



CLARK

soaring voice

Swedish soprano delights
fans around the world

18

stars of shoe tube

14

homecoming 2017

11



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IN THIS ISSUE

4 President's Message

5 What Sparked *Clark*

6 Convocation 2017

9 Campus

11 Homecoming 2017

14 Features

24 Discovery

26 Bobcats

27 Alumni

29 Support

30 Donations



OUR TEAM

Produced by BU Marketing & Communications

Writers – Tyler Crayston, Carla Eisler, Shawna English, Grant Hamilton, Rob Henderson, Diane Nelson, Dr. Steven Robinson

Photographers – Colin Corneau, Markus Gårder, Grant Hamilton, Rob Henderson, Tim Smith

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Advertising – 204.727.9762 or Communications@BrandonU.ca

Feedback or Letters to the Editor
ClarkMag@BrandonU.ca

Advancement & External Relations Staff

Craig Cesmystruk, Web Content Editor
Carla Eisler, Director, Advancement & Alumni Affairs
Shawna English, Development Officer
Grant Hamilton, Director, Marketing & Communications
Rob Henderson, Marketing Communications Officer
Robyn Long, Stewardship & Information Management Administrator
Greg Misener, Web Designer
Carolyn Vodon, Office Assistant

Brandon University Alumni Office

Phone: 204.727.9697 • Fax: 204.727.4674
Alumni@BrandonU.ca • BrandonU.ca/Alumni
Publications mail agreement #40064061

Send us your stories – As alumni, you undoubtedly have much to tell us about the relationships that you developed while at BU – ClarkMag@BrandonU.ca

Clark is published twice a year and reaches more than 15,000 alumni and friends of Brandon University worldwide.

To date, thousands of alumni have supported the Brandon University Alumni Association (BUAA) through participation in alumni programs, affinity products and service offerings. If you do not wish to be provided with product or service offers or do not wish to receive *Clark* in the future, please contact the Alumni Office.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Brandon University Alumni Association
270–18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6A9



Change and Opportunity at Brandon University

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR at Brandon University — with new students on campus, a new look for the Alumni Magazine, — and a new (Interim) President! It is sometimes said that the only thing constant is change, and it's not quite true: in the following pages you will learn about our Spring Convocation, still recognizing excellence and tremendous academic success, as ever. You will see our updated Bobcat logo, but the competitive spirit it evokes is the same, driving our same great teams on to victory. You will see how to get ready for the fun and warmth of Homecoming, where we will gather as always in October to welcome you back. But change there is.

With the departure of our President, Dr. Gervan Fearon, to the challenges and excitement of leading the much larger Brock University in St. Catharines, Brandon University is now undertaking the search for a new President, a process that can take as much as a year from start to finish. I am honoured to fill that role on an interim basis and to keep up the tremendous forward momentum that BU has been enjoying across the board.

Our enrollments have increased significantly again this fall, adding to three previous successive years of growth. Our residences are full. Brandon University may well be on its way to becoming a larger university than it has ever been. If so, that's a good thing because the world needs more of what BU is producing. Our faculty continue to attract world-wide attention for their innovative research — read inside about Dr. Deanna

Smid's commission to write plays to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Our graduates continue to achieve great heights of career success, as illustrated by our cover story about opera star Elin Rombo. The youth and creativity of our students finds its expression through the positive potentials of new media — see "Stars of Shoe Tube" inside.

There is change in store for the BU campus as well. Following on the completion of our Campus Master Plan earlier this year, we will begin to make improvements for the benefit of all those who live and work on our campus and to unfold the future development of our campus according to a set of principles distilled from months of broad consultation. Don't forget to go and check out the Plan on its new interactive website, which you can find from the BU homepage. We have also undertaken a downtown development project, one of the most exciting things to happen to the City of Brandon, and to BU for many, many years. BU has assembled the land and is working on predevelopment of the project that could lead to student and seniors' residences, academic programming and commercial space all right in the downtown core. Keep an eye on this development! The future for BU is looking very bright indeed.

DR. STEVE ROBINSON
Interim President of Brandon University

Your New BU Magazine – What Sparked Clark?

WHAT YOU HOLD in your hands right now is a rebirth of our Brandon University magazine. We've named it *Clark*.

Published twice-yearly, in the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, *Clark* preserves the traditions of our previous magazine, known as *Alumni News*, and expands our ability to tell the inspiring, engaging stories of Brandon University.

Clark is a magazine that continues important and looked-for features that you found in *Alumni News*, including information about Homecoming, Convocation, faculty and student research, award winners, donors, and feature profiles of faculty, staff, students and alumni. *Clark* takes a fresh approach to these features with a new emphasis on storytelling and longer, more in-depth articles.

The name *Clark* has a long and distinguished history at Brandon University. Clark Hall is the second building constructed on our 18th Street campus, and opened as a women's residence in October 1906. It was named after Dr. Charles Whitfield Clark, a prominent Winnipeg physician who, with his wife Martha (née Brown), raised a large sum of money to construct the building.

Dr. Clark, who served as President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, said at the opening of the building that the couple's contributions were to assist the women of the west. Today, we retain their drive to support students and to provide the benefits of a quality post-secondary education to as many people as possible.



Clark Hall, which has been connected to the original Brandon College building, is one of the most distinctive buildings in Brandon, and remains an iconic architectural symbol of Brandon University. *Clark* honours the memories of Dr. and Mrs. Clark, their contributions to education in Brandon, and our ongoing commitment to post-secondary education for all.



Dr. Charles Whitfield Clark

As a publication, our emphasis is on success, on impact beyond that suggested by our university's size, on collaboration, and on the surprising and innovative partnerships and approaches that are possible in a compact and nimble university.

Alumni remain our largest audience, and *Clark* will open up Brandon University's stories and successes to reach new and larger groups of people, including members of our community, future students, and research partners. *Clark* is a magazine designed to be picked up and leafed through by anyone, anywhere.

We hope you are intrigued, inspired and proud of the stories we are telling within these pages. Please visit our website at BrandonU.ca to regularly stay up-to-date with the many things that happen at Brandon University as we propel ourselves through another academic year. We'd love to hear from you, with feedback, suggestions and ideas for future features, by email at ClarkMag@BrandonU.ca.

CONVOCAATION 2017

Honorary Doctorate



Andy Murray

Hockey has taken Andy Murray from skating on the river in Souris, Man., to some of the world's biggest stages.

Currently the head coach of the Western Michigan University (WMU) Broncos, Murray is one of Canada's most esteemed coaches. A head coach in the National Hockey League (NHL)

for 10 seasons, he was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Hall of Fame in 2012, the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in 2015, and the Brandon University Dick and Verda McDonald Wall of Fame in 1994.

Born in Gladstone and raised in Souris, Murray was kept busy by the auto dealership started by his grandfather, and his family's love of hockey. He attended Brandon University, played for the Bobcats hockey and football teams, and earned a B.A. He went on to earn a B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba, and a M.Sc. in Management from St. Thomas University in Florida.

Internationally, Murray is the only head coach to lead Team Canada to three IIHF World Championship gold medals, in 1997, 2003 and 2007. He has coached Canada to a record six titles in the annual Spengler Cup tournament, and was an assistant coach for Canada's 1998 men's Olympic team.

As the head coach of the WMU Broncos, he has guided the team to the 2012 Central Collegiate Hockey Association championship, and won the Herb Brooks Award in 2017 as the National Collegiate Hockey Conference's coach of the year.

President Emeritus



Dr. C. Dennis Anderson

Dr. Dennis Anderson has more than 40 years experience as a senior university administrator, business educator and researcher, board member, management consultant, and language editor. He served for 10 years as President and Vice-Chancellor of Brandon University and for 20 years as

Professor of Marketing at three Canadian universities.

Dr. Anderson was raised on a farm near Libau, Man., north of Selkirk. Along with his seven siblings he benefitted from his parents' emphasis on hard work and educational achievement as a route to a career.

After graduating from Selkirk Collegiate Institute, he attended Brandon College, completing a B.Sc. in 1964. Dr. Anderson then began his career as a technical services engineer in the chemical industry before resuming his education, earning an M.B.A. (McMaster University, gold medalist), and a Ph.D. (Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario).

Dr. Anderson has taught at University of Manitoba, University of Saskatchewan, and Cranfield School of Management in England. He spent 16 years at the University of Manitoba, holding the positions of Associate Dean and MBA Program Director at the Asper School of Business. He returned to Brandon University as its President and Vice-Chancellor in 1990, serving in the role until 2000. During his tenure at BU, the historical Original Building and Clark Hall underwent an \$11.3-million reconstruction and restoration. The University also added five new degree programs during this time, a number of scholarships and bursaries were established through the generosity of donors, and BU's endowments were significantly enhanced.

Valedictorians



Roy Ching

Roy Ching is graduating from Brandon University with a 4-Year Honours Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in Geology and minoring in Geography. At BU, Roy was a member of the university volleyball team and was a two-time All-Canadian and four-time Academic All-Canadian. He has been involved in the community as a volunteer coach for local volleyball teams, has run

volleyball camps in rural Manitoba and participated in the Brandon School Divisions I-Love-To-Read initiative. He plans to pursue a professional volleyball career and begin a graduate degree in Geology.



Jacqueline Sinclair

Jacqueline Sinclair is an Ojibway woman from Peguis First Nation, but Brandon has been her home since she was a teenager. As an active volunteer coordinator for numerous local events in the Aboriginal community in Brandon and as an advocate for Aboriginal inclusion in the City of Brandon and the Education sector, Jacqueline has developed a website that identifies specific services,

resources, and support personnel for Aboriginal people (www.urbanabnet.com). Additionally, Jacqueline is a poet who is completing a manuscript with poems from her Creative Writing thesis, entitled "Tobacco Ties."

BU Alumni Association

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Dr. Nicholas Watier



Nicholas Watier is an experimental psychologist with expertise in statistics and visual perception.

His current research interests focus on identifying the basic visual information that underlies our impressions of attractiveness, familiarity, and threat.

Prior to becoming a faculty member at Brandon University, Nicholas was an instructor in the Department of Psychology at Laurentian University and was nominated for Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Currently, Nicholas teaches courses in statistics, perception, and in the history of psychological ideas at Brandon University.

His teaching philosophy stems from the conviction that knowledge is created, not transmitted.

He believes that his role as an educator is to provide students with the opportunity to develop their own personally relevant insights into the material. This is often accomplished through wild speculation and critical discussion in the classroom.

Distinguished Teacher Awards



Erin Green

Erin Green grew up in Douglas and graduated from Brandon University with a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of General Studies concurrent degree in 2004. In 2010, she graduated with a Masters in Special Education, also from BU.

Erin held two term positions, teaching Grade 5 in Selkirk and Grade 6 in Forrest, before obtaining a permanent position with Beautiful Plains School Division. Since joining the Beautiful Plains School Division, she has taught

Grades 4 and 7, and worked in a Resource position at Carberry Collegiate.

Currently, Erin teaches Grade 7 and works with Grade 5/6 teachers to plan and implement adapted and individualized plans for students in the general classroom setting.

Erin is passionate about books, and she tries to share her love of reading with her students. She believes that all students need to be pushed to reach their potential, whatever that may be.



Melanie Gamache

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of Manitoba, Melanie Gamache continued her education at Brandon University, earning a Bachelor of Education (After Degree) in 2005.

She joined Mountain View School Division in the fall of 2005 and has taught in three diverse schools within the division.

Melanie, her husband, and their two very active boys currently live in Dauphin where

she teaches English at the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. In addition to being a classroom teacher, Melanie is also a member of the school's Response to Intervention team, which allows her to support students and teachers in learning.

Melanie is completing her Master of Education in Education Administration through Brandon University and is particularly interested in change leadership and providing equitable access to education for all students.



William Lamont

William Lamont was born and raised in Brandon and obtained a Bachelor of Science from Brandon University in 1989, majoring in Math and minoring in French.

He was an English Language Assistant in Lyon, France as part of a BU exchange in 1990. William completed his Bachelor of Education (After Degree) in 1992 and has been teaching at Elton Collegiate since the fall of 1992.

William started the Rolling River School

Division Travel Club and has taken three school excursions to France. He has also coached the Elton Sabres boys' basketball team to two provincial titles.

William is an active member of the Provincial Test Development Committee for the Grade 12 Essentials Math Exam.

In addition to Math and French, he enjoys helping students reach their creative potential in Fine Arts.

CAMPUS

Steven Robinson appointed Interim President by Board

THE BRANDON UNIVERSITY Board of Governors has selected Dr. Steven Robinson to serve as Interim President.

Dr. Robinson is filling the position while a search is conducted to find a replacement for Dr. Gervan Fearon, who left his role of President & Vice-Chancellor at BU to perform similar duties at Brock University.

“Brandon University will be in excellent hands with the leadership and vision that Dr. Robinson brings to the office,” said Board of Governors Chair Derrick Stewart. “He has been deeply involved with the University’s ongoing initiatives, including our Campus Master Plan and downtown initiative, and will energetically keep our momentum going forward.”

Brandon University thanked Dr. Fearon for his collaborative and innovative leadership. Dr. Fearon, in turn, thanked the students, faculty and staff as well as the Board of



Dr. Steve Robinson



Dr. Gervan Fearon

Governors, BU Students’ Union and alumni for their support.

“My many colleagues at Brandon University and friends in Brandon and in Manitoba offered generous support and thoughtful suggestions, and helped strengthen the University and enhance its community engagement,” Dr. Fearon said, adding that Brandon has been a wonderful and welcoming community.

Meir Serfaty appointed Acting Vice-President

BRANDON UNIVERSITY’S new acting Vice-President (Academic & Provost) is a familiar face whose wealth of experience and institutional knowledge will support BU’s many ongoing academic initiatives.

Dr. Meir Serfaty has been appointed for a one-year term.



He joined Brandon University in 1973, teaching Political Science, and he served as Vice-President (Academic & Research) from 1986 to 1992.

“I’m honoured to have been asked ... to continue to serve the University that I love and where I’ve spent my entire academic career, fulfilling various roles over the years,” Dr. Serfaty said. “I truly believe BU is a wonderful place in which to study and work, and I’m excited about the prospect of contributing to its ongoing development as a community and academic leader in my new role.”

BU’s Annual Economic Impact in Manitoba Tops \$417 Million

BRANDON UNIVERSITY IS a significant economic driver of the city and is responsible for more than \$417 million in economic activity in Brandon and Westman every year, according to a new BU study, which also found that the University created 927 jobs in the province.

“It is impossible to calculate the full impact that BU has on our city’s social and cultural scene,” says Dr. Steve Robinson, BU’s Interim President. “Brandon University attracts both youth and educated professionals to Brandon, who contribute to our region

in many important non-economic ways, from volunteering to voting. This is the best estimate we can give for the economic side of the equation — the hard dollars that BU brings to Brandon every year.”

The economic impact study was led by Dr. Kim Lemky, in collaboration with the BU Institutional Data Analysis Unit.

The complete economic impact report is available online at BrandonU.ca/Economic-Impact.

Business Students Win \$1,000 for Pitch

A BUSINESS PROPOSAL put together by a pair of Brandon University students had a nice ring to it. By combining wedding planning and technology, Linaya Davis and Catherine Dubois found a match at the Manitoba New Venture Championships at the University of Manitoba. Davis and Dubois were awarded third place in the category of Best Business Plan Presentation for their pitch for Before I Do, an online and app-based business that would provide wedding planning services to the general public.



Linaya Davis, left, and Catherine Dubois

The New Venture Championships featured 12 entries from post-secondary institutions from across Manitoba. Their business plans, presentations and logos were judged by a panel of Winnipeg business professionals.

Gender & Women's Studies Program Caps Year of Giving

THE GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (G&WS) program at Brandon University supported community programs with more than \$15,000 through the Margaret Laurence Community Grants Program in 2017. The grants are made possible by the Margaret Laurence Foundation.

The grants have gone to support women's, newcomer, and Indigenous programs. The annual grants are flexible, and designed to help foster links and engagement between community-based organizations and the G&WS program.

"Gender and Women's Studies has a strong record of putting its curriculum into action through the teaching and research of its members, and through student initiatives. The Margaret Laurence grants help us to bring that activity into the community as well," said Prof. Rosanne Gasse, coordinator of the G&WS program. "We are grateful for an endowment that allows us wide latitude in choosing programs that can make best use of these funds."

Drone Certification Course at BU One of the First in Canada

DRONES ARE TAKING OFF at Brandon University this fall. Students and members of the public who are fascinated by the unmanned aerial vehicles have been rushing to register for a university-credit course that teaches them everything they need to know to safely and legally fly the popular and useful airborne vehicles.

"Drones are really fun to fly, and a lot of hobbyists fly them for pure enjoyment," said BU Geography professor Dr. Dion Wiseman. "For geographers and for many others, they are also important tools that can capture photos and other data to provide incredibly detailed information that's difficult or impossible to gather in any other way."

The new course, Applied Topics in Geography: UAV Ground School is taught by Matthew Johnson, President of M3 Aerial Productions. It offers students a novel opportunity to learn about drones, their applications, safety considerations, how they work, and the regulations and procedures to operate them. Students will have the chance to become certified drone pilots, able to fly drones commercially or for research.



Matthew Johnson

"Drones have become a vital tool for collecting aerial photography used to generate land cover maps and create 3D models of the natural terrain and built landscape. They are used extensively across a variety of traditional academic disciplines including archaeology, environmental science, biology, geography, and geology; as well as in numerous applied fields such as architecture, civil engineering, surveying, and many more," Wiseman said. "This course, and resulting Transport Canada certification, will provide students in a variety of college and university programs with a competitive edge in today's job market."

HOMECOMING 2017

Class Reunions

If you graduated in a year ending in 2 or 7, 2017 is your reunion year! A number of classes are planning reunions this year. We encourage you to contact the representatives below for details. If you would like to organize a class reunion, the Alumni Office can help.

Class of 1952

Joan Garnett | 819.459.2061
fjoan4@hotmail.com

Murray MacDonald
403.678.5799
mjmacdon@shaw.ca

Class of 1957

Jack Fotheringham
204.725.8158
jackfotheringham@yahoo.ca

Michael Czuboka
204.287.8609
czuboka@mymts.net

The Class of 1957 extends an invitation to all alumni from the 1950s and early 1960s to join them.

Class of 1957 TTC

David McDowell | 204.489.6512
clio1@mymts.net

Class of 1960 TTC

Marjorie Wildeboar
204.728.9049

Verna Sparks | 204.726.8136

Pat Bowslaugh | 204.728.4924

Class of 1962

Lorraine McLaren
204.726.4262
lmclaren@mymts.net

Florence Phillips
204.483.3251
phillsf@mymts.net

Class of 1962 TTC

Neta Mains | 204.534.6919
bnmains@yahoo.ca

Class of 1967

Gary and Angela Brawn
204.727.5012
gary@agilabs.com

Class of 1967 (TTC) or Class of 1977

Carla Eisler, Director of
Advancement & Alumni Affairs
204.727.9697
alumni@brandonu.ca

Class of 1987

Doug Adams | 204.726.5376
dadams@westman.wave.ca

HOMECOMING

Still Time to Register — Page 13

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Celebration of Authors 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Education Building

The event will honour authors from volume 9, issues 1 and 2, of the *BU Journal of Graduate Studies in Education* with short presentations by several authors. Attending authors and guests will receive complimentary copies of the journal. Refreshments will be served. All guests are welcome. For more information, please reply to Dr. Marion Terry: 204.727.9793 or Terry@BrandonU.ca

Concert & Reception 7:30 pm

Lorne Watson Recital Hall, School of Music Complimentary for registered Homecoming guests

Enjoy a casual evening of popular jazz tunes performed live by Brandon University School of Music Dean, Greg Gatien and School of Music faculty member and internationally acclaimed jazz pianist, Michael Cain. Meet and greet and reception to follow. Limited seating.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Football Reunion

Homecoming Kick-Off, 6 p.m.
Healthy Living Centre | \$10

High School Football Games

1:30 pm | River East at Neelin | 1020 Brandon Ave.

3:30 pm | Crocus Plains at Vincent Massey | 715 McDiarmid Dr.

For more information, please contact Tyler Crayston, Athletic Services and Event Coordinator at 204.727.7354 or CraystonT@BrandonU.ca.

Homecoming Kick-Off 6:00 pm

Healthy Living Centre | \$10

Reunite with classmates and friends and enjoy pork on a bun, wraps, veggies, and refreshments in the alumni lounge. Show your colours and wear your BU gear old and new as you cheer on the Bobcats.

6:00 pm | Women's Basketball | BU Bobcats vs Dakota College

8:00 pm | Women's Volleyball | BU Bobcats vs Winnipeg Wesmen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Athletics Wall of Fame Brunch **9:00 am**

Doors open 9:00 am | Breakfast 9:30 am
Ceremony 10:00 am | Victoria Inn | \$50

BU Athletics will be honouring the 2017 Dick and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame inductees at a special ceremony at the Victoria Inn.

Campus Books **1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Knowles-Douglas Building

Visit the campus bookstore for a wide selection of BU gear and merchandise.

Refreshments with Student Union Reps **1:00 - 1:30 pm**

John E. Robbins Library, 2nd Floor

Come chat with your friends and current BU students and enjoy refreshments, compliments of the Brandon University Students' Union.

Portrait Gallery Opening **1:30 pm**

John E. Robbins Library North Stacks (second level)

In honour of BU's 50th Anniversary, a permanent exhibit to celebrate individuals and artifacts that played important roles in the history of Brandon College will be officially opened. The exhibit will feature portraits of eleven individuals who helped shape the development of Brandon College, as well as the Senior and Lady Sticks and the World War I Nominal Roll.

High School Football **1:30 pm**

Vincent Massey High School — 715 McDiarmid Dr.

Neepawa Tigers vs. Swan Valley Tigers

Campus Tours **2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Meet at the entrance of the John E. Robbins Library

Join a student-guided tour or take your own journey into the past as you explore the campus.

Dinner & Awards **5:30 pm**

Cocktails 5:30 pm | Dinner 6:30 pm
Harvest Hall (Main Dining Hall) | \$40

Relax and enjoy an evening of friendship and a full-course buffet meal. Join in the celebrations as we recognize the accomplishments of the 2017 Alumni Award Recipients.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Farewell Brunch **10:00 am**

Harvest Hall (Main Dining Hall) | \$20

Share your stories and memories during the open mic as you bid farewell to fellow classmates ... until next time.

Victoria Inn Hospitality Room 134

The hospitality room at the Victoria Inn, our host hotel, will be available for guests Friday, October 13, from 10:00 am to 11:45 pm and Saturday, October 14, from 8:00 am to 11:45 pm.

Weekend Bobcat Action at the Healthy Living Centre

Friday, October 13
3:00 pm | Women's Volleyball

Saturday, October 14
1:00 pm and 3:15 pm | Bobcat Women's and Men's Soccer games
6:00 pm and 8:00 pm | Women's and Men's Volleyball games

Register Now

If you haven't taken advantage of our online registration or our emailed offers, there's still time to join us at Homecoming:

Online BrandonU.ca/Homecoming

Email Alumni@BrandonU.ca

Call 1.877.282.4483 or 204.727.9697

Mail Mail the registration form on this page to:

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

Accommodations

A block of rooms has been set aside for Homecoming guests at the Victoria Inn.

204.725.1532 | 1.800.852.2710

Group Booking #343694

WestJet Flights (online bookings only)

WestJet is offering 10% off Econo and 15% off plus base fares for travel between Winnipeg or Brandon and anywhere WestJet flies in North America. To take advantage of this offer, you will need the discount code listed below. If you have questions about how to complete a booking with your discount code, please contact WestJet at 1.888.937.8538.

Travel from: October 7, 2017 to October 19, 2017

(Blackout dates: October 9 – 10, 2017)

Coupon code: MWB8UGH

Travel Assistance

Need last-minute travel assistance? Contact Uniglobe Clark Travel, a major sponsor of BU Athletics.

Uniglobe Clark Travel

710 – 18th Street

Brandon, MB R7A 5B5

Phone: 204.727.2212

Fax: 204.726.5936

uniglobeclarktravel.com

sales@uniglobeclarktravel.com

Homecoming Weekend 2017

REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE OCT. 6

REGISTRANT

☐ Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss

Name

Name at Graduation

Grad Year(s) / Type(s)

SPOUSE / GUEST

☐ Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss

Name

Name at Graduation

Grad. Year(s) / Type(s)

Mailing Address

Phone

Email

☐ Please check here if we can include your name and class year on our website as an attendee of this year's Homecoming.

I/WE WANT TO REGISTER FOR:

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017	Number	Cost	Total
Special Homecoming Concert and Reception <i>7:30 pm, Lorne Watson Recital Hall</i>		No Charge	
Friday, Oct. 13, 2017	Number	Cost	Total
Homecoming Kick-Off <i>6 pm, Healthy Living Centre</i>		\$10.00	
Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017	Number	Cost	Total
Athletics Wall of Fame Brunch <i>Doors open 9 am, Victoria Inn</i>		\$50.00	
Refreshments with Student Union Reps <i>1 pm, John E. Robbins Library (2nd Floor)</i>		No Charge	
Brandon College Portrait Gallery Opening <i>1:30 pm, John E. Robbins Library (2nd Floor)</i>		No Charge	
Campus Tours <i>2 pm, Entrance to John E. Robbins Library</i>		No Charge	
Homecoming Dinner & Awards <i>5:30 pm, Harvest Hall (Main Dining Hall)</i>		\$40.00	
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017	Number	Cost	Total
Farewell Brunch <i>10 am, Harvest Hall (Main Dining Hall)</i>		\$20.00	

Please seat me/us with the Class of

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Cheque Enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex

Credit Card #

Expiry Date (mm/yy)

Signature

All prices include applicable taxes.



SHARED LOVE OF SNEAKERS MADE BU STUDENTS SHOE-INS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS

STORY BY DIANE NELSON

Shown above – Kevin MacCharles (left) and Richard Wong show a portion of their collection.

PHOTOS BY COLIN CORNEAU

They could be called the arch-angels of Brandon University. Emphasis on “arch.”

Richard Wong and Kevin MacCharles are the guardians of gear, the sultans of sneakers, the footwear fanatics known collectively to their legions of online fans as “Wheat City Sole.”

On their YouTube channel, where they post self-made videos examining and analyzing shoes, and on their Instagram page, where they post news about, and pictures of, the latest in sports shoe releases, Wong and MacCharles quickly developed a huge following, reaching 50,000 Instagram followers within two years.

“We had 4,000 in the first year, so we’ve gained 45,000 followers in our second year,” Wong said.

Their popularity continues to grow, with their Instagram followers now numbering 75,000.

“Every day, we’d wake up and there’s a hundred, 200 more sometimes,” MacCharles added. “There were points when there’d be like a thousand new followers.”

Though neither man played for the Bobcats, Wong, who is 32, from Virden and an English major hoping to go into journalism,

and 23-year-old MacCharles, who hails from The Pas and has his B.Sc. in geology, met, ironically enough, through basketball.

“It’s a really pricey habit ... but at the end of the day, I just look at them and I’m like, ‘This is what I like doing. This is my hobby.’”

“I met Kevin the first night he showed up at Brandon University,” Wong said. “I’d already been here for a little bit. I heard that he played basketball, so my basketball friends and I just went over to his room and asked him if he wanted to play. And we just started hanging out from there.”

“I came here with no friends,” MacCharles said. “All my friends from home went to either Winnipeg or somewhere else to play college basketball. And I was all alone. Then I met Richard and another group of basketball players, and he and I kind of hit it off. And the whole shoe thing started from there.”

About two decades ago, in the early days of what’s termed Sneaker Culture, Wong felt isolated in his passion for what were primarily basketball shoes, although the movement now embraces all types of sports footwear. That’s why his and MacCharles’ friendship is so special.

“When I started doing this, nobody knew what I was talking about,” Wong said. “But it’s grown over the years, and now, to have someone who you’re really close friends with find something you find really fascinating, just as fascinating as you do, there’s a sense of camaraderie you get. I spend so much time in my life going, ‘Look at this shoe!’ And instead of people being low key about it, it’s really fantastic to have someone who is like, ‘Oh my God — that is really amazing!’”

MacCharles said that he, too, always had an eye for sneakers, but his enthusiasm for them didn’t hit fever pitch until he met Wong.

“I always liked shoes but I never had an interest in buying them,” MacCharles said. “But after I became friends with Richard, he started telling me the stories behind the shoes, and then I started doing my own research, and now I’m hooked!”

Wong has been involved in Sneaker Culture for about 18 years. He’s an avid collector, and proudly admits to owning hundreds of pairs of shoes, most of which he wears. But there are 10 or 15 pairs that have never seen the light of day.

“I have pairs that are worth in the thousands of dollars now that have been sitting in boxes for 15 years,” Wong said. “I can’t bring myself to actually wear them because there’s probably only 500 pairs of them on Earth.”

“It’s a really pricey habit. It’s been to my detriment sometimes. But at the end of the day, I just look at them and I’m like, ‘This is what I like doing. This is my hobby.’”

MacCharles admires Wong’s extensive expertise, all borne from the latter’s lifelong passion for shoes and consequent obsession with educating himself about every facet of his avocation.

“Basically I spent my entire adult life doing almost nothing but reading about shoes, and watching videos about shoes, breaking down the shoes because I just had to see the technology that’s inside of them,” Wong said. “With older pairs, I’ve cut them up, but I don’t do that very often. I just wanted to see the tech or pull out the airbags just to see what they looked like.”

“The shoes are designed specifically for, not just basketball, but certain types of players. So there will be shoes, say, for heavier, bigger type players...”

“...who don’t play as light on their feet,” MacCharles said. (The two often finish each other’s sentences.) “And there are smaller people who are low to the ground...”

“Like me,” said Wong. “For casual wear it doesn’t matter quite as much, but I’m pretty picky when it comes to what I actually play in. For the most part, our basketball shoes won’t touch concrete — ever — just to keep the traction pristine so that they work properly and perform the way they’re supposed to.”



MacCharles credits Wong for his introduction to Shoe Culture.



The duo examines these sorts of intricacies and features — weight, form, sponge, spring, support, and the way the shoes lace up — in their ultra-detailed videos. And while a sneaker's performance is what matters most, its design — including the colours chosen (called colourways — the same style of shoe might be available in a variety of shades) — are also extremely important to those involved. There's a social component to Sneaker Culture as well, similar to the Academy Awards-inspired, 'Who are you wearing?'

"Richard and I, when we're walking by people, it's a common thing with Sneakerheads to make shoe contact before you make eye contact," MacCharles said. "And it's a real thing!"

"There are specific models that will be a lot more coveted than other models," Wong said. "There could hypothetically be a colourway of a specific shoe that was either limited or, for whatever reason, there was a lot of hype behind it. So the demand for it becomes really high. And the after-market price — even though it's the exact same shoe, but it's just a different colour — it'll be thousands of dollars more."

While the vast majority of those involved in Sneaker Culture are male, there are plenty of women who are immersed in the pastime too, according to Wong. And while people around the world are engaged by footwear, shoe fanaticism is especially prevalent in North America, MacCharles said, with followers anxious to see the latest from mega companies such as Nike, Jordan and Adidas.

As mentioned, today's advanced technology has brought the once-humble running shoe a long way. Wong compared the shoes of decades past to "jalopies," while he likened those that fascinate Sneakerheads to "Lamborghinis." And while the products are tech-centric, they're also tremendous examples of inventive shape and form.

"To me, personally, it is art," Wong said. "The amount of design knowledge that goes into these shoes and the amount of tech that goes into them these days, it's absurd. A lot of the technologies that they use these days are not even developed by companies. They'll be brought in from agencies like NASA. There are people whose entire jobs are to develop a specific foam compound, and they'll spend two years of their lives doing that so that the foam works properly when you plug it onto the bottom of a shoe."

Obviously, Wong and MacCharles aren't the only ones intrigued by shoe design and performance. With the number of followers it's garnered so far, Wheat City Sole has transformed from pictures and reviews to a go-to source of ultra-current information for other sneaker aficionados.

The men have no illusions of making a living from their hobby and their postings, but they'd certainly welcome the opportunity to expand the fanbase they've already attracted. That seems entirely possible, given that their own research shows Wheat City Sole is the most-followed sneaker page in Canada.

to the point where we can get invited to things and have an opportunity to review new product that comes out because we get hits from the companies. But we're pretty happy with where we are right now."

The two aren't just taking their newfound 'stardom' in stride. They've tried to give back to the Brandon community by staging events for youngsters in the area. Wheat City Sole has hosted what they term 'open runs' to which they've invited kids — 30 showed up for one this spring — to come and play basketball, providing prizes and financing the ventures out of their own pockets.

"Both being university students, it's not something we can do a lot," MacCharles said. "But they got a chance to play basketball with other people who also talk sneakers. And it's kind of cool because I feel we've gotten quite a few kids interested in Sneaker Culture in Brandon alone, which is great."

"So we've got them beat," Wong said. "We never imagined that we'd have as many followers as we do. And some people actually look to our page to get their sneaker news."

The fact that millions of people worldwide share Wong's and MacCharles' ardour for sports shoes bodes well for the continued success of Wheat City Sole. But was there something special about Brandon University that fostered the Wheat City Sole collaboration and allowed it to flourish? Wong and MacCharles certainly seem to think so. The compact size of the campus allowed the two to meet, hang out, become friends, and create something that will outlast their time at BU. No matter where they end up, or from where in the world they continue to contribute their sneaker photos, insights and videos, they expect that Wheat City Sole will keep them connected for years to come.

"This is where it was born. This is where it all started," MacCharles said. "But realistically, as a geologist, I'm not going to be in Brandon — I'll be in Alberta or somewhere like that. And if Richard gets a journalism job, he could be anywhere in the world. But we would still do the page."

"We're basically doing this so we can grow Sneaker Culture across Canada and around the world," Wong said "And basketball too — our love for basketball is really huge."

"We're really happy with what we've built here. It's just something we're really passionate about. And honestly, when it comes right down to it, this is what we love to do."

According to Wong and MacCharles, the largest sneaker Instagram is Sneaker News, which has more than six million followers. The most visited sneaker review website is WearTesters, and the Brandon duo estimated it has more than 40,000 followers.

“This is where it all started.”

While they'd be delighted if companies sent them shoes to review, their motivation for creating their page was not profit, but simply sharing their passion with other like-minded folks online.

"We didn't start this looking for free stuff," MacCharles said.

"But if we get to do cool stuff and have life experiences, I think that's way more than we ever imagined the page was going to be," Wong agreed.

Something else they didn't anticipate was the public profile that comes with having a popular online presence. Wong and MacCharles have been contacted by fans who appear to hold the duo in worshipful regard.

"I've had kids in gear ask if I was the Wheat City Sole guy, and then they came up and talked to me and said they really like our page," Wong said. "And then they turned around and said to their parents, 'It's the guy!' And I got recognized in Calgary one time. That's a thousand kilometres from here!"

"And it's all because we love shoes. So it's pretty awesome that it's gotten this far. We really do hope to grow a lot so we can get



**THEY DIDN'T ANTICIPATE
THE PUBLIC PROFILE**




A woman with blonde hair, wearing a voluminous white fur coat, is shown from the waist up. She is smiling and looking upwards, with her right arm raised and hand open. The background is dark and out of focus, with some purple and blue light flares. The text 'soaring voice' is overlaid on the left side of the image, with decorative star symbols.

soaring * *voice* *

**Swedish soprano delights
fans around the world**

STORY BY DIANE NELSON



A Swedish songbird has been flying high around the world — after a four-year stopover in Brandon.

Soprano Elin Rombo, née Karlsson, studied with renowned voice Professor Sylvia Richardson at Brandon University's highly regarded School of Music from 1994 to 1998, then at Operahögskolan i Stockholm (University College of Opera), from which she graduated in 2003. Nineteen years after her time in Brandon, she's achieved international acclaim and has a list of credits most singers can only dream of. She's performed leading roles in numerous high-profile productions at the Royal Swedish Opera, the Frankfurt Opera, the Salzburg Festival, and the Berlin State Opera, and has had several honours bestowed upon her.

Rombo can scarcely believe the professional life she's been privileged to lead. The last two decades have been a whirlwind of activity, and she's grateful every day for the journey on which her voice has taken her.

Born in the small town of Katrineholm, Rombo said while it's common in North America, there isn't the tradition of children and teenagers taking part in stage productions in Sweden. But music was in her blood, and she had to find a way to give literal voice to what she felt.

"I always wanted to be a singer," Rombo said. "As a child, I didn't know in what way, but somehow I knew I had to be on a stage and sing. I sang and dreamt on my own, trying to figure out a way to get to sing and perform.

"I did find this music high school a half-hour train ride away from my home town, and there was a voice teacher who really supported me and

“*I knew I had to be on stage and sing... I was completely hooked! I wanted to sing everything.*”

introduced me to all kinds of repertoire. And when we came to classical music and opera, I was completely hooked! I wanted to sing everything there was in that genre!”

Rombo came to study at BU following the tenure of Swedish cellist, composer and conductor Ingemar Ohlsson, who taught, performed and conducted at the School of Music from 1985 to 1994. And although the two

have never met, Ohlsson was indirectly responsible for Rombo attending BU.

Rombo's first boyfriend, a flautist, had fled the Balkan War, moving to Sweden to live with relatives. The relative he stayed with in Sweden was a musician and former colleague of Ohlsson. Her boyfriend applied to BU and was accepted, with Rombo following later.

"He left Sweden in December 1993, I visited Brandon in March of 1994 and an audition was arranged for me to see if I could begin the following fall," Rombo said. "And so it happened that I was accepted to BU and met Mrs. Richardson and ended up staying for my Bachelor's degree."

Richardson, who is now retired but still lives in Brandon, knew at once that Rombo was something special.

"She was unbelievably musical with a naturally beautiful voice," Richardson said. "She had a great desire to work, and she really worked hard when she was here."

Not only was Rombo a tremendous talent, Richardson said she had a personality that was as exceptional as her voice.

"Everybody liked her," Richardson said. "That's because she had such a warm

"When I first met and started studying with Mrs. Richardson, I remember thinking, 'This is the real deal,'" Rombo said. "I had the feeling of being in the exact right place. She saw my ambition and longing to learn, as well as my need and curiosity to know about classical singing, singers, opera, and singing traditions. I had inherited nothing from my childhood in that genre, so I needed her knowledge and she really could give that to me.

"I could go on forever about everything I learned from Mrs. Richardson! I know she is the reason I sing on stages around the world today."

Although she's sung many roles and at many special events, some are extra-memorable. In 2010, Rombo was a soloist in Brahms' "A German Requiem" with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a performance that Richardson and her husband, pianist and retired School of Music Professor Robert Richardson, flew south to attend.

Other special performances included playing Cunigunde in "Candide" at Staatsoper in Berlin, and the role of Agnès in two different productions, one in Amsterdam and one in Stockholm, of the newly written opera "Written on Skin" by George Benjamin. Rombo sang Nordic repertoire at Carnegie Hall a couple of years ago, which she described as a "really big deal." She's also worked with Maestro Riccardo Muti, both with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and, additionally, in Paris with the Radio Orchestra of France.

"To work on that level is extremely scary and challenging but also very rewarding," Rombo said. "It's an opportunity to learn something every minute."

She also sang with the Stockholm Royal

Philharmonic at the 2014 Nobel Prize Ceremony, where she took home a prize of a different sort.

"It was a wonderful experience to say the least," she said. "I was placed so that I could see all the winners receiving their prizes. It was truly beautiful and ceremonial. And a huge plus is that I met my husband (who plays the violin) there!"

While the now-41-year-old Rombo has had a charmed career, she's nowhere near done yet. And while opera is often subject to the same focus on youth as other genres of performance, Rombo is not about to let her age stand in her way.

"Some opera houses, or rather the casting directors and directors of the opera houses, suffer from the sickness of need for youth in many roles today," she said. "It also goes for the conductors and stage directors. 'Young, new, fresh people with clean minds' and so on. I am very tired of this development, and youth and inexperience has absolutely nothing to do with clean minds or fresh ideas.

"The most open-minded, curious and crazy-fun singers I have met are the experienced — read: older — ones! I think I am a much better performer now and I'm hoping to be even better in the upcoming years of my career. ...

"I have met a lot of great directors who are clever enough to see beyond age and looks, so I am lucky to not yet have been placed in a 'box' of being a certain character because of my age."

In November of 2013, Rombo was named Hovsångerska, which means Court Singer, by the Swedish monarch, giving her the opportunity to get to know, and sing to, the royal family. The title acknowledges singers who have contributed to the international standing of Swedish singing. According to Wikipedia, the formal title was

In 2010 Rombo was a soloist with the Chicago Symphony.

personality. She sings from the heart and the soul. And she's beautiful. She's got it all."

Rombo unreservedly credits Richardson for the career she enjoys today.



“I think I am a much better performer now and I’m hoping to be even better.”

Elin Rombo performs in “The Marriage of Figaro” in 2010.

introduced in 1773, although the position dates back to the 17th century.

Rombo was shocked by the declaration.

“It is a very rare honour,” she said. “Not only to be recognized by the King of Sweden and his advisers, but to suddenly belong to a group of singers who are historical in the Swedish music environment, such as Jenny Lind, Jussi Björling, Nicolai Gedda, Birgit Nilsson, Anne Sofie von Otter, and the list goes on. To be a name on that list means the world to me. I could honestly never ever in my whole life dream to be selected as a Hovsångerska.”

Even though she’s living a charmed life, Rombo said her mind occasionally drifts back to the time she spent in the Wheat City. She’s still in touch with, and has continued to work with, Brandon pianist, singer and teacher Sharon Rogers. And she’s grateful to have had the opportunity to explore Canadian culture in person.

“I remember being so well taken care of by most people,” she said. “Being invited by classmates to events and holiday celebrations. I found most students and Brandonites extraordinarily friendly.

“I worked for a while in the café called ‘Java Jive’ at BU, and one of the ladies working there — Debbie — really took me under her wing. She was a friend/extra mom/safe spot all in one for me.

“I had great professors and I wish, looking back, that I had been bright enough to have taken the opportunity to ask and discuss and just absorb more of the knowledge of people like Dr. (Lawrence) Jones, Don Henry and Mr. Richardson.

“I was, at the time, fascinated by everything North American. I found I lived in an environment I had only seen on TV in Sweden! Trucks and cowboys and drive-in places to eat. Huge malls, food courts, and white, glittering Christmas trees up to the ceiling. Halloween pumpkins and parks with chipmunks and picnic tables. We have most of this in Sweden as well, but in 1994 it was all so exotic to me. It makes me happy to have discovered all this in person and not to have had it served with a click on the internet on my phone.”





Reform party

BU professor Deanna Smid finds wry new ways to tell an old tale

STORY BY GRANT HAMILTON

Shown above – Deanna Smid poses with a hammer and a replica of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses inside Brandon’s Redeemer Lutheran Church. Smid’s playful takes on the early Reformation are freely available for performers wanting to celebrate the Reformation’s 500th anniversary this fall.

PHOTOS BY TIM SMITH

What gift do you give for a 500th anniversary?

That was the question facing the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS) and Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) as they looked ahead to one of the more significant anniversaries in religious history: Martin Luther’s 1517 challenge to the Roman Catholic Church.

The story is famous. Luther, a German monk and professor of theology in the town of Wittenberg, came to tire of the then-common practice of selling indulgences — a type of forgiveness of sin — to raise money for the Roman Catholic Church. Finally, on Oct. 31, 1517, he outlined his objections and sent them to his archbishop, under the title *The 95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power of Indulgences*.

This ignited a firestorm of controversy, leading quickly to his excommunication from the church, and eventually, to the splintering of the church itself, launching what is now known as the Reformation. Today, the Reformation is credited for bringing into being many of the main branches of Protestantism, including Lutherans, Anabaptists, and the Reformed — and thus also CRTS and CCRTC.

“For our own heritage, it’s important to remember the Great

Reformation,” said Dr. Ted Van Raalte, Professor of Ecclesiology at CRTS. “We think the Reformation is still relevant — for us and for Western culture in general. This helps keep it alive. There’s a time and a place in which we live that’s connected to the past. We’re not a rootless people. It gives us meaning.”

When CRTS and CCRTC embarked on their project of commissioning works of art to celebrate the Reformation’s 500th anniversary and its lasting impact, they also wanted to engage people in the research, creation and enjoyment of the art itself.

“The arts are able to speak to just about anybody — through performance or creative work,” Van Raalte said. “Our hope would be that artistic material of lasting value is created.”

Deanna Smid, an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Brandon University, was selected to take up the challenge.

“She has a very high reputation — for creativity, historical accuracy and research, for humour — a whole package,” Van Raalte said.

What she produced are a series of five short plays, the *Reformation Playlist*. Linked together by theme, they take a serious, yet light-hearted look at how the Reformation might have been experienced as it happened to ordinary people, five centuries ago.

“I took a lot of poetic license but these are, as much as possible, accurate,” she said, adding that she included history in the plays that wasn’t widely known, with a focus on women in the Reformation as well as people who have been somewhat forgotten. The plays are peppered with quotations she’s taken directly from letters and publications, many of them footnoted with additional information or citations.

The five plays vary in approach to production so that just about any troupe can find something they’d be able to perform.

“One play has a cast of 20 people, while others have a much smaller cast, with more demanding roles,” Smid said. “There is some group singing, some audience participation. They’re different lengths. Some require different facilities.”

The freedom to explore a wide variety of topics and approaches was part of the original commission.

“We left it quite wide open to her,” Van Raalte said. “She nailed some of the very things that interested us — not just the well-known, but the lesser-known reformers; a focus on women in the Reformation. She didn’t focus on hoary theological tomes, these plays deal with the reality on the ground, in peoples’ home life and in taverns.”

Smid’s plays are not just historically accurate and a contribution to the arts — they’re also funny, with elements of slapstick, punning, awkward situations and mistaken identity to keep an audience laughing.

She said it was a challenge to come up with themes that would link all five plays, but a fun, enjoyable challenge.



Martin Luther’s words spread widely thanks to the then-new printing press. Deanna Smid’s are available even more widely online.

History may not be clear on if Luther really nailed his 95 *Theses* to the church door (sources vary), but whether he actually picked up the hammer or not, the resounding impact of his writing quickly connected across Europe. That speed, in part, was thanks to the impact of the still-new printing press, which helped copies and translations of the 95 *Theses* make their way across the continent in nearly whirlwind fashion.

Now, a half-millennium later, Smid’s plays are taking advantage of newer innovations to also spread as quickly and as widely as possible. Not only are they posted online at the CRTS

website, where anyone, anywhere in the world can find them and read them anytime of the day or night, they’re also posted legally under an open access agreement. That means no special permission is needed for anyone who wants to perform the plays.

“Open means open,” Smid says. “I have been contacted by schools from Ontario to British Columbia who are planning to perform the plays, and one school is translating one of the plays into French. I am excited and honoured that the plays will be opening as part of Reformation celebrations across the country.

“Anyone can perform these! Download them — go ahead! Contact me with any questions.”

DISCOVERY

New institute will create opportunities in molecular biology research

A NEW FACILITY AT BRANDON UNIVERSITY will make use of innovative techniques to conduct research on health, disease and biodiversity in Manitoba.

The Integrative Biology Core Facility (IBCF) will receive \$297,569 in federal funding through the Canada Foundation of Innovation John R. Evans Leaders Fund (CFI JELF). The funding will contribute to the total project value of nearly \$773,805, with the remainder coming from matching grants and in-kind contributions from suppliers. The facility is expected to open this fall.

The IBCF is led by three BU scientists, Drs. Bryan Cassone and Christophe LeMoine of the Department of Biology, and Dr. Michael Charette of the Department of Chemistry. Cassone specializes in vector biology, looking at organisms that transmit disease-causing pathogens; LeMoine studies environmental animal

physiology; and Charette is an expert in molecular biology and biochemistry.

"Manitoba's biotechnology sector is quickly emerging to the forefront nationally, and through the IBCF we will be able to provide key resources and expertise in western Manitoba," Cassone says.

"This infrastructure will play key roles in multifaceted social, economic, health and environmental outcomes that are of the greatest importance to Manitobans."

Through their work the researchers will contribute to the alleviation of diseases caused by infectious pathogens, including West Nile virus and Lyme disease as well as in agricultural applications. They will also determine the molecular causes for genetic diseases, including Bowen-Conradi syndrome, which afflicts Manitoba's Hutterite communities, and will help to preserve biodiversity in Manitoba by studying how species respond to environmental challenges.



FROM THE TOP: Dr. Christophe LeMoine, Department of Biology; Dr. Bryan Cassone, Department of Biology; and, Dr. Michael Charette, Department of Chemistry.

Federal PromoScience Grants boost Science outreach activities

SCIENCE OUTREACH at Brandon University is getting a boost thanks to an influx of federal funding.

The BU initiatives will receive more than \$90,000 over the next three years through PromoScience Grants administered by

the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council for Canada (NSERC).

Dr. Nancy Stanley and Mini U have received a three-year grant worth a total of \$66,000 to assist in the operation of the popular day camp program for youth.

Additionally, Physics and Astronomy Professor Dr. Tyler Foster will receive \$15,877 over three years for programs including a "telescope library." Stanley has also attained two supplementary grants of \$5,000 each for Science Odyssey and Science Literacy events.

Brandon University Research Projects Funded by Federal Discovery Grants



L-R: Dr. Margaret Carrington, Dr. Mousumi Majumder, and Dr. Chenkuan Li

BRANDON UNIVERSITY research projects in sub-atomic physics, vascular biology and fractional calculus have received significant federal funding through the Discovery Grant program.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has awarded Discovery and Discovery Development Grants, totaling \$360,000 of support, to three projects led by BU faculty members.

Dr. Margaret Carrington received a \$200,000 Discovery Grant over five years to study new theoretical techniques that could allow scientists to better understand the interactions of sub-atomic particles. Dr. Mousumi Majumder received a \$140,000 Discovery Grant over five years for research on the vascular system that could be used to develop more effective drugs. Dr. Chenkuan Li received a \$20,000 Discovery Development Grant, as well as \$10,000 from BU's Office of the Vice President (Academic & Provost) to study an approach to integral equations that form the basis for physics and quantum field theory, among other applications.

"We are very happy to have NSERC funding for important research conducted at BU," Carrington said. "NSERC support is vital for the continued success of the many productive research programs that are ongoing at Brandon University."

In addition to funding important research, the grants will also help to create opportunities for students at BU.

"This NSERC Discovery Grant will allow two students who have been accepted to the Master of Science program at BU to join my lab this fall," Majumder said. "The experience that they gain working on this project will be invaluable in their studies and their future careers."

Additionally, three BU students have received support for their research projects through the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS-M) Awards. Alisha Poole and Markus Sudermann, of the Master of Science (Environmental and Life Sciences) program, and Eva Goulet, of the Master of Rural Development program received awards valued at \$17,500 each.

BU Students Recognized for Outstanding Research Presentations

FOUR BRANDON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS are the first-ever BU Senior Colloquium award recipients.

The Colloquium, which was first held in 2009, features presentations from third- and fourth-year students on their research, covering a wide range of topics. The event included a new twist this year as funding from the offices of the Dean of Arts and the Dean of Science supported four awards worth \$250 each. Judges attended the Colloquium and assessed the quality of both the research and the ability of the student to explain their scholarship to a varied audience.

Out of a field of more than 30 presentations, Carrie Bergen, Brooklyn Friesen, Matt MacDonald and Jennifer Dauphinais have been recognized as this year's award recipients.

"More than 50 students took part in this year's Colloquium, and I was very impressed by the research, writing and presentation skills that they displayed," said Dr. James Naylor, a member of the organizing committee. "Our undergraduate students benefit greatly from the opportunity to share and present their research to their peers. The experience that they acquire will serve them well both academically and in their careers after graduation. I thank all of those who have participated in the Colloquium, and I hope that their success encourages even more students to take part in the future."

BOBCATS

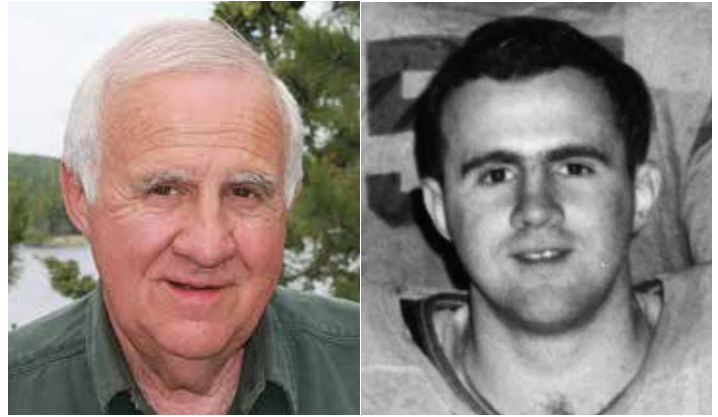
Alumni Spotlight — Bruce Batt

FROM FOOTBALL with the Brandon College Caps to a legendary career in conservation, Bruce Batt never ducked an opportunity — or a challenge.

Batt was born in England and his family moved to Brandon when he was just over a year old. His father was in the 418 Squadron in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served in the south of England during the Second World War.

“He was solid,” Batt responded, when remembering his father. “The Canadian government brought the war brides and their children over once the husband was resettled. My mother was a war bride and I was a war baby.”

As a teenager, Batt played football with the Brandon Krugers, a club made up of students from all three city high schools. He continued to play football at Brandon College as a member of



Bruce Batt

the Caps. Batt spent three seasons with the club from 1964-1967 and won the prestigious Jim Casey Award in his senior year.

“Winning it was a big surprise and I was especially honoured to be nominated by my peers. Most of my athletics occurred because it was fun and enjoyable and my friends were doing it. Getting the award was the highlight of my college athletic career.”

The career path Batt pursued came naturally to him.

“A friend of my dad’s gave me some books about waterfowl to read. They were the first books on the subject that I had ever read and they had a very strong influence on me.”

From high school, right up until retirement, Batt dedicated his life to waterfowl and wetland conservation and became a world-renowned expert.

After graduating from Brandon College, Batt started working at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station near Portage la Prairie, rising to the position of director. He also continued to enhance his resume by earning a Master’s Degree in forestry at the University of Florida in 1969 and a PhD in fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State in 1978.

Batt’s work in waterfowl conservation played a major role in projects in Canada, the United States and Mexico. In 2007, he retired as the Chief Biologist for Ducks Unlimited in the US.

Bruce and his wife, Elizabeth, now live in Memphis, Tenn., and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past May. They visit Brandon every year to see family, and he will return to Brandon University in October to celebrate BU’s football reunion as part of Homecoming.

Bobcats Unveil New Logo

THE BRANDON UNIVERSITY BOBCATS have begun an exciting new chapter as BU Athletics has unveiled a revamped visual identity.



The Bobcats era began in 1967-68, when Brandon College transitioned to BU.

It has been 20 years since the last logo update, and the 50th anniversary of the Bobcats is perfect timing to give the ‘Cats a makeover while maintaining the program’s key values.

“The rebrand is a highly anticipated step in our long history of representing the campus and community,” said BU Athletic Director Russ Paddock. “We are excited to incorporate the original Bobcat logo into the new design to pay homage to our proud tradition with the Bobcats and College Caps.”

BU Athletics teamed up along alongside w/studio to create a new, sleek design that uses clean edges, is modern and is a throw-back to the original Bobcat logo.

ALUMNI

BU Alumni to be Honoured at Homecoming

FOUR BRANDON UNIVERSITY (BU) ALUMNI will be recognized in October for their accomplishments in wide-ranging fields during October's Homecoming festivities.

Dr. Anthony Chow, Ben Dietschi, Dr. Lynn Whidden and Elder Gordon Williams will be recipients of Brandon University Alumni Association (BUAA) Awards on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 14 at Harvest Hall.

Dr. Chow will receive the Wall of Fame Award, recognizing his significant achievements throughout his career and following his retirement in 2006. Dietschi will be the recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumni Award, open to BU graduates ages 35 and younger. Dr. Whidden will receive the Alumni Award for Career Achievement, and Williams will be honoured with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service.

Earlier on Oct. 14, a number of remarkable individuals and teams from BU's athletic history will be inducted into the Dick

and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame during brunch at the Victoria Inn.



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

ALUMNI

The 2017 induction class includes: Neil Andrews (Community Leader, Football, 1965-1966; Debbie Baker, née Morris (Athlete, basketball, field hockey, 1975-1980); Karen Dunbar, née Anderson (Athlete, basketball, field Hockey, 1968-1972); Peter Hagberg (Athlete, football, 1969-1973); Doug Hedley (Athlete, hockey, 1977-1982); Lorne Lagimodiere (Athlete, football, 1968-1973); Ron Westcott (Community Leader, curling, 1965-1969); Rick Williamson (Community Leader, judo, football, 1968-1972).

The teams to be honoured will be the 1980-81 Bobcat men's hockey team and the 1950-51 Brandon College Caps football team.

Ticket information for both events is available on Pages 12-13 of this issue of *Clark*.

The Brandon University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the following awards:

Award for Exceptional Service

This award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service to Brandon University and/or the Alumni Association.

Distinguished Alumni Award for Career Achievement

This award is presented to Brandon University alumni who have made outstanding achievements in their profession, career, business, or industry.

Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service

This award is presented to Brandon University alumni who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to community service.

Distinguished Young Alumni Award

This award is presented to Brandon University alumni, 35 years of age or younger, in recognition of their significant achievements in their profession, sport, or community service.

Wall of Fame Award

This award is presented to Brandon University alumni who have made significant achievements in their career on a provincial, national, or international level, bringing honour and prestige to our University.

Excellence in Teaching Award

This award is presented to a member of the Brandon University teaching staff who has exemplified excellence in teaching at Brandon University.

Deadline for Awards: April 1, 2018. For more information visit: BrandonU.ca/Alumni/Awards or call 204.727.9697 or 877.282.4483.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Jerry M. Abernathy,

Associate '80 – July 10, 2017

Michael F. Adamski,

BSc '83, MEd '08 – March 11, 2017

Loretta Bonokoski,

TTC '57 – July 31, 2015

Carol E. Bulas

Associate '85 – June 16, 2016

Loretta M. Carlson

TTC '66 – March 3, 2017

Marissa Corrigan

Associate '15 – August 14, 2017

Robert C. Ferris

BSc '61, Cert. of Ed. '63 –
October 31, 2016

Margaret C. Goodale

BA '37 – January 21, 2017

Mary Gooden

Associate '42 – April 16, 2017

Dahl A. Harvey

BSc '53 – March 31, 2016

Wallace Henderson

TTC '57 – June 1, 2016

Charles D. Hitchins

BSc '64 – October 20, 2016

William L. Jardine

BA '70 – January 15, 2017

Robert W. Keeler

BGS '02, BEd '06 – March 25, 2016

Keith McMurchy

Associate '65 – December 1, 2016

Rhonda M. McRorie

BT '75, BMusEd '81 –
November 16, 2016

John Barrie B. Orr

BSc '57 – February 8, 2017

Terrence Paley

BT '72, BEd '75 – March 26, 2016

Douglas D. Peters

Associate '50 – October 7, 2016

John D. Purvis

BSc '53 – June 20, 2017

Myrtle Refvik

BA '81 – April 19, 2016

Russell E. Roney

BEd '70 – June 1, 2017

Leonard A. Sandeman

Associate '80 – January 26, 2017

Agnes M. Stephenson

BA '50, BEd '61 – January 5, 2017

Shirley A. Struthers

BA '63 – March 24, 2017

Donna (Wallace) Thompson

TTC '56 – August 7, 2017

Rosemarie A. Wadelius

BGS '89 – January 27, 2017

Sherry M. Wallman

Associate '74 – May 04, 2016

Donna D. Wilkins

BA '72, BEd '74 – July 16, 2017

FACULTY/STAFF

Campbell Connor

Student Services, 1971-1988
January 13, 2017

Paul Hyrsak

Physical Plant, 1976-1981
February 8, 2017

Phyllis Wilkinson

Library, 1965-1986
December 11, 2016

Alumni Authors

Ed Whitcomb, BA '64

Rivals for Power, Ottawa and the Provinces. The contentious history of the Canadian federation.



Provincial and federal roles in Canada are constantly changing. As the two levels of government rise and fall in relative strength, they cooperate on some issues and compete on others. Here is the story of relations between Ottawa and the provinces since before Confederation — a history replete with battles over power and money, trends towards unity or separatism, and deals struck to make this system of government work. The heroes and villains presented in these pages include many of the leading lights of Canadian history, from John A. Macdonald, Wilfrid Laurier, and Maurice Duplessis to Pierre Trudeau, Joe Clark, Bill Davis, Peter Lougheed, and Jean Chrétien. This book uniquely positions itself through its focus: no matter what their policies, Canadian politicians have engaged in an ongoing push and pull over power. The shape of Canada today and the distribution of wealth and power across the country is the outcome of the battles between these contending players. As Ed Whitcomb sees it, maintaining this delicate balance between Ottawa and the provinces is key to the country's stability, unity, and cultural cohesion.

Dr. Mervin Letts, Associate '61

Flashbacks of a Prairie Kid



Flashbacks of a Prairie Kid is an historical narrative of growing up in a small Prairie town during the war years and the 1950s decade following. It documents many childhood memories of the times, events, celebrations and customs of Prairie life. Anyone who grew up on the Prairies anywhere in Canada or the United States will relate to this book and enjoy its content. The book is profusely illustrated in color with 575 pages, soft cover with perfect binding...an enjoyable read even if you didn't grow up on the Prairies!

SUPPORT

Couple Honours Family With Not One, But Two Legacy Gifts



Above left: Rev. Dr. Warren McKinnon and Janice Waud Loper.
Top right: Charles John McKinnon. Bottom right: Clarissa Elma McKinnon.

REV. DR. WARREN MCKINNON, BA '62, and his wife, Janice Waud Loper, believe in legacy giving. So much so, that they established a second legacy gift for Brandon University. Years ago Dr. McKinnon worked with BU on pre-planning a bequest for the Clarissa Elma McKinnon Scholarship in Music in honour of his late mother. In 2015 the couple decided to create an endowment fund so that the scholarship could be given out immediately, and increased later upon receipt of the bequest. The first scholarship was awarded in memory of Warren's brother, Frank McKinnon, in 2015.

Recently, they established a second bequest in honour of Warren's father, Charles John McKinnon, a farmer with a faith-driven conscience who believed in the worth of rural communities and lived that belief through tree planting to combat erosion, coaching baseball and hockey, writing a weekly column for the *Carberry News Express*, and celebrating the rewards of farming with the words, "the harvest rush is on!" This bequest will be used to create the Rural Route Fund, an endowment to support research on sustaining rural communities done by BU's Rural Development Institute and Department of Rural Development. Their thoughtful pre-planning will leave a legacy in honour of the McKinnon family and their rural Manitoba roots.

"Creating our legacy proved to be an unexpected joy and a deeply fulfilling process. Legacies are not about dying, they are about living," says Janice.

Calling All Rivers Alumni

BU ALUMNUS MICHAEL CZUBOKA, who received a Bachelor of Arts in 1957 and a Bachelor of Education in 1967, is spearheading an initiative to establish a scholarship for students who have graduated from high school in his hometown of Rivers, MB and are entering Brandon University. He is encouraging others with ties to Rivers to join him in contributing to the Rivers Collegiate — Brandon University Scholarship via monthly contributions or one-time gifts.

Faculty of Health Retirees Create Nursing Scholarships

DR. KATHRYN HYNDMAN AND DR. FRAN RACHER celebrated their retirement from BU this year by establishing two scholarships.

After completing their science requirements at BU and then graduating from the Brandon General Hospital (BGH) School of Nursing in 1972, they became educators in BU's Faculty of Health Studies. In recognition of the longtime affiliation between BU and the BGH School of Nursing, they are collaborating with fellow alumni to launch the Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing Scholarships in Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing. To date, \$11,561 has been donated to the fund, with an additional \$10,461 in matching funds from the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative. Contributions from anyone with a connection to the BGH School of Nursing are welcomed.

For more information on scholarships, call 204.727.7374, or 877.282.4483. Donations can also be made at those numbers, by mail or in person to Brandon University Foundation, 270-18th Street, Brandon, MB R7B 3W3.

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following alumni who supported Brandon University in 2016. Many of these donors gave through the Annual Fund appeal, which raised more than \$107,000. These gifts help us fulfill our academic mission: To be a leading, engaged, and innovative university.

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Every effort has been made to ensure that this listing is accurate and complete. Please report any errors or omissions to the Office of Advancement & External Relations at 204.727.7374 or 877.282.4483. 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.



Growing for
tomorrow

EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Brandon University is growing, and our new Campus Master Plan envisions our campus as a community-oriented University District that is vibrant throughout the day and at all times of the year. Learn how we will embrace diverse amenities, services, and experiences, along with new academic and mixed-use buildings, vibrant and functional open spaces. Explore how we will emphasize pedestrian-oriented streets and pathways in future development and discover how we will ingrain sustainability, resilience, and the Indigenization of our campus into our shared future.

[BrandonU.ca/CampusPlan](https://brandonu.ca/CampusPlan)



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If this issue is addressed to someone no longer a permanent resident of your home, please notify us so we can properly forward future issues. If you have comments or questions about this publication (or would like to submit story ideas), call 204-727-9697 or email Clark@BrandonU.ca or write to us at the above address. Thank you.

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