



It is a **WELCOME CHALLENGE** each year to select the Distinguished Alumni Award honoree from among the outstanding alumni at the University of Manitoba.

Our 2012 award recipient, Gerry Price [BSc(ME)/70, MSc/72], is as deserving an honoree as any and we look forward to acclaiming him during Homecoming 2012.

An engineer by profession, Gerry is a builder to his core.

He has transformed a successful family ventilation business into The Price Group of companies, with sales of \$331 million, 12 manufacturing sites and more than 2,200 employees, despite fierce global competition and the inevitable ebbs and flows of the construction sector. Along the way, he has earned numerous professional accolades and honours, including being named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (2011) and receiving a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).

He has been a driving force in the growth and success of the University of Manitoba through the Faculty of Architecture Partners Program, the Asper School of Business Associates Program, the Faculty of Engineering Friends program and fundraising for the university's Engineering and Information Technology Complex.

Gerry and his wife Barb [BHEc/69, CertEd/70] are also community builders and philanthropists who have given to the United Way; St. John's-Ravenscourt School; the Canadian Museum for Human Rights; the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra; Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba; and the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation.

The Distinguished Alumni Award serves as a shining example to our more than 27,000 students, especially those who will begin classes at the University of Manitoba for the first time this fall.

Gerry Price is a role model. He is a special individual who has contributed to his community, province, country and world in a meaningful way.

His story serves as inspiration for our new students, our future alumni, to embrace the unexpected, defy convention and blaze new trails. And today, we see countless examples of bright young men and women committed to pursuing excellence at the U of M in their own unique ways.

I delight in every opportunity I am given to celebrate student success, be it at convocation or any specific example of academic, athletic or personal excellence we recognize throughout the year. The annual presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award is, to me, an extension of this celebration, and an opportunity to recognize how the honorees has continued to excel throughout their lives after graduation. It is a reflection of the values we hold closest at the U of M and, as such, something we can all embrace.

With that in mind, I invite you to join me at Homecoming 2012 from Sept. 12 to 16, to recognize Gerry, to reconnect with old friends and to celebrate the people, the places, and the experiences that helped define you.

David T. Barnard PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR