

# THE GATEWAY

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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**A CLOSE CALL, BUT STILL A GOLDEN WEEKEND** The Golden Bears beat the first-place University of Saskatchewan Huskies 6-5 in overtime and 5-4 in a shoot-out during back-to-back games this past weekend. With the weekends victories, the Bears closed the gap between themselves and the Huskies to only two points.

## Ventures increase funding

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
News Staff

Big business means big money for Canadian universities, which have witnessed a significant increase in the value of their endowment funds over the past five years due to smart investments and strong fundraising.

According to the 2006 annual survey of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO), the collective value of Canadian university endowment funds has reached an all-time high of \$10.4 billion, undergoing a 55 per cent increase from its 2002 value of \$6.7 billion.

As stated in the CAUBO survey, the University of Alberta ranks fourth in terms of asset size and 13th in terms of average endowment funding per student.

Ron Ritter, Associate Director and Treasurer of Financial Services at the U of A, reiterated this assessment.

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## World-class diabetes centre opens at U of A

JONATHAN TAVES  
News Writer

The Alberta Diabetes Institute (ADI) opened yesterday, bringing together leading diabetes researchers from across campus for the creation of the world-class facility.

The new centre takes up a large portion of the recently opened Health Research Innovation Facility (HRIF) East, at the corner of 87 Avenue and 112 Street.

"We've got 200 people moving into the building just in the first wave," said Dr Ron Gill, the newly recruited scientific director for the Institute.

"There are 25-35 faculty going in, but each of their lab groups have anywhere from 5-15 people each, so it gets big in a hurry," he said.

Once everyone is settled in, the ADI will be one of the leading institutes in the field, building off the momentum of the initial success of the Edmonton Protocol in 1999, which is a procedure aimed at restoring insulin-producing cells.

"The Edmonton Protocol was developed for islet transplantation, which improved clinical success from ten per cent to 100 per cent of patients off insulin," said Dr Ray Rajotte, who

was one of the team that carried out Canada's first islet transplant. "With that success, we were thinking back then—in 2000—we would build an islet institute."

Rajotte explained that forward thinking increased the scope of the project, which aims to help the 2.25 million Canadians Health Canada estimates are afflicted with the disease.

"We always thought 'islets today,' but maybe there could be a different treatment in the future. So we said, 'Let's be more visionary,'" he said. "We looked around the University of Alberta, and we had a large number of outstanding scientists, [but] they were scattered all over campus, which was a disadvantage. We thought that if we could bring all these investigators together under one roof, that would really allow us to create a world-class diabetes institute."

They did just that, with Rajotte taking the lead on the project as founding scientific director, starting with a grant application to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The CFI and Government of Alberta, among many other groups and individuals, were major contributors to the \$300 million cost of both the East and West HRIF buildings.

But despite the grand opening and generous donations, much more funding is needed to achieve the full capacity of the centre.

"It's actually only about half of the building that's finished, and the other half will have to be done after [the opening]," said Lynne MacGillivray, manager of capital projects for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

Due to the booming construction market, costs have nearly tripled original estimates. However, MacGillivray noted that this setback won't diminish the building's potential.

"Leadership in the faculty has kept their original vision, and they've been very determined to keep building what they set out to do," he said.

About \$60 million is still needed to complete the diabetes institute. As it stands now, the facility's seven levels are all in different stages of completion.

Rajotte, who gave up his administrative duties to focus on research, will work on the fifth floor, which is designed for islet transplantation.

"Though I'm working in islets, I'm interested in what people are doing in nutrition or exercise, for example. By having everyone working in the same place [...], we'll be very synergistic."

PLEASE SEE **DIABETES** • PAGE 2



KYLER ZELENY

**TAKING A SHOT AT DIABETES** The \$300-million facility opens its first wing.

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### A cheap night out

Hooking up can be expensive, but following some of our advice can make it a lot easier on your wallet.

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### A cheat's night of sin

One steamy night, Dragonette ditched out on their relationships and started making dirty electro-pop.

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