SPRING 2013

BRANDON UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI NEWS

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HONORARY DEGREE
Lloyd Robertson

HOMECOMING 2013
October 18-20

MICHAEL DECTER
BU's NEW CHANCELLOR

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ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2013

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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.

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On the Cover
New BU Chancellor Mr. Michael Decter

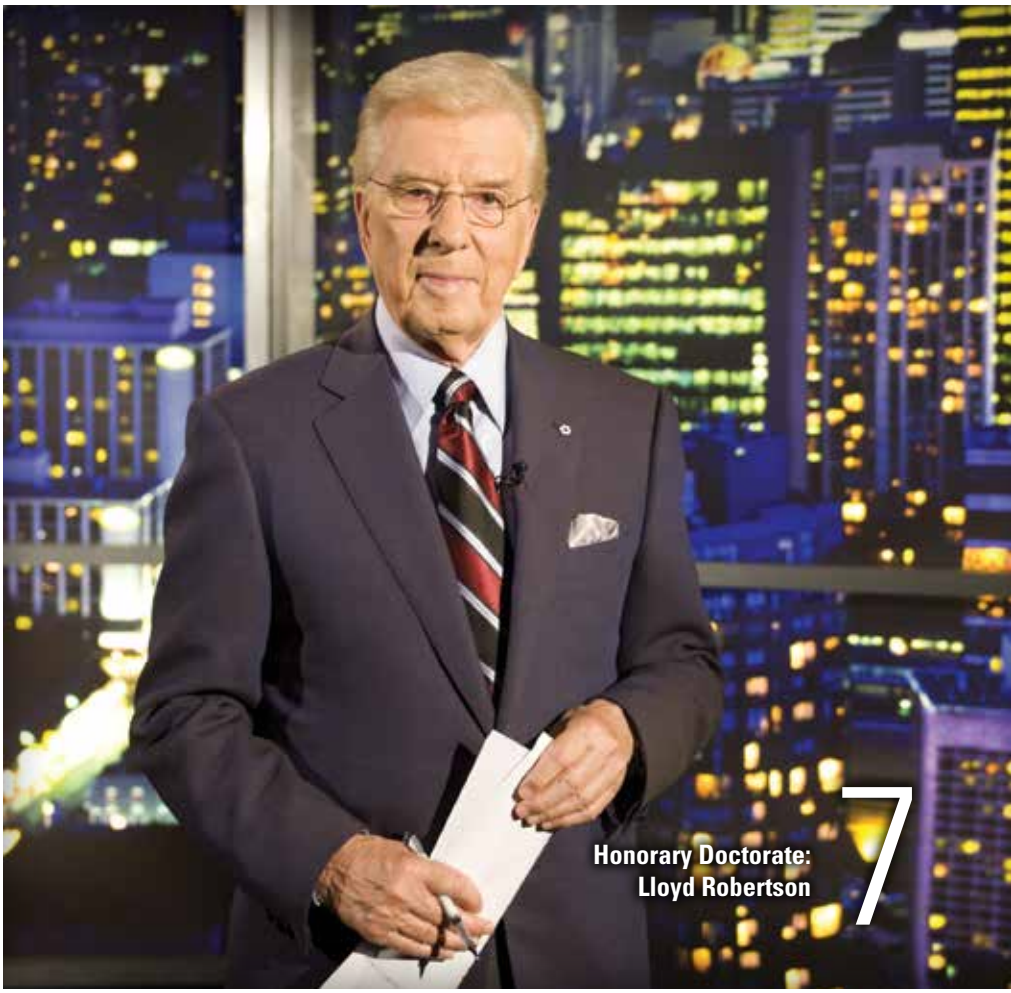

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Photo courtesy of University of Alberta Athletics

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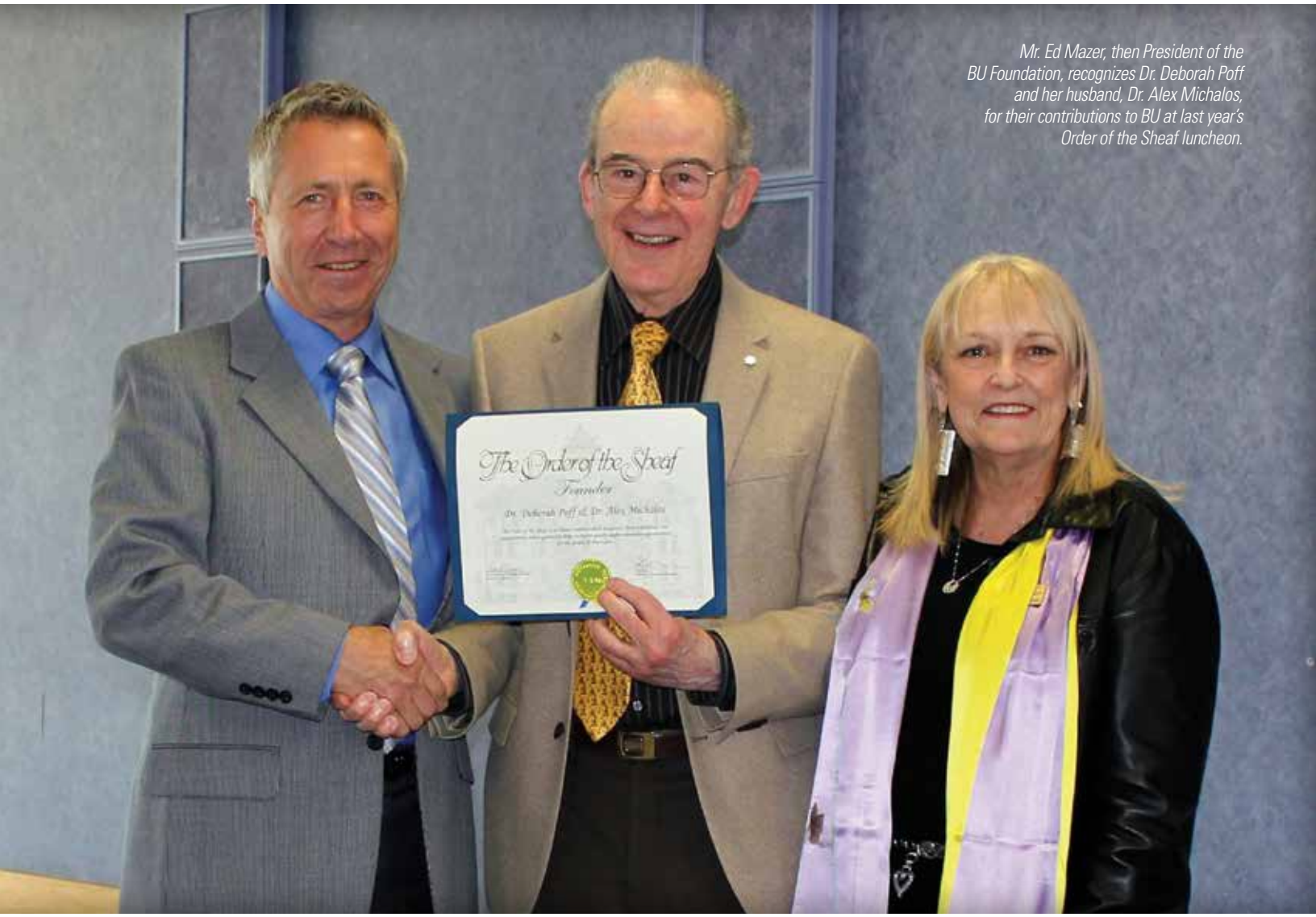

Mr. Ed Mazer, then President of the BU Foundation, recognizes Dr. Deborah Poff and her husband, Dr. Alex Michalos, for their contributions to BU at last year's Order of the Sheaf luncheon.

Dear Alumni and Friends of BU,

This issue of Alumni News comes to you at a time of significant activity on campus. We are halfway through our BUILD University plan and are evaluating what we have accomplished and what is yet to do. We have achieved a great deal in the past two and a half years, particularly so in the area of ***Student Success***. We have introduced a new approach to recruitment and retention and added a number of new positions to increase both new enrolments and increase our success in terms of retaining students who choose BU. Our new strategies seem to be working with an increase in applications for fall 2013.

As part of that strategy, we have piloted an early warning system to identify students who are experiencing challenges and to support them with additional tutorial and student services support. We are currently recruiting a new leadership position, an **Associate Vice-President (Student Services and Enrolment Management) and University Registrar**. This new position brings both Registrarial and Student Services together to optimize student success from recruitment to admissions to graduation.

As well, we have introduced new leadership for ***Aboriginal Student Success***. In January, we welcomed new **Director of the Indigenous Peoples' Centre and Aboriginal Initiatives, Rhonda McCorriston**. Thanks to the hard work of **BU CARES Director, Karen Rempel**, in successfully acquiring funds from **Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada**, the centre is developing a number of programs and services to increase recruitment and retention activities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students at BU.

In terms of ***Academic and Teaching Excellence***, Acting Vice-President Dean Care is moving forward in the establishment of a

new **Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology**. We also welcome **Dr. Gervan Fearon**, new **Vice-President Academic and Provost**, who will join BU's senior administrative team on July 1, 2013. Dr. Fearon will be extending the BUILD plan this year to include a new strategic academic plan. He will be supported in that role by new **Dean of Science, Dr. Andrew Egan** as well as the new **Dean of Education, Dr. Heather Duncan**. In terms of ***Graduate Studies and Research Excellence***, **Dr. Bruce Strang, Dean of Arts** has had additional duties this year and is shepherding through a new **Research Strategic Plan** for BU. Our **MSc in Psychiatric Nursing**, which has been operating since 2011, is going strong with 33 students in the program and we are currently seeking implementation funds for our new **MSc in Environmental and Life Sciences**. Among the new faces at BU this year, we will be installing our new Chancellor, **Michael Decter**, at Convocation on May 31, 2013.

In terms of our BUILD commitment to Social Responsibility, the Healthy Living Centre has been constructed to qualify as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver building. While we plan to celebrate the official opening this spring, the new building is welcoming the community into its completed new facilities with a community access agreement that welcomes many Brandon citizens to work out daily. The centre is already a tremendous community outreach success and we look forward to continuing to welcome citizens to the campus in growing numbers. As part of the opening, on May 2 we honoured our late Chancellor, **Henry Champ**, by naming our original gym after him.

Our second winter open house, **Winterlude**, brought approximately 450 community members to the campus for a series of well-attended events.

We are also hoping to hear that we will be funded to develop BU's first **family-style residence**. This will enable student-led families to live in quality residences while the student pursues studies at the University. The plan is to accommodate 42 families when the project is completed.

In addition to all of these activities, we continue in our **advancement and capital campaign activities**. For those of you who have already donated to this campaign, we thank you again. For those who have not, we look to your commitment to Brandon University to help us grow and lead your University in this phase of its development.

These are just a few of the highlights of the current activities of your University. I hope you will enjoy this issue of *Alumni News*.

Warm regards,

Deborah C. Poff, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

BUILD
2010-2015 UPDATE

A Mid-Term Report on the University's Strategic Plan

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"The Healthy Living Centre is already a tremendous community outreach success and we look forward to continuing to welcome citizens to the campus in growing numbers."

MICHAEL DECTER
FOLLOWING IN BIG FOOTSTEPS

"My attachment to Brandon University (BU) started with Stanley Knowles in the 1970s," says incoming Chancellor Michael Decter, recalling BU's revered alumnus and Chancellor from 1970-1990. "That blossomed into a long association with the University and its people."

Decter, President and CEO of the investment company LDIC Inc., is a Harvard-educated financier, senior public sector manager, and national expert on health systems. He was appointed Chancellor by the BU Senate in March and will be installed during Convocation on May 31, succeeding the late Henry Champ who passed away last September during his second term.

"BU is a jewel, a leader and innovator," says Decter. "I have personally known and greatly admired several BU Chancellors. I am joining an illustrious club and following in some pretty big footsteps."

Decter became friends with Knowles (BA'30) while working in Ottawa for former New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent. Both Knowles and Tommy Douglas (BA'30) would regale Decter with stories about politics, social justice and Brandon University. "Giants of the progressive movement in Canada," says Decter about the two.

Knowles, an ordained minister, married Decter and his wife—an event Knowles fondly recalled despite a debilitating stroke in 1981. Decter would later sit as Chair of the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Professorship Endowment Campaign at BU, and serve on the Foundation.

"University opens opportunities for people to change the course of what they may do in society."

A former Deputy Minister of Health for Ontario and Cabinet Secretary in the Government of Manitoba, Decter was the founding Chair of the Health Council of Canada and former Chair of the National Board for the Canadian Institute for Health Information. He pledges to connect BU with the many national organizations in which he participates but is careful about suggesting any initiatives which he will pursue as Chancellor, saying only that further dialogue is needed with BU President Deborah Poff and senior team members.

"Universities are complex creations," he observes. "I will find something that is right for both the University and me."

With the challenges facing Canada's First Nations as a thread through his work career, Decter is a fervent supporter of post-secondary education and applauds BU as a leader in university education for Aboriginal peoples.

"Universities are transformative," he says. "University opens opportunities for people to change the course of what they may do in society. My father, an orthopedic surgeon, was the first in his family to attend university. My family history was transformed by that university education."

No stranger to Brandon, the now-Ontarian was raised in Winnipeg and has family in the Wheat City—brother Derry Decter is a physician and sister-in-law Shari Decter Hirst is Brandon's mayor.

"I admire BU for its commitment to the Brandon community and the rural area, in providing strong educational programming. I am delighted to be a part of the University."

HONORARY DEGREE
LLOYD ROBERTSON

Canada's preeminent television journalist Lloyd Robertson will be given an honorary Doctor of Laws (honoris causa), during Convocation at Brandon University on May 31, 2013.

Robertson is one of the most trusted faces in TV news, spending 35 years as Chief Anchor and Senior Editor of the country's most-watched national newscast, CTV National News. A broadcaster since 1952, Robertson is a three-time Gemini award winner, and member of both the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Order of Canada.

"Lloyd's efforts as a journalist and communicator have made Canada a better place," says BU President and Vice-Chancellor Deborah Poff. "We applaud his career, his contributions and his national pride."

In addition to television work, Robertson was honorary chairperson of the Terry Fox Run. In 2006, he received an honorary degree from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC.

Television Experience and Career Highlights

- Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism, 2011
- First Journalist inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame, 2007
- Awarded Honourary Degree from Royal Roads University, 2006
- Honoured with the Canadian Association of New York's Arts and Letters Award, 2006
- Awarded the Order of Canada, 1998
- Inducted into Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, 1998
- Voted Most Trusted TV Journalist by the readers of TV Guide for a record 11 times; voted Best Anchor twice
- Voted Canada's Favourite News Anchor in the first two annual TV Times Readers' Choice Awards, 1998 and 1999
- Three-time Gemini winner as "Best Host, Anchor or Interviewer" in 1992, 1994 and 1997
- Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Gold Ribbon Award winner for Broadcast Excellence, 1995/96
- Honoured with the Radio Television News Directors' Association (RTNDA) President's Award, 1993
- Voted Favourite TV Anchor in *NOW* Magazine's first Reader Poll

Photo courtesy of CTV News

2013 VALEDICTORIANS

Julia Redfern, BSc'13

Julia Redfern was born and raised in Brandon and, after graduating from École Neelin High School, she decided to pursue her studies at Brandon University. Now, she is graduating with an Honours Degree in Science with a major in Biology (Biomedical stream) and a minor in Chemistry. During her undergraduate years, she was both President and Vice-President of the Brandon University Zoological Society, a student leader coordinator, and a research assistant during the summers in Dr. Koprivnikar's parasite ecology laboratory. Outside of school, Julia has been an active member of Brandon's community theater scene since she was bitten by the theater bug at ten years of age. She has taught musical theater to teens, and even performed in her 25th musical this past March. This fall, she will begin a Master of Biology at the University of Ottawa where she will study the effects of chronic stress on the immune system.

Chris Byman, BMus'11/MMus'13

A native of rural Manitoba, Chris Byman completed both undergraduate and graduate degrees at Brandon University, studying clarinet performance and literature with secondary areas in both composition and conducting. As a performer, he has played extensively across Canada in various ensembles, including the National Youth Band of Canada, the Brandon University Orchestra, and the Brandon University Symphonic Band. Also active as a chamber musician, Chris has performed with the BU Clarinet Choir, advanced to national finals with the student-formed Atiragram Quartet, and premiered an original composition at the 2013 Dark Music Days Festival in Reykjavik, Iceland with the BU New Music Ensemble. As an emerging composer, Chris has written primarily for chamber groups and has had the privilege of working with multiple ensembles, including the BU New Music Ensemble and the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Chris has studied privately with Sharon Atkinson, Micah Heilbrunn, Catherine Wood, T. Patrick Carrabré (composition) and Wendy McCallum (conducting).

2013 SENATE AWARDS

Dr. Bev Nicholson
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Bev Nicholson graduated in 1978 with a BA from Brandon University and later completed a Masters and PhD from Simon Fraser University. He began working at BU in 1981 as an archaeologist, focusing his research in Southwestern Manitoba. Each summer he taught an archeological field school where students were required to live near the sites and experience field conditions first-hand, motivating many to pursue graduate degrees.

Dr. Nicholson was involved in the Manitoba Archaeological Society, Plains Anthropology Association and served on the Canadian Archaeological Association executive. He was appointed to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council from 1994 to 1997, and was Director of the federally-funded and multi-disciplinary SCAPE Project (Study of Cultural Adaptations in the Prairie Ecozone).

He has written and published 80 academic papers, published three edited volumes, and presented 89 papers and 10 poster sessions at scholarly conferences. With over $3.4 million received in funding, his research has contributed to a greater understanding of the prehistory of the northern plains.

Dr. Nicholson retired in January 2013 as Professor Emeritus of Archeology. ■

William Hillman
Lifetime Achievement Award

In 1961, William "Bill" Hillman enrolled in the BSc program at Brandon College. Shortly after moving into the Men's Residence, he gave his first musical performance in the city on a flatbed float during the Brandon College "Freshie" Parade. The twin paths of education and entertainment were set.

Over the next 50 years, Bill and his wife Sue-On would perform for countless audiences earning the 1979 Manitoba Music Entertainers of the Year Award for Country Music. Their musical repertoire included rock 'n' roll, country, big band, folk, western, old time, rock, bluegrass, pop, gospel, Cajun and even original music.

Bill graduated with a Silver Medal and a BSc degree in geography and later became the first Canadian student to earn an MEd at BU in 1991. While teaching with the Faculty of Education, he worked with former BU professor John Tyman to compile the massive online "Cultures in Context" resource, featuring thousands of notated photos (*www.johntyman.com*).

Bill has volunteered countless hours to organizations including the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum, XII Manitoba Dragoons, Brandon Mental Health Centre, Westman Chinese Association, as well as events for First Nations, music, culture and education.

Bill retired in 2011 as an Assistant Professor with the Brandon University Faculty of Education. ■

Paola DiMuro
Excellence in Teaching Award

Paola was born in Italy where she spent the first three decades of her life. In 1978, she obtained her Doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Bologna, the oldest in the world. While in Bologna, she married and had her first son. She became a teacher in the Italian schools, coming into contact with the students' rooted dislike and fear of math and began to search for ways to make it understandable and enjoyable. Moving to Canada in 1985 opened a new phase in her life, characterized by challenges such as learning a new language, adapting to a harsh climate, and fitting into a new environment. She joined Brandon University as a marker and a peer tutor, and became a sessional instructor and later a lecturer.

Eventually, she gained a permanent position in the Mathematics Department and in Student Services. In the span of a few years, Paola progressed from having trouble ordering a meal at the fast food window to being able to teach a large university audience. Paola truly enjoys the contact with the students and the challenges connected with communicating her love for the intrinsic beauty and harmony of the mathematical language and keeps researching new methods to stimulate deeper learning and higher retention of concepts. ■

Dr. Wendy Untereiner
Excellence in Research Award

Dr. Wendy Untereiner, BU alumna (BSc. Spec. 85') and member of the Department of Biology since 1998, is a mycologist specializing in the study of the phylogenetic relationships among fungi based on the comparison of DNA sequence, morphological and physiological characters.

Since 1999, Dr. Untereiner's research at BU has been supported by grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). She has also received infrastructure grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and research grants from Brandon University Research Committee (BURC). Awards from the Canadian Botanical Association and the Mycological Society of America have recognized her contributions to fungal systematics.

While at BU, Dr. Untereiner has contributed to the next generation of highly qualified personnel (HQP) by supervising many NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) recipients—awards that can only be given to students who work with an NSERC award holder—and one post-doctoral fellow. ■

BRANDON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Dr. John Hopkinson

Dr. John Hopkinson has held two consecutive three-year term positions in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Brandon University since 2007, and an adjunct appointment at the University of Manitoba since 2010. At BU, John has held a five-year Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Discovery grant which he has used to support 11 different undergraduate research projects and one Masters student. Prior to joining the faculty, John earned a BSc (Hon) at McMaster University (graduating Summa Cum Laude) and a PhD at Rutgers University in 2002. He completed two years as a postdoctoral researcher at l'Université de Sherbrooke and three years at the University of Toronto, where he held a prestigious NSERC postdoctoral fellowship. John has been an active member of the community, organizing the 2010 visit of a Marie Curie impersonator to present "Manya – A Day in the Life of Marie Curie" to students from local high schools. John also sings in the local men's choir Prairie Blend. John has been accepted into the Brandon University Bachelor of Education program for the fall 2013 semester. ■

2013 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Corey Billaney

After graduating from high school in Boissevain, MB, Corey spent three years playing hockey in Neepawa, MB. Following this, he attended Brandon University where he continued to play hockey and pursue a degree in education, earning a BGS'02 and a BEd(AD)'04. Corey is now in his eighth year of teaching at Boissevain School, the same school he attended as a youth. Corey is very active in athletics and is a proud coach in the school's Bronco Program. Corey enjoys teaching Physical Education and promotes a healthy lifestyle in a variety of ways to all of his students. Corey has three daughters and, through his love of sport, he and his family enjoy staying active. Corey also remains an active member of his community. ■

Eileen Bishop (née Castel)

After earning a BGS'01 and a BEd(AD)'03 from BU, Eileen continued her education, receiving a certificate in Business Administration, a certificate in Teaching of English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and an Emergency Measures Organization certificate. Eileen also relearned the Cree language through the University of Manitoba. She is currently teaching a grade 6/7 split in her hometown of Leaf Rapids, MB where she incorporates both cultural and educational experience and has created a cultural class trip in June of each year for her class. For ten years, Eileen taught K-12 in both rural and urban communities in northern Manitoba. One of her fondest memories is seeing her students use their outdoor education skills that were taught by elders to her first grade 8 class. Eileen has two children, Jordan and Jessica, who continue to be her inspiration. ■

Janice Greig

After graduating from high school in Baldur, MB, Janice attended Brandon University earning a BA'91 and a BEd(AD)'93. Janice taught in Killarney, MB for seven years and in the spring of 2000, she married her husband Brian and moved to Melita, MB. Since then, she has taught in Pierson, MB and Waskada, MB and is currently teaching senior high English in Melita School. Janice is particularly interested in differentiated instruction and literacy strategies for adolescents. In addition to working on school musical productions and student council, Janice enjoys participating in community theatre, reading, playing piano, and baking. She is also busy with the activities of her two children, Andrew and Elizabeth. ■

Joanne Campbell

Born in Toronto and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Joanne graduated as valedictorian from Bawating Collegiate and Vocational School in 1980. She attended the University of Manitoba where she completed a BA and a BEd degree. Joanne has spent the last 27 years teaching at St. Augustine School in Brandon. Most of these years have been spent in a grade 5 classroom but, for the last 3 years, she has spent half of her time as a middle years literacy support teacher for grade 5-8 students. It is her hope that all students can have a lifelong love of reading and writing. ■

Renowned Toronto Educator Joins BU

Dr. Gervan Fearon has been appointed Vice-President (Academic and Provost) and will join BU on July 1, 2013.

Dr. Fearon holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario and is currently Dean of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University in Toronto. Dr. Fearon previously served as an Associate Dean for Academics and Students at York University. He is the recipient of awards for teaching excellence and has published in numerous academic journals. Prior to his work in post-secondary education, Dr. Fearon served with the Treasury Board at the Ontario Ministry of Finance as well as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

As part of the senior executive team, Dr. Fearon will develop and promote academic programming and research advancement, overseeing the Faculties of Arts, Sciences, Health Studies, Education, and the School of Music. He will also oversee Graduate Studies, Campus Manitoba, Student and Registrarial Services, Library Services, and Information Technology Services. ■

BU Recruits New Dean from New Mexico

Dr. Andrew Egan will join BU on June 1, 2013 as Dean, Faculty of Science.

Dr. Egan holds a PhD in Forest Science from The Pennsylvania State University and is currently the Executive Director of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at New Mexico Highlands University. Dr. Egan previously served as Dean of the School of Forestry and Natural Resources at Paul Smith's College in New York and as a Professor and Canada Industrial Chair designee at Université Laval in Québec. He is the recipient of several awards for teaching and research excellence, including a Senior Fulbright Scholarship (2004). Dr. Egan has led the development of a number of new academic programs and has published over 100 papers and book chapters.

Dr. Egan will oversee the Faculty of Science which is comprised of eight departments and serves more than 600 undergraduate students. He will contribute to the development, implementation and promotion of institutional goals including academic programming and research advancement. ■

BUNOW

View the latest news and events at www.brandonu.ca

Bobcats Bring Back Bronze

After capturing the Canada West league title, the Bobcats men's volleyball team entered the national CIS tournament as the #1 seeded team, and went on to win bronze in Quebec. This marks the third time in five years that the BU men's volleyball squad was a medal winner at the national level.

Photo courtesy of University of Alberta Athletics

"The Shot" Becomes International Sensation

It was "the shot seen around the world." Millions watched the video showing a Brandon University (BU) coach drain a basketball shot from half-court to win tuition for a student. The event, held during the Brandon Bobcats final weekend of regular season play, turned BU coach Gil Cheung and physical education student Mason Kaluzniak into celebrities. Nearly three million people have watched "the shot" on YouTube. Media outlets including CTV, CBC, Global, TSN, ESPN, USA Today and CNN carried the story, many interviewing both Cheung and Kaluzniak.

Winterlude Draws Hundreds

The University's 2nd Annual Winterlude day-long open house featured events, music, food and entertainment—all free. Demonstrations by the Science Faculty continued to be a major attraction, as professors vapourized gummy bears, made sand dance and turned music into flame. The Students again defeated Faculty/Administration in a well-played, down-to-the-final minute hockey game. There's always next year. And the year after that!

Booming Communities to Benefit from BU Research

New research by Brandon University is offering suggestions on managing the rapid population growth now challenging some Manitoba communities. BU's Rural Development Institute (RDI), with support from Manitoba Immigration and Multiculturalism and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, examined two regions with recent upward growths. Dr. Bill Ashton, Director of RDI, says a key recommendation within *Discerning Growth Strategies* is the establishment of a liaison to organize community efforts between different provincial departments and organizations.

Champ Honoured with Gym Dedication

Photo courtesy *Brandon Sun*

Henry Champ (BU Chancellor 2008-2012) was posthumously honoured on May 2, when the original campus gymnasium was renamed for the late journalist during a ceremony with family, friends and members of the public. Henry attended BU in 1957 and 1958 and was a lifelong sports enthusiast and dedicated BU Bobcats fan. The Henry Champ Gymnasium, first opened in 1965, has been home to four Canadian university national championship teams. The gym has undergone a year-long refurbishment as part of BU's Healthy Living Centre development.

Pennies Turned into Golden Opportunity

More than 10,000 pennies have been donated to Brandon University (BU) by residents responding to a public plea in April by Science professors who use the copper coins in experiments and demonstrations. "We are overwhelmed by the response," says Dr. Mark Berry, professor and chair of BU's Chemistry department. "People young and old have been dropping off pennies in bags, jars and by the handful."Each year, hundreds of school children marvel as BU Chemistry profs electroplate pennies with zinc, then apply heat, turning the copper silver and finally gold. But the government is phasing out the coin in 2013.

BU Graduate Wins Top Prize at E-Gré

On May 5, BU alumnus and pianist Everett Hopfner, BMus'10, won top prize at the 36th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, which took place in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall at Brandon University School of Music. This win, which is the first time a Manitoban has ever taken top prize in the E-Gré Competition in piano, has earned Hopfner $10,000, a recital and three-week residency with the Casalmaggiore International Festival in Italy, and a Canadian recital tour in the fall.

Photo Ken Frazer, Frazer Studio of Photography

Dr. Deborah Poff Elected to Ethics Committee

President and Vice-Chancellor Deborah Poff was elected council member on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), an international resource network dedicated to the ethical publication of research in all academic fields. COPE provides advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and, in particular, how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. As a council member, Dr. Poff will attend four meetings per year in the UK and one in North America.

BU Student Pursues Engineering at UMN

BU student Evan Citulsky, set to graduate this spring, has been accepted into Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics at the University of Minnesota (UMN). He is the first to benefit from a "3+2" agreement between BU and UMN giving students the opportunity to obtain both a Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in partnership with one of the world's most prestigious engineering programs. The Chair of BU's Physics Department, Dr. Austin Gulliver, says, "This is a win-win. We are thrilled for Evan and excited about the potential for the dozen students already involved in the dual degree program."

BU Alumni Perform at Carnegie Hall, NY

Three BU alumni lived the musician's dream, performing in New York City at prestigious Carnegie Hall. Sarah Hallikas '12, Annelise Hawrylak '11 and Mitchell Wedgewood '11 appeared on the world renowned stage February 18 with the Toronto-based Eastminster United Church Choir, a 30-voice ensemble selected to take part in a musical production by Distinguished Concerts Singers International. "It was thrilling, amazing," says Hallikas, a BU School of Music graduate. "Our audience even graced us with a standing ovation."

DR. JANET KOPRIVNIKAR

QUEEN OF THE PARASITE EMPIRE

She loves trudging through the ponds dotting Manitoba, but her new favourite home is the so-called "Parasite Empire" – a series of labs in the Brodie Science Building retrofitted a year ago with funds from grants she helped secure.

"We are so excited," says Dr. Janet Koprivnikar. "Every time I walk in there, I still get a smile on my face. It's so functional. There are so many shiny new toys [laughs]. I find myself saying I should do this, or plan to do that, but there's just not enough time in the day to accomplish everything I want!"

Dr. Koprivnikar studies wildlife diseases. By extension, her research provides valuable insight into human susceptibility. "Everything is connected to something else," she points out, "so it's important to understand diseases in what you might think are obscure groups."

The $626,178 renovation to the Parasite Empire is just one recent, significant project involving the Associate Professor in BU's Department of Biology. She collaborated with fellow faculty member Dr. Bernadette Ardelli for funding to upgrade the labs through Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund (MRIF). With Dr. Peter Rombough, she landed a $75,678 CFI grant in September 2011 to purchase equipment and research the respiration of aquatic animals, "measuring how a fish breathes," she says.

"The equipment only arrived in October, so we will get that up and running this spring and see how it goes. We will be using this equipment for years to come, to look at disease-related questions of physiology."

> "People who want to evolve need to get involved in the process of the evolution of their institution."

In April 2010, Dr. Koprivnikar secured an NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Discovery Grant worth $100,000 over five years. She has presented results at a number of conferences and co-authored articles with some of her undergraduate students.

"It hasn't been tremendously difficult to stay moderately research-active," she says, taking a break in her office a few doors away from the Parasite Empire. "We do face some challenges here. We are just now adding a graduate program in Science, for example. We're bursting at the seams in this building and could definitely use a new Science building. But to carry out basic research, I find that we have

excellent undergraduate students who are keen to get involved."

The rubber boots in the corner of her office speak to the field work that will soon unfold. Each summer since joining the BU faculty, Dr. Koprivnikar has conducted research, and every summer project has involved undergrad students.

"We put on hip-waders, we go out and collect things, examine them in the lab, record their behavior and expose them to parasites to see what happens. The students are not just an extra set of hands. They are doing enough independent research that actually warrants scientific publication. For an undergraduate, that's a pretty rare opportunity at a lot of institutions. I really want people to understand how valuable that is. It's a critical experience for student development and they get so much out of it."

Despite obtaining her BSc (Hons), MSc and PhD at the University of Toronto, a school with the largest annual research budget of any Canadian university, Dr. Koprivnikar sought out the opportunities inherent in BU: a valuable mix of intangibles and real assets she feels are available to both faculty and students at smaller and medium-sized institutions.

"What people need to do is look at the context. Yes, we do have relatively high teaching loads compared to other institutions, we are fairly isolated, we have limited infrastructure at this point in time. People may think these factors contribute to our lack of success in the *Maclean's* magazine rankings but if you look at bang-for-the-buck, I think we are doing quite well. The student experience here—getting to know the faculty, getting hands-on research experience, having faculty and not assistants teach the labs—you are getting great value for your tuition money. There are a number of people here who are research-active, highly-trained, with a lot of experience, and students reap that reward."

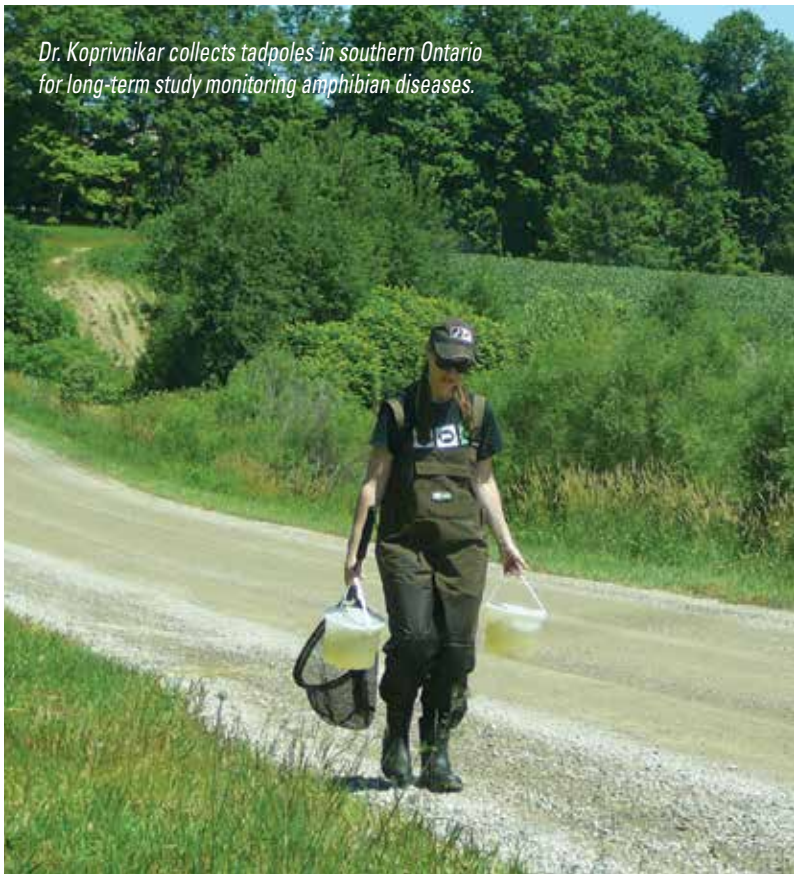
To emphasize the value equation, Dr. Koprivnikar explains how she is helping an undergraduate research student with whom she has worked for a number of years move on to graduate school. The student was nervous about drafting her application and asked Dr. Koprivnikar to review it. "I did," she says, "and she responded, saying I'm really lucky to go to a school like BU where you can ask profs to do this. I responded back, asking her to get the word out. It's the truth!"

In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Koprivnikar is helping shape the University by participating on a number of committees, including one revising the Strategic Research Plan.

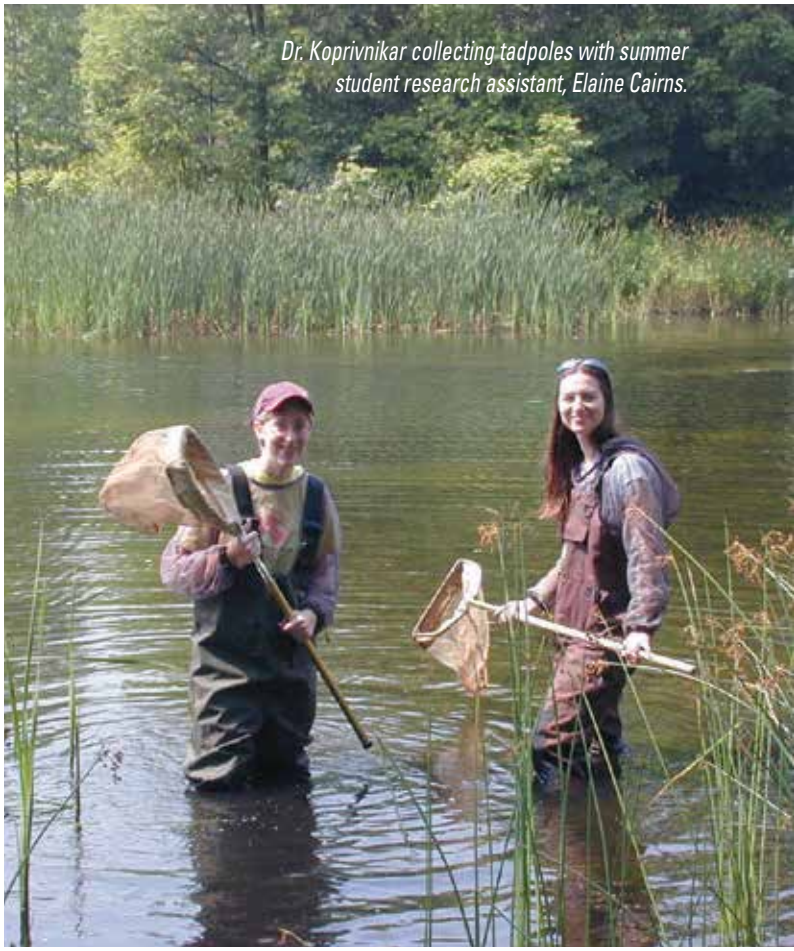
"I am getting into a groove and my potential can go along with the potential of Brandon University," she says. "BU has changed a lot from what it was ten years ago and will continue to change. I have a real interest in helping to drive that change and be a part of it. People who want to evolve need to get involved in the process of the evolution of their institution."

With the suite of labs in the Parasite Empire, Dr. Koprivnikar believes she and her BU colleagues are ready for any research challenges, from molecular to ecosystem levels. "We have updated space, updated top-of-the-line equipment. The lab infrastructure that we have now can compete with anywhere in Canada, it's that good."

And that's when she smiles.



Dr. Koprivnikar collects tadpoles in southern Ontario for long-term study monitoring amphibian diseases.



Dr. Koprivnikar collecting tadpoles with summer student research assistant, Elaine Cairns.

IN TOUCH

Stay connected with university friends and classmates

Jim McManes, BA'75 – Jim resides in Calgary and is President of the McManes Automotive Group. The McManes Group owns and operates 17 new vehicle franchises in Western Canada with over 1,000 employees.

Bernie Dowhan, BEd'99 – Bernie has been a teacher in the private and public systems in Manitoba and Alberta. He is currently the Canadian Oil Sand Math Minds Program Coordinator for the Calgary Public Library. He and his wife Michelle have two children, Grady (7) and Taylor (5). An avid rugby player, he is now entering his 20th season of play. Bernie will be running for Calgary City Council in October 2013.

Karl Enns, BEd'03 – After graduating from BU, Karl lived and worked in Winkler, MB as a youth director in a church and a teacher in the local school division. He helped to found Canadian Youth Worker, an organization that helps to train and resource youth workers across Canada. He and his wife recently moved to Brazil (Fortaleza) where they run a business and small hospitality centre. They create English immersion programs, host schools, churches, businesses and other groups, and organize and lead groups of Canadians wishing to have an authentic cross-cultural experience.

Scott Chalmers, BSc'04 – After graduation, Scott worked for Ag Canada in Brandon before moving to Redvers, SK to work as a research farm manager for a non-profit applied research group among other Agriculture-Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) sites in Saskatchewan. In 2007, he was hired as a diversification technician in Melita, MB where he presently remains. Scott also facilitates field days and does some public speaking.

Lauren Davies, BSc'05 – After completing her BSc from BU in 2005, Lauren was accepted into Dentistry at U of M, graduating in 2009. While in dental school, Lauren and her husband married, returning to Brandon right after graduation. They have one child, Bethany (1 yr). Lauren is now practicing with Dr. Jackson at Brightside Dental in Brandon.

Veronica Rubio Vega, BA'07 – Veronica is currently a PhD candidate in Global Political Economy at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo and recently taught an undergraduate seminar at the University of Waterloo. Prior to this, she completed an MA in Globalization Studies from McMaster University.

Scot Paterson, BBA'09 – Scot is a project coordinator for Manshield Construction in Winnipeg, MB where he is responsible for negotiating contracts, tracking construction schedules, communicating with stakeholders, estimating new projects, and problem-solving. This past fall, Scot got married in New York City to BU graduate Breanne Batters, BSc'07.

Ryan Brooks, BSc'10 – After graduating from BU, Ryan began working in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department at the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre in Brandon. Ryan has become a certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher, a licensed Emergency Medical Technician, and is currently completing an applied degree in GIS via distance education from SAIT Polytechnic.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Campbell, Kenneth W., BSc'56
February 25, 2013

Ross-Harms, Carol, BMus'74
February 10, 2013

Schellenberg, Henry A., BMus'76
February 20, 2013

Wood, Iva J. (née Delamater), BSc'44
December 28, 2012

STAFF / FACULTY

Deneka, Verna
Cleaner, 1980 to 1985 and 1987 to1990
January 2, 2013

BU Alumnus receives Agrow Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Cam Davreux, BSc'59 was honoured with a prestigious international *Lifetime Achievement Award* at the annual Agrow Awards evening on November 7, 2012 in London, England. Cam was recognized for implementing leading-edge stewardship programs around the world during his career at CropLife Canada. Officially retired in 2011, Cam continues to consult for CropLife Canada, CropLife International, and the Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Winnipeg Alumni Event

A President's Reception was held on Thursday, April 4 at the Manitoba Club in Winnipeg. Over 100 alumni and guests enjoyed a presentation by BU President, Dr. Deborah Poff, remarks from Brandon Mayor Shari Decter Hirst, and a special performance by School of Music Dean, Dr. Michael Kim.

E-Newsletter Set for June Launch

We will be launching our first quarterly e-newsletter this June highlighting successful alumni, faculty research, events and the latest BU news. To ensure you receive your copy of the e-newsletter, please send us your email address.

National Alumni Chapters

We are launching alumni chapters across the country and we would like your help! We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the Calgary and Winnipeg Chapters. If you are interested in becoming involved with this initiative, please call the Alumni Association.

Looking for Alumni Mentors

Consider sharing your knowledge and expertise with current students and recent graduates. The Alumni Association would like to build a network of alumni mentors from various professional backgrounds and fields, to provide advice and tips for landing a first job, sharing career insights and opportunities, and to tell others first-hand what it is like to do what you do. If you are interested, please contact Carla Eisler, Alumni Relations Officer.

Alumni Authors and Artists

Are you an alumni author or recording artist? Send us your information for inclusion in the next issue of *Alumni News*.

Contact the Alumni Association at *alumni@brandonu.ca*, 204-727-9697.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

OCTOBER 18-20, 2013 – EVERYONE'S INVITED!

This year, we are celebrating the anniversary class years of 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983 & 1988. All alumni, faculty, staff and friends are invited to come out and join in the festivities.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 18

Meet & Greet *2 – 3 pm*
SUDS – Students' Union Building, BU Campus, No Charge

Say hello to fellow graduates who have arrived for the weekend. Alumni hosts will be there to greet you. Refreshments and food will be available in SUDS (campus pub), with special alumni discounts.

Class Reunions *5 – 7:30 pm*

Is your class celebrating a milestone anniversary? If so, your class may be planning a special reunion during this time. To find out what is being planned for your class or if you would like to assist in organizing a reunion and/or contacting fellow classmates, please contact the Alumni Association.

Welcome Reception
7:30 – 9:30 pm
Grand Salon A, Victoria Inn, Cost: $10, Cash Bar

Join together for a relaxed and informal gathering of alumni and friends from ALL years. Bring your memorabilia and kick-off the weekend sharing memories of your College/ University days. Light food and refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 19

Alumni Luncheon *11 am – 1 pm*
Healthy Living Centre – BU Campus, Cost: $15

Reunite and enjoy a luncheon overlooking The Henry Champ Gymnasium in the Healthy Living Centre, BU's newest facility. The luncheon will include a brief update on the latest BU news by BU President Dr. Deborah Poff as well as a tour of the building.

Campus Tour *1 – 2:30 pm*
Healthy Living Centre – BU Campus, No Charge

Stroll down memory lane as you tour buildings old and new. Your guide will lead you to some special BU showcases along the way.

Homecoming Dinner & Awards
Main Dining Hall – BU Campus. Cocktail Reception – 5 pm (Cash Bar). Dinner – 6 pm. Cost: $35

Join in the celebrations as we recognize the anniversary class years and the accomplishments of the 2013 Alumni Award recipients. Guests will be seated with class members.

Sunday, October 20

Farewell Brunch *10 am – 12 pm*
Main Dining Hall – BU Campus, Cost: $15

Save the best of your stories for last over a hot brunch as you bid farewell to your friends and the BU campus…until next year!

Don't miss this opportunity to reunite with friends!

REGISTER NOW

There are four ways to register:

1. **Online:** *www.brandonu.ca/homecoming*
2. **Email:** *alumni@brandonu.ca*
3. **Call:** 1-877-282-4483 or 204-727-9697
4. **Mail:** Complete the registration at the right and mail to:
   Brandon University
   Alumni Association
   270 -18th Street
   Brandon, MB R7A 6A9
   Canada

Keep track of all updates via Facebook at:
facebook.com/ brandon universityalumniassociation

ACCOMMODATIONS

Book your hotel rooms soon! There is a block of rooms reserved for Homecoming Weekend guests at the Victoria Inn until September 18 at 5 pm.

Victoria Inn
Group Booking #237615
3550 Victoria Ave.
Brandon, MB
204-725-1532 or 1-800-852-2710

Room Rates:
$100.99 – Single
(includes one free breakfast per room per day)

$110.99 – Double
(includes two free breakfasts per room per day)

WESTJET FLIGHTS

WestJet is offering a 10% discount off their best available fare (excluding seat sales/ econo fares and web fares) to Brandon University alumni and guests flying in and out of Brandon and Winnipeg, MB to attend Homecoming Weekend. These discounted rates are available for travel up to three days prior and three days after Homecoming Weekend.
To book reservations call WestJet Groups Department at 1-888-493-7853 (available through this number only 7 am - 5:30 pm MST) and quote our discount code: CC7501. Discounts cannot be added to existing bookings.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2013
REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2013

REGISTRANT:

❑ Dr. ❑ Mr. ❑ Mrs. ❑ Ms. ❑ Miss

Name:

Maiden Name:
(if applicable)

Grad Year(s) / Type(s):

SPOUSE / GUEST:

❑ Dr. ❑ Mr. ❑ Mrs. ❑ Ms. ❑ Miss

Name:

Maiden Name:
(if applicable)

Grad Year(s) / Type(s):

Address:

City:

Province:

Country:

Postal Code / Zip Code:

Phone (Home):

Phone (Work):

Phone (Cell):

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 WANT TO REGISTER FOR:

	Number	Cost	Total
Friday, October 12			
Meet & Greet, 2 – 3 pm SUDS – Students' Union Building		No Charge	——
Class Reunions, 5 – 7:30 pm *Check with your Class Representative or the Alumni Office for details.*			
Welcome Reception, 7:30 – 9:30 pm Grand Salon A – Victoria Inn		@ $10	$
Saturday, October 19			
Alumni Luncheon 11 am – 1 pm Healthy Living Centre – BU Campus		@ $15	$
Campus Tour, 1 – 2:30 pm Healthy Living Centre – BU Campus		No Charge	——
Homecoming Dinner & Awards Main Dining Hall - BU *Cocktail Reception, 5 pm; Dinner & Program, 6 pm; Cash Bar*		@ $35	$
Sunday, October 20			
Farewell Brunch, 10 am – 12 pm Main Dining Hall		@ $15	$
TOTAL ENCLOSED			$

METHOD OF PAYMENT

❑ Cheque ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ American Express

Credit Card #:

Expiry Date (mm/yy):

Signature:

GREG GATIEN
HIGH NOTES, EVERYDAY

Greg Gatien couldn't be happier. "My musician friend from New York was visiting and I brought him to our house for dinner. We pulled up in front and he said, 'That's really nice. Do you have the whole first floor?' I said, we have the whole thing!' He couldn't believe it. I'm a musician and I have a house!"

Photo Rob Lovett, Keywest Photo

A transplanted westerner, raised on Canada's east coast with a music pedigree from Antigonish, Rochester, NY, and Boston (BA - St. Francis Xavier, MMus - Eastman School of Music, work at New England Conservatory), Gatien is Associate Professor and Chair of Music Performance with BU's School of Music, joining the faculty in 2001. Make no mistake: this saxophone player is a jazzman through and through.

"I really love jazz; the sound of it, the idea, the broadness of it as a category. I still have a strong sense of discovery. I can't ever imagine feeling, 'Well, I guess I'm done with music now'."

That need to discover keeps Gatien musically active. During the busy school year, he can only manage one or two performances per month. Come this summer, he will tour western Canada with Wisconsin-based pianist John Harmon, play his way to Montana for a ten day festival, play an opening gig for Grammy award winning singer Macy Gray, join forces with Canadian saxophone legend PJ Perry, and finish production on his latest album—a reworking of the Miles Davis-Gerry Mulligan-Gil Evans collaboration called *The Complete Re-birth of the Cool*.

"We recorded in April in the Lorne Watson," says Gatien, referring to BU's acoustically-superb 200 seat recital hall. "We should see a fall release. I hope we can tour that record in the summer of 2014 through the festival circuit."

Teaching students is another way that he keeps connected with the music. "Watching them grow is inspiring," he says, a cacophony of student practice drifting to his office from the rehearsal spaces across the hall. "They take something I've been playing, a tune or a concept, and turn it into their own and do things with it that I have never thought of doing before."

"These are my people, cool people, who make sense to me," he says. "That's how I ended up here."

Gatien feels that Brandon, as a city, provides ample opportunities for young people to play music. "It's a smaller place," he says, "but with more musical activity per-capita than I remember when I was an up-and-comer in Halifax. Our students are in multiple bands, playing at the Dock, or the Double-Decker or the 40 or Lady of the Lake, or going up to Rossburn or wherever. Then, the School of Music occupies such a central place in the musical life of Brandon. It's so accessible here."

"I feel like the School of Music is, without being boastful, a very good school," Gatien says, citing advantages including a residential option for students and an outstanding student/teacher ratio of 8 to 1. "For an undergraduate student, that means lots of interaction, a surprisingly close-knit group of fellow students, and not a ton of distractions. Music is the centre of your life. It's unique in western Canada in that way."

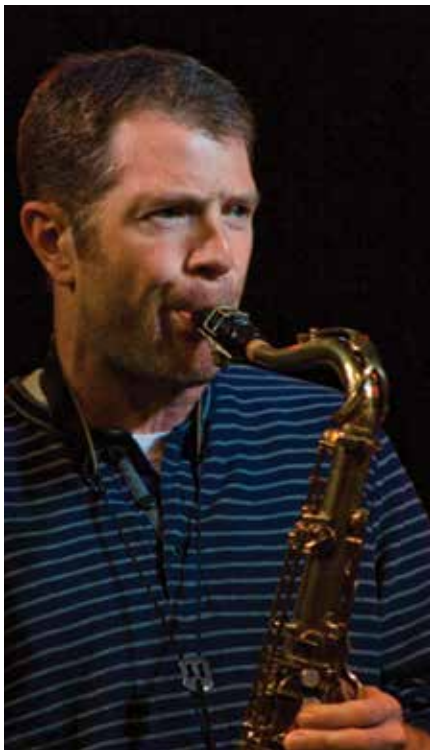


Photo Eric Roberts

Despite his affection for the University and community, Gatien was hardly impressed when first offered the opportunity to teach in Brandon. He recalls, "A university I have never heard of, in a small place on the Canadian prairies, asked me to go out for an interview. I felt there was no real chance of me moving there, so I was going to turn down the interview, not wanting to waste their money or time."

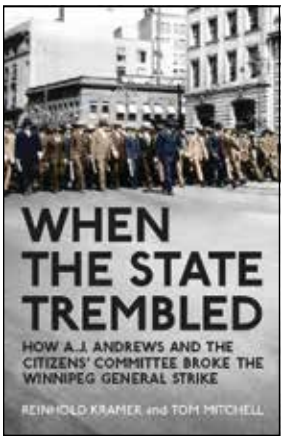
But on the advice of a friend, Gatien took the interview, driving to Brandon from Winnipeg after an early flight out of Boston, following a gig the night before.

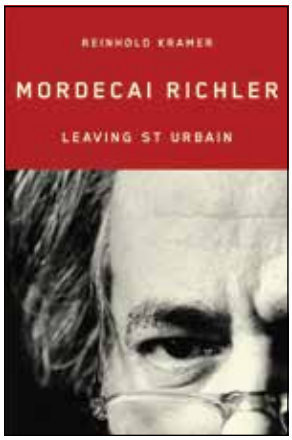
"I hadn't had time to sleep. After playing my recital that night and meeting the Dean, Dr. Glen Carruthers, I went back to my hotel room. There's this knock on the door. Students had found where I was staying and invited me out. I remember thinking, how would this look if the Dean and hiring committee found out I was hanging out with students. Then I thought, what if students report back that, on a Friday night, a jazz musician is too tired to go out; that's also not cool. So I went there and who was sitting at the table but the Dean. He says, 'what are you doing here?' I said, 'what are you doing here?' So we hung out."

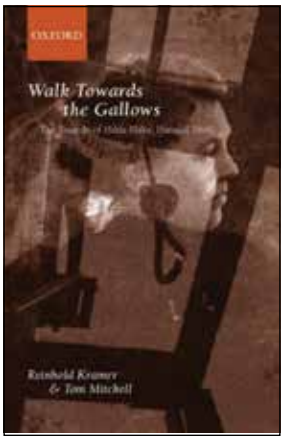
Gatien remembers returning to his hotel room "after staying out a long time," calling his wife and telling her Brandon was great! "These are my people, cool people, who make sense to me," he says. "That's how I ended up here."

Gatien attributes the School of Music's sterling reputation to good leadership, starting with Lorne Watson who directed BU's music programming from 1948 to 1981 and hired "really good people who have made significant contributions and built the image of this school, bringing in people who are not just brilliant performers and scholars, but great teachers. We think about them fitting into this community and imagining their careers in a place like Brandon."

He pauses, unsure whether to continue. "It doesn't feel like a job. People walk in and you listen to music and play music and talk about it and figure out how to make it better." Gatien pauses again, savouring the moment like a musician surveying the crowd and the band and realizing 'this is a pretty good gig'. He laughs, "And I don't have a sore back at the end of the day. It's inspiring."







Reinhold Kramer launches his book Mordecai Richler at McNally Robinson in Winnipeg.

DR. REINHOLD KRAMER
MATURATION OF A WRITER

"I want to understand why people do stuff," says Dr. Reinhold Kramer, sitting at his desk in the century-old grandness of Clark Hall. "I'm not that interested in good guy–bad guy stories that tend to simplify things. I'm interested in what motivates human beings, both those that you may see as being on the wrong side of an issue and those on the right side."

Twenty years after joining the BU Faculty of Arts as Professor, English and Creative Writing, Dr. Kramer has penned several books exploring and exposing human motivations. But his most ambitious project—an expansive analysis tentatively titled *The Second Life of Postmodernism*—is in the midst of being written.

"It's very broad," he says, searching for the words. "I'm trying to do an analysis of a culture. My feeling is that, no matter how much we change technologically, we retain the sense of a central self, an executive function within each human being that controls our actions and makes us consistent, whereas post-modernists have said the self has dissipated and anything could happen."

The subject matter is weighty, but Dr. Kramer believes he now possesses the writing maturity to tackle the project.

"I think when you try a broad synthesis of ideas or a cultural snapshot, you need more experience," he says. "When you are young, you don't have a wide variety of reading to do that. I'm in my 50s. We'll see if it works out."

Dr. Kramer did not grow up wanting or expecting to be a writer. The son of Polish Germans, neither his mother nor father achieved higher than Grade 9 education. "I wrote poetry as a kid but I didn't do a very good job. I didn't realize that I could write at a significant level until I was starting my graduate career."

With a BA from the University of Winnipeg and MA, PhD from the University of Manitoba, he wrote his first book in 1997, *Scatology and Civility in the English-Canadian Novel* – "about shit, basically. I realized nobody had written about shit [laughs]. It may have also had something to do with the fact I was a young father dealing with a lot of diapers at the time [laughs]."

Walk Towards the Gallows: The Tragedy of Hilda Blake, Hanged 1899 was published in 2002, earning the Margaret McWilliams Award. "That was the first time Tom Mitchell and I worked together," says Dr. Kramer about the intriguing Brandon history involving a woman who murdered her employer's wife. The two would collaborate again in 2010 with *When the State Trembled – How A.J. Andrews and the Citizens' Committee Broke the Winnipeg General Strike*, which was short-listed for the 2011 John W. Dafoe Book Prize.

"The official history of things tends to be written by the winners," says Dr. Kramer. "In reviewing the Winnipeg General Strike, we were trying to both be critical of that official story which talked of suppressing revolution but at the same time not idealize what the workers were doing."

In 2008, Dr. Kramer published an unauthorized biography of a Canadian literary giant. *Mordecai Richler: Leaving St. Urbain*

captured the Gabrielle Roy Prize, a Canadian Jewish Book Award, and was selected a Top 100 pop culture memento of 2008 by the CBC.

"He was already in failing health and probably worried that he might go to his grave without a biography," remembers Dr. Kramer. "So he was willing to have someone who didn't know him personally write the bio." What began as an authorized account including interviews with Richler's wife and children turned unauthorized when the family didn't appreciate Dr. Kramer's original manuscript.

"I want to do some more biographies. If you write about Mordecai Richler and Hilda Blake, readers are really interested in stories about people." He pauses, adding, "Postmodernism, not so much. It's a little lonely."

Yes, Dr. Kramer is wrestling with *The Second Life of Postmodernism*. He has written 70 admittedly unsatisfying pages and struggles to moderate the volume of research reading. "You think you get to a stage where you have accumulated knowledge and can synthesize it a little bit. But in each area that you read, you realize that you have to also read this and this and this."

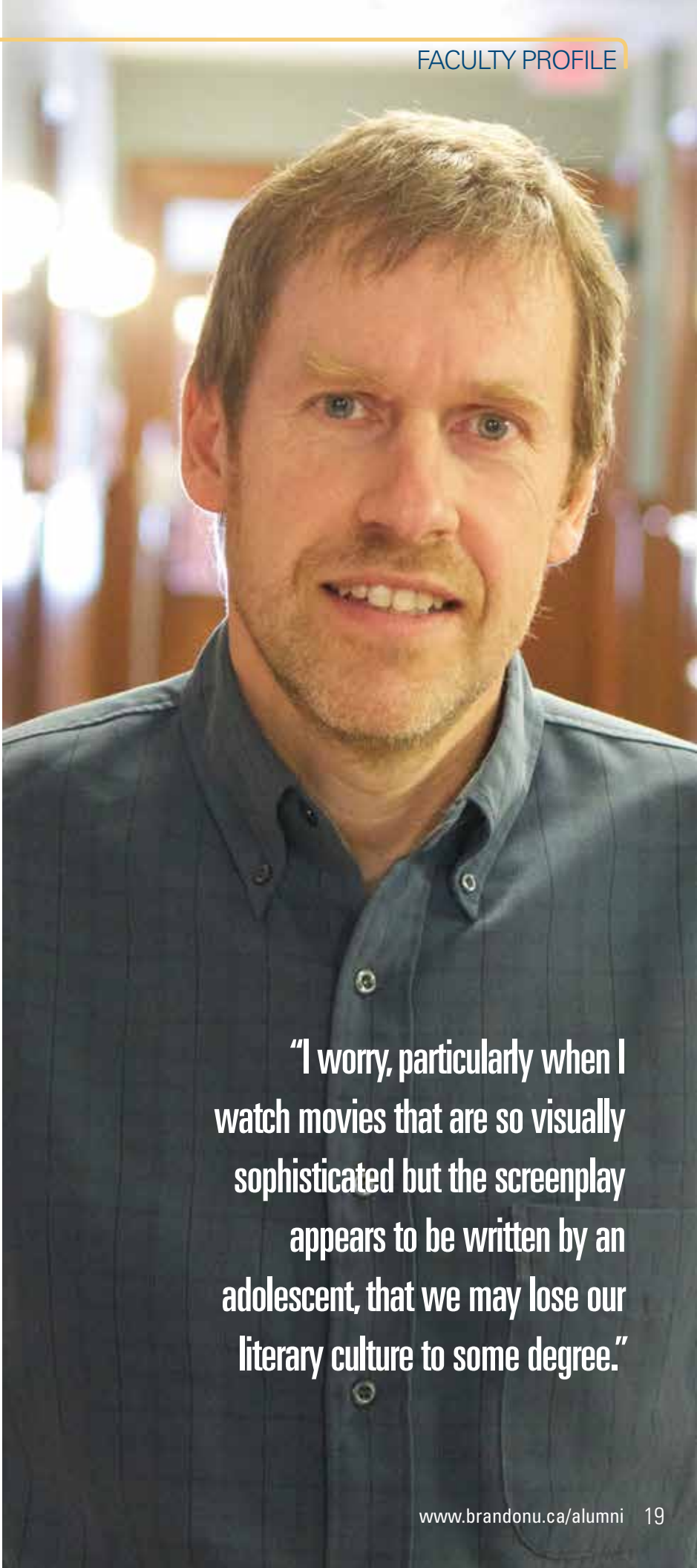
He is a voracious reader and expects the same of his students. "I have a fear, a paranoia," he confesses," of the visual culture destroying literature. I worry, particularly when I watch movies that are so visually sophisticated but the screenplay appears to be written by an adolescent, that we may lose our literary culture to some degree."

"I do feel somewhat like a crusader because I say to my students, you still have to think about language and about the complex structures in novels. The strongest students make the adjustment and read for longer periods but it is hard, especially when you are used to the quick march of images from YouTube."

Despite video's incursion, Dr. Kramer remains enthused about literature's cultural role. "When I read current-day writers," he says, "I find them much more sophisticated than writers of the past. Literature is, I think, getting better, partly because there are more people in the world."

The summers offer Dr. Kramer his best opportunities for writing and *The Second Life of Postmodernism* will dominate his writing time in 2013. "It's not going the way I want," he confesses, a mature wordsmith motivated and capable of telling the important stories of our time yet still wracked by a writer's stereotypical lack of self-confidence.

Pondering the rows of books lining the office wall, he sighs, "I may have bit off more than I can chew."



"I worry, particularly when I watch movies that are so visually sophisticated but the screenplay appears to be written by an adolescent, that we may lose our literary culture to some degree."

Carol Ross Harms, BMus'74

A Life in Music

Alumni News spoke with Carol in January, 2013. Sadly, she succumbed to cancer before this article could be published.

"The arts bring out things in ourselves that we may not realize we have," says Carol Ross Harms (BMus'74), sitting in the living room of her home in Souris, MB. "There is music in everybody. You just have to find it. And you need the right teacher to bring it out."

An accomplished pianist and flutist, Carol has been the right teacher for thousands of students. She is well-known and well-travelled throughout Manitoba's Westman region, having taught in Carman, Deloraine, Miami, Elm Creek, Souris and Wawanesa, with brief sojourns to Europe and Winnipeg.

"To see the kids enjoy what they are doing, because they like it and not because they have to do it." She pauses, bathed in soft winter light from the floor to ceiling windows. "That was the payback."

Carol is matter-of-fact when speaking about her past experiences, and equally pointed when discussing the disease currently ravaging her body. "I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999," she recalls, "had a lumpectomy, chemo and radiation." Now the cancer is back, and Carol is dying.

"I'm dealing with it as best I can," she says. "You don't have a choice in the matter."

"Our motto," says Nelson, Carol's companion for the past 25 years, "right from the start of the cancer has been to live day by day. We'll have a good day today so we have good memories, rather than bemoaning the fact we are dealing with this."

Through the afternoon, Carol talks of her own musical beginnings: piano lessons in Grade 1; practicing at 6 am so as not to disturb her family; driving to Brandon University through her high school years for lessons on piano, flute and theory; and the ultimatum that secured her vocation.

"My mother said, 'if you're not going to make music a career, there's no sense in us paying for all this'. So I had to make a decision." Carol chose to attend Brandon University.

"Going to university is a mind-blowing experience," she says. "It's so different from high school, so different from home. It's like you have suddenly been given free rein. I am not the same person today as I was then. I blossomed. I became whatever I was going to be at University."

She has high praise for former School of Music faculty member Lawrence Jones, a Westman-born, Yale-educated, former Dean recently retired from BU. "He was great, bringing out the best in you," recalls Carol. "He brought the music world to life."

Carol calls her time at BU a "high point" where she connected with people who became life-long friends and collaborators, including Joan Dillon (BMus'74) from Hamiota, MB, currently a musician in the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra who, with Carol and other like-minded artists, created the "Listening with Paint" music education program whereby elementary school kids in Westman would express in paint what they heard in music.

"I always wanted more from the music. A higher, consistent level. But that's for people who live in the music world. I chose to live in the everyday world. And that's OK."

On January 26th, Carol was honoured by friends and colleagues for her community work. She passed away on February 10th.

Dr. Deborah Poff (left) and Dr. Tom Breneman, BUILD Campaign Chair (right) accept a donation from Dr. Trudy Corbett and Dr. Jeff Bales of Smiles Specialty Centre.

Business Partners Bring Smiles to BUILD Campaign

build BRANDON UNIVERSITY Founded 1899

Drs. Trudy Corbett and Jeff Bales have given $100,000 towards the completion of the $24.3 million Healthy Living Centre, which opened to the public in January with construction to be finished this spring.

"Health and wellness have always been a big part of our lives," says Dr. Corbett, "and we are big believers in post-secondary education so this donation is a perfect fit for us."

Drs. Corbett and Bales are partners in Smiles Specialty Centre, a Brandon business providing periodontic and orthodontic services. She's originally from New Brunswick. He's from Ontario. But they realized that Brandon offered an excellent business opportunity because of the substantial market within the surrounding Westman region.

The husband and wife team are also enamoured with the lifestyle choice available in Brandon. "It's a city with a small-town feel," says Dr. Bales. "Everything you need without the headaches of a big city."

BU President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Deborah Poff says both doctors are long-time supporters of the University. "In addition to their financial contributions," says Dr. Poff, "I thank Jeff for his many years of service on the BU Foundation Board, including a term as Chair. Both Jeff and Trudy are true community builders."

"Brandon University is important for Brandon," says Dr. Bales. "We are not a large city, so having a University is a real feather in our cap, a real asset, especially since the Healthy Living Centre is available and accessible to the community at large."

Dr. Corbett adds, "With this donation, we are giving back to an area that we believe in, and that's important to us. The community has done a lot for us, been very welcoming and supportive. So it's nice to be able to give back."

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Thank you to the following alumni who supported Brandon University in 2012. Your generosity greatly impacts our students by enhancing and improving BU's programs and services. A portion of your support was generated through the Annual Fund, which raised more than $61,195.

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Ashley Krassilowsky, BSc'12

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2nd-Year Music Performance Student

The impact scholarships have had in my life goes beyond the financial support they provide. Having my academic success recognized and rewarded is the greatest encouragement and motivation I could receive. My sincere thanks to all alumni and donors for your contributions and the difference you make in students' lives and education.

Sincerely,
Taryn Jackson

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