

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: May 21, 2019

### GENERAL

On April 5, Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations visited the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) on the University of Manitoba (Fort Garry) campus. She met with representatives from the NCTR, as well as with President Barnard, and engaged in a student dialogue on “Calls to Action & Anti-Racism on Campus.” NCTR’s mandate flows directly from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. It is the permanent repository for all statements, documents, and other materials collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. NCTR works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, researchers, communities, and decision-makers to advance the ongoing work of Reconciliation across Canada and beyond. Creating Pathways to Indigenous Achievement is a strategic priority for the University and opportunities to increase federal engagement with the NCTR and with Indigenous students are welcome. This is the third time Minister Bennett has visited the University of Manitoba in the last twelve months.

A new Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) has joined the University of Manitoba: Dr. Dorte Dahl-Jensen (Environment and Geography), is the CERC in Arctic Sea Ice, Freshwater-Marine Coupling and Climate Change, joining the team at the Centre for Earth Observation Science in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources. She will receive \$10 million in funding over the seven years of her chair term. Dahl-Jensen was one of eight chairs announced on April 17 by The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport. New requirements for the Canada Excellence Research Chairs were introduced by Minister Duncan to address a lack of equity, diversity and inclusion in the pool of research talent. As a result, sixty per cent of these new chairs were awarded to women who are global leaders in their fields.

Currently, a professor at the Centre for Ice and Climate at the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen, Dahl-Jensen, a glaciologist, has been doing fieldwork on the Greenland ice sheet most summers since 1981, where international teams of researchers drill down to extract ice cores, trying to answer questions like how old the ice is, whether Greenland was ever ice-free, and what kinds of abrupt climate shifts took place in the past. Dahl-Jensen’s research includes an Inuit-led community-based monitoring program being developed through a partnership with the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). One basic question is how the massive quantities of fresh water pouring out of ice caps impact the marine system. For example, will ocean currents change once a glacier’s worth of fresh water is added? On a practical level, the research will inform policy and management issues lived by Arctic people who rely on the marine ecosystem for hunting, fishing, transportation and resource extraction.

For the past 60 years, the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Awards have honoured trailblazers, innovators and visionaries—graduates whose outstanding accomplishments have inspired people close to home and around the world. This year’s recipients have made an impact in the fields of finance, social advocacy, community leadership, and university education. The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence was held the evening of Wednesday, May 8th in the Manitoba Room in UMSU University Centre where we celebrated and recognized the accomplishments of the following five alumni.

The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are:

- Lifetime Achievement – Dr. Hersh Shefrin BSc (Hons)/70
- Professional Achievement – Marcia Nozick BA/75 MCP/88
- Community Service – Gemma Dalayoan BEd/83 MEd/90
- Service to the University of Manitoba – Romel Dhalla BA/99 BComm (Hons)/04
- Outstanding Young Alumni – Lindy Norris BA/07 BComm (Hons)/09

This inspiring evening of celebration featured live performances and a gala reception as to honour the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the University of Manitoba and global community. We enjoyed seeing representatives from the Board of Governors in attendance particularly as Romel Dhalla, Service to the University of Manitoba award recipient, served on BOG for nine years as an alumni representative.

On Saturday April 13, over 80 retirees attended the President's Reception for members of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA). UMRA President Daniel Sitar welcomed four of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition finalists who each made a presentation about their research. Mr. Sitar recognized that retirees continue to be important contributors to the life of the university as UMRA again sponsored a portion of the second prize for the Three Minute Thesis Presentation competition. President Barnard then provided retirees with an update on university events and an overview of the Southwood lands development plans.

## **ACADEMIC MATTERS**

- Brian Postl, Dean, Max Rady College of Medicine, Dean, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and Vice-Provost (Health Sciences) was honoured at the government house as the recipient of the 2019 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Administration. The prestigious award is presented annually by the Institute for Public Administration of Canada to a public sector practitioner whose career exhibits the highest standard of excellence, dedication and accomplishment in a municipal, provincial or federal government organization in the province.
- Larry Tan, surgery and Michael Teschuk, clinical health psychology, Max Rady College of Medicine, were presented with the 2019 Certificate of Merit Awards at the annual Canadian Conference on Medical Education. The Merit Awards are presented to promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools.
- Connor Shirliff, Shania Miralda, Lauryn Keen, Brian Archibald, and Kiana Sajtos, agricultural & food sciences students, were awarded the 2018-2019 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) Agricultural Scholarship for agribusiness undergraduates in recognition of their academic achievement at the University of Manitoba.
- Albert Chen, music student, a pianist and performance major, was awarded the Aikins Memorial Trophy at this year's Manitoba Music Festival. This is the highest award given at the Festival for the most outstanding performance by an instrumentalist.
- Colette Simonot-Maiello, music, gave a public lecture at the Millennium Library theatre called "Understanding the Music of The Barber of Seville", sponsored by Manitoba Opera, in preparation for their Rossini production. This event was part of their Community Engagement Series.

- Yury Sumarokov, a researcher from Russia’s Northern State Medical University, spent two weeks in Manitoba this spring. He spoke about suicide in northern Indigenous communities – a concern shared by Canada and Russia – as part of the University of Manitoba, college of rehabilitation sciences’ Kiga mamo anokimin onji minoayawin (“We will work together for health and wellness”) initiative, a partnership with First Nations communities.
- The annual, student-organized Max Rady College of medicine art show was held in the Brodie Centre Atrium. Works of art on display ranged from paintings to sculpture to embroidery, as well as artwork by kids from Art City.
- Rob Currie and the Department of Entomology have partnered with the City of Winnipeg and the Living Prairie Museum in the creation of a new website that was launched as part of Earth Day. Bee Better Manitoba is a group of like-minded organizations who have come together with a common goal – to inspire and empower Manitobans to protect, conserve and create pollinator-friendly habitat at home and in their communities.
- The I.H. Asper School of Business held an inaugural event called Celebrating Mentorship. This initiative recognizes the exceptional support our mentors provide for our graduate students while reaffirming our connections to the business community, one of our key stakeholders.
- Two leaders in science and medicine spoke at the inaugural Women in Science: Development, Outreach & Mentoring (WISDOM) Equity Symposium. The event aimed to highlight women researchers and leaders and to create dialogue on equity, diversity and inclusion.
- More than 400 young Winnipeg scientists gathered on the Bannatyne campus to exhibit science projects and vie for awards. Students from Grades 4 to 12 shared their projects in english and french as they competed in the 49th annual Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Science Fair. About 260 projects from 34 Winnipeg School Division (WSD) schools were on display. This was the eighth year that the rady faculty of health sciences has hosted the fair.

## **RESEARCH MATTERS**

- On April 10, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research announced funding to two Rady Faculty of Health Sciences researchers—Phil St. John (Internal Medicine) and Ruth Barclay (College of Rehabilitation Sciences)—and their teams to lead two separate studies that will investigate aspects that impact healthy aging, like walking and where you live, through Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging. St John received \$64,300 to conduct a study entitled: Health Status of Rural Canadians. Barclay received \$69,868 for the study entitled: Self-reported and physical factors associated with community ambulation in older adults and people with osteoarthritis.
- On April 23, Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), announced an investment of \$1,126,800 to Faculty of Science Professors Jörg Stetefeld (Chemistry and CRC in Structural Biology) and Gregg Tomy (Chemistry) to establish an environmental DNA (e-DNA) laboratory within the Centre for Oil and Gas Research and Development (COGRAD). The eDNA lab will be a natural extension of COGRAD’s unique service offering to the oil and gas industry in

Canada as an internationally recognized environmental monitoring and remediation facility. Through this investment, they will purchase and install highly specialized equipment that will enable COGRAD to offer novel, efficient, and customized eDNA techniques for the biodiversity monitoring of fish habitats during mining activities and increase environmentally sustainable energy production in the oil and gas industry. This investment will promote innovation, skills development, and growth in the oil and gas industry across Canada and result in the creation of 14 jobs.

- Forty-one research projects led by sixteen investigators received a total of \$1,350,352 in grant funding from multiple sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Arsenio, Janilyn (Internal Medicine)	Research Manitoba	Single-cell transcriptomics analysis of the immune system during infection and chronic inflammation	\$156,834
Asadzadeh, Masoud (Civil Engineering)	NSERC, Engage	Climate resilience planning: Modelling multi-functional reservoirs under changing climate	\$25,000
Cicek, Nazim (Biosystems Engineering)	NSERC, Engage	Evaluation of converting oat hulls into biomass fuel pellets	\$25,000
Doupe, Malcolm (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP))	Research Manitoba	Evaluating long-term care continuums in Alberta and Manitoba: A comparative analysis	\$62,500
Driedger, S. Michelle (Community Health Sciences)	University of the Fraser Valley	Participatory risk communication: Indigenous youth-generated messages for community health promotion	\$80,136
Hossain, Ekram (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC, Engage	A framework to optimize pricing in a smart grid with renewable power sources	\$25,000
Kavgic, Miroslava (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Integration of building information modeling and sensor technologies for intelligent facility management	\$45,000
Kelly, Lauren (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM)	Evaluating the long-term health effects of neonates exposed to opioids in pregnancy	\$60,900
Liu, Song (Biosystems Engineering)	NSERC, Engage	New anti-biofilm formulations and products	\$25,000
McKinnon, Lyle (Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Role of IL2 family cytokines in the female genital tract in protection against HIV acquisition	\$30,000
Mufti, Aftab (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Solar powered intermittent cathodic protection of reinforced concrete	\$60,000
Ng, Marcus (Internal Medicine)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Transcranial direct current stimulation in super refractory status epilepticus (SURESTEP): Pilot study of a novel	\$32,000

		therapy in a common medical emergency	
Nyachoti, Charles (Martin) (Animal Science)	Manitoba Pork Council	Reducing feed cost and environmental footprint and enhancing global competitiveness of Canadian pork production by increased nutrient utilization of feedtuffs fed to growing-finishing pigs	\$111,394
Rajapakse, Athula (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC, Engage	Simulation and optimal design of hybrid renewable energy systems in northern Canada	\$25,000
Roger, Kerstin (Community Health Sciences)	Prairie Action Foundation	Under-reporting in abuse of older adults in the prairie provinces	\$75,000
Singer, Alexander (Family Medicine)	Research Manitoba	SPIDER-NET, A structured Process Informed by data, Evidence, and Research-Network: An approach to support primary care practices in optimizing the management of patients with complex needs	\$50,000
Tenuta, Mario (Soil Science)	Manitoba Pork Council	Advancing the Canadian swine sector through environmental footprint analyses	\$138,975

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The Access and Privacy Office (APO) has been working closely with The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) to fulfil the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) *Call to Action #72*. The TRC called upon the federal government to allocate resources to the NCTR to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register. The APO has been working with the project team to develop the database to house the register, a memorial website where some of the information will be accessible to the public, and a process by which families may access records about students who died at or went missing from residential schools.
- In November, 2018 the Copyright Office participated in the Science and Technology Library Graduate Student Open House. This Open House contributed to the strategic priorities of “Inspiring Minds, Driving Discovery and Building Community” for Graduate Students. In early April, 2019 the Copyright Office received extremely positive feedback about its participation in the Open House, considerable engagement with students, and sharing of expertise. Organizing librarians, William Poluha and Marie Speare, have authored a book chapter on the success of the Open House which has been published in *Transforming Libraries to Serve Graduate Students*, available through MSpace: <http://hdl.handle.net/1993/33565>
- Goose season is well underway and most geese on campus have nested. There are currently 18-20 nesting pairs being monitored.

- A communication strategy has been developed with MCO, to focus on the human safety aspect of goose management. Most planters on campus are covered to limit nesting by doorways, and signs have been deployed to locations where geese regularly inhabit. We will proactively provide access off rooftops for geese that nest on them. Two mobile road signs are installed to notify campus visitors to make visitors aware of geese. A wildlife management plan is under development by Joro Consulting, which has assisted with formulating this year's plan.
- The overall threat of flooding in 2019 has been significantly reduced from the earlier prediction of 2009 levels. The campus was placed in flood preparation condition as of April 4 with the activation of Pump Station #5, and all other outfalls were closed shortly after. At this time, there are no concerns with the water levels and the systems supporting the University.
- In support of the new Capital Planning Process, renewal of the University's existing space policies is underway. The policies are related to space planning, space management, and instructional space scheduling, which will result in an updated structure of new documents: Space Policy (2019) and Instructional Space Scheduling Policy (2019), along with supporting procedures and standards.
- Human Resources launched the UCount campaign in April encouraging all faculty and staff to complete a short, online declaration to provide a current counting of our composition and work towards increasing diversity. The confidential, voluntary questionnaire includes six questions around personal characteristics that will help inform the development of future equity, diversity and inclusion strategies.
- Work has begun on shaping the second stage of the mental health and wellness strategy "Success Through Wellness". The first 5 years of this strategy facilitated improvements in a number of key areas impacting the health and wellness of Students, Faculty, and Staff. In the coming months consultation sessions will be held with groups throughout the university community to determine how the next iteration of the strategy can be shaped to best serve the Mental Health and Wellness needs of our community.

## **EXTERNAL MATTERS**

- The Next Generation Web Experience continues to move towards an Initial Site Build later this summer. The top-level pages will be launched first with additional phased Site Migrations to follow.
- The creative development stage of the Branding Initiative is underway as well as refinements to the university's visual identity. Creative work includes development of the full visual expression such as colour and imagery, as well as the brand voice and language. Launch planning and ongoing stakeholder engagement continues throughout the spring, with plans to reflect the new brand in the website launching later this summer.
- On April 10 the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development released a report as part of its study on Canada's Arctic sovereignty. University of Manitoba researcher Dr. David Barber appeared as an expert before the committee in November, 2018, and his testimony is referenced nine times in the report and leads directly to two of the report's twenty-eight recommendations.

- On March 18, 2019 Jörg Stetefeld, Professor for Biochemistry Tier-1 CRC in Structural Biology and Biophysics at the University of Manitoba appeared before the Senate Special Committee on the Arctic for its study to “Consider the significant and rapid changes to the Arctic, and impacts on original inhabitants”.
- On April 1, 2019 Lotfollah (Lot) Shafai, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Manitoba also appeared before the Senate Special Committee on the Arctic for the same study.
- On May 2, David A. Lobb, Professor, Landscape Ecology, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba will be appearing before the Senate of Canada Agriculture and Forestry Committee to examine and report on issues relating to agriculture and forestry generally. (The same Senate committee visited the University of Manitoba in November, 2018, following an appearance by another UM researcher.)
- These federal appearances by University of Manitoba experts support the strategic priority of forging connections with key stakeholders as well as enhancing the national recognition and impact of our research.
- Significant gifts and activities in the last reporting period include:
  - The G. MacDonald Family has generously supported bursary and a scholarship in Biosystems Engineering with a gift of \$486,000.
  - The Winnipeg Foundation has made a gift of \$152,500 to establish Master’s and Doctoral Fellowships in Canadian History in celebration of the foundation’s centennial year, 1921.
  - The Tallman Foundation continues its longstanding support of students who may not have otherwise been able to attend university with a further gift of \$130,167.83.
- On April 11 External Relations held an awareness raising luncheon for the centre for Global Public Health. About 20 community leaders attended. You can see the UMToday story here: <http://news.umanitoba.ca/global-health-impact/>
- The Seniors Alumni Learning for Life Program spring session launched on April 10. Once again we have an amazing line up of UM researchers and alumni that includes Dr. Hersh Shefrin, the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award recipient as a presenter taking advantage of his time in Winnipeg for the Celebration of Excellence event in May. We will unveil our Fall 2019 program by July.
- The election for the Board of Governors alumni representative position opened on April 15 and closes on May 15. 11 candidates are seeking election, including incumbent and board chair, Jeff Lieberman. The successful candidate will be announced to alumni on May 23.
- On Sunday, April 28th a special appreciation brunch was held to celebrate the tremendous service Chancellor Harvey Sector and Sandra Sector have made to the University of Manitoba over the past 9 years in the role of Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. Thank you to all Board of Governors members who attended to celebrate with Harvey and Sandra Sector.

- We hosted two out of town alumni events in April – Ottawa on April 10th and Toronto on April 25th. The Ottawa event featured three of the 2018 3MT student finalists presenting on their research and Senator Pat Bovey as the keynote, while the Toronto event featured Director of the Institute of Leadership Development, Dr. Suzanne Gagnon, and alumna and Partner, Mercer Consulting, Ilana Hechter as keynotes. President Barnard and John Kearsy attended the Toronto event, while Tracy Bowman and Stephanie Levene attended the Ottawa event on behalf of the University of Manitoba.
- We hosted a very successful Visionary Conversations on Thursday, April 11th at the Bannatyne Campus on the topic: Healthcare as a Human Right: How do we break down barriers for Queer Manitobans? The panel session, facilitated by President Barnard, explored the 2SLGBTQ+ community's unique health care needs and barriers experienced while accessing and receiving care. The panelists include:
  - Dr. Fenton Litwiller, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management
  - Dr. Deborah McPhail, Assistant Professor in Community Health Sciences, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
  - Dr. Tracey Peter, Professor and Associate Head of Sociology, Faculty of Arts
  - Dr. Albert McLeod, Director, Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, and community activist
  - Dr. Bryan Magwood, Executive Director of Our Own Health Centre, physician in pediatric emergency medicine, and Undergraduate Associate Dean, Max Rady College of Medicine
  - Dr. Reece Malone, CEO and founder of Sexuality Consultants and Support Services Manitoba, Inc.
- Visionary Conversations will resume on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> during Homecoming. More details on the 2019 – 2020 Visionary Conversations series coming soon.
- Please mark your calendars for Homecoming 2019 from September 16 – 22. Many activities, events and reunions are being planned. We will be unveiling our program in May.
- On June 14 we will be celebrating a very special Front and Centre Campaign Milestone announcement as well as celebrate and recognize a gift from Dr. Stu Clark to the I.H. Asper School of Business. This will be a significant announcement that will affect the entire university and campaign you will not want to miss.