

# in edition

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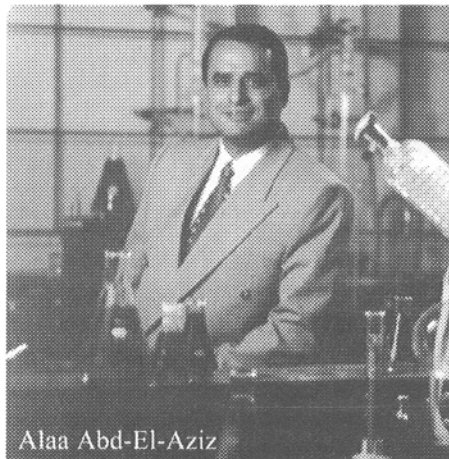
## The Dean's Office: A Shared Vision

In talking with each of the new Deans of Arts and Science (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Education), one thing becomes abundantly clear: they are united in their plan to improve communication and increase collaboration. Team work marks the new structure.

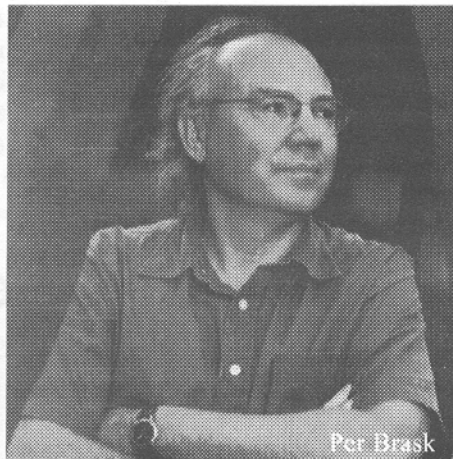
The shared vision of the decanal structure puts the Dean's Office closer to the ground, says Per Brask, Acting Dean of Humanities. "The kind of easy-going and direct communication that is going on among the deans will strengthen ties between each of the respective areas we represent," he says. Professor of Theatre and Drama at the University, Brask says communication will play a key role in making this new model work for faculty, administration, and students.

In addition to bringing department concerns to the fore, the new structure will facilitate opportunities for collaboration among the four areas. "This structure will

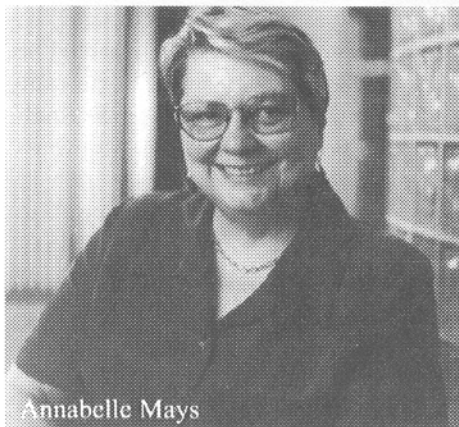
*See Deans continued on page 2*



Alaa Abd-El-Aziz



Per Brask



Annabelle Mays



Claudia Wright

### Departmental Chairs 2000-2001

- Admin. St./Bus. Comp.  
-S. Ramanna
- Anthropology-P. Clarkson
- Biology-R. Bollman
- Chemistry-D. Vanderwel
- Classics-C. Cooper
- Economics-M. Benarroch
- English-K. Fulton
- French/German Studies  
-K. Meadwell
- Geography-D. Blair
- History-D. Burley
- Math/Stats-J. Currie
- Philosophy-B. Keenan  
-J. Muir (Jul.-Dec.2000)
- Physics-G. Kunstatter
- Political Science-A. Mills
- Psychology-H. Bradbury
- Religious Studies-P. Day  
-A. Welter (Jan.-Dec.2000)
- Sociology-S. Kirby
- Theatre-D. Arrell

### Interdisciplinary Coordinators and Directors

- Biochemistry-M. Wiegand
- Centre for Academic  
Writing-J. Kearns
- Dev. Studies  
-L. Polyzoi (Coordinator)
- Env. St./Urb. Studies  
-D. Smith
- Justice and Law  
-M. Weinrath
- Mennonite Studies  
-R. Loewen
- Physical Activity & Sport  
Studies-E. Brown
- Women's Studies  
-C. Majzels
- Menno Simons College  
-G. Richert

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## Dean's Office

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bring the deans closer to the faculty," says Claudia Wright, Dean of Social Science. "Faculty concerns will be addressed in a quick and efficient manner as a result of the close communication made possible by the vertical structure." She adds that the horizontal structure will be strengthened as well, as new connections are formed and team approaches develop.

Annabelle Mays, Dean of Education, agrees that collaboration is the foundation for innovation and relationship-building. Education continues to build on its existing strength as an integrated program. "Extending our relationships with other departments will only further strengthen the program," notes Mays, who has led the BEd Program as Director for the past 19 years. "By understanding our common interests, a wonderful transparency is being achieved." Former Associate Dean of Arts & Science, Mays brings extensive administrative experience to her new position. In 1999, Mays was honoured with the Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to University Governance.

As Dean of Social Science, Wright believes that one of her most important goals will be providing the kind of leadership that will ensure that the social sciences are recognized and valued as a vital and necessary component of liberal education. The University is experiencing a period of transition, and Wright says she views her role as one of leadership, as well as responsiveness to internal and external challenges. "We are experiencing rather dramatic changes together. There will be challenges, but I think this is an opportunity for everyone to take part in redefining our future. Creatively participating in change is often positively transformative; we will probably emerge from this stronger and more united," she says. "Our goal is to take action that is accountable and responsible." Former Associate Dean of Arts and Science and Department Chair, Wright has served

on almost every major committee within the University. She has made a prodigious contribution to the University through her administrative activities while maintaining high standards in research, teaching, and outside community service. The University has recognized her outstanding contributions by awarding Wright with the Clifford J. Robson Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Clarence Atchison Award for Community Service, and the Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to Self-Governance.

The deans express a strong commitment to both the University and the particular areas with which they will be working. As the Dean of Science, Alaa Abd-El-Aziz hopes to put science at the University of Winnipeg on the map. "It is rare for undergraduates to have the kinds of research opportunities that our students have," explains Abd-El-Aziz, winner of The Manitoba Outstanding Chemist Award for 2000. "This University is already well-known within the local, national, and international science communities, but our challenge is to use that success as a tool for recruiting and retaining students and faculty. Our science program is a model for any small university, and I want the world to know it." Toward that end, Abd-El-Aziz is working in conjunction with the Education program to give Education students majoring in science a true hands-on experience. "Our students are in the classrooms, doing presentations and teaching classes," he explains. "It's an opportunity to improve their teaching skills while demonstrating the 'fun' side of science. At the same time, they are great ambassadors for the science program at this University."

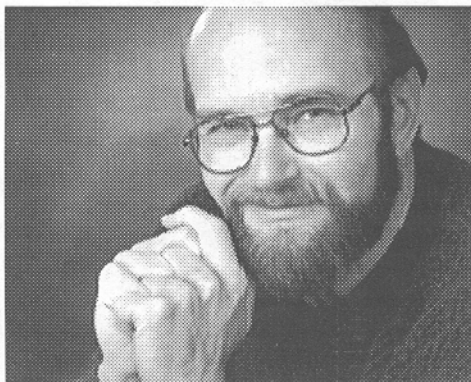
The incumbents in the Dean's Office are committed to a student-centred focus, which means working closely with other areas such as Student Services, Mays says. "The last analysis of any issue will involve deciding whether choices made will benefit students."

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## New MSC Academic Dean And President Designate

Dean E. Peachey, Ph.D., has been appointed to the position of Academic Dean and President Designate. The appointment began Aug. 1, 2000.

Peachey comes with a long and deep understanding of Conflict Resolution Studies (CRS), and broad contacts within both its academic and practitioner communities. He is the founder and first director of *The Network: Interaction for Conflict Resolution*, a national association of persons committed to the study and practice of Conflict Resolution in Canada. He is a builder and we look



*Dean E. Peachey, Ph.D.,*

forward to having him bring his energy and enthusiasm to the task of developing Menno Simons College and its programmes in Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies.

"As someone rooted in CRS, it would be essential that I would also equally support and promote the International Development Studies program," Peachey says. "At a time when our world is becoming increasingly 'global,' International Development Studies must also grow and strengthen, and shape activities in the 'North' as well as in the 'South.'"

Peachey has worked most recently with PACT Associates as a Principal in a mediation and conflict resolution firm, working with religious, government, and

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## MSC DEAN

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non-profit organizations. Peachey has taught Peace and Conflict Studies courses as an Adjunct Professor at Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo.

Current MSC President, George Richert, will be retiring in 2001. He says Peachey's fresh perspective as someone from the 'outside' will be an asset. "He has significant administrative experience in the private and volunteer sectors in the area of alternative dispute resolution. He brings a commitment to the church and his qualifications fit into our Conflict Resolution/Transformation Studies program."

*By Sherry Peters (Student Services Coordinator), Jerry Buckland (International Development Studies Coordinator), & Paul Redekop (Conflict Resolution Studies Coordinator)*

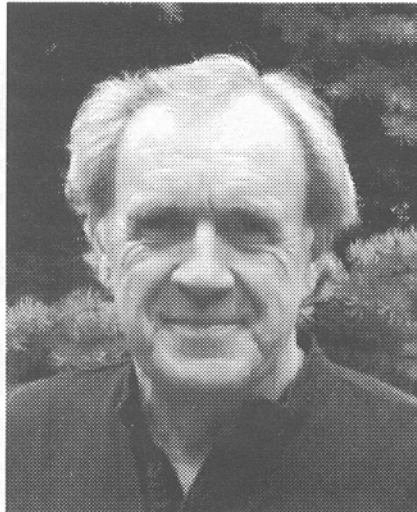
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*in edition* is printed on recycled paper. After you have finished with this issue, please pass it on to a friend.

# The Theological Imagination at Work



*Gordon MacDermid looks forward to interdisciplinary work at the University of Winnipeg.*

Northrop Frye once wrote, "The task of the educated imagination is to produce from the society we have to live in a vision of the society we want to live in." These words reflect meaning for Gordon MacDermid, whose educated imagination holds a vision for the future of the University's Theology Department. The University's new Dean of Theology says he is excited about joining a department that is full of 'life and imagination.' "Theology is responsible for contributing to and learning from the rest of the University," he says. "A lot of imagination went into the planning behind this faculty, and I admire that."

Born and raised in Cape Breton, MacDermid is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada and has been the covenanted minister of two pastoral charges in Nova Scotia. His formation through school and church took place in Maritime and Central Canada, and in Scotland. MacDermid's work in ministry has drawn him

mainly to theological education, and for more than three decades he has been a teacher and administrator at Atlantic School of Theology.

Although MacDermid expected soon to retire, Winnipeg changed his mind. Drawn to both the 'small-town feel' of Winnipeg and the diversity of the people, MacDermid decided to join the Theology Department and make this city his home. "It makes life interesting to surround yourself with people who have different views and outlooks on life." He adds that he appreciates Manitoba for its history as an area settled by people of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Winnipeg is a natural fit for MacDermid, who says that while studying the history of Canada, he was impressed by Winnipeg's important and lasting contribution. "There is a sense that developing just relationships between people has always been critical," he notes. "Major events such as the Strike of 1919 reflect this philosophy, but this sense of commitment is also a part of daily life in modern times. Winnipeggers are dedicated to helping the underdog achieve a place, economically and otherwise."

Speaking of his previous travels west brings a smile to MacDermid's face. "I travelled with my family across Canada—all five of us crammed in a Volkswagen Bug, camping equipment and all," he recalls. "We stopped in Bird's Hill Park, and the heat and the mosquitos were so bad we headed to the Bay and spent the afternoon eating ice cream in the air-conditioned store."

A firm believer in bringing together people from different disciplines, MacDermid is excited about the interdisciplinary projects in place at the U of W. "These endeavours create opportunities for people with different perspectives to have meaningful exchanges," MacDermid says. "It's about broadening horizons and creating new forums for discussion. Students become exposed to literature from disciplines previously undiscovered by them."

For the next two terms MacDermid will teach a course on homiletics. "Public speaking is crucial in this faculty, so I'm especially looking forward to teaching that course. Not to mention connecting with the students—the most important part of my job."

## New Collegiate Dean: Destined for Education

Everything happens for a reason. That's what Rob Bend believes after experiencing a lot of good timing and good fortune throughout his career as an educator. In keeping with that pattern, Bend didn't have a definite plan in terms of employment when he decided to move back to Winnipeg from Brandon. But he had faith that he would discover his next calling, and sure enough, a wonderful opportunity presented itself. "When I heard about the position as Dean of The Collegiate, I had a sense that it would be a perfect fit for me," he recalls. "After spending only a short time with the faculty and staff here, my initial assumptions have proven to be true."



*Dean Rob Bend: putting students first.*

Bend admits that he has big shoes to fill, but he feels he is up to the challenge. "Dean Michael Fox was an educational leader who really made good things happen, and I hope I can carry on in the same manner." With an extensive and varied background in education, Bend has become adept at academic planning and meeting the needs of students. Commissioned with the task of facilitating the new Advisory Council Legislation, he spent two years working with the Department of Education as a liaison between parents and advisory councils throughout the province. "The key was to work together, not against each other," he explains. With a little imagination and a lot of consultation, Bend assisted in the development of innovative projects that involved parents. "At one school parents wanted easier communication, so we initiated a phone system that allowed parents to call in and hear about everything from their children's assignments and test results to activity schedules," he explains. "This kind of program builds trust."

A globe-trotter at heart, Bend has worked in Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Miami—Manitoba, that is. "The thing I enjoyed most as principal of the high school in Miami was the community spirit," he says. "There was a wonderful sense of shared responsibility for the well-being of the school, and the entire town."

Thailand is the farthest from Bend's home but closest to his heart. For nine years he volunteered as a teacher in small towns, delivering English lessons in a way that he describes as 'pure fun.' "Instead of a traditional classroom, we would sit in a beautiful yard filled with fruit trees," he says. "I would bring out a pail filled with items, and students would pull something out and be asked to name the item in English. Two or three hours passed quickly because everyone would be having fun and laughing, and at the same time they would learn several

new words or phrases." Bend took on other volunteer roles, but teaching has always been his passion.

Parents and townspeople showed their deep gratitude by bringing him gifts, such as chickens, and refusing his money when he went to the laundromat. "It was a very humbling experience. Their appreciation was so genuine," he says. "I love being in the classroom with students, and I've been moving away from that lately. My volunteer work allows me to be a teacher again."

Bend refers to his last job as principal at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School as a wonderful experience. "Crocus Plains is a huge school—the challenge was to find ways of accommodating the needs of so many students," he says. "I think we were successful. Dedicated and talented staff really pulled together and created a supportive environment." He adds that he has found a similarly warm and nurturing atmosphere at The Collegiate. "I'm looking forward to working with faculty and staff here. The Collegiate is about students, and that is exactly the kind of place where I want to be."

*In upcoming issues of in edition,  
look for stories about:*

- the new UWSA President
- our Vice-President (Students)
- U of W employees at the Olympics
- the new Director of Recreation and Athletic Services

