

Pillar of Profession Personifies Passion

SENIOR SCHOLAR SELECTED FOR HIGH ORAL HEALTH HONOUR

A half-century of professional and community service has earned a University of Manitoba senior scholar one of the highest honours in the oral health profession today. Dr. William H. (Bill) Christie has been named the 2014 recipient of the Alumni of Distinction award.

The selection was announced earlier this spring by the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association, the sponsoring body of the annual award.

“Once again, we had a sizable number of nominees that made it quite a challenge for the selection committee,” said Dr. Chris Cottick, UMDAA past president and committee member. “After much consideration of this tremendous body of service, the consensus was that Dr. Christie would be a most appropriate recipient for 2014.”

Dr. Christie’s long and distinguished career covers virtually every aspect of the profession, both inside and out, in addition to a volume of service within the broader community.

Following close to 30-years in private practice, Dr. Christie returned to the University of Manitoba where he served in myriad capacities including lecturer (1974 – 80), Assistant Professor (1980 – 1989), Associate Professor (1989), Full Professor (1994) and Senior Scholar (2006). He was elected to the University’s Senate Executive after serving as a faculty representative for several years.

Outside of the university, Dr. Christie has held many important positions for dental education, standards and administration including Regent and Deputy Regent for the International College of Dentists (Canada). He was also named as an Honorary Fellow of the International and American Colleges of Dentistry.

The member of the university’s Class of 1964 has authored over 15 publications and chapters and has edited over 60 editions of the Faculty of Dentistry’s Alumni—Faculty Bulletin. He remains active in this capacity as executive editor and head of the publication’s editorial board.

Within the community, Dr. Christie presently serves as a board member of the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation, a research-supporting agency of Manitoba Blue Cross, in addition to several appointments and memberships on other boards, groups and agencies.

“Dr. Christie’s expertise in the profession is widely recognized and admired and may only be rivaled by his long-standing commitment and dedication to the betterment of the profession,” said Dr. Anthony Iacopino, Dean of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba. “All who have had the pleasure of encountering Dr. Christie can attest to his integrity and commitment to dentistry and oral health.”

Since 1998, the Alumni of Distinction honour has been bestowed upon alumni members of the oral health community for outstanding service to the profession and the community. Dr. Christie will be presented with the honour at the Alumni of Distinction awards evening on Friday, September 19, in Winnipeg.

The evening will also feature a tribute to Dr. Christie’s Class of 1964 who are celebrating their Golden Anniversary year of graduation from the University of Manitoba this year. As part of Alumni of Distinction weekend, the UMDAA invites members of classes marking their five decade anniversary to be guests of honour of the association.



The kilt is the thing: Dr. William Christie (above with spouse Helen) has become something of a fixture at major events for the Faculty of Dentistry and major oral health organizations in North America owing to his long-standing commitment to the profession. In true Scottish tradition, Dr. Christie often appears in his trademark Gaelic finery.

It is expected that many members of Faculty’s third graduating class will make the effort to attend the gala this autumn.

Once again, the Alumni of Distinction Awards Evening will be held at the historic Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg. Only this year the event will be held up in the beautiful and spacious seventh floor Crystal Ballroom.

Tickets for the annual celebration of oral health excellence in Manitoba are now available for \$150 per person and can be reserved by contacting the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba. As always, cocktails will begin at 6 pm with the dinner to commence at 7 pm. To reserve your tickets, or for more information, just call 204.789.3787 or send an email to cheryl.demoissac@umanitoba.ca.