

# in edition

DECEMBER 14, 1995

VOL. 13 NO. 8

## Recovering the Stories of the Upper Berens River

A fortuitous discovery in Philadelphia has made History Professor Jennifer Brown an integral part of the fascinating story of Fair Wind, an Ojibwa healer, and the Upper Berens River communities.

In the 1930s, anthropologist A. Irving Hallowell conducted extensive research on the communities along Berens River. His writings and photographs provided rare insight into the rich culture and heritage of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario's native people, and included the story of Fair Wind, whose drum dance was an important ceremony of healing and consolation within the communities.

In 1962, a manuscript written by Hallowell was lost while en route to George and Louise Spindler, general editors of the *Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology* series. The

loss was significant; the manuscript represented the culmination of Hallowell's work in the area. A disheartened Hallowell never returned to that work, and died in 1974.

In 1986, Brown began working with Hallowell's writing, eventually travelling to the American Philosophical Society's archives in Philadelphia, where his papers were stored. There, Brown came across the draft chapters of the lost manuscript.

"I had some previous knowledge that a manuscript had been lost, so I had a notion of what I had found," Brown explains, adding that the Spindlers were not aware that draft chapters existed.

Brown edited the fairly complete chapters and added annotations, bibliography, a preface and an afterword to put the information in context. Hallowell's *The Ojibwa of Berens River, Manitoba* was finally published in 1992 as part of the series for which it was originally intended, still edited by the Spindlers.

In addition to serving as a resource text in anthropology and history courses, that book is proving useful as Brown and collaborators Maureen Matthews and Roger Roulette research another book that will enlarge on the story of Fair Wind and his drum. (A collaborative effort between Brown and Matthews, a documentary journalist with CBC-Radio,

See *STORIES*, continued on page 2.



Photo by Maureen Matthews

Charlie George Owen, a grandson of Ojibwa healer Fair Wind, told stories of his grandfather and spoke of the importance of the healing drum dance when he visited our campus recently. Many Owens' family artifacts are held in the Anthropology Department's collection at the University.

# Research Issue

The UNIVERSITY  
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## Faculty Publications Contribute to Global Understanding

\* Growing international interdependence necessitates a better understanding of global issues—and more available resources to promote this understanding. **Sohrab Abizadeh**, professor of economics and associate dean of arts and science, has co-edited a book that will mitigate the shortage of texts on fiscal systems of different world regions. *Fiscal Systems and Economic Development: Case Studies of Selected Countries* (Sohrab Abizadeh and Mahmood Yousefi, ed., Nova Science Publishers Inc., Commack, NY, 1996) focuses on the fiscal systems of several countries whose political, historical and economic conditions vary.

Abizadeh and Yousefi also jointly contributed four chapters to the book: "Government Expenditure Patterns and Economic Development," "Tax Changes and Economic Development: A Critical Review," "A Review of Government Expenditures and Taxation Trends in Canada" and "An Analysis of Public Expenditures and Taxation in South Korea." Other chapters look at the financial systems in Japan, Turkey and Ghana.

\* **Jane Cahill**, assistant professor of Classics and a professional storyteller, has recently published *Her Kind: Stories of Women from Greek Mythology* (Broadview Press, Peterborough, 1995).

Unlike the myths with which most are familiar, Cahill's versions are reinterpretations from a different perspective. The Greek mythology we know is the surviving record of a long oral tradition, put down on paper by men. Cahill tells the stories as they might have been told by women, for women.

Cahill has created this collection of stories using extant ancient literary sources as her guide. Each story is accompanied by extensive notes which discuss the ancient sources, explain relevant Greek concepts and customs, and serve as a guide to further study.

## Stories ...

*continued from front page*

has already brought the story of Fair Wind to CBC audiences in a 1993 episode of *Ideas*.) Their current research involves delving further into Hallowell's writing and talking with those who knew Fair Wind.

"Their stories start coming out as they look at the book. Hallowell's pictures are wonderful conversation openers," says Brown, who adds that Hallowell is still well-remembered up the river. "The old people have these memories, but you have to ask the questions and provide the cues to draw them out. These are good memories, and it brings them pleasure to recount them."

Recovering these stories is essential to understanding native culture, Brown believes. "There is an entire philosophy and worldview behind these stories and artifacts. Many of us are concerned about the simplistic, watered-down versions of native spirituality that have emerged. Often we miss the complexities of these things because we don't have enough knowledge."

The same is true, she says, for today's Berens River youth. "The generation gaps are considerable in these communities. The kids often don't even know the questions to ask."

However, the work of Brown and her collaborators may help to close those gaps. In the community of Pikangikum, for example, a move to incorporate native history into the local school's curriculum was bolstered when they saw the photographs in the Hallowell book. "They wrote to the American Philosophical Archives for copies of Hallowell's photos that related to Pikangikum, and these have become a valuable resource in their school."

In November at The University of Winnipeg, Fair Wind's grandson, Charlie George Owen, spoke in Ojibwa of his grandfather and the importance of the drum dance in the Berens River communities. Margaret Simmons, who works with the Southeast Tribal Council, translated the lecture.

Both Owen and Simmons are involved in developing native curricula in the Berens River community schools. Brown explains her work has aided this process, because it demonstrates that this history is thought important and interesting by "the outside world."

"We have a mandate from Owen to continue our work. He feels very strongly that these stories should be known, not only so that local students and teachers can learn and appreciate what went before, but so that those of us in the cities can understand the heritage."

Much of the credit for bringing the past to life belongs to Hallowell, Brown asserts, without whose essential records the history would have been lost.

However, while the past ways can and should be known, Owen has indicated they cannot be recaptured. Fair Wind's ceremonial drum, a great hole in its side, cannot be played again. It now resides in a museum in Red Lake, Ontario. "The drum is in retirement," Brown explains, adding that the old people feel this is how it should be. "There is no one left with the power or the qualifications to play it."

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.) The deadline for the next issue is Dec. 19.

*in edition* is printed on recycled paper. After you have finished with this issue, please pass it on to a friend.

## Philosopher Studies the Structure of Persuasion

There is a hole on the front page of the *Globe & Mail* where Douglas Walton has clipped an article detailing the persuasion techniques of magpies, who compel other birds to incubate their eggs by threatening to destroy all the eggs in the nest. Examining stories like this is how the professor of philosophy, an expert in the field of logic and argument, conducts much of his research. He scours reports in the media for case studies that demonstrate how an argument contributes (or fails to contribute) to persuasion.

To philosophers, of course, the term "argument" does not refer to an angry row, as it often does in the vernacular, but to any "critical discussion" in which one person explains a point of view in an attempt to resolve a difference of opinion.

Walton has recently published *Commitment in Dialogue: Basic Concepts of Interpersonal Reasoning* (State University of New York Press, 1995). Commitment, he says, is a key structure of argument.

"Commitment refers to what people have gone on record as supporting. When people engage in dialogue, they state their commitments within a particular argument. The strength of one person's argument can be judged on how well they have determined and addressed the other person's commitments."

Walton co-wrote the book with Erik C.W. Krabbe, a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Groningen University in the Netherlands. While the two had long been familiar with each other's work, it was not until they met in Amsterdam in 1986 that they had an opportunity to begin the project.

The project represents a revolutionary approach to logic. Traditional logicians have studied argument from an abstract, impersonal perspective using complex mathematical equations, but Walton and Krabbe are interested in an interpersonal approach that views arguments as conversations that happen between people.

"Dialectical logic uses a conversational framework to construct types of dialogue and examine the normative structures that people use," he explains. "This approach is gaining more respect and recognition, but some philosophers still think it's pretty far out."

Walton has also done considerable research on fallacies, a topic that has been largely neglected by philosophers over

the last 2,000 years.

"Fallacies are the typical moves people make that don't contribute to their argument, but initially seem to. They work because the speaker has shifted imperceptibly from a solid argument, so they can be quite slippery and deceptive," he explains. Walton notes these devices impede communication rather than contributing to resolution. "Sometimes they are used deliberately to deceive, but often they're mistakes or blunders."

There are about 20 common types of fallacies. These include the use of expert opinion, appeal to pity, personal attack, and what philosophers call "the appeal to the stick"—the use of threat and fear-mongering tactics to coerce. This is the type of persuasion that magpies employ—and, he says, a type that has become increasingly common in political discourse.

Last spring, Walton published *A Pragmatic Theory of Fallacy* (The University of Alabama Press, 1995), part of a series on rhetoric and communication intended for those who work in the speech communications field, where his work has broad appeal.

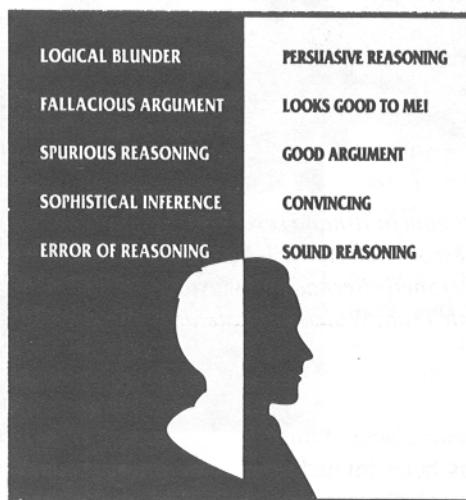
"I've really made an effort to use down-to-earth language and make the writing accessible to those without a background in logic and argumentation," he explains. As well, to illustrate his points, he draws on things familiar to all of us—from the deceptive trappings of "infomercials" to the back and forth shouting matches that characterize ques-

tion period in the House of Commons.

He reports that in order to persuade people, those in the speech communications field increasingly recognize the importance of understanding the technical structure of good arguments. But Walton does admit to some cynicism about their motives.

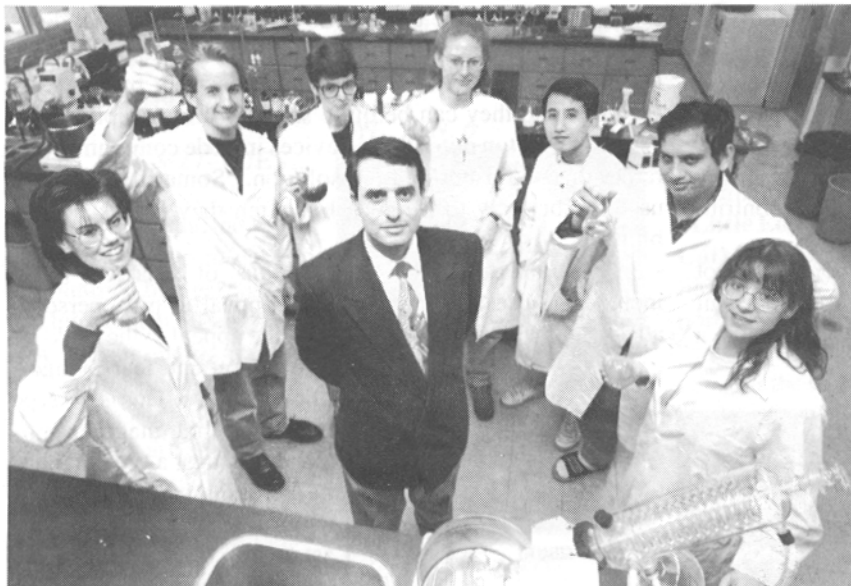
"While most are probably interested in devising sound arguments, some communicators are more interested in how to manipulate opinion through fallacies than how to avoid them. Corporate spin doctors, for example, are very good at spinning out fallacious arguments."

However, Walton says he was heartened by a lawyer's comments in the media recently that "people really are convinced by plausible arguments in the end."



*This illustration from the front cover of Walton's A Pragmatic Theory of Fallacy contrasts traits that contribute to persuasion with those that impede communication.*

## Chemist's Research Into New Compounds Sends Him Around the Globe



*Both graduate and undergraduate students gain first-hand research experience working on projects with Chemistry Professor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz. Shown here surrounding Abd-El-Aziz: (from left to right) Shelly Bernadin, Dwayne Kolodka, Christine de Denus, Andrea White, Khanh Tran, Waleed Boraie and Debbie Armstrong.*

Alaa Abd-El-Aziz has a busy few months ahead of him. The associate professor of chemistry has been invited to present at the 1995 International Chemical Congress of Pacific-Basin Societies this month in Hawaii. From there, he's off to the Middle East to present a series of lectures at the University of Kuwait. And early in 1996, he'll offer two presentations at the University of Texas.

A busy travel schedule is nothing new to Abd-El-Aziz. In the past few years, research funding, awards and invitations have allowed him to log thousands of miles to present his research in Canada and abroad. His expertise has been in demand from Edmonton to Guelph to Switzerland (a trip covered by the prestigious Ichikizaki Travel Award). And in 1994, he won a travel award from the Canadian National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (CNC/IUPAC) to participate in an international conference in Japan. More recently, he presented a paper in Saskatchewan to honour Nobel Laureate and renowned chemist Dr. H. Taube, an important influence on Abd-El-Aziz's career.

But Abd-El-Aziz isn't the only one travelling. The University's facilities and Abd-El-Aziz's unique research focus have drawn a number of scientists to The University of Winnipeg. Last summer, a vice-president and professor of

chemistry from the University of Kuwait came to work with Abd-El-Aziz. A student from China, funded by the Chinese government, has recently arrived to do post-doctoral work on polymer synthesis here. As well, many of the graduate students who have worked alongside Abd-El-Aziz since he joined the University five years ago have travelled from homes across and outside of Canada.

Abd-El-Aziz says it's no secret why so many travel so far to work at The University of Winnipeg: "We have a state-of-the-art lab, all the equipment anybody can imagine."

It is in those high-tech labs that Abd-El-Aziz and his many research assistants work to create new compounds for a wide variety of industrial and pharmaceutical applications.

"We're working on developing new materials in two areas. We're looking at the use of polymeric materials—thermo-plastics—which exhibit greater resistance to heat for a wide variety of applications. As well, we're making potentially useful pharmaceutical compounds along the line of ibuprofen."

Abd-El-Aziz says this basic research involves a lot of trial and error. "We make compounds from scratch after determining the potential properties we might expect. The development of new compounds is like doing a jigsaw puzzle. You have an idea how to start it, and you put it together piece by piece. You want to end up with a specific picture," he explains. "Then we examine the compound's characteristics to determine if we've succeeded."

In 1994, a breakthrough in the lab made Abd-El-Aziz and the third and fourth-year students working with him the first to be able to control the design of polyethers (thermoplastic compounds), and led to a better understanding of these compounds.

His research is funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Manitoba Hydro and the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, and others.

The students who work in the lab with Abd-El-Aziz have also logged a few miles. Both graduate and undergraduate students have travelled to conferences in many major Canadian and US cities to make presentations. And Abd-El-Aziz proudly reports those students consistently win an average of two to three awards for their presentations at each conference.

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## University of Winnipeg Student Named Rhodes Scholar

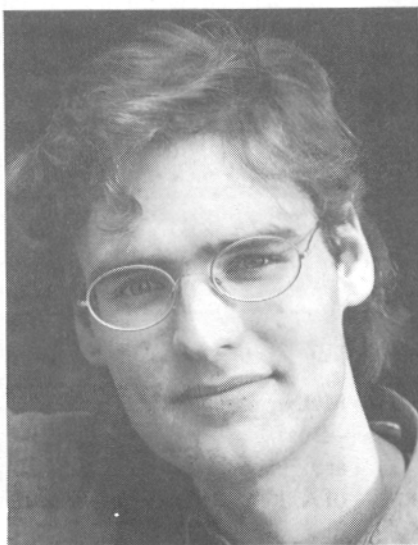
University of Winnipeg student Mark Matz was named a Rhodes Scholar last week. One of 11 Canadians—and the only one in Manitoba—to win a Rhodes Scholarship, Matz will complete his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Classics next term before pursuing his studies at Oxford University in England next fall.

The former Sir William Stephenson Scholarship winner said the process, which culminates in an interview to select three winners from the region of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, was very demanding.

"They ask tough questions—things you don't expect and things that are hard to answer. They asked in-depth questions about my field of study, but also about current events. It would be very difficult to prepare for the interview ahead of time."

Nonetheless, Matz credits the education he has received in the University's Classics Department and "the exceptional dedication of faculty" for preparing him to excel.

"Ironically, I'll get less individual attention at Oxford than I get at The University of Winnipeg. The Oxford system provides a ratio of two students to one professor—right now, I'm the only student in most of my



*Mark Matz, Manitoba's newest Rhodes Scholar, credits the individual attention and learning opportunities he has received at The University of Winnipeg for his success.*

classes. I get completely individual training, which is by far the best way to learn."

That personal attention compels him to be especially diligent. Noting that professors teach him above their normal courseload and without financial compensation to ensure he gets the necessary courses and guidance, he says, "I'd feel pretty rotten if I weren't holding up my end of the bargain."

During the interview process, Rhodes Scholarship candidates are asked how they have demonstrat-

ed leadership in their extracurricular activities. A guitarist with the University's Downtown Jazz Band and an active participant in the Youth Parliament of Manitoba, Matz reports the University provides endless opportunities for involvement.

"The size of the University has allowed me to get involved in many activities and to assume leadership positions. I've also had the opportunity to teach labs in Greek and Latin. That kind of experience just isn't possible for undergraduates in bigger schools."

## New Year Brings New Format for *in edition*

*in edition* will change its format in 1996 to become a weekly, rather than a bi-weekly, publication in the New Year.

In the first week of every month (except January), *in edition* will still offer eight pages of news, feature stories, campus updates and events. In each of the other three weeks of the month, a two-page supplement will keep the campus community up-to-date on important news stories and coming events.

We believe this new, cost-effective format will allow us to deliver pertinent information in a more timely manner, and in a way that offers easier access for our readership. The new format will be offered on a five-month trial basis.

As always, your comments and suggestions for both story ideas and ways to make in *in edition* a more effective communications tool are welcome.

The UNIVERSITY  
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*in edition / insert*

## COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. If you are planning a campus event, please let us know. Send the information (in writing) to Lois Cherney, University Relations, Room 4W15 at least 10 days in advance of your event. Basic details about your event are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

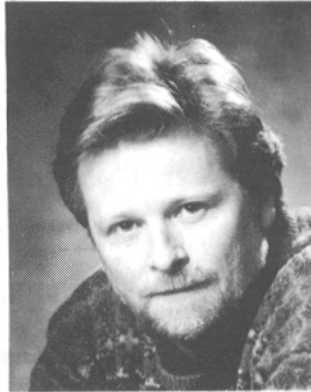
THURS., DEC. 21 - TUES.,  
JAN. 2, 1996  
- University closed.

WED., DEC. 27-TUES.,  
JAN. 2

- MTS Mobility and the Wesmen will team up to put on the country's biggest basketball tournament. **The Wesmen Classic** men's tournament runs from Wed., Dec. 27 - Sat., Dec. 30. Tournament passes are \$15, while day tickets range in price from \$3-\$7.50. The women's tournament runs from Sun., Dec. 31 - Tues., Jan. 2. A tournament pass costs \$10; day tickets are \$6. Children under 12 are free for both men's and women's tournaments. Season tickets, treasure chest coupons, family passes and student cards are not valid for the Classic, but MTS Mobility customers who present a recent bill will receive a five per cent discount on tournament passes. Tickets are now on sale at the Duckworth Centre; call 786-9418 (786-9349 evenings/weekends).

WED., JAN. 3  
- University re-opens.

SAT., JAN. 6



*Virtuosi Concerts* will present violinist David Stewart, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra's concertmaster, together with captivating pianist Stéphane Lemelin, Tom Wiebe on cello and Steven Dan on viola at the Winnipeg Art Gallery at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students/seniors and \$10 for children, and are available by calling 786-9000. Co-sponsored by the University and CBC Stereo.

MON., JAN. 8  
- Lectures commence in Winter Term.

THURS., JAN. 18  
- Gallery 1C03 presents "Little Eden: Paintings by Catherine Collins." Collins' oil on canvas works portray an urban landscape, "a view from the core" that combats the one-sided news stories about city dwellers. The opening will be from 4-6 p.m., and the artist will be present. The exhibition runs through Sat., Feb. 10. Gallery hours are Mon-Fri., 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sat., 1-4 p.m.

MON., JAN. 22  
- Board of Regents meets at 5:30 p.m. in the north half of Riddell Hall.

## Donations to United Way Climb in 1995

Donations continue to trickle in to the University's United Way campaign, which wrapped up early in November, but the amount of money donated has already exceeded last year's total.

As of Fri., Dec. 1, the University community had contributed \$45,071 to the United Way. Special events in 1995 generated another \$2,498, bringing the grand total to \$47,569—nearly \$800 more than had been raised by this time last year.

## University Telephone Directory Corrections

Please note the following corrections to the listings in The University of Winnipeg's telephone directory for 1995-96:

Under **History** Department - add  
**Sauer, Angelika 3A31 V 9007**  
(in addition to the listing for her as Chair of German-Canadian Studies).

Under **Anthropology** Department, add:  
**Greenhill, Pauline 4CM18 V 9752**  
(in addition to the listing for her as a member of Women's Studies).

-Change the telephone number for calling all departments at **Concord College** from 669-6575 to **669-6583**.

-Change the **Women's Studies** listing to reflect that the **Coordinator** is **Deborah Stienstra**, not Pauline Greenhill. The office and telephone numbers for both are correct.

