

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: April 22, 2014

GENERAL

Nearly 60 university presidents participated in the spring membership meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, held in Winnipeg- in part at the University of Manitoba - April 8-9. Discussions focused on how best to ensure graduates' readiness for an increasingly complex and dynamic world, how universities and their graduates can contribute to a diverse, integrated and globally-connected Canada, and the role of universities in preparing students for Canada's changing economy. The membership meetings also included a keynote address from National Chief Atleo regarding the collaboration between universities and First Nations communities and efforts by universities to enhance access and support success for Aboriginal students, and an address by Paul Soubry, president and CEO of New Flyer, about the skills Canada's employers need and the role of universities in driving Canadian and global innovation.

As part of the Public Policy Forum's 2013-14 Lecture Series, the University of Manitoba hosted a public lecture by Mary Simon, Chairperson of the National Committee on Inuit Education, past President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Canada's first Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, about "Fulfilling National Arctic Interests and Obligations through Education". Ms. Simon's address focused on why the future of Canada's North and our overall economic prosperity lies in education. While at the University, Ms. Simon also offered a seminar for a group of graduate students focused on the concept of education as a form of reconciliation.

The U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities, of which the University of Manitoba is a member, has accepted an invitation to join the Global Network, the pre-eminent international network of leading research universities comprising the Association of American Universities (AAU), League of European Research Universities (LERU), The Russell Group, the China 9 and the Australian Group of Eight. The network was formed to collaborate to respond to challenges facing universities around the world.

Consultations continued throughout the month of March to solicit feedback from the University of Manitoba community as part of the process to update the Strategic Planning Framework for the University. As part of this process, the first ever Alumni Forum was held on March 10th and featured a facilitated discussion hosted by Sandra Woloschuk of Learning & Development services. Participants offered thoughtful and impassioned feedback on the Strategic Direction for the University of Manitoba. Over 60 alumni attend and everyone seemed to be genuinely engaged in the process. We received very positive response both during and after the event.

'Dream Big' was held during the week of March 10th and hosted events including a presentation on (Unidentified Flying Objects) UFOs, artwork interpreting Hubble Telescope images in the Gallery of Student Art, a panel on careers in space, and culminated with the public lecture by Knight Distinguished Visitor Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. Dr. Tyson was introduced by General (Retired) Walter Natynczyk, president of the Canadian Space Agency, in front of a capacity crowd of 3,500 at the Investors Group Athletic Centre. The 'Dream Big' week also included the ninth annual Emerging Leaders Dinner on March 13th, 2014, at which 78 students were acknowledged. Students were represented from all faculties, all three Winnipeg campuses, both undergraduate and graduate levels of study, including international, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Since approval by the Board of Governors of the proposal to create a new Faculty of Health Sciences, transition and implementation work has begun in earnest. This work is guided and supported by an Implementation Steering Committee and the Council of Health Sciences Deans. Nine sub-committees have been struck including: Students /Student Support Services; Human Resources/Finance; Communications; Governance; Indigenous Health; Academic Affairs; Faculty Development; Inter-professional Education; and Research/Graduate Studies. These sub-committees include faculty and support staff representatives from each unit, with other University of Manitoba personnel providing additional support. A new Faculty of Health Sciences website has been created that will provide up-to-date information on transition progress.
- Team Asper MBA (Northern Consulting), comprised of Judy Jayasuriya, Mark Taylor, Brad Tole and Samantha Wong, finished first overall at the National Strategy Consulting Competition (NSCC) which provides a comprehensive opportunity for students across Canada and the United States to learn about strategy consulting and to network with top industry professionals. This event took place February 27th to March 1st and included teams from the University of British Columbia (Sauder School), University of Washington (Foster), University of Alberta, University of Toronto (Rotman), University of York (Schulich), University of Saskatchewan (Edwards), University of Manitoba (Asper) and Simon Fraser University (Beedie).
- The Spur Festival event *Wine & Words* was held on March 20th at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The event celebrated the written works of Canadian musicians, playwrights, poets, authors and storytellers by having local actors and celebrities present dramatized readings of never-before-published works of local authors to help fundraise for the company's season. Several Faculty of Arts' students (John Stintzi, Jeremy Strong), faculty (David Annandale, Alison Calder), as well as Christine Fellows (musician and recent songwriter-in-residence), Guy Maddin (award-winning filmmaker and distinguished filmmaker-in-residence) and Louise Wallwein (writer-in-residence) participated.
- The Asper School's Reg Litz Teaching Day was held on March 21st to celebrate and advance teaching, whilst honouring one of the Asper School's most accomplished teachers. Twelve experts shared their teaching ideas and strategies to enable faculty to become better teachers and enhance student learning.
- The Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry held their first successful Oral Health Day on February 7th with a remarkable mix of dental and medical care providers. The event attracted more than 200 healthcare providers for a day of lectures, discussions and hands-on workshops focusing on the primary role of oral health in interprofessional healthcare design and delivery. The one-day event was the first of its kind worldwide and marked what could be the beginning of a new era of interprofessional healthcare delivery in this country.
- The Faculty of Education hosted an event with the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to offer a Teacher Leadership and Human Rights Education summer institute.

- Let's Talk Science (LTS) hosted 32 outreach activities over Spring Break which included two science fairs; a rural outreach to a Hutterite colony near Gladstone, MB; participation in the University's Info. Days; the first workshop taught at a Chinese School and 26 classroom workshops. As well, the team facilitated workshops in Thompson, MB to over 1000 students in elementary schools, high schools and a Boys and Girls Club. LTS partnered with the Children's Museum to provide a 5-week program for children grades 4-6 that focused on Robotics. The 17 children learned about computer science and how it is used in programming robots. Four rural outreach and one Aboriginal reserve visit reached out to 784 students in Shoal Lake, Crystal City, Sagkeeng Reserve, Boissevain and Minto.
- This year mark the 30th anniversary of the Northern Social Work Program in Thompson, MB and a day of celebration was held on March 14th.
- The University of Manitoba won 'Best Overall Booth' at the 2014 Rotary Career Symposium which took place March 18th and 19th at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.
- Alternative Reading Week Winnipeg saw 26 students go into our community and engage with local agencies during the week of February 17th. Three international Alternative Reading Week programs were also held in El Salvador (seven students), Nicaragua (seven students) and Belize (four students). There were 10 student participants in 2011 compared to 44 in 2014.

RESEARCH MATTERS

- Twelve research projects received support from various sources totaling \$375,240. The projects with more than \$25,000 in support are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Brown, Daniel (Human Nutritional Sciences)	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Lingonberry: Characterization and preserving an emerging bioresource for Canada	\$51,000
Freund, Michael (Chemistry)	Mitacs Inc.	Fabrication, characterization and modeling of novel CMOS-compatible polymer-based redox memory structures	\$47,500
Jayas , Digvir (Biosystems Engineering)	Engage Grant	Stored-gain monitoring solutions	\$25,000
Markham, John (Biological Sciences)	Manitoba Hydro	Sustainable biofuel production	\$30,000
Myrie, Semone (Human Nutritional Sciences)	Oregon Health & Science University	Stair training	\$43,848
Renault, Sylvie (Biological Sciences)	Manitoba Hydro	Physiological responses of trees for managed relocation in Manitoba	\$30,000

Tallman, Ross (Biological Sciences)	Nunavut Offshore Allocations Holder Association	Science for inshore fishery development of Arctic char	\$30,000
Ursel, Jane (RESOLVE (Research & Education for Solutions to Violence))	University of Western Ontario	Experiences of Aboriginal foster parents with children in the fetal alcohol spectrum	\$25,000
Wu, Christine (Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering)	Engage Grant	Development of effective accelerated durability tests for windrowers	\$25,000

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The University has entered into a ten year contract with **ARAMARK Higher Education** to be its food service provider. The contract is effective April 1st, 2014. ARAMARK will be investing millions of dollars into new food concepts and capital improvements, as well as introducing new initiatives in sustainability practice, healthy eating and easily accessible nutritional content.
- Sustainability Office and the Faculty of Architecture hosted an international panel and interactive workshop as part of the **World Winter Cycling Congress** on February 14th. More than fifty students and faculty members, representing many academic streams, collaborated with world-level experts on cold climate active transportation to develop winter cycling tactics for the University; results will be shared into the Visionary Regeneration process and will inform future sustainability initiatives.
- In recognition of the Energy Efficient Lighting installed in the controlled environment facilities of Plant Science, the University of Manitoba recently received a **Power Smart Commercial Lighting Program** incentive cheque of \$187,342.00. The University's participation in a Power Smart for Business program earns the business recognition as an Efficiency Partner.
- **UNIFOR(CAW) Negotiations:** The University and the union representing trades, general services, power engineers, food services and caretakers was able to reach a new three year collective agreement. In the first year of the contract, all members of the union will receive at least a 1% increase, while certain occupations also receive a substantial adjustment to make the compensation more competitive. In the second and third years of the contract, all members of the union will receive at least a 1.5% increase, while the trades receive 2% in order to remain competitive. Food services and caretaking positions will also have new "steps", which provide for a starting rate for new employees below the current rates, and current rates becoming the maximum. The new agreement has been ratified by the union membership.

- **CAUT investigation into Architecture:** CAUT has announced an investigation into the Faculty of Architecture. Non-specific allegations have been made regarding violations of academic freedom and interference with the work of researchers and Department Heads. The President has responded and expressed concern about CAUT's lack of standing, indicating that the matters being reviewed fall within the purview of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) to bring forward to the University administration, and indicating it is the University's practice to work directly with UMFA and the Faculty to address issues such as those CAUT has identified.

EXTERNAL MATTERS

- The Marketing Communications Office recently completed the 2014 **Facts and Figures** publication. This annual publication highlights our accomplishments and achievements in a range of areas and speaks to the positive impact of our university and its ability to serve as a vital economic, social and cultural engine in Manitoba.

As a new component this year, a comprehensive and dynamic online version of the publication was created to supplement the printed piece. This online version provides a greater ability to tell the stories in more depth by incorporating videos, additional features and links.

- As of March 28th, 2014 the University has raised \$25,150,494.90. These results exceed the projection of \$17.1M provided by KCI Philanthropy in the campaign plan. These results also exceed last year's funds raised by more than \$5M.
- Significant gifts and activities in the last reporting period include:
 - A gift of \$659,723.69 has been received from the estate of Professor Jean C. Hay. This brings the total amount received to \$667,637.69 which will be directed to the following funds: Isbister Undergraduate Scholarships, Libraries Acquisitions Endowment, Neil John Maclean Library Acquisitions Fund and the Wiciwawin Bursary.
 - The Alumni Association has added to their 2012/1013 contribution of \$750,000 with an additional gift of \$250,000 for a total commitment of \$1,000,000. The Alumni Association has determined that their contribution will be directed to Graduate Student support and the Active Living Centre and has asked that their gift be used as a matching incentive to help leverage gifts from alumni.
 - A gift of \$1,000,000 has been received from Bayer Inc. which will be directed to a Professorship.
 - The Case for Support is in its final stages and will be shared in the very near future.
- John Kearsley, Vice-President (External), met with James Allum, Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, to discuss the University of Manitoba's comprehensive fundraising campaign and provincial government support.
- David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor and John Kearsley, Vice-President (External) attended the Budget Speech: Steady Growth Good Jobs delivered by Minister of Finance, Jennifer Howard, at the Legislature. The President had an opportunity to speak to media and stated his appreciation for the 2.5% increase to operating grants as well as his support for shifting the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE) to the Department of Education and Advanced Learning.

- The fifth Visionary Conversations was held on Wednesday, March 12th, 2014 at St. John's College on the Fort Garry Campus. The title of the conversation was "What Have We Learned from Mandela". The featured panelists were Dr. Diana Brydon, Canada Research Chair in Globalization and Cultural Studies; Dr. Joy Chadya, Assistant Professor, Department of History, and Mr. Ry Moran, Director, National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The event had approximately 150 attendees.
- The University of Manitoba is pleased to announce that Barbara Axworthy has accepted the role of Director, Alumni Relations effective March 27th, 2014. An alumna of the University of Manitoba, Barbara brings to her new role many years' experience in strategic planning, communications, relationship-management and marketing and leadership.
- Tickets for the Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence are now on sale and planning is well under way. The event will be held on Thursday, May 1st at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and will be a night to remember featuring performances by Juno-nominated alumni in honour of our five inspiring award winners.
- Alumni Relations will be hosting a reception in New York to celebrate the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's performance at Carnegie Hall for the 'Spring for Music' event on May 8th.