

(in)edition

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 9 AUGUST 1, 2001

Born to Teach

Collegiate Science Teacher Among the Best in Canada



WHAT RICHARD HECHTER (SHOWN HERE TEACHING A CHEMISTRY TELEOURSE) THOUGHT WAS A JOKE TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST HONOURS OF HIS LIFE.

At first he thought it was an April Fool's joke. "When I answered the phone the woman on the other end asked 'Are you alone?'," recalls Richard Hechter. "I jokingly asked if she wanted to know what I was wearing. Then she told me that I had won a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. It took some convincing before I believed it was true."

There is a theme developing as Hechter tells the story about a day he won't ever forget—jokes. Hechter's students know that science class isn't all fun and games, but they sure are the best part. To most people a water slide might not seem like the most traditional place to learn about the laws of physics, but then again, Mr. Hechter isn't a traditional teacher. His classroom—whether it's in the telecourse studio, in Wesley Hall, or on the water slide at the West Edmonton Mall during one of Hechter's annual field trips—is a place where usually difficult course material is made accessible and enjoyable; where science is fun.

A graduate of both the Collegiate and the

University of Winnipeg, Hechter has adopted a 'student first' philosophy. "Can I get into Mr. Hechter's class, please?" is a question commonly heard at the Collegiate. Even though he teaches some of the most challenging material within the Manitoba high school curriculum, his classes are universally subscribed to their maximum capacity. In his three years at the Collegiate, Hechter has increased enrolment across the sciences: enrolment in Senior 3 Biology has almost tripled and the number of students in Physics and Chemistry has more than doubled. Sections are often added to accommodate student demand.

Hechter describes his class as enthusiastic, challenging, and, of course, fun. "I expect a lot, and I care just as much. I try to prepare my students as thoroughly as I can, and if they don't do well, I lose sleep." If one student doesn't grasp a concept, Hechter has been known to stop the class and work out the problem. If students have questions later, they can log on and work out their problems via e-mail, which he uses to engage his students in the mate-

rial while chatting and getting to know them individually. "Richard treats every student as a true individual—knows their names, their personal likes and dislikes, and their individual strengths and weaknesses in the classroom," says Michael Fox, Vice-President (Students) and former Dean of the Collegiate. "Richard has three critical components in truly reaching excellence in educating developing minds: a teacher's brain, a teacher's commitment to his craft, and, most importantly, a teacher's heart."

"I felt quite humbled accepting the Prime Minister's Award," says Hechter, adding that he is nonetheless "thrilled beyond words" to be singled out with this year's other fine recipients for this honour. "Together we represent the countless teachers across the country who are dedicated to their craft and to the students they teach. This award enables many gifted teachers to gather to share their experiences and their thoughts about pedagogy, to encourage one another, and to go back to our students and colleagues energized." Hechter contends that the award represents a great story in teaching. "It's not about me specifically. It's about good teaching and caring about students," he says.

"When I met the other recipients of the award, I was in awe. I learned so much about teaching in the two days we spent together in Ottawa." He adds that what surprised him the most about this group of teachers was how much they had in common. "Everyone had a different perspective and came from a different background, but we were all saying essentially the same things. We all care about students; that's the bottom line."

A truly gifted educator, Hechter combines hands-on learning strategies with new technologies and distributed learning research and practice. He ties his teaching and innovative delivery methods to a number of community-based industries, so that

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students actually see science, technology, and the working world as part of their learning continuum. Now completing his Master of Education in Science Education, Hechter pioneered telecourse curriculum and teaches an innovative telecourse for Senior 4 Physics via cable television. He has a loyal following of Manitobans, young and old. Most of his fans aren't even registered in his course—they just watch for enjoyment. As one viewer said, "That young fellow is the best teacher I never had! If I had teachers like him, I would have stayed in school."

A fine example of his unique and engaging approach to teaching is the annual Ride and Slide field trip to the West Edmonton Mall, which enables students to see, measure, validate, and enjoy the basic principles of physics through the various rides at an amusement park. It integrates the fun of learning with the fun of living and the thrill of riding the roller coaster and the 'Drop of Doom.' On one of these field trips, student Richard Diamond says Hechter showed that he is committed to being much more than an "exemplary and dedicated educator." To celebrate Diamond's birthday, Hechter surprised the student with a huge cake and a card signed by his classmates. "I didn't even know that he was aware of my birthday—he organized a party after reading my birth date on the permission form that my parents signed," says Diamond. "He is more than a teacher; he is an interested and caring friend to his students."

Even day-to-day lessons are anything but ordinary. With an emphasis on creative problem-solving, students shed light on the mysteries of science by hitting golf balls, dropping parachutes down stairwells, and using magnets and steel poles, ping pong balls, and probably the largest collection of Hot Wheels in Canada.

"I stay up nights trying to think of new ways to teach something," Hechter admits. However important the material is, Hechter says he never forgets the most important thing: the students. "When I walk into the classroom the students remind me that the material is secondary. They've taught me how to be a teacher."

The Hechter Tradition of Giving

In the Hechter family, traditions are rich with meaning. One such tradition involves leaving small stones on the headstones of their deceased loved ones to indicate that someone had been to visit them at the cemetery. "During a subsequent visit my mother pointed out that with her grandchildren being as mobile as they are, the day might come when no one will be here to leave the stones," says Frank. That realization was the genesis for The Sue and Frank Hechter Bursary Fund. "This is a way for our family to create permanent stones that will forever celebrate the lives of these individuals."

"Frank has made extraordinary contributions to the University of Winnipeg, both in giving of himself, his time and wisdom, and in offering financial support to students on behalf of his own and Sue's families," Dr. Rooke said at a reception held on Monday, June 25 in honour of the Hechter family. Sue and Frank, members of their families, friends, and members of the Board of Regents gathered to celebrate the Hechters' generosity and their tradition of giving.

A member of the Board of Regents since 1993, Frank served as Vice-Chair from 1996 to 1998, as Chair from 1998 to 2000, and now serves as Past Chair. His sage advice has greatly aided the work of the Board and each of the many committees on which he has served. "An exemplary member of the Board of Regents and a true friend of this University, Frank has bestowed upon the University the gift of his time, energy, and talent. But he and Sue have chosen to give still more," says Dr. Rooke.

In addition to generously donating three pieces of artwork by Aboriginal artists to the University's permanent collection, they have established the Sue and Frank Hechter Bursary Fund to provide support for continuing students in financial need who also demonstrate good academic standing.

The Sue and Frank Hechter Bursary Fund supports three different student bursaries that will be awarded annually:

- The Louis and Rachel Mindell Memorial Bursary has been established in memory of Frank Hechter's maternal grandparents. In acknowledgment of their interest in Urban Development, this bursary will be awarded annually to a continuing student majoring in Urban Studies.

- The Elizabeth (Betty) Tresoor Memorial Bursary honours Sue Hechter's mother and her passion for home and family. It will be awarded to a deserving student graduating from the Master of Marriage and Family Therapy program in the Faculty of Theology. The chosen graduate will be embarking on a career centred on the well-being of families.

- The Frank and Minnie Hechter Memorial Bursary is a tribute to the determination and ingenuity of immigrants such as Frank Hechter's paternal grandparents, Frank and Minnie Hechter, and the contributions they have made. The bursary will assist a continuing student in the Social Sciences. Preference may be given to a student in a major which focuses primarily on the social, political, and economic impact of immigrants on contemporary Canadian society.

Sue and Frank's philanthropic tradition is being carried on. Frank's son Richard, winner of a 2001 Prime Minister's Certificate of Teaching Excellence, will be using the award funds as a base for a scholarship in memory of his grandfather, Irving L. Hechter. Richard is working with the Collegiate on its establishment.



DR. ROOKE, FRANK HECHTER, SUE HECHTER, RICHARD DEARING, CLAUDIA WRIGHT AND DOREEN SMITH ARE EXCITED ABOUT PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND URBAN STUDIES.

The Drama of Dance

A Unique Program Between UWinnipeg and the School of Contemporary Dancers
by Annette Elvers, Liaison Officer with Enrolment Services



CONTEMPORARY DANCERS STUDY IN THE EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS AND DANCE FROM 9 TO 5 ON WEEKDAYS—GRUELING BUT REWARDING FOR THESE DEDICATED STUDENTS.

Even at the age of five, it was clear that Natasha Torres-Garner was going to be a dancer.

"It was inevitable that I needed some excuse to move," says Torres-Garner. "There was always some dancing going on no matter what I was doing." Her parents encouraged her talent and enrolled her in a dance class. Torres-Garner flourished.

Still working hard at understanding and perfecting her art, Torres-Garner is now one of 26 students taking part in a nationally acclaimed dance program offered jointly by the University of Winnipeg and the School of Contemporary Dancers.

Torres-Garner says dance is second nature to her. "It's become a necessity, a heartbeat. I feel very lucky to have come across something like this where I can express myself every day. That's not something everyone can experience."

As much as she loves what she's doing, she admits it is a lot of hard work. After first year, students put in a full day of dance training each weekday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Academic studies take place in the evening and during the summer session. In other dance programs, students would be attending either a university or a conservatory, but not both. That makes for long days, and requires a great deal of dedication.

But Torres-Garner isn't complaining. Students from as far away as China audition for the chance at a place in this unique program; it's not a privilege to take lightly.

Odette Heyn-Penner and Fay Thomson are the co-directors at the School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program. Heyn-Penner describes the arrangement between the University of Winnipeg and the School of Contemporary Dancers as the best of both worlds, where dance students are concerned.

"It offers intensive training in a conservatory style combined with a broad liberal arts education," says Heyn-Penner. "Most dance programs don't give the broad liberal education, but they offer lots of studio hours. Most university dance programs offer the liberal education, but at the expense of studio time. This program combines the strengths of both."

"It's the only dance program like it in Canada, probably in North America," adds Blake Taylor, UWinnipeg Theatre professor. "Students benefit enormously, especially in the field of contemporary dance," he says. "The general contemporary dancer is an artist and creator and collaborator, not simply an executor of someone else's artistic vision. The liberal education aspect is tremendously beneficial to dancers in this particular field. It better enables them to move into choreography, and to be a well-rounded artist and not just a technician."

Thomson credits that academic/dance combination with the extremely high employment rate of the program's graduates. "Almost 100 per cent of our students find work as professional dancers. That is the highest rate in Canada, without question."

Torres-Garner has one more year of study before she graduates. Having already participated in several productions as part of her studies, she's looking forward to completing her degree, and making her mark as a professional dancer. "I definitely want to keep dancing," says Torres-Garner. "It's an agreement I've made with myself that dance will be a part of my life from now on."

To enter the joint UWinnipeg / School of Contemporary Dancers program, students must first audition for a place in the School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program. Students who are accepted into that program may apply to enter the Dance stream of the University of Winnipeg's Theatre and Drama program.

Celebrating in Grand Style ... Twice!

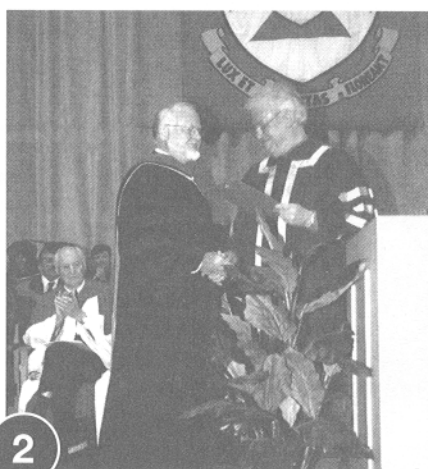
This year, Spring Convocation was *smaller* and better than ever. In an exciting move to make the event as welcoming as possible for graduates and their families, on Sunday June 3 the University held two smaller, more intimate ceremonies instead of one large function. Education and Science graduands convoked in the morning, while Arts, Theology, and Joint Masters students received their diplomas in the afternoon. The shift enabled students to invite more guests than it would be possible to accommodate at a larger ceremony. This meant more family and friends—a positive change for everyone!



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1. Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman and the world's first neurologist in space, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the morning celebration. One of the six original Canadian astronauts selected for space travel, Bondar delivered words of wisdom to the Education and Science graduates. "It is most attractive in an individual to be different . . . to take that risk, to take that chance," she said, ". . . to be able to now move forward and take that wonderful grounding and be creative, move with it and be different. When you walk out of this building today, you are not the same person you were when you walked into it. You have the opportunity of expanding this world for yourself and for those of us who are not as fortunate as you to have the same years ahead in such a very interesting global environment."

2. Educator, therapist, and mentor, Richard Dearing has provided years of devoted and visionary leadership as Executive Director of the Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute. At Convocation, as the recipient of the Marsha Hanen Award for Excellence in Creating Community Awareness, Dearing was recognized for his outstanding contri-



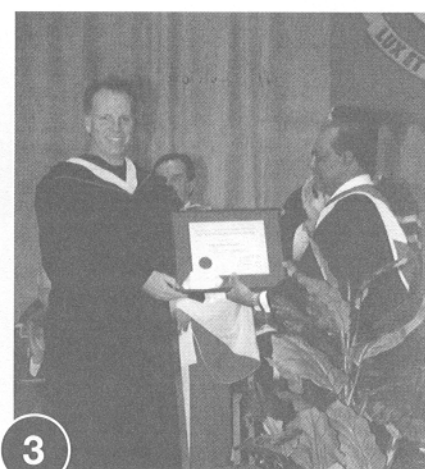
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bution to the University and to the larger community.

3. Guy Maddin, who graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts in 1978, has earned international acclaim as one of Canada's most innovative auteurs. With a penchant for the avant-garde, Maddin has almost single-handedly re-invented the cinema of the surreal. Maddin was the worthy recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

4. Professor Harold Hutton has served both his academic discipline and the University of Winnipeg with distinction. His legacy is founded on his commitment to teaching, research, administration, and community outreach activities. In honour of his contribution to the life of the University, Dr. Hutton was admitted to Fellowship in United College.

5. A fine teacher and a respected historian, Sarah McKinnon is considered by her peers to have been one of the most active members of the University of Winnipeg. At Convocation she was honoured with the Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to Self-Governance.



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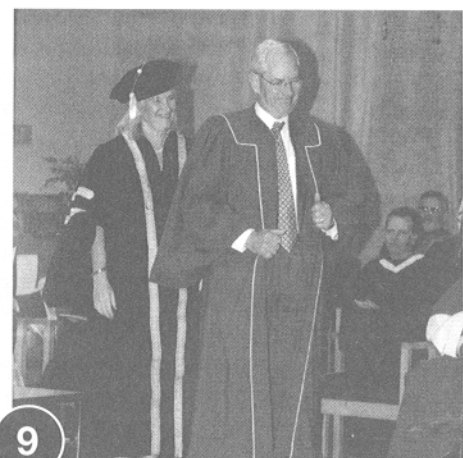
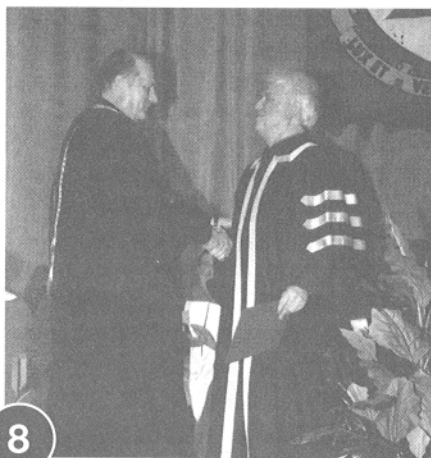
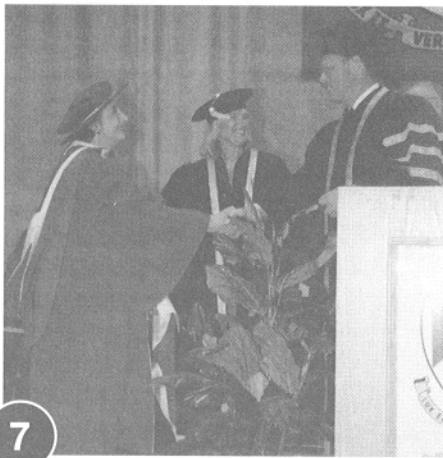
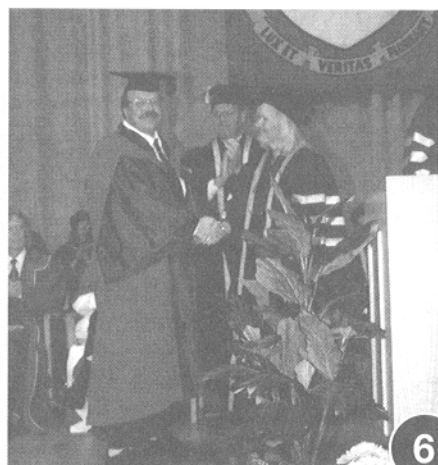
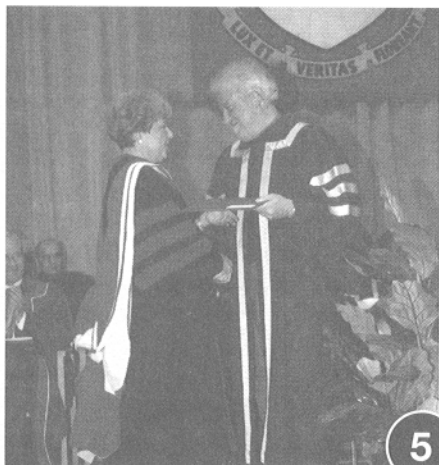
6. Accessible and approachable are two adjectives students frequently use to describe Philosophy Professor Jamie Muir. These qualities, along with his commitment to students and ability to make complex concepts understandable, garnered Muir this year's Clifford J. Robson Award for Excellence in Teaching.

7. Patricia Kathleen Page is unquestionably one of Canada's most important and greatly loved poets. At the afternoon Convocation the University of Winnipeg bestowed upon this national treasure and true Renaissance woman an Honorary Doctor of Letters.

8. Dr. George E. Richert, retiring President of Menno Simons College, is a 2001 recipient of the Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to Self-Governance. Under his leadership, Menno Simons College has grown exponentially.

9. Dr. Ron Norton, professor Emeritus, was admitted to Fellowship in United College in recognition of his 33 years of service to the University of Winnipeg as a generous colleague and tremendous teacher.

convocation



Enrolment Services Connects

Enrolment Services has been connecting UWinnipeg with high school students, counsellors, and the community since 1991. Through high school visits and career fairs, Enrolment Services staff provide information, address questions and concerns, and share in the excitement of students who want to become a part of UWinnipeg. "It's a privilege to speak with the public face to face," says Annette Elvers, liaison officer. "High school visits and career fairs are perfect opportunities to engage students."

Once they have expressed interest in the University of Winnipeg, potential students receive many pieces of mail, including updates, bulletins, and announcements. Those mailings are important, but impersonal. And so often, the information flows in only one direction.

That's why Enrolment Services is launching a quarterly newsletter this fall. The newsletter will answer questions that are common among high school counsellors from across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. It will also allow University of Winnipeg staff and faculty to share their excitement about unique programs and new initiatives. The newsletter is intended to promote discussion about UWinnipeg: who we are, what we do, and how we can all—counsellors and the UWinnipeg community alike—serve students better.

High school students often ask the question: what programs do you offer that are out of the ordinary? The soon-to-be-launched Enrolment Services newsletter will regularly feature other unique and noteworthy programs, like the program between UWinnipeg and the School of Contemporary Dancers. If you know of an area that you think should be highlighted, let Enrolment Services know. And look for their first edition of the newsletter this September!

Other Enrolment Services News:

- Enrolment Services has moved! The offices are now located at 311 Colony Square. Don't let Portage become a barrier—the new office is only a crosswalk away!
- Enrolment Services has just hired a new Liaison Officer - Jon Unger Brandt - to serve rural Manitoba. Each year, the six post-secondary institutions in Manitoba travel as a group to schools throughout the province. Along with a host of other duties, this new Liaison Officer will be responsible for visiting Manitoba's rural communities.
- This year, Liaison staff attended a total of 55 career fairs and gave 108 presentations to high school students and their families, speaking with nearly 10,000 students! They traveled extensively in Manitoba, from as far north as Split Lake to as far south as Dominion City.

Annette Elvers went west to Saskatoon and east to Toronto for major educational symposiums in those cities. Andy Lockery worked hard at developing his contacts in Northwestern Ontario and has plans for more visits to that region next fall.

- The creation of the Aboriginal Liaison position made this a landmark year for the department. New brochures, a new display—and, of course, a new Liaison Officer, Chantal Hutchinson—allowed Enrolment Services to reach out to the Aboriginal community like never before. The Aboriginal Liaison function has grown, and Hutchinson is now working with MARS Project Coordinator Andrea McCluskey on important initiatives to serve Aboriginal students through Student Services. Her office can now be found in Bryce Hall.

- It was also a great year for telecounselling. Last year, callers reached nearly 2,000 students. The intention is to let high school students know that after the initial high school visit, Enrolment Services staff will stay in touch, offer new and important information, and provide continuity throughout each student's decision-making process. With the new office space in Colony Square specially designed for this program, plans are already in the works to expand telecounselling efforts this year.

In Memoriam Joyce Adams

On June 9, 2001, retired Switchboard Operator Joyce Adams passed away at The Royal University Hospital in Saskatchewan.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Adams retired from the University in 1995 after 16 years of competent and loyal service. She took great pride in her work and was respected by her colleagues for her strong work ethic as well as her caring and gentle nature.

As Switchboard Operator, Adams was the University's voice-mail system before such technology existed. When family and

friends called for faculty and staff, they were always greeted by Adams, who knew most of the callers by name and would take the time to inquire about their families.

Shortly after her retirement, Adams moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to be closer to her grandchildren.

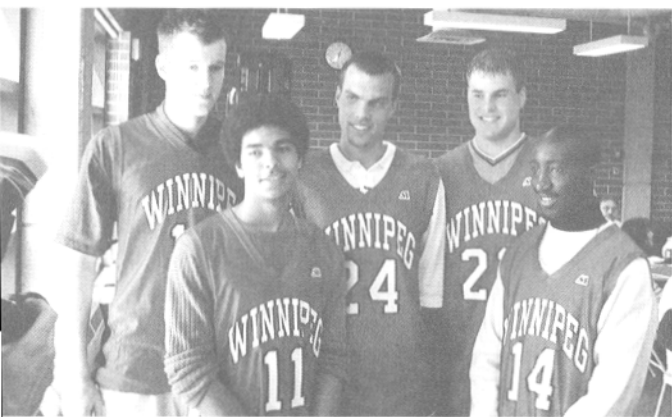
A memorial service in celebration of Joyce Adams's life was held on Friday, June 15 at Chapel Lawn Funeral Home. Donations in her memory can be made to the University of Winnipeg through University Relations.

The Fab Five

Part of 'Your Real Home Team'

The 2001 basketball season looks promising. On Tuesday, June 19 the University of Winnipeg Wesmen men's basketball program announced their recruiting class for 2001. New coach Dave Crook has added the cream of the crop from Manitoba high school basketball over the past two years, filling all five natural positions on the floor. The five include the last two players of the year as well as the past two Carl Ridd Award winners.

Crook is enthusiastic about the upcoming season. "As a first-year coach you dream of a recruiting class like this one," he says. "When I was hired, I felt we needed to recruit the best Manitoba players to be successful."



YOUR REAL HOME TEAM, LEFT TO RIGHT: MATT MOLITOWSKY OF MILES MACDONELL COLLEGIATE (2000 CARL RIDD WINNER AND 2000 PLAYER OF THE YEAR), PHIL SWART OF SILVER HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE (2001 CARL RIDD WINNER), AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL FINALISTS KELVIN CLIPPERS, KEVIN YEBOAH, TIM MCDOWELL, AND ALDIN SMALLING (2001 PLAYER OF THE YEAR).

Call For Nominations

The University of Winnipeg Board of Regents will soon be filling current vacancies. Candidates should have the appropriate skill set coupled with a passion for the University. Anyone who wishes to make a nomination (including self-nominations) is invited to send a brief biography with a few contact names and numbers to Frank Hechter, Past Chair. (frank.hechter@ds1.uwinnipeg.ca)

Staff Changes Report

March 19, 2001 - July 6, 2001

Appointments

Dave Crook	Coach (Men's Basketball)	Rec. & Athletic Services	04/01/01
Kathryn Shailer-Hanson	Dean	Continuing Education	04/01/01
Heather Guest	Executive Assistant	Virtuosi	03/19/01
Grant Brown	TSL 5	Library	04/02/01
Christopher Rarick	Office Assistant 6	Security	04/02/01
Karen Wilson	Office Assistant 5	Deans' Office	03/26/01 12 mo. term
Donna Sutherland	Office Assistant 4	Cr. Rupert's Land Studies	04/09/01 (Part-time)
Fatima Bahir	Office Assistant 3	Student Services	04/09/01
Lisa McLean	Office Assistant 5	Admissions Office	04/30/01
Jon Unger Brandt	Admin. Assistant 1	Enrolment Services	04/30/01 12 mo. term

New Term Appointments

Mark Burch	Lecturer	Menno Simons	05/01/01 12 mo.
Maureen Britton	Admin. Assistant 3	University Relations	06/11/01
Robert Anderson	Asst. Professor	Biology	07/01/01 prob
Athar Ata	Asst. Professor	Chemistry	07/01/01 prob
Patrick Deane	V.P. (Academic)	V.P. (Academic)	07/01/01
Joan Grace	Asst. Professor	Politics Department	07/01/01 prob
John Kozak	Asst. Professor	Theatre	07/01/01 prob
Kathleen Venema	Asst. Professor	English	07/01/01 prob
Michael MacKinnon	Asst. Professor	Anthropology	07/01/01 12 mo

New Prob. Appointment (from term)

Peter James	Librarian III	Library	06/01/01
Karim Dharamsi	Asst. Professor	Philosophy	06/11/01
Ron McFadyen	Asst. Professor	Business Computing	07/01/01
Michelle Owen	Asst. Professor	Sociology	07/01/01
Peter Ives	Asst. Professor	Politics Department	07/01/01

Term Reappointments

John Derksen	Lecturer	Menno Simons	05/01/01 12 mo.
Ainslie Mihalchuk	Instructor I	Biology	05/01/01 24 mo.
Claire Borody	Asst. Professor	Theatre	07/01/01 12 mo

End of Term Appointments

Claire Borody	Instructor II	Theatre	04/30/01
Simone Chaput	Instructor VII	Collegiate	04/30/01
John Derksen	Asst. Professor	Menno Simons	04/30/01
Karim Dharamsi	Lecturer	Philosophy	04/30/01
Fiona Green	Lecturer	Women's Studies	04/30/01
Ken Johns	Lecturer	Psychology	04/30/01
Sharon Josephson	Instructor II	Ctr. for Academic Writing	04/15/01
Ainslie Mihalchuk	Instructor I	Biology	04/30/01
Charlene Pawluc	Lecturer	Math/Stats.	04/30/01
John Spina	Instructor	Geography	04/30/01
Robert Wardhaugh	Asst. Professor	History	04/30/01
Barbara Glassey	Asst. Professor	Biology	05/15/01

Position Changes

Jino Distasio	Fr: Lecturer (term) To: Sr. Research Associate	Geography Institute of Urban Studies	04/01/01
Tanya McKay	Fr: Coach (term) To: Coach (full-time, continuing)	Rec. & Athletic Services	04/01/01
Erin Stewart	Fr: Acting Director To: Admin. Assistant 5	Continuing Education Continuing Education	04/01/01
Judi Hanson	Fr: Exec. Sec. Dean Arts & Sci. To: Exec. Sec. V.P. Academic	Deans' Office V.P. (Academic Office)	04/09/01
Joe Danis	Fr: Admin. Assistant 3 To: Admin. Assistant 2	University Relations Campus Services	04/30/01
Jeffrey Kirk	Dowson Fr: Office Assistant 4 To: Admin. Assistant 3	Student Records Student Services	06/04/01 2 yr. term
Doran Reid	Fr: Facility & Event Mgr. To: Assoc. Director	Athletic Services Athletic Services	06/25/01

Leave of Absence

Stephanie Stobbe	Lecturer	Menno Simons	03/27/01
Gary Hollingshead	TSL 6 Tech.	Solutions	03/26/01
Fiorina Pasquarelli	Office Assistant 4	Deans' Office	05/25/01

Returns From Leave of Absence

Stefanie Dram	Admin. Assistant 1	Continuing Education	04/02/01
Miriam Unruh	Academic Counsellor	Collegiate	05/04/01
Gary Hollingshead	TSL 6	Tech. Solutions Centre	05/21/01

Departures

Josh Bachynski	Admin. Assistant 3	Continuing Education	03/30/01
Richard McCutcheon	Asst. Professor	Menno Simons	04/01/01
Katherine Schultz	Assoc. V.P. (Rsrch/Grad.Stud.)	V.P. (Academic)	05/01/01
Peter Monette	Asst. Professor	Menno Simons	05/15/01
Robert Budde	Asst. Professor	English	06/30/01
Peter Dawson	Asst. Professor	Anthropology	06/30/01
Ian Hudson	Asst. Professor	Economics	06/30/01
Henry Thille	Asst. Professor	Economics	07/01/01
Anne Lavack	Assoc. Professor	Business Computing	06/30/01
Timothy MacKay	Admin. Assistant 3	Cont. Education	06/29/01

Lay-Off

Sharon White	Admin. Assistant 3	Student Services	03/29/01
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Name Change

Fr: Murielle Corriveau	To: Murielle Jennings	Chemistry
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Retirements

Shirley Godfrey	Office Assistant 4	Student Records	06/01/01
Maureen Taggart	Library Assistant 5	Library	07/01/01

Paving the Way for Women in Sport

"I wore yellow fuzzy slippers to Convocation and I did it for Sandra Kirby," says a proud Lynda Hathout. "In class Professor Kirby encouraged us to do breach experiments, which involve exhibiting a behaviour outside the norm. When Convocation came up, I thought 'what a great time to do something outside the norm,'" she recalls. When Hathout walked across the stage she elicited an overwhelming response, mostly from her classmates who agreed that yellow fuzzy slippers were a fitting and well-deserved tribute to a professor who is universally admired.

Upon graduating, most students have stories to tell about the teacher who truly changed their lives. For Hathout, that teacher is Professor Kirby. And Hathout isn't alone. Kirby has changed the lives of many students, trainees, and athletes—from those who dream of making it to the Olympics to those who just like to watch the sun come up while rowing on a clear morning.

Pushing the limits and encouraging girls and women to 'get in the game' has earned local and national recognition for Kirby. Sociology professor, athlete, and feminist, Kirby was recently honoured with the 2001 Women and Sport Breakthrough Award in the Individual Category. The prestigious Breakthrough Awards were established by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) in 1986 to recognize exceptional accomplishments that 'break through' traditional barriers and pave the way for girls and women to participate in sports at every level.

A role model for female athletes of all ages, Kirby was a founding member of CAAWS and has served on its board for many years. "I'm proud of the work CAAWS has done. Since its inception in the early '80s the goal has been to put feminism and inequality on the national sports agenda," says Kirby. "Since then racism, ethnocentrism, and other sites of discrimi-

nation have been given critical thought." CAAWS is also an advocate of girls' right to be active. "For example, 'On The Move' is a school and community centre program that encourages girls to participate in sport; to be and do rather than to appear."

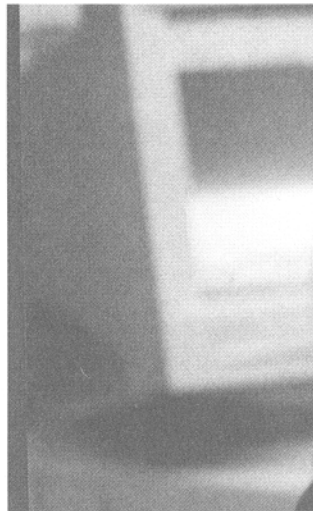
For the Love of Sport

In 1975, while teaching in Victoria, Kirby discovered a talent and a passion for rowing. "I was hooked instantly and within a year I was a member of the first team of women to row at the Olympic Games," she says. "Being at the Olympics was amazing. I can't describe the feeling I had seeing 77,000 people in the Montreal stadium scream when the home team marched in. The air moved. It was overwhelming."

Back then Kirby knew that something was not right in sport. At that time rowing was predominantly a sport for men; women who entered this male-dominated world often found themselves in a hostile environment. Even today in some parts of the world, women are deemed incapable of a physically demanding sport like rowing and are therefore not permitted to join certain rowing clubs.

Kirby felt a shocking blow when her school board supervisors were not happy to release her from her teaching duties to go to the 1976 Olympics. "They said it wasn't related to my job," she recalls. She adds that at the time she was teaching Physical Education and coaching nearly every team at Saanich in Victoria, B.C. "The same year they gave a male teacher a paid leave of absence to go on a Japanese rugby tour," she notes.

In addition to a lack of female representation in sport, it was well-known that some coaches were sleeping with athletes, says Kirby. Knowing that something had to be done, in the 1980s she became a founding member of CAAWS, a member of the Canadian Marathon Canoe Racing Association Prairies Board,





THIS YEAR SANDRA KIRBY, WINNER OF THE 2001 WOMEN AND SPORT BREAKTHROUGH AWARD IN THE INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY, CERTIFIED AS A ROWING CANADA OFFICIAL.

and, shortly after she completed her PhD, a member of the Provincial Canada Games Committee in Nova Scotia. It was in Nova Scotia that she became a catalyst in changing policy at the Mic Mac Amateur Athletic Association which, at that time, refused to permit women to vote at the Annual General Meeting. This event was picked up by the media and contributed to a major sport funding policy in Nova Scotia related to gender equity. She is also a member of WomenSport International's Task Force on Sexual Harassment in Sport, a group of six researchers who have put harassment and abuse in sport on the international research agenda.

According to Kirby, getting the message out about women in sport is the key to changing attitude and policy. She has written extensively about women and sport, starting with her PhD dissertation in 1986 on High Performance Female Athlete Retirement. As a researcher and professor of Sociology, she has written six books and has published 14 peer-reviewed articles, the majority of which are concerned with women and sport and or harassment and abuse in sport. Her most recent book, *The Dome of Silence: Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport* (Kirby, Greaves and Hankivsky, Fernwood, 2000), has had considerable impact on sport in Canada and abroad. "The book shook the sports world," she says. "The nature and the scope of the problem is being recognized as serious; the book is doing its job."

First a Coach

After moving out of high performance rowing competition in the early 1980s, Kirby became a marathon canoeist, winning the national championship and competing at the World Master's Championships in 1985. There she won a silver medal in marathon canoe racing and two gold medals in rowing and officially retired from competitive sport. She has since been active in provincial and national games, including the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg in 1999.

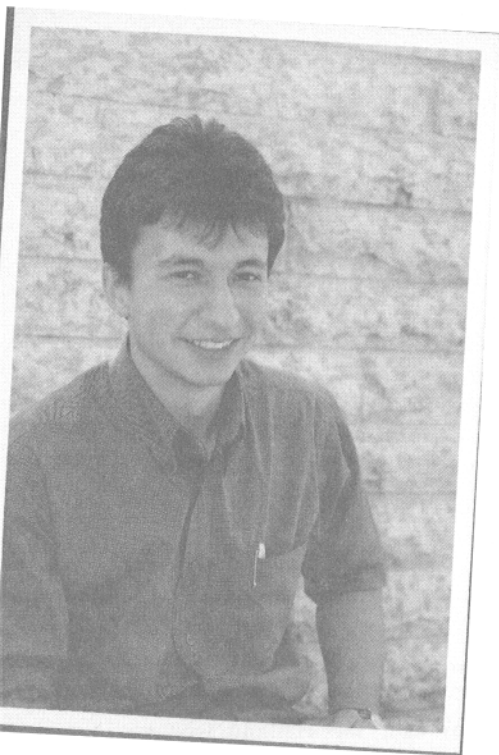
Despite her commitment to sport at the national level, Kirby has never forgotten her roots and has maintained her contribution as a volunteer coach in rowing. "It's a privilege to be a coach," she asserts. "I teach people of all ages and at all different levels of ability. And they're so appreciative. One woman who was going in for surgery late one afternoon came out to row the morning of her surgery; she said she wanted to get in one more work-out before going into the hospital." Kirby can understand this dedication and drive. She believes that rowing is as much a lifestyle as it is a sport. "When I'm on the calm water first thing in the morning and the sun is coming up I feel connected with the environment. I love it."

Hathout, one of Kirby's rowing students, says that she has never encountered such an enthusiastic coach. "Her passion for the sport really comes through," says Hathout, who was also in Kirby's Sociology class at UWinnipeg. "Even when she is focused on one person she is still looking around and observing the others and watching for areas where she can help them." More than a coach, Kirby is a friend to her students and athletes in training. "She's just a fantastic person who is genuinely interested in other people. She loves to hear people talk about not only sport but anything they care about."

Kirby says that she is humbled to receive the Breakthrough Award. "I'm in the company of women like Herstory Award winners Helen Lenskyj and Dorothy Richardson. I'm one of many who are working for important change in sport."

From Russia With Love

UWinnipeg Physics Department Gives Student a World of Opportunity



MIKALAI BIRUKOU SAYS THE FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT HAVE MADE HIM FEEL AT HOME HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG.

Love of physics and an internet search brought Mikalai Birukou from Belarus to Winnipeg. "I was searching the internet for theoretical physics departments at North American universities, and I found that the best theoretical physics work is being conducted at the University of Winnipeg," he recalls. Now a second-year student in the Physics Department, Birukou says that discovering our web site was a turning point in his life. "Right away the faculty took me under its wing. Now I work with a great group of physics professors who have made me feel quite at home here," says Birukou, who is no stranger to university settings, having studied in Minsk for three years before making the move to Canada. "The University of Winnipeg is exactly the kind of university I had been looking for. It's small and intimate so there are more research opportunities and more interaction with professors."

Physics Professor Dwight Vincent, impressed with Birukou's success in Quantum Mechanics and General Relativity, wrote a letter to the International Undergraduate Summer School (IUSS) at the University of Cambridge. "I was a bit leery about nominating a student two years running," Vincent admits, adding that alumna Sheilla Jones was chosen to attend the Summer School last year. "But I knew that Mikalai's exceptional abilities would make him stand out. I am thrilled that our University has had two such successes in a row." With more than 50 applicants and only 24 places available, it is clear that Birukou did stand out.

In addition to earning the highest marks in his classes, Birukou has spent two summers working on research projects with Professor

Gabor Kunstatter. Vincent and Kunstatter agree that few students are as advanced as Birukou. "There are excellent students and then there are extraordinarily excellent students. Mikalai falls in the latter category," says Vincent. "He is very interested in cosmology and relativistic astrophysics, and he has enormous potential in this field."

These days Birukou is more focused on particle physics and astronomy, which he is studying at Cambridge from June 25 to August 3. He is working alongside other participants from places such as Cambridge, Glasgow, Oxford, Turkey, Trinidad, South Korea, Chile, Mexico, Ethiopia, and Russia. A student from Vancouver, British Columbia will also be participating; however, no students from the United States or western Europe were selected.

During their time together students attend lectures and learn about the most exciting topics in the field today. They also spend time on a research project and present their results to the group during the last week. The agenda also includes a two-day trip to the European Laboratory of Particle Physics at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

A peer tutor and laboratory demonstrator with the Physics Department, Birukou says that teaching has enhanced his communication skills. "Not just anyone can be a good teacher," he says. "I have learned that you have to implement your soul, not just ideas." Although he is uncertain as to whether he will pursue a career in teaching, he is confident that he will continue his education, one day earning a PhD and continuing to work in the field of research.

Post-Secondary Education Key to Nation's Prosperity

At a recent Winnipeg conference Chairs and Secretaries of University Boards of Governors from across Canada affirmed their commitment to promote university education as one of the keys to the country's prosperity.

In discussions about the challenges facing universities, the heads of the governing Boards emphasized the contribution that university graduates have made and continue to make to Canada's economic, social, political, and cultural life, the importance of research to industry and government, and the major economic impact universities have on their communities.

The university Chairs and Secretaries, representing post-secondary institutions from every region of the country, agreed that their financial sustainability is the paramount challenge facing Canadian universities. While acknowledging the support universities have recently begun to receive from both levels of government, they recognized the benefits of collectively communicating their concerns to provincial governments, the federal government, and the Canadian public.

Frank Hechter, past Chair of the Board of Regents at the University of Winnipeg, chaired the three-day meeting. The next annual meeting of the Association will take place in Quebec City in April 2002.

Getting to the Root of the Problem

Lockhart Hall Repairs

Like many buildings constructed in the 1960s, Lockhart Hall is in need of major structural repairs. Lockhart was built to meet the code of the day, but 30 years have passed and problems are arising that could not have been foreseen.

The root of the problem is the condensation that is gathering in the cavity behind the masonry wall. This moisture collects and, without a means of escape, causes the metal anchors to rust and fail. When the water freezes it expands and pushes the bricks off their anchors. The resulting hairline cracks in the brick grow and eventually become large cracks, ultimately causing the bricks to break.

The multi-phase project has already begun. Mansfield Construction Ltd. was awarded the contract which is being engineered and managed by Crosier Kilgour and Associates Engineering. The majority of the work is being done to restore the exterior and is expected to continue throughout the summer and well into the fall. Projects currently underway include repairs to the brick facade, repairs to or replacement of metal and gravel roofs, replacement of broken windows, and interior work to seal the air leakage in the wall.

The first step, which began a year ago, involves drilling strap anchors into the brick to hold the structure in place. Three courses of brick above and below each supporting shelf angle will be cut out and the supporting angles will be checked and re-anchored. A soldier course of dark bricks will then be laid above and below each shelf angle. The top course will be mortared in and the bottom course will be caulked in to allow the joints to expand and contract. This will be accomplished using scaffolding from the ground and stepped roof areas. Some metal roof areas will be removed and repaired and the top flat roof will be replaced.

The interior work is required to improve the vapour barrier around the windows to prevent further deterioration of the brick. This work has already begun in main floor classroom areas and will be completed by the end of August. All Lockhart Hall occupants have been issued a memo detailing the work schedule and the ways in which they will be impacted. They are reminded to inform Departmental Office Assistants of intended 'off campus times'. This information will be collected by Physical Plant and all efforts will be made to schedule the work around faculty and staff absence.

Some of the work will involve contact with materials that contain asbestos. These materials have been encapsulated and protective measures are being taken to ensure safety.

The scaffolding around Wesley is being dismantled. The section around the fire escape will remain for safety reasons. Studies continue on the structure of Wesley Hall to determine the best course of action for repairs.

Should you have questions about the scope of work on Lockhart Hall, please call John Mainer, Assistant Director, Projects Coordinator Physical Plant, at 9835 or Norm Loat, Director of Physical Plant, at 9223.



LOCKHART HALL REPAIRS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF AUGUST.



GRADUATES CELEBRATE AT A FORMAL RECEPTION

Learning Through Laughter and Tears

By Lesley Hughes, Instructor-Division of Continuing Education

There's no doubt about it: Stony Mountain Institution is a frightening place. It's the doors that throw you off balance—a seemingly endless number of them locking heavily into place behind you.

On a frigid spring day, a small group of us trudge down a labyrinth of cold hallways which finally end in a large, round room reminiscent of a teepee. Just inside, an inmate sits at a table, stretching out his hand in welcome.

We've been invited to a special occasion: a graduation. Today 13 Aboriginal inmates, most of whom are violent offenders, some of them lifers, will receive certificates indicating that they have completed an Aboriginal Spirituality, Culture, and History Program, 90 hours of Aboriginal history, tradition, myth, and spiritual teachings. It's an education in walking the Red Road: honouring life as the Creator intended it to be lived—clean, sober, and profoundly respectful of the interdependence of all living things.

The energy in the room is intensely positive. A circle of inmates are drumming. Their timing is perfectly coordinated, their focus absolute, and when the song is over they acknowledge each other with smiles, laughter, and encouragement.

The unique course in Walking the Red Road is an outreach project of the University of Winnipeg's Division of Continuing Education, the University's response to a joint request from an inmates' committee and Manitoba's Native Brotherhood Organization. Both groups thought it would be useful for Aboriginal inmates to understand more about their culture. Mark Ruml, a teacher of Aboriginal Spirituality, put together the program in conjunction with Richard Nordrum, the Division's Director of Business and Relationship Development.

"We had tremendous support from both Corrections Canada and staff members at Stony Mountain. Dozens of volunteers from both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities acted as resource people during classes," Nordrum says.

Ruml indicates that for most students, this was the first chance they had to listen to elders and traditional teachers explain the significance of traditions like Sun Dance, the sweat lodge, and the vision quest. "Most of them are too young to have attended residential school, but all of them have been affected in some way by the intergenerational impact of the policies of assimilation and attempted cultural genocide." Ruml adds, "It's wonderful to hear many of my students state that they are eagerly looking forward to passing on what they have learned to their children."

The inmates report learning not just through lectures, but through laughter and tears. One of the guest teachers was a Mohawk woman whose young son was brutally murdered. The story of that loss and her attempts to recover from it moved them to a long and thoughtful silence. When the certificates are handed out today, each man speaks for a moment or two about what the course has meant to him. A common theme is that confusion, guilt, and shame have been replaced by understanding and pride in identity.

"It's kind of funny," one tells me, "that I came to prison and feel free. But I know a burden has been lifted from my heart."

"I wish that what we learned in here could be available outside," says another. "It would make a big difference to a lot of people."

After the ceremonies, the new graduates walk the room shaking hands with everyone present, thanking them for coming. There is a solemn happiness that feels like a wedding or a christening.

Outside, an eagle is spotted soaring and lingering in the area. It's a sign, one of the elders says, that the Creator is pleased.

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Editor: Paula Denbow
Publications Coordinator
(204) 786-9172
p.denbow@uwinnipeg.ca

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