

# ALUMNI NEWS

## CONVOCATION 2012

### **RISING STAR**

Geordie Waddell '12 pursues doctorate at London's Royal College of Music

### **GEOGRAPHY AT BU**

50 Years of Teaching Excellence



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**BRANDON UNIVERSITY**

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# ALUMNI NEWS

SUMMER 2012

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**Send us your stories!**

A close-knit and friendly place, Brandon University (BU) has inspired a multitude of heart-warming stories. As alumni, you undoubtedly have much to tell about the relationships that you developed while at BU. Was it the meeting ground for you and your spouse, a business partner or a great friend? Perhaps you developed a lifelong mentorship with a special faculty member?

If you have any suggestions or know of an outstanding alumna/alumnus you believe should be featured in *Alumni News*, please contact the Alumni Office. Your ideas and feedback are most welcome.

*Alumni News* is published twice a year and reaches more than 13,000 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 *Alumni News* in the future, please contact the Alumni Office.

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*Brandon University's President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Deborah Poff and Dr. Michael Kim, Dean of the School of Music, congratulate Honorary Doctorate recipient, pianist Anton Kuerti (centre). Mr. Kuerti's significant contributions to classical music in Canada were acknowledged during the 101st Convocation on June 2, 2012.*

## Dear Alumni and Friends of BU,

I hope you are enjoying this record-breaking summer and that you will find a cool and shady place to enjoy this latest issue of *Alumni News*.

This edition is a happy celebration of our success! We welcomed two new honorary doctoral candidates who received their diplomas, adding to our list of distinguished Alumni. During convocation, world renowned pianist Anton Kuerti and life-long leader in mental health and psychiatric nursing, Annette Osted both received honorary doctorates recognizing their significant contribution to their fields. As well, we celebrate a number of award winners and valedictorians. Both days, the weather cooperated and graduates and their families were able to celebrate their special moment with pictures taken on memorable sites on campus.

We also have a feature story on one of our recent graduates,

Geordie Waddell, who is off to England to pursue doctoral studies at the Royal College of Music. We are very proud of Geordie and wish him all the best in this next stage of his education.

We are also busy this summer on our capital campaign. Luckily, we have a great team of volunteers to support us in this work. In this issue you will also find a feature story on Jared Jacobson, our local Brandon campaign chair. Jared is a BU grad and a very successful local businessman. We are very lucky to have him as a leader on our team.

Happy Summer. We hope to see many of you at Homecoming this fall. Please mark the dates, October 10 to 14, 2012.

Warm regards,

Deborah C. Poff, PhD  
President and Vice-Chancellor

# Honorary Doctorates

During Brandon University's 101st Convocation, two outstanding Canadians were acknowledged for their contributions.



## Anton Kuerti

An Officer of the Order of Canada, Mr. Kuerti has received numerous awards during his long career. These include the Schumann Prize of the Schumann Gesellschaft and the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. Acclaimed for his performances

of Beethoven's music, Mr. Kuerti has appeared with many of the world's top orchestras. Born in Austria, he grew up in the United States and has lived in Canada since 1965. With more than 25 discs to his credit, Mr. Kuerti has displayed his individuality and musicianship in recordings of all the Beethoven Concertos and Sonatas, the Brahms and Schumann Concertos, and the Schubert Sonatas. An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with other remarkable instrumentalists, the likes of Yo-Yo Ma and the Tokyo String Quartet. Also, he is the founder of the much lauded Festival of the Sound.

## Annette Thorimbert Osted

A dedicated psychiatric nurse, Ms. Osted also held the position of Executive Director/Registrar of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM) for more than 30 years. In that role, she was involved in the process that transformed the College from an association to a regulatory body. A dedicated volunteer throughout her career, Ms. Osted has gravitated to organizations that help those afflicted by a mental illness. Some of her efforts focused on fundraising, while



her insights benefited the groups to which she contributed. As well, she has shared her expertise nationally and internationally. Though retired, she remains a busy volunteer, especially with the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society and the not-for-profit social service agency Age and Opportunity.

# Valedictorians

## Jennifer Shead

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Jennifer moved to Brandon to pursue her studies in Music Education after high school. During her time at BU, she performed as a member of the National Youth Band of Canada in 2010, worked as a Student Ambassador for Recruitment and Retention, and served as President of the Brandon University Student Music Educators Association for two consecutive years. She has received many scholarships throughout her degree program and was accepted into the Flute Masterclass program at the Orford Arts Centre in Orford, Quebec this summer. She hopes to teach instrumental music in the public school system in Manitoba in the fall.



## Kelsey Grindey

Kelsey was raised in a small rural town just outside of Winnipeg. By Grade 4, she had decided to become a teacher. After completing high school at Warren Collegiate, she was determined to achieve her goal and continued on to BU to pursue post secondary education. During summer breaks, Kelsey moved back home to work with Aboriginal youth in Winnipeg's inner city. She is very proud of her First Nations heritage and her next step as a teacher is to educate people about her culture. Kelsey currently resides in Winnipeg and is looking forward to starting her career as a Senior Years teacher.



## Natasha Vandamme

Born and raised on the family farm near Baldur, Natasha received the Governor General's Bronze Medal when she graduated from Baldur School in 2008. That fall, she began her studies at BU. She has now garnered a Bachelor of Science (4-Year), with a major in Chemistry and a double minor in Mathematics and Zoology. While at BU, Natasha served several terms as a lab assistant for the Chemistry department and held the position of Academic Residence Advisor. In her third year, she received the Chemical Institute of Canada Silver Medal and is currently working on a National Sciences and Engineering Research Council grant with Dr. Lemaire. Natasha is considering either pursuing graduate studies or applying to the Faculty of Education in the future.



## Outstanding Achievements

**B**randon University was pleased to recognize the following individuals at this year's June Convocation ceremonies for outstanding achievement and excellence in their professions or community service.

### Distinguished Teacher Award Recipients

**Dolores Hardy, BEd'88, GradDip'05, MEd'10:**

Born in Rosburn, Man., and raised in Mississauga, Ont., Dolores spent her first year teaching in Alexander, Man., followed by 21 years at King George School in Brandon. Her love of children and her own nurturing personality began with her three sons: Dean, Stephan and Bruce. It was their love and support that enabled Dolores to motivate her students to always try their best and to be proud of their every accomplishment.



**Birgit Lavallee:** Raised in Winnipeg, Man., Birgit graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1994. She taught for 10 years in Roblin, Man., and was actively involved in the after-school drama program as well as the student council and various sports teams. After several moves and two children, she is now teaching History and English in Rosburn Collegiate. Birgit is currently involved with the student council and thoroughly enjoys her time spent with the students, both as a teacher and as an advisor. Nothing is more motivating to her than helping young people become socially aware and active within their school and their communities.



**Sherryl Maglione:** Born and raised in Alberta, Sherryl attended Red Deer College and the University of Lethbridge and graduated with her BA/BEd in 1996. Miss Mags, as she is often called, is currently working on her MEd at BU with a focus on indigenizing the high school English Language Arts curriculum. She is from the Saddle Lake First Nation and has always taught in First Nations schools. She has been teaching for 15 years, and in the past five, her focus has been senior English Language Arts at the Sioux Valley High School, located in the former Fleming School, in Brandon. Her interests include travelling, reading, shopping, and being a dedicated fan of the Sioux Valley Eagles high school basketball team.



### Board of Governors Community Service Award

**Patrick Johanneson, BSc'94:** For most of his life, Patrick, who was born and raised in Ste. Rose du Lac, Man., has been fascinated by science fiction. Now, he writes science fiction and fantasy, and has been published in *On Spec*, *Tesseract 14*, and *Daily Science Fiction*. In 1997,



he started taking judo lessons. In 2009, he received his shodan (or first degree black belt) and he recently received his National C Referee certification. He currently runs the Brandon Judokan Club, which practices in the Brandon University gym. Patrick also volunteers at the Evans Theatre on campus, showing art-house films, indie cinema, documentaries, and Canadian movies.

### Brandon University Alumni Association's Outstanding Young Alumni Award

**Rochelle Rands, BEd'98, MEd'08:** Rochelle grew up in MacGregor, Man., graduating from high school in 1994. After completing a BEd from Brandon University in 1998, she moved to Portage la Prairie for her first teaching position at Yellowquill School, where she was employed for ten years. During this time, she completed a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Education and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Education at the University of Manitoba. In 2008, she completed the Master in Special Education at BU and became the Assistant Superintendent/Student Services Coordinator for the Pine Creek School Division. In 2009, she transitioned back to Portage la Prairie, where she is in her third year as the Administrator of Student Services. Rochelle says: "As an educator, it is my goal to enhance the quality of education and enrich the lives of all students. It is my strong belief that all students need to feel accepted, valued, and safe in order to learn. To teach is to touch a life forever."



### Brandon University Alumni Association's Excellence in Teaching Award

**Dr. Wendy McCallum:** Wendy holds a BMus and a BEd degree from BU and completed a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting at the University of North Dakota. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas, where she served as a Doctoral Conducting Associate and Teaching Fellow in the Wind Studies Department. As a faculty member at Brandon University, she conducts the Symphonic Band and teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting courses, as well as instrumental music methods. Committed to excellence in public school music education, Dr. McCallum taught band and general elementary music before graduate school. She is well respected for her knowledge and conducting skills and has been invited to conduct junior high and high school regional, provincial and state honor bands, presented at provincial music education conferences, and has worked as a solo and ensemble adjudicator and clinician for concert and jazz ensembles in Canada and the United States. A regular contributor to the publication and recording series *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* and *Teaching Music Through Performance in Beginning Band*, Dr. McCallum is the Past-President of the Manitoba Band Association and is the current President of the Canadian Band Association. She is presently working as lead writer of the Manitoba Grade 9 to 12 music curriculum. ■



# BUNOW

View the latest news and events at [www.brandonu.ca](http://www.brandonu.ca)

## Passing It Forward

This spring, during a fundraising event, students in the Faculty of Education gathered children's books donations. "As prospective teachers, we value literacy both in the classroom and in the home," said new BEd (AD) graduate, Marlana Clayton. "We wished to share our love of literature with children in Brandon and felt that donating these books to Westman Immigrant Services would be a wonderful way to do so."



L-R: Shalane Geertsema, Jill Penman, Marlana Clayton, Amanda Berry, Stephanie Frieze

## In Their Honour

More than 200 people attended the 2012 Graduation Powwow to recognize the academic accomplishments of the 13 Aboriginal and Métis students who graduated during the June 1 and 2 Convocation ceremonies.



## Welcoming the Next Generation

During the week of May 14, the Chemistry Department hosted more than 250 elementary and high school students from Brandon and the region. Dr. Mark Berry and several of his colleagues demonstrated various experiments for the younger visitors as well as guided them through activities like converting proteins into putty and pennies into "silver". The older students performed university-level, curriculum-appropriate experiments. This opportunity will be offered again in May 2013.



## All Heart

The BU Bachelor of Nursing Class of 2012 acknowledged the faculty that prepared them for their careers by making a donation of \$1,000 to the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation's *A Sense of Home* Campaign for the Murray House cancer treatment residence.

continued

## Sharing Their Work

The 2012 Senior Colloquium presentations ranged in scope—from *Shilling with Exploitation: Advertising as Reflected in a Capitalist Patriarchy* to *Using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for the Development of High Resolution Digital Elevation Models for Localized Areas* to *The Production of Maleficia: Magic and Sorcery in the High Middle Ages*. The day-long event celebrated its third edition and featured work produced by senior students.

## Guest From Afar

In late February, world-acclaimed Icelandic composer Kjartan Ólafsson was on the BU campus for the annual New Music Festival (BUNMF). A native of Reykjavik, Ólafsson is an Icelandic musicologist, an academic noted for creating the composing software CALMUS, as well as an authority on artificial intelligence in classical music composition. The focus of the 2012 edition of the festival was “Music Gates of the Arctic”. During the three-day event, Ólafsson delivered lectures and heard the world premiere performances of two of his works in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall. The BU New Music Ensemble performed his chamber orchestra work *Ocean*, while the artistic director of the BUNMF, pianist Megumi Masaki and her School of Music colleague, clarinetist Catherine Wood performed the work Ólafsson wrote for them entitled *In the Darkness of the Light*.



Kjartan Ólafsson



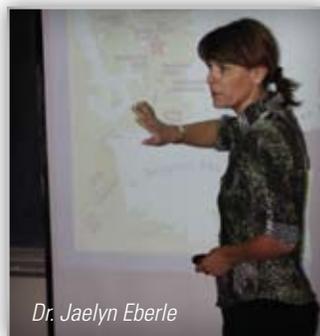
BU's Opera Ensemble

## Giving It a Fun Twist

This year's Brandon University Opera Ensemble presented Mozart's “The Marriage of Figaro”, with a 1920's flair. Under the co-direction of School of Music Assistant Professor David Playfair and Sessional Instructor Gordon Portman, the student ensemble presented a new adaptation of Mozart's famous comic opera. This was the Opera Ensemble's third full-length production. Previous incarnations of the ensemble performed Mozart's “Cosi fan tutte” in 2008 and Britten's “Albert Herring” in 2010. The ensemble's productions offer the only operatic performances in Brandon.

## Hot Topics for Everyone

The Brandon University Science Seminar Series kicked off the New Year with a visit from Dr. Jaelyn Eberle, the Curator of Fossil Vertebrates at the University of Colorado. She gave a lecture entitled *Mammalian diversity in the early Eocene Arctic rain forests*. Topics presented by other experts during the series included the stability of nanomaterials, marine fossils found in Manitoba and the Great East Japan earthquake of 2011. These lectures were free and open to the public. For fall presentations, please visit the events section at [brandonu.ca](http://brandonu.ca).



Dr. Jaelyn Eberle

## Treading the Boards

Students in the drama program at Brandon University gave several performances of “Miss Witherspoon”, written by award-winning playwright Christopher Durang, on the Evans Theatre stage. Professor James Forsythe directed this show that delves into the trials and tribulations of a young woman, nicknamed “Miss Witherspoon”, in the afterlife. The annual drama offering usually takes place the first weekend in March.

L-R: Taylor Sukut, Meagan Miller, Sarah Hallikas, Tara Vincent, Brittany Phillips, Chris Cook



Drew Caldwell, MLA; Dr. Scott Grills, former V.P. Academic & Research; Dr. Bill Ashton, RDI Director

## Financial Support from MAFRI

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) has received \$545,000 from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI). The renewed five-year financial support from the province will help sustain BU-based, RDI-driven research efforts. This commitment from the province will allow Dr. Ashton and his colleagues to develop long-range plans for the Institute along with maintaining research activities.

## For Engineering Hopefuls

Brandon University science graduates will now have a new option for further education, thanks to a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding. Officials from the University of Minnesota School of Engineering and BU have formalized an agreement, which will introduce an articulated degree program between the two institutions.

## Future School of Music Students

During a busy trip to Calgary, Dr. Poff visited the Mount Royal University (MRU) campus, where she and Dr. David Docherty, MRU's



*Dr. Deborah Poff & Dr. David Docherty*

President, signed an articulation agreement. This will offer an option to musicians with a Performance Diploma from MRU to enter directly into a third-year Bachelor of Music honours or performance degree program.

## Licorice-stick Players Assemble

For a second year, Assistant Professor and clarinetist Catherine Wood invited students and professional musicians to partake in two days of clarinet-focused music-making. Among this year's guests were internationally acclaimed clarinetist James Campbell, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's principal clarinetist Micah Heilbrunn, and BU alumna Jana Starling, among others. The clarinet ensemble was conducted by School of Music Associate Professor Dr. Wendy McCallum.



*Dr. Wendy McCallum conducting the ensemble*



*Dr. Di Brandt with her students and guests*

## Discovering Homegrown Talent

The students in Dr. Di Brandt's fourth-year English course entitled *Imagining Manitoba*, produced a publicly-accessible, multimedia display with the underlying theme of "Southwestern Manitoba: The Birthplace of the Modern Canadian Novel". They also organized a literary film festival related to the authors they had studied. The offerings included *The Stone Angel* and *The Diviners*.

Some 2011-2012 Brandon University students in the spotlight:

## Laura Jane Brandon (4th year, Anthropology/ Archeology and Native Studies)



Chosen among applicants from the Americas, Alaska, Hawaii and several Pacific Islands, Laura won the Society for American Archaeology's Native American Undergraduate Scholarship in Archaeology. Also a wife and mother of three children, Laura is completing her senior thesis and once done her undergraduate degree, she plans to pursue graduate studies and hopes to work in a museum.

## Cynthia Fontaine (2nd year, Nursing)



The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has acknowledged second-year nursing student Cynthia Fontaine's efforts and awarded her a \$1,500 bursary. The mother of five children, Cynthia returned to post-secondary studies once her youngest was in school. She is originally from the Grand Rapids First Nation, but has transferred to the Sagkeeng First Nation, to which her husband belongs and which sponsors her.

## Jimsung Kim (3rd year, Music)



This young pianist won first place in the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations' Young Artist Series/ Western Tour Competition. As well, he won the Concerto Competition in the School of Music, which led to a solo performance with the BU Orchestra, and took home three major awards from the 2012 Brandon Festival of the Arts.

## Jesse Plessis (Master of Music '12)



Brandon University graduate Jesse Plessis won the 2012 Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Emerging Composers Competition. His work for orchestra, *Tender is the Night* was premiered by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, during its 2012 New Music Festival. As an additional part of the competition's prize, Plessis was awarded a two-week residency at the Banff Centre.

For complete details about these stories and others, please visit [brandonu.ca](http://brandonu.ca)



*As an undergraduate student and one of “Masaki’s Rising Stars of Brandon University”, Geordie had the opportunity to travel and perform in China.*

# RISING STAR

**Geordie Waddell: BMus’10, MMus’12**

**W**hile sports fans were flying into London for the 2012 Olympics, Brandon University graduate Geordie Waddell was making his way there for a longer stay—to pursue his Doctorate in Music at the world-renowned Royal College of Music.

With both a Bachelor and a Master of Music in Performance from BU in hand, the young musician is keen to embark on this newest adventure in academia.

“I’m really looking forward to going abroad, but it’s been an incredible six years at BU. It’s a wonderful university,” he said.

Originally from Shoal Lake, Waddell grew up in a busy family that espouses participation in both sports and music. The four brothers and one sister were all very active and all played at least one instrument. Though Geordie did give sports a concerted effort, by the time he was in his teens, it became apparent that his main extra-curricular focus would be music. In high school, Geordie and his brothers formed a rock band, in which he played both keyboards and drums.

“From an early age, we took our kids to a wide-range of musical (experiences)—from the symphony to jazz to rock concerts. They all have a love of music and played in bands, but Geordie has been the one to take it to the professional level,” said his father, Dr. Bruce Waddell. “So, we’re really happy and actually pretty amazed that a guy from a little wee town like Shoal Lake in Western Manitoba can end up doing a PhD at the most famous (music) college in the world.”

Geordie’s first piano teacher was his mother, Dr. Janice Waddell, who also taught him to play the bagpipes. Underlying his lessons was the family’s rule that all of the kids would take piano lessons at least up to Grade 8 of the Royal Conservatory standards. In remembering his early training and performing experiences, Geordie also recalls the importance of the local festival opportunities he enjoyed and the support he felt at that time.

“That was really formative and especially at that age, that kind of recognition—you get to play and there’s adjudication and you get a trophy and a few bucks—it really did mean a lot and it still does,” he said.

Later, when he entered BU, Geordie was a student of School of Music faculty member Megumi (Meg) Masaki and became one of her Rising Stars—piano students who follow her philosophy, based on sports training.

“Geordie has been one of my best students for the past six years at BU. He has developed tremendously both musically and academically. His success is a result of the opportunities, attention and individualized university education he has received at BU,” said Meg Masaki. “Geordie has strong work ethics and has taken full

advantage of the many challenges and opportunities provided.”

Through his two degree programs, Geordie gained invaluable performing experience, as he and his fellow students from Associate Professor Masaki’s studio travelled, giving recitals throughout Canada.

The select group also got to go as far as Italy, Mexico and China to learn and to play.

“Professor Masaki very generously, for our sake, gave us—rural students—the opportunity to present (overseas) and to expose us to the greater musical world. This was a great thing!” Geordie said. “It got us out of our little Manitoba bubble and showed us how things are done (elsewhere). It was incredibly eye-opening.”

After his bachelor’s degree at BU, Geordie decided to stay and pursue a Master of Performance.

As his undergraduate courses had included some in psychology, he sought to learn more about this discipline as well. By continuing to meld his performance skills with psychology research, there arose the potential to contribute later, as a doctoral student, to the relatively new Centre for Performance Science at the Royal College of Music.

“Early on, I took an interest in Meg’s approach to teaching, so I thought I’d take some courses in psychology. It’s a great bridge between science and the humanities, and all the things I was learning about memory and processes could be applied to music quite directly,” Geordie said, adding that this past academic year, he did an independent study course, with a focus on music performance anxiety (MPA) and was a co-author, along with Masaki, his psychology professor Dr. Shannon Gadbois and

physician/researcher Dr. Peter Hechler, on a paper published at the International Symposium of Performance Science.

This fall, as Geordie embarks on his doctorate, he will not only maintain the performance component of his studies, but will also carry on his MPA research.

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“...we’re really happy and actually pretty amazed that a guy from a little wee town like Shoal Lake in Western Manitoba can end up doing a PhD at the most famous (music) college in the world.”

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“I am especially proud that Geordie will continue to study piano and continue a part of my research in Music Performance Anxiety at my alma mater, the Royal College of Music in London,” said Masaki. “I am happy to continue to contribute to Geordie’s studies as a member of his PhD research supervisory team. He has been a valued member of the BU community as a collaborative pianist, theory tutor and a great leader for other students within my studio and the School of Music. Geordie will be greatly missed at BU.”

Classmates since their first day in the School of Music, Geordie married Christine Tollenaar, a music educator who graduated from Brandon University in 2011 and taught one year in Minnedosa. She will be accompanying him to London, where she plans to continue teaching music. ■



*In 2011, Geordie Waddell wed his university sweetheart, Christine Tollenaar, B.Mus.Ed. '11. This photo was shot in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, a venue in which the two often performed.*



# Making the Grade

Janice Odegaard, BA'79

**A**s the Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of Suncor in Calgary, Janice Odegaard has been enjoying the bright future that beckoned her upon graduating from Brandon University in 1979. Looking back, the Flin Flon native had chosen to launch her post-secondary studies at BU for a variety of reasons.

“Being from a small town, I was looking for a university experience that would be more intimate and felt that BU would offer this advantage,” she said. “It certainly did deliver. Smaller class sizes, the opportunity to get to know professors personally, and the ability to quickly make friends with similar interests, were all very much part of what I was looking for.”

While at BU, Janice majored in Economics, with minors in Political Science and Psychology. With no definite career plans at the outset of her university studies, she decided to take a general approach to help define what was truly of interest.

“I really found economics fascinating and relevant, so the choice of a major was easy! The professors in the economics department were top notch. I remember Wheeler, Landry and Black particularly well,” said Janice, who had been an award-winning student. “I was fortunate enough to work one summer on a great project analyzing the economic impact of the Summer Games on the Brandon and area economy. This allowed me and the rest of the team to work very closely with the professors who were leading the project.”

After graduation, she and Rick—her husband of 33 years, whom she met in

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**“Being from a small town, I was looking for a university experience that would be more intimate and felt that BU would offer this advantage. It certainly did deliver.”**

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high school—headed to Prince Albert, in Saskatchewan, where he had been transferred. After a two-year studying hiatus and taking the appropriate exams, Janice returned to further her studies. This time, she pursued a law degree at the University of Saskatchewan. However, Rick was transferred to Calgary during her program, so Janice transferred to the University of Calgary, from which she graduated with a law degree in 1984. This was followed by articling at a local law firm, where she later practiced corporate and securities law for a decade. In 1995, she took her career in a different direction and began working at Suncor.

“The opportunity to work for an oil

company came through a law school friend. It seemed like a good time to make a change and try something different,” she said. “Most of my roles (at Suncor) have been in the legal area, particularly my current role as general counsel. (However), I have also worked in a non-legal role in our capital projects group. I believe my economics degree has been very helpful in providing me with a solid foundation to understand many aspects of our business, including the drivers of supply and demand for global commodities. As both an in-house lawyer and business executive, a solid commercial skill set and a sophisticated understanding of business drivers is a crucial success factor.”

Today, Janice is also Suncor’s chief privacy officer, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary. Her professional and volunteering achievements have merited notice and she was named one of the Women’s Executive Network’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women in 2011. That same year, she garnered the Women in Law Leadership Award. She and Rick still reside in Calgary and love to travel, including to Mexico where they have a holiday home and to Brandon, where they still have many family members and friends. ■

# Applying His Knowledge

**Dr. Mervin Letts, BSc'61**

**A**n underlying desire to help others has been the compass in Dr. Merv Letts' life. The now retired orthopaedic surgeon and alumnus of Brandon College is still making a positive difference in people's lives. He may have left the scalpel behind in the O.R., but it is by wielding his pen that he continues to make an impact.

Last year, the Killarney, Manitoba born and raised physician released a book entitled, *Sinai Surgeon*. The author of two medical textbooks as well, Dr. Letts shares his experiences as a medical officer with the RCAF during his United Nations Emergency Force posting in the Sinai in his latest book. In it, he recounts his role in one of Canada's most memorable peacekeeping missions. The proceeds from the sale of *Sinai Surgeon* are earmarked for the Rotary Club of West Ottawa, of which Dr. Letts is a member. A survivor of poliomyelitis himself, he is supporting the Rotary's initiatives to eliminate polio around the globe.

Dr. Letts' first exposure to the military was as a student at Brandon College. He recalls the influence of Professor Norma Walmsley—a Second World War RCAF veteran—and Professor Richard "Doc" Hannah—the RCAF University Reserve Training Plan Commanding Officer.

"It was (at Brandon College) that I developed an avid interest in the RCAF, which continued for another 12 years, as I went on to join the regular service through the Medical Officers Training Plan," says Dr. Letts.



An involved student, he was also the chair of the Literary Board and the President of the International Relations Club, overseen by Dr. Walmsley, then head of Political Science and Sociology. He maintained that friendship until Dr. Walmsley's passing last year.

"Brandon University (then Brandon College) and its staff played a prominent role in my overall basic education, for which I shall always be grateful," Dr. Letts says. "(And) the residence life was a learning experience in itself and prepared one for interacting socially with virtually every possible social issue."

His initial involvement in the reserves enabled Dr. Letts to have sufficient funds to complete his science degree at BU.

He continued with the RCAF during his medical training. After his internship at St. Boniface Hospital, he served at the National Defence Medical Centre in Ottawa, before his one-year stint with the 115 Air Transport Unit in the Middle East.

Afterwards, Dr. Letts returned to Canada, where he continued his medical training, first in surgical research at Queen's University, then in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Manitoba. He followed that with a sub-specialization in pediatric orthopaedic surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children at the University of Toronto. Next, he was the Head of Orthopaedics in Winnipeg until 1989, at which time he was enticed back to Ottawa, where he became Head of Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. He could have easily wrapped up his career there, but in 2003, Dr. Letts returned to the Middle East. This time, he helped develop a pediatric orthopaedic program.

Dr. Letts and his wife Marilyn, who returned to Canada two years ago, have three sons—film director Ian, lawyer Eric, and journalist Daron. The couple currently resides in Ottawa. Today, Dr. Letts is still active as the President of International Orthopaedic Consultants, a group that provides assistance to universities, hospitals and surgical departments worldwide. ■

For more information about Dr. Letts' book, please visit [www.sinaisurgeon.com](http://www.sinaisurgeon.com).

*Dr. Mervin Letts*

# IN TOUCH

Stay connected with university friends and classmates



**Ray Bailey, BSc'45, BEd'57** – Ray marked his 90th birthday at a celebration in his honour in Winnipeg, Man., on June 3, among many family members and friends.

**Harold Hutton, BSc'58** – Harold is now retired after five years in the Chemistry Department at Brandon University and 28 years at the University of Winnipeg. After leaving teaching in Canada, he continued his interest in research and spent the next nine winters as Visiting Professor in the Biochemistry Department at the University of Arizona. He is now fully retired but still enjoys the winters in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife, Natalie. They also travel to parts of the world that aroused interest from Brandon College days.

**Eleanor Lockhart, TTC'63** – Eleanor is retired after 35 years of teaching. She taught Junior High English in St. James-Assiniboia for most of her career. She married John Bassingthwaite in 1993. They spend their winters in Mesa, Arizona, but reside in Winnipeg. Eleanor enjoys her affiliation with Alpha Delta Kappa—an international sorority for teachers, that raises money for scholarships, camps, and needy families.

**Ed Whitcomb, BA'64** – Since graduation, Ed has enjoyed four different careers—Canadian historian, European historian, diplomat and intelligence analyst. He is also a major publisher of Canadian folk music. He has published 15 books, including histories of every Canadian

province, spent 16 years in six foreign countries, and has been around the world a couple of dozen times. [www.fromseatosea.com](http://www.fromseatosea.com)

**James McAllister, BA'67** – James and his wife Cathy live in Ajax, Ont. They have three grown children—Christopher, Michael and Ashley. James retired from his position as Manager of Federal-Provincial Relations for the Ontario Ministry of Finance in 2009. Since then he has taught part time at Brandon University, Trent University, Ryerson University and the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus. After graduating from Brandon College, he completed an MA and a PhD in Political Science at Carleton University in Ottawa. James also worked for the Manitoba government in Winnipeg and for the Council of Ontario Universities in Toronto.

**Susan Billy, BA'84** – After graduating from BU, Susan travelled throughout Europe and later completed a BEd at the University of Saskatchewan in 1989. She taught for one year then started a 23-year career with the federal public service, first with the unemployment office and currently with the Correctional Service of Canada, where she



is a regional program manager. Her primary responsibilities are training staff who deliver programs to federal inmates.



**Isaria Kwayu, BBA'02** – After graduating from BU, Isaria moved to Toronto, Ont., and landed a job at Rogers Communication Inc. as an accounts receivable specialist. A few years later, Isaria moved to Calgary, Alta. and secured a job with the Government of Alberta. Along the way, she started a small Safari business ([www.impactafricansafaris.com](http://www.impactafricansafaris.com)) that caters trips to Africa, as well as climbs on Mount Kilimanjaro.

**Lindsay Metruk, BSc'03, BEd'05** – After graduating from BU, Lindsay worked at Wyeth

**Ashley Keep, BSc(3yr)'07, BSc(4yr)'11** – Ashley works as an Environment Officer in the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. Her job includes enforcing acts and regulations set out by the Province of Manitoba and conducting site inspections of facilities to ensure regulation compliance and to assist in the prevention or elimination of an environmental impact. In October 2010, she married James Keep. They both work for the provincial government and live in Niverville, Man. with their dog Gus.

Pharmaceuticals (now Pfizer Canada) in Brandon in the Quality Assurance Department. Later, she decided to change gears and landed a position in the Brandon School Division as a teacher. She is currently teaching advanced placement biology and various biology and science courses at Vincent Massey High School in Brandon. She is also the proud mother of one with another addition arriving this summer.

**Ardin Masson, BPhysEd'08, BEd(AD)'10** – After graduating in 2010, Ardin was hired for a one-year term position within the Portage la Prairie School Division, teaching Grade 5/6. After his term in Portage, he found employment with the Pine Creek School Division teaching Grade 5 to 9 students at West Plains School, on the Delta Hutterite Colony.

## Calgary Alumni Chapter Launch

On May 8, Brandon University President Dr. Deborah Poff and the Brandon University Alumni Association launched its first official Alumni Chapter in Calgary. Stay tuned for upcoming Calgary Chapter events. For more information or if you would like to become involved in the Chapter, contact the BU Alumni Office at 204-727-9697 or [alumni@brandonu.ca](mailto:alumni@brandonu.ca).



**Brittany Brookes, BSc'10, BEd(AD)'12** – Brittany graduated with her second degree from BU in June and plans to move to Saskatchewan and teach elementary students this fall.

## IN MEMORIAMs

### ALUMNI

**Ali, Vali V., Associate '59**  
August 14, 2010

**Bateman, Dorcas M.**  
(née McMain), TTC'60  
June 16, 2012

**Bawtinhimer, Ronald J., BA'62**  
May 30, 2011

**Bilowus, Agnes, TTC'59**  
August 8, 2010

**Braun, Jacob J., TTC'59**  
March 13, 2011

**Brazzell, Gary T., Associate '55**  
February 26, 2012

**Campbell, George R., BGS'87**  
March 10, 2012

**Carey, Wayne D., Ed. Cert. '68**  
August 31, 2011

**Carnochan, Alma E., BA'72**  
August 14, 2011

**Dawson, Patricia A.**  
(née McLeod), BSc'73  
April 8, 2011

**Dunham, Marilyn**  
(née Smirl), BA'62  
June 6, 2006

**Ford, Shirley R. (née Hickerson),**  
Associate '77  
January 1, 2011

**Forsyth, James E., BEd'77**  
September 14, 2011

**Friesen, Erica S., Associate '06**  
January 28, 2012

**Jones, Eileen**  
(née Hagan), TTC'59  
November 24, 2010

**MacKenzie, Margaret A., BA'38**  
April 3, 2012

**MacKinnon, Florence**  
(née Trent), BA'40  
December 22, 2005

**Murray, Blair M., BGS'84**  
September 26, 2011

**Normand, Darcy, Associate '72**  
November 21, 2010

**Pettapiece, Keith, Associate '49**  
October 10, 2010

**Price, Leon L., BSc'48**  
June 26, 2011

**Schneider, Paul F., BA'68**  
June 9, 2012

**Simms, Herbert A., BSc'70**  
September 24, 2011

**Simpson, James D., BA'48**  
November 13, 2011

**Winter, Margaret G., BA'72**  
June 26, 2009

**Yanick, Larry, TTC'57**  
March 4, 2012

**Yarish, Nicholas, BA'56**  
May 30, 2012

**Ziehlke, Conrad R.J., BEd'79**  
July 31, 2011

### STAFF / FACULTY

**Campbell, G.R. Donald,**  
Assistant Professor, Department  
of Economics 1980-1992  
March 10, 2012

**Orr, Alice,**  
Library Services 1970-1991  
May 2, 2012

**Simpson, Sandria,**  
Housing/Maintenance 1975-2001  
June 13, 2012

## 2012-13 pro series Professional Performances

The 2011-2012 *pro series* lineup included visiting musicians as well as the very talented performers who are faculty members of the BU School of Music. The upcoming season promises to be just as entertaining. The lineup of acclaimed guest musicians includes the Cecilia String Quartet with pianist Gyorgy Tchaidze (Sept. 28); the New Orford String Quartet with pianist Michael Kim (Oct. 12); pianist Jane Coop (Oct. 30); tenor Ben Heppner (Nov. 15); Couloir: 'cellist Ariel Barnes with harpist Heidi Krutzen (Feb. 8), and clarinetist Karnel Wolak with pianist Chris Donnely (March 18). Rounding out the offerings will be the 2012 E-gré Competition winner, 'cellist Brian Yoon (Nov. 23); the New Music Festival (Dec. 4 to 6); and the Faculty Concert (Jan. 8). For details, please visit the events listings at [brandonu.ca](http://brandonu.ca) or call 727-9631.

# BLUE & GOLD DAYS

## BRANDON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2012

## Celebrate the Traditions & Experience the Pride

**IT'S TIME TO COME BACK AND JOIN FELLOW  
ALUMNI FOR A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER.**

Is your class celebrating a special anniversary year? Reunions are being planned for several classes, including all alumni from 1960 to 1969.

Call your friends and classmates and encourage them to attend. Your enthusiasm and help will ensure that each class member will be notified of the upcoming celebration.

If you want to find out if your class is planning a reunion or if you wish to organize a class reunion, please contact Carla Eisler in the Alumni Office at [alumni@brandonu.ca](mailto:alumni@brandonu.ca) or 204-727-9697.

**For full details, schedule of events and  
registration form, visit our website for at  
[www.brandonu.ca/homecoming](http://www.brandonu.ca/homecoming)**

BRANDON  
UNIVERSITY  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

# 50 Years of Teaching Excellence

**O**n June 1, ten geography majors garnered their bachelor's degree, and in the process, underlined the department's 50 years at BU. Dr. Chris Malcolm, the chair of the Geography Department is confident that these new graduates will have no trouble either continuing their studies or embarking on satisfying careers with Manitoba Conservation Districts, Agriculture Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the National Energy Board, to mention a few.

"Our students who go on to graduate school do very well due to the field and research opportunities they received as undergraduates," said Dr. Malcolm. "Our graduates find gainful employment in which they use the knowledge and skills they have received with us."

In 1962, a new Department of Geography, with faculty member Dr. John Tyman, was launched at Brandon College (BC). Three years later, there were five geography course offerings and Dr. John Welsted became the second full-time faculty member. When BC achieved its university status in 1967, the Department began to set its own path. The first bachelor's degrees with a major in Geography from BU were offered in May 1968. The B.Sc. was introduced in 1971, while the 4-year major was added in 1985.

The faculty grew to include Dr. Christoph Stadel (1968), followed by Dr. Richard Rounds (1970), Dr. John Everitt (1973) and Dr. Rod McGinn (1979). The Department was finally able to offer courses across the breadth of geography—from cultural and urban, to physical and environmental.

By 1988, the Department offered 48 related courses, along with an undergraduate thesis. Eight years later, the practicum course was instituted, which has since given hundreds of students the opportunity to work with agencies outside the University to acquire real world experiences. Two year ago, the Department added a Geomatics and an Environmental Studies concentration, which has allowed students to specialize within their chosen area of the discipline.

Currently, research and lab resources include the BU Centre for Geomatics, the John Tyman Map Library and an advanced hydrology lab. The Department has continued to offer field labs in



*Students visit a sugar factory during a field trip to Jamaica*



*Past Faculty (L-R): Dr. Rod McGinn, the late Dr. John Welsted, Dr. John Everitt, Dr. Christoph Stadel*



*Students in the Field (L-R): Dayton Brown, Devoh Hahkala, Melanie Thompson, Kevin Kowaluk*

many of its physical and environmental courses. Earlier this year, the Department offered its first international field research trip.

"We are continually evolving to remain at the forefront of the discipline," said Dr. Malcolm. "We've added articulation agreements with Assiniboine Community College, a practicum, and a new international field course to offer geographical opportunities in and out of the classroom consistent with geography programs across the country. In fact, we continue to offer field labs in many of our physical and environmental courses, while these opportunities are disappearing at other institutions."

Over the years, 37 people have held full-time faculty positions

in the Geography Department, though the early “builders” of the program have either moved on or retired. Dr. Tyman served as Dean of Science from 1973 to 1975 and then moved to Australia. Dr. Welsted served the Department for 32 years; sadly, he passed away in Victoria, in 2009. Dr. Stadel returned to Austria in 1992. Dr. Rounds left to serve as director of the Rural Development Institute in 1988 and retired ten years later. Dr. Everitt retired in 2007 and is living in the British Virgin Islands. Dr. McGinn just retired in January. Current faculty includes BU alumnus Dr. Dion Wiseman (geomatics, physical), Dr. Chris Malcolm (biogeography,

wildlife management), Dr. Derrek Eberts (economic, urban), Dr. Johannes “Joe” Koch (dendrochronology, geomorphology), Dr. Dan Olsen (tourism, cultural), as well as instructional associate Wenonah van Heyst (geomatics, physical) and adjunct member Dr. Drew Hoysak (ecology, population ecology).

“We realize, and are very proud of, the shoulders of past faculty we stand on as current faculty,” said Dr. Malcolm. “We have an extremely collegial department and that is in part due to the values instilled and path on which our earlier faculty colleagues placed the Department.” ■



L-R: Dr. Dion Wiseman, Dr. Johannes Koch, Dr. Daniel Olsen, Dr. Derrek Eberts, Dr. Christopher Malcolm, Ms. Wenonah VanHeyst

## Geography Department Updates

- Since January, Dr. Johannes Koch is the newest faculty member in the Department. He is a glacial geomorphologist and dendrochronologist, with field sites in British Columbia and Chile, and research related to climate change.
- Dr. Derrek Eberts, along with Dr. Doug Ramsey in Rural Development, spearheaded a successful SSHRC Aid to Small Universities Grant, which was received by the BU Tourism Research Centre. The grant will support research in locations including Germany, Mexico, and Manitoba. Current Geography Department funding recipients through this grant are Dr. Eberts and Dr. Chris Malcolm.
- Dr. Daniel Olsen was invited, as the North American expert in North American pilgrimage and religious tourism, to speak at a conference at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in July.
- Dr. Dion Wiseman chaired the 11th Annual Westman GIS Users Group Conference in March. Along with an honours student, Dr. Wiseman presented cutting edge technological use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for digital elevation modeling.
- Dr. Chris Malcolm’s research using micro-VHF telemetry transmitters to identify spawning habitat of northern pike in Riding Mountain National Park is now being used by the transmitter manufacturing company, Lotek Wireless, Inc., Newmarket, Ont., to advertise the technology for this purpose.

## BU Alumnus Dr. Dion Wiseman

Brandon University was a logical post-secondary choice for Dr. Dion Wiseman, who grew up in Brandon. What was a bit unexpected was his interest in geography. It was his first-year class about weather and climate with Dr. Rod McGinn that was the springboard for his future academic focus.

“I chose to finish my degree at BU because of the relationships I was able to build with members of the Geography Department and other faculty at BU,” Dr. Wiseman said. “The size of BU, and in particular the size of the upper level courses, provides students with the opportunity to essentially receive one-on-one instruction. While I did value this at the time, it wasn’t until I went on to graduate school that I realized how rare this actually was.”

He continued his studies in this field and in the spring of 1997, while completing his PhD program at Indiana State University, he received a phone call from Dr. John Welsted.

“I had always kept in touch with the Department over the years and had made a point of visiting whenever I was in Brandon, but it had been quite some time since I’d heard from John and it turned out that he was calling to let me know he was retiring at the end of the academic year,” said Dr. Wiseman, who added that though BU was not originally on his professional radar, the fact that he and his wife Charlyne still had family members in Brandon enticed him to apply and land the BU position.

“In addition to family, I saw BU as a great fit for me professionally,” he said, “because I saw the impact that a small school could have on students and I knew that I could still pursue my research and have the opportunity to include students in that as well.”

Along with teaching, Dr. Wiseman is involved in research in applied geography and specifically the application of geomatics technologies for building geospatial databases. Most recently, his work has explored the uses of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology in the assessment of riparian health, the monitoring of leafy spurge invasion and the identification of significant habitats for endangered species.

“And best of all, in typical BU fashion,” he concludes, “all these projects have involved collaborative research with colleagues in other departments as well as current and former BU students.” ■



Dr. Dion Wiseman



# Local Enthusiasm

**T**he building may still be under construction, but Brandonite Vionell “Jared” Jacobson (BBA '03) is already anticipating spending time in the Healthy Living Centre (HLC) with his wife Robin (née Buckman, BScPN '04) and their two young children. To show how much he cares about this new addition to the Brandon University campus, he has taken on the BUILD local division chair position to lend his energy to the campaign.

**From fitness training to a space to hold competitive basketball or volleyball games, the addition of this new building to the Brandon University campus is important to the community and to the University.**

Brandon University campus is important to the community and to the University.”

Sports have long been of interest to the former hockey player and not surprisingly, Jared is an avid fan of the BU Bobcats teams. He has translated his support by ensuring that his company is a committed sponsor of the University’s volleyball and basketball teams. So, true to form, getting involved in the fundraising for the HLC was a natural fit for the local businessman.

“We had no stakes in the construction of the building, but yet we definitely support it. It is great for the community, great for the University,” he said of the HLC, then adding another reason for his involvement. “I (also) felt that the local alumni awareness for the younger generations was lacking and by getting involved, it may spur some new ideas and new growth to alumni events.”

A lifelong resident of Brandon, Jared was interested in entrepreneurship as a student and chose to focus his studies in business administration. For three generations, his family’s business—Jacobson and Greiner Homes—has thrived in the Wheat City. To ensure this continued into the future, Jared also obtained his certification as a New Housing Professional through the Manitoba Home Builders Association as well as his realtor licence.

Today, his professional life as CEO of J&G Homes is diversified and keeps Jared very busy. Though he remains involved in the home sales end of the business as well as the interaction with customers, he primarily oversees the continued development of the companies in his purview and creates a vision

for the future. As a professional in the construction field, he shared his thoughts on the new sport and fitness facility on campus.

“It looks great practically and functionally,” Jared said. “Lots of times major projects are overdesigned for the look and not the practicality, where the HLC is not. I feel this will help the fundraising campaign as donors will have comfort knowing that dollars given are being spent efficiently.”

A professional who is concerned about his city as well as his alma mater, Jared realizes there will be many benefits for everyone—students and community members alike—with the addition of the HLC.

“It will fill gaps. We never had an indoor track or adequate seating for basketball/volleyball. It will be huge, moving forward, for new sporting events and attracting functions to Brandon, related to healthy living,” said Jared. “With the aging population, I feel this adds another checkmark in the decision-making process for people moving to Brandon, who are wondering what there is to do and what facilities are available. I also think having the new alumni lounge will be attractive for businesses/alumni to host events and should have positive economic impacts on the rest of the community. It rounds out BU and steps it up with the larger schools in Canada.”

With the local campaign now launched, Jared is planning to successfully reach the targets set to complete the financing of the building and associated programs.

To donate to the HLC fundraising campaign, please call (204) 727-7374. ■

“This project is one that I feel will make a huge difference in our community. In fact, that’s why I’ve volunteered to help,” he said recently. “As we move forward in engaging the community in supporting this project, it is critical that people know of the opportunity that this facility makes possible. From fitness training to a space to hold competitive basketball or volleyball games, the addition of this new building to the

# FACULTY UPDATES



Greg Gatién

## BU Jazz Faculty Members Team Up for “The Complete Rebirth of Cool”

Three members of BU’s jazz faculty—saxophonist Greg Gatién, bassist Gilles Fournier and drummer Eric Platz—collaborated in several unprecedented concert events, inspired by the Miles Davis/ Gerry Mulligan/Gil Evans’ 1957 album, entitled *The Complete Birth of the Cool*, in Brandon, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Edmonton



Kerry DuWors

## Expanding Musical Horizons

Violinist and School of Music faculty member Kerry DuWors travelled a great deal to concertize this year. Earlier in 2012, she gave recitals in New Zealand during the International Akaroa Summer Music Festival. More recently, she gave a *pro series* recital at BU with fellow doctoral candidate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., pianist Futaba Niekawa, then toured her home province of Saskatchewan with fellow faculty member Leanne Zacharias and other musicians.



## Latest CD to His Credit

Jazz pianist and School of Music faculty member Michael Cain released a recording simply entitled *Solo*. The disc’s five original works were inspired by the 2011 flood in Brandon.



Dr. Edward Bach

## Music Alumnus Joins Faculty

A former student of Alan Ehnes, Dr. Edward Bach will join the Brandon University School of Music this fall, after 21 years as trumpet professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Bach holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of British Columbia.

## Cultural Kudos

During the month of May, a show entitled *Winnipeg Shanghai Connection II: An exhibition tracing memories of two Jewish Winnipeggers who lived as refugees in China*, curated by Dr. Alison Marshall on behalf of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre was displayed at the Millennium Library, in Winnipeg. Dr. Marshall’s efforts were lauded in the legislature by Manitoba’s Minister of Culture.

## New Athletic Director

Brandon University’s first Bobcats men’s volleyball coach, Russ Paddock has been appointed BU’s permanent Athletic Director. In the last year, he had continued to coach while being acting AD. On the court, he will be replaced for the upcoming year by BU alumnus Grant Wilson, who had been the team’s assistant coach.



Russ Paddock

## New at the Helm

The BU Bobcats women’s basketball team will start the new season with a new coach. A former member of Canada’s men’s national basketball team and a former professional basketball player, Novell Thomas has coached the sport at various levels and was an assistant at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport level.



Grant Wilson

## Sharing Expertise

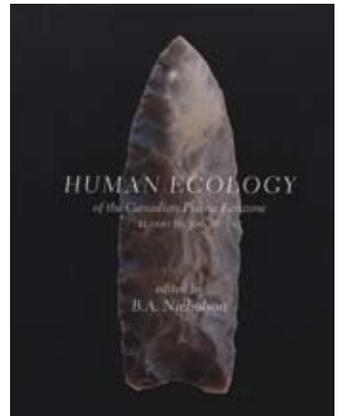
Faculty member Alan Levy was selected to be part of a Canadian, five-member observer delegation to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration.

## Between the Covers

Professor Bev Nicholson has contributed to two chapters and edited a new tome that surveys the “human experience in the Canadian Prairie Ecozone over the past 11,000 years.”

## Current Affairs Meet Art

A play about Afghanistan, written by BU Drama Professor James Forsythe, was performed in Montreal in late April. He had established a script development agreement with Teesri Duniya Theatre, in Montreal, to workshop his script entitled *Safer Ground*. This work is based on the first-person accounts of Canadian military personnel and their families, along with those of Afghan Canadians.



Dr. Alison Marshall

### International Input

Brandon University's Dr. Wendy Untereiner, a mycologist, is one of more than 140 authors of a groundbreaking paper published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS).



### Change of Status

The School of Health Studies has been elevated to the Faculty of Health Studies.



Dr. Martin Lemaire

### BU's Newest Canada Research Chair

BU alumnus, Dr. Martin Lemaire started his five-year appointment at BU in May. His research focus is molecular spintronics and preparation of new multifunctional materials, created by chemical synthesis of molecular precursors. Prior to joining BU, Dr. Lemaire taught at Brock University.



Dr. Bryan Hill with Clare McConkey '08

### Insight into Antibiotics

Dr. Bryan Hill was a co-author of a research article on the synthesis of tetracyclic antibiotics,

### A Nod to the Past

English and Creative Writing Assistant Professor Dale Lakevold spearheaded a production of two plays, including one of his own, at the 2012 MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts in Winnipeg, followed by shows in Brandon. His work, *Aleta Dey: A Rehearsal* is the story of a fiercely independent young woman, raised on a farm south of Brandon, who moved to Winnipeg in 1910. There, she took part in the struggle for women's rights and for an end to war. The play is based on the 1919 novel *Aleta Dey* by Francis Marion Beynon.



L-R: Daria Puttaert, Dale Lakevold, and Tracy Penner



L-R: Debbie Frechette CRPNN Vice-President, Professor Karen Doty-Sweetnam, and Leo O'Rourke CRPNN President

### Distinction in Health Studies

Assistant Professor Karen Doty-Sweetnam was the 2012 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Education from the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba. She received this award at the College's Awards Luncheon in May.

published in the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*. A common synthetic route to homochiral tetracycles related to pillaromycinone and premithramycinone appeared in a special issue dedicated to the International Year of Chemistry.

### Leading the Next Generation

A paper entitled *Infectious personalities: behavioural syndromes and disease risk in larval amphibians* authored by Dr. Janet Koprivnikar has recently been published in the scientific journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London – Biological Sciences*. Notably,



Dr. Janet Koprivnikar

two of her undergraduate research students—Chris H. Gibson and Julia C. Redfern—are co-authors. This groundbreaking research links animal behavioural tendencies in other situations with risk of becoming infected with a parasite.



L-R: Dr. Karen Rempel and Dr. Renee Robinson

### Research into Homelessness

Two studies recently launched at BU have produced significant attention from media. Both studies deal with the many complex problems surrounding homelessness. Dr. Renee Robinson of the School of Health Studies and Dr. Karen Rempel of the Faculty of Education were each awarded funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Dr. Rempel has received \$72,108 to explore the factors that contribute to youth at-risk mobility in rural and northern Manitoba communities. Dr. Robinson received \$31,056 for research entitled "Housing and Support in the Community of Choice: Addressing Factors that Contribute to Migration and Homelessness".

### Looking into Possibilities

The resources of the Biotechnology Laboratory, in the Brodie Building, will soon be enhanced to accommodate research on second-generation biofuels, bioremediation and bio-product development. Funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines, and Brandon University, as well as contributions from external suppliers will allow BU faculty members Dr. Bill Paton and Dr. Terry McGonigle to pursue related projects.

continued

# Faculty Research Grants

## CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

- **Dr. Dean Care** | \$89,293 | Knowledge Translation Supplement *Integrated Knowledge Translation Fosters Partnerships as Rural Postsecondary Students Collaborate to Improve the Health of their Campus Communities*

## NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NSERC)

- **Dr. Margaret Carrington** | \$200,000 | Discovery *Statistical Field Theory and Matter Under Extreme Conditions of Temperature and Density*
- **Dr. Nancy Stanley** | \$60,000 | PromoScience (Mini U)

## SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC)

- **Dr. Doug Ramsey** | \$61,200 | Aid to Scholarly Journals *Journal of Rural and Community Development*

## CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION (CFI)

- **Dr. Janet Koprivnikar** | \$30,271\* | Leaders Opportunity Fund *(\*this amount was matched by the Government of Manitoba)*  
A High Performance Swimming Respirometer

## CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS (CRC)

- **Dr. Martin Lemaire** | \$500,000 (\$100,000/year) | CRC Tier II  
Canada Research Chair in Molecular Spintronic Materials

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- **Mr. Bill Ashton** | \$50,000\* | Labour and Immigration Canada *(\*this amount was matched by the Government of Manitoba)*  
*Immigration and Rural Communities: People, Plans, Actions*
- **Dr. Pamela Rutherford** | \$25,000 | Defense Construction Canada (contract)  
Prairie Skinks
- **Dr. Terence McGonigle** | \$23,290 | Defense Construction Canada (contract)  
Leafy Spurge

## GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

- **Dr. Bev Nicholson** | \$5,721 | Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism  
Brandon University Archaeological Digital Archive
- **Dr. Nancy Stanley** | \$5,000 | Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism  
Mini U public archaeology project 2012

## OTHER AGENCIES

- **Dr. Ison Marshall** | \$34,300 | Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation  
*Understanding Chinese Experiences of Racism through Sport Participation and Entertainment Production*
- **Fran Racher** | \$45,000 | Alzheimer Society  
*Living with Dementia: The Experiences of Older Couples in Managing Their Lives Together*



# NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Eight Brandon University students have been awarded **NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Undergraduate Student Research Awards**. These awards are valued at \$4,500 per student, with further supplements from the Vice President (Academic & Provost) and faculty members' personal research grants. The students work on a research project in a field supported by NSERC over 16 consecutive weeks during the summer, under the direct supervision of a faculty member who holds an NSERC Research Grant.

- ① **Darla Palmer** (Dr. Bernadette Ardelli – Biology – “The role of the DMT superfamily in drug resistance”)
- ② **Julia Redfern** (Dr. Janet Koprivnikar – Biology – “Parasitism in larval amphibians: host risks and defences”)

- ③ **Alise Gaiser** (Dr. Mark Berry – Chemistry – “Prevention of chemotherapy-induced alopecia in a mouse model”)
- ④ **Hannah Mazier** (Dr. Janet Koprivnikar – Biology – “Examination of multiple stressors on tadpole development”)
- ⑤ **Tara Steliga** (Dr. Mark Berry – Chemistry – “The effects of trace amines on dopamine receptor signal transduction”)
- ⑥ **Natasha Van Damme** (Dr. Martin Lemaire – Chemistry – “Synthesis of new redox-active ligands and their transition metal or lanthanide complexes”)
- ⑦ **Jarrett Beck** (Dr. John Hopkinson – Physics & Astronomy – “Is quantum magnetism frustrated on the Sorrel net?”)
- ⑧ **Ian Russell** (Dr. Margaret Carrington – Physics & Astronomy – “Integrands of Feynman diagrams for out of equilibrium theories”)

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I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the generous donors who have been invaluable in helping to promote my research goals and further my academic and professional career in the fields of history and education. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all. — *Chris Bentley, BA'12*

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