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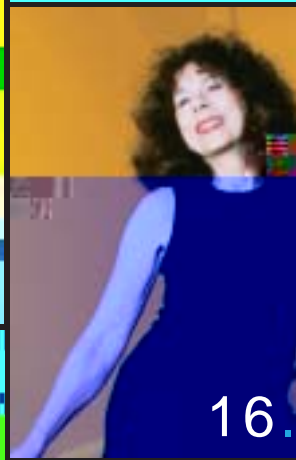
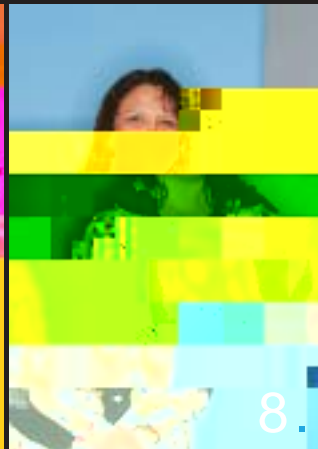
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Cover
Subject: Perry Nodelman
Photo: grajewskifotograph

ALUMNI ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Winnipeg attracts Manitoba's brightest minds. Each year, Alumni Entrance Scholarships are awarded to seven outstanding Senior 4 (Grade 12) students bound for studies at the University of Winnipeg. Every high school in the province can nominate just one candidate for the scholarships, which are given on the basis of academic performance, extracurricular activities, and leadership ability. Valued at \$4,500 each, they are considered among the most generous entrance awards given in Manitoba. This program is supported by donations from alumni.

THE REALLY
BIG
BREAKFAST

As alumni of the University of Winnipeg, we've all spent at least a few years in Winnipeg; some of us have lived our whole lives here.

What makes this city special is different for everyone, but we all have our own little gems that bring back the memories,,a favourite lunch spot, or ice cream shop, or used bookstore.

P

COVER STORY

children's literature:

IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS

TEXT: Annette Elvers PHOTO: grajewski fotograf

•(Children should read) **anything**
They can make up their own mind
 about what interests them.Ž

THE BEGINNING

The army base where Perry Nodelman grew up had a library, actually, it was more of a place where people left the books they didn't want when they moved.

I had to go through an empty field to get there,Ž remembers Nodelman. We lived in the family barracks, and to get to the library I had to cross 14 miles of field.Ž Really, it was probably only a block, he concedes. But it was far, and it was a scary place to go, and a scary place to come back from.Ž

It was worth it, though. Scary, far, and profoundly limited in selection, the library at the army base opened up a world of endless possibilities for a boy in love with books.

THE CLASS HE ALMOST DIDN'T TEACH

It was Nodelman's love of books that brought him to the University of Winnipeg, and he graduated in 1964 with flying colours. In addition to earning a BA (Hons.), he won the Governor General's Gold Medal in Honours Arts, the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, and a Commonwealth Fellowship. He completed an MA and PhD at Yale, then returned to UWinnipeg to teach Victorian literature, which remained his focus for about 10 years.

When professor Kay Stone went on sabbatical in 1975, leaving the English department without anyone to teach the children's literature course, Nodelman was asked to step in. My first discussion about children's literature you have to take into response was to be deeply insulted,Ž he recalls. For me, teaching children's literature was something like the great French chef Julia Child going to work as a line cook for Burger King.Ž

Nodelman's reaction reflects the attitude of the time, says professor Mavis Reimer, a colleague in the English department. When he started working in children's literature it wouldn't have been seen as a respectable or serious thing to study. In the 1970s, adds that kids' books were only discussed when teachers were selecting reading material for the classroom, or by librarians. Stories for children were never considered literature.Ž

The chair of my department somehow knew the important and unforgivable secret that made me a candidate for the job: I swallowed my pride and admitted my secret shame and accepted the offer. And I found myself enjoying it immensely. I've been teaching children's literature ever since.Ž

THE MAN AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOMÉ

is showing a picture book about a dog's adventures to a class of 70 university students. The only sound is Nodelman turning one page after the next, no-one makes a peep. They are

incapacitated. Honours student Charlie Peters describes it as a classroom magic.Ž

Often he'll do lectures on ideological or deeply theoretical topics and he uses picture books or text to illustrate the idea,Ž says Peters. He is teaching very complex ideas, but in a way that is incredibly accessible.Ž It's this skill that enables him to demonstrate the ordinary, a picture book, and engage students in ways that are nothing short of extraordinary.

He made children's literature an important and intellectually challenging area in our English department,Ž says Reimer. Over time, regard for the genre, and for Nodelman, grew accordingly. He is now considered a leading expert in the field with an international reputation.

Not that everyone always agrees with him, but if you're going to have a serious account what he says,Ž she adds. If you don't, you haven't done your homework.Ž

Despite his stature in the field, Nodelman doesn't consider himself a one-man show in UWinnipeg's English department. He names colleagues Mavis Reimer, Andrew O'Malley, Murray Evans, and Debra Schnitzer as part of a team of UWinnipeg scholars who have all worked to build UWinnipeg's acclaim as a powerhouseŽ in children's literature studies. Most recently, in the group of professors (led by Mavis Reimer), was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant towards research on aspects of homeŽ in Canadian children's literature. The group will also organize the 2005 Children's Literature Conference, an international event to be held in Winnipeg.

... continued on page 6

... continued from page 5

UPDATE U

B

Safety, affordability, convenience. UWinnipeg students are clear on what's important when it comes to student housing. The University shares those interests, and adds one criteria to the list: community-minded.

Two new housing options that fit the bill for students and the University alike are Lions Manor and a newly renovated apartment block on Young Street. Both are owned by companies that share UWinnipeg's commitment to integrating student housing into the existing community. The situation creates a win-win situation: the buildings' owners have guaranteed tenants, and the University is able to meet students' housing needs without the need to purchase real estate.

The community enjoys the added benefit of greater diversity in the neighbourhood. Students living at the Manor, 42 in total, share their environment with the senior citizens who were formerly the only residents of the block. The residents of Young Street now have neighbours in a once-abandoned apartment building. Renovated by Kinkora Developments Ltd., the block has 22 units ideally suited for students and is also home to low-income families. "It's a wonderful thing," says UWSA president Larissa Ashdown. "If this apartment building had been around a few years ago when I was looking for a place to stay I would have been happy to live here."

Food for Thought - Distribute snacks and offer encouragement to students during exam time in December or April.

Alumni Council - Serve on the 12-member council, which meets regularly to make decisions on policy and programming. Each member serves a three-year term. In addition, three alumni are selected to serve on the University's Board of Regents.

Alumni Council Committees - Share your ideas by joining one of the Council's three committees - Events and Outreach, Volunteers, or Communications.

Selection Committees - Pick a winner! Alumni representatives are needed to serve on committees that select winners of entrance scholarships and faculty/staff awards.

Convocation - Welcome our newest members and raise money for scholarships. Help sell degree frames at Convocation in October and/or June.

Scholarship Presenters - Visit high schools in June to present University of Winnipeg entrance scholarships to outstanding high school graduates.

First-Year Student Orientation - Welcome the "freshies" to campus at an alumni-sponsored breakfast in September.

Career Mentor - Meet with a student graduate to share your career insights and experiences.

where
storytellers
shine

FIRST ANNUAL
ABORIGINAL FILM

Traditionally, Aboriginal peoples passed down customs, traditions, and morals through the subtle art of oral storytelling. It's no surprise that storytelling is still very much a part of Aboriginal culture, but what is quite revolutionary is the means through which many are now choosing to do it.

Filmaking is quickly becoming the most popular medium among Aboriginal people to tell their stories, and in particular, it is a very effective way to reach the largest-growing population in Canada, Aboriginal youth.

The importance of inspiring these youth, especially within Winnipeg, home to Canada's largest urban Aboriginal population, was not missed on alumna Laurie Favell-Mowat. Favell-Mowat, a 1993 graduate, is now the Liaison for UWinnipeg's Politics Department.

Along with various UWinnipeg faculty, staff, and students, Favell-Mowat decided to hone in on this hidden treasure of local Aboriginal filmmakers and offer them a chance to showcase their works within a grassroots film festival.

•They need to be proud of themselves; they need to see their struggles and successes going on today, says Favell-Mowat, co-chair of the first annual Aboriginal Film and Video Festival. •It's exciting.

Designed to educate, inspire, and entertain viewers, the festival will be held over two days on the UWinnipeg campus November 8-9. Definitely a unique event, both in content and mandate, the film festival will only show works produced by Aboriginal people, with a special focus on youth. The event will also be free of charge, with no submission fees for filmmakers or entrance fees for the public.

•We are poverty sensitive. There's nothing more debilitating than poverty, says Favell-Mowat. •There are so many young artists who can't afford to rent a camcorder or pay the cost of entering their films into festivals.

The ideal complement to the workshops and screenings is a speaker's series of industry experts. The festival's grand

The All-Manitoba Alumni Travel Program will host two exciting tours in 2003: the French Riviera in April and the Tuscany region of Italy in October. Travel with other alums and enjoy deluxe accommodations, superb meals, and visits to all the must-see attractions. For more information, please visit the alumni website or contact Lois Cherney in





Katy Simons (right) demonstrates her skill at origami to UWinnipeg president Constance Rooke

Katy Simons.

An Exceptional Spirit

TEXT: Annette Elvers '93

If a stranger knocked on Erika's door today, Simons wouldn't bat an eye. But as a young Dutch woman during World War II, any stranger at the door could have been a sign of problems to come. The Nazis were occupying Holland, but the Simons family was doing what they had to do: offering sanctuary and aid to Jews.

"I don't remember if I was ever afraid," she says the 1976 UWinnipeg alumna. "It didn't matter. You just did what you needed to do." For her courage and humanitarianism, Simons was presented with an international honour called Righteous Among the Nations this spring. Simons is the only Canadian to receive this award from Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum and memorial centre in Jerusalem. The recipients are all non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust. Simons is proud to receive this honour, but she is also modest about her accomplishments. "It is simple. If you can save a life, you do it," says Simons, now 90.

Despite the knowledge that their home could be searched at any time, it was not uncommon for the Simons family, comprised of Katy, her mother, and two younger siblings, to be hiding at least one Jewish person. Time passed without incident, but then one evening a warning came through the underground: soldiers were coming to search the Simons household. A young woman was staying with them at that time. "We hid her under my father's writing table. They searched from one home to the next, but they decided to stop, just before they came to our house."

Despite the close call, Simons continued to provide food and supplies to other Jews, and was finally caught by the Nazis and imprisoned. Four people shared a cell built for just one, remembers Simons. The four prisoners took turns sleeping on the single straw mattress, and comforted one another by telling stories, singing, and sharing their memories. When the guards permitted one of Simons' cellmates to send a letter home, she took the opportunity to slip her own message into the envelope. "I was worried because my family was still hiding the Jewish girl in our house," she said. She carefully printed a note to her mother on a scrap of toilet paper, the only writing material available, and waited for a reply. "Once a fortnight we received fresh laundry from home. My mother sewed a note into the hem of my pyjamas ... then I knew they were all okay."


Simons was eventually released, but her time in prison did not deter her from her acts of compassion. She immediately picked up where she left off, becoming a courier for the underground and providing what aid she could to persecuted Jews. As for the young woman hidden by the Simons family, Eva Weissman, she immigrated to the United States and now resides in Cleveland, Ohio. Weissman, who has stayed in touch with Simons to this day, is responsible for bringing Simons' humanitarian efforts to the attention of the Israeli officials who honoured Simons this April.

Already in her 60s when she enrolled at UWinnipeg, Simons had waited a long time for the chance to pursue a university education. "I wanted to go to university when I was younger, but after my father passed away I had to help my mother with my younger siblings," says Simons. Then the war came, and she had to delay her studies further. When she was finally able to start her degree she was firmly committed to making the most of her opportunity. "I had to have surgery on my hip, but I was doing an evening course with Professor Don Bailey at the time," said Simons. "I got special permission to leave the hospital so that I could still attend my class. I didn't want to miss his lecture! I managed to walk from the Health Sciences Centre to the University, but Dr. Bailey had to bring me back in his car."



THOMAS S. AXWORTHY:
Sharing the Lesson
of History

text: Leslie Malkin photo: grajewski fotograf



Thomas S. Axworthy has taken the lessons of history to heart. A 1968 alumnus, Axworthy earned a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science which has served as a foundation for an international career encompassing politics, writing, international relations, and heritage.

•The history department was so exceptional,“ says Axworthy, recalling his days at United College, the predecessor to the University of Winnipeg. •There’s a direct correlation between what I’m doing now and the professors and the insights I gained at United College. I’m a great believer in liberal arts education, but also in smaller places as opposed to mega-universities. And my own career is one example of the success of that philosophy.”

Axworthy, who was recently appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his work in heritage, believes passionately in the value of knowing our history.

•History is not a luxury; it’s a core competency to being a citizen, a self-governing man or woman,“ he says.
•History is what connects us with generations that have gone before and with generations yet to come.” Axworthy is determined to ensure that this connection thrives, through his work as Executive Director of Historica, an independent not-for-profit educational institution with a mission to •have more Canadian history better taught.” Historica is the organization responsible for Canadian television’s Heritage Minutes, education resources like the digital version of Canadian Encyclopedia, and unique history programming for the classroom.

Long before taking on his current post with Historica, Axworthy worked as Principal Secretary to former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Part of his role included bringing inspirational individuals to Ottawa f

urrounded by a pop culture craving the cute, the quick, and the self, *Border Crossings* is the little homegrown magazine that could, and does, keep the cultural flag flying. According to Canadian culture critic Robert Fulford, in a rave review last winter, it's "indispensable" reading for anyone wanting to be up-to-date in the arts. Manitoba's cultural catalyst behind the quarterly review is University of Winnipeg alumna, Meeka Walsh (•84 Gold Medal in Art History). It's her editorial wizardry that brings Winnipeg to the international cultural community. "I follow my interests; it's what I would like to read," says Walsh, who has many national and Western Canadian awards for her writing. "Reading *Border Crossings* is like eating a meal at my house: the plates are always heaped."

Walsh credits the nurturing of her wide-ranging interests to her partner and the magazine's editor-at-large, Robert Wright, and to her liberal arts education at the University of Winnipeg. "I just took things that interested me so that I would have a sense of the world around me," says Walsh. Besides courses in Political Science, Sociology, and Psychology, she focussed on English. "I took every course that Al Reimer offered. He was an extraordinary teacher," she adds. "I would have studied typing, if he taught it." She credits her Art History studies for teaching her how to see. "I look, think, and live metaphorically: something is always like something else. It either tastes like something else or looks like something else or reminds you of something else," she explains.

She has a maternal pride in Manitoba artists: "Artists who are strong in every discipline stack up very well with artists"



CATALYST





Tracing

UNDERGRAD OPPORTUNITIES TURNED
INTO GRAD SCHOOL ADVANTAGE

TEXT: Kerry Ryan Фото: grajewski fotograf

Whether he's exploring salt marshes in Northern Manitoba, staring down water buffalo and boa constrictors in Trinidad, or studying infectious diseases in a front lines of medical research here, Tracz credits his recent adventures to his undergraduate experience.

These opportunities might have passed him by, had he not chosen UWinnipeg for his undergraduate degree. After graduating from St. Boniface Diocesan High School, Tracz was also accepted at Queen's University and the University of Toronto.

Had he known what his five years at UWinnipeg would bring, Tracz says it would have been an easy choice between the institutions.

Tracz, 24, received his B.Sc. (Honours) in Biology at UWinnipeg in 2001. Now he's in a graduate program in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Alberta.

At the University of Winnipeg, I was a demonstrator in the biology labs by the end of my second year, Tracz says. In a larger school, like Queen's, the labs are run by grad students and you'd never get that kind of opportunity.

Tracz also had unique research opportunities as a UWinnipeg undergrad. Through a Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) scholarship, he took part in research projects headed by Scott Forbes, a professor in UWinnipeg's Biology Department. These summer positions saw Tracz gathering data on blackbirds in both Manitoban and Trinidadian wetlands.

Tracz says that those research experiences and teaching opportunities went a long way to getting him where he is today, studying antibiotic resistance in a medical research lab in Edmonton, which he calls the place to be for graduate studies in science.

We study, at the DNA level, how these bacteria evolve to become resistant to these drugs. We're right on the front lines of medical research here, Tracz adds, the University of Winnipeg really prepared me to get in.

But Tracz's time at UWinnipeg wasn't all work and no play. As an undergraduate he wrote music reviews and did interviews for Stylus and The United and was also a part-time DJ at CKUW, UWinnipeg's radio station. He worked for Enrolment Services, recruiting students and speaking at high schools about UWinnipeg. Tracz was also the UWSA science director and spearheaded the Biology club, which, lest anyone label him a nerd, he calls one of the most active social clubs on campus.

I'm really into community atmosphere, Tracz says. Within just a week of starting at UWinnipeg I met so many people who, to this day, are still excellent friends. And with a name like mine, having professors pronounce it properly is pretty impressive.

Tracz also notes that what he learned at UWinnipeg was not confined to textbooks and microscopes. He had the opportunity to learn about himself too. Through his work as a lab demonstrator, Tracz says, I found out that I had a knack for explaining really complex theories and subject areas in a Reader's Digest of way.

And although he's not ready to commit to any one career just yet, Tracz admits that his skill for teaching may come into play in his future. For now, graduate school is what I'll be doing. But my interest is in teaching. What level that teaching will be at, I can't tell you, he says. There is a great need for teachers who can inspire students to enter the basic sciences. I hope

to have an impact by helping to educate the next generation of science students.



CLASS ACTS

1930s

1939 Genevieve Howarth recently completed 36 years as a volunteer with the Grace Hospital Auxiliary and became a life member after 25 years. Genevieve is also a life member of the Deer Lodge Curling Club, as well as the Air Canada Retirement Association.

1968 Harry Nelken enjoys making acting as an actor and this year played parts in

Hamlet (1971), The Merchant of Venice (1978), and The Taming of the Shrew (1979). He has also appeared in several television plays and has been a member of the Manitoba Actors Guild since 1971.

1940s

1948 Sterling Lyon, PC, OM received the Order of Manitoba, recognizing his contribution and achievements in the fields of social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Manitoba.

1948 Charles R. Ries is the retired chairman of the board of George H. Young Company Ltd.

1950s

1956 1957 Borislav N. Bilas was honoured with the Prix Manitoba Award in the distinguished service vocational category for 2002, recognizing his many contributions and commitment to the preservation and promotion of the Ukrainian language in schools in Manitoba. Boris is the editor of the Manitoba Language Journal and is chair of the high school Ukrainian curriculum committee.

1960s

1964 Dianne Leggat has taken up photography in her retirement from teaching and is now a member of Sports Media Canada and the Association Internationale de la Presse Sportif, which takes her all over the world. She was employed with Air Canada as a systems analyst and computer programmer between retiring from teaching and becoming a member of Sports Media Canada. Dianne is also working and volunteering for the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation and designed a number of websites, including the foundation's website, www.futureaces.org

1968 Linda Jean Lee received a YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the communications and public relations category. Linda is the broker communications officer for Manitoba Public Insurance.

1980s

Õ80 Catherine Hilton has completed both the Canadian and US registered nursing programs. Catherine is presently nursing in Seattle, Wash.

Õ80 Cathy Anne Pachnowskis pursuing a master of laws in health law at the University of Alberta. She is researching privacy protection for human participants in health care research. Cathy Anne is on leave from her administrative position in the Office of Human Rights at the University of Alberta.

Õ80 Jeff Sisler, Associate Alumnus was one of 10 Manitobans honoured at a Canadian Cancer Society Manitoba division event for his volunteer contribution to the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control.

Õ81 John Hiltone earned a PhD at the University of Minnesota in 1995. John is now an associate professor of Neurology at Columbia University in New York.

Õ82 Elliot Leven was recently appointed to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

Õ82 Christine (Corrie) Myshrall is customer service manager in mutual funds at Scotiabank, Nackawic, N.B.

Õ83 Gordon Robert Heck is a mortgage and loans officer at the Surrey Metro Savings Credit Union in Surrey, B.C.

Õ84 Stephen D. Borys is the curator of western art at the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. Stephen comes to Oberlin from the National Gallery of Canada where he was assistant curator of European Art.

Õ84 Wayne Boyko and Õ85 Beverly (McBurney) Boyko are employed at the

Rochester Museum and Science Center in New York. Wayne is an archaeologist and the manager of the regional heritage preservation program. Beverly has taken a position in the registrar's department in the museum.

Õ84 Donna Anne Jacobs

Õ97 Cynthia Laus a lawyer with Winnipeg
law firm Tapper Cuddy.

Õ97 Kendra (Keweriga) LeBlanc
21

2

1

2

1



...Will Allen Dromgoole



IN MEMORIAM

Allen, G. Edward (Ed), UWinnipeg psychology professor, on July 30, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Bietting, Kenneth Richard BA 1971 on April 2, 2002 at Selkirk, Man.

Bowen, James BA 1983 on August 19, 2000

Bowles (Flett) Katherine Edna BA 1938 on July 1, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Buth, Wayne BA 1949 on March 13, 2002 at Wooster, Ohio

Calder (McCormick), Anne BA 1935 on April 22, 2002 at Victoria, B.C.

Crossman, Lillian Elizabeth BA 1940 on June 10, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Diakiw, Donald Thomas BA 1974 on February 23, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Ens, Jean BA 1950 on June 14, 2002 at Teulon, Man.

Fillmore (Peterson), Beverly BA 1958 on July 22, 2002 at Toronto, Ont.

Forsyth, Thelma Kristine Sigurdson BA 1975 on March 13, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Freeman (Carruthers), Verna Isabel Margaret, Collegiate 1932, BA 1940 on March 27, 2002 at Winnipeg, Man.

Godar, Anton, fo

Did you know

