



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG MEDIA ADVISORY

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**January 25, 2006  
For Immediate Release**

## ***City Festival of Contemporary Culture:* UWinnipeg & Millennium Library Writers-in-Residence Team up**

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg and the Millennium Library's Writer-in-Residence programs are partnering to stage *City Festival of Contemporary Culture*, a series of five free, public events.

Margaret Sweatman, (background attached) UWinnipeg's inaugural Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence and John Weier, the Millennium Library's Writer-in-Residence, will kick off the series with *Going to School to Make Art?*

### ***Going to School to Make Art?***

**Saturday, January 28, 2006**

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Pitcairn Learning Commons (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Hall, Mezzanine Level)**

**The University of Winnipeg**

**515 Portage Avenue**

This informal forum will consider the role of the university or any classroom in teaching the creative arts and look at where and how artists develop the necessary skills and training to succeed in their artistic professions. Speakers comprise a who's who of Winnipeg's literary and arts communities including Giller Prize-winning author David Bergen (B.Ed. '85), UWinnipeg Dean of Arts Neil Besner, UWinnipeg Theatre Professor Per Brask, UWinnipeg English Professor Catherine Hunter (BA Hons. '86), Buffalo Gals Pictures President Phyllis Laing, Steve Loft, and playwright Bruce McManus. (See complete list of speakers attached).

Artistic directors, freelance artists, students, or anyone training to work in the creative and performing arts is invited to participate in the session. Participants at *Going to School to Make Art?* will have an opportunity to meet professional artists, instructors, and arts administrators and discuss the inherent challenges faced by working artists in a classroom setting.

**Speakers participating in *Going to School to Make Art?***

David Bergen, Neil Besner, Per Brask, Christopher Brauer, Glenn Buhr, Charlene Diehl, Catherine Hunter, Lisa Ilychshyn, Louise Jonasson, Amy Karlinsky, John Kozak, Phyllis Laing, Tanis MacDonald, Bruce McManus, Robert Metcalfe, Freya Olafson. Holly Procktor, Candida Rifkind, Kevin Shortsleeve, Tom Stroud, Blake Taylor, Joan Thomas, Bob Tucker, Alden Turner, Connie Shaw Turner, and David Whellam

### **Background on Margaret Sweatman**

Winnipeg-born novelist and playwright Margaret Sweatman (Collegiate '71, BA '74) is an award-winning author who also works creatively in poetry, song, and performance. Sweatman's most recent novel, *When Alice Lay Down With Peter* (2001), is the winner of numerous fiction awards including the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction, and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award. Sweatman is also the author of *Sam and Angie*, and *Fox* for which she won both the McNally Robinson Prize for the Manitoba Book of the Year and the John Hirsch Award for the most promising Manitoba writer. Sweatman began her four-month term in January, 2006 as **The University of Winnipeg's first Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence**.

The Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence Program was launched with a \$100,000 gift from Don Shields in honour of Carol, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg. It brings an established writer to The University of Winnipeg to mentor students and community writers. Sweatman reads and responds to manuscripts, holds regular office hours for students and the public, organizes reading series, public readings, seminars or lectures on writing, and devotes time to her own creative works.

The UWinnipeg Writer-in-Residence service is free, open to the public, and runs until April 2006. Writers may drop off their manuscripts (to a maximum of 20 pages) at The University of Winnipeg Deans' Office, 3C16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Centennial Hall). For more information, visit [uwinnipeg.ca](http://uwinnipeg.ca) or call 786.9101.

*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, November 2004). 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](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca)*

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Ilana Simon, Communications Officer  
The University of Winnipeg  
T: 204.786.9930  
[i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca)