

# ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2016

## Campus Culture

BU's Commitment to  
Indigenous Education

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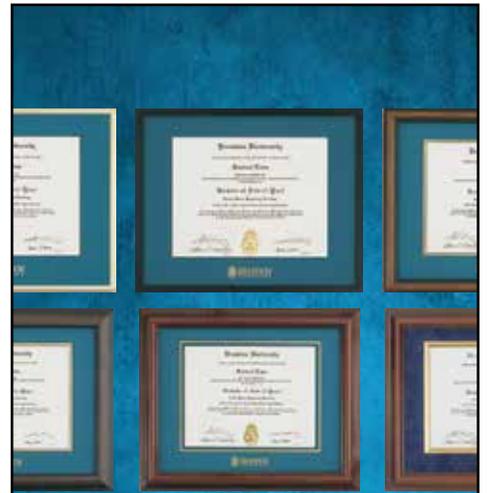
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## Affordable Housing

BU students with families will soon have brand new residence options

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Prairie Architects Inc.



### Taylor-Made Success

Brandon College alumnus  
Mitch Taylor '65 helped launch  
Vancouver landmarks

## Send us your stories!

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

Please contact the Alumni Office with your suggestions for outstanding alumni you believe should be featured in *Alumni News*.

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**Layout & Printing** – Leech Printing Ltd., Brandon, Man. This magazine is printed on paper stock obtained from sustainable sources.

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*Alumni News* is published twice a year and reaches more than 13,000 alumni and friends of Brandon University worldwide.

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Publications mail agreement #40064061  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are taking an active role in engaging alumni in the activities and future direction of the University. The *Alumni News* magazine is an important mechanism for communicating with you, sharing commentaries about your achievements, and highlighting developments at the University.

Over the past year, there have been many accomplishments to be celebrated as alumni members have published books, contributed to student scholarships, supported the development of the University, and have achieved prominent positions. The University has also seen strong interest in its academic programs with overall enrolment increasing by approximately five percent with even stronger growth at the first-year level and in graduate programs. These developments reflect the efforts and dedication of our alumni, faculty and staff in finding ways to contribute to the betterment of the institution. We cannot rest on past achievements. In the coming year, we will continue our efforts to bring value to our alumni and students through excellence in our academic programs and services.

We have recently hosted alumni events in Winnipeg, Calgary and Toronto as

well as an outstanding Homecoming weekend in Brandon. Your continued involvement and interest in the University serves as a catalyst to our growth and development. Interestingly, students have expressed directly to you and to me their thankfulness for the scholarships that many of you support. Students have also commented on how inspirational your accomplishments and engagement are for their own professional and academic careers. As alumni members, your gifts include the inspiration you provide to the entire University community, and I take this opportunity to thank you.

Universities are among institutions now vying for your attention and interest. Yet, when we think about the future of Canada, transformation of global possibilities, and the progress of humanity, post-secondary education is absolutely fundamental to all these outcomes. Brandon University/College will have been a part of southwestern Manitoba's development for 120 years as of 2019. In 2017, Brandon University celebrates its 50th anniversary. You have helped to write the stories and to forge the legacies of this institution. As you read the *Alumni News* magazine, please recognize we are celebrating your stories.

The stories you will read about in this edition are about winning together. Our profile of the PENT program is a perfect example. Funded entirely through partnerships, the program has trained nearly 600 teachers, many of whom are now working in remote and northern communities, educating and empowering a new generation of leaders. You will also read inspiring stories of Brandon College alumnus Mitch Taylor and current BU student Samantha Perreault, who have both achieved great things personally, and who also find true satisfaction in their ability to help others.

I recently invited you to rediscover your University and our people. Consider visiting the University, contacting the Alumni Office, and finding ways to support the academic mission of the University. Our greatest gift is often our generosity that contributes to the next generation—the next generation of students, members of our communities and citizens of the world. *Alumni News* illustrates and celebrates your accomplishments!

**Dr. Gervan Fearon**  
President & Vice-Chancellor

# Continuing Our Commitment to Indigenous Education in Manitoba

A new Métis Studies program will build on Brandon University's reputation for decades-long leadership in Indigenous Education.

The Province of Manitoba committed \$150,000 to the program and an additional \$50,000 to support Indigenous culture on campus at BU. This is on top of a 2.5 percent increase in general operating grants for all Manitoba universities.

"This funding recognizes the important work and collaboration of faculty and staff who have developed the Métis Studies program proposal in support of educational programs for our students and communities we serve," said Dr. Gervan Fearon, BU's President.

The announcement followed December's signing of the Indigenous Education Blueprint (IEB), a commitment by Manitoba universities, colleges and school boards, to make the province a global leader in Indigenous Education.

"This is a tremendous step forward, not only for our community but for everyone involved in Indigenous Education," said Jason Gobeil, Aboriginal Community Coordinator for the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council. "There's so much going on with actions being taken to improve the curriculum and to improve Indigenous Education."

The IEB affirms a shared commitment to promoting and advancing Indigenous Education, while supporting reconciliation between Indigenous and



Representatives from Manitoba's universities, colleges and public school boards met in Winnipeg to unanimously sign the Indigenous Education Blueprint.

non-Indigenous people in Manitoba. The next steps will be for the partners to establish a steering committee that will prepare an implementation plan as they work toward the Blueprint's 10 objectives.

"At Brandon University, close to 15 percent of our students self-identify as Indigenous," said BU Associate Vice-President of Student Services and University Registrar Tom Brophy. "It is one of BU's priorities to reflect their contributions to our University and society, and the partnership formed through this agreement will help all institutions in the province to strengthen this relationship."

The signing ceremony for the IEB included an address by BU Aboriginal Student Council President Adrienne Thomas, who spoke to the group about the importance of this initiative from an Indigenous student perspective.

"It shows a commitment not only from BU, but other universities and colleges

across Manitoba," Thomas said. "I feel that it's being implemented at the right time, following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report. I think it's important for us to keep the momentum."

The goals of the IEB and the introduction of the Métis Studies program are consistent with BU's Academic Plan, which was developed in 2014.

Indigenous Education is one of BU's long-standing priorities. BU launched the Program for the Education of Native Teachers (PENT) in 1971, and four years later became the first university in Western Canada, and only the second nationwide, to introduce a Native Studies Department. The University has also developed a Department of Visual and Aboriginal Art, built the He Oyate Tawapi ceremonial room and opened the Indigenous Peoples' Centre to support students educationally and socially.

More on BU's Indigenous Education can be found at [BrandonU.ca/Indigenous](http://BrandonU.ca/Indigenous).

## Affordable Housing on the Way for BU Students with Families

Brandon University students with families will soon have an affordable place to call home.

Construction is expected to begin this summer on a 42-unit student family housing project. The development will feature a three-storey apartment building with 16 three-bedroom units and eight two-bedroom units, as well as 18 three-bedroom townhouse units. Rent will be based on affordable rates for the area, with rent on half of the units being geared towards the families' income.

"Accessible and affordable housing for students with families is an important factor influencing the decision to attend Brandon University for many people," said Dr. Gervan Fearon, BU President. "The new residences will support the



An architectural rendering of the affordable housing units to be built a few blocks west of the BU campus.

educational goals of students and their families, help to address the housing shortage in Brandon, and represent another example of how the partnership being forged with Brandon University benefits the growth and vitality of the community at large."

Manitoba Municipal Government Minister Drew Caldwell visited BU in January to announce the Province will provide \$12 million toward the \$13.5 million

project, with BU donating land valued at \$850,000. The housing will be built a few blocks west of the BU campus.

"The new student family housing project will allow us to provide unique services to our mature and family students," said Nick Brown, Interim President of the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU). "This opportunity increases the ability of BUSU to provide that community and home feeling that students desire on campus."

## BU Will Explore New Joint School of Business

Business education in Brandon could look a lot different over the next few years, as the city's two post-secondary institutions have agreed to explore the concept of a hybrid business program and future joint school of business.

"We see this as a great opportunity to grow our business programs to better serve the needs of the Brandon region and the province," said BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon.

This new initiative builds on a growing history of collaboration between Assiniboine Community College and Brandon University. Historically, high numbers of business students have moved between the two institutions, taking advantage

of transfer agreements that create multiple pathways for learners.

"A vibrant business program and future school are critical to creating the type of city we need to attract and retain our talented graduates within the region," Fearon said. "We will be working with all levels of government, the Chamber of Commerce and industry partners to advance these opportunities."

In 2014 the institutions, along with the Province of Manitoba, signed Growing Together – Vision 20/20, a memorandum of understanding aimed at fostering collaboration between the two institutions to meet student, community and social needs.



Assiniboine Community College President Mark Frison (left) with BU President Gervan Fearon

Under the Province of Manitoba's recently released post-secondary strategy, collaboration is a central theme. The relationship between ACC and BU has been recognized as a model for co-operation in Manitoba, and both institutions say that now is the ideal time to strengthen that connection.

## New iPads for Teacher Trainees, Thanks to Alumnus' Effort

Through fundraising efforts over the past year, led by alumnus Gerald Butler '63, Brandon University has provided iPads for all 100 students enrolled in BU's Program for the Education of Native Teachers (PENT). These students hail primarily from Aboriginal, northern, and rural communities across the province and are working towards an integrated Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education degree. Access by PENT students, to appropriate technology for both classroom work and their individual coursework, has been a barrier. Fundraising efforts which raised \$36,600 in gifts from private donors, The Cardinal Foundation, The Thomas Sill Foundation, and The Winnipeg Foundation, help Aboriginal educators break down this "digital divide."

The iPads are expected to help PENT-educated teachers make learning more relevant and meaningful for their students.

Gerald Butler continues to raise funds to be able to provide iPads to the estimated 25 students who enter the program each year at an annual cost of approximately \$13,000. To contribute to this initiative, please contact the Institutional Advancement Office at 1.877.282.4483, 204.727.7374, or [Advancement@BrandonU.ca](mailto:Advancement@BrandonU.ca).



BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon (left), PENT students Sherelle Day and Ernestine Okemow (with family members), with Dean of Education, Dr. Heather Duncan (second from right), and PENT Director, Dr. Ken Friesen (right) at the PENT iPad Initiative Celebration Luncheon.

## Working Together to Support Accessibility for all Manitobans

Brandon University is joining with Manitoba's other post-secondary education institutions to improve accessibility. New standards for customer service have been set under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act, which Manitoba's public, private and non-profit organizations are obliged to meet within two years.

"We will develop an accessibility plan to be released in 2016, which will be highly collaborative and consultative, involving students,



## Brandon University Wins National Award for Branding

Brandon University has won a Silver PRIX D'EXCELLENCE award, in the Best Institutional Branding category, at the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAIE) Conference in Montreal.

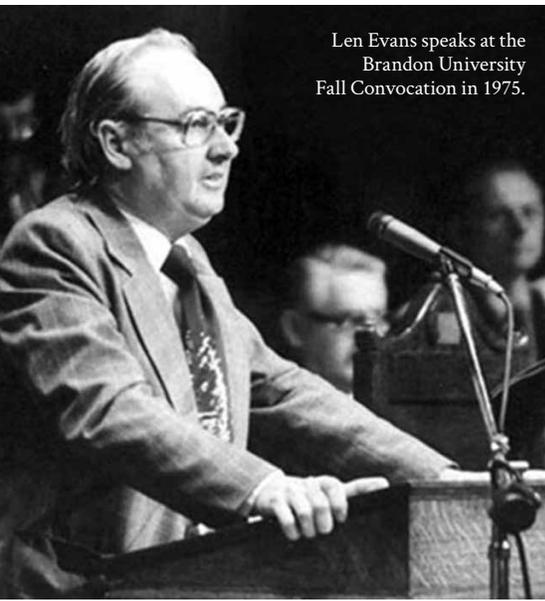
The PRIX D'EXCELLENCE is the annual awards program of the CCAIE, recognizing outstanding achievements in communications and marketing, alumni relations, fundraising, external relations and student recruitment. BU's award was in recognition of its submission, "Brandon University: A New Visual Identity", which highlighted its recent rebrand.

"Brandon University winning a national award for branding represents the leadership and innovation of staff and faculty in contributing to the prominence and excellence of the University," said Dr. Gervan Fearon, President & Vice-Chancellor. "Indeed, our staff and faculty are placing great emphasis on building outstanding programs and learning experiences for our students; this is all part of our brand."

staff, faculty, and the broader community," said Sharon Hooper, BU's Chief Human Resources Officer. "Our mandate is providing accessibility and reasonable accommodation and information in all of our programs for students, faculty, and staff."

BU will meet with other universities and colleges to discuss how to best meet the requirements, as well as four new accessibility standards expected in the future.

"Our goal is to have a fully accessible province, where all abilities are valued, diversity celebrated, barriers removed and human rights protected," said Yutta Fricke, Acting Executive Director of Manitoba's Disabilities Issues Office.



Len Evans speaks at the Brandon University Fall Convocation in 1975.

S.J. McKee Archives, Brandon University (BUPC 1.1.327)

## Scholarship Created in Honour of Len Evans

Len Evans' legacy at Brandon University will live on thanks to a new scholarship set up in his name. Evans, a former faculty member in the Department of Economics and a member of the University's Board of Governors, passed away in January at the age of 86. Evans moved to Brandon to teach at BU, leaving the University in 1969 to represent Brandon East in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. He served as an MLA for 30 years before retiring.

"Len was a great contributor to Brandon University and the community," said

Board Chair Derrick Stewart. "He was a champion of post-secondary education in the city, and a genuine and caring man who always had the best interests of others at heart. Len will be missed by all those who knew him."

The scholarship fund was set up at the request of Evans' family. It was soon given a major boost when the Province of Manitoba committed \$10,000 to the scholarship fund.

Members of the Evans family expressed their profound gratitude for the government's contribution.

## Photovoice Exhibit to be Turned into Book

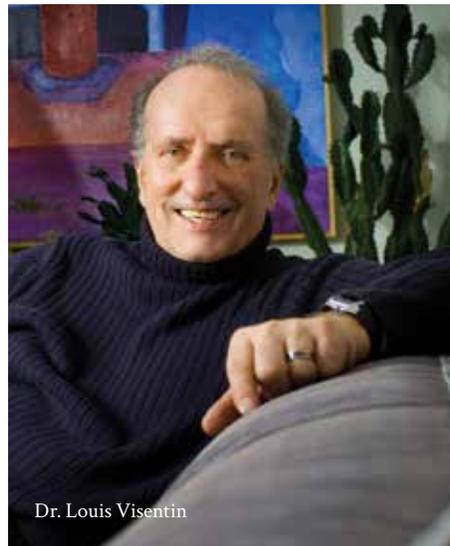
A successful photography project is helping tell the stories of Aboriginal youth in Manitoba. "Success through Our Eyes: A Photovoice Exhibit" is a community-based participatory action and power-sharing model for research in which community participants are provided cameras to document community issues about which they feel strongly.

It offers visual representations of educational success and leadership from the personal perspectives of each photographer, and provides a medium for sharing stories about how leadership and success are supported through their own narrative.

The exhibit was on display over the summer, and researchers are now looking to find a permanent home for it. Publication of a photo book is underway.



Search is on for a permanent location for the Photovoice Exhibit



Dr. Louis Visentin

## President Emeritus

Dr. Louis Visentin has been granted the title of President Emeritus by the Brandon University Board of Governors. The title is conferred by the Board of Governors upon a President and Vice-Chancellor who has served the University with distinction while in office. "I'm honoured," said Dr. Visentin, who served from 2000 to 2009 before retiring. "It came as a surprise. My intention was just to come in and do the best I could. I look at this as a thank you and I would like to say thank you back."

## Fruit Deliveries Give Boost to Studying Students

An apple a day is good for a lot of things, and for Brandon University students cramming for exams, it was a nice boost of fresh nutrition while they hit the books. Putting a fresh spin on the old apple-for-teacher idea, one BU instructor has partnered with the BU Alumni Association (BUAA) to deliver fresh fruit throughout the University's study areas leading up to exam time. "It's not just the library," said nutrition instructor Caroline Mullins. "I'll go to SUDS, to the Down Under, to the nursing building, the Brodie Building—anywhere I find a



L-R: Carla Eisler, BU Alumni Officer; Deb Carnegie, BUAA President; and Caroline Mullins, BU nutrition instructor

student." She partners with the Alumni Association to deliver fresh fruit to weary students who may be more used to salt- or sugar-heavy snacks, washed down with a heavy dose of caffeine.

# Alumni Chapter Events

## Toronto



Left (L-R): Dr. Gervan Fearon, Lisa de Wilde, Cam Davreux '59  
Right (L-R): Jason Bernstein '12, Velma Ko '70 and Heather Carruthers

BU Toronto Alumni Chapter Chair, Jason Bernstein '12, and members were pleased to host their inaugural reception on Sept. 24, 2015 at the home of alumnus Andreas Souvaliotis '84 and his partner Joe Gisini. The evening included remarks from BU Chancellor Michael Decter, BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon, and special guest Lisa de Wilde, C.M, Hon., LL.D., Chair of the Toronto International Film Festival and Chief Executive Officer of TVO. Guests enjoyed music by School of Music alumni Shannon Chapman, B.Mus.'11, M.Mus.'14 and Jesse Dietschi B.Mus.'09, M.Mus.'11.

## Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Alumni Chapter and BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon were pleased to host an event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on June 4, 2015



Left: Dr. Yvonne Boyer, Canada Research Chair  
Right: Boyd van Aggelen '67/'73 with Pat Britton '87

with special guest speaker Dr. Yvonne Boyer, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health and Wellness at BU. Dr. Boyer is one of eight people from across Canada chosen to be a holographic narrator in the Museum's *Turning Points for Humanity Gallery*.

## Calgary

On June 24, 2015 the Calgary Alumni Chapter hosted a reception at the Petroleum Club. The afternoon was highlighted by remarks from Chapter Chair Sasha Brown '99, BU President Dr. Gervan Fearon and several of the alumni in attendance.



L-R: Randall Dyck '79, Owen Cory '82 with Heather Macdonald, BU Associate VP (External)

## Appointments

Dr. Heather Duncan has been appointed Associate Vice-President (Research). She joined Brandon University in 2013 and continues to serve as the Dean of Education. She also served as the Acting Vice-President (Academic & Provost) this past year. As Associate VP, she will work in cooperation with the VP (Academic & Provost) to advance institutional research activities. The appointment is effective for a term ending July 31, 2017.



Dr. Heather Duncan

Dr. W. Dean Care has been appointed Associate Vice-President (Teaching & Learning). He joined Brandon University in 2008 and continues to serve as the Dean of Health Studies. He also served as the acting Vice-President (Academic & Provost) in 2012-13. As Associate VP, he will work in cooperation with the VP (Academic & Provost) to provide executive oversight of institutional teaching and learning initiatives. The appointment is effective for a term ending July 31, 2017.



Dr. Dean Care

A Brandon University professor is back in a familiar role. Dr. Austin Gulliver, a long-standing faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has been appointed as the Acting Dean of Science for a term ending June 20, 2016. Dr. Gulliver previously served as Dean of Science from 2005-11.



Dr. Austin Gulliver

Professor Greg Gatien has accepted the position of Acting Dean of Music for a term ending July 31, 2016. Mr. Gatien has been with the School of Music since 2001 and was involved with the development of the Jazz Studies program. He continues to be an active teacher, performer and clinician.



Mr. Greg Gatien



Dr. Ken Friesen,  
Director of PENT with  
Ms Bernice Galvin,  
PENT Office Assistant

# Bringing It Home

PENT graduates inspire next generation in their communities

**With a baby daughter at home and bills to pay, Cory Blackbird had more than just school to worry about in his first crack at university.**

Only six months after he began his studies at Brandon University, Cory decided to return home to Keeseekoowenin and find work, putting his dream of becoming a teacher on hold. “I was barely making ends meet just going to school,” Cory recalls.

But his mother, Joanne Blackbird, wasn’t about to let him give up on his dream. She encouraged her son to pursue a job as an educational assistant (EA) at Keeseekoowenin School and to go back to BU and earn his degree through the Program for the Education of Native Teachers (PENT).

Nearly 600 people have graduated from PENT since the program was introduced in 1971. Students spend the school year in their own communities, working as EAs or in other roles. They take courses in Brandon in the spring and summer as they work toward an integrated Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education degree.

A graduate of PENT, Joanne knew all about the program before recommending it to her son. She began working in education as a part-time EA in Elphinstone in 1981. From there, she progressed to a full-time role before enrolling in PENT.

“I didn’t go (to Brandon) every summer; I was having kids at the time, so I took a lot of the summers off,” she said. “Then we got our own school right on the reserve and I started gradually getting back into the PENT program, and finally I finished.”

Able to commit more time as her children grew older, Joanne graduated in 1997. She now wishes she had finished sooner and says that once her son was enrolled, she put pressure on him to get the six-year program done quickly. She even promised to help look after his daughter while he was in Brandon.

“I made sure that he went every summer,” Joanne said. “He got it done right away like he was supposed to.”

What Cory found when he returned to campus was a supportive atmosphere that was designed to help him succeed. During his first stint at BU, as an 18-year-old, Cory felt isolated living in a much bigger community than his home. In PENT’s smaller classes, he found others with similar experiences and the support that he had lacked the first time around. It eased the pressure of being away studying while his friends and family enjoyed their summers back home.

“We only had about 20 students in every class,” Cory said. “When I went full time, it was 30, 40, maybe 50 students. You basically work by yourself, and I didn’t really have any friends at the time, so I was by myself. PENT was a lot better; I met a few friends right away and they helped me with my studies, and I got through like that.”

He graduated in 2011 and now teaches Grades 7 and 8 at Keeseekoowenin School. There, he works alongside his mother, who teaches Grades 5 and 6.

“I don’t think he would have done it the other way,” Joanne said. “This way he was able to be home.”

Family ties are common in PENT. Nicole Muswagun graduated in 2014, with her husband, Kerry, following the next year. Nicole is from a family of teachers; her mother, Mary Jane McKay, graduated from PENT after starting in the Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Program, which has since been transferred to University College of the North.

Nicole now teaches Grade 9 physical education at Otter Nelson River School in Cross Lake, while Kerry teaches at Mikisew Middle School. Nicole had been an EA in Cross Lake for a handful of years when she was approached by a principal who suggested she would be a good teacher. She found her early days in the PENT program challenging, but says she quickly began to feel more comfortable.

“At first it was hard because I didn’t know what to expect (with) the workload,” Nicole said, “But then as I was going along I started meeting new friends and getting along with the teachers, so it was easier.”

Dr. Ken Friesen, Director of PENT, said that kind of adjustment period is common and can be difficult to overcome as the challenges of being away from home can mount over time.

“I think the largest difficulty for our students is when they have to leave home, it’s for a four-month period; they’re leaving family and friends, and many of them are leaving their children,” he said. “That represents a pretty big change in lifestyles, and not just for four months, but for four months times six, seven, eight years in a row. That’s a big commitment.”

“Many recognize the value gained from completing the PENT program and the opportunity it provides in making a significant contribution to their communities and the next generation.”

Nicole has grown to consider Brandon a second home. Her daughter, Chelsea McKay, now studies physical education at BU, and Nicole remains close to many of her former classmates.

“I keep in touch with most of the students that I graduated with,” she said. “We’re like a family, I guess you could say.”

The program has a wide reach, with PENT graduates teaching in more than 50 communities in Manitoba as well as some in Saskatchewan and Northern Ontario. A reunion is in the works for this summer as the former students keep their connections to one another intact.

The format and the personal connections are not PENT’s only unique features. The program, which includes about 100 students at a given time, is funded entirely by sponsors, mainly school divisions and First Nations communities that cover participants’ tuition, books and supplies. The program has a

graduation rate of about 75 per cent, with many of the alumni returning to their home communities to teach.

“Students often have alternatives, such as trades programs, yet many recognize the value gained from completing the PENT program and the opportunity it provides in making a significant contribution to their communities and the next generation,” Dr. Friesen said.

While there are a number of professors and other instructors delivering the courses, the actual PENT staff is very small, with Dr. Friesen joined by Office Assistant Bernice Galvin. A third staff member, Field Experience Supervisor Dr. Len Zarry, retired in 2015 after 31 years, and BU is currently searching for an assistant professor to replace him.

Dr. Heather Duncan, Dean of Education at BU, said the program continues to evolve, and a rebranding effort is being pursued by PENT’s advisory committee. A curriculum review, in consultation with community education representatives, is also underway, while new technology, such as iPads, provides classroom tools and the potential to save costs.

“Brandon University has offered the program since 1971 and is absolutely committed to its continuation,” Dr. Friesen said. “We do have to keep an eye on costs to ensure it is affordable and pursue added financial support for the program.”

Despite the challenges, Dr. Friesen said PENT has a bright future. That’s good news for graduates like Cory, who can see the value of the program in their communities and encourage others to give it a shot.

“I have a lot of students who want to be teachers who say, ‘If Cory can do it, I can try,’” Cory said. “I just tell them that if you want to be a teacher, it’s there for you.”



# Taylor-Made Success

Brandon College alumnus Mitch Taylor '65 helped launch Vancouver landmarks

## Mitch Taylor's plan when he graduated from Brandon College was to enroll in medical school at the University of British Columbia and become a doctor.

That never did happen, but 50 years later you won't hear an ounce of regret. Thanks to a desire to try new things and an impeccable sense of timing, Taylor has forged a remarkable career in business, having been involved in several landmark Vancouver ventures, including the development of Granville Island, the False Creek waterfront, and the establishment of the Granville Island Brewing Company. At the age of 71, he hasn't slowed down, showing up at work bright and early every morning as the owner of Knight Signs.

"I don't know if I'll ever retire because I like people, and one easy way to have lots of people around and influence how things happen is to be in business," Taylor said from his Vancouver office.

Born in Fort Frances, Ont., Taylor moved at the age of seven to a farm in Regent, southwest of Brandon. He met his wife, Anne Franklin, in high school and they both went to Brandon College after graduation.

Brandon College was "a very supportive organization that encouraged everybody to challenge themselves to use their own intelligence, and mix it with a bit of ambition and to accomplish something with it," Taylor said.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1965, Taylor spent the next winter backpacking in Europe. He returned to Canada and joined Imperial Oil for a summer job. He enjoyed it so much that he decided to remain with the company.

Taylor spent six years at Imperial Oil, working his way up to a position as the president's assistant in Toronto, before deciding to apply what he had learned to his own ventures. In 1972, he moved back to the West Coast with Anne—they married in Deloraine in 1967—and quickly got involved in a defining initiative in Vancouver, the development of Granville Island.

At the time, Granville Island was a decaying industrial area, but some forward thinkers saw a bright future. Taylor and partner Bill Harvey were in on the ground floor of the turnaround, starting a company called Creekhous Industries and helping spur Granville Island's evolution into a thriving tourist spot.

"I feel very proud that I've been able to be involved and ... some of our visions from those days have become a reality," Taylor said. "Granville Island has become a people-place with theatres and restaurants and Granville Island Market, and I think something like eight or 10 million visitors per year still flock to that island."

Taylor has kept his ownership in Creekhous Industries while continuing to branch out. He developed False Creek Marinas on the other side of the inlet that cuts through Vancouver, although that downtown property was expropriated for Expo '86. Taylor got into the marina business again in 1994 when he bought Washington State-based Bellingham Marine Industries, expanding the company to design and build marinas worldwide before selling it in 2006.

Taylor has spread his wings into other areas as well. Seeing small breweries in virtually every town during a trip to Europe prompted him to partner with Harvey again, and in 1984 they founded Granville Island Brewing. The company is now a subsidiary of corporate giant Molson Coors, but helped spawn the

now-booming craft beer industry in Canada, with Taylor guiding the craft brewery through its early years.

The stock market crash of 2008 took its toll on Taylor's portfolio but not his work ethic. He took over Knight Signs, which keeps him occupied today—at least when he's not spending quality time with his family or hosting old friends from Brandon College.



Mitch Taylor, then the President of Granville Island Brewing, poses for the May 1987 issue of *Small Business* magazine.

And while he never did become a doctor, the desire to help others never left him. Just as his boss at Imperial Oil did for him when he wanted to set out on his own, Taylor takes great pleasure in giving others the tools to realize their dreams in business.

"I've hired and trained and employed literally thousands of people over the last 50 years and have encouraged or mentored many dozens of entrepreneurs and ... I'm so proud of them all," Taylor said. "I've had a lot of people come to me who worked for me and said, 'I would like to go out and start my own business.' And I'm always the guy that says, 'That's a great idea, let me help you do that. Why not?'"





## New Perspectives on the Past

A BU researcher with an international reputation for reconstructing the ancient world from plant fossils has preliminary results from fieldwork last summer that was supported by the National Geographic Society.

Dr. David Greenwood, a Professor in BU's Department of Biology, was awarded US\$14,483 by the Society's Committee for Research and Exploration to cover costs of an expedition to southern British Columbia.

"Reconstructing ecosystems of the past, including high-quality fossils of plants and insects, will help us understand how biodiversity is affected by climate change," said Dr. John Francis, Vice-President of Research, Conservation and Exploration at the National Geographic Society.

Dr. Greenwood's expedition to British Columbia yielded boxes and boxes of plant fossils along with some superb insect fossils, including a large saw fly. While the team didn't turn up any mammal fossils on this trip, BU student Markus Sudermann gained valuable experience working with Dr. Greenwood and his PhD student Christopher West, as well as scientists from the USA and elsewhere in Canada.

Preliminary findings from the expedition are to be published in a scientific paper co-authored with BU alumnus Cale Gushulak (graduate student at Western University, Ont.) in a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* guest edited by Dr. Greenwood and fellow expedition scientist Dr. Bruce Archibald.

Dr. Greenwood will discuss some of his research at a talk at the Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, Alta., in February, as well as at BU this spring.

Dr. Greenwood  
at the Princeton  
Chert fossil  
locality, near  
Princeton, B.C.,  
August 2015



## Addressing the Challenges of Conflict to Health Care

Health care is tough enough without external challenges like sectarian conflict. But a recent article by Dr. Emma Varley, Anthropology Professor at BU, looks at what happens when healthcare workers face exactly those issues.

Published in the journal *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, Varley's article focuses on healthcare delivery sites in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region, where there is Shia-Sunni sectarian conflict. She conducted nearly three years of ethnographic fieldwork and research to examine how the conflict played out in health care.

"Health services and personnel are not impervious to the forces that produce

states of crisis," says Dr. Varley. "For 10 years, my research has explored how health systems around the world are affected by natural disasters, political upheaval or warfare, and identifies the heroic ways that healthcare providers treat and save those most at risk during periods of insecurity or strife."

Her latest work looks at the social, administrative and clinical practices of healthcare services, and the complex ways clinics serve as centres of contact, abandonment and violence.

"In ways that challenge current research on the interrelationship between conflict and medicine," she says, "my recent



Dr. Emma Varley

work also identifies how, in certain circumstances, hospitals can serve as sites of exclusion and violence, while medical personnel can become active co-participants in the propagation of diverse forms of harm against patients."

## A Stronger Agri-Food Industry Thanks to RDI Research

A new research project at BU will help rural Manitobans get their good ideas to market.

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) has received \$182,000 in funding from the Canadian and Manitoba governments through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial initiative, for a two-year research project examining Rural Innovation in Manitoba.

Focusing specifically on the agri-food sector, and on barriers to commercialization, the research aims to close the “innovation gap” and help unlock the value of rural Manitoban ideas and knowledge.

“The innovation gap is complex, not well understood, and largely caused by systemic barriers,” said Dr. William Ashton, Director of the RDI. “Rural Manitobans face numerous barriers such as limited access to venture capital, fragmented services to innovators and commercialization, and a widespread risk-adverse culture.”

## Helping Rural Communities Find the Best Ways to Grow

A new report from the Rural Development Institute at BU provides insight on how rural communities can grow and thrive.

Researchers looked at existing strategies used by three growing municipalities, and compared them to those used by three declining municipalities, to find the most successful approaches.

The study revealed that growing municipalities focused their efforts on initiatives aimed at retaining and attracting people, attracting new businesses, and regional cooperation, while declining

The research will address the systemic barriers that affect the commercialization cycle as experienced by innovators and stakeholders in the Manitoba agri-food industry. Researchers will also investigate southwestern Manitoba’s innovation culture and risk-adversity within the context of the province’s agri-food industry.

“Our focus with this project will be rural Manitoba,” Dr. Ashton said. “It is a less studied area when it comes to the commercialization aspects of innovation.

By generating a range of strategies, tools and support programs for agri-food innovators, researchers are expected to improve export and manufacturing opportunities in rural Manitoba, facilitating entrepreneurship. These improvements will benefit many agri-food industry stakeholders, from scientists and researchers to economic and industry professionals, including financing agencies, patent lawyers and business advisors, as well as government organizations.

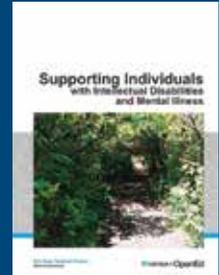
municipalities had more initiatives that focused on health/wellbeing and recreation culture. The research revealed that financial and human capitals were used by both growing and declining municipalities in their initiatives.

Also, growing municipalities used social and political capitals more often, and declining municipalities used built, natural, and cultural capitals more often.

The full report and case studies can be found at [BrandonU.ca/RDI/publications/rural-adaptation-and-change](http://BrandonU.ca/RDI/publications/rural-adaptation-and-change).

## Support for Mental Health Caregivers

Two professors from Brandon University’s Faculty of Health Studies Psychiatric Nursing program have collaborated



on a new book aimed at supporting caregivers in the mental health field. *Supporting Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Illness*, co-authored by Debra Dusome and John Simpson (retired), explores topics of interest to those who provide care for individuals with co-occurring intellectual disabilities and mental illness.

“The book has links to resources and information for professionals who care for people with both developmental challenges and mental health issues,” said Dusome. “This is a very stigmatized and vulnerable population and there are limited user-friendly resources for day-to-day caregivers.”

The book builds and emphasizes key points for caregivers, and presents current evidence-informed practice knowledge. It examines an understanding of client behaviours so caregivers can develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to promote positive changes to the environment and quality of life for those they care for with this dual diagnosis.

*Supporting Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Illness* is available for free as an open access resource at [opentextbc.ca/caregivers](http://opentextbc.ca/caregivers).

## MNP Honours Memory of Shawn de Delley with Gift to BU



Shawn de Delley '92

MNP is honouring the memory of Shawn de Delley '92, a longtime MNP employee, BU supporter and BU Foundation volunteer, with a bursary to assist students enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration Program. MNP's gift of \$25,000 and an additional \$7,000 in contributions from MNP partners have been matched with an equal amount from the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative (MSBI) to establish an endowment of \$64,000. The Shawn de Delley Memorial Bursary will provide approximately \$2,800 annually to a student in need.

In September 2013, de Delley lost a courageous battle with cancer. He is remembered by all who knew him as an individual who shared his time and expertise for the betterment of his community and University.

## Brandon Regional Health Centre Auxiliary Triples Support for BU Nursing Students



BRHC Auxiliary representatives (L-R) Sharon Hunter, Carol Davies and Marlene Brichon with Dr. Dean Care, Dean, Faculty of Health Studies

The Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC) Auxiliary has tripled their financial support for students in BU's Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing programs. Their endowment fund has increased from \$70,000 to \$140,000 with matching contributions from the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative and they have committed to increasing each of their three bursaries from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per year. The BRHC Auxiliary cites the increasing costs of tuition, books and other aspects of post-secondary education as reasons for increasing their support to meet the needs of today's students.

## Sally J. Wilde Memorial Scholarship



The Brandon Sun

Sally J. Wilde

The family of Sally J. Wilde has established a memorial scholarship in her honour. Sally, who suffered from anxiety and depression, and had been seeking medical and psychiatric help, took her own life in July 2015, devastating her family and friends.

Determined to do something to help others in similar situations, her family decided to establish a scholarship for students in the Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program, in

hopes of encouraging them to excel at their profession. Through generous gifts from Sally's family and friends, the Sally J. Wilde Memorial Scholarship fund has grown to over \$45,000 and will provide an award of approximately \$2,000 annually to a student who is undertaking research related to severe and persistent mental illness, with preference given to students who are researching depression and/or suicide prevention.

## Chemistry Labs Dedicated in Honour of Longtime Faculty Members

The Dr. Bruce & Mrs. Jane Forrest Laboratory for Physical Chemistry and the Dr. Peter Letkeman Laboratory for Analytical & Inorganic Chemistry have been dedicated to these former faculty members in recognition of their distinguished careers and generosity to Brandon University.

Dr. Letkeman's career at BU spanned 1963 to 2003. From 1972 to 1980, he served as Chair of the Chemistry Department, and as Dean of Science from 1982 to 1993. He has been instrumental in the establishment of two scholarships, the Dr. H.V. Kidd & Dr. Peter Letkeman Scholarship in General Chemistry, and the Dr. Peter Letkeman Scholarship.



Dr. Peter Letkeman with BU Science students



Dr. Bruce Forrest

Dr. Forrest's career at BU began in 1986, and for 16 years he served as Chair of the Chemistry Department. Before his passing in 2013, Dr. Forrest established the Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Jane Forrest Scholarship for Physical Chemistry, as well as a bequest to fund the Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Jane Forrest Scholarships for Honours/Majors Chemistry.

# Explore Your Partnership with Brandon University



Verda McDonald (centre) with (from left) Jeremy Davies, Kaela Cranston, Jamie Campbell and Kinsley Ransom, members of the Brandon University Bobcats

Today, we are building a leading, engaged, and innovative University which serves as a catalyst for growth.

Thank you, BU alumni, for contributing more than \$80,000 through the Annual Fund appeal since its launch last fall. **If you haven't yet made your gift, please consider doing so today.** Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of the students and communities we serve—much as we may have made a difference in your life.

Brandon University is committed to advancements in teaching and learning that will yield the leaders of tomorrow. We conduct research and creative activities that generate innovation, future prosperity and wellbeing, while fostering community development for the betterment of us all. **We need your help as we can't accomplish these outcomes solely within our existing fiscal capacity.**

Together we share the future. Together we have an opportunity to directly impact the lives of our students.

For more details call 204-727-9715 or go to: [BrandonU.ca/Give/Annual-Fund](http://BrandonU.ca/Give/Annual-Fund)

Give online at: [BrandonU.ca/Give/Donate](http://BrandonU.ca/Give/Donate)

## Choose Your Area of Support

**Yes! I want to give an unrestricted gift in support of the most pressing needs of the University.**

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**And/or I would like to support a specific fund:**

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- ▶ Aboriginal Student Success \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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- ▶ Faculty of Health Studies \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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- ▶ Library \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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270 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Brandon MB, R7A 6A9  
Call 204.727.7374 Toll-free 1.877.282.4483 (BU.2.GIVE)  
[Advancement@BrandonU.ca](mailto:Advancement@BrandonU.ca)  
All donations are tax deductible. **THANK YOU.**

## Homecoming 2015

Brandon University alumni and friends reunited during Homecoming Weekend, held October 16 – 18. A number of events were held, including class reunions, campus tours and the Alumni Dinner & Awards evening, recognizing alumni for their outstanding contributions. For more Homecoming photos, go to [BrandonU.ca/Homecoming/Gallery](http://BrandonU.ca/Homecoming/Gallery).

### Class of 1955 – Celebrating 60 Years



Back Row (L-R): Allen Hattie, Barrie McLeod, Ben Ward, Harvey Young.  
Front Row (L-R): Gordon Williams, Helen (Batho) Mitchell, Verda (Peden) McDonald, Gerald Graham

### Class of 1960 Education 1 – Celebrating 55 Years



L-R: David Wilson, Michael Yakimishyn, Jack Fotheringham, Keith Harrison, Ron Kirbyson

### Class of 1965 TTC – Celebrating 50 Years



Back Row (L-R): Marilyn McKellar, Joan (Lowe) Bartley, Shirley (Stacey) Thompson, Sandy (Tucker) Margetts, Katherine (Armstrong) Moulson.  
Front Row (L-R): Bev (Jackson) Ross, Bev (Thompson) Smith, Bev (Barrie) Wotton, Vivian (Edmundson) Warren

### Class of 1965 – Celebrating 50 Years



Back Row (L-R): Garry Miller, David Hickling, Bob Wilkins, Chris Cassels, Phil North, Barb (Robertson) Martin, Mitch Taylor, Cathy (Craig) Moffatt, Emilie (Hansen) Friel, Don Sherritt, Al Hill. Front Row (L-R): Catherine Robertson, Russell Lusk, Anne (Franklin) Taylor, Bill Carr, Al Bray

## Mark Your Calendars

THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
**Vancouver Alumni Event**

OCTOBER 14 – 16  
**Homecoming Weekend**

MONTHLY

### Pub Night – Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Alumni Chapter hosts a monthly Pub Night, 5 – 7 pm on the third Thursday of each month (excluding July & August), at Flea Whiskeys, 601 Erin St. in Winnipeg.

Thank you to our Homecoming Weekend sponsor:



## Alumni Chapters

Alumni Chapters provide opportunities for alumni to participate in social, recreational, and educational programs. If you would like to become involved with the Alumni Chapter in your area, please contact the following representatives:

- ▶ **Winnipeg**  
Gerald Butler, Chair  
[gbutler@cardinal.ca](mailto:gbutler@cardinal.ca)  
204.955.0400
- ▶ **Toronto**  
Jason Bernstein, Chair  
[bernstein.je@gmail.com](mailto:bernstein.je@gmail.com)  
647.762.5206
- ▶ **Calgary**  
Junaid Malik, Chair  
[junaidkmalik@gmail.com](mailto:junaidkmalik@gmail.com)  
403.889.6322

# Alumni Awards

## Congratulations to the 2015 Alumni Award recipients:



- ① Dr. Jim Parrott BSc'64 – Wall of Fame Award
- ② Mr. Frank McKinnon BSc'55 – Wall of Fame (*posthumous*)
- ③ Mr. Gerald Butler BSc'63 – Exceptional Service Award
- ④ The Honourable Judge Robert Wilkins BA'65 – Career Achievement Award
- ⑤ Mr. Mitch Obach BA'06, BEd(AD)'09 – Distinguished Young Alumni Award

## Brandon University Welcomes 2015 Inductees to the Dick and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame

BU Athletics inducted eight new individual members, as well as the members of the 1969-70 football team, to the Sports Wall of Fame.



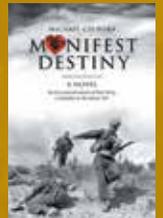
Members of Brandon University's 1969-70 Football Team



Verda McDonald (wearing scarf) poses with individual Sports Wall of Fame honourees. L-R: Jack Gibson, Joel Small, Ashley Creighton, Murray Zuk, Tracy Johnson (MacLeod), Brian Marshall, George Kunyckyj and Len Sitter

# Alumni Authors

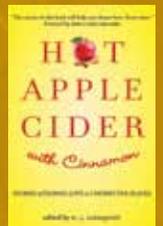
## Michael Czuboka, BA'57, BEd'67



*Manifest Destiny* is a novel that is based largely on events that took place during the Korean War in the early 1950s. Conflict, romance, mystery, the stigma associated with mental illness and humorous events take place. The cultural characteristics of the era, and especially those of the small towns of Canada and home of the main protagonist, are portrayed. The lives of the principal characters before, during and after the war are described. Peter Farley, the main protagonist, becomes romantically involved with several women, and especially with an American nurse in Korea. The Soviet Embassy in Ottawa recruits a Canadian communist fellow traveller to spy on Canadian Forces in Korea and his identity remains a mystery until near the end of the book. Combat occurs against the Chinese and North Korean communist forces in Korea. Peter Farley becomes a prisoner of war and returns to Canada to a difficult and uncertain future because his mind has been damaged by torture that he endured while in captivity.

[FriesenPress.com](http://FriesenPress.com)

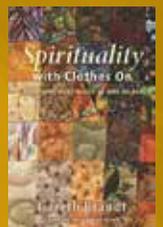
## Nancy J. Lindquist, BA'69



*Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon* contains 67 true stories, fiction, and poems about finding love in unexpected places. Writers from across Canada survived a rigorous competition to be included in this Canadian anthology, fourth in a series of books designed to offer encouragement and inspiration to readers who know what it's like to feel overwhelmed.

[HotAppleCiderBooks.com](http://HotAppleCiderBooks.com)

## Gareth Brandt, BA'85



There is no such thing as a naked spirituality. Our spirituality is always shaped by the clothes of our experience. The quest of *Spirituality with Clothes On* is to acknowledge that we do wear clothes; and, by examining them, we begin to understand ourselves and accept others who are wearing different outfits. We are what we wear: we cannot separate ourselves from our gender, personality, developmental stage, family, historical background, culture, or the difficult experiences of our lives. We need to acknowledge all these things, reflect on them—and sometimes even embrace them—in order to truly become ourselves.

[wipfandstock.com/spirituality-with-clothes-on.html](http://wipfandstock.com/spirituality-with-clothes-on.html)

## In Memoriam

## ALUMNI

**Frederick W. Aberly, Assoc. '76**  
January 1, 2014

**Paul M. Antrobus, BA'59**  
August 12, 2015

**Nestor E. Atamanchuk, BScMH'98**  
July 19, 2015

**Raymond R. Bailey, BSc'45, BEd'57**  
July 23, 2015

**Robert B. Barteaux, BA'87**  
November 14, 2015

**Ernest E. Criddle, BSc'52**  
March 17, 2015

**Marie M. Dohan, TTC'56**  
November 21, 2015

**Mary J. (Teal) Foxton, TTC'56**  
August 21, 2015

**Beverly (Anderson) Geekie, TTC'65**  
September 30, 2015

**William Harwood, BA'43**  
October 18, 2015

**Paul A. Laval, BEd'69**  
July 7, 2015

**John T. Lombard, TTC'57**  
March 20, 2014

**Norma (McDonald) Shepherd, BSc'56**  
October 13, 2015

**Frank L. McKinnon, BSc'55**  
May 31, 2015

**Lois N. (Kennedy) Muir, BA'51**  
December 13, 2015

**Jacqueline D. (Connery) Nicol, BT'77, BEd'82**  
November 23, 2012

**Grace D. (Hopkins) O'Brien, BA'33**  
June 26, 2015

**Marion D. (Torister) Rabe, BT'75**  
January 4, 2015

**Beverly E. Reeves, BA'64, BEd'69**  
October 21, 2014

**Sandra M. Rigaux, BGS'90, BEd'94**  
July 15, 2014

**Marjorie M. (Kirk) Seton, BA'40**  
July 29, 2015

**Phyllis (Shannon) Sharpe, Assoc. '39**  
July 5, 2015

**Douglas Simpson, BA'98, BGS'00**  
February 20, 2015

**Jo-Ann G. (Slawinsky) Turner, BScN'00**  
August 14, 2015

**Jon Vickers, Hon. Degree '76**  
July 10, 2015

**Gerald D. Wilson, BSc'66, BA'72**  
September 1, 2015

## STAFF / FACULTY

**Daisy Carey, Cleaner, 1976 – 1985,**  
April 23, 2015

## In Touch

Stay connected with University friends and classmates.

**Margaret (Jones) Callahan, BA'67**

– Margaret founded the annual Mindfulness Based Art Therapy Summer Institute in Vancouver, B.C., in 2012. Her educator's and counsellor's guide to using mindfulness based art, SPARKS, was published in January 2016. She continues to lead retreats, teach, and offer open studio painting groups.

**Allan Ryan, BGS'75** – Following his BGS, Allan earned an MA at the University of Arizona and a PhD from the University of British Columbia (1995). He did post-doctoral research on Native cartoonists at Simon Fraser University. His PhD dissertation was published in 1999 by UBC Press and the University of Washington Press as *The Trickster Shift: Humour and Irony in Contemporary Native Art*. It won an American Book Award for its contribution to multicultural literature. A year later, he was offered the position as New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture at Carleton University, a position he currently holds. This past May, he received the inaugural Alumni of Influence Award for Distinguished Educator from the Ontario College of Art and Design University, his first alma mater.

**Nicole Beasant, BEd'97** – Nicole is an intermediate-level department head at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Kenora, Ont. She is busy raising her three boys (ages 10-16) and often travels back to the Westman area for hockey.

**Monique Giroux, BMus'05** – Monique is currently a Bader Post-Doctoral Fellow in the department of Drama and Music at Queen's University. She completed a PhD in Ethnomusicology at York University in 2013. Her research explores Métis music in Manitoba and Ontario.



McLeann Trott '05

**McLeann Trott, BSc'05** – McLeann worked as a wellsite geologist in the oil patch and the mineral exploration business, focusing primarily on copper exploration on the Pacific Rim. In 2011, he started his current job as a senior geologist for First Quantum Minerals in Peru and is now based in Santiago, Chile. McLeann says his career has opened doors all over the world and has given him the opportunity to travel, to see and do amazing things, and to meet some tremendous people.

**Kevin Henry, BSc'06**

– After BU, Kevin continued his studies in the Cheriton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo. In 2015, he attained his PhD in Computer Science. His work has been published in top international conference proceedings, and his Master's thesis, *The Theory and Applications of Homomorphic Cryptography*, has been widely cited. During his time at Waterloo, Kevin was an active participant in the Centre for Applied Cryptographic Research (CACR), the Cryptography, Security and Privacy (CrySP) research group, and the UW Gamers Club.



Kevin Henry '06



We're seeing a  
spike in interest

Get your tickets now as Brandon University welcomes the nation's best for the  
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[GoBobcats.ca/Nationals](http://GoBobcats.ca/Nationals)



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