

A COLLEGE CHRISTMAS

On Thursday, December 3, 2009, the AMA held its annual holiday festivities. This year, the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections played host to "A College Christmas". The Archives wanted to replicate a few of the winter recreational activities experienced by a University of Manitoba student in residence during the first half of the twentieth century. The logistics of an outdoor skate or hockey game on campus proved to be impossible, but another suitable option presented itself. The

AMA received permission to play a game of floor hockey in the historic East Gymnasium of Taché Hall. This gym was once the women's



gymnasium, when East and West Taché were divided by gender. Today, the gym continues to be used by residents but it has also gained attention from movie buffs since standing in as a ballroom in the Richard Gere - Jennifer Lopez film *Shall We Dance*. The gym is scheduled for demolition in 2011 as part of the university's Project Domino, where the residence will be converted into the new home for the Faculty of Music and School of Art. This game was likely the last non-residence event that will be held in the gymnasium as permission to use the venue is given sparingly.

A good crowd came out to witness this historic hockey game. In addition to the 12 archivists who participated, a handful of



spectators gathered on the gymnasium balcony to cheer on the teams. At half time, a few of those spectators performed an old-fashioned college yell. The game was very competitive and a good time was had by all. When I think back on that

evening, it is the camaraderie and gamesmanship that I will remember, not the score (OK, my team lost). Following the game, everybody returned to Archives & Special Collections and joined a few latecomers for an old-fashioned college dinner. After dinner, the AMA presented Elizabeth Blight with an honorary membership in recognition of her service and leadership in the Association and to the development of Manitoba's archival community.



Elizabeth Blight accepts honorary membership award

Later, the crowd was treated to two films from the Archives' holdings depicting Santa Claus parades in Toronto and Winnipeg. A slideshow featuring scanned images of campus winter scenes from the Archives' photograph collection was on display throughout the night.

For those of you who missed the event, or for those of you who want to relive past glories/shame, the hockey game was recorded by videographer Stéphane Oystryk. The film will be launched at an upcoming AMA Institutional Forum. Eventually Stéphane's short film will be available on the Archives' YouTube channel, UMA-TV, at www.youtube.com/umarchives, where you can currently view the Winnipeg 1948 Santa Claus parade.

Brett Lougheed

