

Top player joins soccer team, athletes compete in Turkey

BY CHRIS ZUK

Bison Sports Information Officer

The Manitoba Bison women's soccer team prepares for its inaugural Canada West season by announcing a major new recruit for the 2005-06 team from the Winnipeg area. Bisons head coach Walt McKee welcomed Desiree Scott to the Bison program for the upcoming season.

From West Kildonan Collegiate, Scott recently completed a tour with the national under-20 women's team in Mexico. In the triangular tournament, Canada's Women's Under-20 Development team defeated USA 2-1 on July 16, beat Mexico 2-0 on July 13 and lost 2-0 to Mexico on July 12 while Scott played in all three matches.

The midfield/forward has been part of the National Training Centre as a prairie participant from 2001-05. The Winnipeg native has been a member of the national team playing for the under-17, under-18 and now under-20 teams since the 2003 season.

The 18-year-old (turns 19 at end of the month) has accumulated several awards and honours throughout her young career. She was West Kildonan High School Athlete of the Year, played with Calgary Wildfire in United Soccer Leagues W-League in 2004, recognized

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high performance athlete with Sport Manitoba and will be a member of 2005 Canada Summer Games squad.

McKee welcomed Scott to the Bison team. "Desiree, as a player, has good leadership qualities. She is very coachable, tenacious when she plays and can score goals. Her technique levels are good and her explosive pace is a strong asset. She has the potential to be an immediate impact player for our University of Manitoba women's soccer program."

THREE BISONS NAMED TO CANADA'S 2005 SUMMER UNIVERSIADE TEAM

Bison Kristjan Hunter, Darolyn Trembath and Toon van Lankvelt represented Canada at the 2005 Summer Universiade (World Student University Games) in Izmir, Turkey Aug. 11-21.

Hunter, 20, ran in the 3000m steeplechase and 5000m while Trembath, 23, participated in the 1500m. Former Bison Clifford Caines was in the decathlon.

Bison head coach Claude Berube

was also in attendance in Izmir as a Team Canada coach responsible for the middle and long distance running throughout the event.

Berube commented, "It is a great accomplishment for both athletes to make the Universiade team. Their hard work during the summer has been rewarded with the selection on this prestigious team."

Toon was named to the 12 person men's volleyball that played five countries (Bulgaria, Switzerland, Turkey, Russia and Iran) starting on August 11.

The Rivers, Manitoba native has had a hectic summer as he was involved with the National Men's A-2 Team roster of 16 players that toured Poland on a 10 day tour during June.

Bison head coach Garth Pischke commented, "Toon gained additional experience playing in Turkey. He will play against some of the best competition at the university level from across the world and this will further enhance his skills for the coming season."

FOUR KEY RECRUITS COMMIT TO BISON MEN'S VOLLEYBALL FOR 05-06 SEASON

The Manitoba Bison men's volleyball team announced four key recruits for the 2005-06 season. The team seeks to improve on their third place showing at last year's CIS championships. Two players are from B.C. and two are from Manitoba. Bisons head coach Garth

Pischke announced the commitment of Drew Venables, Chris Wowchuk, Jeff Barth, and Matthew Friesen to the Bison program for the coming season.

FIVE JUNIOR PLAYERS JOIN BISON MEN'S HOCKEY FOR 05-06 SEASON

The Manitoba Bison men's hockey team has begun its quest for the University Cup in the 2005-06 season by announcing five new recruits - two from the Anavet Cup champion Portage Terriers, one from Royal Bank Champion Weyburn Red Wings, one from the BCHL and one from the SJHL. Bisons head coach Mike Sirant announced the commitment of Steve Haddon, Kip Workman, Rick Wood, Jon Cara and Kyle Nichols to the Bison program for the coming season.

Haddon and Workman played for the 2005 Anavet Cup champion and 04-05 MJHL champion Portage Terriers team. Haddon, 21, is coming off a season where he led the Terriers in scoring (second in the league) with 81 points (36 goals, 45 assists) in 63 regular season games. In the playoffs, he excelled and was awarded the MJHL Playoff MVP. The centreman was also named to the MJHL First Team All-Star Team and was twice named MJHL Player of the Month. Workman, 21, patrolled the blueline and was also named as a MJHL First Team All-Star Team. The Brandon, MB native was first on the team for defenseman scoring with 47 points (9 goals, 38 assists) in 60 regular season games.

ACADEMIC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at www.umanitoba.ca

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for openings at the university.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES

Department of Plant Science

Position: Associate Industrial Research Chair position in High Yield Winter Wheat for Ethanol Feedstock.

Start date: July 1, 2006

Application deadline: Sept. 5

Position number: LZ378

For information: Dr. Murray Ballance, head, department of plant science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, phone 474 6086, fax 474 7528, e-mail: Murray_Ballance@UManitoba.ca

Department of Biosystems Engineering

Position: Associate Industrial Research Chair in Bioengineering for Bio-Fuels Production

Start date: July 1, 2006

Application deadline: Sept. 5

Position number: LZ380

For information: Dr. Qiang Zhang, professor and head, department of biosystems engineering, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V6, phone 474 9819, fax 474 7512, e-mail zhang@cc.umanitoba.ca

I.H. ASPER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Department of Marketing

Position: Assistant or associate professor in entrepreneurship and small business

Start date: July 1, 2006

Salary: Salary is competitive and will depend on qualifications, experience, and research record

Application deadline: Sept. 18

Position number: ALH 421

For information: Dr. Walter Good, head, department of marketing, I.H. Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5V4, phone 474 8852, fax 474 7545, e-mail wgood@ms.umanitoba.ca

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Community Health Sciences

Position: Assistant professor intended to strengthen the department's research focus in environmental health risk perception research and education

Start date: Jan 1, 2006

Application deadline: Oct. 8

Position number: 02058

For information: Department head, department of community health sciences, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Manitoba, 750 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 0W3.

Department of Pediatrics and Child Health

Position: Assistant professor

Start date: July, 2006

Application deadline: Sept. 20

Position number: MB744

For information: Dr Malcolm Ogborn, c/o Shannon McAteer, JBRC 513 - 715 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3P4, phone 789 3968, fax 789 3915, e-mail smateer@mich.ca

Grad calendar gets trimmed

University of Manitoba

Senate

IN MEMORY

Senate approved a series of course deletions from the graduate student calendar. The Faculty of Arts shed 42 graduate courses, a change that was not expected to impact staffing because the courses in question had not been offered for some time. The I.H. Asper School gained one and lost one and the department of occupational therapy in the School of Medical Rehabilitation deleted eight courses and added four new ones.

One of the benefits of cleaning up the graduate calendar is that it will lighten the workload of programmers converting the calendar for use in the new student information system.

Senate paid respect at its regular meeting on June 29 to three members of the university community. **Ruben Carl Bellan**, honorary fellow of St. John's College and professor emeritus of economics at the University of Manitoba was born in 1918 and died April 17, 2005. **Diane Mary Dowling**, senior scholar, department of mathematics, died April 29, 2005. **Diane MacArthur**, senior instructor, department of zoology died Nov. 21, 2004 at age 55.

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Bulletin welcomes Classified Ads. The rate for ads is \$5 for the first 45 words.

OSBORNE VILLAGE CONDO RENTAL: Executive, one-bedroom, two-storey, loft-style condo; six appliances; hardwood floors throughout; balcony; air conditioner; one indoor parking space; central to everything; available mid-August; \$850 monthly, plus utilities. References required. 269-8346 or 290-0025.

LOVELY NORTH RIVER HEIGHTS 2 bedroom character bungalow 1000 sq. ft; new bath; newly refinished hardwood floors; vegetable/flower/herb garden single car garage with extra outdoor parking; 1/2 block from Academy Shops; 15 minutes from University, phone 488-9125, Shari Campbell, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba, campbel4@cc.umanitoba.ca

FLASHY NEW HOODS

Senate approved hood colours for the new bachelor of science in physical geography degree and the master of environment degree. The lining for the hood of the bachelor's degree will include the traditional yellow gold of all bachelor of science hoods, along with a green braid inset with a blue braid. The master's degree hood will include a forest green lining with a 10.2 cm wide chevron of blue in the centre of the lining and a thin copper coloured braid near the top edge of the chevron.

EXTENDED TERM

Medical rehabilitation professor Juliette Cooper's term on Senate might be up, but she will complete her term as Senate representative on the Board of Governors, which is not set to expire until May 31, 2006. Senate members voted on June 29 to grant Cooper standing as a member-at-large on Senate so that she could complete her term on the Board.



RESEARCH NEWS

Comments, submissions and event listings to: stefania@ms.umanitoba.ca
Phone: (204) 474-9020
Fax: (204) 261-3475

Improving distance education for nursing students

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

A research project in the Faculty of Nursing is changing the way distance education is delivered to Aboriginal nursing students in northern Manitoba. Now in its third year, the study was designed to identify factors that contribute to the lower success rate of Aboriginal students enrolled in the Faculty's distance baccalaureate program.

"We launched a fairly aggressive distance education program in 2000," said the study's principal investigator, Dean Care, associate dean in the Faculty of Nursing. "What we were finding, though, was that Aboriginal students were not being as successful in their studies as the general student population. We wanted to know if the distance delivery itself was a contributing factor to the higher attrition, and what we could do to improve the situation."

The project began in 2003, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and runs until 2006. In addition to Care, the team includes David Gregory and David Hultin of the Faculty of Nursing; Mary Courtenay, former coordinator of the Faculty's site in Norway House; and Cynthia Russell, associate dean of distributed learning

at the University of Tennessee Health Science Centre.

The first stage of the project involved extensive individual and focus-group interviews with Aboriginal students, as well as interviews with faculty members teaching distance education courses. Even before all of the interviews were completed, researchers were seeing some significant trends in the things that students identified as barriers to successful long-distance learning.

"Distance education is really a culture in itself, and we're finding that this culture is clashing with the cultural context that Aboriginal students function in," Care said. "For example, in Aboriginal culture, face-to-face interaction is very important, and without that, many distance students feel disconnected from the university and their professors."

In response to the student interviews, the Faculty of Nursing has already increased the number of times professors visit the northern sites in Thompson, The Pas and Norway House during the year.

"There's a cost involved, but we really think it's a good investment if it



Photo by: Bob Talbot

Dean Care, David Hultin and David Gregory, Faculty of Nursing.

will help Aboriginal students stay in the program," Care said.

Researchers have also identified which distance education technology is preferred by Aboriginal students.

"Even though video conferencing is more immediate and more visual, we found that Aboriginal students often feel intimidated with the technology, and

they are less likely to ask questions," Care said. "They prefer Web-based delivery, which is more flexible and gives them more time to collect their thoughts when communicating with professors. We're going to move more in that direction, and we're going to begin implementing some of our other findings even before they are formally published. We simply can't wait."

Working on a vaccine for a deadly parasitic disease

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

Leishmaniasis is a chronic and debilitating disease that currently affects more than 12 million people in 88 countries. Caused by an intracellular parasite transmitted by sand flies, cutaneous leishmaniasis produces skin lesions, and in some cases it can be fatal.

"This disease has been getting a lot of attention recently because of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, where it is very wide-spread," said parasite immunologist Jude Uzonna. "American soldiers have been coming down with leishmaniasis after they return home."

The returning soldiers have access to an effective intravenous drug therapy, but this treatment is very expensive. It is not an option in the poor countries where the disease is endemic.

"In developing countries, they treat the disease by injecting a drug directly into the skin lesions," Uzonna said. "This is quite effective, but the drug itself is very toxic and often kills five to ten per cent of the patients. One of the easiest and cheapest ways to fight disease is through vaccination, so that is what we're working on."

In 2004, Uzonna received an operating grant of \$282,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to investigate the mechanisms of protective immunity against the disease. In 2005, CIHR also awarded him a salary grant of \$250,000 over five years. Uzonna's work has received additional funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation, the Manitoba Health Research Council, and the Dr. Paul H.T. Thorlakson Foundation Fund.

Using mice, Uzonna was the first researcher to show that the live parasite must remain in body cells in order to maintain immunity to leishmaniasis.

"We work with two strains of mice that have very similar immune responses to those we see in humans," he said. "The first type of mouse will respond to the parasite by developing minor lesions and healing. The second type of mouse has a weaker immune system, and it will develop very bad lesions and die."

Uzonna is working with a genetically modified version of the parasite that is

able to induce immunity without causing the disease, even in the mice with weaker immune systems.

"This engineered parasite induces very strong immune response. Even when you challenge this immunity with the virulent parasite, the mice remain immune to the disease," he said.

These results are very promising, but Uzonna stresses that there is still a lot of work to be done. He needs to understand how the engineered parasite can persist, and how the mouse's immune system is not destroying it, when it is able to destroy the virulent parasite.

"There is also evidence that suggests this immunity is quite different from the immunity induced by the virulent parasite,"



Photo by Frank Nolan

Jude Uzonna, immunology, is working to develop a vaccine against leishmaniasis.

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