



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N E W S R E L E A S E

**Wednesday, October 6, 2004
For Immediate Release**

University of Winnipeg's Desiree Vanderwel: Outstanding Manitoba Chemist of the Year

WINNIPEG—Despite their small size, beetles have large impacts on people's health, communities, and economies.

Desiree Vanderwel, Chemistry professor at The University of Winnipeg, has been named Outstanding Manitoba Chemist for 2004. "I am deeply proud," says Vanderwel of the award. "I feel privileged to work within a supportive and innovative research community here at The University of Winnipeg. It drives my research." Presented by the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC), the award is given annually to a chemist who has made a noteworthy contribution to the field of chemistry.

Vanderwel says she owes it all to her beetles. "I've been studying beetles for years," she notes. "My long-term goal is to understand the biochemistry of pheromone production in a model beetle species, *Tenebrio molitor* (the yellow mealworm beetle), in the context of the biology of the organism and its interaction with its environment. An enhanced understanding of the factors that stimulate or inhibit pheromone production might be of practical value in our attempts to develop new strategies for the manipulation of pest populations." Her research has led to groundbreaking publications, produced jointly with undergraduate students at The University of Winnipeg.

As guest speaker at the CIC Student Award Night 2004, Vanderwel will talk about "Sex and the Single Beetle." The ceremony takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 6 in Pembina Hall's University Club at the University of Manitoba.

The University of Winnipeg, located in the heart of the city, is a compact, caring community committed to access and excellence in the arts and sciences. Ranked by Maclean's magazine as one of Canada's top ten undergraduate universities, The University of Winnipeg is home to more than 8,300 full- and part-time students. Established in 1871 as Manitoba College, The University of Winnipeg has a proud tradition of preparing students to think critically and creatively, and to live fully in the world.

For more information, please contact:
Katherine Unruh, Director of Communications
The University of Winnipeg
T: 204.786.9872 C: 204.782.3279