

New Program Brings Elders to Campus

Aboriginal Elders are working to keep the traditional knowledge of their people alive. The new Visiting Elder Program at the University is a step toward preserving the past and ensuring generations of Aboriginal youth will learn the ways of their people.

The idea for a program at the University of Winnipeg first emerged a few years ago. Although several campus committees were addressing a variety of Aboriginal issues, a consensus was quickly reached that the University of Winnipeg needed a Visiting Elder Program to better serve the Aboriginal students on campus. Grace O'Farrell, Dean of Student Services, coordinated the effort and received a budget for the project. She worked with the Student-Related Issues Committee to develop the criteria and to select six Elders in Residence. "The implementation of a Visiting Elder Program was an initiative that I hoped to have in place within my first year as Dean; it took a bit longer but I am particularly pleased with the student involvement in the

nomination and selection of Elders," says O'Farrell.

"Their presence will help us learn to talk with each other and will improve Aboriginal activities on campus," says Student Services counsellor Mary Young. "It's the only way our students will have a beneficial experience. The Elders have wisdom to pass on, and at the same time they recognize the value of education. A combination of these things will allow our young people to be successful."

Young was instrumental in developing the Visiting

See Elders, continued on page 2



On Feb., 2, students at the University of Winnipeg walked out of class — along with thousands of other students across Canada — launching the Canadian Federation of Students Access 2000 Campaign. Students are taking action, demanding the restoration of funding for post-secondary education, implementation of a national grant system, and the eventual removal of user fees for post-secondary education.

Call for Nominations

Premier Gary Doer has declared April 9 to 15 as "Volunteer Week" in Manitoba. He has invited Manitobans to recognize volunteer activity by nominating deserving citizens and community groups for the 2000 Premier's Volunteer Service Award.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 25. A panel of three independent judges will select ten outstanding volunteers, including two Manitobans who are 24 years of age or younger, and three community groups.

The Premier's Volunteer Service Awards will be presented Tues., April 11, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre during the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg's Volunteer Week Awards Luncheon.

Nomination forms and further information are available from: Volunteers in Public Service, 310-800 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4, or by calling 945-8619 or 1-800-282-8069, ext. 8619.

Elders

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Five of the six Elders attended a welcoming ceremony that was held in the Duckworth Centre. (l to r): Philip Paynter, Florence Paynter, Charlotte Daniels, Ernest Daniels and Calvin Pompana.

Elder Program. She says it was a pleasure working with the students. "It was wonderful to see the respect the students have for each other," she says. "They gave a lot of themselves to move this initiative forward."

Facilitated jointly by the President's Office and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science, and administered through the office of the Dean of Student Services, the Visiting Elder Program will give Aboriginal students the opportunity to learn traditional teachings. "We are here to assist and support the students in their studies," says Charlotte Daniels, Elder in Residence. "The most important thing we can teach them is to feel good about who they are."

Daniels has already volunteered her time to the University's Anthropology Department, answering questions about artifacts and passing on her knowledge of the Aboriginal culture and people. "Both my husband, Ernest, and I feel honoured to work with the students," Daniels says. "Guest speaking and lecturing is a crucial component in the program, and one that we take seriously. Many issues need to be discussed in conjunction with the students' course work, and we are looking forward to this aspect of our role here. We will be offering advice on how to incorporate traditional teachings and Aboriginal content into existing courses."

The search for Elders in Residence began with the members of the Student-Related Is-

sues Committee bringing forward nominations. Over a potluck supper, invitations were extended to the nominees, and each of the six guests accepted. "There is broad representation," says Chantal

Hutchinson, committee president. "We are pleased to have women among the Elders, as there are teachings that need to be passed on by them."

Mark Ruml, Anthropology professor, agrees that having representation from the different Nations—Cree, Ojibway, and Dakota—creates balance. "These people are the PhDs in their culture," he explains. "It is important to learn from the experience and knowledge of both men and women from the different Nations." He adds that the elders will help students to keep their lives in balance. "The physical, emotional, spiritual and mental must all be in balance. This will help students to be successful at school and in other aspects of their lives."

Traditional Aboriginal ceremonies, such as sharing circles and smudging ceremonies, will be conducted by the Elders. Working out of an office that is connected to the First Nations Student Lounge, the Elders will provide services to increase the comfort level of Aboriginal students on campus. "Students also need to be encouraged to pursue post-secondary education," says Frank Daniels, co-chair of the student-related initiatives committee. "The Elders will encourage students and make them feel comfortable in a university setting. Spiritual guidance and a support network are critical, and having the Elders right here on campus will enhance student support tremendously."

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.) The deadline for the next issue is Feb. 21, 2000.

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

Taking a Stand on Funding

President Constance Rooke has said that the University should not make any more cuts. "We've cut too far as it is," she said at an open forum. "We won't know the amount we will be receiving from government until the end of March, but I want to avoid cuts if there is any alternative available to us." One alternative, if the government fails to increase funding to an adequate level, is to run a deficit. "I'm prepared to seek permission from COPSE to do this," she added, "if the Board approves and if all other responsible avenues have been exhausted."

Dr. Rooke also discussed at her open forum the process for a decision on decadal restructuring in Arts and Science. Ultimately, this is a matter for decision by the Board of Regents. However, she believed it was critical for Senate to provide its advice to the Board. On Jan. 31, Senate approved the following motion: "That the University of Winnipeg adopt a structure of four Deans: Humanities, Science, Social Science, and Education within one Faculty of Arts and Science." The vote was 53 to 3 in favour.

Judith Huebner, Academic Assistant to the President and to the V. P. (Academic), spoke to the forum about the progress of the new Enrolment Strategy Committee. She indicated that the committee will be using a survey to gather information from students about their level of satisfaction with the education and services they receive at the University. The survey was developed in the United States and the University of Winnipeg is participating in the pilot of the Canadian version. Faculty, staff and Board members will have the opportunity to respond to a similar survey. The information will serve to direct enrolment strategy committee initiatives. "We are working on enrolment and recruitment activities designed to show students that the University is an atmosphere in which they will thrive," she said. "New initiatives are being undertaken to ensure that first-year students have the support and guidance they need and want."

A new mentorship program will match each faculty member with a small group of incoming students, and will facilitate one-on-one academic advising. "In addition, we're going to expand the orientation program. We want to add to



the success of Day One, and then continue providing support throughout students' academic careers," explained Huebner. Among the new initiatives in this area is an expansion of peer tutoring — particularly for math.

Faculty and staff raised other ideas about potential retention strategies. History professor Don Bailey talked about a colleague in British Columbia who spends one of his office hours each week in the library. "Students are in the library, and those who wouldn't normally see him during his office hours will approach him in the library," he explained. "It's a great way to make yourself accessible."

Carol Harvey, professor of French and German Studies, suggested that our alumni are a valuable resource. "University graduates who are now teaching could be brought together to talk about various ways of creating interest in the University of Winnipeg," she said.

"Talk up the University, wherever you can," said Dr. Rooke. "We are all ambassadors for U of W. It's our responsibility to let the public and prospective students know what a great place this is."

**The next OPEN FORUM will be held on
Mon., Feb. 21
from 12:30–1:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.**

On The Positive Side . . .

Now that we know the problems caused by Y2K are minimal, we can focus on the benefits of Year 2000 work. Here's what we and others believe are some of the post-Y2K-benefits—now part of the positive legacy of this project.

- Greater awareness of risk management, risk exposures and business continuity planning—specific result being an up-to-date business risk analysis and business continuity plans.
- Up-to-date contingency and formal contingency plans for the whole institution.
- Standardizing all hardware and software and discarding those that were no longer being used.
- Working towards the development of a standard operating environment and/or standardization throughout to more recent versions of software.
- The most comprehensive inventory of hardware and software ever available.
- Improvements in information technology strategic procurement.
- Improved understanding of business processes by all stakeholders.
- Review of most maintenance agreements.
- Helped to identify that project management disciplines can be applied and are an ideal method of getting people committed to the issue at hand — and delivered by the date that was promised.

With Y2K largely behind us, it's on to bigger and better things. In fact, planning is under way in TSC to scope out the coming year's projects.

Resurrecting the Voice of Anna Wickham



The next Distinguished Faculty Lecture: "Why, if all were said/ Am I not dead?: The (almost) Disappearance of Anna Wickham, Free Woman and Poet."

The next Distinguished Faculty Lecture promises to reveal intriguing details about the life and work of poet and activist Anna Wickham. English professor Debbie Schnitzer will talk about "The (almost) Disappearance of Anna Wickham, Free Woman and Poet," on March 1.

Wickham lived in London, England during the Modernist period from 1905 until she took her own life in 1947. At one point in her career, she enjoyed an international reputation and her work was anthologized more fully than poets such as W.B. Yeats, whose own reputation in subsequent years has been

beautifully established. Wickham's work, by contrast, has almost disappeared from the literary canon. That almost disappearance has been described by some as "one of the great mysteries of contemporary literature"; it is depicted by others in less flattering terms: "Anna Wickham, like her exact contemporary Charlotte Mew, has lapsed into obscurity for reasons that have everything to do with the form of her verse and the matter of her dress."

Many found Wickham's poetry as "unfashionable" as her "person." Wickham struggled to write. She consistently defied the conventions which corseted women's thoughts and actions as well as the expressed desire of her husband, who embodying those conventions, committed Wickham to an asylum when she persisted with plans to publish her poetry. Reversing the terms of the longstanding academic cliché "publish or perish," composing in haste, sometimes on scraps of paper while out for tea, Wickham worked tirelessly, supported by friends such as D.H. Lawrence, who found her poems significant and beautiful.

Wickham writes about her need and right to use her voice. She examines the lives of women exhausted by prevailing political, cultural and religious rules and regulations. She does not stop writing, but like many whose sense of entitlement is besieged by mainstream standards and customs, the cost is high. This presentation examines the almost disappearance which fringes Wickham's working life and contemporary reputation—this almost disappearance which informs and inspires her prose and poetry and our desire to read her work. See *Coming Events* for details.

Staff Changes Report

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sylvia Chidlow	Office Assistant 3	Student Services
Roberta Flamand	TSL 3	Tech. Solutions Ctr.
Helen Wittig	TSL 3	Tech. Solutions Ctr.
Robert Emery	TSL 3	Tech. Solutions Ctr.

TERM/PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS

Ron McFadyen	Instructor III (24 mo.)	Bus. Comp./Admin. Studies
Tom Patrick	Instructor II	P.A.S.S. prob.

END OF TERM

Tom Patrick	Instructor II	P.A.S.S.
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TERM REAPPOINTMENTS

Christian Douchant	Research Associate	I.U.S.
Nancy Klos	Research Associate	I.U.S.

POSITION CHANGE

Alys-Lynne Furgal	Fr: Office Assistant 4	Theology
	To: Admin. Assistant 1	I.M.F.I.
Elizabeth Barton	Fr: Office Assistant 6, Student Services (Spec. Needs)	
	To: Admin. Assistant 3, Student Services (Spec. Needs)	
Gillian Milne	Fr: Office Assistant 4	Physical Plant
	(part-time to full-time)	

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Maternity

Christine Robidoux	Office Assistant 5	French/German Studies
Deborah Stienstra	Assoc. Professor	Political Science

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Parental

Beatrice Spearing	Office Assistant 4	Dean's Office
Beata Biernacka	Instructor II	Biology

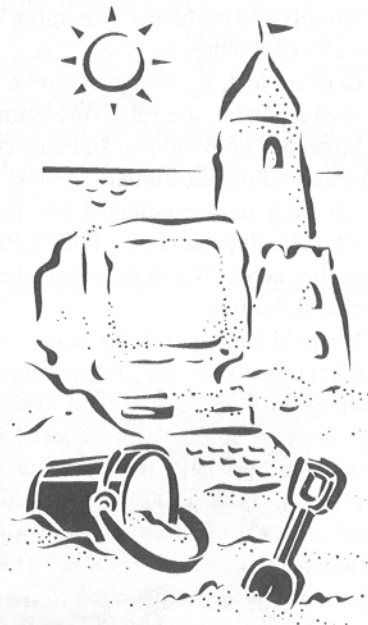
DEPARTURES

Patricia Power	Admin. Assistant 1	I.M.F.I.	12/17/99
Fiorina Pasquarelli	Office Assistant 3 (Term)	Dean's Office	

NAME CHANGE

Christine Bray	To: Christine Robidoux	French/German Studies
Jacqueline Wong	To: Jacqueline Benson	Dean's Office

Remember
when
SURFING
meant a
day at
the beach?



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Physical activity,
healthy eating and
doctor's advice are
key to successful
weight management.



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University of Winnipeg Students Can Do the Math

In a math competition involving students from Minnesota, Manitoba and the Dakotas, two University of Winnipeg teams placed in the top half of the 43 teams entered. The team of Erica Moodie, Jennifer Prokop and Go Suzuki finished in 8th spot, while the group of Kevin Doerksen, Chris Giesbrecht and Cameron Pierce placed 19th in the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America Contest held in November.

These students know a quadratic equation when they see one. During the contest each team of three was given three hours to solve 10 problems — ranging from straightforward algebra to challenges such as: “Let $a_1=3$ and for n greater than or equal to 1, $a_{n+1}=(a_n)^2-2$. Prove that if m is not equal to n , then a_m and a_n are relatively prime.

University of Winnipeg students competed in a second math competition, the Putnam Contest, in December. In this case, dueling mathematicians compete individually and face 12 difficult problems. About 2,500 students from 300 universities across North America take part. The results are expected in March.

“We held weekly training sessions with the students to help them prepare for the competitions,” says University of Winnipeg Professor Terry Visentin. He and fellow math professor John Braun also prepared two practice exams. “The students did really well. They were competing against much larger universities in the U.S.,” he notes. “They worked very hard and it was interesting to watch students work as a team to solve problems.” The U of W team solved one particularly difficult problem that many other groups did not. “It required one student to make one key observation and then the other team members to work together to come up with the answer,” Visentin explains. “It was very gratifying.”

There are plans to have U of W students compete in these contests again next fall.

Just Ask HR

What is the reduction in pension for early retirement? I heard that it has been increased from ¼ per cent to ½ per cent per month.

Retirement

If you wish to take an early retirement, you may retire at any time within the ten-year period preceding your Normal Pension Commencement Date.* If, at the time of retirement, you are at least age 61 and your age and service** add up to 85 or more (both requirements must be met) your pension will not be reduced for early retirement.

If at the time of retirement you are less than age 61 and/or your age and service do not add up to at least 85, your pension will be reduced by ¼ per cent for each month by which your actual date of retirement precedes the date on which you would have been entitled to unreduced pension.

The ¼ per cent per month pension reduction represents a subsidy and is intended to benefit any plan member who “retires” from the University.

Termination

A plan member who terminates employment more than ten years prior to the Normal Pension Commencement Date is entitled to a deferred pension payable from the Normal Pension Commencement Date. If the plan member has less than 20 years of service at date of termination and wishes to commence the payment of his/her deferred pension earlier than the Normal Pension Commencement Date, the pension will be the actuarial equivalent of the deferred pension. The true actuarial cost of early pension commencement is about ½ per cent per month, which is the amount by which the deferred pension would be reduced.

However, if the plan member has 20 or more years of service at date of termination, he/she will be entitled to unreduced pension following attainment of age 61, or the date on which age and service add up to at least 85, whichever comes later.

* *Normal Pension Commencement Date For an academic employee, this is Sept. 1, following attainment of age 65. For a support employee this is the first of the month following attainment of age 65.*

** *Service This is the length of time you have been employed by the University of Winnipeg including any leaves of absence and is distinct from Credited Service, which is the period of time during which you have made contributions into the pension plan.*

If you have any questions, please call the Benefits Administrator, Mary Anne Walls, at 9280.

Excitement On The Air



Is it critical for you to catch “Critical Faculties” on Wednesdays, or do you prefer to groove to your favourite Reggae tunes on Saturdays? CKUW 95.9 FM, the University of Winnipeg community radio station, has both of those shows, and many more. The week-long CKUW on-air pledge drive is a chance to be a listener and a supporter. In true community radio fashion, everyone can be involved.

Special programming begins on Fri., Feb. 11 and runs through Fri., Feb. 18. Show your favourite CKUW volunteers just how much you enjoy their shows by making a pledge. Your donations will be rewarded: discounts at stores, CDs and CKUW T-shirts are a few of the gifts that you can get when you make a pledge.

“The drive is a perfect opportunity to get our name and logo known,” says Rob Schmidt, station manager. “We want to continue building presence in the community.” The monetary goal is \$15,000, which Schmidt says is necessary to keep the station running and to upgrade the equipment.

It promises to be a week of great music and scintillating conversation! The week-long radio party will wind up with a CKUW-style bash at the West-End Cultural Centre, Fri., Feb. 18. Everyone is invited!

Nursery Rhymes

Sheila Butler explores the subject of parenting, or more specifically, mothering, in her recent works on paper. The drawings and prints in “Nursery Rhymes” reflect Butler’s efforts to mentally work through traditional notions of domesticity and contemporary role reversals effected by cross-gendered nurturing of the young in our society. The artist draws inspiration from various theoretical writings on perceptions of time and space as well as her own lived experience as artist, woman and mother. What results are dense images layered with complexity that compete for the viewer’s attention.

*See **Coming Events** for exhibition details.*



Projection, 1998, oil, chalk pastel and acrylic.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send **written** information to Paula Denbow (paula.denbow@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.

THURS., FEB. 17

• **Skywalk Concerts & Lectures** presents singer/songwriter Jake Chenier, with his show "for big kids." You can still bring the kids; they (and you) might want to get his autograph.

SAT., FEB. 19

• **Mondetta Jazz Stage** presents Stefan Bauer (vibraphone/marimba) & Larry Roy (guitar)—Now together 10 years, their "duologues" prove utterly absorbing to audiences everywhere. The

concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for students. Call 786-9000 for tickets.

MON., FEB. 21

• **President's Open Forum**—Students, faculty and staff are invited to the forum. It runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

WED., FEB. 23

• **Skywalk Concerts & Lectures** presents Economics professor Ian Hudson. He will

address the question: "Should Winnipeg Finance an Arena at The Forks?"

THURS., FEB. 24

• **Skywalk Concerts & Lectures** presents the U of W Downtown Jazz Band. Love the sound of a big band? This student ensemble, directed by Darren Ritchie, offers up a concert of the big-band favourites.

SAT., FEB. 26

• **Mondetta Global Stage** presents Cuskapuni—Traditional music of the Peruvian Andes, in song and dance, with an astonishing array of authentic instruments, some of which pre-date the Incas! Cuskapuni is a Vancouver-based ensemble led by René Hugo Sánchez of Peru. Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for students. Call 780-3333 for tickets. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

TUES., FEB. 29

• **The Margaret Laurence Chair Speakers Series** presents "Econstructing Sisterhood," by Jane Gallop, professor of English and Com-

parative Literature, University of Wisconsin. The lecture is at 4 p.m., 313 Tier Building, the University of Manitoba.

WED., MARCH 1

• **Morningsong**—A contemporary, Taizé-style workshop service, from 8:30 to 8:55 a.m. in the Chapel at the University. All are welcome!

THURS., MARCH 2

• **Gallery 1C03** presents Sheila Butler: Nursery Rhymes. The opening reception takes place from 4 to 6 p.m., and the exhibition will run from Fri., March 3 to Sat., March 25. Gallery hours are Mon. to Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

WED., MARCH 8

• **Claudia Wright**, Political Science. Urban Warfare in the Future: Chechnya and Somalia.

THURS., MARCH 9

DOSTOINO. St. Andrew's Chamber Ensemble with Sasha Boychuk, directed by Tatiana Navoleska. **DOSTOINO** explores repertoire in true customary chamber performance. This group of 8 distinguished young singers performs Ukrainian liturgical music, accompanied by well-known musician Sasha Boychuk.

Distinguished Faculty Series

A Public Lecture By
Deborah Schnitzer
Department of English
"Why, if all were said
Am I not dead?"

The (almost) disappearance of **Anna Wickham**
Free Woman & Poet

Wednesday, March 1, 2000 8:00PM
Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall
*Reception to Follow:
Faculty and Staff Club

Admission by request only. Situated in the Faculty and Staff Club, the Chair's Office, and the Associate of Honours Office by Friday, February 25, or by phoning 786-2757. Tickets are limited.

HOSTED BY THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FACULTY ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

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.