

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: March 15, 2016

GENERAL

The annual International Women's Day Dinner and Lecture, co-hosted by the Association of Employees Supporting Education Services (AESES) and the Office of the President, took place on March 7. At this year's event, attendees had the opportunity to hear from Debra Parkes, Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) and Professor in the Faculty of Law, on the topic "Challenging inequality: Reflections on women's legal advocacy under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms".

The recipients of the 2016 annual University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Awards have been selected and the honorees encompass a wide range of achievement, innovation and community service. The awards recognize graduates who are outstanding in their professional and personal lives, and who have been an inspiration to fellow alumni, current students and the community. The recipients are:

- Lifetime Achievement: Edward Lyons, OC
- Professional Achievement: Emmie Leung
- Service to the University of Manitoba: The Hong Kong Alumni Association
- Community Service: Karen Beaudin, OM
- Outstanding Young Alumni: Diana Nicholson

They will be honoured in a ceremony at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on May 5.

On February 25, the University of Manitoba held the finals for its annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, at which twelve graduate students distilled their research into three minute presentations, using only one slide. Their presentations showcased the breadth, depth and excellence of the graduate student research done at the University of Manitoba. Karlee Dyck, a master's student in human nutritional sciences, captured the first-place prize for her work on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and whether pregnant women in certain populations get enough nutrients to reduce their risk. Second place went to Anjali Bhagirath, a PhD student in Oral Biology, for her project "Mind over matter: Outsmarting the bacteria by brainwashing". Paul White, a Master's student in Biomedical Engineering, was selected by the audience as the People's Choice recipient for his work studying the relationship between Alzheimer's disease and special navigation.

The Indigenous Student Centre, the Métis University Students Association, the Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs, and the Office of Indigenous Achievement co-hosted a Louis Riel Day Celebration. Over 50 students, staff, faculty and community partners attended the festivities. Elder Norman Meade (Métis) opened the event, and for the first time, a Métis flag was flown on the flag pole outside the University Centre.

As part of the ongoing advocacy and information-sharing work undertaken by universities, the members of COPUM, (Committee of Presidents of Universities of Manitoba, currently Chaired by David Barnard) recently met with Brian Pallister, Leader of the Official Opposition, to discuss the value of a university degree, Indigenous education and university funding.

Additionally, President Barnard participated in a roundtable discussion at the invitation of The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, as part of the Minister's pre-budget consultations. The University of Manitoba presentation focused on how the U of M contributes to and grows the economy through research, infrastructure, Indigenous achievement, graduate student support, and work-integrated learning opportunities.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Rayleen De Luca, psychology, was awarded Nellie Award Recipient at the Centennial Gala Celebrating 100 Years of Manitoba Women's Right to Vote on January 28, 2016. This award recognizes and honours women whose endeavors model the spirit and advance the legacy of women like Nellie McClung.
- Justice Murray Sinclair and Sarah Lugtig, law, were honored by the Manitoba Bar Association for Distinguished Service Award and the Access to Justice Award, respectively.
- Monica Cyr, human nutritional sciences graduate student, was recently awarded the Mary Guilbault Métis Bursary through the Louis Riel Institute. This is a highly competitive and prestigious award offered for Métis students. Monica was recognized for her project on Métis cultural food ways and practices.
- Amanda Macdonald, Jesse Perry, Eric Postma and Tom Epp, business graduate students, placed second overall - achieving the Asper School's highest-ever finish - at the prestigious John Molson Master of Business Administration International Case Competition; the oldest and largest case competition in the world.
- Indigo Adam-Grant, business student, received the 2015 Co-op Student of the Year award for her outstanding work as an account development manager at PepsiCo.
- A team of science students from the University of Manitoba's Autonomous Agents Lab took part in the International Robot Competition at Kintex in Seoul, Korea. The team won Best Humanoid Robot award in the International Intelligent Robot Sport competition, the most prestigious award in the competition.
- The Office of Indigenous Achievement hosted the university's second annual Indigenous Awareness Week from January 25-29, 2016. The week focused on integrating Indigenous knowledge into the learning environment.
- The Faculty of Education will host a forum for discussion on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's "Calls to Action" and the impact of the recommendations for teacher education programs and post-secondary teaching in Manitoba. This four day symposia series will be held in March and will be co-hosted with the Manitoba Aboriginal Education Directorate.

RESEARCH MATTERS

- On February 9, 2016 the Government of Canada awarded a new Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Epidemiology and Global Public Health to James Blanchard (Community Health Sciences/Centre for Global Public Health). In addition, two CRCs were renewed: Distinguished Professor David Barber (Environment and Geography/Centre for Earth Observation Science), Tier 1 chair in Arctic-System Science and Debbie Kelly (Psychology), Tier 2 chair in Comparative Cognition.

Blanchard conducts a research program that focuses on discovering how to better plan and deliver important health programs and services to the world's most poor and vulnerable. Barber's research has defined the principal causes of Arctic climate change, with regional interrogation of the inherent spatial and temporal scales of change. Kelly's research focuses on the age-related decline in our cognitive abilities, particularly the ability to remember important locations, using an avian model.

Tier 1 chairs receive \$1.4 million over seven years and Tier 2 chairs receive \$500,000 over five years. A total of \$3.3 million was awarded. There are currently 36 CRCs at the University of Manitoba.

- On February 18, 2016 the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) and the University of Manitoba announced the renewal of their partnership in wheat breeding. WGRF will invest \$1.9 million over five years into Dr. Anita Brûlé-Babel's (Plant Science) winter wheat breeding program and the fusarium head blight (FHB) nursery. The winter wheat breeding program will deliver improved varieties of Canada Western General Purpose (CWGP) and Canada Western Red Winter (CWRW) wheat to producers. In addition, WGRF funds also support a coordinated Fusarium head blight screening nursery. This nursery provides services to wheat breeding programs across western Canada and provides both early and late generation testing for cultivar registration.
- The new Game Changer competition, targeting university students and post-doctoral fellows from all disciplines held its finale event on Feb. 11, 2016. Team Nixed Foods captured the grand prize of \$10,000 as well as the \$1,000 People's Choice Award along with six months of professional mentorship to transform their game-changing idea into a reality. Their strategy to reduce food waste at different stages of the food value chain from producers to the final consumers was also the people's choice award winner. The team members are: Oluwaseyi Odhigbo (Human Nutritional Sciences) Ifeanyi Nwachukwu (Human Nutritional Sciences), Zara Usman (Economics), and Oribim Kingson (Human Nutritional Sciences).

Second place prize of \$5,000 went to Team Biohack who presented their solution to early detection of Alzheimer's disease using a finger prick blood test combined with a virtual reality spatial navigation test. Team members are: Paul White (Biomedical Engineering), Ahmad Byagowi (Electrical Engineering), and Jesslyn Janssen (Biology).

Team Thrive snagged the \$2,500 third place prize, showcasing their holistic health management app titled 'Empowerment Health'. The app is designed from an Indigenous wellness perspective. Team members are: Danielle Fenn (Fine Arts), Ryan Croy (Kinesiology and Recreation Management), Kristin Flattery (Fine Arts), and Kelly Campbell (Fine Arts).

All other teams received a \$500 semi-finalist award.

Game Changer is an initiative of the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International) and was co-organized by the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship and the Technology Transfer Office.

- The International Office has begun work on developing an International Report Card for the University of Manitoba. The purpose of the International Report Card is to develop a consistent method of collecting and reporting activity relevant to the UM International Strategy. Reporting will focus on key indicators determined to give a reliable representation of the status and progress over time of the execution of UM International Strategy goals.
- Partners for Health and Development in Africa (PHDA) PHDA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Peter Mwaura, presented a balanced budget to the PHDA Board for the 2015/16 fiscal year. Although delayed and challenging, the successful completion of the audit for the first year ending March 31 2015 by Pricewaterhouse Coopers has enabled the organization to meet current requirements of the Kenyan NGO Coordination Board. PHDA continues to grow its capacity to meet the commitments of its value proposition, which is “to deliver on its mission and comply with the rigorous requirements of funding agencies, Kenyan Government and internationally accepted best practices in financial management and organization leadership.”
- The University of Manitoba hosted one visiting delegation.

Country	Delegation	Dates	Hosting Faculty
Brazil	Dr. Leandro Tessler, UNICAMP, Presentation-Reflections on Science Without Borders and Beyond	December 9-11, 2015	Extended Education and International Office

- Eighty-two researchers, leading 95 projects were awarded funding from various sponsors totaling \$7,247,597.01. Those projects awarded more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Afifi, Tracie (Community Health Sciences)	CIHR	Preventing child maltreatment: Changing a child's trajectory, improving health and strengthening families	\$883,855
Akinremi, Olalekan (Soil Science)	NSERC	Influence of rates of alfalfa pellets on water retention and cation exchange capacity of a sandy and a clay soil	\$25,000
Alfa, Attahiru (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Predictive models for the Manitoba bio-economy atlas	\$57,500
Bridges, Gregory (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC	Impedance controllable microwave mesh for reducing human exposure in a handheld satellite communications device	\$25,000

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Davie, James (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	Research Manitoba	Regulation and function of histone H3 lysine 4 trimethylation (H3K4me3) in pre-mRNA splicing	\$45,500
Doucette, Christine (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	NSERC	Unraveling the regulatory mechanisms of rhythmic insulin secretion: A physiological role for UPC2	\$140,000
Ferguson, Steven (Biological Sciences)	Kenneth M Molson Foundation	Bowhead whale habitat use, seasonal movements, historical patterns and future predictions	\$72,000
Goertzen, Andrew (Radiology)	NSERC	Applications of high speed digitizer systems in nuclear medicine imaging applications	\$25,000
Gole, Aniruddha (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Manitoba HVDC Research Centre	Research in economic evaluation of large power systems for planning purposes using the generation operation cost as main decision variable	\$30,906
Hossain, Ekram (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC	Scanning and detection of LTE radio signals with applications to traffic monitoring systems	\$25,000
Katz, Alan (Family Medicine)	Research Manitoba	The Manitoba SPOR Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovation Network (MSN): Management and operations grant	\$500,000
Kazem Moussavi, Zahra (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC	Developing a prototype 3D printed smart mouth guard with embedded SpO2 recorder	\$25,000
Keijzer, Richard (Surgery)	Research Manitoba	miRacles for abnormal lung development in congenital diaphragmatic hernia: Defining the role of miR-200b	\$45,500
Kobasa, Darwyn (Medical Microbiology)	CIHR	Efficacy evaluation of Ebola specific equine immune globulin (EEIg) against lethal Ebola virus (Zaire) in experimental models	\$172,781
Kopotun, Kirill (Mathematics)	University of British Columbia	PIMS: Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences	\$40,000

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Kordi, Behzad (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Manitoba Hydro	An investigation of space charge profile on the flashover characteristics of fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) tools under DC conditions	\$25,000
Kuo, I fan (Pharmacy)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Mood and anxiety disorders and psychotropic use in spousal caregivers of dementia: A population-based study	\$25,000
Lavigne, Carole (Pharmacy)	Hospital Sainte-Justine (Montreal)	Pediatric HIV infection: Exploring determinants of a functional care	\$28,000
Lavoie, Josee (Community Health Sciences)	University of Alberta	Transforming primary health care in remote Northern communities: The Circumpolar Health System Innovation Team (CirHSIT) - Project C-5: Frontline providers and community perspectives on medevac decision making	\$36,200
Levin, David (Biosystems Engineering)	Genome Canada	Fibre composite and biomatrix genomics (FiCoGEN): Application to the ground transportation industry	\$97,870
Lix, Lisa (Community Health Sciences)	CIHR	Advancing the science of data quality for electronic health databases: Applications to chronic disease research and surveillance	\$962,920
Marrie, Ruth (Internal Medicine)	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Multiple Sclerosis prevalence initiative	\$117,898
Mufti, Aftab (Civil Engineering)	Research Manitoba	Bridge weigh-in-motion (BWIM) phase 1	\$40,000
Pawlak, Miroslaw (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	PMU-based load modelling and validation methodology	\$30,000
Roos, Noralou (Community Health Sciences)	Winnipeg Foundation (The)	Treat poverty to improve health and well-being	\$190,000
Sareen, Jitender (Psychiatry)	CIHR	Defining the longitudinal course, outcomes and treatment needs of vulnerable Canadians with posttraumatic stress disorder	\$1,886,078

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Strachan, Leisha (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	SSHRC	Cultural relevancy and positive youth development: Exploring the sport and physical activity experiences of Indigenous youth in Canada	\$51,490
Svecova, Dagmar (Civil Engineering)	Research Manitoba	Performance investigation of thermally broken concrete balconies	\$40,000
Therault, Steven (Microbiology)	CIHR	Evaluating the environmental persistence and disinfection of the Ebola virus	\$140,800
Thompson, Genevieve (Nursing)	Research Manitoba	Partnering together to improve palliative care in long-term care homes	\$100,000
Thomson, Douglas (Dean's Office - Faculty of Engineering)	Research Manitoba	Binary crack sensor for steel girders	\$40,000
Triggs-Raine, Barbara (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Inc.	Small animal imaging facility - PET-MRI imaging system	\$50,000
Triggs-Raine, Barbara (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	University of Alberta	Pathogenesis of, and therapeutic approaches for, hyaluronidase 2 (HYAL2) deficiency	\$75,000
Wourms, Vincent (Anesthesia)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Electroencephalography Guidance of Anesthesia to Alleviate Geriatric Syndromes (ENGAGES) Study: A pragmatic, randomized clinical trial	\$30,000
Wu, Nan (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)	NSERC	Fracture detection on coach frame welding joints with piezoelectric composite coating	\$25,000
Wu, Nan (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)	Research Manitoba	Damage detection at welding joints on heavy ground vehicle structures	\$40,000
Xing, Mengqiu (Malcolm) (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)	NSERC	Development of stabilized polymeric nanoparticles with environmental sensitivities	\$25,000

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Campus Planning presented the Visionary (re)Generation Master Plan vision and project overview to Mayor Bowman on February 18, 2016. He asked for ongoing periodic updates and noted the potential for this project to be a unique example of transit oriented development (TOD) in the City.
- Through a partnership with educators in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, the Office of Sustainability is coordinating and or facilitating more than 20 *Sustainability Research in Action* applied student “living lab” research projects. In addition to working on a range of sustainability challenges on campus, students are also providing sustainability research assistance to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy, University of Winnipeg, Red River College, Lafarge Canada, 2017 Canada Summer Games, Manitoba Health Sciences Centre, Fort Whyte Alive and Sustainable Building Manitoba.
- Southwood Development: All documents necessary to set up the legal structure have been finalized, and will be subject to BOG approval. Potential candidates for board of directors of the corporate trustee and general partner have been discussed. The final composition of the boards will require BOG approval.
- CUPE Sessional - On January 8, CUPE Sessional ratified a 3-year agreement that expires August 31, 2018, containing significantly simplified provisions for Right of First Refusal.
- Key parts of the University’s infrastructure has been modernized with the completion of two projects:
 - the migration from Novell file and print services to Microsoft file and print services
 - the migration to a new network configuration allowing for private addresses with an automated network management tool

A great collaborative work between central IST, Distributed IT and Faculties. Negative impacts were small and/or resolved quickly.

EXTERNAL MATTERS

- For the period of April 1, 2015 to February 19, 2016, the University has raised \$104,954,594 for the 2015/2016 fiscal year.
- To date, we have raised \$232,503,260 in philanthropic gifts and received a \$150 million commitment from the provincial government towards our \$500 million goal for the Front and Centre campaign.
- Significant gifts and activities in the last reporting period include:
 - Mrs. Wai Hing So Kwok made a gift of \$600,000 to establish scholarships and bursaries.
 - Prairie Improvement Network made a \$500,000 gift to establish a new graduate student award in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.
 - Wawanesa Insurance has supported the Taché Arts Project with a gift of \$320,000.

- The Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation made a commitment of \$129,000 to support the Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Rh Institute Medal, the University of Manitoba Rh Awards, and Innovation Plaza.
- Drs. Krishnamurti and Ganga Dakshinamurti made a \$100,000 gift to establish a scholarship in human rights.
- Friesens Corporation made a gift of \$100,000, and Dr. David and Mrs. Evelyn Friesen made an additional gift of \$20,000, to support scholarships for rural students.
- Mr. Philipp R. Ens and Mrs. Ilse Krentz Ens made a \$100,000 gift to support the Taché Arts Project.
- Border Chemical Company made a \$100,000 gift to increase four awards: the Dr. Charlotte W. Ross Prize, the Mark G. Smerchanski Memorial Prize, the Mark G. and Patricia N. Smerchanski Graduate Award in Chemistry, and the Patricia N. and Mark G Smerchanski Law Entrance Scholarship.
- Upcoming events and activities include the following:
 - Visionary Conversations on Campus took place on February 3 where we posed the question "Refugees - Are We Getting It Right?" Over 160 guests attended the lecture to hear from our panelists and engage in a lively discussion. The next installment of Visionary Conversations on Campus will take place March 16 at the Robert B. Schultz Theatre. The topic will be "Bringing the Paris Climate Talks Home - With the unprecedented agreement struck in Paris, what does this mean for Canadians?"
 - The Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence will be held on Thursday, May 5 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
 - The nomination period for alumni representative to the Board of Governors will close on Friday, February 26 at 3 p.m. CST.
 - The Seniors' Alumni Learning for Life Program will begin its spring 2016 sessions on Thursday, March 10 and run until April 28. All topics and speakers have now been confirmed for spring 2016. This program is for seniors 60-plus and is open to alumni and friends of the University of Manitoba.
- The Province of Manitoba made several funding announcements in January 2016 of benefit to the U of M:
 - January 7, 2016: 2.5% increase for university operating grants and additional funding for the U of M including, but not limited to:
 - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (\$1 million)
 - Graduate Student Support (\$3 million)
 - Masters of Social Work in Indigenous Knowledge (\$610,000)
 - January 11, 2016: \$30 million commitment including, but not limited to:
 - Indigenous Success Fund (\$5 million)
 - Undergraduate scholarship and bursaries support (\$5 million)
 - Endowed chair in palliative care (\$2.5 million)
 - Support innovation in teaching chairs (\$2.5 million)
 - Chair in energy systems and water resources (\$1.5 million)
 - Chair in sustainable food development (\$500,000)
 - Women in engineering professorship (\$500,000)
 - WISE Kid-Netic Energy engineer-in-residence (\$500,000)
 - January 13, 2016: \$120 million commitment to infrastructure supporting:

The new Inter-Professional Health Education Complex at our Bannatyne campus (\$97.3 million)

Redevelopment of the Helen Glass Centre (\$3 million)

The Churchill Marine Observatory (\$9.7 million)

Renewal of classrooms, libraries and laboratories (\$9 million)

- On January 19, 2016, John Kearsy, Vice-President (External), met with The Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Deputy Premier and Minister of Family Services, to discuss the rental housing issue at the U of M and the Southwood development; both issues of interest to the Minister in her capacity as MLA, Fort Richmond.
- Tyler MacAfee, Director, Government and Community Engagement, had a series of meetings in Ottawa on January 26, 2016 in advance of a Government Relations Officers meeting hosted by Universities Canada. Mr. MacAfee met with senior officials in the Offices of the Ministers of Finance and Infrastructure and Communities as well as Member of Parliament, Winnipeg South, Terry Duguid and the Official Opposition Critic for Western Economic Diversification to discuss U of M priorities and build a relationship with the new government.