For Peat’s Sake

The future of Manitoba’s peatlands is looking up

Homecoming 2016
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Your Brandon University degree is the result of hard work, dedication and commitment. Well done! Upon graduation, you automatically become part of the Brandon University Alumni Association, dedicated to preserving and strengthening the bonds you forged at BU.

BrandonU.ca/Alumni

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Send us your stories!

As alumni, you undoubtedly have much to tell us about the relationships that you developed while at BU. Maybe you met your spouse, a business partner or a great friend?

Please contact the Alumni Office with your suggestions for outstanding alumni you believe should be featured in Alumni News.
On May 27, Brandon University’s 2016 Convocation ceremonies took place with more than 500 students graduating. Our graduates are now alumni members who can proudly celebrate their academic success. Also at Convocation, the Right Honorable Paul Martin, Canada’s 21st Prime Minister, and longstanding broadcast host and executive Mr. Eric Friesen, each received honorary doctorates. This year’s graduates join the tens of thousands of individuals who have had their careers and lives shaped by their engagement with Brandon University faculty and staff who are dedicated to excellence in education, research and service activities.

The University community is comprised of alumni, faculty, staff, donors, and supporters, including government, industry and others. The University community supports our students and alumni as they realize opportunities today, as well as forge new possibilities and knowledge for tomorrow. The possibilities of tomorrow are emerging through activities such as research conducted by the Department of Geography’s study of peatland rehabilitation in Manitoba through the use of drones. This research utilizes leading technology to facilitate improvements, as well as advancing our understanding, knowledge and engagement with an important ecological feature of the provincial landscape. The University’s activities also span the globe with Samantha Grills, a BU alumna, having recently participated in an international development initiative in Bangladesh and India. Whether near or far, Brandon University alumni contribute to the betterment of our world, and we have much to be proud about with regards to these achievements. All of this and more is featured in this edition of the Alumni News.

Universities across Canada are directly engaged in supporting the dreams and aspirations of students and communities. We are committed to advancing knowledge and understanding, as well as creating and supporting solutions to current and potential challenges facing humanity. We can think of these quests in terms of research done to address cancer faced by an individual, or in terms of global warming faced by the world. Universities play a significant role in social progress that benefits us all. Social progress is often a result of social change and improved understanding, which may entail achieving a new balance for some and a new sense of liberation of possibilities for others. I often remind myself that Brandon College was established as a co-educational institution for men and women across the southwestern Manitoba region in 1899. This was at a time when women did not have the right to vote in Canada. Manitoba was the first province to grant women the right to vote in 1916, followed by federal legislation in 1918 extending this right across Canada. This is one example of social progress that emerged through social and institutional change. Social change is often not easy, but necessary, and Brandon University strives to do its part in realizing social progress. One only needs to look through BU’s archives of the Sickle yearbook dating back to 1928 to appreciate the changes that have taken place at Brandon College/University. Each graduate, faculty and staff member is an ambassador for Brandon University and, more broadly, post-secondary education in Canada. We are all, therefore, ambassadors for the vision and principles of humanity, generosity and understanding held by the University. In this issue of Alumni News, you will see how Brandon University is making changes to advance as a leading educational institution.

You are invited to rediscover your University and its expanding alumni community. I thank you for your continued support and engagement, and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming alumni events.

Dr. Gervan Fearon
President & Vice-Chancellor
Honorary Doctorates

Eric Friesen

Eric Friesen is a broadcaster, writer and speaker on music, culture and faith in both Canada and the United States.

Born and raised in Altona, Manitoba, Mr. Friesen is an agent of creative change and renewal, and passionate about what he believes in, which is nourishing the human spirit, and making that as large a community as possible.

Mr. Friesen started his career in Altona at local radio station CFAM. He has also served as network host and executive for both CBC Radio and Minnesota Public Radio. At CBC, he hosted such programs as Studio Sparks, Onstage at Glenn Gould Studio and In Performance, as well as the celebrated documentary series, The Concerto According to Pinchas (Zukerman) and The Concerto According to Manny (Emmanuel Ax). He was the founding Program Director for Winnipeg’s classical and jazz station, Classic 107, and is currently a consultant to Radio New Zealand Concert.

Mr. Friesen continues to serve a wide variety of major cultural organizations, including the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The Banff Centre, The Ottawa and Montreal International Chamber Music Festivals, Ottawa’s Music and Beyond, Vancouver’s Music in the Morning, Angela Hewitt’s Trasimeno International Music Festival in Italy, and many more. Mr. Friesen is also Artistic Director of Studio “S,” a summer festival at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont.

His written work appears in many publications including Queen’s Quarterly, NUVO, Montecristo and Kingston Life.

Mr. Friesen serves as Chairman of the Honens International Music Competition and Festival (Calgary), past Chair of the Kingston WritersFest, Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the English Department at the University of Waterloo, and co-host of a book club in the new Maximum Unit at Collins Bay Institution in Kingston, Ont., one of the largest federal prisons in Canada.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin

The Right Honourable Paul Martin was the 21st Prime Minister of Canada from 2003 to 2006, Minister of Finance from 1993 to 2002, and he served as the Member of Parliament for LaSalle-Émard in Montréal, Québec from 1988 to 2008.

During his tenure as Minister of Finance, he erased Canada’s deficit, subsequently recording five consecutive budget surpluses while paying down the national debt and setting Canada’s debt-to-GDP ratio on a steady downward track.

As Prime Minister, Mr. Martin set in place a 10-year, $41-billion plan to improve health care and signed agreements with the provinces and territories to establish the first national early learning and child-care program. Under his leadership, the Canadian government reached agreement on the Kelowna Accord, a historic consensus with Canada’s provinces, territories, First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit leaders to eliminate gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians in the areas of health, education, housing and economic opportunity. Further, he introduced the Civil Marriage Act, which redefined the traditional definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

After leaving politics, Mr. Martin founded the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, focusing on elementary and secondary education for Aboriginal students, and the Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship (CAPE) Fund, an investment fund investing in Aboriginal business.

Internationally, he is chairman of the Congo Basin Forest Fund, a $200-million British-Norwegian-Canadian poverty alleviation and sustainable development fund. He works closely with the Advisory Council of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

In December 2011, Mr. Martin was appointed as a Companion to the Order of Canada.
Valedictorians

Jocelyn Bruce

Jocelyn Bruce graduated with a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education concurrent degree, specializing in Senior Years Instrumental Music. She currently works for the Province of Manitoba as a Program Assistant for the Manitoba Youth Job Centres Program.

After graduating from Whitemouth School in 2011, she made Brandon University her home for five years. During her time here she has enjoyed participating and working with a wide variety of groups both on and off campus including Flora Cowan Residence Hall Council, Brandon University Student Music Educators Association, Brandon University Students’ Union, and Fire & Water Music Festival.

Roque Lacroix

Roque Lacroix graduated from Brandon University with a 4-Year Honours Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in Computer Science with minors in both Mathematics and Economics.

While at BU he spent a majority of his time volunteering with a variety of clubs and organizations, including the public observatory, Enactus tax and financial literacy programs, student and workers unions, and administrative committees.

Roque was also employed as a tutor and an assistant for various labs and courses in the Faculty of Science. His future plans include becoming a teacher and improving public education for children in Manitoba.

Board of Governors Award

Excellence In Community Service

Judith M. Ramsay

Judy Ramsay began her employment at Brandon University on June 24, 1985, as Secretary to the Dean of Science. The position was for a six-month term that has now extended into a 31-year career. Thirty of those years have been with Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing education at BU, and she is currently the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Studies.

She took advantage of being at BU to take courses while working full-time and, in 2002, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Rural and Community Studies and Sociology, adding a fourth-year B.A. with a Sociology major in 2004. She was awarded the Brandon University Gold Medal in Arts and Honorable Mention for the Governor General’s Silver Medal, as well as several scholarships.

Through the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Judy has participated in 12 international missions, where she pays her own transportation costs and a participation fee to help with everything from laying block and rebar on the construction sites; drilling metal sheets and painting; testing and distributing eye glasses; presenting topics at health fairs; raising money and assisting with food distribution; assisting with children’s ministries; kitchen duties; and follow up presentations to encourage others to participate in the world of volunteerism.

These missions have taken her to an orphanage in El Salvador, church building projects in Zimbabwe, Chile, Peru, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Panama, and building large education centres and classrooms in India, Ecuador and Honduras. Her next trip will be to India in November 2016.
Excellence In Research
Dr. Bernadette Ardelli

Dr. Bernadette Ardelli has focused her research on the development of control strategies for infectious diseases faced by poor and marginalized populations.

Infectious disease and poverty are linked: poverty creates social, economic and environmental conditions that favor the spread of infectious disease. In turn, the disabling consequences of infection prevent individuals from leading healthy and productive lives. The most common consequence of disease is the inability to obtain an education. In Dr. Ardelli’s laboratory, she and her team develop control strategies for infectious diseases, such as drugs and vaccines, and they examine why some strategies fail.

Dr. Ardelli received a B.Sc. in Biology from the University College of Cape Breton (1992) and a M.Sc. (1994) and Ph.D. (2000) in Zoology from the University of Guelph. She was an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Parasitology and the FQRNT Centre for Host Parasite Interactions (McGill University) before joining Brandon University in 2006.

She has secured funds from a number of agencies that have allowed her to develop her research program as well as provide training opportunities for a number of Brandon University undergraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and visiting scientists.

Excellence In Teaching
Dr. Chenkuan Li

Dr. Chenkuan Li joined Brandon University in 2002 as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 2006. Before coming to Brandon, he worked at the University of Regina (where he received a Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1994), the University of Lethbridge, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Cape Breton and the University of Alberta.

Dr. Li has taught junior and senior courses at BU in Mathematics and in Computer Science. The comments and scores on Dr. Li’s evaluations indicate his exceptional ability as an instructor and his comprehensive knowledge of the materials. Dr. Li believes that teaching is vital to passing on knowledge to the next generation, and students have been his first priority since he began teaching in 1982. He fully prepares every lecture to ensure the highest quality of teaching, incorporating new developments in scientific fields.

Dr. Li is also a very active researcher in the areas of mathematical analysis and algorithm analysis with a strong publication list in many top journals. He received the Senate Award for Excellence in Research in 2015.

Excellence In Teaching
Dr. Emma Varley

Dr. Emma Varley’s training, teaching and professional activities occur at the intersection of socio-cultural and medical anthropology, and her research explores the interconnections between women’s health, development and conflict in northern Pakistan.

Since 2004, her ethnographic fieldwork in the Gilgit-Baltistan region has focused on the impacts of sectarian hostilities on national and global maternal health interventions, and women’s use of clinical medical services for pregnancy and childbirth. In so doing, her work and publications evaluate the cultural and political texture of medicine, and illuminate the role played by direct and structural violence in determining women’s health outcomes during times of instability and crisis.

Dr. Varley received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Toronto in 2008, and joined the Department of Anthropology at Brandon University as an Assistant Professor in 2013.

Since 2015, Dr. Varley has served as the Chair of the Canadian Medical Anthropology Network of the Canadian Anthropology Society.
Distinguished Teacher Awards

Kindergarten to Grade 5
Melissa Myers

Melissa was born and raised in Brandon and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Education degree at Brandon University, majoring in French.

Following graduation, she moved to Winnipeg and taught elementary levels for two terms at École Laura Secord. She then accepted a Grade 2/3 multi-age French Immersion position and permanency within the Louis Riel School Division. She has since been a Grade 2/3 multi-age French Immersion teacher at École Provencher.

Melissa loves the learning and exploring that take place in her class. Although she teaches all subjects, her favourite is math.

Grade 6 to Grade 9
Daniel McFarlane

Daniel grew up in nearby Wawanesa before attending Brandon University from 2008 to 2013.

With a Bachelor of Physical Education and a Bachelor of Education after-degree, Daniel worked as a substitute teacher in the Brandon School Division before moving to a term and later full-time position at McCready school, where he’s become involved in a number of extra-curricular activities.

Currently, Daniel is teaching in a Grade 5/6 classroom and makes hands-on learning a priority. He has worked to create a positive classroom environment where all students can feel welcome.

Grade 10 to Grade 12
Laura Cowling

Laura grew up in Shoal Lake and earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Manitoba while also playing hockey for the U of M Bisons. She then transferred to Brandon University to complete her Bachelor of Education degree.

After first teaching in Kuwait, she started teaching high school math and science at Strathclair Community School in February 2011.

Over the past five years at Strathclair, she has enjoyed working with all students and building a classroom environment based on mutual respect and high learning expectations.

President Emeritus

Dr. Louis Visentin

The title of President Emeritus is conferred by the Brandon University Board of Governors upon a President and Vice-Chancellor who has served the University with distinction during a term of at least five years in office.

Dr. Louis Visentin certainly fits this description, as his leadership and dedication during his tenure as President and Vice-Chancellor helped to shape BU.

Dr. Visentin was dubbed a ‘Renaissance Man’ by his former colleagues at BU for his appreciation of all aspects of the liberal arts spectrum. He served as President and Vice-Chancellor of BU from 2000 to 2009, the second-longest term for anyone in that position since the University received its charter in 1967.

Dr. Louis Visentin speaks at the morning Convocation ceremony.
Butt Seriously: Examining an Unmentionable We Can All Look Back At

A Brandon University professor is behind one of the most intriguing books of the year. Jonathan A. Allan’s book, “Reading from Behind: A Cultural History of the Anus,” is a study of the anus, the ass, the rear in literary and cultural theory. Taking the anus beyond the butt of jokes, Allan examines why people squirm when it is mentioned, since we all have one and use it every day.

“It was 2014 that was called ‘the year of the booty,’ and 2015 was called ‘a banner year for the male butt,’ but it is both desirable and yet shameful, pejorative,” said Allan, the Canada Research Chair in Queer Theory and an Assistant Professor in Gender and Women’s Studies as well as English and Creative Writing at BU. “We all have one, and it seemed an interesting topic to study.”

What’s Not to ‘Like’? New Book Follows Police on Social Media

Police have added social media as a friend, and it’s complicated. Christopher J. Schneider has followed this relationship closely and shares his findings in his book, Policing and Social Media. The book breaks new ground in the analysis of how technology is changing the public face of police work.

“As best I can tell, no book of this kind exists, although there are a few topically related books,” said Schneider, a professor in Brandon University’s Department of Sociology. “From the first attempts by police to gather tips through social media, their efforts have grown more sophisticated and ambitious to the point of developing new ways of conditioning the public, cultivating self-promotion and expanding social control efforts.”

Marshall Tells of Manitoba’s Unheralded Multicultural History

While the arrival of Syrians in Manitoba is a major news topic today, significant Syrian migration to the province was once widely unnoticed. Alison Marshall, a professor in the Department of Religion at BU, has extensively studied the ways religion and migration affect one another.

“By 1914, there was a group of at least 50 Syrians in Manitoba,” said Marshall. “They lived on farms, primarily; many of them were merchants too. Many ate halal and were devout Muslims, so I’m fascinated by those kinds of untold histories.”

Marshall says that many of Manitoba’s Muslims at the time lived in Brandon and the surrounding area.

Former Bobcat Nets Premiership

The surge of Progressive Conservative blue that covered Manitoba in this spring’s provincial election has some Brandon University blue and gold behind it.

Brandon University alumnus Brian Pallister is Manitoba’s new Premier after his provincial conservatives stormed into power by winning a majority government. Pallister holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from BU and is a former member of the Bobcats men’s basketball team.

In 2001, a donation by Pallister established entrance scholarships that award about $500 each to four BU students from the Central Plains region each year. Two years ago, Pallister funded a new scholarship that awards about $975 annually to a BU Bobcats female athlete.

Pallister is the first BU graduate to become Premier of Manitoba. Douglas Campbell, Manitoba’s Premier from 1948 to 1958, attended Brandon College for two years in the mid-1910s.
BU Student Wins National Award for Master’s Thesis

An international student at Brandon University has had his master’s thesis named best in the country.

Ayodeji Osiname received the Margaret Haughey Award this spring for his Master of Education thesis on creating inclusive school cultures. The award, which is administered through the Canadian Association for the Study of Educational Administration, recognizes superior research and writing by master’s degree students working in the area of educational administration and leadership, and is extremely competitive.

“He does brilliant work,” says Dr. Helen Armstrong, Professor Emerita at BU, who served as Osiname’s thesis advisor. “It is absolutely fantastic for him to win this award, especially as an international student in competition with native-born Canadians from much larger institutions.”

Osiname’s thesis, entitled “The Effect of the School Principal in Creating an Inclusive School Culture during Times of Change and Challenge,” examines the experience and work of school principals in southwestern Manitoba who are building inclusive environments for their staff, students, and parents.

“I found that the principals used different approaches, but common themes emerged,” Osiname says. “Most engaged in building positive relationships, and served as role models in their schools. To encourage openness, they urged people to express their opinions — even if dissenting — and created an environment where individuals felt safe to express their opinion.”

Osiname’s thesis is available online through the John E. Robbins Library at BU. In the fall, he’ll be pursuing his PhD at the University of Manitoba.

BU President, Dr. Gervan Fearon, and Dr. P. Benjamin Robinson, Assistant Director of Admission – Canada, for St. George’s University, pose with the signed MOU.

Students will have new options to get a degree in medicine or veterinary medicine, thanks to an agreement between Brandon University and Saint George’s University.

The institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing students to obtain medical or veterinary degrees at Saint George’s, in Grenada, after taking a pre-professional Science degree at BU.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for students at Brandon University to broaden their cultural and geographic horizons while furthering their education,” said Acting Dean of Science, Dr. Austin Gulliver.

This new agreement builds on existing agreements that BU has for students to obtain a medical degree at the University of Manitoba, or a veterinary medicine degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

First-Year University Courses Coming to Dauphin in September

Residents of the Parkland region have the opportunity to take first-year Brandon University courses in Dauphin this fall.

“We very much appreciate Brandon University’s partnership in providing more opportunities for students and professors in Dauphin and in saving families thousands of dollars for accommodations for first-year students who would otherwise have to move to Brandon or Winnipeg,” said Dauphin Mayor Eric Irwin.

Starting this September, students will be able to enroll in a variety of courses that will act as a stepping-stone for pursuing programs within the Faculties of Arts, Science and Education at BU or other Manitoba universities. The courses will be taught by instructors in Dauphin, and delivered to students face-to-face.
BU Appoints Dr. Steven Robinson as Vice-President (Academic & Provost)

Brandon University’s Board of Governors has approved the appointment of Dr. Steven Robinson as Vice-President (Academic & Provost) for a five-year term.

“There are many exciting initiatives underway right now at Brandon University, and I look forward to continuing my work on them,” said Dr. Robinson. “It’s an honour to have been confirmed in this position by the Board of Governors, and I will continue to devote my efforts to advancing the mission of Brandon University.”

Dr. Robinson has a long history of service to BU, having joined the Department of Philosophy in 1996. He has since been promoted to Associate Professor, served three terms as Chair of the Philosophy Department and done brief stints as the Associate Dean of Arts and Acting Dean of Arts. Dr. Robinson already has experience in his new position. Since 2015 he had filled the role of Acting Vice-President (Academic & Provost).

Greg Gatien Appointed Dean of Brandon University School of Music

Greg Gatien has been appointed as Dean, School of Music at Brandon University. The BU Board of Governors has approved the appointment for a five-year term.

Gatien began lecturing in the School of Music in 2001, later being promoted to Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor. He had served as Acting Dean since August 2015.

“It’s an exciting time at the School of Music,” Gatien said. “I’m honoured to have the opportunity to continue in this role alongside the extraordinary faculty, students and staff who make the School such an outstanding part of our university and community.”

At BU, Gatien has taught many courses in the prestigious School of Music, including Theory, Jazz History, Improvisation and Saxophone. Along with faculty members Michael Cain and Eric Platz, he developed BU’s Jazz Studies curriculum.

Westman Immigrant Services and BU Establish Research Partnership

A new two-year, community-university research partnership agreement will combine the research expertise of Brandon University with the front-line services of Westman Immigrant Services.

The partnership is based on a ‘Researcher-in-Residence’ program that is aimed at developing in-house research capacity to consistently collect and analyze information about programs and services.

Project Will Track and Predict Soybean Disease

A three-year research project starting this summer will help soybean farmers predict disease before it strikes their crops.

Brandon University’s Dr. Bryan Cassone has received $112,509 from Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers (MPSG) to genetically analyze whole fields of soybean plants, looking for the distinctive DNA markers of disease, even well before symptoms appear.

“Prevention is always the first and foremost measure for disease control,” says Dr. Cassone, who joined the BU Biology department as an Assistant Professor last year. “However, this is only possible if we know what is infecting our fields and can develop early diagnostic tools and control strategies, which vary dramatically based on the type of pathogen. The reason why many disease outbreaks occur is a lack of this knowledge.”

He’s focusing on foliar diseases, which are those that invade the leaves of infected plants. Common examples in Manitoba include downy mildew and bacterial blight. With help from MPSG and the Manitoba government, BU student Charlotte Smith will help analyze the DNA of various soybean diseases this summer.

Dr. Cassone will do two full surveys of at least 50 fields each in Manitoba looking for those and many other diseases.

This project involves a type and scale of high-tech work that has only recently become cost-effective to do.
DeForest Earns Spring Residency at Brooklyn Institution

A Brandon University visual art instructor has been in Brooklyn, New York, as artist-in-residence at the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP).

Kevin Ei-ichi deForest, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual and Aboriginal Art, is creating a new series of paintings as he continues to explore hybrid identity, in particular his own “Eurasian” heritage of mixed Japanese and European descent.

The Brooklyn Visual Arts Residency is a substantial grant from the Manitoba Arts Council that supports professional visual artists and curators from Manitoba at the ISCP. DeForest was also supported by a grant from the Whitehead Foundation.

Jazzed by Vegas Trip

A trip to Las Vegas was more than lucky for students in the BU Big Band. The jazz ensemble connected with professional musicians, young students, and audiences during a five-day residency in April.

"Vegas was amazing! All of us learnt so much on this trip. It was so cool to experience Vegas as a player," said saxophonist Lauren Teterenko. "We went to a bunch of different shows down there, my personal favourites being Santa Fe and the Fat City Horns, and Pepe Jimenez & Groove Culture."

Five Prestigious NSERC Grants

Five Brandon University students received Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Undergraduate Student Research Awards this year.

- Carrie Bergen, with Dr. Bernadette Ardelli (Biology): Molecular chaperones in a bodonid kinetoplastid
- Peter Brandt, with Dr. Peter Whittington (Geography): Soil moisture and topography of peatland restoration with aerial imagery
- Brett Meggison, with Dr. Meg Carrington (Physics and Astronomy): Renormalization group applied to 4PI effective theories
- Jillian Perreaux, with Dr. Wendy Unterreiner (Biology): Assessment of the diversity of fungi associated with snake hibernacula
- Rebecca Strorey, with Dr. Sarah Plosker (Math and Computer Science): The probability of quantum state transfer

BU Chorale Honoured by Standing Ovation

The Brandon University Chorale earned a standing ovation after its performance at Podium, the prestigious biannual National Choral Conference and Festival, this past May in Edmonton.

“It was an amazing culminating event in my university degree,” said Laura Jonasson, who graduated this year with a degree in Music Education – Choral. “Performing at the National Choral Conference proved that our hard work and dedication to choral singing did not go unnoticed.”

Business Students Deliver at Competition

A well-written business plan can put an entrepreneur in the driver’s seat. That was the experience for a pair of Brandon University students at the recent Manitoba New Venture Championships, hosted by the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Manitoba’s Asper School of Business.

Michael Gall and Tanner Price of BU’s Business Administration program won first place in the Best-Written Business Plan portion of the competition. Gall and Price submitted their plan for Precision Vehicle Transport, a service that would pick up vehicles for warranty and other maintenance work, and then return them to the customers.

The New Venture Championships featured 12 teams of students from Manitoba’s post-secondary institutions pitching their ideas to a panel of judges from Winnipeg’s business community.

Michael Gall, left, and Tanner Price display their trophy.
Bobcats Serve Up Spectacular National Championship at HLC

Fans of the Brandon University Bobcats showed us just how loud and proud they can be at the first-ever Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championship to be played at BU.

Supporters clad in blue and gold packed BU’s Healthy Living Centre as the Bobcats hosted three thrilling days of intense competition in this year’s CIS Women’s Volleyball Championship.

The Bobcats battled valiantly in both of their matches, but it was the University of Toronto Varsity Blues who claimed the championship.

The weekend provided an emotional sendoff for two of BU’s all-time greats: Shanlee McLennan, who was named the Bobcats’ Female Athlete of the Year after setting the Canada West conference all-time record for aces, and three-time CIS Libero of the Year Donata Huebert.

The success of the event opened the door for the possibility of future national championships coming to BU.

Other BU athletes had a memorable season as well. The newly formed

Alumni Awards and Sports Wall Among Homecoming Highlights

Several outstanding alumni will be honoured during Brandon University’s Homecoming Weekend 2016, from Oct. 14 to 16.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the 2016 Alumni Award Recipients will be recognized. Earning Alumni Awards this year are: Whitney Kreller-Lamont ’07/’09 - Young Alumni; Barbara Martin (Robertson) ’65 - Community Service; Mitch Taylor ’65 and Dr. Allan Ryan ’75 - Career Achievement; and Dr. Cheryl Craig ’76/’85 - Wall of Fame.

Also on Saturday, Oct. 15, seven individuals and one team will be added to BU’s Dick and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame.

The 2016 induction class includes: Keith Vassell - athlete, basketball; Shawn Gray - athlete, basketball; Mike McEwen - athlete, curling; Kerri Hayhurst (Robertson) - athlete, basketball; Allan Robertson - community leader, hockey, football; Glennis Scott - community leader, hockey, football; Alan Murdoch - community leader, hockey, football; and the 1996 Bobcats National Men’s Basketball Championship Team.

Tickets for the Dinner and Alumni Awards as well as for the Sports Wall of Fame brunch can be reserved by using the Homecoming Weekend Registration form on Page 15 of Alumni News or online at BrandonU.ca/Homecoming.

Tables of eight for the Sports Wall of Fame brunch can be reserved for $350. Call 204-727-7354 for more information.

Bobcats to Host Hockey Reunion

The Brandon University Athletics department will celebrate BU’s hockey history by hosting a hockey reunion and alumni game.

Alumni can see the Wall of Fame and memorabilia tables at the Healthy Living Centre where a meet and greet will be held on Friday, Nov. 4. On Saturday, Nov. 5, former Bobcats and Caps can turn back the clock with an alumni game at the Sportsplex. The celebration is expected to coincide with Bobcat volleyball matches where the alumni will be formally recognized. A windup social will close out the event.

Former Bobcats and Brandon College Caps hockey players are invited to take part by contacting Athlete Services and Events Coordinator Tyler Crayston at 204-724-8360 or CraystonT@BrandonU.ca.
Class Reunions

A number of classes are organizing reunions this year. Don’t miss out! Below is a list of classes who are planning reunions. We encourage you to contact the class representatives listed below for details. If you would like to organize a class reunion, please contact the Alumni Office.

Class of 1951
Pat Coleman | pcoleman@mts.net
Angus Juckes | ajuckes@sasktel.net | 306.789.5799

Class of 1956
Hilt Stewart | hmstewart@mymts.net | 204.728.9147
Jean McIntosh | mcintosh5415@shaw.ca | 604.526.3441
Allan Johnson | ajohnson@videotron.ca | 819.685.3070

Class of 1956 TTC
Gerald Brown | browner1@shaw.ca | 204.284.5620
Send bios and photos for the commemorative booklet to Alumni@BrandonU.ca

Class of 1956 Bachelor of Paedagogy
Verda McDonald | vrmacdonal@mts.net | 204.726.0810
Ben Ward | wardone@mymts.net | 204.726.8719

Class of 1966
Al Josephson | ajspeh463@aol.com | 414.379.5571
Bill Sparling | bill@billsparling.com | 204.791.8398
Terri-Lynn Moore | terrilynkkerr@gmail.com | 902.962.2819
Send bios and photos for the commemorative booklet to Alumni@BrandonU.ca

Class of 1966 TTC
Carla Eisler | Academic@BrandonU.ca | 204.727.9697

Class of 1976
Deb Carnegie | debcarnegie@hotmail.ca | 204.727.9068

ADES 2001-2016: Reflecting on 15 years of Education and Practice
During Homecoming Weekend the Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies department will bring together alumni to share their experiences towards enhancement of disaster and emergency management studies at BU. ADES alumni are encouraged to email ades@BrandonU.ca with their current contact details. More information will follow.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Information & Check-In
4:30 pm – 7 pm | Healthy Living Centre
Check in and pick up your Homecoming Weekend information and name tags.

Homecoming Kick-Off Event
5 pm
and Basketball Action
Alumni Game 5:30 pm | Men’s 7 pm
Healthy Living Centre | BU games are free for registered Homecoming Guests
Kick-off the weekend with friends and enjoy pre-game appetizers, refreshments and entertainment. Show your colours and wear your BU gear old and new. Cheer on fellow alumni as they hit the court for the alumni game. Bobcat men’s basketball action against the Regina Cougars will follow.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Campus Books
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Knowles-Douglas Building - BU
Visit the campus bookstore for a wide selection of BU gear and merchandise.

Athletics Wall of Fame Brunch
10 am - 12 pm | Victoria Inn | $50
BU Athletics will be honoring the 2016 Dick and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame inductees at a special ceremony at the Victoria Inn.

Class of 1956 TTC Lunch
11 am - 1 pm | Louis Riel Room - BU | $20
Members of the TTC Class of 1956 will reunite and reminisce over lunch.

Lunch with Student Reps - free
12 pm - 1:30 pm
SUDS | Knowles-Douglas Building - BU
Come chat with your friends and current BU students at the student pub for a come-and-go lunch, compliments of the Brandon University Students’ Union. Donations will be accepted for the student food bank.

Dedication of The McCutcheon Alcove
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Education Building - Main Floor
Join us for the official dedication of the McCutcheon Alcove. Dr. Wilfred McCutcheon (1919-2008) served as Dean of Education from 1955 – 1967 and was instrumental in the formation of the first Teacher Training Program at Brandon College. A photo display of the McCutcheon-era years will be on display in the Alcove.

Join us and rediscover BU. Homecoming is a community event open to everyone. We are proud to welcome back our alumni from all years, students, faculty, staff, donors, family and friends.
**Campus Tours**
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm and 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Meet in Room 104 Clark Hall
Join a student-guided tour or take your own journey into the past as you explore the campus.

**Dinner and Awards**
Cocktails 6 pm | Dinner 6:30 pm | Harvest Hall - BU | $40 (cash bar)
Relax and enjoy an evening of friendship and a full-course buffet meal. Join in the celebrations as we recognize the accomplishments of the 2016 Alumni Award Recipients.

**Hospitality Room 134 | Victoria Inn**
Open for our guests 12pm to 12am.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**Farewell Brunch**
10 am - 12 pm | Harvest Hall - BU | $18
Share your stories and memories on the open mic as you bid farewell to fellow classmates . . . until next year.

**REGISTER NOW**
There are four ways to register:
1. Online: BrandonU.ca/Homecoming
2. Email: Alumni@BrandonU.ca
3. Call: 1-877-282-4483 or 204-727-9697
4. Mail: Registration form below.

Brandon University Alumni Association
270 – 18th St., Brandon, MB R7A 6A9 Canada

**Accommodations**
There is a block of rooms reserved for Homecoming Weekend guests at the Victoria Inn until September 14.
Group Booking #327231
3550 Victoria Ave Brandon, MB
204-725-1532 or 1-800-852-2710

**WestJet Flights**
WestJet is offering a 10% discount off their base fare for travel between Brandon and anywhere Westjet flies in North America for alumni and guests attending Brandon University’s Homecoming Weekend. For further details visit westjet.com/convention-discount and quote discount codes below.
Discount code: 8PDPFAD
(for online bookings)
Promo code: YBRO2
(for Travel Agent Web Use only)

**MEETING DATES & TIMES**
Friday, October 14, 2016
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
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Saturday, October 15, 2016
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<td>BU Athletics Hall of Fame Brunch</td>
<td>10 am – 12 pm, Victoria Inn</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch with Student Reps</td>
<td>12 pm - 1:30 pm, SUDS</td>
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Sunday, October 16, 2016
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<td>Commemorative Booklet</td>
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<td>Class of ‘66</td>
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**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**
- Cheque
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

Credit Card #:
Expiry Date (mm/yy):
Signature:

All prices include applicable taxes.
Expanding her view of the world has always been important for Samantha Grills, and her perspective has grown more than ever in the past year.

Grills recently returned home to Brandon after spending eight months in Bangladesh and India working on projects aimed at reducing poverty. While her work in Asia was the culmination of years of study, Grills said the experience of being there and being part of the community was irreplaceable.

“The experience of living and working in such a different part of the world has definitely helped reinforce my passion for human rights and social justice.”

“It was definitely very challenging to be so far from friends and family for that amount of time,” Grills said. “However, I think it is important for anyone taking part in an overseas initiative to spend a significant period of time living with and learning from the people in their host country. This helps them to better appreciate the nuances of initiatives, produce better results, and avoid some of the dangers and pitfalls of less immersive experiences.”

Grills began her post-secondary studies in the familiar surroundings of Brandon University, where her father, Dr. Scott Grills, chairs the Department of Sociology, and her mother, Sheilagh Grills, is a Learning Skills Specialist. Samantha Grills graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science, before going on to
the University of Waterloo, where she earned a Master of Arts in Global Governance, specializing in Human Rights and Social Justice.

Her following endeavours included working on women’s rights during a four-month internship with Amnesty International Canada in Ottawa, as well as a stint as a sessional instructor at BU.

Grills’ most exciting opportunity came last year, when she was offered an International Fellowship by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Canada. Grills had studied microfinance—small-scale loans, savings, insurance, and education services for those excluded from formal financial institutions—and its usefulness in alleviating poverty and improving gender equity. The fellowship would allow her to work with CARE, a humanitarian organization, in the microfinance hotbed of Bangladesh. Living in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, Grills developed policy briefs on the influence of climate change on agriculture and how that in turn affects gender, health and poverty alleviation efforts.

“Living and working in Dhaka, Bangladesh was incredibly different than life in Canada, especially as a solo woman in a Muslim-majority country,” Grills said. “Transportation in a city of approximately 15 million people was a major challenge, as was trying to overcome the language barrier.”

While the work was rewarding, the challenges of living in Dhaka soon became more than logistical and, in November, Grills was on the move.

“In October, the security situation in the country began to worsen,” Grills said. “Two foreign aid workers were killed and many local bloggers, activists, publishers and religious minorities have been targeted and killed in recent months. When aid workers began to be targeted, AKF Canada agreed to relocate me to neighbouring India, to complete the remainder of my fellowship working for AKF in Delhi.”

Grills’ responsibilities shifted in Delhi to working on AKF publications and social media accounts, but she also made a field visit to the Indian city of Hyderabad, interviewing out-of-school adolescents who had been reached by an AKF project to bring education and skills training to minority Muslim slums.

Now back home in Brandon, Grills has been winding up her fellowship experience. Her last task was to return to Ottawa to present her final report and help prepare the 2016-17 fellows.

She admits that she’s gone through a bit of reverse culture shock, from densely populated Dhaka and Delhi to Manitoba’s wide-open prairies. Nevertheless, she’s relished the chance to get reacquainted with her friends here, including many classmates from BU.

“I am still in touch with several former BU classmates, although most are spread out all over Canada,” Grills said. “One of the great things about BU is the small campus that helps make it easier to develop friendships across disciplines. As a result, I’ve been able to stay connected to Music students now pursuing careers as professionals and instructors, Biology majors on their way to becoming veterinarians, those in Education who are now in the classroom, and of course other Arts majors, some of whom also went on to graduate school and all of whom have taken extremely diverse career paths.”

Grills is waiting to see what her own path will be as she looks for her next opportunity. Whether that will be another international experience or something closer to home remains to be seen. She is, however, committed to continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

“Living and working in Dhaka, Bangladesh was incredibly different than life in Canada, especially as a solo woman in a Muslim-majority country,” Grills said. “Transportation in a city of approximately 15 million people was a major challenge, as was trying to overcome the language barrier.”

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“The experience of living and working in such a different part of the world has definitely helped to reinforce my passion for human rights and social justice, especially for marginalized communities,” Grills said. “In places with such high levels of poverty, it is impossible not to recognize and feel your own privilege as a Canadian citizen.”
Taking it to the Air

For Geography student Peter Brandt, summer is really going to fly by
They’ve both heard all the jokes: Pete and Pete study peat. But Dr. Pete Whittington and student Peter Brandt say their work on peatlands restoration is no laughing matter.

“When you harvest peat from a peatland, there’s typically very little regrowth afterwards,” says Dr. Whittington, an Assistant Professor in Geography at Brandon University who has been studying peatlands and peatland regeneration for more than a decade.

This year, with funding from the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association in collaboration with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and a Brandon University Research Committee award (co-awarded to fellow Geography professor Dr. Dion Wiseman), Dr. Whittington and Brandt will study peatlands in eastern Manitoba. They’ll try to figure out how best to rehabilitate the wide swaths of land that are left after peat has been harvested.

You may know it as the compressed bag near the fertilizer at your local garden centre; just till it into your soil and watch your flowers and vegetables sprout. But the story of peat starts a lot further back than that.

Eight thousand years ago, moss grew. Then it died, and some more moss grew on top. Wash, rinse, repeat. Literally. Peatlands are a thin layer of live moss on top of masses of dead moss and they are incredibly effective at retaining and storing liquid.

“They do a remarkable job of creating an environment they enjoy for themselves,” Whittington says. “Natural peatlands are extremely good at holding water where they want it. They shed water when they’re wet, and hold it when they’re dry.”

That ability to retain and store huge masses of water, which turns peatlands into gigantic sponges, makes them essential for understanding hydrology in their area, including for flood control. It’s especially important in Manitoba, which is about 38 per cent peatland by area. That’s the largest percentage of peatland anywhere in Canada.

Water also seems to be key to understanding the restoration of those peatlands, after they’ve been harvested. That’s what Brandt and Whittington are studying in the field this summer.

Brandt, who got into geography after a competition in junior high and majored in the subject at Brandon University, says that what he’s really into is maps. This summer, he’ll get a maps-eye view of peatlands near Beausejour, Man., as he flies a drone overtop some restorations in progress.

But it’s not all high-flying. The drone is equipped with a near-infrared camera to detect moisture content in the peatlands below. The drone technology is still so new, it needs to be calibrated against actual on-the-ground, muddy-
boots measurements — a process called “truthing.”

That means Brandt will spend some of his days taking accurate soil-moisture measurements directly, and then later they’ll be compared to the much faster, more convenient ones obtained from the aerial camera. Part of the research, supported with Dr. Wiseman’s geomatics expertise, will be determining things like the best altitude, speed and other instruments and settings to use on the drone for the most accurate results.

Brandt will also compile the imagery to create a digital elevation map.

What he and Dr. Whittington will look for overall is evidence, through moisture content, that the peatlands are beginning their regeneration.

For Manitoba, prone to both floods and droughts, anything that involves trapping or shedding water is ecologically important — and also economically valuable.

Not that the peatlands will be restored enough to harvest again anytime soon.

“It’s not a renewable resource,” Dr. Whittington says, pointing at the 8,000 years they took to grow in the first place. “But peatlands are carbon-accumulating systems, so the goal is to return that function to the harvested ecosystem.”

That makes it important to start now.

Studies so far show that for the first few years of peatland regeneration, the dying and decomposing moss actually gives off climate-affecting carbon emissions. But once fully restored to a depth of about 19 cm, a process that can take 15 to 20 years, the peatland becomes a carbon-storing system: a passive carbon sink that can continue to absorb carbon for 8,000 or so years.

Peat harvesting has been around in Manitoba since the 1940s and provides important jobs in rural Manitoba, but provincial regulations have recently tightened the rules, and there are new requirements to restore and rehabilitate the harvested peatlands.

The harvest itself is an unusual sight for Prairie people used to swathers and combines.

“When you harvest a peatland, you go in, put in drainage ditches, and remove all the surface vegetation,” explains Dr. Whittington. “You let it dry for a day or two and then drive a vacuum across the field to pick up a millimetre or so, and take it to the processing plant to be bagged.”

Yes, peat is hoovered up by giant trucks a millimeter at a time. Restoration, though, is a different matter.

“Once a peatland’s natural mechanisms have been removed, getting them restored takes effort,” Dr. Whittington says.

Brandt, who got into geography after a competition in junior high, and majored in the subject at Brandon University, says that what he’s really into is maps. This summer, he’ll get a maps-eye view of peatlands near Beausejour, Man., as he flies a drone overtop some restorations in progress.

“It’s new skillsets, new tech, new software,” he says.
Adding to the complications are regional differences. One of the questions that Brandt and Dr. Whittington will look at is how Manitoba’s peatlands are different from those elsewhere. For example in Quebec, the climate is substantially wetter, it’s more humid, and it’s slightly cooler than here.

“They do a remarkable job of creating an environment they enjoy for themselves,” Whittington says. “Natural peatlands are extremely good at holding water where they want it. They shed water when they’re wet and hold it when they’re dry.”

All of those variables make peatland restoration and rehabilitation a nationwide puzzle; Brandt and Dr. Whittington are working with other researchers at the University of Waterloo and Université Laval to put all the pieces together. Brandon University’s piece is hydrology: the moisture content. They have help; Dr. Whittington is also working with another BU student, Melanie Hawes, on the overall project.

Hawes, who is taking her Master of Science in Environmental & Life Sciences degree at BU (and yes, that means Mel’s in MELS) will be looking with Dr. Whittington at the larger scale, site-wide hydrology of peatlands restoration, building on the information that Brandt will gather as well as previous discoveries about the best way to restore peatlands.

“The secret ingredient,” says Dr. Whittington, “is straw mulch, which reduces evaporation and drying of the moss as it tries to get re-established.”

Ingredients are only part of any recipe. It’s how you put it together that matters.

Brandt will fly the research drone overtop of different types of restoration-in-progress peatlands. Along with straw mulch, the peatlands have been given different patterns of earthen berms, designed to retain water — but not too much — and encourage moss regrowth. Too little water, and the peatland drains entirely and dries out. Too much, and it’s a slough instead.

Like Goldilocks’ porridge, peatlands need to be just right.

But one of the more promising patterns is more like Goldilocks’ waffle. A criss-cross grid pattern can hold back water in dozens of squares, like maple syrup at brunch. The trick, as any brunch-goer knows, is getting each waffle square equally full without too many of them being dry or overflowing.

Another pattern under scrutiny is a zig-zag, lightning-bolt pattern, which lets water trickle back and forth to get absorbed where needed before passing through.

“We’re trying to see what pattern of reconstructing the landscape is best,” Dr. Whittington says.

For Brandt, it’s also about continuing to learn through his summer job.

“It’s new skillsets, new tech, new software,” he says. And it’s learning that has a direct application for him in the near future. Brandt graduated from BU this year with his Bachelor of Science in Geography and multiple scholarships. Now, he’s eyeing grad school to get a master’s degree emphasizing geomatics and geographic information systems — exactly the type of work he’ll spend the summer doing.

It’s close to home for him in a more literal way, too. Brandt grew up in the southeastern Manitoba community of Blumenort, near to the peatlands he’ll be studying, and he says he plans to spend some time there as well as back in Brandon over the summer.

“It’s a really great opportunity,” he says.

But it’s also an opportunity for climate-friendly carbon absorption and for commercial peat applications.

“This is collaborative research and development,” Dr. Whittington says. “Universities try to solve problems.”

And when talking about solutions that could pay off for the next 8,000 years, well, that’s no joke.

What is a Peatland?

Peatlands are a subtype of wetlands, like swamps, marshes or shallow open water. If peatlands are exclusively fed by rainwater, they’re referred to as bogs. If they include water incoming from streams or the like, they’re referred to as fens.
Commitment to Change

Experienced therapist Carla Navid is ready to refresh Brandon University’s approach to sexual violence
When Carla Navid accepted her new position in May, she knew that there was a lot of work ahead.

Brandon University was ready to revise and revamp their entire sexual violence strategy, and they wanted to move quickly. They wanted Navid as a new full-time Sexual Violence, Education and Prevention Coordinator on the team that would do that revamp — and do it right.

As a counselling instructor in the Clinical Specialization stream of Native Studies at BU, Navid knew the background. Brandon University had been in the national spotlight, under criticism for how it had handled its first reported sexual assault in years. Now it was time to turn that pressure into positive change.

Navid knew that she had the experience. She has a Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Manitoba and a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Minot State University. She’s been a Brandon therapist in private practice for eight years, with a background in dealing with gender-based and sexual violence, and she previously worked as director of a sexual assault/rape crisis centre in California.

She’s also experienced working with Indigenous peoples and has incorporated Indigenous worldviews into her work, partnering with First Nations healers and elders to provide services for her clients.

And of course, she’d taught at BU for three years, meaning she knew the campus, she knew the people, and she knew the ropes.

So she could handle what the University was asking her to do. But could the University handle her?

“They know what they’re getting,” Navid laughs. “I’m not a ‘yes person’. I am confident I know what is right in regard to sexual violence advocacy, but the challenge is to apply this to a University community, and that’s what I’ll be working towards.”

Navid’s definition of ‘what’s right’ is perfectly straightforward.

“If we always follow what’s best for the survivors of sexual violence,” she says, “then we can be confident we’re doing the right thing.”

In her first weeks at work, Navid has taken on a number of important responsibilities at the university.

She serves as the secretary on BU’s Sexual Assault Advisory Group, a new permanent standing committee that is to develop new sexual violence and harassment response and prevention policy and protocols over the summer for full consultation with the University community in the fall.

Navid is a point of contact for any members of the BU community on issues of sexual violence. She will also guide the development and implementation of survivor-centred response protocols and lead education and prevention efforts on sexual and gender-based violence.

Navid will develop training and education materials for students, faculty and staff related to sexual violence prevention and education, and will lead efforts to communicate available resources to survivors.

She will also follow-up with survivors to evaluate the use and effectiveness of resources, collect data on reports of sexual and gender-based violence, and will develop and implement strategies to guide future policy and protocols.

“Advocacy can be challenging work,” Navid says. “But at the same time it is rewarding.”

She says that a lot has already been done.

“The University has been working on this since last fall. Now, we’re really stepping up our game. It’s an exciting time to be here, an opportunity to be one of the national leaders — here’s how Brandon can take a crisis situation and turn it into an opportunity for positive change.”

And Navid is certain that change is coming.

“We’ve got much work ahead,” she says. “But we don’t have to reinvent the wheel — we can add to it.”

She’s got plans for the future, too. A year from now, she hopes to have made connections at universities across the country to help share best practices and lead a Canada-wide conversation on the issues of sexual violence and consent on campuses and in communities.

For now, though, she’s focused on BU.

“It really is an ambitious agenda,” she says about the first meetings of the Sexual Assault Advisory Group. “But I think we have a lot more in place than we think we do. So the question is, what can we enhance?”

Her answers centre on protocol, training and education.

“I’d like to be able to say, if somebody comes forward, that anyone on campus could handle it, and would know their role so that people will feel that they can come forward,” Navid says. “Yes, those of us trained as counsellors, let us do our work. But people see professors, coaches, friends for help … let’s give everyone the tools to be a support.”

Navid is already beginning to develop training and education presentations to help build that culture of support. She says it’s a natural step for BU.

“We’re in an institution where we share ideas,” she says. “It’s all progress. And there’s already been a lot of progress.”
In Memory of Dr. Barbara Bourassa

Brandon University lost a dear friend on May 25, 2016. Dr. Barbara Bourassa, who practiced optometry for 35 years in Brandon, was a member of the BU Foundation from 1998 to 2007. She was a key member of the board, serving on the Executive as Secretary from 2000 to 2001, Vice-President from 2001 to 2003, and President from 2003 to 2005. From 2004 to 2007, Barb also served as a member of the Campaign Cabinet for the BU and YOU Campaign. Because Barb was so passionate about children and music, her family has created a memorial fund in her name under the Brandon Area Community Foundation to ensure the longevity of Brandon University’s Suzuki Talent Education Program.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Barton Bruce
BSc ’51
January 24, 2016

Edna (Armstrong) Cookson
BGS ’86
May 23, 2016

Evelyn (Hunter) Downey
BA/BEd ’77
February 25, 2015

Cordell Grant
BA ’71, BEd ’85
May 11, 2016

William Harwood
BA ’43
October 18, 2015

Jack Kan Lee
BSc ’66, Ed. Cert.
February 26, 2016

Robert McIntosh
BSc ’47
June 26, 2011

William Gates
BSc ’58
April 16, 2016

Heather (Anderson) Schroeder
TTC ’56
May 4, 2016

Norma (McDonald) Shepherd
BSc ’56
October 13, 2015

Doreen (Bolstad) Tillotson
BA ’43
September 14, 2014

Joe Tysarski
BA ’74
December 28, 2015

Marion (Stewart) Winters
BT ’76
November 25, 2015

Marianne Wiun
BA ’67
July 7, 2013

Marilyn (Dennstedt) Wiwcharuk
BMus ’67, MMus ’95
February 1, 2016

FACULTY/STAFF

Dr. Mumulla V. Naidu
Professor, Political Science
1965 – 2005
February 27, 2016

Dr. William H.N. Paton
Professor, Biology
1974-2014
June 13, 2016
The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions has established an endowed scholarship/bursary fund honoring Dr. Joan Miller (Sister Joan) in support of deserving classical piano students. Sister Joan is a retired Associate Professor in piano/theory from Brandon University School of Music and a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. She was also involved in the music department at St. Michael’s Academy, a school in Brandon that was operated by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and had a strong association with Brandon University School of Music for many decades. This award was established with donated funds that were directed to the scholarship fund of the music department at St. Michael’s Academy, which closed in 2005. This $35,000 gift was matched with an equal amount from the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative to create a $70,000 endowment fund. The Dr. Joan Miller Scholarship-Bursary in Classical Piano provides approximately $3,000 annually to classical piano performance students in a Master of Music program or continuing students in a Bachelor of Music program on the basis of overall progress, proficiency and financial need.

Following a 25-year career as an orderly at Toronto East General Hospital, Douglas Simpson enrolled at Brandon University as a mature student. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 and a Bachelor of General Studies in 2000, he continued studying and volunteering at BU. Simpson passed away in 2015. Through a significant bequest in excess of $135,000, he established the Douglas Simpson Scholarship. This legacy gift will provide four scholarships annually of approximately $1,500 each to BU entrance students.

Ernest Criddle, class of ’52, was born into farm life near Wawanesa, Man. Brandon College provided Ernest with a background in chemistry, physics and math. His career touched on diverse tasks including physical chemistry, fuel cells, space, management, clean rooms and cold fusion. From 1988 up until his passing in 2015, annual gifts from Mr. Criddle, along with his wife Rosemary Bonyun, were given in support of the John E. Robbins Library, the Faculty of Science, scholarships and bursaries and various campaigns. His generosity is further demonstrated through a $10,000 bequest of unrestricted funding to BU, which will be used for the most pressing needs of the University.

Lifelong Learner Provides Significant Bequest

Legacy Gift Provides Unrestricted Funding for BU

Scholarship-Bursary in Classical Piano Honours Long-time Brandon Piano Teacher
Thank you to the following alumni who supported Brandon University in 2015. Many of these donors gave through the Annual Fund appeal, which raised more than $80,000. These gifts help us fulfill our academic mission: To be a leading, engaged, and innovative University.

Class of 1933
Christina E. Storey
Margaret L. Eggleton

Class of 1934
Evelyn B. Salt

Class of 1936
Charles B. Burch
Barrie C. Burch
Garth M. Bray
Loraine L. Clark
Marilyn F. Colmen

Class of 1937
Barbara A. Bannatyne
Garth M. Bray
Barrie C. Burch
Michael P. Czuboka
Mina J. Dyck
Jean Mitchell
Barrie Orr
Irene Pettapiece
James M. Simmons

Class of 1938
James L. Callander
H. V. Davies
Ian W. Dickson
John C. Easter
William J. Friesen
Myrna Hall
Leone Hillier
E. J. Konopaski
Jean E. Rust
Marguerite J. Scott

Class of 1939
Kathleen Antrobus
James B. Donaghy
Ian O. Hamberg
Linda E. McDowell
Wayne Pettapiece
Elaine M. Smith
Glencoe I. Tweed
William A. Tweed
David C. Wilson

Class of 1940
Eleanor J. Abra
Nancy Birch
Donna I. Dickson
Sandra G. Donin
William S. Evans
Warren K. McKinnon
Dona M. Vrooan

Class of 1946
Aron W. Goodfellow
Margaret Hanulik
Brian J. McKenzie
Shirley M. Moore
Mary-Ella Proven
Gladwyn L. Scott

Class of 1947
Margaret L. Eggleton

Class of 1948
Murray J. MacDonald
Catherine Hardman
John M. Andrews
Ivey G. McNeill
Patricia A. Coleman
Ronald D. Bell

Class of 1949
Ida M. Wyllie
Margaret L. Davison

Class of 1950
Margaret L. Davison
Ida M. Wyllie

Class of 1951
Ronald D. Bell
Patricia A. Coleman
Angus W. Jackes
Ivey G. McNeill

Class of 1952
Donna J. Agnew
John M. Andrews
Catherine Hardman
Murray J. MacDonald
Kenneth H. McNeely

Class of 1953
William C. Ferguson
Patricia A. Gaye
Kevin Kavanagh
James McKibbon

Class of 1954
John D. Blackwood
Albert Gogol
Norman C. Hedson
Margaret I. Tjaden
Ivy M. Young

Class of 1955
Verda McDonald
Barrie T. McLeod
Helen E. Mitchell
Marjorie R. Pringle
Gordon D. Williams
Harvey R. Young

Class of 1956
Dorothy M. Burch
Margaret I. Cobbe
Allan E. Hattie
Allan M. Johnson
Leona E. Kucher
Marina L. Laking
Jean M. McIntosh
Mary E. Roach
Delce I. Shanks
Margaret C. Simms
Elizabeth B. Smart
Harold C. Stewart
Shirley M. Welch
Marlene Willis
Anonymous

Class of 1957
Barbara A. Bannatyne
Garth M. Bray
Barrie C. Burch
Michael P. Czuboka
Mina J. Dyck
Jean Mitchell
Barrie Orr
Irene Pettapiece
James M. Simmons
Anonymous

Class of 1958
James L. Callander
H. V. Davies
Ian W. Dickson
John C. Easter
William J. Friesen
Myrna Hall
Leone Hillier
E. J. Konopaski
Jean E. Rust
Marguerite J. Scott

Class of 1959
Kathleen Antrobus
James B. Donaghy
Ian O. Hamberg
Linda E. McDowell
Wayne Pettapiece
Elaine M. Smith
Glencoe I. Tweed
William A. Tweed
David C. Wilson

Class of 1960
Eleanor J. Abra
Nancy Birch
Donna I. Dickson
Sandra G. Donin
William S. Evans
Warren K. McKinnon
Dona M. Vrooan

Class of 1962
Margaret L. Bolostok
Ronald E. Butler
Malcolm W. Davidson
Eric A. Hillman
Kenneth L. May
Larry E. McCrady
Eldon M.
Montgomery
John S. Nelson

Class of 1964
Garry R. Atchison
Janice R. Barton
Lorna Clark
Frances M. Clayton
Carole E. Dence
Patricia G. Lee
Isabelle M. Mills
Patricia C. Thorn
Glenn E. Tweed
Joan M. Veselovsky

Class of 1969
Elizabeth J. Armstrong
Laurence M. Bertram
Lon F. Brandon
John B. Irvine
Arnold Novak
Allistair G. Scott
Carole C. Smith
Dennis J. Sparling
Jack D. Warkentin
John A. Yeboah
Marguerite L. Campbell
Ida M. Hallatt

Class of 1970
David J. McDowell
Mary C. Moffatt
Katherine Moulsdon
Alan Murdoch
Geraldine M. Nelson
Robert L. Neumann
Conrad Nicholson
Laurence R. Ricou
Trevor R. Ricou
Beaverley J. Russell
Donald W. Sherritt
Beaverley L. Smith
Jane A. Taylor
Mitchell J. Taylor
Vivian Warren
Robert J. Wilkins

Class of 1971
Kathryn M. Adolph
Donald L. Berry
Elaine A. Bollman
Margaret I. Bowles
Marguerite E. Crandle
Stephen R. Dmytryw
Emmett J. Elves
Norman E. Jess
Patricia E. Moldowan
Edward D. Sklar
Wayne D. Smith
Ruth Vasconcelos
Anonymous

Class of 1972
Karen E. Elves
Jerry D. Hemmings
Elizabeth N. Yuen
Wo K. Yuen
Anonymous

Class of 1973
Julia E. Anderson
Christine J. Bertram
Robert G. Deveson
Ann E. Lyons
Joan MacKay
Livia G. McGregor
Jean M. Pickard
Donna L. Reid
June L. Thompson
Donald E. Tully
Catherine L. Wilkie

Class of 1974
Heather L. Deacon
Linda L. Fox
Colin S. Goldstone
Bonnie J. Graham
Catherine R. Jury
Donna M. Keys
Joyce Tureski

Class of 1975
Linda Hart
Murray Hart
George Kunyckyj
Barry O. Minish
Russell E. Roney
Marilyn B. Skelton
Anonymous

Class of 1976
Debra Carnegie
Ronald R. Cockerill
Stuart J. Cowie
Bruce A. Craig
Cheryl J. Craig
Dale Harvey
Christopher W. Kennedy
Lynne McCarthy
Catherine Robertson
Donna M. Shorrock
Elizabeth M. Stewart
Marion F. Winters

Class of 1977
Kenneth D. Bosiak
Richard S. Feasby
Lorraine Griffiths
Eileen G. Thompson
John Troop

Class of 1978
Jeffrey G. Cristall
Patricia Cristall
Jacqueline P. Hurton
Anne Matiation
Garry K. Rainnie
Gerald J. Rocan
Ian D. Sharpe

Class of 1979
Denver D. Bailey
Brian Bingham
L. J. Cawston
Terri E. Deller
E. K. Dobson-Golletz
Jo-Anne L. Douglas
Evelyn R. Gunson
Marie L. Matheson
Douglas F. McArthur
Linda Sanderson
Sharon L. Troop
Daphne E. Elizabeth
M. Wagner
Gloria-Jean Warkentin
Margaret A. Young

Class of 1980
Ronald J. Chapman
Barbara J. Fleming
Violet L. Joss
Patricia G. McKenzie
Margaret McNutt-Reichert
Alma E. Toms
Daniel M. Trotter
Edward H. Wright
Anonymous (2)

Class of 1981
Joy A. Adams Bauer
Anne L. Dickson
Richard N. Golletz
Every effort has been made to ensure that this listing is accurate and complete. Please report any errors or omissions to the Department of Institutional Advancement at 204-727-7374 or 1-877-282-4483 (toll-free). Donors of $1,000 or more in cumulative gifts are also listed as members of the Order of the Sheaf in the Brandon University Foundation Annual Report. Request a copy by calling one of the numbers listed above, or, view it online at BrandonU.ca/Give/Foundation/Report

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From left, Anne & Mitch Taylor, Dr. Gervan Fearon, Nina Kozakiewicz, Don Sherritt, at the Brandon University alumni reception in Vancouver earlier this spring.

It was a delightful get-together in gorgeous surroundings as Brandon University alumni gathered at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on April 28. Alumni enjoyed a reception hosted by Anne and Mitch Taylor, Class of 1965. Guests enjoyed renewed friendships and remarks from BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon.

Welcoming Brandon University students to Toronto was no tall order for our dedicated alumni.

Forging connections between current students and alumni is part of our mission. On May 1, the Toronto Alumni Chapter hosted an evening with the Enactus Brandon team, a group of outstanding BU students who were in Toronto to present their community projects at the national competition. Guests visited with the students and had a chance to hear about their projects.
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2016

A sense of pride and accomplishment are well-deserved for our graduates, but what’s most exciting is the sense of possibility. Your degree is more than just recognition for all that you’ve learned and done, it’s also your ticket to all that you will learn and will do in the future. Be proud of your Brandon University degree. We’re proud of you.

BrandonU.ca/Alumni