

# in edition

The UNIVERSITY of WINNIPEG

SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

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## Two Thumbs Up For Day One

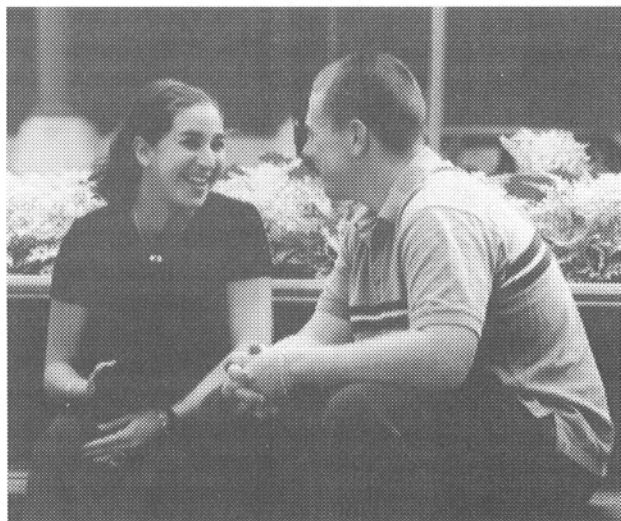
Day One was a hit with first year students. "This was the largest group we've had for Day One," reports Lorraine Walker from counselling services. "With 850 students in attendance, all of the sessions were full." After juice and doughnuts, students were greeted by the President, Dr. Constance Rooke, and the Dean of Student Services, Grace O'Farrell. "It was a chance for students to meet and mingle," says Walker. "Many of them felt more connected to the University and the people." Academic advisor Suzanne Martin says she heard a lot of positive comments from the crowd. "Students enjoyed the casual nature of the day," she says.

Students packed classrooms for the mini-lectures, which included the ever-popular "Talking About Sex," with Sandi Kirby and Judith Huebner. "Some students reported that they no longer felt nervous about university," says Walker. "The entire day was designed to make students feel comfortable and confident." Afternoon workshops included athletics, career planning, peer support, computers and preparing for admission to professional programs.

"First Year—A Down-to-Earth Look at How to Succeed" offered a lighthearted look at surviving first year from students' perspectives. Study skills and time management were reviewed, and student ambassador Mona Singal talked about how she handled the stress of first year. "I talked about some of the differences between high school and university," she says. "I think first year students need to be aware that they have a lot of freedom, because no one will be hounding them about completing assignments. The onus is therefore on them to produce and succeed."

A third year biochemistry major, Singal also talked about the resources students should use to help them succeed. "The professors are there to help and they really do care," she says.

Martin believes it is crucial for first year students to hear from other students that there is support and that if you are feeling nervous, you are not alone. "Theatre graduate James Durham delivered a skit that everyone in the room could relate to," says Martin. "There's nothing better than students speaking



*Day One brings first year students together in a casual, fun atmosphere.*

## Enrolment Numbers Are Up

The rise in 1999 Fall Term registrations reflects widespread interest in what The University of Winnipeg has to offer. Students are registered in 20,650.8 full course equivalents, up from 19,728.8 last year. The total number of students registered went up 4 per cent, with a total head count of 6,040. Vice-president (academic) George Tomlinson says the increase is the result of careful planning. "A large component of the increase is attributable to the Education program," he says. "We expected the five-year program to draw more students."

The University of Winnipeg's programs and services, together with its commitment to providing individualized attention and innovative opportunities for students, continue to draw students. "We're thrilled to see the numbers rising," he says. "There is a growing awareness that this University is a unique institution with a lot to offer students."

Theatre enrolment is up 19 per cent, which Tomlinson says can be linked to the acquisition of the Citadel building. "With more room for more students, there was no doubt the Theatre Department would boost enrolment numbers," he says. "The new film studies course has attracted a new segment of the population. With a booming film industry, our expanded theatre program is exactly what Manitoba needs."

to students about what's really on their minds."

### *Later That Day . . .*

Parents of first year students had an orientation of their own. More than 150 parents gathered in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall for Parent's Night, a chance to meet University

*see Day One, page 4*

## Let's Talk

The first President's Forum brought staff and faculty together to talk about issues that are on everyone's mind. The tone was optimistic and the message was clear: "We need more truly open and effective communication between faculty, staff, administration and students," Dr. Rooke said. We need to share our ideas and our expertise, she added. "The silo mentality is endemic to universities, but we must work to overcome it. We are one body, and it's important to understand the various parts and what they are doing." She noted that by harnessing the creativity found here we cannot help but give greater strength to the whole.

In addition to fostering open communication and creativity, Dr. Rooke wants to ensure working at the U of W is enjoyable. She revealed that while developing a mission statement at Guelph University, the ongoing joke was that she wouldn't accept anything that didn't have the word "pleasure" in it. Here, at The University of Winnipeg, she will encourage a culture of appreciation. "I hope everyone sees the University as a community where there is mutual respect and support," she said. "We spend a large part of our lives at work, and my goal is to make it happier and more exciting to be here." The University community has an underlying and strong dedication, Dr. Rooke noted, and we can build on that devotion.

Dr. Rooke said that reports and recommendations are often made and then put on the shelf, never to be fully employed. "The limitations of time and resources are real, but those who devote their time and intelligence to a project deserve better." As for those reports that have been sitting on shelves, they might be put to use soon. "Future strategic planning will be based on work that has already been done," she said. "We have a strong foundation in place; we need to focus on where we want to go from here."

To this end, an "enrolment strategy committee" will be created. "Their task will be to look at everything we do—or might do—in terms of its impact on recruitment and retention," Dr. Rooke said, adding that one of our greatest challenges is building enrolment.

As described in her welcoming remarks in the last issue of *in edition*, Dr. Rooke has disbanded the President's Senior Administration Advisory Council and established a smaller administrative advisory council and an academic advisory council. "This will get more academic issues on the table," she said. "Both councils will be encouraged to invite other people to the meetings, depending upon the agenda."

Dr. Rooke mentioned the possibility of making the VP (academic) and the dean of arts and science one position and appointing a small group of deans, each of whom would be responsible for a subset of departments and for particular cross-faculty initiatives and interdisciplinary programs. "I hope this doesn't sound like a plan to divide the faculty; its intent is to strengthen it," she said. Recruitment and retention of faculty and staff was cited as a top priority. "To attract the best candidates, The University of Winnipeg has to be a destination of choice."

Dr. Rooke expressed a strong interest in enhancing the University's responsiveness and service to the community. As a downtown university, we are in a perfect position to extend our presence further into the community, she said. "We have a very diverse student population, as well as a wonderful Aboriginal community. There is an opportunity for us to be more visible and involved."

As always, students come first. "We have to listen to students and consider how to serve them better," she said. "A great opportunity exists for us to demonstrate the value of liberal education. Liberal education provides breadth and depth of knowledge, and it prepares people to succeed in the changing world of work."

Finding pleasure in what one does applies not only to faculty and staff but to students. "As a commuter campus, we have to find ways to make student life vibrant and exciting," said Dr. Rooke. For example, she suggested that we need venues on campus where students can listen to music, read poetry, and participate in intramural sports and perhaps a debating society. She added that working closely with the UWSA could go a long way in making student life more fun.

Our new president's ideas were well received. Patty Hawkins, secretary for the English and Theatre Departments, said that she was happy to hear that staff concerns would be treated with the attention they deserve. "In the past, I don't think our voice has been heard," she said. "I'm glad that Dr. Rooke understands the importance of recognizing hard work."

Political Science Professor Chris Leo said that he was impressed with Dr. Rooke's agenda. "We can do a lot more in terms of linking our efforts as academics to community efforts," he said. "I also appreciated her comments about giving substance to the fact that we are an urban university."

Mike Fox, dean of The Collegiate, said he was pleased to hear Dr. Rooke recognize the value of a seamless education. "She sees The Collegiate as part of the University, and she acknowledges the importance of that relationship,"

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Editor: Paula Denbow  
Coordinator of Publications  
(204) 786-9172  
paula.morphy@uwinnipeg.ca

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## Honouring Our Graduates

Fall Convocation is less than a month away, and 180 graduands will be returning to The University of Winnipeg for the final step in what has been a life-transforming journey. Having seen them through the ups and downs of their University years, faculty and staff have an important role to play at Convocation. Some faculty and alumni wanted to express what this event has meant to them.

"Convocation is a rite of passage for students, and those students who attend do so because it is meaningful to them or to their families. By attending, I let them know that it is meaningful to me, too. At the reception, afterwards, I have been struck by how often students want to introduce their families to their professors. I think it is a way of giving their families a better sense of the University, and the place they have had in it. That's an important thing to do for them,

and a way in which the University becomes more connected to the larger community. Finally, I find that Convocation enlarges my perspective of what I am doing, and makes me proud of the endeavour that I share with my colleagues, every year. Every graduating class is an achievement for us, too."

Wendy Josephson  
*Psychology Professor*

"I'm ashamed to say that the Spring 1999 Convocation was the first I've attended, and I've been here since 1987. I regret it now, for I found Convocation to be a very rewarding experience. It was surprisingly satisfying to watch former students cross the stage, and especially gratifying to acknowledge the geography majors and award winners. And if that wasn't enough, it was great fun to congratulate and chat with graduating students at the re-

ception. The best moments, however, were when students introduced me to their parents; I took this to be a great compliment, and it gave me the opportunity to share in the pride that the parents and students were clearly feeling. Indeed, they weren't the only ones feeling pride; I don't think I've ever been more proud to be a professor at The University of Winnipeg than I was on that day. So, to those who do not usually attend Convocation, I can honestly say it is not something to be missed."

Danny Blair  
*Geography Professor*

"I was very proud to graduate with my family sitting in the audience. The whole day was very important to them, and it meant a lot to me too. I was thrilled to see my advisor, Professor Gold, there," says Jennifer Forbes, who graduated in the spring with a BA(Honours). "I won a couple of awards, so it was especially gratifying to accept them with my family and professors in the audience." Her mother, Mary



*Convocation is a source of pride for both graduates and their families. It's also a chance for faculty and staff to recognize the accomplishments of students.*

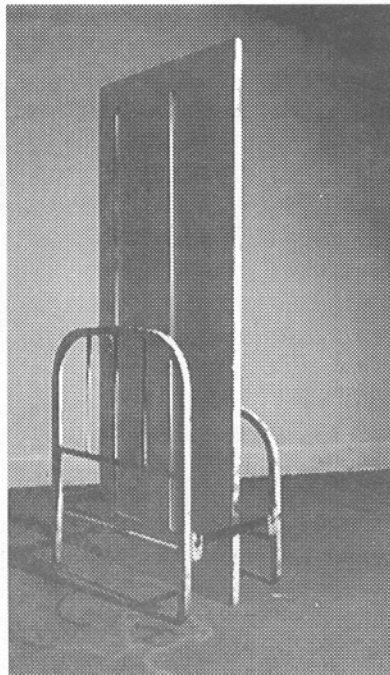
Forbes, says she has never been more proud. "I had a chance to talk with Professor Gold, which was nice because we had heard so much about him," she says. "I also really enjoyed the speeches."

Jennifer Forbes  
*BA (Honours) '99*  
and Mary Forbes

"Convocation was an integral part of the celebration I shared with my family upon having accomplished a long sought-after goal. In essence, it symbolized the closure of one chapter of my life and the beginning of another. And, of course, it was exhilarating to put on my cap and gown and march across the stage to receive my degree in person!"

Jennifer Gibson  
*BA (Honours) '94*

Helene Dyck's "passage set" will be in Gallery 1C03 until Fri., Oct. 17. Dyck says she is interested in displaced or reconfigured found objects which embody echoes of those who touched them and the physical and emotional spaces they once defined. She places these transformed objects in a new setting in order to collapse past and present. "bed", the work featured above, is part of the Gallery 1C03 exhibit.



### Let's Talk

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Fox said. The creation of an academic council as well as an administrative council is also something Fox supports. "I strongly agree that arts and science is the core of what we do." *Anyone who has comments to add to the ongoing dialogue is welcome to write a letter to in edition. Letters will be printed in subsequent issues to ensure the continuation of lively discussion.*

## COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send **written** information to Paula Denbow (paula.morphy@uwinnipeg.ca), University Relations, 10 working days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

THROUGH SUN., OCT. 17  
• **Gallery 1C03's first exhibition of the season**— passage set: Sculptural Works by Helene Dyck will run from Fri., Sept. 24 through Sun., Oct. 17. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 10-4 p.m., Sat., 1-4 p.m., Sun., Oct. 17, 1-5 p.m.

WED., SEPT. 29  
• **President's Open Forum**—The last in a series of three, this forum is an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to share their ideas and thoughts about the future of the University. Dr. Rooke will address the audience and give everyone a chance to ask questions and make comments. The forum is in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

FRI., OCT. 1  
• The Chair in Mennonite Studies and The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society present "**1874 Revisited**," the 125th Anniversary Symposium. John Warkentin from York University will deliver a keynote address entitled "The Mennonite Settlements of Southern Manitoba Reconsidered." The evening gets underway at 7 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Admission is free. For more information call 888-6781.

SAT., OCT. 9  
• **Mondetta-Jazz Stage presents SwingSoniq**—Greg Leskiw (vocals, guitar), Greg Lowe (lead guitar) and Daniel Koulack (double bass) rely on the sounds of the '30s and '40s but transcend time with

their unique contemporary version of acoustic jazz-swing. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$13 for students. Call 786-9000 to order tickets.

WED., OCT. 13  
• **United Way kickoff pancake breakfast**—Tickets are \$3 per person and are available from your department or area canvasser, the Faculty Association office, the UWSA Info Booth or by calling Inga at 786-9186. The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. in Riddell Hall.

SAT., OCT. 16  
**Virtuosi Concerts presents Seymour Lipkin**, a living piano legend. The programme includes Mozart, Perle, Bartok and Schubert's great Sonata in B Flat, op. posth. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$13 for students. Call 786-9000 to order tickets.

SAT., OCT. 30  
**Mondetta-Jazz Stage presents VIKRAMA**, featuring singer Charlotte Martin and Vancouver saxophonist Mike Allen, with Steve Hamilton, bass and Rob Siwik, drums. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$13 for students. Call 786-9000 to order tickets.

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### Day One

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faculty and staff and to hear why The University of Winnipeg is the best choice. "Parent's Night was a tremendous success," says Monica Wood, director of enrolment management. "They were surprised and delighted to see that University of Winnipeg faculty have a very personal commitment to students here."

Dr. Rooke spoke to the parents, imparting the value and importance of higher education, and she asserted that both parents and students had made good decisions. This event was a perfect opportunity to make parents aware they are not alone. Richard Graydon, parent, alumnus and member of the Board of Regents, spoke from a parent's perspective about having a child in first year university.

A variety of methods for parents to stay in touch have been put in place. For example, each parent at Parent's Night was given a list of phone numbers for a variety of contacts and services including counselling services and the Centre for Academic Writing. "We'll review Parent's Night to see what could be done even better next year," says Wood. "It was a superb way to start the year."