

# (in)edition

RETIREMENT ISSUE

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to our friends & colleagues on their retirement:



> The University of Winnipeg is well known as a small, intimate university community devoted to helping students meet their educational goals. In interviews and retirement speeches, this year's group of retirees said it's UWinnipeg's close-knit community they will miss most. We are here for the students, but many said that throughout the years they learned that we are also here for each other: we are colleagues, but many of us have become good friends as well. From those of us who remain to those of you going on to new adventures: best wishes, safe travels, and know that you will be very much missed.

ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE UWINNIPEG COMMUNITY ARE RETIRING THIS YEAR. FEATURED HERE ARE JOHN McDERMOTT, REG SKENE, BERYLE JONES AND DAVE JOHNSON AT THE 2002 RETIREMENT RECEPTION.

“Think where man’s glory most begins and ends, and say that my glory was that I had such friends”

– Yeats quoted by Reg Skene at the April 30 retirement reception



# John McDermott

**(34 years)**

and the students. It's a more personalized atmosphere than many other places."

McDermott started in the History department in 1968, and says he has thoroughly enjoyed his time with his colleagues. "I think the History Department is really an extraordinary department; they've been a kind of family to me," he says. "I've always looked forward to going in to work. When you have a job you really love you're very lucky. I'm going to miss it."

McDermott's plans include a move to Burlington, Ontario where he will teach at McMaster University. "I don't want to leave the profession right now," he says, adding that he'll probably teach just one or two courses at a time. "I like seeing students get excited about learning things, and getting feedback about what they've learned. It may sound funny, but I really like marking final exams. At the end of a course you can see them understand things better than they had done. That's very gratifying to me.

"I have loved the job and the University of Winnipeg. I am honoured to be a member of the best profession in the world, at one of the finest universities in the country."

> When John McDermott came to the University of Winnipeg he thought he'd be here a couple of years, at most. Thirty-four years later, the University is honouring McDermott on his retirement.

"It's a very special university," says McDermott of his long-term commitment to UWinnipeg. "Two years became five, five years became ten!" Although he taught at other universities before coming to Winnipeg – the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto – he says by far it's the University of Winnipeg that has his heart. "It's small and it's intimate," he says. "It really gives you the opportunity for good relationships between the instructors

> Deanna Sigvaldson started at the University of Winnipeg 14 years ago as a floater in the Childcare Worker Training program in MacNamara Hall. "I've moved around a lot since then," says Sigvaldson, who has also been a part of the Education Department and Student Records. "I'm in the Payroll Office now and it's 14 years later, but you know, I'm back in the exact same desk where I started!" Sigvaldson laughs, pointing out her corner of the office in MacNamara Hall.

Donna Hebert, HR/Payroll Systems Coordinator, joins in as Sigvaldson talks about her time at the University of Winnipeg. The two colleagues joke with each other like old friends as they share the changes that have taken place within their office, most notably, upgrades to the area's computer systems. Although Sigvaldson and Hebert – Donna & Dee, as messages from their joint e-mail read – are employee and supervisor, they point out that they *are* in fact old friends. "We've always been very close," says Hebert. "She's more like my Mum sometimes than a colleague."

Sigvaldson nods her head and agrees. "I've really loved being here. This is an absolutely wonderful group of people," she says. "You could not ask for a better department to work for. I'll miss not only my department, but people from all over the University. I meet so many nice people because of what I do – I deal with every department."

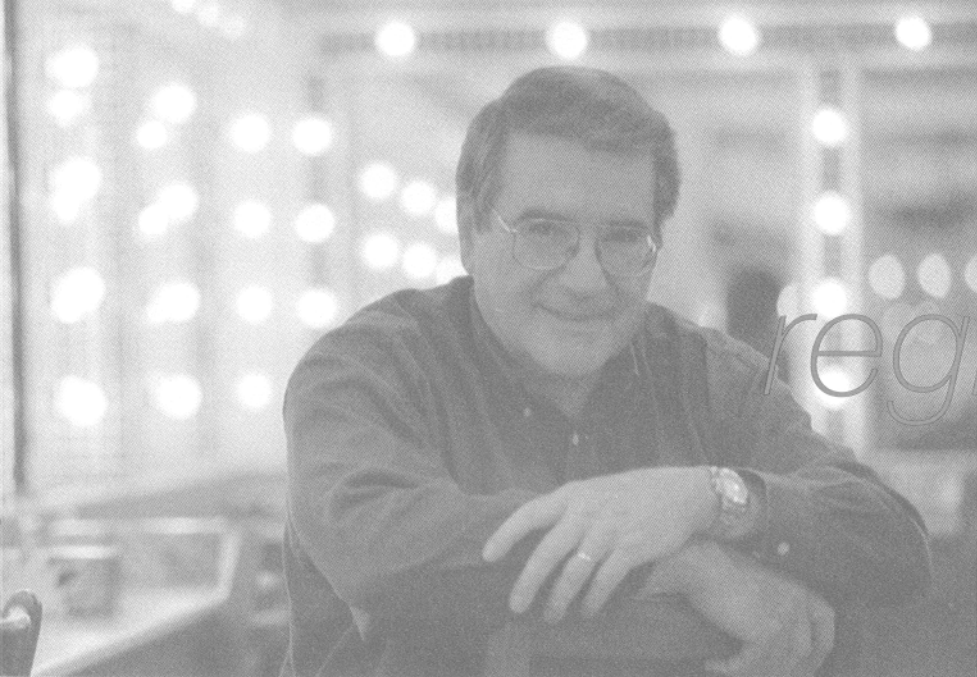
Working with payroll records Sigvaldson has had the opportunity to interact with every paid member of the University community, which is one of her favourite things about her job. "Our campus has felt like a big, warm family to me," says Sigvaldson. "I'll miss them, that's for sure."

After her retirement, Sigvaldson plans to spend more time with her husband and her grandchildren. Along with taking care of her garden at home, she also plans to make time for travel.

# deanna Sigvaldson

**(14 years)**





# reginald “reg” Skene

(37 years)

> In 1965 the average high school teacher earned more than a university professor. Despite the difference in wages, Reg Skene, then a teacher at Vincent Massey Collegiate, decided to leave his high school job to teach at the University of Winnipeg.

Skene enjoyed his job at UWinnipeg, but he still found the lure of the high school's wages tempting. The University nearly lost a fine professor still in his first year of teaching, but determined to keep Skene on board, the University asked him to try to think of something extra he could offer in return for an increase in wages. Skene responded, “How would you like a theatre department?” This was the birth of a thriving new department and the start of Skene's 37-year run at the University of Winnipeg.

“He's like the godfather of theater for my generation.”

— Larry Desrochers, Administrative Director of the Manitoba Opera

“To create a theatre department and see it grow and function, that was incredibly fulfilling,” said Skene, who taught UWinnipeg's very first theatre course,

which grew and blossomed into a full department in 1982. “I feel like we've managed to make some difference in theatre in the city.”

Skene's students would agree. “He's like the godfather of theatre for my generation,” said long-time stage director Larry Desrochers in an article in the Winnipeg Free Press. Theatre and Drama department chair Doug Arrell says Desrocher's comment expresses a sentiment common amongst Skene's students. “When you talk to grads they often remember him as their most influential teacher,” says Arrell.

Even after more than three decades of seeing his students perform, Skene says each time he sees

them on stage he believes he couldn't possibly be prouder. Then a new production begins and he finds that he's just as proud of that crop of actors, if not more so.

“For me personally, the best thing has been the contact with my committed students. Their love of their craft, their ambition, their idealism – that's what you live on, that constant renewal,” says Skene. “Sharing joy with young people cannot be equalled.”

Skene has many plans for his retirement waiting in the wings, but first and foremost he would like to complete a long-awaited history of theatre in Winnipeg. Plans are also in the works involving a new theatre production.

*He may have been absent from our campus, but has left a legacy on the UWinnipeg campus that will not be soon forgotten by the Geography Department.*

# william "bill" Bell

(36 years)

- > William Bell has a unique perspective on the earth and its inhabitants – one that comes from a satellite way above the planet's surface.

A geographer by profession, Bell is a specialist in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) satellite imagery.

Officially retiring in 2002, Bell has been on leave of absence from UWinnipeg for the past 10 years to pursue special projects in his field. He may have been absent from our campus, but has left a legacy on the UWinnipeg campus that will not be soon forgotten by the Geography Department.

"He designed the geography lab complex in Lockhart Hall," remembers retired Environmental Studies professor Andrew Lockery, who worked closely with Bell throughout his career. With a passion and talent for technology, Bell was always upgrading and renewing resources in his department. "Students were always on the cutting edge in Bill's area," says Lockery. "They were often trained on software yet to reach the business world."

Bell's unique abilities with computers lead to a temporary secondment away from the Geography department into Business Computing at the University of Winnipeg. That evolved into an even greater involvement with technology. "He got involved in research programs in countries like Egypt, using satellite imagery to look at ground water potential and irrigation. He was attempting to do for Egypt what Israel has done for the desert," says Lockery. "These skills led him to become one of the most highly regarded satellite imagery software specialists in North America."

Bell's leave of absence eventually took him to Athens, Georgia, where he continued his work on satellite imagery. Most recently, he was seconded from his post in Georgia to the United Nations, where he ran the land use development sector of the UN office in Cali, Colombia.

"What I think is impressive is he achieved a remarkable international reputation from Winnipeg," says Lockery, despite the fact that Bell spent the final years of his career on foreign soil. "He is regarded as a leader in his field."

# richard Ottenbreit

(17 years)

- > Students attend university for different reasons and at different stages in their lives. But there's one thing they all have in common: the desire to learn. Learning Skills Counsellor Richard Ottenbreit was always there to help.

"Richard predates the Centre for Academic Writing with his contributions to the Learning Skills Program at the University of Winnipeg," says Vice-President (Students) Michael Fox. "For many years, Richard was the lead counsellor in the areas of study skills seminars, reading

efficiency programs, writing and effective communications skills, and thousands and thousands of hours of individual student assistance. Richard was the link with Counselling, Access Recruitment, Special Needs and the development of the whole person, in terms of individualized learning and academic skill development."

Ottenbreit is well known amongst his colleagues for his genuine interest and respect for all students. "Richard has a wonderful ability to see the good side of people. He enjoyed working with students, helping them with their writing assignments, reading skills and study techniques," said one co-worker, enumerating Ottenbreit's accomplishments. "His expertise as a teacher and study skills instructor were highly valued by our students."

"Richard brought many other skills and outside interests to us," added Fox, "including his love for rural Manitoba, his vast experience in teaching, agriculture, and grain growing. His many hobbies will, I am sure, keep him very active in his retirement."



# beryle Jones

(35 years)

> A native of Jamaica, Beryle Jones came to Winnipeg to study at the University of Manitoba. She and a girlfriend arrived in the city a week early, only to discover U of M's residences were closed and its facilities still preparing for the impending rush of students. With nowhere to stay and uncertain about starting her studies in a new country, Jones was relieved to hear there was another university in town. With a reputation for being small and intimate, the University of Winnipeg turned out to be just the ticket. It was the beginning of a relationship that spanned 35 years.

"Coming from a different place to a new country – we needed all the help we could get," says Jones. "From there my love of the institution developed."

She graduated from UWinnipeg in 1967 with a BA in English, and then embarked on a Master's program which she completed at the University of Manitoba. After a successful teaching career with the Transcona-Springfield School Division Jones travelled to London to pursue a PhD in Socio-Linguistics in Language and Education.

"Coming from a different place to a new country – we needed all the help we could get... From there my love of the institution developed."

– Beryle Jones

"At this time, we had just begun the process of creating a 4-year program with the Malaysian government," remembers Dean of Education Annabelle Mays. "We were confronted with the need to create a program in [English as a Second Language.] Just then, a letter came to me from Beryle saying that she had just completed a program in Socio-Linguistics. I couldn't believe my luck!"

Jones returned to the University of Winnipeg, where her duties included teaching language and literacy skills to Malaysian students. "I enjoyed working with those students very much," says Jones. "I had just returned from London and my studies were fresh in my mind. I was able to use some of the new techniques I had learned, which was great. I found that very exciting."

Jones is well known as the creator of UWinnipeg's first course in multiculturalism, and is equally acclaimed as the founding President of the Immigrant Women's Association, now housed at the University of Winnipeg. Throughout her career, Jones has been involved in a multitude of professional and volunteer organizations including the National Congress of Black Women, where she is president, and the Canadian Citizenship Foundation. Now that she is retiring, she plans to devote more time to writing and travel.



(10 years)

# david "dave" Johnson

> Every day, David "Dave" Johnson makes his rounds at the University of Winnipeg, visiting as many departments as he can. Officially, Johnson is a security guard, but he has also made it his mission to spread good humour amongst the University community.

"I try to go to each area and make someone smile or laugh," says Johnson. "At registration time, I talk to the students who are waiting in line. If I see someone who is looking nervous or shy, I try to draw them out a little and make them feel more at ease."

With a commitment to building a caring community and an uncanny knack for remembering the people he meets by name, Johnson has been called an "unofficial ambassador" for the University of Winnipeg.

"I'm always telling kids and parents why they should come here," says Johnson. He speaks from experience – not only has he worked at the University as an employee of Initial Security for 10 years, but his daughter Cindy graduated from UWinnipeg in 1993. "I think the U of W is an excellent school," he

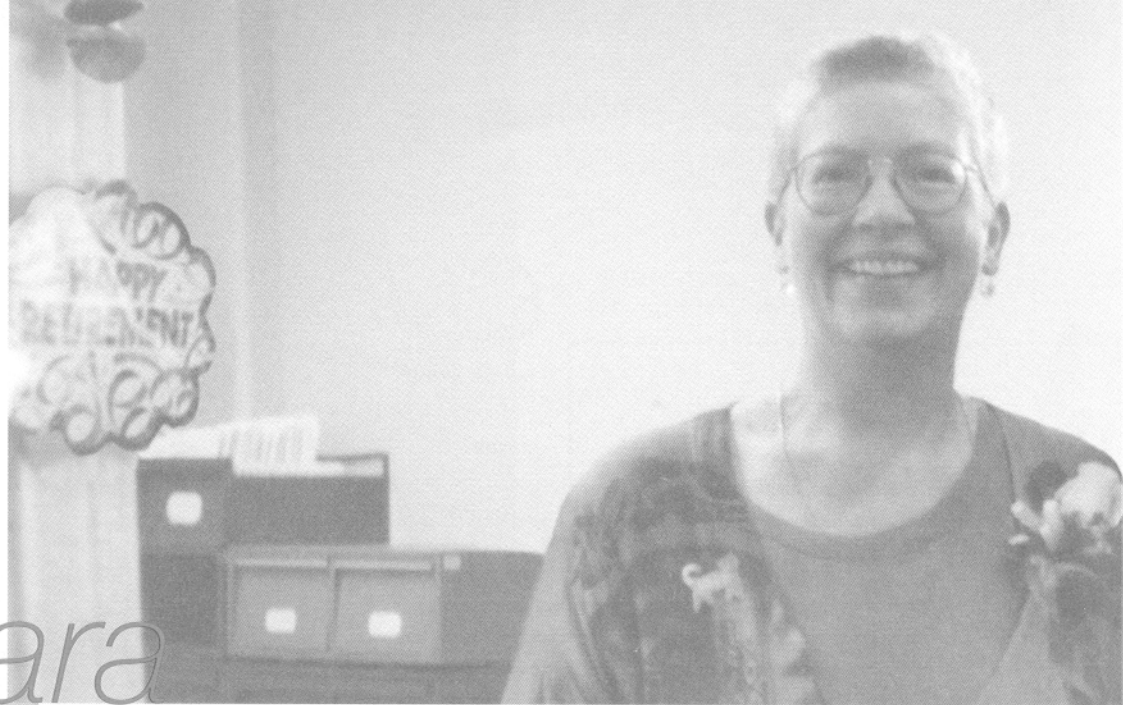
says. "And I've met so many people here who will be my friends for the rest of my life."

"Dave is just one of those people who daily lives out the mission of the University of Winnipeg," says Director of Communications Katherine Unruh. "Every day, Dave helps us feel safe in our offices and makes a point of welcoming students and visitors to the campus. His ready smile and thumbs-up make me feel welcome here every day," says Unruh. "Personally, he's made me work harder at making a connection with the students, faculty, and staff."

Johnson finds that taking time to talk with others on campus does more than just keep up morale, it provides an opportunity to voice any concerns that might arise. He says it's also a good way to make those who work alone or in isolated offices feel more secure. "It can be pretty quiet in some areas. People feel better if they know someone is looking out for them."

Taking an interest in the welfare of others has always been a priority for Johnson. Before coming to UWinnipeg in 1992, Johnson had a 28-year career with the Canadian Armed Forces as a Warrant Officer. After his retirement from the military Johnson launched a brief second career in the insurance industry, but found work in security to be more to his liking. That meant a third career, from which he will now officially retire in September. Although he is about to enter retirement once more, Johnson is already planning to take on a new challenge – politics. "I've got my platform ready and I'm going for it!" he says, with typical enthusiasm. Elections will take place this fall in Johnson's home community of Matlock, Manitoba. "There will come a time when I have to slow down," says Johnson. "But not yet."





# barbara **Evans** (30 years)

> “I’m a reader,” says Barbara Evans. “What better job than to order books, and then being able to read them when they come in?”

Evans joined UWinnipeg’s library in 1971 in the acquisitions department, and officially retired from the University 30 years later in July 2001. “Coreen Koz was my boss when I started and she showed a lot of us girls the way things should be done. She was from the old school, but it’s actually good training,” laughs Evans. “She’s retired now too, but she was a great influence on a lot of us here.

“I had various positions since I started, but most recently I looked after standing orders and government documents. I looked after locating things for use in the library and then ordering them from various dealers,” said Evans.

“She took her job very seriously,” says Collections Assistant Elaine Morris, Evans’ colleague and friend. “She even spent time in her private life scanning newspapers for government studies that would come out. She still brings them to us!”

“She has such humanity about her,” adds Anne Cramb, the Library’s Funds/Donations Specialist. “She would bring out the best in all of us.” Cramb says Evans is well-known for collecting donations for the Humane Society, encouraging her co-workers

to set aside their old clothes and towels as bedding for the animals, and gathering other much-needed supplies. Her colleagues also benefited from Evans’ generosity. “She was always bringing in treats for special occasions,” says Cramb, from Christmas goodies to Halloween candies, but Evans would take any excuse to share a small kindness with her friends, holiday or not.

Evans says that as much as she enjoyed the job itself, it’s her colleagues that were the best part of her job at the Library. “It was a great place to work. We were more like a family than colleagues.”

Since her retirement, Evans has been taking courses at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in drawing and water-colours. She also volunteers for the Dugald Costume Museum.

“she has  
such humanity  
about her”

– Anne Cram

# (14 years) eugene “gene” Zinko

> The University of Winnipeg has thousands of taps, several kitchens, more than a hundred toilet stalls, and countless drinking fountains.

With all those pipes and drains you’d think it would take an army of plumbers to keep the water flowing, but UWinnipeg does it all with just one – Eugene Zinko.

“Wherever there is water on campus, I’m involved,” says Zinko. “I can call in extra help if I need it, but when I started here I was the only plumber, and I’m still the only one today.”

“He’s a remarkable individual,” says Physical Plant’s assistant director John Mainer. “He knows the entire facility; every drain, every faucet, every plumbing fixture. He knows when it was put in and he knows when it has to be maintained. He’s only one guy, but he’s been able to control and manage 12 buildings plus Continuing Education and the President’s house.”

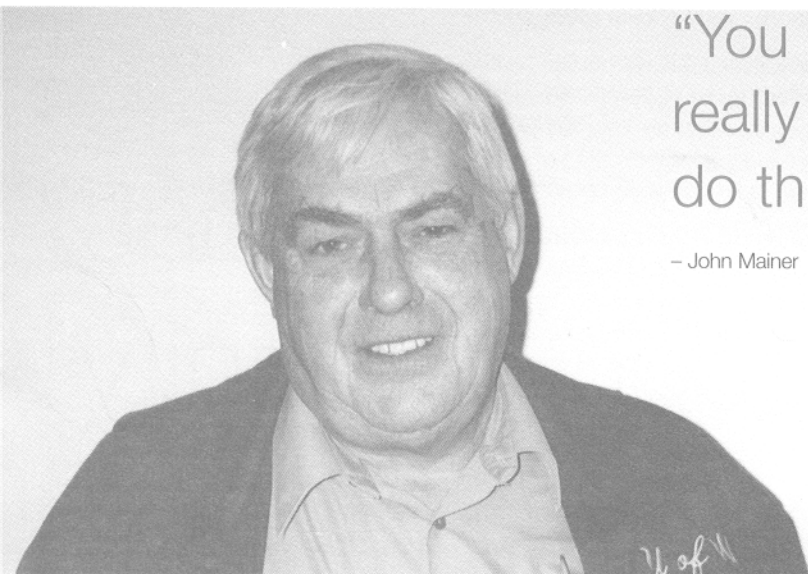
Now, after 14 years of serving as UWinnipeg’s plumber, Zinko is officially retiring from his trade.

“He’s really going to be missed,” says Mainer, adding that Zinko’s talent for preventative maintenance has been a tremendous asset to the department. “He’s spent all of his time here improving the condition of the plumbing systems. It’s an amazing complex – Wesley Hall was built in the 1800s, and our newest building, the Duckworth Centre, was built in 1985. These are older buildings and it’s not easy. Gene is constantly on the go. He’s in crawl spaces, in confining, dusty areas – he even goes between the walls.”

Of course, in addition to Zinko’s routine of regular maintenance, there are also emergency calls that require quick action. “When there’s a leaky faucet or a broken toilet, he’s there lickety-split, without complaint and without a problem. Gene does a great job,” says Mainer.

“I’ve really enjoyed my time here,” says Zinko. “You meet people in all different phases of life. I’ve really enjoyed working with my fellow tradesmen, staff, and supervisors. I have to thank them all for a great decade and a half.”

“You have to be a really special person to do this kind of work,” says Mainer. “Gene is a really special person.”



“You have to be a really special person to do this kind of work”

– John Mainer





- > Dick Dearing is the glue that holds his department together, said Dean of Theology Gordon MacDermid at the April 30th retirement reception. "Glue helps to make things bond," said MacDermid, "but it can also be rather sticky! I leave you with both those ideas as you contemplate Dick Dearing."

Dearing, the tenacious Executive Director of the Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute, started with the University of Winnipeg in 1974. "For more than a quarter century, Dick Dearing has advanced the interests of the University of Winnipeg and the wider community," says MacDermid. "His efforts have been crucial in establishing, developing and directing an educational program in Marriage and Family Therapy. As Executive Director of the Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute, he has seen to the creation of a clinic which provides affordable therapy to all who require it and which enjoys the support of the United Way."

Dearing credits his success to the freedom the University afforded him to shape his department and program. "There has been great freedom to experiment and create. A lot of that freedom comes because it's possible to make a mistake and not have it held against you. There is a great esprit de corps here," says Dearing.

After his retirement, Dearing plans to participate in volunteer work, spending time with his grandchildren, and doing some carpentry. He will also continue to do some teaching, which has been one of his greatest joys.

"Whenever I look at our student body I am humbled. I am proud of mature people who have enough money and enough sense to live their lives wherever they might want to, and they choose to spend it with us. It is humbling that they choose to spend it with us," says Dearing. "It has been a wonderful 28 years, and I've had many wonderful and special memories."

*"It has been a wonderful  
28 years, and I've had  
many wonderful and  
special memories."*

– Richard Dearing

**richard**  
**"dick"**  
**(14 years)** *dearing*



# from Lockhart to **The University of Winnipeg** in the Daniels

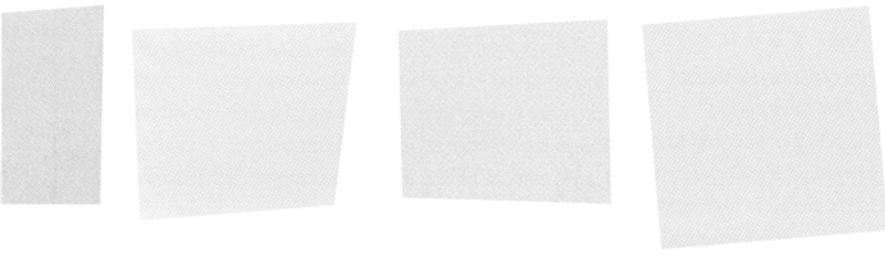
by Bruce Daniels

> To paraphrase Ted Knight of the old Mary Tyler Moore Show, it all started December 30, 1969 in a small hotel room at the Hilton in Washington, D.C., the very hotel which later would also become famous as the place where John Hinkley shot Ronald Reagan. I was interviewed by Vince Rutherford, the then Chair of History, who later told me that I was his third choice and he may actually have mixed me up with someone else who also had a moustache; thus, in reality, I might have been the fourth choice behind some long ago forgotten other man (or woman) who was cheated out of a job because of a failure to shave. Be that as it may, I came here happily and blissfully unaware that caprice rather than my own abilities made me a member of the University of Winnipeg.

In 1970, when I arrived, the University was three years removed from being United College and still referred to as “the college” by most city residents. I joined a department of 16 men and one woman of whom 11 had been hired in

the last three years, nine were in their 20s, 10 smoked, and no one had written a book. The department had virtually no committees, had nine different secretaries over the next three years, and had so many pregnant spouses that the water fountains should have been checked for excessive fertility. We faculty members were friends, were excited about teaching, and we all thought we would become great scholars. We read each others’ papers, exchanged dinners and babysitters, and all held our seminars in our houses. We lived under a tyranny and never questioned it; we were sexist, but did not much realize it; we had little institutional support or encouragement for research; we taught a huge number of students; and, we were, by and large, happy with the situation.

The president then – and of course, the first president ever of our university – was Dr. Wilfred Lockhart. He terrified me. He had been a moderator of the United Church; he had presided over what I heard was the worst incident of



# Rooke:

# Years

academic persecution in the history of Canada—the Crowe affair, and he seemed convinced that we were not really a provincial university with intellectual aspirations, but a small church school with the good fortune to have government money behind it.

I had never really known a university officer who believed so enthusiastically in God and this scared me too, so I tried to avoid President Lockhart and was astonished to discover that he knew who I was. The best of his presidency was his love of the institution and his belief that love of the place should come ahead of everything else. The worst of his presidency was his love of the institution and his belief that love of the place should come ahead of everything else: I give you the motivation behind the Harry Crowe affair.

The second president was Dr. Harry Duckworth and unlike Dr. Lockhart, who seemed to believe in God, Dr. Duckworth seemed to *be* God. He knew everything about

universities, was a great physicist, learned every detail about every faculty member's life and career, and was committed to making this place a fine university with an international reputation. During his 10 years, this school went from being "the college" to being the U of W—the other university in town. Dr. Duckworth was fair, tough, kind, and walked on a worldwide stage. Despite appearing to be God, Dr. Duckworth had a wonderful sense of humour. He also would send faculty members hand-written notes about accomplishments of theirs and he often read their publications. He stayed an active member of the physics departments both here and at the University of Manitoba and spent every Friday in his laboratory. I believe he had more of a positive affect on this university – by both example and by direct action – than any other person in its history as either United College or the University of Winnipeg. He also had more of an influence on me about academic matters than anyone else in my life.

The third president, Robin Farquhar, was a good fellow who had the impossible job of following Dr. Duckworth. Everyone called the first two presidents by their last names and titles: Dr. Lockhart and Dr. Duckworth. Almost everyone called the third by his first name and that has been true of the next two presidents also. Robin was impossible to dislike – unpretentious, generous, and gregarious. His tenure was marked by his ubiquitous reference to the University of Winnipeg as an "urban university." By that, he meant that the university must address local issues more, open its doors wider to more students, teach in outreach programs and on off-site locations, and be flexible in all conceivable ways to accommodate as many people in its classrooms as was humanly possible. My personal relationship with Robin was formed over his acceptance of an invitation to play poker with a gang of university people: he did so every two weeks for his entire presidency. He was – without a doubt – the worst poker player I have ever encountered. When he left to become president of Carlton the entire poker crew was much saddened because we felt like we had lost an annual stipend and would now have to teach in one of the off-campus programs he had designed to get an equivalent income.

I had a yet-more-intimate relationship with the fourth president, Dr. Marsha Hanen, because I was on the committee that recommended she be hired. Our first three presidents had been men who had been closely connected to the United Church – Dr. Duckworth's father-in-law was a minister and Robin had listed being a deacon on his vitae sheet. Marsha was fairly obviously neither male nor historically connected to the United Church, but she fit in the place remarkably well. Like Robin, she was wonderfully likeable, but unlike him she inherited a ship of state with a lot of leaks due to a decline

in government support and the remarkable growth in all those community programs that needed government support. I believe she conceived her presidency had three jobs, all of which related to financial needs: (1) to devise an administration that could manage our growth which had been somewhat chaotic; (2) to grow yet more – particularly in the area of non-credit and certificate programs in order to qualify for more grants and generate more tuition; and (3) to persuade the government that we were underfunded and needed special financial treatment.

Her administration thus had quiet goals of bringing administrative order and financial stability to a chaotic and increasingly cash-strapped institution. She succeeded remarkably well, but like all university presidents could not turn the tide that seemed to be running against public support of higher education. Without Marsha I believe we would have fared much worse, but it was her bad luck to have to be proud of minimizing losses. She also showed remarkable courage in the face of life-threatening disease and was fun to be around.

The strength of the University lies in the closeness of the bonds that tie faculty, students, and administration together in one communal enterprise and in the bonds that merge the university and its alumni with the City of Winnipeg.

Marsha often spoke at the same gatherings as our chancellor for two of her years, Carol Shields, and seeing these two accomplished women represent our university put reality into the rhetoric of feminism.

I really cannot comment much on the fifth and present president, Connie Rooke, because she is undoubtedly either reading this or standing nearby as

someone else reads it. She faced the same never-ending financial problems that Marsha had: probably they grew even more intractable. I said I would not comment “much” but I will a little. Connie is tough-minded and she is bold: she dares to do what she thinks is right even if it may be a bit unpopular. She also seems to bear no grudges. As many of you will remember, I opposed in strong language her successful attempts to divide Arts and Sciences into three faculties and yet she and I became good friends. She is the first university president that I have ever kissed or drunk substantial amounts of wine with. She is masterful at public speaking and this has served her well. She also takes the Kentucky Derby handicapping seriously. I could not ask for much more in a president or friend and I now thank her publicly for this opportunity to have my last will and testament shared and I wish her well aiding all of you battling the forces of darkness that are besieging education.

I was happy for all 31 of my years at the University of Winnipeg, and today, with only a few exceptions, my best friends are still members of faculty or employees of the university. I consider the University of Winnipeg and Winnipeg to be my home. The strength of the University lies in the closeness of bonds that tie faculty, students, and administration together in one communal enterprise and in the bonds that merge the University and its alumni with the City of Winnipeg. Many people at the University of Winnipeg disagree with each other or even dislike one another, but even these people feel these bonds and have a sense of a shared life. I am happy at Texas Tech also, but here everyone is largely anonymous and not part of a giant cousinry as people are at the University of Winnipeg.

I have few regrets leaving the U of W because I plan on returning to the city in six years and joining the rest of the old codgers and codgerettes that belong to the retirement club. I do regret leaving Hinton Bradbury and Hugh Grant without my services to explain their apparently reprehensible but undoubtedly well-meaning actions to the rest of the University, and leaving Bob Young without a partner in crime to pursue Quixotic causes. I miss greatly the garbled rantings of the Riddell Hall lunch crowd that solved problems both near and far with an absence of lucidity to which I always felt competent to contribute my own incoherence. It goes without saying that I miss ceremonies such as the one presently going on.

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