



Pushing the boundaries of **OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR WORLD**

At the University of Manitoba, we are at our best when we challenge the status quo with the goal of bringing about positive change that benefits us all.

This edition of *On Manitoba* touches on the many ways our alumni and university community are taking on the most important issues facing our society.

At Homecoming 2013, we have the privilege of honouring Ovide Mercredi with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He is being recognized for his unrelenting pursuit of social justice for Indigenous peoples in Manitoba, Canada and throughout the world stretching back to his days at the University of Manitoba as president of Canada's first Native Students' Association.

At the University of Manitoba, we are committed to making Winnipeg a centre of excellence for Indigenous education and research, with Indigenous students, faculty and staff leading the way.

On National Aboriginal Day we signed an historic agreement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, making the University of Manitoba home to the National Research Centre (NRC) on Residential Schools.

This centre will help Canadians move forward on a path of reconciliation and healing as we recognize the brokenness of our shared history. We are proud that we will play a critical role in that reconciliation through hosting the NRC.

We are also grateful that we can count on the leadership and wisdom of alumni such as Mr. Mercredi as we move forward with the National Research Centre, our Pathways to Indigenous Achievement plan and issues that are critical to the success of our university, province and country.

While Mr. Mercredi continues to pursue the advancement of human rights and social justice, a group of scientists is focused on one of the most pressing environmental issues facing our province.

Earlier this year, the Global Nature Fund named Lake Winnipeg as its 'Threatened Lake of the Year 2013.' Even though the issues facing Canada's sixth largest freshwater lake are well known, this report from a respected global environmental organization serves as another reminder of the dire consequences resulting from the human abuse of this beautiful and valuable resource.

Researchers at the U of M including Don Flaten, Gordon Goldsborough and Margaret Docker are focusing their investigations on, among other things, practical ways to reduce

nutrient levels that promote the growth of blue-green algae that threatens the lake's health.

While it will take the collective effort of all of us to address this threat to the environment, I am proud our scientists are leading the way and providing us with tools to tackle this important issue.

These are exciting times at the University of Manitoba for our Bison men's football team as it begins its first season at Investors Group Field. Our student athletes will be playing in one of the most modern stadiums in North America. And thanks to alumni like David and Ruth Asper, they will play, train and learn in the best facility for intercollegiate football in Canada.

Others within our alumni community played a significant leadership role in ensuring the completion of Investors Group Field. This edition features individuals who championed this project that enhances the quality of life in our university, city and province.

A university education touches us in unexpected ways. This month, we profile Second World War veteran and alumnus Lou Howard as he reflects on the harrowing battlefield experiences of his youth, and how his university education helped him build a successful life after the War. We also connect with Monty Hall, the beloved game show host, as he recalls the act of kindness that allowed him to study at the U of M, and how it motivated him to help others.

I am inspired daily by the dedication of our outstanding faculty and staff. After more than five decades in medicine, president emeritus Dr. Arnold Naimark continues his leadership role at the U of M as director of the Centre for the Advancement of Medicine. His outstanding contributions were most recently recognized when he was named a 2013 inductee into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. He shares his reflections on his life and career in this issue of *On Manitoba*. Dr. Lynn Smith, the former executive director of student affairs, retired recently after an outstanding 25-year career. Dr. Smith explores her time at the University of Manitoba and how the student experience has changed in the past quarter century.

We are proud that you, our 130,000-member alumni community, continue to push the boundaries of our communities and our world. It is our privilege to tell your stories and to celebrate alumni like Ovide Mercredi, this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

DAVID T. BARNARD PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR