Age-friendly Cities is topic of October Reception

Richard Milgrom, Associate Dean (Research) and Head of the Department of City Planning in the Faculty of Architecture, is using the title, Communities for all Ages: Design for Life, for his presentation to the 36th President’s Reception for Retirees.

The reception will be held **Sunday, October 19**, starting at **2:00 p.m.** in Marshall McLuhan Hall, 204 University Centre, on the Fort Garry Campus.

In a synopsis of his presentation, Dr. Milgrom wrote: “In 2007, the World Health Organization published Age-friendly Cities: A Guide, outlining considerations for the design of cities to accommodate aging populations. Typical development in Winnipeg and Manitoba, for the last half century, has done little to accommodate these concerns. The new master plan for the Fort Garry Campus, including the development of new neighbourhoods in the Southwood Lands, presents opportunities for the University of Manitoba to lead by example – to provide built environments and services that improve the quality of life for people of all ages, including older adults.”

Since 2008, Dr. Milgrom has participated in the Age-Friendly Communities – Active Aging Alliance as a researcher and steering committee member. This is a five-year, $1 million, SSHRC-funded community/university research alliance based in the UM Centre on Aging. The project involves faculty from across the university, as well as from more than a dozen community partner organizations. This project aims to make cities and towns better places in which to grow old. In concert with the province’s Age-Friendly Manitoba initiative, more than 70 municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg, are now participating.

Dr. Milgrom’s recent work addresses the impediments to the development of age-friendly environments in Winnipeg. This includes those that are rooted in current planning practices (specifically who is consulted during the process) and those that are manifestations of historic urban development patterns (most specifically that of car-oriented sprawl in and around the city).

Dr. Milgrom earned his Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Manitoba (1977), before getting his Master’s degree in Architecture (Urban Planning) at the University of Pennsylvania and his doctoral degree at York University (Environmental Studies). He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Manitoba Professional Planners Institute, the Manitoba Association of Architecture, and the International Network of Urban Research and Action. Dr. Milgrom has also served as a technical expert for the university’s Visionary (Re)Generation Open International Design Competition, intended to open the door to the creation of the new Fort Garry Campus plan.

You are asked to RSVP by **Friday, October 10, 2014**, to Linda Lassman at email: **linda.lassman@umanitoba.ca** or by telephone at 204-474-9124.

**UMRA Annual General Meeting 2014**

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the U of M Retirees Association will be held starting at **12:30 p.m.** in Room 543/544 University Centre, prior to the President’s Reception on **Sunday, October 19**. All UM retirees who hold annual or life memberships are invited to attend.
From the Editor

In my haste to produce the March 2014 issue of this Newsletter I omitted a crucial piece of information – the title and by-line of that excellent article in the newly created section called Retired? Not Entirely. The article was written by Professor Francis M. Carroll and was to be titled Athenia Torpedoed: The U-Boat Attack that Ignited the Battle of the Atlantic. I offer my sincere apologies to Professor Carroll for this inadvertent omission. There were quite a few comments on his article, all laudatory, and I wish to pass along those compliments to Professor Carroll. He deserves them.

As a second contribution to the Retired? Not Entirely column, I solicited an article from Dean Emeritus Raymond F. Currie about his work since his retirement from the Dean of Arts Office and the U of M Sociology Department. That article, “A Quantum Leap Forward,” appears on page 3 of this issue. I should also mention that I’ve met Dean Currie on several occasions birding and volunteering at Fort Whyte Alive. He is keeping busy in his retirement.

Again I repeat my request for articles or suggestions for future issues of this newsletter. These can be sent to me at: walz@cc.umanitoba.ca. The deadline for the March issue of this newsletter is January 23, 2015.

Gene Walz, Professor of Film Studies (retired -- obviously, not entirely!)

Here’s Help for Your Computer Problem(s)

Computer help is once again available to UMRA members. (The service was temporarily suspended for several weeks in June and July when the person providing the service decided on short notice to leave Winnipeg to accept employment in the US.) Three graduate students in Computer Science have agreed to be “on call” to assist members. Fortunately, this trio of graduate students was quickly recruited, and will help you with your computer problems, whether hardware or software. One of the three has already helped one of our members, who reported that all 10 of his problems were solved in two hours; he was pleased.

You are reminded that computer help is not an “instant” service. It may take a day or two (occasionally more) for your call for help to be fully processed, partly because the graduate students are not always able to drop everything in response to calls for help and partly because incoming telephone and email messages are monitored by UMRA executive from their homes. Incoming requests for help go to 204-474-7175.

You are also reminded that this is a “fee-for-service” arrangement and that you should discuss this at the outset, either as an estimate of time or as a project cost. At the moment, two of the graduate students do not have cars, so any arrangement that requires the graduate student to provide assistance in your home needs to include a travel expense. Further, if your problem involves a laptop or tablet, which is easily portable, you are also encouraged to bring it to campus or meet at a mutually convenient location.

Finally, and importantly: computer assistance is only available to UMRA members with paid memberships, i.e., life members and annual members who have paid the current year fee.

Board Representative Elected

On May 16, Linda Guse, Executive Director, University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA), announced that Jay Goldstein has been elected by acclamation as Board Representative for the Constituency of Retired Members.

The UMFA Board is the governing body of the Association in the interim between meetings of the general membership. Among other things, the Board approves the Members of the Executive Council, appointees to Committees, UMFA representatives to other bodies, and motions related to policy and collective bargaining.

Ms Guse asks that UMRA members keep our Board Representative informed of our opinions and comments. “It is only through a strong Board that the membership of the Association can best be served,” she writes.
When I retired from the University in 2001, while still retaining Senior Scholar status, I fell into a stimulating post retirement position that fit my skills and interests perfectly. I continued working with CHERD, giving workshops on academic leadership at universities across the country and in Africa and evaluating academic programs. Then in 2002, I was invited to become Executive Director of the burgeoning Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN).

The Network, first conceived in 1998, was the brainchild of many people, notably, Marc Renault, then President of SSHRC, Ivan Fellegi, former Chief Statistician at Statistics Canada, as well as sociologists Paul Bernard, Celine Le Bourdais, and economist Byron Spencer.

The Centres have three purposes: 1) to make data from Statistics Canada, particularly longitudinal, confidential data, available in secure Centres that conform to the privacy requirements of the Statistics Act; 2) to train the next generation of graduate students; and 3) to “make research count” by informing policy makers of the best social science analysis available. The files include social and economic data as well as those on the social determinants of health. Both federal and provincial administrative files are now being linked to the data from Statistics Canada.

When I assumed the Executive Director’s position, there were nine Centres at Universities across Canada. The Network headquarters was transferred to the University of Manitoba (2002-2010). My responsibilities included transforming the individual Centres into an effective network, developing national financial and management policies, expanding the network to meet the increasing interest of researchers from across the country, incorporating technological advances, and intensive lobbying and grant writing to secure about $20 million in funding to meet the ever expanding needs of Canadian social scientists interested in working with data from Statistics Canada.

While I did not do research on the data themselves, I gave papers in Canada, England, Wales, and the United States on the development of the Network, including papers to federal and provincial cabinet ministers. I have just completed a history of the Network that is under review for publication.

When my second retirement began in 2010, we had made a number of significant achievements. There are now 27 Centres across Canada, an increase from the original nine. A Manitoba Centre opened in the Brodie Centre in 2005; Evelyn Forget is the Academic Director.

At any given time there are now 1,500 researchers in the Centres...

Over 500 M.A. and Ph.D. students have completed their degrees using data from the Centres, and the Knowledge Transfer Coordinator of the Network supervises an effective website that lists over 3,000 publications. We also initiated syntheses of research by topic. The first, on depression, highlighted the findings of 43 studies in the Centres. It has been downloaded over 7,000 times in 50 countries. A major technological advance was to create a Wide Area Network permitting live, on-line communication between Centres, as well as transforming Statistics Canada data to make it compatible with DDI 3 metadata.

Our work has been supported by two major, five-year joint awards from SSHRC and CIHR (2005-2015) totalling $7.4 million and $11.5 million, as well as two awards from CFI of $5.3 million and $3.8 million. This is only a snapshot of the Network. You are welcome to peruse the website at rdc-cdr.ca.
Campus News

University Centre Renovations

New University Centre Food Court Coming
Construction began in July on a new food court in University Centre (UC). The reopening is scheduled for fall 2014, and will include new restaurant concepts and renovated eating areas.

The UC food court and restaurants will be completely redesigned as an open concept space, with seven new restaurants, new lighting, tables, and soft seating. The renovated space will offer international food options, with a focus on freshness, healthier food choices, and speed of service. Some of the new options include: Asian, Shawarma, Grill, Pizza, Healthy Kitchen (wholesome, homemade-style food), a Salad station and a Flex-station, where local restaurants can act as a “pop-up” sites on campus for a period of time.

Additional changes will include a new Starbucks located in the Bookstore. The main floor Tim Horton’s will close, and the second floor Tim Horton’s will be expanded to offer an express coffee line, the first on campus.

Further afield: the former Robin’s location in Fletcher Argue will be converted to the University of Manitoba’s first self-serve Tim Horton’s and the Faculty of Science will receive a new Starbucks near the location of the former Food Services canteen in the Armes Complex.

UMRA Website

A new link has been added to the UMRA website. Growing Older is a comprehensive listing of the various Senior organizations and events in Winnipeg. You can access the link on our homepage by clicking on Growing Older in the right hand column or Links Sites of Interest in the left hand column.

Guidelines for Posting Links on the UMRA Website

Our UMRA website receives requests from the membership and from various organizations in regards to posting links on the site. We accept links from visitors that are of specific interest to our members. An example of this is the ‘Growing Older’ column from the Winnipeg Free Press. It’s a weekly column listing various senior organizations and events that are available to local residents. We do NOT accept a link that mentions an organization that caters to only one individual location.

We have also been approached to post links to International website. Due to the differences of policies and culture in health care, housing, etc. of foreign countries, we would not accept links to these websites.

Search engines, such as Google, allow access to the wealth of information that is the World Wide Web. It is not necessary to post links to the multitude of websites that can be accessed in this manner.

U of M Computer Accounts

The following message is addressed to all those who have an email account as a Retired Employee from the University of Manitoba. IST is attempting to clean up University Retiree accounts that are no longer being used. Please e-mail operacc@cc.umanitoba.ca if you wish to carry on with your University Retiree account. If IST does not receive a response from you before Monday, November 3, 2014, they will assume the account is no longer being used and your University email account will be disabled.

If you have any questions please contact Shirley Hares, IST Computer Accounts Administrator, Computer_Accounts@umanitoba.ca, 123 Fletcher Argue Building, phone: 474-9788, fax: 474-7920.

Contact information for UMRA
The University of Manitoba Retirees Association
Box 5, Administration Building,
The University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
Phone: (204)474-7175
E-mail: retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca
Website: http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees

Email contact to Retirees
UMRA is using e-mail to send reminders and notices of events of interest to retirees. To receive these, retirees should forward their e-mail address to retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca
Email address changes may be sent to retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca