

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: September 23, 2014

### GENERAL

First day enrolment in September 2014 was the second-highest on record, at 29,015 students. This includes 3,306 graduate students, and an all-time high of 4,237 international students. Several faculties recorded increases in enrolment, including Arts, Dentistry, Engineering, Science, and the Asper School of Business, along with the Colleges of Medicine and Medical Rehabilitation.

Homecoming 2014 featured a wide range of opportunities for the more than 131,000 graduates of the University of Manitoba to celebrate their connections with the University and their classmates. Music, sport, more than 15 reunions, and a dinner and concert featuring performances by the Desautels Faculty of Music were all included in the 2014 events. Notably, the Faculty of Law and the Manitoban both celebrated their 100-year milestone anniversaries.

Over the summer, under the leadership of Dr. Joanne Keselman, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, the Strategic Planning Committee has significantly advanced work on the development of an updated plan. Following a period of extensive consultation in late winter, the Committee has worked to develop a draft plan, which is currently being finalized. It then will be shared with the University and broader communities for input through an online process. It also will be forwarded to the Senate Planning and Priorities Committee, Senate Executive, Senate and our Board of Governors for discussion and input. Feedback resulting from these consultation opportunities will be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee and a final Strategic Planning Framework will then be formally presented to our governing bodies for approval.

The approaching civic election provides an opportunity to consider the breadth of the relationship between the University of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, and the range of important issues being discussed. In recent weeks, President Barnard has met with five of the mayoral candidates to discuss each one's vision for that relationship, and to express the University's commitment to continued collaboration with the City of Winnipeg.

### ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Digvir Jayas, biosystems engineering and vice president (research and international), was presented with the Kishida International Award for outstanding contributions by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers at their annual international meeting in Montreal in July.
- Adele Perry won the Hilda Neatby Prize at the Canadian Historical Association's Annual Meeting for her article entitled *James Douglas, Amelia Connolly, and the Writing of Gender and Women's History*. This prize recognizes the best articles in French and English on women's history each year.
- The Financial Aid and Awards office went live on June 17th with a searchable awards database. The database will provide students with an easy-to-use, comprehensive and central source of information on Senate-approved awards at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels.

- Initiated this year, the youth-in-care grants provide the opportunity for young people who are, or who have been, in the care of Child and Family Services in Manitoba to attend the University of Manitoba. The grants will cover the costs of undergraduate tuition up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years for each recipient. Ten grant recipients have been selected for this inaugural year.
- A new online First Year Planning Guide was launched May 15, 2014 to help ease the transition of students to the University of Manitoba and provide the foundation for academic success. The Guide was developed by the University 1 First Year Centre in collaboration with Marketing Communications Office, advising staff in a number of faculties, the Registrar's Office, Career Services, and the Access program. First year students are led through a step-by-step process of career exploration, program and course selection (including a recommended introductory course list), timetable planning, registration guidance, and a "to-do" First Year Student Checklist.
- English, film and theatre faculty, students and alumni participated in thirteen productions at this year's Winnipeg Fringe Festival held from July 16 to 27.
- The Faculty of Education hosted the 1st Annual Canadian Assessment for Learning Network (CAfLN) conference entitled, *"Assessment for Learning: What Have We Learned? Where Are We Going?"*

## RESEARCH MATTERS

- The University of Manitoba has entered into an Affiliation Agreement with the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD), Canada's national drug development and commercialization centre. University researchers will now be able to collaborate with CDRD's drug development and commercialization experts, and access its specialized platform supporting the development of both small molecule and biologic therapeutics across a broad spectrum of disease indications. The partnership will help faculty members move their research from the lab into practice; and will strengthen the western Canadian drug development and commercial pipeline.
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has awarded \$395,293 in grant funding for two partnership development projects at the University of Manitoba. Professor Shirley Thompson (Natural Resources Institute) will be working with community organizations researching solutions to food insecurity and underdevelopment in northern Manitoba Aboriginal communities. Professor Andrew Woolford (Sociology), with Adam Muller and Struan Sinclair (English, Film and Theatre) will be leading the Embodying Empathy project, which will use leading-edge technologies to create a prototype virtual Indian Residential School (IRS) in partnership with Survivors, Indigenous commemorative and educational agencies, archivists, scholars and technology experts. Their research will explore if virtual-reality technologies can bring audiences closer to the experiences of forced assimilation.
- Graduate student Kathryn Marcynuk is the recipient of a 2014 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, and will receive \$150,000 over three years toward her research. She is doing her graduate work in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. Her research aims to separate out the numerous background noises (referred to as the 'cocktail party problem') picked up during an electrocardiogram (ECG) of a mother and her fetus. By separating the fetal heartbeat

from the other signals, she will be able to improve the reliability of a fetal ECG, reducing the number of falsely indicated problems that lead to unnecessary medical intervention.

- On June 24, 2014, Western Diversification announced funding of \$3.5 million to the Manitoba Institute for Materials infrastructure. This will fund the purchase of three high performance electron scanning microscopes required to establish an advanced materials characterization facility. This facility will enable academia and industry to integrate more fully and capitalize on the growing emphasis on composites and aerospace research and development being undertaken in Western Canada, and demonstrate the University's expertise and leadership in this field.
- Researchers at the University of Manitoba will receive \$8,868,529 in new funding for grants and scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) over the next five years. The money will support 57 professors and 21 students at the graduate, doctoral, or post-doctoral levels in their research that will further discoveries in a full range of fields in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The award was announced on June 26 by the Honourable Ed Holder, Minister of State (Science and Technology).
- On June 13, 2014, the University of Manitoba announced new major support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Centre for Global Public Health (CGPH) for an innovative and comprehensive maternal and child health initiative in Uttar Pradesh, India. The University of Manitoba will lead Technical Support Units with partner India Health Action Trust to help build capacity and train community health workers and lead mentors to deliver effective interventions to reduce the number of adverse health outcomes among mothers, infants and young children related to childbirth, malnutrition and common illnesses.
- Eighty-two researchers were awarded \$5,211,242 in funding for 97 projects from various sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Baffoe, Michael (Social Work)	Association of Universities & Colleges of Canada (AUCC)	Saving brains of unborn children: Understanding the prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in Ghana	\$39,950
Berkes, Fikret (Natural Resources Institute)	St. Mary's University	Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN)	\$39,000
Bunt, Andrea (Chemistry)	NSERC Engage Grants	Integrating community contributions within online learning systems	\$25,000
Chow, Nancy (Geological Sciences)	NSERC Collaborative Research & Development (CRD)	Sedimentology and reservoir characterization of the lower Mississippian Pekisko formation, Hawk Hills and Swan Hills areas, Alberta	\$56,745

Cicek, Nazim (Biosystems Engineering)	Killarney Lake Action Committee	Killarney Lake water quality improvement initiative	\$90,000
Cicek, Nazim (Biosystems Engineering)	NSERC Engage Grants	Evaluating wood ash for phosphorus removal from livestock manure	\$25,000
Dick, Kristopher (Biosystems Engineering)	Emercor Ltd.	Structural response of E-rim insulated rim board to flexure and ledger and joist hanger application	\$51,793
Durrant, Joan (Family Social Sciences)	Grand Challenges Canada	Preventing physical punishment of children: A community-based program to reduce adverse health outcomes	\$112,000
Filizadeh, Shaahin (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Modeling and prototyping of a modular multi-level converter	\$30,000
Freund, Michael (Chemistry)	NSERC Engage Grants	Conducting polymer coatings for electroplating and electropainting of polymer automotive parts	\$25,000
Gole, Aniruddha (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Compact DC transmission	\$130,000
Gorczyca, Beata (Civil Engineering)	NSERC Engage Grants	THM reduction feasibility study for the water treatment plant at the town of Rainy River	\$25,000
Hannila, Sari (Human Anatomy & Cell Science)	Wings for Life Spinal Cord Research Foundation	Enhancing axonal regeneration in the spinal cord through inhibition of TGF-beta signaling	\$117,848
Kobinger, Gary (Medical Microbiology)	Scripps Research Institute	Consortium for immunotherapeutics against viral hemorrhagic fevers	\$442,465
Levin, David (Biosystems Engineering)	NSERC Engage Grants	Characterization of medium chain length polyhydroxyalkanoate polymers for biodegradable plastics	\$25,000
Luo, Ma (Medical Microbiology)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	A novel HIV-1 vaccine targeting the 12 protease cleavage sites	\$697,670

Mai, Sabine (Cell Biology/Physiology/Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology)	Mitacs Inc.	3D telomeric signatures defining circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and characterize CTC subpopulations in intermediate risk prostate cancer patients	\$60,000
Moussavi, Zahra (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Vestibular response pattern recognition in relation to concussion	\$30,000
Ojo, Olanrewaju (Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering)	NSERC Engage Grants	Improving fatigue properties of welded structural steels	\$25,000
Sorensen, John (Chemistry)	NSERC Engage Grants	Development of agricultural applications for the Wilson Analytical QuatBox System	\$25,000
Suh, Miyoung (Human Nutritional Sciences)	Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance	Bioavailabilities of bioactives in hemp oil and THC determination in vivo: A pilot study for the safety of hemp consumption	\$25,000
Svecova, Dagmar (Civil Engineering)	Province of Manitoba	ISIS Canada resource centre - MJE	\$300,000
Tachie, Mark (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Airflow analysis and optimization of refuge one unit	\$80,000
Tenuta, Mario (Soil Science)	Manitoba Canola Growers Association	Canola response to agrotain and super urea in seeding-fertilization systems with varying placement methods in Manitoba	\$73,600
Tenuta, Mario (Soil Science)	Manitoba Pulse Growers Association	Soybeans for improved soil health: Determination of lower than predicted contribution of pulse crop residues to greenhouse gas emissions and improved N uptake and yield following wheat and corn	\$322,349
Young, James (Computer Science)	NSERC Engage Grants	Human factors and ergonomics for next-generation personal wearable virtual reality devices	\$25,000
Zhang, Qiang (Biosystems Engineering)	NSERC Engage Grants	SuperStraw for odour reduction in animal beddings	\$25,000

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Outdoor Student Orientation activities at the Fort Garry Campus were held from September 2 – 14 at the Curry Place Pedway, Quad, and University Centre patio.
- University participation in the annual Commuter Challenge increased 89% over last year, with University of Manitoba employees logging over 22,000 km of sustainable transportation over seven days in June. More than half of the University of Manitoba staff and students choose sustainable transportation every day. Results as an infographic:  
[http://umanitoba.ca/campus/sustainability/media/commuter\\_challenge\\_analysis\\_-\\_Final.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/campus/sustainability/media/commuter_challenge_analysis_-_Final.pdf)
- The University was recently awarded an **Ecologically Sustainable Development Grant** of \$456,000 by the Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, Advanced Learning Division, to upgrade the EITC Engineering III ventilation system. The upgrades will optimize system performance by tracking the actual building loads to minimum energy conservation.
- **Tri-Council** has notified the University that it will be conducting a monitoring review in March 2015 covering the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. Compliance with accountability expectations of research funders has received additional focus over the last number of years because the last Tri-Council monitoring visit concluded that our system of controls was not satisfactorily addressing their expectations. The implementation of Concur and EPIC have introduced control improvements, and Financial Services has been conducting research compliance workshops to raise awareness and improve processes. This effort has also been supported by Audit Services.
- On August 12, the **University's internet service** provider encountered a 13.5 hour impact to service. Main impacts to the university included external email not being delivered or received, HR Smart could not be accessed, and access to remote hosted systems was restricted.
- **Windows XP to 7 Migration Project** is very near completion. Over 3,000 computers were identified as part of this project and all of them have either been replaced, upgraded to Windows 7 or sufficiently isolated from our network to pose the least risk.
- **Wireless N** work continues with the installation complete in 17 buildings and 2 near completion. 29 buildings and 2 outdoor locations are included in the next phase which will see the remaining campus wireless service migrated to wireless N.
- **Commvault** has been selected for the University's consolidated backup and recovery system. This system will allow the University to retire several disparate systems currently in use for different file types, and will greatly enhance the ability to properly manage archives and improve disaster recovery posture.
- **Managed Print Service agreement** with Xerox was terminated on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## EXTERNAL MATTERS

- For the period of April 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014, the University has raised \$5,525,094.39 for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.
- Significant gifts and activities in the last reporting period include:
  - The Western Grains Research Foundation made a gift of \$100,000 to support the Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. The purpose of the scholarships is to support and encourage top students to further their studies in crop research, to generate improved technology and productivity for western crop producers.
  - Pauline and Roger Presland made a five-year commitment of \$125,000 to support student awards through the Aboriginal Business Education Partners program.
- The Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative (MSBI) have been approved for the 2014/15 fiscal year. The preliminary allocation for the University of Manitoba is \$2,050,900, up slightly from previous years (2013/14 - \$2,032,500, 2012/13 - \$2,025,000)
- Minister of Jobs and Economy, Theresa Oswald, and Deputy Minister of Jobs and the Economy, Hugh Eliasson, met with President Barnard, John Kearsey, Vice-President (External) and Leah Janzen, Associate Vice-President (Outreach and Engagement) to discuss the University of Manitoba as an economic driver and the role of graduate student support in the comprehensive campaign.
- President Barnard met with mayoral candidate Judy Wasylicia-Leis as part of the GCE's strategy to engage with all mayoral candidates in the lead up to the October 22, 2014 election. The purpose of these meetings has been to inform the mayoral candidates about the important role the University of Manitoba plays in Winnipeg and to begin building a relationship with a new mayor.
- The Office of Government and Community Engagement hosted Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Family Services, and MLA for Fort Richmond, for a series of meetings to discuss the key role that the University of Manitoba plays in the community. This included: Dean Douglas Brown, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management; Nusraat Masood, WISE Program Administrator; Paul Hess, Director, School of Art, and members of the University of Manitoba's Child Care Working Group.
- The Eli Bornstein artwork "Structurist Relief in Fifteen Parts", which used to hang in the old Winnipeg Airport terminal was installed on the south exterior wall of the Max Bell Centre in late June. A dedication event is being planned for October 16, 2014.
- On October 8th, H.E. Gordon Campbell, High Commissioner for Canada to the UK & the U15-Group of Canadian Research Universities will be hosting a U15 Alumni Reception in London. We have invited our University of Manitoba alumni in the London area to attend the event as an opportunity to gather together and reconnect.

- At the AGM on June 16th the Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomed its three newest members: Ken Kustra, Nancy Militano and Blair Worb. The board also elected Jeff Lieberman as President for the 2014/15 year.
- Nominations for the 2nd annual Distinguished Alumni Awards will open this month. The Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence will be held on May 12th, 2015 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- The Marketing Communications Office worked in collaboration with Student Recruitment to redesign the 2015 Student Viewbook, International Viewbook and Indigenous Viewbook. The redesign focused on highlighting impactful photography to showcase the student experience at the University of Manitoba, and revamping the faculty pages to focus on outcomes and career opportunities. In addition, MCO redesigned the recruitment presentation and display banners to bring all the materials under the same look.