matters of interest to seniors such as income tax facts, health, safety and wills and estates. Their 6,500 members receive a variety of benefits including recreation and travel discounts. Sample copies of their journal will be available at our Reception on April 21.

Reminder. The deadline for receipt of entries to the UMRA Logo competition is April 15, 2007. Our letterhead and web site are awaiting the outcome of this competition. Submit your design and you could receive a $100 life membership in UMRA.
Congratulations to our Colleagues

Excerpt from the February 8, 2007, issue of The Bulletin.

**Award winning research**

A world-class team of researchers at the University of Manitoba has just earned some world-class recognition. On Jan. 31, Suzanne Fortier, president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), announced that the Kenneth Standing led team and its collaborators at MDS Sciex and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, have won the third annual Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering.

The Brockhouse prize includes $250,000 in funding for future research activities.

Members of the U of M team have spent more than a decade refining proteomics techniques that can be applied to a wide range of problems in medicine and biology. One of their greatest successes came in 2003 when team members were the first worldwide to determine the structure of the protein component of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus. Along the way, the team has also developed patented improvements to their key tool, the mass spectrometer. While genes provide a blueprint, proteins actually carry out the cell’s work. Because proteins are so numerous, analyzing them is a far more complex process than sequencing a genome.

In addition to Kenneth Standing, the University of Manitoba researchers being honoured with the Brockhouse Prize include chemists Harry Duckworth and Helene Perrault, physicists Wemer Ens and Oleg Krokhin, and cell biologist John Wilkins. Other members of the winning team are Steve Haber, a plant virologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and MDS Sciex scientists Igor Chemushevich, Alexandre Loboda and Bruce Thomson. The involvement of MDS Sciex, a world leader in the design and manufacturing of mass spectrometers, has enabled some of the team’s innovations to be incorporated into equipment that is used by researchers around the world.

“This year’s winners form a ‘virtuous circle’ where academic researchers and private sector engineers collaborate to develop the leading-edge equipment needed for new discoveries,” said Fortier. “I’m especially impressed to see the team combine such a wide variety of disciplines, including physics, engineering, chemistry and cell biology.”

Named after Bertram Brockhouse, the Canadian Prairie-born Nobel laureate, the prize honours teams of researchers that combine different disciplines to produce achievements of international scientific or engineering significance.

**Come out to meet our Award-winning Colleagues!**
UMRA has its own office

Last March you were asked about your interest in having retiree housing either on or near the University Fort Garry Campus. Most of those who responded indicated they were not interested in retiree housing. The ad hoc Committee on Exploring the Feasibility of a Retiree Centre, chaired by Horst Frank, also looked into having a Retiree Centre and an office for the Retirees Association on Campus. Today we are pleased to announce that, through the assistance of the Alumni Association/Alumni Affairs, we have an office in Alumni House. There we have a telephone with voice mail, computer linkages and access to a common area in which to hold meetings. Our new telephone number is 474-7175. We are grateful to the Alumni Association for accommodating our need for an office.

We may also be contacted by e-mail at retirees@cc.umanitoba.ca or by post at Box 5, Administration Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2. For information about the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA), membership, retiree benefits and much more, visit our website at www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees.

You show that you care about others

Once again the retirees of the University have demonstrated that they care about others less fortunate than themselves in our city. Irv Gusdal, who again headed up our section of the University of Manitoba United Way Campaign, reported that retirees pledged $77,025 for the 2006 United Way. This was 103% of the goal of $74,780. Our contribution made up 20% of the funds raised by the University of Manitoba. Thanks go to Irv and those who worked with him on the Campaign: Laraine Coll, Dick Johnson and Sharon King.

Your Association

Needs You!

Our committees are looking for members. If you’re interested in contributing to UMRA by serving on any of the following, please let us know by telephone, e-mail or post, as provided above:

- Communications Committee
- Pensions & Benefits Committee
- Membership Committee

Fall Reception and Annual General Meeting

The next President’s reception for Retirees is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2007, as is the Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association. These events will be held in University Centre on the Fort Garry Campus. We welcome your suggestions for topics and speakers for future Receptions.