



The **GRIND** behind the **GOLD**

There is a famous quotation by Ralph Waldo Emerson: “*Life is a journey, not a destination.*” Achievement can be thought of in this same context, as it is often more meaningful because of the journey—the effort and investment that success requires.

As we approach the end of another academic term, which will see thousands of U of M graduates begin a new journey, it is an opportune time to reflect on the multi-faceted success of our university community and the preparation that gives our achievements such meaning. In the last few months, members of our student, faculty, alumni and research communities have been honoured, recognized and awarded in such a way that we could easily characterize this as a season of achievement.

Jennifer Jones [BA/96, LLB/99] made Olympic history in Sochi, Russia, leading the first women’s curling team to go undefeated in an Olympic tournament. She shares that moment on page 32. Our Bison women’s volleyball team won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship—their seventh—in a three-set sweep. Exigence Technologies, representing students from the Asper School of Business, prepared a business plan that placed them as the top Canadian team in the 2014 Stu Clark Investment Competition. Pioneering HIV/AIDS researcher Dr. Frank Plummer [MD/76] received the 2014 Killam Prize. We recognized seven rising stars in research as the latest recipients of Rh Awards. We elevated three faculty members to the status of ‘Distinguished Professor’, recognizing their outstanding achievement and exemplary teaching record. As we go to press with this issue, we are preparing for the 25th anniversary of the Traditional Graduation Pow Wow on May 3, a free event that welcomes friends, partners, alumni and the community to celebrate our 2014 Indigenous graduates and alumni.

This kind of achievement across the university is part of the rationale for the expansion of our alumni awards program. For the first time since its introduction in 1937, we have flanked our Distinguished Alumni Award with four new categories recognizing outstanding young alumni achievement, community leadership, professional achievement, and service to the university community. You’ll learn more about this first class of recipients,

whom we honoured at the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration of Excellence, on page 15.

What our outstanding alumni share with our award winners, champions, and medalists mentioned above, besides their proud U of M connection, is that the culmination of their efforts is the result of an incredible amount of preparation. They prepare outside of the spotlight for months, years—even decades. Their motivation comes entirely from within—from personal investment and intrinsic rewards—as the acclaim they’ve received was never a guarantee.

I relate to this notion not as an athlete or award winner, but in my role as President of this university. In 2009, the University of Manitoba established a five-year strategic planning framework that provided the basis for institutional focus and decision-making. This involved a considerable amount of preparation to launch the initial framework, and an amazing commitment by our community to pursue initiatives and activities that would help us meet the challenges we set for ourselves. As we reach the end of that five-year period, we have the opportunity to look back on an incredible number of achievements for our university and the communities we serve, all made possible through the investment of time, and the effort and collaboration of our stakeholders.

We recently engaged in a broad consultation across the university to revisit this framework, updating and enhancing it for the next five years. As part of this consultation, we held our first-ever Alumni Forum on March 10, welcoming a group of more than 60 alumni spanning 64 graduating years to participate in a candid discussion about the strategic direction of their alma mater. The engagement and excitement expressed by our alumni that day was inspiring, and reminds us of the incredible connection that you, as graduates, have to the University of Manitoba.

I invite you to join us on this journey as we aim to introduce a new framework document to our community this coming fall. Visit umanitoba.ca/SPF2014 to follow the progress of this important initiative. Together, we will set a new foundation for achievement.

DAVID T. BARNARD PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR