The 25th President’s Reception for Retirees will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 2:00 pm in Theatre A, Basic Medical Science Building, with the Reception to follow in the Brodie Atrium at the Bannatyne Campus of the University of Manitoba.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Verena Menec, who is the Director of the Centre on Aging and an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. She received a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Manitoba. Currently she holds a Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging. Her main research interests lie in the areas of healthy aging and health care utilization among older adults, particularly at the end of life. She will speak on Age Friendly Communities.

The media is full of stories of our aging population and the impact on society that this will have. How do we plan for and manage the changes that may need to take place to meet the needs of this increasingly older population? Do we need to make communities more age-friendly in order to ensure a high quality of life for an aging population? In this talk, Dr. Menec will explore what an age-friendly community is and what some of the issues are in becoming more age-friendly. You are invited to join other U of M retirees to hear Dr. Menec’s recommendations on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 2:00 pm.

Following Dr. Menec’s presentation, Dr. Digvir Jayas, Acting Vice-President (Research), will update us on activities at the University on behalf of President Barnard. At the reception which follows there will be time to greet your former colleagues and friends. Also, spouses /partners are welcome to attend this Reception. Please invite those survivors of retirees whom you know. You are asked to RSVP by Friday, April 10, 2009, to Linda Lassman, e-mail: linda_lassman@umanitoba.ca or telephone: 474-9124.

Park and Ride

As a number of retirees enjoyed the park and ride opportunity last year, it is again being offered to attendees at the April 18th President’s Reception. Those who wish, may park on the Fort Garry Campus in Parking Lot U, immediately west of the Visitor Centre (now under reconstruction) and the shuttle bus will pick you up at 1:15 pm and drop you off right in front of the Brodie Centre on the Bannatyne Campus. After the Reception the bus 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 plan to take the bus, kindly inform Linda Lassman when you RSVP.

The Fall President’s Reception for Retirees is scheduled for October 17, 2009. Mark your calendars now.
New Soccer Complex links U of M to city

It was a cool day in November when the new Winnipeg Indoor Soccer Complex officially opened its doors, but, of course, it was plenty warm inside. The new multiplex cost $12.5 million to construct. It was built at the University of Manitoba’s Fort Garry campus with funding from all three levels of government, as well as $500,000 from the Winnipeg Soccer Federation.

The new facility is owned by the University of Manitoba and leased to the Winnipeg Soccer Federation (WSF).

For the University of Manitoba, the new building provides a new opportunity to route some of its sports programming indoors. But just as significantly, it provides the university with a chance to build bridges into the amateur sports community.

With this new complex, Winnipeg is among only a handful of Canadian cities that have an indoor soccer facility that operates throughout the year.

The full article is available online at www.umanitoba.ca/bulletin, January 15, 2009.

Asper signs letter of intent to build stadium at U of M

Construction of a new stadium and multi-sport complex took a tangible step forward at the Homecoming football game on Saturday following the announcement that a letter of intent (LOI) has been inked between Creswin Properties Ltd. (David Asper, Chair) and the University of Manitoba, designating a site at the intersection of Chancellor Matheson Drive and University Crescent for development.

The LOI allows planning to proceed and features a commitment to construct a trio of world-class athletic and active living venues, including a new home for the Blue Bombers and the Bisons. It is supported by a term sheet, signed by the city and subject to council approval, which will enable Creswin to purchase and convert the current stadium site into a strong economic engine for the athletic complex. Building on the strengths of the Max Bell Centre, Investors Group Athletic Centre and new indoor soccer complex, the development will enhance the university’s reputation as a year-round sport and community recreation destination and position it as a leader in active living across Canada.

Asper said, “Given the priorities of both our federal and provincial governments, these facilities will provide endless opportunities for Manitobans to integrate physical activity into their daily lives.”

President David Barnard said the world-class complex will benefit the institution and community in many different ways.

“Our mandate is to serve our community as a multifaceted resource,” Barnard said. “This development will be transformational in terms of significantly expanding public access to our main campus. It will also allow us to maximize potential synergies between our football, sport, active living and other related programs.”

Barnard said a long-term land lease was offered to Creswin to enhance the institution’s role in the community as a leader in athletics and active living. To that end, a university review committee has been formed to advance discussions and prepare a recommendation to ultimately present to the Board of Governors for review and approval. The complex would be built with no cost to the university.

Key components of the 25-acre development, located in the designated sports precinct, include:

- Premium Stadium, including an Amateur Sport ‘Bubble’ & Bomber/Bison Elite Training Centre, 30,000 spacious seats (expandable to 45,000), 25 foot deep in-ground bowl, Blue Bomber Hall of Fame, a new 700 stall parkade, ‘fan-tram’ to connect to 7,000 existing parking spaces, plus on-site food service, restaurant and sports lounge facilities.
- Ground-up renovation of University Stadium – preservation of track and field oval, installation of seasonal ‘bubble’ and refurbishment of seating, washrooms and lockers.
- World-class Fitness Centre – a new fitness facility to replace the ‘Gritty Grotto.’

The full article is available online at www.umanitoba.ca/bulletin, September 18, 2008.
An Overview of the Centre on Aging

The Centre on Aging (COA) was established in 1982. Dr. Verena Menec has been COA’s Director since 2004, following in the footsteps of Dr. Laurel Strain and, before her, Dr. Neena Chappell. COA is a university-wide research centre, whose Director reports directly to the Vice President (Research). COA’s mission is to conduct, stimulate and promote research on aging, provide an interdisciplinary focus for the research activities in the area of aging at the universities in Manitoba and support the teaching of students in the area of aging. COA also serves as the focal point for the integration and dissemination of research on aging in Manitoba.

There are currently 55 faculty members from 19 different departments who are formally linked to COA as Research Affiliates. More information about the Research Affiliates, their research and home departments may be found at http://umanitoba.ca/centres/aging.

Among the major activities of COA is an annual Spring Research Symposium that brings together researchers and community representatives; a newsletter published three times a year; scholarships for students, a fellowship for faculty members and support of research conducted by its Research Affiliates.

Discontinuance of dial-in modem services

As you may already be aware, the University of Manitoba will be discontinuing their modem dial-in service as of April 1, 2009. This means that you will need a commercial internet provider such as MTS, Shaw or Rogers. Although this new service provider may offer you a new e-mail address with them, you can also retain your University of Manitoba e-mail address. However, to retain your University of Manitoba e-mail address, some settings may need to be revised. For assistance in making such changes, call the IST (Information Services & Technology) Support Desk at 474-8600.

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@cc.umanitoba.ca
Website: www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees/

Submissions to Retirees’ News:

All Retirees are invited to submit articles or announcements by email for inclusion in the next Retirees’ News at: retirees@cc.umanitoba.ca

Deadlines for submission of articles to Retirees’ News:

July 15 for September newsletter
January 15 for March newsletter
UMRA Website

“In Memoriam” is a new section on our Website to recognize retirees’ lives. It will appear in the list on the left side of the UMRA Homepage. When you click on “In Memoriam”, a list of deceased University of Manitoba retirees with a short description of where each person worked at the university will appear. By clicking on a name, you will be linked to a PDF file containing the full published obituary. To assist the volunteer who will be scanning the local obituaries, retirees are asked to notify UMRA of the deaths of other retirees by telephone at 474-7175 or by email: retirees@cc.umanitoba.ca

On September 14, 2008, Dr. D. Ralph Campbell, President of the University of Manitoba 1976-81, was posthumously inducted into the Quinte Agriculture Wall of Fame at the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage, Stirling, Ontario. The Wall of Fame recognizes individuals in the Quinte area who have made an outstanding contribution to the agriculture and food industry at the local, provincial or national level.

UMRA Membership Committee

In September, 2008, a survey was included with the AGM materials asking members for feedback relative to the purposes of the Membership Committee.

Archie Cooper, Chair, Membership Committee, reports the following results from the survey.

Forty members responded to the survey - thank you! The results from the question about health and dental benefit plans generated the majority of the responses, a summary of which shows that there is concern about health benefits ending at age 75 (considered too early), that the maximum for the annual dental benefit is felt to be too low, too few prescription drugs are covered (drug formularies vary across provinces), and there should be international travel health insurance. We also received some excellent ideas for events, educational and social, that will be helpful to the Membership Committee. We are always open to suggestions for events or programs and we welcome new members. You can contact the Membership Committee by email: retirees@cc.umanitoba.ca or jcooper@cc.umanitoba.ca.

We also welcome new members. An application form can be printed from our website at www.umanitoba.ca/outreach.

U of M Retirees 2008 United Way Campaign Report

Congratulations to U of M Retirees for pledging $93,277 to the 2008 United Way Campaign, which generously surpassed the Retirees’ goal of $77,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the United Way Drive which supports community development projects in the City of Winnipeg. The retirees’ contributions represented 21% of the U of M campaign pledges of $437,000. UMRA United Way co-chairs, Irv Gusdal and Brian Macpherson, also thank Rudy Schilling and Steve Stothers for their help with the retirees’ campaign.

Staff Benefits Corner

Changing your address?

This is a reminder to all retirees to advise the Staff Benefits Office of any change in address or family status. If you currently receive monthly payments, such as a Post Retirement Adjustment payment or a monthly annuity payment from the University, or have Retiree Supplementary Health, Dental or Optional Life Insurance benefits, please report changes to the Staff Benefits Office directly at 474-7428 or email: SB-Webmaster@ms.umanitoba.ca

Special Rates on Group Home Insurance

CURAC, the College and University Retiree Association of Canada, is introducing to all members special rates on Group Home Insurance and Group Automobile Insurance through The Waterloo Insurance Company. Call the Waterloo Insurance Sales and Service Centre at 1-866-247-7700 for a no obligation quote or visit the CURAC website at http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/news/InsuranceOffer.html

AHED-UPSED

In the October 08 Retirees’ News the Academics for Higher Education and Development/Universitaires pour l’éducation superieure et le développement, AHED-UPSED, was introduced to you as a new NGO with the mission of supporting developing countries in building capacity in higher education. It proposes to fulfill its mission by sending college and university academics, both retired and active, as volunteers on projects in the developing world. Check out the opportunities to participate at their website www.ahed-upesed.org.