



CLARK

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey and black striped cardigan over a black t-shirt with the text 'STRONG RESILIENT INDIGENOUS', stands on the left. A man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a black Brandon University hoodie, sits at a table on the right. They are in front of a large, colorful mural featuring stylized figures with large eyes and flowing hair in shades of yellow, orange, blue, and pink. The woman is holding a pen and looking at a notebook on the table.

confidence through culture

18

Honouring Indigenous
roots eases transition

A stylized geometric logo consisting of overlapping yellow, white, and blue shapes forming a triangular pattern.

*Canada's finest
regional university*

10

*international
innovators*

14



PARTING GIFT

Artwork by Brandon resident Grace Buitenhuis was presented to all Brandon University graduates at this year's Convocation. Buitenhuis' work captures the Kavanagh Courtyard in a state of transition, from sketch to watercolour, from winter to summer, and from pandemic restrictions to a fuller in-person experience.



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

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

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

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Welcoming back and looking forward

Recently we marked the end of another academic year with my favourite Brandon University tradition, our annual Spring Convocation.

What a Convocation it was! Our first in-person celebration of the ultimate student success in three years was also one of our biggest ever, with degrees conferred to 641 new graduates over the course of two days and four ceremonies. We also welcomed back a number of our 2020 and 2021 graduates as they accepted our invitation for a belated walk across the stage in front of family and friends.

As I stood and watched each of those smiling graduates stride by me, it almost felt, dare I say it, normal.

We haven't had enough of normalcy over the last two-plus years. We're not past COVID-19, but we are finally starting to get a taste of what our world will be like post-pandemic.

After closing our doors to most students and a number of staff for more than a year, we began to open up to the BU community in the fall, with even more arriving for the winter term. Our Bobcats were back in action, the joyous sound of music once again echoed through the halls of the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building, and we celebrated the donors who mean so much to us and to our students with the return of our Foundation Luncheon. It all culminated with Convocation, our biggest and most ambitious step in our reopening yet.

We did it safely, we did it cautiously, and we did it successfully. And we're looking forward to continuing that same steady path forward as we prepare to welcome even more students and guests for Orientation and

Homecoming this fall. I encourage as many of our alumni as possible to attend.

In this issue of *Clark*, we will get a better idea of BU's post-pandemic future as we strive to be Canada's finest regional university. We will take an inside look at Mamaawii-atooshke aakihkiwiin, our new strategic plan. We will read about the development of the plan, how it was shaped and informed by the pandemic, and about the foundations we will build on as we endeavour to be agile, be courageous and be inclusive.

We will also read about some of our current and former students as they continue to take bold steps forward. This past year we hosted the second cohort of the Al and Bee Wagner Indigenous Student Transition Program, a groundbreaking initiative that is helping students adjust to a new life at Brandon University. We'll take a personal look at how this program is shaping the university experience of our students.

Our other feature will profile a pair of alumni who came to Brandon as international students and stayed as entrepreneurs. Most BU graduates remain in Manitoba, contributing to our communities and our economy, so I think you will enjoy reading about two determined young men who are continuing in that mould as business leaders.

I encourage you to enjoy this addition of *Clark*, and I welcome you back to BU.

DR. DAVID DOCHERTY
President of Brandon University

CAMPUS

Megumi Masaki named to Order of Manitoba

BRANDON UNIVERSITY PIANIST MEGUMI MASAKI has been named to the Order of Manitoba.

Masaki is a pianist and music professor at BU who is especially interested in exploring how sound, image, text and movement can be integrated in live multimedia performance and how the creative application of new technologies and approaches can expand how concert music is created and performed. Among her interests is a devotion to the advancement of Manitoba composer Sophie Carmen Eckhardt-Gramatté's music.

"I feel fortunate to have immigrated to and grown up in Manitoba, a province that has a vibrant music community and advances greater inclusion of minority groups for a rich multicultural



Megumi Masaki

mosaic," Masaki said. "As a Japanese-Canadian musician, I am grateful to the Manitoba Japanese United Church and Japanese Cultural Association for fostering Japanese and Japanese-Canadian culture and heritage. Their work has been a tremendous inspiration for me to explore Japanese-Canadian and multi-racial experiences and history through music."

Masaki has been at Brandon University since 2006, and she maintains an extremely active performance career, as well as significant involvement with music councils and music festivals.

Gender and Women's Studies grants fund community projects, student employment

FOUR COMMUNITY organizations are benefitting from grants from the Gender and Women's Studies (G&WS) program at Brandon University this year.

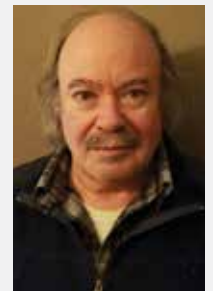
The G&WS program is providing \$18,000 in funding through the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund. The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network and the Women's Resource Centre will both benefit from \$6,000 Work-Study Grants. Bear Clan Brandon and Inclusion Westman will receive \$3,000 apiece in Program Grants.

"It's extremely rewarding for our program, with the support of the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund, to be able to provide assistance to these organizations," said Dr. Kelly Saunders, an Associate Professor in the Gender and Women's Studies Program. "Their work benefits all of us in so many ways. The negative effects of the pandemic have been magnified in marginalized groups, and these organizations are playing a more vital role than ever in building stronger communities."

The grants strengthen connections between G&WS and the community by supporting projects that consider inequities of gender, sexuality, race, class, disability and neurodivergence. The funding supports special projects, events such as speakers or workshops, and short-term programming. The Work-Study Grants also create student employment, with \$3,000 of each of the two grants earmarked as stipends to pay students for summer jobs.

Professors pen award-winning play

A pair of Brandon University professors have earned a national award for their play, called *IAP*, which follows two members of an Indigenous family from Winnipeg who go through the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) for former Residential School students.



Dale Lakevold

Darrell Racine, an Assistant Professor in Native Studies, and Dale Lakevold, an Associate Professor in English, Drama & Creative Writing, received the Best Full-Length Play award in the Theatre BC Canadian National Playwriting Competition 2021.



Darrell Racine

The IAP is a real process, set up by the federal government to hear personal claims regarding abuse at Canadian residential schools.

IAP the play has not yet been produced, but the script had a reading in Feb. 2021, which was directed by Tracey Nepinak and facilitated by the Manitoba Association of Playwrights.

BU opens city's first Pride crosswalk

WITH A SNIP FROM A PAIR of oversize scissors, the rainbow ribbon fell away, cheers erupted, and Brandon's first Pride crosswalk was officially opened at the heart of the Brandon University campus in June.

Connecting Harvest Hall with the John E. Robbins Library, the crosswalk is located in a highly trafficked, prominent, and very visible area near the heart of campus. It was an immediate magnet for selfies and photos.

BU Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Kofi Campbell wielded the scissors with Aly Wowchuk and Logan Praznik from Brandon Pride. He said that the University also planted a Pride garden nearby. Earlier, BU raised the Pride flag for the month of June and also raised the Trans flag. Working with McMaster Residence Student Council, a 24-foot wide banner celebrating Pride was also installed in the residence.



L-R: BU Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Kofi Campbell with Aly Wowchuk and Logan Praznik from Brandon Pride.

Praznik said that Brandon Pride was ecstatic about the new crosswalk, which was a great way to kick off Pride celebrations in Brandon.

"It is no secret that Brandon lacks spaces like these that represent the 2SLGBTQIA+ community that many other towns and cities have, such as the well-loved rainbow crosswalks. Showcasing these elements

within our city helps individuals see themselves as part of this community," they said. "This crosswalk gives LGBTQ+ people more visibility and we hope this is the first step of many more projects like this here in Brandon. Happy Pride!"

Bobcats win men's futsal, soccer conference titles



THE BU BOBCATS MEN'S SOCCER team is on quite a roll. The Bobcats claimed the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC) men's football title this spring, adding another trophy to their case after their men's soccer championship victory in the fall.

"Two trophies in one year is quite the accomplishment," Bobcats head coach Glen McNabb said. "It is something that we have not done before and I'm impressed by the whole team as it says a lot about this group."

Diego Rodriguez was named the championship most valuable player, while his brother, Camilo Rodriguez, scored four goals, as BU iced the futsal title with an 11-5 victory over Canadian Mennonite University in the final. Diego Rodriguez was also a standout in the soccer season, being named the MCAC most valuable player, while teammates Zach Wood and Ryder Anthony were conference all-stars. McNabb was the MCAC men's soccer coach of the year.

Kristen Fisher appointed as Associate Vice-President, People and Talent

A FAMILIAR FACE is leading the Human Resources office at Brandon University, as Kristen Fisher has been named the campus' Associate Vice-President, People and Talent.

Although the position is new, replacing the previous title of Chief Human Resources Officer and with a broader focus, Fisher is well-known to the BU community and to the HR office. She served as Acting Chief Human Resources Officer for two years and was previously Manager of Executive and Board Operations in the Office of the President.

"I'm honoured to be able to continue in this role in a permanent capacity, and to keep building on relationships and the depth of talent that fill the halls at Brandon University," Fisher said. "These are challenging times for the people of BU, but we have opportunities ahead of us, and I'm eager to help everyone take full advantage."



Kristen Fisher

DISCOVERY

Autism project explores Indigenous approaches

A RESEARCH STUDY at Brandon University is exploring Indigenous approaches to autism in education.

Dr. Patty Douglas, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education, is the academic lead on the project, working in partnership with Leah LaPlante, Vice President of the Manitoba Métis Federation Southwest, and with Gail Cullen, Executive Director of the Brandon Friendship Centre. The research will bring Indigenous autistic people and those who love and care about them together as part of a video-based collaboration.

Following Douglas' earlier research and digital storytelling work on autism, LaPlante suggested a need for a similar initiative in southern Manitoba because supports for Métis



families with autistic members are limited.

The project began with interviews with Indigenous people with autism and their family and other kin, along with teachers, community leaders and supporters. The next step was an online digital storytelling workshop, bringing together the groups to support participants to create their own videos telling their stories — with the school system, life experiences, strengths and struggles.

Douglas said that Indigenous perspectives that understand children, including autistic children, as unique and as gifts, are largely absent from mainstream understandings of autism. This video project is part of a larger focus on decolonizing autism for the Re-Storying Autism project.

Breast Cancer Society of Canada backs promising work of BU biologist



Members of the Majumder Lab at BU, from left to right: Sujit Maiti, Brady Nault, Reid Opperman, Khaled Elshaer, Riley Feser, Mousumi Majumder, Lacey Winstone, Beatrice Gatien, Vaishanvi Gopaul.

EXCITING RESEARCH from a Brandon University scientist is gaining considerable support for its potential to change the way breast cancer is detected.

Dr. Mousumi Majumder is leading a project that has been awarded a \$75,000 research grant by the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. The grant will support her work over a three-year period.

Dr. Majumder is BU's Canada Research Chair in Genotoxicology. She is collaborating with colleagues at Brandon University and leading experts in the field of breast cancer research to examine tissue to identify blood biomarkers that could lead to early diagnosis of the disease.

Brandon University students receive research funding from NSERC

THE WORK OF 10 BRANDON UNIVERSITY undergraduate students is being supported by federal funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

The students are recipients of Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRAs), providing them each with \$6,000 from NSERC in addition to \$1,500 from BU.

Students receiving the research funding are: Joshua Broome (Chemistry), Adriano Budzik (Mathematics and Computer Science), Wade Cowie (Physics and Astronomy), Hillary Derewianchuk (Biology), Kimberley Dunthorne (Geography and Environment), Bryce Friesen (Physics and Astronomy), Thomas Friesen (Physics and Astronomy), Keagan Morrison (Biology), Elisha Lisa Tariq (Chemistry) and Lacey Winstone (Biology).

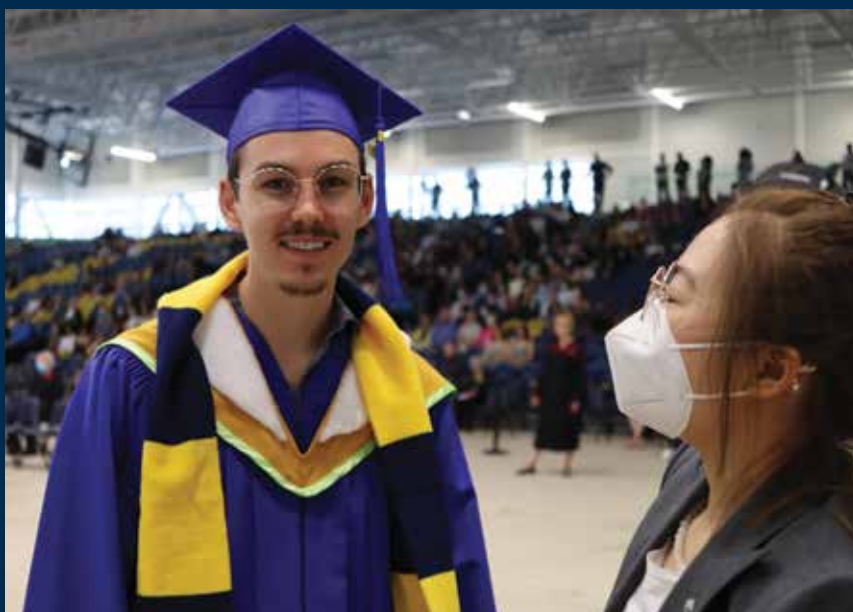
In addition to encouraging student interest in research, the USRA support lays the groundwork for the recipients to advance to graduate programs by developing their skills, knowledge and work experience.

CONVOCATION 2022

Brandon University returned to an in-person Convocation this spring with one of its largest graduating classes ever.

A total of 641 students received their degrees at Spring Convocation 2022, a two-day celebration of academic achievement with four separate ceremonies.

Over the previous two years, BU was forced to celebrate virtual Convocation and was pleased this year to welcome back graduates from the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021, inviting them to walk across the stage in front of friends and family.





LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

William Gordon

William Gordon (1946-2021) was an outstanding teacher, colleague, and mentor to generations of musicians throughout his years at Brandon University. Bill was born in Weymouth, England and graduated from the Royal College of Music, London. In 1970, Lorne Watson invited him to join the faculty of the BU School of Music and he taught there for the next 50 years.

During his distinguished career at BU, Bill was committed to student success and gave generously of his time and knowledge to support and encourage others. Of Bill's innumerable contributions to the School of Music, the most permanent was his enormous input to the design and construction of the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Heather Coulter

Heather Coulter is a proud graduate of Brandon University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in History, with a minor in Political Science. After several years living in Nova Scotia and Quebec, she and her husband returned to Brandon, where she was hired for a position in BU's John E. Robbins Library and worked in Government Documents for more than 30 years. Heather retired in May 2021 and lives in Brandon with her husband, Curt Shultz.

"I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all my colleagues at the university, and especially those in the library. I cannot imagine working anywhere else. From the very first day, my coworkers were a source of support and inspiration," Heather says.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kimberley D. Ryan

Kimberley Ryan is an Associate Professor within Brandon University's Faculty of Health Studies, Department of Psychiatric Nursing.

Community service examples include: serving on the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba Board of Directors; membership on the Community Advisory Panel for Nexen Chlorate Plant, which was undergoing site remediation and expansion; serving on Senate; membership on search committees; representing the Faculty of Health Studies on the University Promotions and University Tenure Committees, and two decades as either a member or the chair of numerous Health Studies and/or Psychiatric Nursing committees.



SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Dr. Christopher Schneider

Dr. Christopher J. Schneider is Professor of Sociology at Brandon University, where he has taught since 2015. He received his PhD from Arizona State University. His research focuses on how developments in media and technology contribute to changes in social interaction and social control.

Christopher has written or collaborated on six books and has published dozens of scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and essays. He has received award recognition for his research, teaching, and service contributions. Recently, he was the recipient of a 2021 Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award.



SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Dr. Joe Stouffer

Dr. Joe Stouffer began teaching as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education as a literacy education and English Language Arts specialist in 2018.

Joe's research, ongoing applied professional work, and frequent service to Brandon, rural and northern Manitoba and school divisions across Canada continue to inform him of current practice, which he conveys in his courses. He draws on long-standing professional relationships to connect Brandon University to the field, having school superintendents, principals, and teachers (many of whom are BU alumni) share their experience and perspectives. He builds positive relationships with students that endure beyond their graduation.



Canada's Finest Regional University

New strategic plan puts BU on ambitious path

STORY BY JILLIAN AUSTIN

Brandon University's new strategic plan sets out the ambitious goal to be recognized as Canada's finest regional university with a "built-in-Brandon" approach.

The five-year plan highlights and embraces the important role BU plays not only in Brandon, but the wider western Manitoba community, and envisions strategies to flexibly support those communities through 2027.

"Universities like BU are critical to a region's economic, social and cultural survival," said BU President Dr. David Docherty. "We welcome students from across the country and our cohort of international students, who are very important to us, but our primary role is serving the local community."

Many students who choose BU come to Brandon from smaller communities to get their degree. Often, they remain in Manitoba to become "thriving parts of the economic and social fabric of their communities," Docherty added. "BU alumni earn more money thanks to their education, so they are paying more taxes, they're raising their families here and they're involved in local community activities and sports."

The goal is to be the 'finest' regional university, as 'best' is not easily measured, and tends to differ from region to region. It's also not a competition, Docherty says.

When striving to be finest in Canada, Docherty points to important variables like a warm relationship with the community, a growing campus that welcomes all, a vibrant environment that encourages students to stay on campus into the evening.

“Those are some challenges that many regional universities have because many of our students live at home, or have rented a place elsewhere in the city,” he said. “How do you get the energy and liveliness that will make people want to stay on campus? Those are the kinds of things that our strategic plan tackles.”

A symbol at the centre of the strategic plan is an interconnected braid, with the three sections representing students, faculty/staff and community. The braid is an Indigenous image, “reminding us of the history of this land and the communities we serve,” explains the plan. “Braids are symbolic of being stronger and more resilient together than apart.”

The strategic plan has been gifted the Michif name of Mamaawii-atooshke aakihkiwiin, which means “working together and growing.”

“This name perfectly reflects the partnership and community action that is woven throughout our plan,” Docherty said.

As universities are European creations, Docherty said the traditional way of thinking often includes “pillars of strength” or “spires of excellence” in their various plans. The University wanted to move away from that.

“Those are very European concepts, also very siloed — pillars don’t touch each other,” he said. “But woven sweetgrass, there may be three or four big strands but there’s all kinds of other strands within it, and they all come together repeatedly and in new combinations. So the concept that these things weave through and touch each other at different points, that represents more of what a university should be doing.”

The strategic plan calls on the campus and community to participate in creating the braid together, following a “Built in Brandon” approach of “Be Agile, Be Courageous, Be Inclusive.”

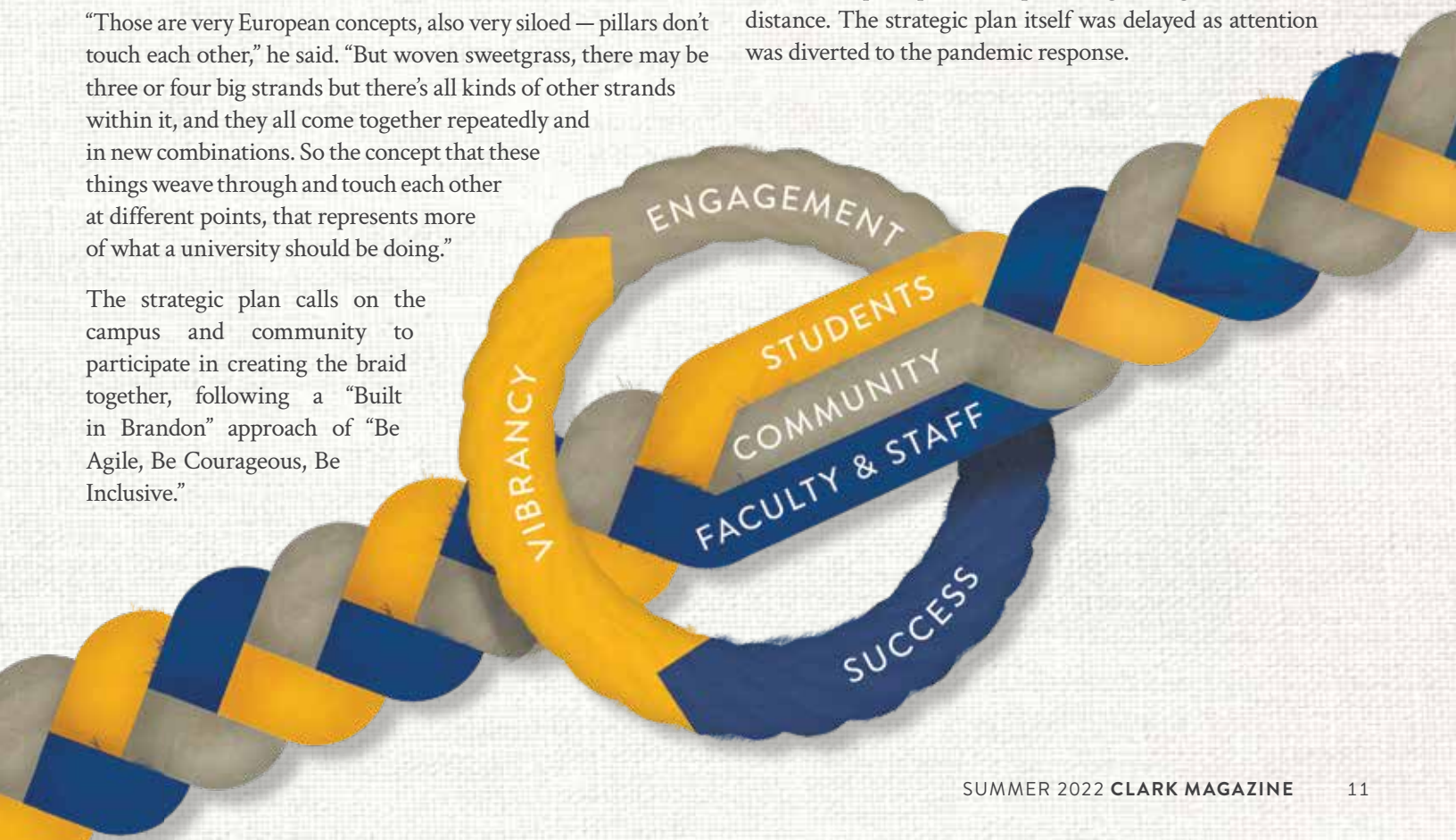
“ The strategic plan has been gifted the Michif name of Mamaawii-atooshke aakihkiwiin, which means “working together and growing.”

Be Agile encourages people to take chances, move quickly and meet challenges head-on. Be Courageous inspires people to be bold, do the right thing and not be afraid to fail. Be Inclusive celebrates diversity, listens to broad perspectives and respects differences. Together, the Built in Brandon approach empowers everyone on campus to meet challenges and embrace opportunities by being resilient and creative — it’s a flexible process, rather than a strict goal.

One of the challenges recognized in the strategic plan is post-pandemic recovery. Communities were impacted greatly by the COVID-19 global pandemic, with the University being no exception.

The process to develop the new strategic plan started in 2019, with a target completion date of Fall 2020. They were midway through the process when the pandemic hit.

The University had to quickly adapt to offer virtual classes and ensure campus space was providing enough room to social distance. The strategic plan itself was delayed as attention was diverted to the pandemic response.



“That took a lot of time and energy, so it really wasn’t until January of 2021 that we said ‘OK, let’s start this process again,’” Docherty said.

Consultations resumed virtually with faculty, community members, alumni, and students, and meetings were held with the strategic plan advisory committee.

The plan states that a genuine and lasting pandemic recovery will mean ongoing changes to academics, administration and community relationships.

“We must recognize that we do not exist in an unchanging bubble, but that we are faced with external challenges that we must meet,” reads the plan, which underscores the need for Brandon University to be able to thrive in a fast-changing world.

“That need for flexibility became more apparent with the Russian invasion of Ukraine,” Docherty said. “We applied the same pandemic lessons when we become one of the first universities in Canada to step forward with support for the Ukrainian people, including Ukrainians here in Brandon and Manitoba.”

Other challenges noted in the plan include relevance—BU must clearly articulate why students should attend, the importance of support and making genuine connections; and sustainability — the responsibility to act in environmentally, financially, and morally sustainable ways.

Opportunities laid out in the plan include Indigeneity, equity/diversity/inclusion and mental wellness.

The University will take a holistic approach to wellness, including physical, mental and spiritual. This was another area where the lessons of the pandemic are being applied broadly, as the University will continue to destigmatize issues like anxiety and depression, and normalize the need for self-care.

“We recognized early on the toll that the pandemic was taking on people. The isolation, the extra responsibilities for childcare, for example, the health worries. The toll is real,” Docherty said. “We’ve been supporting mental health for quite some time and thankfully, I think we’ve gotten to the stage where people are more comfortable talking about it and it doesn’t have the stigma it once did. But stigma is one thing — we also have to support overall wellness.”

Recently, he added, the University had made investments in its employee health



The new strategic plan calls for gathering spaces on campus. One such spot will be a new sculpture by Cree/Métis artist Kevin McKenzie of BU’s IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art. McKenzie, left, and BU President David Docherty pose with a model of the statue, which will rise 30 feet in the air when complete and provide a space where Truth and Reconciliation can be contemplated.

benefits plan to give more options and more support to those seeking mental health care, like counselling.

The strategic plan outlines the importance of broadening perspectives to incorporate Indigenous worldviews, knowledge and ways of teaching and learning. Opening the university to Indigenous culture and

practice is important both outside of the classroom and inside.

“We must fully acknowledge the harms of the past and make amends, working towards true Reconciliation,” states the plan. Bringing broad perspectives to the table and listening to previously marginalized people means they will make “fairer and better decisions”.

An action item that has begun in 2022 is working on creating more “spaces for serendipity” on campus, places where unplanned meetings can take place, where unexpected connections can form and which offer the potential for creative inspiration.

Docherty said they are particularly looking at McMaster Hall and a future Brodie Building renovation for places where investment can be made.

“Can we have more of a hang-out area, where people feel free to sit and talk?” he said, where people from different faculties can run into each other and have conversations that may seem meaningless at the time but may spark a new way of approaching a problem.

One of the things Docherty said he enjoys, but hasn’t been able to do since the pandemic started, is taking a few hours to do some work while sitting in the coffee shop on campus.

Students would see the president and be able to go have a chat.

“That was great, and we’ve lost that for the past two years,” he said. “So how do we make sure we rebuild that?”

Docherty said a challenge they face is that some different campus areas are detached, with some buildings more connected and others less.

“There’s not that flow of a central space where everybody on campus sees each other on a regular basis, which given our

size would be ideal because there would be a better sense of connection,” Docherty said. “So how can we kind of facilitate that as well? Those are some of the challenges we’re looking at and where can we make some quick moves; are there things we could do easily? And are there things we could do that will take a bit of time?”

The goal is to fill otherwise blank hallways and spaces with inspiring works of art, culture and science that can elevate thinking and emotion.

“Indoors and out, large and small, in hidden nooks and spanning vast plazas, these spaces are welcoming for casual visitors yet reward lengthy stays in any weather,” states the plan. “As much as classrooms, studios, labs and libraries, these spaces for serendipity will come to define the Brandon University campus experience and be cherished by generations to come.”

Other action items to help deepen the University’s commitment and connection to the community include establishing a President’s Anti-Racism Task Force, creating Community Consultation Councils, and leading the establishment of a Confederation of Canadian Regional Universities.

“ We must recognize that we do not exist in an unchanging bubble, but that we are faced with external challenges that we must meet.”

As a way to support and celebrate success, there are plans to establish an annual BU Awards Gala, which will be a prestigious event “to recognize success, and to inspire our community.”

The University will also identify and support national and international award applications for faculty, staff and students. Often people are not recognized for their achievements simply because they are unaware of opportunities.



Supporting student success, from orientation to graduation, is a priority in the strategic plan.

“We will help create this awareness by identifying deserving candidates, as well as appropriate awards, then matching the two together and supporting the full application process,” the plan says.

The plan includes draft strategies for future action in the categories of vibrancy, engagement and success for students, community and faculty/staff.

A few ideas in the Community Vibrancy category include developing a school of continuing studies and exploring the idea of offering new one-year certificates.

could be implemented in Health Studies.

“Our nursing students were working in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes during the worst pandemic in over a century,” he said. “As nursing students, they probably faced more challenges than hopefully they ever will during the rest of their careers, but what can we learn from that?”

Docherty said they are also looking into food security programs.

“One thing this pandemic has taught us is that food security is critical, so are there programs we can do in Science with our greenhouse and other areas that can be used to make people a little bit more self-sufficient?”

The five-year plan is aspirational and ambitious, and Docherty said they are proud of the feedback they have received.

“People really embraced this. Faculty, staff, the community all embraced the fact that we see ourselves as servicing the region,” he said. “We think that’s a story that’s important to tell. What really struck me in a positive way was how many people in the community both on campus and off said ‘yeah, that’s what BU is, it’s what it’s always been.’”

The full plan can be read online at BrandonU.ca/Strategic-Plan.

A photograph of two men standing in front of the IntriTech building. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket over a blue shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a light grey blazer over a patterned blue shirt. The building's awning features the IntriTech logo, which includes a magnifying glass icon over the word 'Intri' and the word 'Tech' in a large, bold font. Below the logo, the text 'Technology and Growth Partners' and the phone number '204-520-1111' are visible. The background shows a clear blue sky and the building's facade.

IntriTech
Technology and Growth Partners 204-520-1111


INTERNATIONAL INNOVATORS

STUDENTS FROM OVERSEAS FORGE THEIR OWN OPPORTUNITY IN BRANDON

STORY BY
LESLIE BRYDE

PHOTOS BY
KEYWEST PHOTO

ABOVE: Tapiwa Magwati, left, and Emelio Brown came to Brandon as international students and stayed in the city as entrepreneurs.



PICKING UP STAKES TO STUDY ABROAD CAN BE A DAUNTING ENDEAVOUR, BUT IT HAS BEEN A BOON FOR TWO BRANDON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI.

Since arriving in Brandon in 2014, Emelio Brown of Jamaica and Tapiwa Magwati of Zimbabwe earned three-year Bachelor of Science degrees, majoring in Computer Science, found a new place to call home, and embraced their entrepreneurial spirit by joining forces in a local business venture.

The pair, who developed a close friendship while classmates at BU, are partners in IntriTech Inc., which operates IntriTech Digital Marketing as well as the recently acquired Juggernaut Computers.

The foray into the business world began in May 2017 when Brown launched IntriTech Digital Marketing to provide a website development service.

The member of the Class of 2017 noted that after graduation, many of his Computer Science classmates left Brandon to find employment in the technology sector, but he saw an opportunity to help the industry grow locally.

“I wanted to work in my field, and if you need experience, why not create it?” he said. “What can you do to basically think outside the box or do a bit more than is presented to you?”

The 30-year-old said while he knew nothing specific about starting a business in Canada, he “just went for it.”

Just as he went for it when he chose to leave his homeland years earlier to further his education.

Brown was studying computer science at the University of Technology in Jamaica when he decided to bid farewell to the tropical hot spot and move to Canada.

After perusing a long list of Canadian universities that accept international students, he narrowed his selections to a shortlist of two. Prior to making the final decision, Brown, who had never travelled outside Jamaica, carefully assessed each location.

While affordable tuition was an important factor, there were other considerations, he said.

“I did research the demographic because I wanted to also ensure there was a local Black community, that was one factor. I looked at how safe the environment was as well, and Brandon fit the bill.”

While deciding to attend university in another country wasn't easy, choosing to remain in the community where he was welcomed so warmly was less difficult.

There are two key reasons Brown chose to build a life in the city.

“Thinking of the future is one. When you think about raising a family, thinking about ensuring that you can live a life where everything would be safe for you and your loved ones,” he said. “Second, as an entrepreneur, you find it's easier to stand out in a smaller community. If I should do the same model in Winnipeg or Toronto, we'd have way more competition.”

“I wanted to work in my field and if you need experience, why not create it?” – Emilio Brown

Magwati was also keen to remain in the Wheat City after receiving his degree from BU in 2018. He joined IntriTech following graduation.

The warm reception he received while an international student left an indelible mark.

“There was a lot of welcome in the community I had a lot of influential people that helped me along the way on this journey. I had profs at BU that were very accommodating,” said Magwati, pointing out professors Gautam Srivastava and Gwynfor



Tapiwa Magwati worked in mines in Zimbabwe following high school, but a passion for technology prompted him to enrol at BU.

Richards in particular. They took the extra time to help us out, give us advice, meet with us, coach us and guide us.”

Magwati’s sister had been the one to encourage him to further his education in Canada. He spent five years working

AFTER HIS STINT AT BU, MAGWATI WAS READY TO MAKE BRANDON HIS HOME AND TAKE ON A NEW ROLE AS AN ENTREPRENEUR.

in Zimbabwe mines after high school. He had also studied accounting for a time but was ready to branch into technology, which he described as “a passion.”

The search for Canadian universities with affordable tuition fees netted a list

that included BU. Learning on a campus situated in a smaller city also appealed to Magwati, who was born and raised in a small town in Zimbabwe.

After his stint at BU, Magwati was ready to make Brandon his home and take on a new role as an entrepreneur.

“I liked the size of the community, not too big, not too small, just perfect ... a place where you could actually settle down and raise a family,” said the 30-year-old.

“I also looked at the economy of Brandon. There’s a lot of growth, a lot of business coming up in Brandon, and that does present opportunities for entrepreneurs such as ourselves We can stay here, we can help build the community, create opportunities and also give back to the community that we are caring about quite a bit.”

While becoming owners of a tech startup has had its rewards, Brown and Magwati have faced a number of challenges — some were anticipated and others were unexpected.

“I just needed the right partner that would know that we were going to do some hard work,” Brown said, noting that the duo wanted to avoid taking on too much debt and risk as first-time business owners.

It meant working long nights and on weekends, something very familiar after their stint at university, and something they were willing to continue to do to ensure success.

The pair learned a lot along the way, including how to navigate Canadian and Manitoban business regulations, how to collect and remit taxes, and implement accounting systems.

“There was a lot that we did not know, but through the benefit of small beginnings, starting small, we had small projects, a small team, we gave ourselves that time to learn,” Magwati said.

They sought guidance from Aurora Project, a government-funded organization that assists newcomers with their entrepreneurial endeavours. By doing so, Brown and Magwati gained a new level of confidence in their company, which has since expanded its services to help clients grow their businesses.

IntriTech Inc. now has two divisions — IntriTech Digital Marketing continues to offer website development along with graphic design and social media marketing to small and medium businesses, while Juggernaut Computers is an IT services provider.

“There’s nothing that’s more disappointing than having a good message but putting it in front of the wrong people. We help our clients put their brand and messages in front of the right people,” said Magwati,

“We do a lot of networking, we know a lot of people as well, we shake the right hands, we make the right connections.” – Emilio Brown



With the acquisition of Juggernaut Computers, IntriTech Inc. now employs 10 people, including Ben Kaliyo, left, who poses with IntriTech founder Emilio Brown.

who is the company's chief technology officer.

The Jan. 1, 2022 acquisition of Juggernaut Computers, a longtime Brandon business with six employees, has filled a void that will enable IntriTech's operation to continue to thrive.

"We were lacking the physical, hands-on technology help," Brown said. "Juggernaut Computers, that was a good puzzle piece that would just fit right into our ecosystem. We are now considering ourselves as technology and growth partners."

To be able to add another major component so quickly is a major achievement for the owners of IntriTech, which employs a total of 10 people.

"It was very exciting, but also very humbling as well," said Brown. ".... This is proof that hard work does pay off. While we are far away from where we'd like to be in the future, we have a lot more work to do, but still it was very rewarding."

He believes the duo's efforts to get involved in the community have also played a role in their success.

"We do a lot of networking, we know a lot of people as well, we shake the right hands, we make the right connections," Brown said. "As a business person, it just can't be about the quality of

work. It's a lot of different things that actually work towards your overall character as an entrepreneur."

"In business, especially I think because we're young and upcoming, people really appreciate our drive. We got a lot of help in terms of advice, mentorship and so on, that really helped in who we are right now."

While the pair is proud of IntriTech's achievements over the past several years, the push continues to solidify the company's position in the local market as a leading provider of growth and technology services.

"We do have a solid client base, but there is room to grow," said Magwati, adding that one of the long-term goals is to expand beyond the local market and offer services in other communities.

Brown said the key to ongoing success in the technology industry is to keep thinking outside the box.

"It's a way to basically get you to stand out. Normal is very bad for business. Right now, we're not striving to compete with our competition, we're striving to dominate the market."



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped cardigan over a black t-shirt with the text "STRONG RESILIENT INDIGENOUS", sits on the left. A man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a black hoodie with a university crest and "RANDOLPH UNIVERSITY" text, sits on the right, writing in a notebook. They are in front of a large, vibrant mural featuring stylized faces with large white eyes and colorful, swirling patterns in yellow, orange, pink, and blue.

**confidence* through *culture* *

STORY BY PERRY BERGSON
PHOTO BY STUDIO 78

Al and Bee Wagner Indigenous
Student Transition Program Coordinator
Deidre Gregory, left, and student
Ethen Laughler take a study break in the
Indigenous Peoples' Centre at BU.



When Ethen Laugher made a life-changing move to Brandon University last fall, he had a support system waiting for him that made all the difference.

Laugher, who is from Norway House and a member of the nearby Cross Lake First Nation, has completed his first year at Brandon University after a previous attempt at the post-secondary level didn't go well.

He learned about the Al and Bee Wagner Indigenous Student Transition Program on Facebook, applied for it and was accepted, and has since come to appreciate the initiative and its co-ordinator, Deidre Gregory.

"The move went pretty well," Laugher said. "I'm living with a friend of mine but I'm lonesome for my family. I have three kids at home and a girlfriend, so leaving them was hard. With Deidre, if I was having trouble or getting homesick, I would just give her a text and she would give me a call and talk to me.

"Doing the cultural stuff has kept my mind at ease."

Gregory was hired in May 2020 to develop the program, which is entering its third year. Department staff examined similar programs across Canada, with Gregory building a Brandon-specific plan from their findings.

The program she designed specifically targets academic, social, personal and cultural areas.

“Doing the cultural stuff has kept my mind at ease.”

The academic side revolves around tutoring and pointing students to campus resources, while the cultural side involves helping students explore their roots with knowledge keepers, Elders and off-campus resources.

Stephanie Ann Spence became part of the program in 2020. Spence, whose father was Indigenous, was born and raised in Brandon until her family moved to Treherne when she was 10.

Gregory's presence allowed her to reconnect with her roots for the first time since her father's death.

"She gives off auntie vibes," Spence said. "I lost connection with most of the Indigenous side of my family. My dad died when I was in Grade 12, and we grew up in a predominantly white community, and my mother is white.

“Having Deidre to connect with and being in this program brought me closer to my Indigenous identity, and having her there to talk to was like having a family member nearby.”



The second cohort of the Al and Bee Wagner Indigenous Student Transition program out with the Brandon Bear Clan Patrol.

“When that happened, I had a lot of social anxiety and lost touch with everyone, including my identity as an Indigenous person. Having Deidre to connect with and being in this program brought me closer to my Indigenous identity, and having her there to talk to was like having a family member nearby.”

Laughter also enjoys the cultural side of the program and lends a hand at events now. There is a smudge room on campus and drums available for students.

“I didn’t practise my culture before,” Laughter said. “Deidre and the Elders helped me, and kind of swayed me to come help do things.”

On a personal level, Gregory does a regular check-in with students, which is important to people who can be a long way from home for the first time. The

conversations certainly aren’t restricted to academics.

“The check-ins are to see ‘How are your courses going? Do need any help connecting with supports around BU? How is home doing? Do you have any needs or concerns I can help with?’” Gregory said. “I’m trying to help students get connected to the different supports they need so they are able to continue as students here at BU without those barriers taking them away.”

She certainly understands their struggles. Gregory admits her first university experience wasn’t a good one — “It’s almost like a culture shock” — but the member of the Bacon Ridge/Ebb and Flow First Nation later returned to earn her Bachelor of First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling and a Master

of Education, specializing in Guidance and Counselling.

Spence, a mature student who now serves on the university’s Indigenous Education Senate Subcommittee, said it took her a year to find her footing.

“Having my weekly check-ins with Deidre held me accountable,” Spence said. “It was just nice having someone to ask how my schooling is going and someone who can look at my marks and know I’m not just saying things are good and moving on. I could be honest with her and have real conversations about where I was struggling.”

“There were many days I was in her office crying and came out of it feeling OK because I had her to lean on,” she added.

With many Indigenous students coming

to Brandon from smaller, remote communities, it can be a jarring transition to city life as students figure out things like how to pay hydro bills or where to get a bus pass.

Home sickness is common, and Gregory added changes like the absence of traditional foods add to the difficulty students face.

"You miss that home life and you miss the people, you miss the small-knit community," said Gregory, who was recently named a Woman of Distinction at the annual YWCA Brandon gala.

When the program debuted for the 2020-21 academic year, 15 students checked in via computer as they learned remotely. It was tough to do much socially, but that changed as the program rolled into its second year.

All but five students studied at Brandon University this past year, with two in the Psychiatric Nursing program at BU's Winnipeg campus and three students working remotely.

Unfortunately, they missed out on the opportunity to meet other participants, which Laugher appreciates.

"The program is really great," Laugher said. "It brings together the students who are in it. We did things like group meetings, and we got to know each other and make some bonds with some students who are in the same position. I felt that was really helpful."

The fact Gregory has students sitting in her office in the Indigenous Peoples' Centre near Evans Theatre is a fundamental change. Last year, she had no control over whether a student was being distracted during a Zoom call.

This year she can close her office door to get their complete attention and has more insight into students.

"It was a big learning experience trying to build a relationship over a monitor," Gregory said. "I felt like I did my best, but it was difficult. You have a hard time reading body language."

She added the relationships extend beyond her office, because she often runs into students in the halls or at the library. That personal touch is key.

At one point, Laugher's family was going to move down, so Gregory helped hunt for a place for the family to live. In

another instance, she helped him scan documents to send to his former workplace.

In the first year, students in the Health Studies, Science and Business Administration programs were eligible for the Indigenous Student Transition Program, but it's now open to other faculties. It grew from 15 to 30 students, although Gregory is wary of having too many students in the program because a heavy load could prevent her from spending as much time as she likes with each person.



Deidre Gregory (top) and Stephanie Ann Spence

Gregory, who has seen retention among program participants stronger than the average for the entire student body, has an extra benefit that's new, with a cohort of people who have been through the program to lean on.

"I am working on developing a peer mentorship program with the students who have gone through the transition program to become peer mentors, tutors, to become supports in any way," Gregory said.

That appealed to Spence, who attended the orientation for this year's class, giving her a chance to have some input and meet the newcomers. She was eventually hired as a student assistant at the Indigenous Peoples' Centre.

"I'm kind of kicking around all the time for the students," she said.

The previous group had a direct impact on Laugher when Gregory connected him with a student to discuss his economics course.

"I asked him for some help and he happily obliged," Laugher said. "He gave me some of his time to help me understand a few concepts."

So, how does Gregory define success for the program? That's a big question.

For some, it's all about grade-point average. For others, it could be working on themselves during their healing journey, reconnecting with their culture or even successfully moving away from the comforts of home.

"I could go through all the students I work with and probably tell you a success about all of them and it wouldn't be the same," Gregory said. "It's based on the student and where they're at."



ALUMNI

Mark your calendars for **Homecoming 2022**,
from **October 13th – 16th!**



THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP OF HOMECOMING ARE BACK, WITH OUR FIRST IN-PERSON REUNION IN THREE YEARS.

Homecoming will be a great four days of fun, fellowship, reunions and more as Brandon University celebrates this fall. Get back together with friends, former classmates and faculty as you tour the campus, take in exciting Bobcats action, and enjoy the many Homecoming events.

Brandon University and Brandon College alumni and friends from every year are invited back for Homecoming. As well, we welcome current and former faculty and staff. Take in some new events and returning favourites, such as the Homecoming School of Music Concert, Bobcat action, Athletics Wall of Fame Awards, Campus Tours, family events, Celebration of Authors, Homecoming Dinner & Awards, Farewell Brunch and more.

REUNIONS

Homecoming 2022 will be a milestone reunion for many of our alumni. We're especially thrilled to mark the 50th anniversary of the Brandon University Class of 1972. We are also marking special anniversary years for everyone who graduated in a class year that ends in 2 or 7.

If you graduated in 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012 or 2017, you will be celebrating a reunion milestone in 2022!

In addition to this, as we were unable to host Homecoming in 2020 and 2021, we are also inviting back all of the anniversary classes from years ending in 0, 1, 5, or 6.

We are hearing from many alumni who are looking to plan special reunions. If you're interested in participating in a reunion of anything from Music to Mathematics, from BUSU to *The Quill*, reach out and learn how we can support your efforts to connect and reunite.

For schedule of events and registration form, go to [BrandonU.ca/Homecoming](https://brandonu.ca/homecoming).

Contact the Advancement & Alumni Affairs Office for assistance in planning your reunion. *The Reunion Planning Kit* can also be found online by visiting [BrandonU.ca/Homecoming](https://brandonu.ca/homecoming).



FOREVER BLUE & GOLD HOMECOMING

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Donald N. Adams,
BSc '54 – February 13, 2021

David A. Alexander,
MEd '17 – November 3, 2020

Brenda L. (Malyon) Anderson,
TTC '64, 'BSc '69 – April 27, 2022

Harlaine I. (Boyd) Armstrong,
BA '48 – March 25, 2022

Georges A. Auriat,
*TTC '60, 'BA '70, BEd '71 –
September 1, 2021*

Carol A. Billett,
BA '72 – April 4, 2021

Linda K. (Robinson) Bjarnason,
*TTC '65, BGS '81, BEd '91 –
August 12, 2021*

Patricia A. Boyd,
BA '71 – December 7, 2020

Ella G. Bruce,
BEd '84 – October 22, 2020

Dorothy M. (Jones) Burch,
TTC '56 – April 30, 2021

Eileen P. Cable,
BA '87 – February 11, 2021

Dennis Carter,
BSc '65 – August 10, 2021

William Chefurka,
BSc '46 – June 26, 2021

William J. Chester,
Associate '78 – November 28, 2021

Christine H. Coltart,
BA '46 – September 18, 2021

James S. Cornett,
BA '78, BEd '83 – May 15, 2021

George De Mare,
BSc '60 – February 27, 2021

Donna I. (McDonald) Dickson,
BA '60 – January 16, 2022

Donald F. Dillistone,
BA '56 – November 15, 2020

Leo Evason,
BA '54 – December 1, 2020

Joy (Barton) Finlay,
BA '54 – May 27, 2021

Margaret A. (Lawson) Gagnon,
BScMH '95 – May 9, 2022

Carmen D. (Wilkinson) Galvin,
Associate '05 – August 10, 2021

Elizabeth A. (Davidson) Gibb,
BA '74 – January 24, 2021

Terry Gibson,
BGS '86 – December 25, 2020

Phyllis M. (Hesewood) Gillespie,
BT '75 – April 23, 2022

Donna L. Henderson,
BA '81 – April 25, 2022

Patricia G. Heuchert,
BEd '75, MEd '96 – January 13, 2021

Elizabeth (Smith) Hinch,
TTC '56 – March 2, 2022

Gordon Hunter,
Associate '51 – August 14, 2021

Margaret E. (Moody) Johnston,
BA '61 – July 9, 2021

Alvin C. Josephson,
BA '70 – October 18, 2020

Elizabeth A. Kelleher,
Associate '83 – July 14, 2021

Margaret R. (Szwaluk) Lesperance,
BT '77, BEd '86 – August 19, 2021

Helen M. Lorimer,
BA '79, BEd '81 – October 24, 2020

Norman W. MacLeod,
BA '48 – January 13, 2021

Michael A. Malazdrewicz,
BSc '77 – December 10, 2021

Kenneth B. Marek,
BA '72 – January 4, 2021

Christina M. Mariash,
Associate '79 – November 18, 2020

Margaret (Sanderson) Masar,
BA '54 – April 7, 2021

Michelle L. (Purse) Maxwell,
BEd '02 – November 17, 2021

Darren W. McGillis,
BSc '10 – July 7, 2021

James McKibbin,
Associate '53 – August 25, 2021

Lorne D. Melnyk,
BSc '03 – January 7, 2021

Peter Melnyk,
BA '73, BEd '74 – February 24, 2022

Isabelle M. Mills,
BA '64 – August 10, 2021

Robert E. Nevill,
Cert Ed '74, BGS '79 – April 7, 2021

Dorothy (Eichlir) North,
TTC '64 – March 15, 2021

Mary Petrycia,
BA '75 – November 6, 2020

Jean M. Pickard,
BEd '73 – May 10, 2021

Martha Pierre,
BT '76, BEd '78 – December 25, 2021

Marjorie R. Pringle,
BA '55 – April 8, 2021

Duncan Robertson,
BSc '61, BGS '73 – October 29, 2021

Donald G. Robinson –
BSc '71 – December 19, 2020

Bernice W. (Guiboche) Ross,
BEd '00 – April 21, 2021

Gordon F. Rust,
Associate '87 – September 11, 2021

Alix A. (Meadows) Ryles,
BA '42 – May 4, 2022

Robert A. Simmons,
BSc '71 – January 29, 2022

Marion J. Smith,
BSc '71 – April 6, 2022

Norville E. Spence,
BA '60 – October 5, 2020

Dean S. Sutherland,
BSc '90 – June 6, 2022

Alice E. (Graham) Theodorou,
BA '39 – December 3, 2020

Patricia C. (Brake) Thorn,
BA '64 – December 10, 2020

H. F. Tuttle,
BA '67 – August 30, 2021

Jeanette Van Heyst,
BA '91 – March 27, 2022

David Wellborn,
BSc '74 – December 14, 2020

Gordon D. Williams,
BSc '55 – April 26, 2022

Charles R. Wright,
BEd '75 – December 4, 2020

Blair A. Young,
BSc '89 – May 23, 2021

Bonnie (Keay) Young,
BA '69 – September 24, 2021

Ellen J. (Marshall) Young,
BT '76 – April 29, 2021

FACULTY/STAFF

Patricia (Pat) Alvestad,
*Administrative Assistant, Registrar's
Office, 1988-2009 – Feb. 13, 2022*

George Birger,
*Director, Athletics, 1978-1989 –
October 10, 2020*

Dr. Glen Carruthers,
*Dean, Professor, School of Music,
1998-2010 – December 24, 2020*

Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Clarke,
*Assistant Professor, PENT,
Faculty of Education, 2017-2021 –
August 18, 2021*

Tonny Donkersloot,
*Director, Physical Plant, 1970-1996 –
November 30, 2020*

William Gordon,
*Professor, School of Music, 1970-2014
– October 14, 2021*

Dr. Pandelis (Pandy) Halamandaris,
*Professor, Faculty of Education,
1969-1999 – April 14, 2022*

Dr. Christopher MacDonald,
*Associate Professor, Chemistry,
1970-1998 – June 29, 2021*

Michael Malazdrewicz,
*Associate Professor, Business
Administration, 1996-2021 –
December 10, 2021*

Dr. Joan Miller,
*Associate Professor, School of Music,
1979-2012 – February 1, 2021*

Dr. Kenneth Nichols,
*Professor, School of Music,
1962-1996 – August 6, 2021*

SUPPORT

Mutual fund gifts save taxes, boost Science award



Barrie Burch does field work in 1956 at the Selkirk Mountain Range in British Columbia. He went on to a 50-year career in the geology field.

BARRIE BURCH WAS BORN AND RAISED on a farm near Wellwood, Man. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Brandon College in 1957, he began his career in the oil and gas industry as an exploration geologist and held several managerial positions. He went on to acquire a Bachelor of Education at the University of Calgary in the mid-'60s and taught high school for a few years before returning to his roots in the oil and gas industry. He spent 30 years working as an exploration geologist and 20 years as a consultant recruiting oil and gas employees for international companies.

Barrie was a strategic financial investor. In earlier years, he made investments mostly on his own, based on his research on Canadian mutual funds. In later years, he worked with a broker at CIBC Wood Gundy, who helped him to build his portfolio of dividend-paying stocks.

Recently, he worked with Glenn Private Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. They have helped him develop a three-year plan to reduce his tax liability by transferring mutual funds from his Life Income Fund and Registered Retirement Income Fund to Brandon University. Transferring these as gifts-in-kind to BU has resulted in significant tax savings. By donating these publicly traded securities, he has saved on the

capital gains taxes he would have paid, had he sold the shares.

The plan was put into place with a significant gift in 2021, followed by another in 2022, and pending future investment success, Barrie plans for a third in 2023. Upon receipt of the mutual funds, Brandon University liquidates them, with the proceeds going directly to the Barrie and May Burch Scholarship-Bursary in Science that was first established by Barrie and his late wife, May, in 2007. This award honours Barrie as well as May (née Jones), who was born and raised on a farm in the Killarney area. She received a Teacher Training Certificate from Brandon College in 1956 and then taught near Killarney before marrying Barrie in 1958.

When they first established their award 15 years ago, the couple noted that they believed that their Brandon College education had opened up many career choices for them, and they felt it was important to give back and support other students as they embark on the first steps in their careers. This wish has certainly come true, and will continue to do so many times over through the generous award they have thoughtfully established. Barrie's recent gifts to the scholarship endowment will increase the annual award value from about \$1,500 to approximately \$17,500, and will provide numerous full-tuition awards for science students annually.

Childhood piano lessons build lasting connection to Conservatory of Music

CAROLE (NÉE PAINTIN) DENCE'S CONNECTIONS to the School of Music actually pre-date the school and the launch of the Bachelor of Music program. At about the age of 10 she began taking the bus from Souris to Brandon every Saturday morning for piano lessons at the Conservatory at Brandon College, first with Jean Mann, then with Peggy Sharpe and Lorne Watson. She also took violin lessons with Mae Selwood for many years and was twice a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. These music studies continued until 1964 when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandon College.

Give online at BrandonU.ca/Give/Donate, by phone at 204-727-7374 or 877-282-4483, or by cheque to BU Foundation, 270-18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6A9.

After completing her undergraduate degree, Carole studied French at Université Laval, and then McGill University, before embarking on a year of intense French studies in France. While a graduate student, she spent two summers as a teaching assistant at Brandon College's French Summer School and one summer in Ottawa working as a student researcher for her Political Science professor, Norma Walmsley, at the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. It was in Ottawa that she met her future husband, earth and planetary scientist Michael Dence, and where they have made their home together for more than fifty years.



Carole (née Paintin) Dence '64

Now retired, Carole was Director of the first Teaching Centre at Carleton University. Deeply committed to the improvement of university teaching, she was a founding member of the Educational Developers Caucus within the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Prior to that she'd spent 20 years as a Carleton Registrar where

she was deeply involved in the early transition to electronic records and the first remote registration using touch-tone telephone technology.

She has been an active participant in the amateur music scene in Ottawa, playing in orchestras at Carleton and in the community as well as singing with the Carleton University Choir and, more recently, the McGill Alumni Choir.

She has been a longtime supporter of the School of Music and Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music, and has recently updated her will to include a bequest that will fund a scholarship in her name for Conservatory students studying piano and violin.

"Establishing a legacy gift to support a scholarship for the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music at BU has been a truly Janus experience. It has inspired memories of the rich musical experiences made possible by my parents, Bertha and Claude Paintin, my Conservatory teachers, and the former benefactors who endowed the scholarships that supported my piano and violin studies. Simultaneously it has inspired me to dream forward, anticipating the music-enriched experiences of future students. And finally, it has been a wonderful opportunity to establish new connections with the community which was so much a part of my daily life for many years."

Bequest boosts scholarship recognizing Science trailblazer

THIS STORY STARTS BACK IN 1944, the year that Iva Wood (then Iva Delamater), who was the first in her family to go to college, became the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor of Science from Brandon College. Iva's friend Ruth Davies (then Humeston), also received a Bachelor of Science degree that year, but it was Iva, whose name came first alphabetically, and who was Lady Stick for the Class of '44, who walked across the stage first. Both of these women are recognized as trailblazers.



Iva (née Delamater) Wood in 1944



Iva Wood '44 at age 75 in 1999

A year after graduating from Brandon College, Iva met John Wood while he was completing his Bachelor of Divinity at the University of Toronto and she was continuing her studies at the United Church Training School. They wed soon after, and their love and affection for each other continued to flourish throughout their marriage. They shared, among many things, a genuine love of learning and a strong belief in the value of education, borne out of their own individual achievements in their careers and in their children's upbringing. In recognition of these accomplishments, their daughter, Margaret, and sons, David, Kenneth and Philip, established a scholarship as a surprise to them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1997. John passed away in 1998 and Iva in 2012, but the Delamater-Wood 50th Anniversary Scholarship continues to be awarded to entering students who have demonstrated academic excellence and who have made a positive contribution to their community.

Recently, Margaret established a bequest in her will to further add to the scholarship fund, ensuring that the award will continue to grow in the future.

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following alumni who supported Brandon University in 2021. Many of these donors gave through the Annual Fund appeal, which raised more than \$325,000.

Contributions from alumni and donors provide funding that is critical to enhancing the educational experience for our students. Gifts directed to the area of greatest need provide the flexibility to use the funds when and where they are most needed. Donations to scholarships and bursaries, a department, faculty or school, or to other areas of importance to our donors enhance our programs and services and increase the amount of student awards available for our scholars.

Class of 1946

James G. Lindsay

Class of 1948

Lois M. Daly

Class of 1951

Patricia A. Coleman
Angus W. Juckes
Ivey G. McNeill

Class of 1952

Donna J. Agnew
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Murray J. MacDonald
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Marina L. Laking
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