

## NEWS

## THE U OF M IN THE NEWS

**Outfoxed**

January 4, 2013

BBC

Biological sciences assistant professor James (Jim) Roth spoke to the BBC about the strange goings-on in the Arctic. Arctic fox sightings around Hudson Bay are at an unprecedented low this winter, yet red fox sightings have simultaneously surged. The surprising pattern prompted observers to question whether the elusive Arctic foxes are being driven out of their dens by invading red relatives. Roth told the BBC that while it is "possible," the dip is more likely to have been caused by another factor such as food resources, disease or parasites. Roth's annual observations of both Arctic and red fox dens around Churchill, Man., show that the success of the two species is highly correlated. "However, in 2011 Arctic fox den success was among the lowest ever recorded, while red fox den was among the highest," he said. Roth went on to say that a different prey species such as snowshoe hare may have been abundant in red foxes' forest habitat but was not available to Arctic foxes hunting on the tundra terrain.

**Holley: Rules only work if enforced**

December 27, 2012

*The Globe and Mail, Calgary Herald, CBC, CTV, Farmer, Canadian Press, Saskatchewan Star Phoenix*

Food science professor Rick Holley gave comment to the media about recent food safety issues. In early September U.S. food inspectors found E. coli bacteria in a shipment of beef from the XL Foods Ltd. plant in Brooks, Alta. The U.S. quickly closed its border to beef from the plant, which slaughters up to 40 per cent of Canada's cattle. The event was damaging to many lives. And Holley said there is no excuse for the sanitation problems that led to the Brooks plant closing. Canada, Holley said, is respected around the world for the rules it has in place, but the problem is the rules are not enforced with the required vigor. "We see too much pressure being put on inspection staff to complete reports," said Holley, who added that some inspectors need more training to effectively do their jobs. "They just have to get better at the proactive end of things, a lot better." The responsibility for food safety also rests with company owners. Holley said managers and supervisors must set clear operating standards for hygiene and strictly enforce them. Part of that responsibility is to ensure workers, often immigrants who speak English as a second language, are fully trained to understand what is expected of them. Workers must also feel comfortable about being able to speak up if they have concerns. Holley said food safety in meat plants is everyone's concern, but ultimately it is the federal food inspection staff that set the tone. "There is a constant requirement for regulatory oversight, but that regulatory oversight must be viewed by the plant's managers and staff as competent," he said. "When the activity doesn't appear to be competent, then you end up with people taking shortcuts, and outcomes such as we have seen at XL Foods."

**Who decides?**

Dec. 9, 2012

*CTV National News*

Philosophy professor Arthur Schafer spoke to CTV about issues taxing the Supreme Court of Canada. In early December of last year the court was about to decide on a case that asked who decides when a hospital patient lives or dies: doctors, or families? The genesis for the case came from the family 60-year-old Hassan Rasouli, who was on a breathing machine for over two years in Sunnybrook Hospital after surgery to remove a brain tumor. The family saw hope for recovery; the doctors did not. Despite two court rulings in favour of the family, the doctors appealed to the Supreme Court. Schafer said the case will head off a debate that will only grow with new technology that keeps people alive indefinitely at great cost to the health care system. "I find it very difficult to believe that the Supreme Court will decide that health care professionals are mere technicians, and that whatever the family wants the health care team has to provide it, even if this involves wasting scarce health care resources."

**Headlines**

"Scientist to receive esteemed award," *Winnipeg Free Press*, Jan. 4, article about scientists awarded for doing trailblazing work at the Experimental Lakes Area based at the University of Manitoba.

— compiled by Sean Moore



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## Starting the new year by celebrating student success

**THERE IS NO BETTER TIME** than the early days of the new year to celebrate the success of our outstanding students.

Many of you may have already heard that **Thomas Toles** has been named the University of Manitoba's 97th Rhodes Scholar, the most of any university in Western Canada. That announcement was made in late November. All of our faculties and departments are contributing to this culture of excellence. Our most recent Rhodes Scholars represent the breadth of our academic disciplines including arts, science and engineering.

We were also proud of the success which has been achieved by graduate students **Amy Scott** and **Harlyn Silverstein** who in 2012 were recipients of Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships.

In addition to these exceptional individuals I am proud to recognize others who are also already embracing the unexpected, defying convention and blazing new trails.

**Christiane Fischer, Laura Poppel, Mathew Stewart, Melina Djulancic and Rebecca Kunzman** will be joining five of our faculty at the G20 Youth Forum April 17-21 that will bring together over 1,500 student leaders and academics in St. Petersburg, Russia.

I am very excited about the opportunities this conference provides for these student leaders. They will participate in discussions and build relationships that will shape the rest of their lives and ultimately change our world.

In addition, two first-year students set themselves apart before they started attending classes here this fall. **Kimia Sheikholeslami** and **Alexa McAdam** were selected among the 977 Canadian nominees to receive the first-ever Schulich Leader Scholarships.

The Schulich Leader Scholarships program recognizes students from across Canada who demonstrate excellence in academics and/or community leadership and who plan to study science, technology, engineering or mathematics, during their undergraduate years of study at university.

Finally, I want to recognize two other groups of outstanding students at the University of Manitoba. While I would like to acknowledge each by name, I am proud to say there are far too many to do so.

In September, I attended a reception celebrating more than 400 President's Scholars. I was moved by the level of intelligence and social commitment of these young people.

In order to be a President's Scholar, a student must enter the University of Manitoba with a minimum average of 95 per cent. In order to retain this distinction, an individual must achieve a 4.0 Grade Point Average.

The fact that we have so many President's Scholars is an indication of the quality of students who attend this university and maintain those high standards throughout their academic careers and the faculty who teach and mentor them.

I also want to recognize our 1,043 University 1 Honour Roll students. These are University 1 students who have an average of 3.5 or better. I am told this is one of the largest honour roll classes in our university's history.

Past behaviour is often the best predictor of future behaviour so I look forward to even more success in the future.

Throughout our university's history, many outstanding people have had their lives transformed by their experience at the University of Manitoba. Their success requires the commitment of family, faculty, staff, alumni as well as our community and government partners.

The students we are celebrating today are not only continuing that tradition of excellence, they are taking us to new and exciting places. I am proud to have the opportunity to share in that journey.

**Remembering food services manager Daryl Lucyk**

**On behalf of the University of Manitoba's leadership team, faculty and staff, I want to express our deep sadness at the passing of Daryl Lucyk on December 12, 2012. As ARAMARK's general manager of food services and caretaking for the University of Manitoba, Daryl provided dedicated and invaluable service to our community and was a trusted and respected member of our team. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.**

**In addition, I want to express our condolences to his colleagues in food services and caretaking who share our sadness and will miss his sound counsel and strong leadership.**

**Paul A. Kochan, Vice-President (administration)**

## THE BULLETIN

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**SUBMISSIONS**

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions.

**EVENTS**

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