

Bringing Research to LIFE

Upcoming Events

Café Scientifique

Drug Discovery: The 21st Century Petri Dish

The many life-saving drugs that appear on our drug store shelves and that are prescribed by physicians every day to treat diseases and infections all had their start in a research laboratory. In the 21st century, the demand for new antibiotics and anticancer drugs is an urgent focus, given antibiotic resistance and the need to tailor our fight against diseases. Come join our experts as they share the challenges and rewards of their current drug discovery research and the implications for health care these drugs hold.

Experts:

Dr. Donald Miller

Dr. Frank Schweizer

Dr. John Sorensen

Dr. George Zhanel

Moderator:

Dr. Albert Friesen

Feb. 25, 2013 – 7 pm

McNally Robinson Booksellers
1120 Grant Ave., Event Atrium

RSVP to:

Research_Communications@
umanitoba.ca or 204-474-6689

Three Minute Thesis Competition Final

Hear our innovative, trailblazing graduate students explain—in three minutes or less—their research. Challenging? You bet it is. It takes years for a thesis to be researched and finalized, never mind synthesizing it down to a mere three minutes (and using only one slide/visual) to get the information across to a layperson audience. The competitors will be evaluated by our panel of judges, with the audience voting for their favourite for the People's Choice winner. 3, 2, 1... GO!

March 6, 2013
7 pm – 9 pm

Robert B. Schultz Theatre
St. John's College
Fort Garry Campus

Making a case for public knowledge Renowned public historian to speak at the U of M



Submitted Photo

Ronald Rudin, a Concordia University history professor, will be at the Fort Garry campus Feb. 28. for one of this year's Trudeau Lectures.

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS
For The Bulletin

Taxpayers often foot the bill for research yet findings are rarely made available to the public. Historian Ronald Rudin says this needs to change.

The Concordia University professor—who is speaking at a free public lecture at the U of M this month—is calling for researchers to make their findings more accessible. He insists the process of publishing in academic journals is flawed.

“Taxpayers typically provide the funds that allow researchers to create knowledge. Yet the resulting journal articles end up being distributed by for-profit corporations that do not compensate researchers, either as authors or as peer reviewers. These corporations then sell these electronic journals to university libraries, requiring them to restrict access to students and faculty and leaving taxpayers out in the cold,” says Rudin.

A growing number of historians are putting on their creative caps and thinking of new ways to share their work with the world. Rudin, who has produced two documentaries, says he has no film background nor is he particularly technology-savvy. But he is among the academics now using digital technology to their advantage given how affordable and accessible it has become.

“If you take the technology that does exist, it's not impossible to be able to tell these stories to a larger public instead of only writing books to each other,”

says Rudin, whose research deals with the economic, social, intellectual and cultural history of French Canada.

He is coming to the U of M to give one of this year's Trudeau Lectures, a nationwide speaker series created by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Rudin is a 2011 fellow of the non-partisan foundation, which was established more than a decade ago as a living memorial to the former prime minister. The foundation supports individuals who tackle critical issues in the humanities and social sciences by funding scholarships, fellowships, mentorships and programs aimed at engaging the public. Different fellows speak at universities across the country; this is the first time one of the Trudeau Lectures is coming to the U of M.

Rudin plans to talk about open-access issues—he advocates for free, online journals—and how digital media changed his perspective about knowledge sharing. Right now Rudin is working on a TV show pilot, funded by the foundation. Each episode will educate viewers about a little known piece of Canadian history that unfolded in a specific location. During the 22 minutes, an artist will create a geographical marker to leave behind. Not only will viewers learn about important events of the past but they'll gain a better understanding about the subjective nature of history, Rudin says. The artist's creative license also speaks to the degree of interpretation involved.

“The viewers will get to see the process of what's involved when you try

to tell stories about the past,” he says.

An author of six books, Rudin is fascinated by how people come to understand the past. His book *Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie: A Historian's Journey through Public Memory* won the 2010 book award of the National (U.S.) Council on Public History and the inaugural public history prize of the Canadian Historical Association in 2011. The related documentary film *Life After Île Ste-Croix* was distributed by the National Film Board of Canada. The film looks at how people use the past to improve their lives today. He shared the stories behind commemorative events on Île Ste-Croix—a tiny island between Canada and the United States—that brought together three cultures: Acadians celebrating 400 years of Francophone culture, Anglophones promoting a tourist destination, and the Passamaquoddy First Nation demanding recognition and rights from the federal government.

He also produced *Remembering a Memory/Mémoire d'un souvenir*, a documentary that shows us how stories change over time. Rudin explored the tales surrounding a Celtic cross monument on Grosse-Île, Que., that marks the site of the largest cemetery connected to the potato famine of the 1840s, outside of Ireland. (Visit rememberingmemory.concordia.ca)

Rudin will speak Feb. 28 at the Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre, St. John's College. The event begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7:00 p.m.