

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: January 31, 2017

GENERAL

In December 2016, the University submitted its first Accessibility Plan under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act to the Disability Issues Office. The plan is available on the University's website, and has been recognized as among the best plans produced by any public sector entity. Under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA), all Public Sector organizations are required to develop and publish a plan by December 31, 2016. The plan covers accessibility issues under each standard as they come into effect, eventually covering all five standards (Customer Service, Employment, Information and Communications, Transportation, and the Built Environment). The Plan is available in both print and electronic formats.

On December 8, a Visionary Conversations on Campus event was held to bring insight and discussion on accessibility in Manitoba. The topic was "What does an accessible Manitoba look like? New accessibility laws take effect in December – is Manitoba ready?" Mr. Greg Juliano, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources), moderated the event and panelists included Ms. Yutta Fricke, Executive Director of the Manitoba Disabilities Issues Office, Dr. Richard Milgrom, Department Head, Faculty of Architecture, Dr. Michelle Porter, Director, Centre on Aging and Ms. Tanis Woodland, Disability Studies.

The Game Changer Competition, in which students from post-secondary institutions work in teams to develop solutions to showcased problems selected from student suggestions, came to a conclusion on January 20. Students from the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg and Red River College were all represented on the four finalist teams, which competed for the first prize of \$10,000. Team Loop, comprising Haneen Shouman and Michael Hall, students in the Asper School of Business MBA program, and Maria Sanchez who is studying marketing management through extended education at the University of Winnipeg, won for their solution to the problem of e-waste.

On January 25, 2017, ceremonies took place at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to witness the move of the Bentwood Box, a sacred piece commissioned by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a tribute to Residential School Survivors, from the Museum to its permanent home in the Centre, to welcome the newly-appointed members of the Survivor's Circle and to feast the name of the Centre. The Centre has been given the spirit name "Bezhig Miigwan – One Feather".

On February 28, the University of Manitoba will recognize its 140th anniversary through a community celebration. A one-day winter festival will be held in the centre of the Fort Garry campus and feature ice skating, student musicians, winter activities and games, and more. Students, faculty and staff, alumni and community members will be invited to attend.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Pat Bovey, Art Historian and former University of Manitoba Board Chair, and Harvey Chochinov, distinguished professor of psychiatry and director of the Manitoba Palliative Care Research Unit, CancerCare Manitoba were both nominated to Senate in October. Pat Bovey was sworn in on November 15, 2016.

- Frank Plummer, distinguished professor of medicine and medical microbiology, was awarded the 2016 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award by the Gairdner Foundation. The prestigious award recognizes Plummer’s groundbreaking research on HIV transmission and prevention in Africa, as well as his exemplary leadership in fighting epidemics in Canada.
- Michael Eskin, human nutritional sciences, and Rayleen V. De Luca, psychology both became Members of the Order of Canada.
- Jitendra Paliwal, biosystems engineering, was named a Fellow by Engineers Canada, an honour given to individuals who have given noteworthy service to the engineering profession through their work with either Engineers Canada or its provincial and territorial engineering regulators.
- In late October and early November, students from the colleges of Pharmacy, Nursing and Medicine administered free influenza vaccines at both University of Manitoba campuses and the University of Winnipeg.
- In November, the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted nearly 300 high school students and teachers from 81 schools across Manitoba for “Discovery Day in Health Sciences”. The annual event, gives Grade 11 and 12 students the chance to interact with health professionals in research labs and teaching spaces on campus and at affiliated sites.
- The College of Dentistry and the Manitoba Dental Association provided free dental care to refugees who had arrived in Manitoba within the previous year. The majority of the patients were children, and some had never seen a dentist. The clinic also aimed to educate families about affordable oral health care options. Dozens of dental professionals and dental students volunteered for this day-long event.

RESEARCH MATTERS

- On December 8, Genome Canada announced \$10.7 million in funding from the 2015 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition to a research project titled ‘GENICE’ that partners the University of Manitoba researchers Gary Stern (Environment and Geography) and University of Calgary professor Casey Hubert. The duo will combine their expertise in the areas of genomics, petroleomics and sea-ice physics to investigate the potential for native microbial communities to mitigate oil spills, as warmer temperatures and melting sea ice usher in increasing shipping throughout Arctic waters. This research will be undertaken at the Churchill Marine Observatory, a unique research facility the University of Manitoba is building in Churchill, MB and on board the Canadian Coast Guard Ship, *Amundsen*.
- On December 9, the Canada Research Chair (CRC) program announced two new CRCs and one renewal to University of Manitoba professors Kathryn Sibley (Community Health Sciences), Feiyue Wang (Environment and Geography) and Jason Treberg (Biological Sciences). Sibley is the new CRC in Integrated Knowledge Translation in Rehabilitation Science, whose research will lead to improved rehabilitation services and care and improvements in the healthcare system; Wang is the new CRC in Arctic Environmental Chemistry and will explore the processes controlling the release, fate and effects of contaminants in Arctic ecosystems; and Treberg is the renewed CRC in Environmental

Dynamics and Metabolism whose research examines how mitochondria (small compartments in cells) in animals respond to environmental change and quality.

- On December 9, the Government of Canada announced 15 investigators were awarded funding for health research at the University of Manitoba, for a total investment of \$10.2 million through CIHR's Project and Bridge Grants Program. The funding will support the work of researchers at the University of Manitoba across the spectrum of health research areas, ranging from microbiology and nanoparticles, to healthcare delivery and population-based wellness strategies. Successful investigators are:
 - Chris Anderson, \$100,000 (Pharmacology)
 - Marissa Becker, \$1,525,180 (Internal Medicine/Community Health Sciences/Medical Microbiology)
 - Keith Fowke, \$363,137 (Medical Microbiology)
 - Spencer Gibson, \$100,000 (Biochemistry/Medical Genetics/Cell Biology/CancerCare Manitoba)
 - Juliet Ho, \$2,664,284 (Internal Medicine/Health Sciences Centre)
 - Richard Keijzer, \$642,180 (Surgery/Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba)
 - Christine Kelly, \$267,575 (Community Health Sciences/Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba)
 - Ayush Kumar, \$100,000 (Microbiology)
 - Josée Lavoie, \$703,340 (Community Health Sciences, Manitoba First Nations Centre for Aboriginal Health Research)
 - Brian Mark, \$760,680 (Microbiology)
 - Lyle McKinnon, \$531,327 (Medical Microbiology)
 - Donald Miller, \$848,595 (Pharmacology)
 - James Nagy, \$673,375 (Physiology & Pathophysiology)
 - Abdellah Soussi Gounni, \$100,000 (Immunology)
 - Jude Uzonna, \$802,725 (Immunology/Medical Microbiology)
- Dr. Zahra Moussavi (Electrical & Computer Engineering) and Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering received \$1,737,960 in funding for clinical trials of a new treatment for Alzheimer's disease from the Weston Brain Institute. Her project will investigate the efficacy of high-frequency rTMS treatment for Alzheimer's disease. Recent trials applying repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) in Alzheimer's patients have reported encouraging results in improving or stabilizing cognition. This proposal is the first large placebo-controlled double blind study designed with sufficient statistical rigor to measure the efficacy of rTMS treatment for Alzheimer's. Moussavi will lead a team of local, national and international collaborators on this research that includes: Drs. Mandana Modirrousta (Psychiatry), Colleen Millikin (Clinical Health Psychology), Xikui Wang (Statistics), Behzad Mansouri (Neurology), and Craig Omelan (Psychiatry) in collaboration with colleagues from McGill (Montreal – Drs. Lesley Fellows and Lisa Koski) and Monash (Australia – Dr. Paul Fitzgerald) universities.
- On November 22, 2016, the Health Research Foundation (HRF), along with Prix Galien Canada and Research Canada celebrated and honoured the best and brightest minds of Canada's life sciences and health research advocacy sectors, at the HRF Research Awards Gala. Two University of Manitoba professors—Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg (Pediatrics and Child Health/Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba) and Dr. Grant Pierce (Physiology and St. Boniface Hospital) were recognized for their achievements.

Rockman-Greenberg was awarded the Medal of Honour, making her the first female recipient in the award's history. She was recognized for drawing attention to the importance of molecular medicine in the 1980's and being the driving force behind the opening of the first laboratory in Manitoba for the diagnosis of genetic disease with DNA testing. She identified the molecular source of some of Canada's most devastating inherited diseases, including those most prevalent in the Aboriginal, Mennonite and Hutterite communities and in partnership, developed and implemented strategies for early detection and in many cases effective treatments not available previously.

Pierce received Research Canada's 2016 Leadership Award for Health Research Advocacy. He was honoured as an outstanding leader in advancing the case for the hope and promise of health research in advancing deeper understanding of factors leading to health and disease.

- Two University of Manitoba professors were named among Women's Executive Network (WXN)'s 2016 Canada Most Powerful Women: Top 100 award winners. Drs. Annemieke Farenhorst (Soil Science) and Ruth Ann Marrie (Internal Medicine/Neurology and Health Sciences Centre). Both were recognized in the 'trailblazers and trendsetters' category.

Farenhorst is a trailblazer on three fronts: for the advancements she has made in her science; for the leadership she provides in advancing women in science and engineering professions; and for her dedication to strengthening strategies for the recruitment, retention and success of Indigenous students in university programs.

Marrie is internationally known for her innovative work in epidemiology and her pioneering discoveries of the impact of comorbidity (co-existing health conditions) on people with multiple sclerosis (MS). The impact of comorbidity in MS was a novel avenue that had not been explored in the field of MS before she began her work.

- Dr. David Barber (Environment and Geography) was appointed to officer of the Order of Canada 2017. The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada made the announcement on December 30, 2016. Barber is recognized "for his leadership in environmental science and for his contributions to the study of arctic sea ice processes." A Distinguished Professor in the Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, and Canada Research Chair in Arctic-System Science, Barber has made significant, innovative and sustained contributions in the field of Arctic system science and climate change for more than 30 years. He has illustrated how changes in dynamic and thermodynamic processes in sea ice have implications throughout the natural and human systems both within and outside of the Arctic.
- In October/November 2016, four international partnership agreements were completed. They are:

| Country | Partner Institution | Agreement Type | Initiating Faculty |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| China | Huazhong Agricultural University | Amended Articulation Agreement | Ag/Food Sciences |
| China | Shantou University | Amended Student Exchange Agreement | Asper School of Business |
| Australia | Flinders University | Amended Student Exchange Agreement | University-Wide |
| UK | University of Liverpool | MOU, Student Exchange Agreement | University-Wide & Asper School of Business |

- The University of Manitoba hosted three visiting delegations this quarter. They were:

| Country | Delegation | Date | Hosting Faculty |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Germany | University of Trier | Oct. 7, 2016 | Faculty of Arts |
| Japan | University of Kitakyushu | Nov. 8, 2016 | Faculty of Arts |

- Forty-five researchers were awarded funding from various external sponsors totaling \$2,616,800. Those projects awarded more than \$25,000 are:

| PI | Sponsor | Title | Awarded |
|--|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Belmonte, Mark (Biological Sciences) | NSERC | Development of novel crop protection technologies | \$25,000 |
| Bhullar, Rajinder (Dean's Office - College of Dentistry); Schroth, Robert (Preventive Dental Science) | CIHR | Improving access to oral health care and oral health care delivery for vulnerable young children in Manitoba | \$300,000 |
| Bridges, Gregory (Electrical and Computer Engineering) | NSERC | Multi-physics modeling of jet engine airfoil clearance sensor | \$25,000 |
| Cha, Young Jin (Civil Engineering) | NSERC | Unsupervised machine learning method for structural damage assessment | \$25,000 |
| Chochinov, Alecs (Emergency Medicine); Snider, Carolyn (Emergency Medicine) | CIHR | Development, implementation and evaluation of interventions for youth injured by violence | \$300,000 |
| Dick, Kristopher (Biosystems Engineering) | EcoPan Corporation | Load behavior of structural insulated panels for 10 and 12-foot applications from three production facilities compared to wood frame wall sections | \$53,820 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------|
| Dixon, Ian (Physiology & Pathophysiology) | Research Manitoba | Ski is a negative regulator of cardiac myofibroblast function: The roles of scleraxis, smads and non-smad signaling proteins | \$32,500 |
| Ghavami, Saeid (Human Anatomy and Cell Science) | Health Sciences Centre Foundation | Mevalonate cascade inhibition sensitizes human glioblastoma cells to temozolomide via modulation of autophagy | \$62,125 |
| Gorczyca, Beata (Civil Engineering) | NSERC | The relationship between membrane and foulant in filtration of high DOC and hardness waters | \$25,200 |
| Herbert, David (Chemistry) | NSERC | Development of a standardized analytical protocol for determination of chlorite concentration using thiourea | \$25,000 |
| House, James (Human Nutritional Sciences) | NSERC | Exploring research gaps for determining protein quality in food | \$25,000 |
| Ivanco, Tammy (Psychology) | Research Manitoba | Brain plasticity: Psychoneuroimmune interactions contributing to learning and memory | \$25,000 |
| Jian, Fuji (Biosystems Engineering) | NSERC | Safe storage guidelines for hemp seeds | \$25,000 |
| Katz, Alan (Community Health Sciences) | University of British Columbia | Validation of administrative and primary care electronic medical record derived frailty algorithms | \$55,370 |
| Kelly, Debbie (Psychology) | Research Manitoba | Understanding degradation of spatial abilities associated with Alzheimer's disease: Examination of molecular changes driving cognition | \$32,490 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| Kordi, Behzad (Electrical and Computer Engineering) | NSERC | An investigation of space charge profile on flashover characteristics of fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) tools under DC conditions | \$33,011 |
| Lim, Lily (Pediatrics and Child Health) | Arthritis Society | Education outcomes of childhood-onset chronic rheumatic diseases | \$194,665 |
| Marrie, Ruth (Internal Medicine) | University of Saskatchewan | Medication adherence in multiple sclerosis: A model for other chronic diseases | \$29,000 |
| McPhail, Deborah (Community Health Sciences) | Research Manitoba | Assessing perceptions about and experiences of LGBT healthcare practitioners in Manitoba | \$220,849 |
| Mookherjee, Neeloffer (Internal Medicine) | Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Inc. | Innate defence regulator (IDR) peptides as immunomodulatory therapy for asthma | \$39,530 |
| Moses, Stephen (Community Health Sciences); Urquia, Marcelo (Community Health Sciences) | CIHR | Maternal and infant health associated with maternal country of birth | \$135,000 |
| Ng, Marcus (Internal Medicine) | Mitacs Inc. | Transitional REM sleep brain connectomes and seizure susceptibility | \$30,000 |
| Sikorsky, Donna (E.K. Williams Law Library) | Manitoba Law Foundation | E.K. Williams Law Library grant 2016-17 (15.09) | \$82,000 |
| Singal, Pawan (Physiology & Pathophysiology) | Research Manitoba | Understanding the inflammation-oxidative stress cycle for a better management of heart failure | \$32,500 |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|-----------|
| Snider, Carolyn (Emergency Medicine) | Research Manitoba | Impact of an emergency department violence intervention program (EDVIP) for youth on resilience, violence risk, repeat injury, substance use, and mental health | \$32,500 |
| Targownik, Laura (Internal Medicine) | Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of Canada | Linking population based provincial health care utilization databases to evaluate drug related outcomes in IBD | \$350,740 |
| Tate, Robert (Manitoba Follow-up Study (MFUS)) | Research Manitoba | Predictors and consequences of long- term functional trajectories of older men: Manitoba follow-up study | \$32,500 |
| Taylor, Carla (Human Nutritional Sciences) | Research Manitoba | Cellular mechanisms by which estrogen induces a healthy adipose tissue phenotype | \$32,500 |
| Tremblay-Savard, Olivier (Computer Science) | Genome Canada | Crowdsourcing genomic databases | \$250,000 |
| Ursel, Jane (RESOLVE (Research & Education for Solutions to Violence)) | Winnipeg Foundation (The) | Exploratory study of the criminal justice processing of adult sexual assault cases | \$25,000 |
| Wang, Yang (Computer Science) | NSERC | Object detection from security cameras for smart homes | \$25,000 |

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Collective bargaining with UMFA broke down on November 1 when UMFA went on strike. The University immediately requested conciliation and, with the assistance of the provincial conciliation office, the strike was resolved on November 20. Classes resumed November 22. The revised collective agreement is for a one year term, expiring March 31, 2017.
- The winter/spring learning calendar was launched with over 90 workshops and sessions available for employee development.

- The University's Office of Sustainability received a \$145,125 matching grant under the Community Infrastructure Program from Western Diversification. The grant will be used to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure by expanding the existing Trans Canada Trail that runs through the Fort Garry Campus to better connect the University with the City of Winnipeg's active transportation infrastructure. The matching grant supports planning, design and installation of crossing improvements and will provide funding through December 2017. This project supports the Building Community priority of Taking Our Place and advances one of the 'big moves' in the Sustainability Strategy 2016-2018.
- On behalf of the University of Manitoba, the Office of Sustainability accepted the Campus Sustainability Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for the Bee House Lab project on October 9, 2016 at the AASHE annual conference. This project supports the Forging Connections and Driving Discovery and Insight priorities of Taking Our Place and supports the goals of Sustainability Strategy 2016-2018.
- Office of Sustainability has received funding under the Indigenous Initiatives Fund for an Indigenous land-based learning initiative. The \$50,000 funding allocation will provide for an Indigenous coordinator to facilitate the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and perspectives into land-based assessments and support staff/faculty development to further understanding of Indigenous knowledge, culture and traditions. Information gleaned from this initiative will also inform the University's Open Space Strategy. The initiative will run until March 2018 and will support Building Community and Creating Pathways to Indigenous Achievement priorities of Taking Our Place and advances one of the 'big moves' in the Sustainability Strategy 2016-2018.
- The Limited Partnership / Trust Legal Structure for the development of the Southwood lands has been finalized. The legal structure is made up of the UM Properties Trust and the UM Properties Limited Partnership:
 1. Trust. The Trust Deed was signed by UM Properties Holdings Inc. (the Corporate Trustee) and the settlor.
 2. UM Properties Holdings Inc. The University incorporated a corporation for the sole purpose of acting as the sole trustee of the UM Properties Trust. The University is the sole shareholder of UM Properties Holdings Inc. and will elect its board of directors.
 - The settlor is a third party (Roy Nieuwenburg, external legal counsel at Clark Wilson LLP), and settled the UM Properties Trust for a nominal settlement amount (silver coin).
 - The University and the J.W. Dafoe Foundation are named as beneficiaries. The J.W. Dafoe Foundation agreed to act as a second beneficiary on the understanding that it will likely not get a distribution from the UM Properties Trust.
 3. UM Properties Limited Partnership. The UM Properties Limited Partnership was established by a Limited Partnership Agreement signed by UM Properties GP Inc. (the General Partner) and the UM Properties Trust (Limited Partner).
 - The UM Properties Trust is the sole Limited Partner; and
 - The University incorporated a second corporation (UM Properties GP Inc.) for the sole purpose of acting as the general partner. The University is the sole shareholder of the general partner and elects its board of directors.

The next steps are to populate the Board of Directors for both UM Properties GP Inc. and UM Properties Holdings Inc. and the hiring of a CEO by the Limited Partnership.

- In an effort to lessen the impact on students related to strike induced schedule changes, the winter 2017 student tuition fee deadline has been extended to February 15 (two weeks after the end of the revision period). This three-week extension results in a single deadline for tuition fees.
- As a result of client feedback, Purchasing Services is launching an internal initiative with a working title of “Skating Fast by Open Waters”. It is intended to refocus service to more closely match clients’ needs with the least amount of time commitment on the part of the client. The concept is intended to be more responsive to client needs while remaining compliant with public procurement law. Change Management and Project Services will be invited in to assist with project structure early in January.
- Manitoba has joined the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) of the Western Canadian Provinces. The University of Manitoba will be required to comply with this agreement, which is similar to the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), a Canada-wide trade agreement. The NWPTA’s threshold requirements for publicly advertising anticipated purchases is \$75,000 for goods and services (compared to \$100,000 under AIT) and \$200,000 for construction (compared to \$250,000 under AIT).
- The draft IT Security Policy and associated Procedure and Standards are now being reviewed by management within the faculties and Administration for input by mid-February 2017.
- Secure email between the WRHA and Manitoba eHealth and the University of Manitoba (TLS) went live on December 2, 2016.

EXTERNAL MATTERS

- For the period of April 1, 2016 to December 16, 2016, the University has raised \$36,601,978 towards the 2016/2017 fiscal year.
- As of December 16, 2016, we have raised \$272,133,640 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 in the last reporting period include:
 - Dr. Gerry Price [BSc(ME)/1970, MSc/1972], Mrs. Barbara Price [BHEc/1969, CertEd/1970], and Price Industries announced a gift of \$1.25 million to the Faculty of Engineering in support of teaching and learning spaces, scholarships, and the engineering access program, ENGAP.
 - The Chipman Family Foundation made a gift of \$500,000 in support of the renovation of a graduate student classroom in the I.H. Asper School of Business.
 - Mr. Charles M. Winograd [BA/1969], has made a gift of \$500,000 to the Front and Centre campaign.
 - Mr. Robert G. Puchniak [BComm/1968, BComm(Hons)/1969] and Mrs. Margaret Puchniak [BA/1968] made a gift of \$250,000 in support of St. Paul’s College, Bison Hockey and the Albert D. Cohen Business Management Library at the I.H. Asper School of Business.

- The Schulich Foundation has increased their support of the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship to \$180,000. The Schulich Leader studying engineering will receive \$100,000 (\$25,000 for four years) and the Schulich Leader studying science will receive \$80,000 (\$20,000 for four years). This is an increase of \$40,000 over previous years.
 - Mrs. Valerie Clancy [BA/1959, BSW/1961, MSW/1964] has made a gift of \$150,000 to establish a research award in memory of her late husband, Mr. Frank J. Clancy [BSc(ME)/1962].
 - The Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation made a gift of \$109,000 to the Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Awards and the Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Rh Institute Medal.
- On October 28, nominations closed for the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Forty-six nominations were put forward to the Selection Panel this year. The five recipients will be announced in early March 2017 and the Celebration of Excellence will be held on May 2, 2017 at the Metropolitan Event Centre.
 - From November 1 – 21, a strike communications team was formed to provide clear and relevant information to students regarding the University of Manitoba Faculty Association strike. A strike information webpage was created to serve as the central source for all strike-related information, a direct email process was set up for responding to questions, and information was circulated to students via email, UM Today and the University of Manitoba’s social media channels. During the strike period, approximately 800 student questions were addressed via email, nearly 1,000 social media messages were shared [Twitter (747 posts and shares), Instagram (60 posts) and Facebook (177 posts and shares)], and 31 UM Today stories were posted with an average page view of 12,000.
 - On November 9, the University of Manitoba hosted a reception to reconnect with alumni and friends living in Toronto. Chancellor Harvey Secter shared updates from the University. Dr. Pourang Irani, Canada Research Chair in Ubiquitous Analytics and Professor in the Department of Computer Science presented on his team’s work to develop the wearable technologies and hologram projection tools of tomorrow. Over 100 alumni and friends attended the event.
 - On November 21, President David Barnard attended the Province of Manitoba’s Speech from the Throne delivered by the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba [BHEc/1963, LLD/2011].
 - On November 22, President David Barnard met with Ms. Andrea Lyon, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Deputy Minister University Champion for the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg, and Deputy Minister Champion for the Community of Federal Regulators. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous achievement, university infrastructure, and the Deputy Minister University Champion memorandum of understanding.
 - On December 6, the University of Manitoba hosted an alumni reception in Calgary. President David Barnard and Mr. John Kearsey, Vice-President (External) spoke to graduates about the exciting transformation taking place at the University. Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, Prairie NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering and Professor in the Department of Soil Science shared how she and her team at NSERC CREATE H2O are working towards drinking water security in First Nations communities. Approximately 200 alumni and friends attended the event.

- On December 9, Mr. John Kearsey, Vice-President (External) and Dr. Jonathan Black-Branch, Dean, Faculty of Law met with the Honourable Heather Stefanson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Province of Manitoba's support for the proposed Manitoba Justice Centre project.
- On February 7, the University of Manitoba will host an alumni reception in Ottawa at the Westin Ottawa. President David Barnard will bring remarks and local alumni, friends, and Manitoban MPs have been invited to attend.