

# in edition

The UNIVERSITY of WINNIPEG

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## Skywalk Celebrates 10 Years

If the confines of your office walls are getting you down, or you simply feel the need to enrich your life with some intellectual stimulation over lunch, then the Skywalk Concert and Lecture Series is just what you are looking for. Celebrating its tenth year, the series is a chance for the downtown community to sample an eclectic mix of music and an interesting variety of lecture topics. Organized in partnership with the Winnipeg Centennial Library, this unique venture has reinforced the University's reputation as an exciting downtown campus with a vibrant cultural presence. "We're strengthening the University's profile in the community while filling a highly accessible central venue with lunchtime entertainment," says music coordinator and series organizer Harry Strub. "It's beneficial for everyone, including those who perform or lecture."

Skywalk is an excellent performance opportunity for musicians to play for new audiences. After launching their career with Skywalk, local Winnipeg band SwingSoniq were heard several times on CBC Radio Two. Their contemporary version of acoustic jazz-swing turned out to be a hit in Winnipeg, and they are set to begin their western tour. Other notable names that have performed in concert include the Ron Paley Trio, Keystone Bluegrass Quartet and Finjan.

With an annual program of 20 concerts and 20 lectures, there is something for everyone. Where else can you get everything from jazz music by Fred Liessens Trio (performing on Thurs., Nov. 18) to an illustrated lecture on the Parthenon by classics professor Bob Gold (lecturing on Wed., Oct. 27)? The lecture portion of the series is a perfect opportunity for internationally-renowned researchers and scholars from this University to demonstrate the relevancy of their work and to share their expertise with the public.

Faculty members who volunteer their time find the experience to be rewarding. Psychology professor Jim Clark has been involved with Skywalk throughout his career at the University and, together with fellow psychology professor Bev Fehr, has been the most frequent presenter. More than 136 other faculty members have

lectured for Skywalk. "I participate because I enjoy talking to people in the community about my research.

*cont'd on page 4*  
*Skywalk has helped several local Winnipeg groups, including SwingSoniq, to launch their careers.*



Greg Lowe



Greg Leskin



Daniel Kowalski

## Career Fair '99

Career Fair '99 promises to give students a chance to talk with representatives from a wide range of local and national organizations and companies. "This year's career fair will be very student-focused," says Lydia Kubrakovich, interim coordinator. "The main goal is to show students what career options are available to graduates of the University of Winnipeg, but the day is also designed to be a lot of fun." The fun begins at 9 a.m. with a scavenger hunt. "It's designed to get students looking at the 16 volunteer tables, which will be on display in the Bulman Student Centre on Wed., Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.," says Kubrakovich, a third-year student majoring in women's studies and conflict resolution studies.

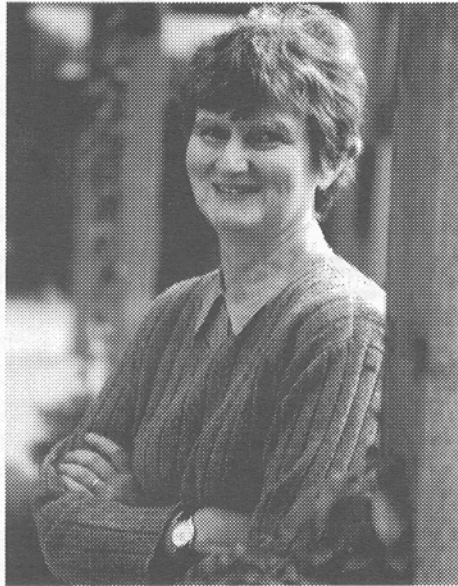
An afternoon of entertainment on the mezzanine level has been scheduled. "Two bands will be playing in the afternoon," says Kubrakovich. "So far we've lined up *Seven*, a band that is really big in the prairie music scene lately."

Volunteer Days, on Nov. 22 and 23, will bring 16 volunteer tables to the Atrium of the Bulman Centre, giving students another chance to identify volunteer opportunities. "On these two days, organization representatives will be on campus strictly to recruit volunteers, so it's an excellent opportunity for students to find hands-on volunteer jobs that give them experience in their fields of study." During Volunteer Days, Youth Service Manitoba will be on campus to promote a bursary program. "Manitoba Education and Training will provide \$500 bursaries for students who volunteer 100 hours of their time, and \$1,000 bursaries to those who volunteer 200 hours," says Kubrakovich.

## NFA: Unresolved Issues

*First Nations and Hydro-electric Development in Northern Manitoba — The Northern Flood Agreement: Issues and Implications* is a must-read for anyone who is concerned about the social and environmental significance of the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA). Co-edited by Jennifer Brown, University of Winnipeg history professor and director of The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, and Jean-Luc Chodkiewicz, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Manitoba, this publication is a compilation of 11 papers that were presented at "The Present Status of the Northern Flood Agreement," a one-day conference held in February 1999 at the University of Winnipeg by the Society for Applied Anthropology in Manitoba.

The conference brought together several Aboriginal spokespersons from Pimicikamak First Nation (Cross Lake, Manitoba) and other Cree communities, as well as scholars



*Jennifer Brown says that both the conference and the book have contributed to knowledge of historical and contemporary problems occasioned by northern development.*

and politicians. "The conference was organized to enable these people to present their points of view," says Brown. "This book is the only readily available published source of the conference proceedings as well as terms of the agreement. It is important for all who are interested in and concerned with issues of Aboriginal self-governance and inherent rights."

The speakers, all familiar with NFA issues, explored a broad range of topics. For example, David Newman, former Minister of Northern Affairs, spoke about the province's bid to settle NFA issues, while other presenters specified the numerous unresolved issues surrounding environmental impacts, legal and judiciary responsibilities, and the ongoing social and economic problems confronting Cross Lake. Brown says that 80 people registered for the conference, with many participants from Cross Lake. "They were most concerned because they haven't signed the final agreement," she says, adding that Manitoba Hydro and the federal department of Indian Affairs did not send representatives to the conference.

To order a copy of this book, please contact Jennifer Brown at 9003 or 9274.

## Skywalk

*continued from page 1*

Part of the enjoyment comes from helping people to understand and/or deal with important aspects of their lives," Clark says. He adds that the questions and comments from the audience reflect the relevancy of the lecture topics. "I have talked about memory and aging and found the anecdotes from seniors nicely illustrated my points," he recalls. "This also provides material that I can use in my regular lectures."

Presenting new and different views to the public is another aspect that Clark en-

joys. "I have talked about psychic and other paranormal phenomena, and there are always believers in the audience," Clark says. "It is interesting to try and counter their observations with naturalistic explanations, such as coincidence." Other aspects of the University are also showcased. "I try to mention things like research involving honours students," notes Clark.

The success of Skywalk was the impetus behind Music 'N Mavens, a music and lecture series staged at the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre. "I was approached to

collaborate in this series mainly due to the success of Skywalk," Strub notes. Music 'N Mavens is now in its second year.

"Skywalk represents what we do best," according to Joan Anderson, executive director of University Relations. "This University is open to the community and professor Strub deserves both credit and thanks for the 10 years he has dedicated to planning and organizing a program which takes that openness one step further."

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.) The deadline for the next issue is Oct. 28.

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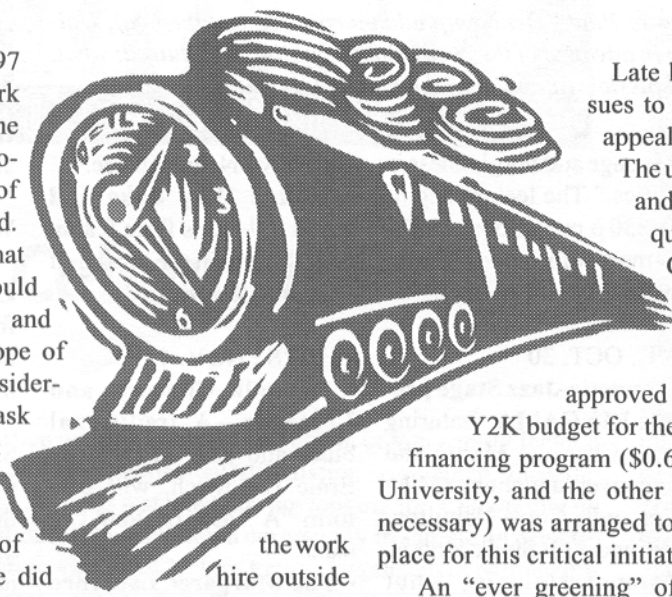
## Y2K . . . Ready?

What was thought in 1997 to be a small amount of work turned out to be one of the biggest information technology projects the University of Winnipeg has ever handled. Back then, it was expected that the Year 2000 project would involve desktop hardware and software. By 1998, the scope of the enterprise expanded considerably, and a Year 2000 Task Force was created to assist in taking an inventory of the systems beyond the desktop. "About 75 per cent of the work was done in-house, but we did hire outside people to help inventory, and to test and patch the more than one thousand desktop systems on campus," says Ken Krebs, Year 2000 (Y2K) project manager.

A crisis situation hit less than a year ago when the Student Information System (SIS) was inventoried and assessed to determine whether it would operate in the Year 2000 and beyond. Bad news — it wouldn't! Limited time and resources led to the recruitment of EDS System House to assist in the necessary detailed assessment, repair, multi-level testing and implementation to production of Y2K-ready SIS. The SIS Student Registration module and related General Information System (GIS) are being re-written and tested in-house by the Technology Solutions Centre (TSC). The last module is expected to be certified in November.

"As the project progressed, it was recognized that the University's infrastructure had to be added to our agenda," says Krebs. This includes the technical network, operating systems, servers and devices as well as physical plant heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, as well as telephones, gas, water and Hydro utilities.

The University environment is more complex than most other institutions. Many individual departments use technology that is unique to their areas. "When it comes to troubleshooting and day-to-day support, we need more time because of the complex mix of technology," says Mike Langedock, executive director of TSC. The Centre issued a letter to all University employees reminding everyone that the University would not be supporting what was termed 'unblessed software.' Problems created by this form of shareware and other unapproved software cannot be handled by TSC.



Late last summer, with all of these issues to address, a tri-university funding appeal to the province was launched. The universities of Brandon, Winnipeg and Manitoba formulated a joint request for Y2K funding from the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE). Several months after the request had been made, the government recognized and approved the need for a 1.2-million dollar Y2K budget for the University of Winnipeg. A joint financing program (\$0.6 million will be provided by the University, and the other half will come from COPSE if necessary) was arranged to ensure adequate funding was in place for this critical initiative.

An "ever greening" of the PC desktop and notebook environment is occurring as computers are being upgraded or replaced. "Compliant machines are being reallocated, on a priority basis to those areas that are most important to our mission," says Langedock. "When the calendar rolls over in December, what will matter most is actually quite a broadly defined area." The teaching, PC lab and administrative functions must work. TSC is planning for all non-compliant systems to be replaced by Dec. 31, but it really has become a race against the clock.

Even though TSC is confident about Y2K, an action plan is necessary for two critical periods: Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 and Feb. 28 to March 1. "We have to be prepared to catch problems that may occur as a result of the date change," says Krebs. Contingency plans are being crafted and must be in place in the event that critical systems fail. "We are developing triage plans — basically planning for the unexpected.

"Because we are working against a fixed deadline, there is not enough time for an end-to-end, fully integrated system test," Krebs notes. "We are, however, doing as much testing as time will allow."

Globally shared risks are a concern, but the University is doing everything possible to reduce those risks. "In terms of our business partners and suppliers, if we do not get confirmation of their Y2K readiness, we will be enlisting the services of other Y2K ready businesses," says Krebs.



**DR. ROOKE** would like to invite everyone to the next **PRESIDENT'S OPEN FORUM**, to be held on **Mon., Nov. 1** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

# 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](mailto: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.

MON., OCT. 25 and  
TUES., OCT. 26

• **Manitoba Premiere of Mandala Theatre**—The University of Winnipeg's Department of Theatre and Drama is pleased to present two plays, in English, by Poland's Mandala Theatre: *The Inner World of Damazov* (Oct. 25) and *It Happened Once Upon a Time When the Moon Set Off for Her First Journey* (Oct. 26). Both plays begin at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets are \$8. Available at the door, or in advance from the Department of Theatre and Drama, 9292.

WED. OCT. 27

• **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures** celebrates 10 Years. Bob Gold, Classics professor, will present "The Parthenon: tradition and innovation."

THURS., OCT. 28

• **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures** presents Sister Dorothy Video Hits, a combination of classical and electric guitars, flute and voice, and clips from her recent videos.  
• **Philosophy Lecture**—Trudy Govier will talk about

"Revenge and Forgiveness in Politics." The lecture begins at 12:30 p.m. in Room 2M70. For more information, please call Lou Lepine at 9878.

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. "Composer/pianist Knut Haugsoen's VIKRAMA displays uncommon vision and ambition" (*The Globe and Mail*). The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Call 786-9000 to order tickets.

MON., NOV. 1

• **President's Open Forum**—The forum runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Everyone is welcome.

WED., NOV. 3

• **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures**—Bruce Bolster, psychology professor, will talk about "The Conceptual Brain: Good and Bad Ideas in

Cognitive Neuroscience."

• **United Way Bake and Craft Sale** runs from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the atrium of Riddell Cafeteria.

THURS., NOV. 4

• **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures**—A traditional blues and jazz duo, led by Ernie Labovitch, will perform "A Taste of New Orleans."

• **The Margaret Laurence Endowment in Women's Studies Speaker Series** presents "Feeling Framed: Emotion and the Hollywood Woman's Film." Brenda Austin-Smith, professor of English at the University of Manitoba, will explore the 'woman's film,' also known as the 'chick-flick,' as trap and/or escape for women viewers, and the contradictory pleasures of crying at the movies. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2M70.

SAT., NOV. 6

SUN., NOV. 7

• **Mondetta Global Stage** presents Batuque Percussion Ensemble. Led by Jordan Hanson, this group features a

variety of traditional instruments from Africa, Cuba and Brazil. The Sat. concert begins at 8 p.m., and the Sun. concert begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for students.

WED., NOV. 10

• **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures**—Tracy Trothen from the Theology Department will talk about "Bioethics and Pastoral Care."

SAT., NOV. 13

• **Virtuosi Concerts**—Join the celebration of the first birthday of Triskelion, a Canadian string trio with its illustrious stars, violinist Martin Beaver, violist David Harding, and cellist Bryan Epperson. Featured work: Beethoven Serenade in D, Op. 8. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets are \$22 (adults), \$20 (seniors), and \$13 (students).

MON., NOV. 15

• **Theological Lunch Discussion**—Rick Prashaw will discuss Restorative Justice. Prashaw is the communications coordinator for the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. The discussion runs from 12:20 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 2B14 (2nd floor, Bryce Hall). There is no fee.

## SKY WALK CONCERTS & LECTURES

The Skywalk Concert and Lectures are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. at the Winnipeg Centennial Library's 2nd Floor Auditorium.

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know...

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