



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Thursday, October 12, 2006
For Immediate Release

University of Winnipeg Autumn Convocation: Honours Graduates and Award Recipients, Confers HDs on Sister Lesley Sacoumen & Dr. Nancy Olivieri

WINNIPEG—Graduation is a time for celebrating outstanding achievements. The University of Winnipeg welcomes family, friends, and the public to honour the graduating class of the eighty-second convocation. Chancellor H. Sanford Riley, President & Vice-Chancellor Lloyd Axworthy, the Board of Regents, University Senate, and Alumni Association extend congratulations to the graduates as they join the more than 30,000 University of Winnipeg alumni around the world.

Autumn Convocation takes place 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 15, 2006 at The University of Winnipeg Duckworth Centre (Spence Street at Ellice Avenue), with degrees being conferred in Theology, Marriage & Family Therapy, Science, Education, and Arts.

A number of distinguished award winners will be honoured by The University of Winnipeg at this year's Autumn Convocation:

- **Dr. Nancy Olivieri** will be awarded an **Honorary Doctor of Science** by The University of Winnipeg for her contribution as a defender of academic freedom and research integrity. In 1996, Olivieri found that the drug she was researching at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto was showing unexpected potential risks to some patients in the trials. The drug company sponsoring her research abruptly terminated the trials and issued warnings of legal action against Olivieri should she inform her patients of the risks, or publish her findings. Despite these warnings, Olivieri published her findings in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and was subsequently dismissed from her position. After more than seven years of legal battle, an independent committee of inquiry into the matter vindicated Olivieri and concluded that neither the university nor the hospital offered her appropriate support in her conflict with the drug company. Olivieri was reinstated to her position at the Hospital for Sick Children and her actions have also been vindicated by several other independent reports.
- **Sister Lesley Sacouman** will be honoured by The University of Winnipeg with an **Honorary Doctor of Divinity** for her commitment and dedication to Winnipeg's youth. Co-founded by Sister Geraldine MacNamara and Sister Lesley in 1976, Winnipeg's Rossbrook House has provided a safe haven for tens of thousands of children. For many of the young people who visit Rossbrook House daily, it's a "home away from home" that is always welcoming, and most importantly, safe. The drop-in centre that serves as the heart of Rossbrook House offers a place where youth can meet their needs for socialization, recreation, personal development, and crisis intervention. In 1999, Sister Lesley was named a member of the *Maclean's* Honour Roll,

and in 2002 she received the Caitas Award from the Catholic Foundation of Winnipeg.

- **Rayleen De Luca, BA (Hons.), MA, PhD** will receive The University of Winnipeg's Distinguished Alumni Award. De Luca, already a parent herself when she started her studies at UWinnipeg in 1979, knew right from the start that she wanted to follow her passion for working with kids. Today she is a clinical psychologist and a Psychology professor at the University of Manitoba. In addition to her research, which covers the spectrum of trauma that can occur to children, De Luca is also much sought after as a workshop lecturer. Recently, De Luca was part of a delegation from the Catholic Women's League that brought the issues of child safety, poverty, and human trafficking before the Prime Minister of Canada.
- **Xia-Yuan Dong, BA, MA, PhD** is the recipient of the Erica and Arnold Rogers Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship for her many contributions to the University, its students, and the academic community. Professor Dong studies the policy and social changes that are accompanying China's economic development and its transition from a central planning economy to a market economy. Dong is organizing a training program for Chinese women economists to learn how to apply modern research techniques to studying the impacts of new economic policies on women. She also supports the economists with mentoring. **The Erica and Arnold Rogers Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship** was established by Erica and Arnold Rogers, friends of The University of Winnipeg. Dr. Rogers was a medical doctor who, together with his wife Erica, valued the contribution by faculty members to research and scholarship. All members of the University faculty, many of whom have received national and international recognition for excellence in the research community, are eligible.
- **Dwight Vincent, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., PhD** will receive the Clarence Atchison Award for Excellence in Community Service for his tireless efforts to promote the ancient game of chess and ensure that chess is accessible to any member of the community with an interest. Vincent serves on the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Chess Association and acts as its junior coordinator. He also plays an active role in the Manitoba Scholastic Chess Association and helped establish a regular chess program for inner-city youth at the University's Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre. **The Clarence Atchison Award for Excellence in Community Service** was established by Investors Group in honour of their former President and Vice-Chair Clarence E. Atchison. Together with an impressive record of business accomplishments, Atchison devoted many hours to community and social service in Winnipeg, serving on many boards and advisory councils. He was a long-time member of The University of Winnipeg Board of Regents, acting as Chair from 1968 to 1970. The award is given to a University faculty or staff member to recognize the contribution given of their time and expertise to service to the community.
- **Aldona Dziedziejko, BA (Hons.)** (Class of 2006) will give the Valedictory Address.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 9,200 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience" (Maclean's Graduate Survey, June 2006). The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall 'A' grade in the areas of teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Find out why. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Katherine Cormack, Director of Communications	or Ilana Simon, Communications Officer
The University of Winnipeg	The University of Winnipeg
T: 204.786.9872 C: 204.782.3279	T: 204.786.9930 C: 204.782.3279

k.unruh@uwinnipeg.ca

i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca