Thank you for another successful year!

Dear Career Mentors,

Thank you for contributing to another successful session for the Career Mentor Program (CMP)! After such a long winter, we are very happy to be starting our spring and summer break. The CMP will resume in September 2014. The 2013/14 year was a busy one at Career Services and the University of Manitoba. The campus is now home to a new football stadium and many new construction projects are underway. In March the Career Mentor Program, as part of Career Services, welcomed a new director, Gail Langlais. Gail brings to her new role over 20 years’ experience in the field of career development working with a broad range of client groups. She’s held positions with the provincial government and various social services agencies. With the creation of this position, Career Services will increase partnerships and broaden our support to students to maximize their academic experience and connections to meaningful work-life experiences.

This past year, the CMP assisted more than 250 students. The most explored occupations were: Occupational Therapist, Respiratory Therapist, Physician and Psychologist. The program also welcomed 67 new mentor participants in Health Care, Social Services, Business and the Environmental Sector. In addition to your amazing support, the program could not have succeeded this year without CMP Assistant/student coordinator, Khrystyna Lazar. Khrystyna is completing a B.A. in Psychology at the University of Manitoba; she joined the Career Services team in September. Her friendly disposition and former program participation made her a wonderful asset to the program and a helpful guide for students.

More than anything, we want to thank you for your contributions and let you know how much we value your participation. Thank you for sharing your time, expertise and personal experiences with students. The impact you’ve made is immeasurable!

Have a wonderful summer!
Maureen Penko has been a U of M Career Mentor since 1995, assisting students in their discovery of Speech–Language Pathology (SLP) and in their pursuit of success in the profession. She continues to meet with students each year and enjoys the opportunity to provide a meaningful connection.

During Maureen’s experience as a university student, she loved language, psychology and sciences. She “fell into” the SLP occupation and has “loved it every single minute”. Throughout her career she’s always felt like she has made a difference. For the past 9 years, Maureen has worked with the Pembina Trails School Division, and prior to that provided 20 years of service at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre. In these settings, as well as in her private practice, she loves the diversity and creativity of this helping profession. As an SLP, she helps individuals open doors for themselves: “If you do not have the power of communication, it influences your everyday being, career, social life and your ability to learn could be impeded”. Highlighting the full scope of the profession is also a part of her mentorship to students, “SLPs deal with assessment, prevention and intervention, of a variety of speech and language impairments from preschoolers to geriatrics. We can work in a variety of settings and are an integral part of a medical, educational or research team”.

A leader in her field, Maureen received the Eve Kassirer Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement last year from the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

**MENTOR MOMENTS**

Students’ reviews:

- “I just want to thank you for this awesome opportunity to find out if what we want is what we want. I feel like this service will help so many students make better degree choices... this is just such a great service!”

- “The matching was appropriate and went beyond my expectations. I didn't expect my mentor to have the same degree that I am working towards.”

- “What influenced me most was that she really loves her job and feels like she makes a difference every day.”

- “It was very helpful, because it gave me a better sense of what the job is actually like.”

- “The most helpful aspect for me was the advice not to lose ambition despite the competitive admissions.”

- “My mentor was very helpful in answering my questions as well as providing me with information I was unaware of.”

**Mentor Comment:**

“I think that this is the most worthwhile undertaking, as it provides students with an insight into a career that they are contemplating by someone who has real life experience in that vocation. There are always aspects of a job that are not evident until you are actually in the position - things that may impact your ability to perform - i.e. tight timelines, long hours, travel, public/political/media pressure etc. By speaking to someone who has experienced the job as a whole, the student can gain a more balanced perspective, which will (hopefully) aid them in selecting the right career choice.”