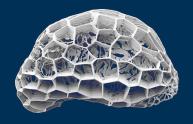


GameChangers

RESEARCH, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION







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Acting Associate Vice-President (Research) Dr. Andrew Egan

Editors

Alex Beshara Amy Wyntjes

Photography

Alex Beshara Glen Kirby KeyWest Photo

Design – Ty Johnston

Illustration – Willie McTell

Contributors

Alex Beshara Glen Kirby Amy Wynties

Correspondance

Office of Research Services Room 113, Clark Hall, 270 - 18th Street Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 6A9



Game changer: An event, idea, or procedure that affects a significant shift in the current way of doing or thinking about something.

At Brandon University, our game changers are our people – students, faculty and collaborators. They advocate for Indigenous health, discover prehistoric mammals, study the impacts of bullying, and create music, art and literature. They help change the ways in which we think about, view, and affect change in the world around us.

I hope that you enjoy this first issue of GameChangers – a collection of stories about research, creativity, and innovation at Brandon University.

Best,

Andrew Egan, Ph.D.

Acting Associate Vice-President (Research)



Healthcare for All?

Lawyer and healthcare advocate Dr. Yvonne Boyer is advancing Aboriginal rights through a five-year federal research initiative.

Internationally-recognized for her work in Indigenous health and the law, Dr. Yvonne Boyer has relocated from Ottawa to Brandon University, in a \$500,000 project to advance Aboriginal Peoples' rights to healthcare in Canada.

"My goal is to continue work on advancing the constitutional status of inherent and treaty rights to health for Indigenous peoples in Canada," says Dr. Boyer, adjunct professor with the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Science at the University of Ottawa. "I follow the progress of legally founded transformations in Aboriginal health policy and healthcare delivery, and examine each stage to connect the legal and political processes with actual healthcare delivery to Aboriginal communities."

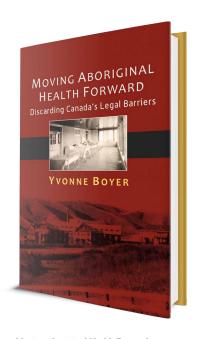
Dr. Boyer comes to BU as the Tier ll Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Aboriginal Health and Wellness. CRCs are funded by the Federal Government to drive Canadian research and development excellence, through an annual \$265 million commitment to prestigious professorships in various disciplines in the university system.

The Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights and has led to ongoing debate between federal and provincial governments over such things as self-government, education and health. Dr. Boyer began laying the groundwork for her role as CRC in a Discussion Paper Series titled *Aboriginal Health: Legal Issues*, written when she worked with the National Aboriginal Health Organization.

Her historical examination of Canadian legal regimes and their impact on the health of Aboriginal Peoples, *Moving Aboriginal Health Forward – Discarding Canada's Legal Barriers*, was published by Purich Publishing Ltd. "By building on my experience with First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities," says Dr. Boyer,

"my research will be at the leading edge of analysis of the legal rights and healthcare services for Indigenous peoples; the latter being of critical significance due to recent Supreme Court decisions on Métis legal rights and the application to health."

Dr. Boyer has also received a \$66,474 Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund grant to begin to establish a community-based research centre to facilitate interaction between local and international Indigenous communities and scholars, research students and stakeholders.



Moving Aboriginal Health Forward – Discarding Canada's Legal Barriers, written by Yvonne Boyer



Biology professor Dr. David Greenwood has played a pivotal role in discovering two new prehistoric mammals that roamed North America 52 million years ago.

Dr. Greenwood made the discoveries while leading fossil digs in Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park, near Smithers, British Columbia, in 2010 and 2011.

A plant and ancient climate specialist, Dr. Greenwood called in fossil mammal experts Drs. Jaelyn Eberle from the University of Colorado, and Natalia Rybczynski from the Canadian Museum of Nature, to identify the ancient jawbones.

"The two species we have discovered are an ancient tapir relative that would have been about the size of a large dog, and a hedgehog relative that would have been smaller than a mouse," says Dr. Greenwood. "This is remarkable because very few fossil mammals of this geological age have been described before in Canada."

The fossil discoveries are also significant because the early Eocene epoch when these mammals lived marked the height of prehistoric global warming, a period involving significant reorganization of the world's plant and animal life.

"We can gain insight into how the Earth was coping with a problem then that's re-emerging now," says Dr. Greenwood, who used fossils to reconstruct the forest setting and climate where the ancient animals lived. Dr. Greenwood's important finds have been published as the cover story in the July, 2014 edition of the US-based *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.



Dr. David Greenwood



Rendering of the two discovered species. Created by Julius Csotonyi.

"We can gain insight into how the Earth was coping with a problem then that's re-emerging now."



The jawbone discovered by Dr. Greenwood Photo sourced by Dr. Jaeyln J. Eberle of the University of Colorado at Boulder

Boys Will Be Boys

Study on masculinity questions gender roles

Dr. Jonathan A. Allan says the contemporary definition of masculinity is unattainable, creating 'angry white males' and triggering men's rights groups across North America.



To explore this concept, the BU professor was given a prestigious national appointment and \$500,000 to continue his ground-breaking research into masculinity.

Dr. Allan has been named Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Queer Theory. Over the next five years, he will research the troubling ways in which bullying, phobias, and social anxieties impact and affect individuals and society.

"I am interested in the ways in which masculinity is set up to fail,"

says Dr. Allan, of BU's Gender and Women's Studies Program. "Our genders and sexualities affect and influence our daily lives, from the colour of shirt we might wear, to which bathroom we feel most comfortable using, to talking about bullying on the playground or in the boardroom. We live in a society that is openly questioning and exploring gender and sexuality, and it's important that we all think about what this means."

"In his role as Canada Research Chair in Queer Theory, Dr. Allan will ask timely questions about the ways in which masculinity informs homophobia, and how homophobia negotiates misogyny and masculinity," says BU's Acting Vice-President (Academic and Provost),

Dr. Heather Duncan. "His research contributes to ways in which the University, the local community and beyond can celebrate gender diversity."

Dr. Allan's first book, *Reading from Behind*, is a study of anality, gender, and affect. His current project, *The Foreskin Archive*, is a study of the foreskin that cuts across disciplinary divides and brings together literary and cultural studies, religious studies, the biomedical sciences, psychology and sociology, and a range of other disciplinary modes in its attempt to understand the foreskin. He is also at work on a third book, *Masculinity's Cruel Optimism: Archive and Affect*, which will bring together affect theory and critical studies of men and masculinities.

Going Organic

Biology professor Dr. Terence McGonigle is studying an organic farm in southern Manitoba to better understand the owners' success and to pass along that knowledge to other organic growers.



Ian and Linda Grossart own and operate Howpark Farms, an organic farm south of Brandon.

"The owners have devised a system that works, not through science but through farming experience and trial-and-error," says Dr. McGonigle.

"I am studying how it works, and why it works."

Howpark Farms was established in 1879 and turned organic within the last 10 years. Using sustainable farming practices, the operation is close to becoming an entirely closed-system farm, producing organic grain and organic grass-fed beef on approximately 850 hectares divided

between cultivated crops and native prairie range. "Our ultimate goal is to produce the most nutrient-dense food possible by utilizing the soil's natural

> biological processes," says Ian Grossart, who owns and operates Howpark Farms with his wife Linda, "But

as farmers with limited manpower and funding, research proves to be difficult. Partnering with Brandon University allows us the opportunity to do research that will benefit both our system and others."

Dr. McGonigle is researching what

has happened to the soil biology since the farm went organic, and the sources of important nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

Funding of \$140,500 has been committed over four years for this reason from Organic Science Cluster II, an industry-supported research and development endeavor initiated by the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada in collaboration with the Organic Federation of Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Students Honoured for Cutting-Edge Research

Students from Brandon University were honoured for summer research projects, which include understanding drug resistance and creating new synthetic materials to build better computers and medical diagnostic equipment.

Seven BU students shared \$31,500 in Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRAs), plus almost \$8,000 in awards from Brandon University to complete these projects. Students spent sixteen weeks doing research under the direct supervision of a BU faculty member. "This experience is definitely going to help me decide whether I pursue a master's degree or move right into the workforce," says Danielle Sharanowski, a third-year science student researching drug resistance with Dr. Bernadette Ardelli, Department of Biology, and fellow student Katrina Cristall.



Debut Release from BU Violinist



An internationally-acclaimed musician and teacher at BU has released her debut album, exploring themes of European folk tunes and Romanticism. Violinist Kerry DuWors joins forces with pianist Futaba Niekawa in the group duo526 to present *BALLADE*.

Released through Navona Records, *BALLADE* features violin sonatas by composers Leoš Janácek, George Enescu, and Edvard Grieg.

"These pieces are rarely performed together," says DuWors. "The selections are extremely musical, highlighting sustained vibrato, harmonic sensitivity, rhythmic spontaneity, as well as precision. I think listeners will find the album is very powerful."

Comparing Models of Democracy



A BU professor has written a ground-breaking, go-to guide for politicians and policymakers trying to bring peace to conflict-ravaged regions.

Power-Sharing and Political Stability in Deeply Divided Societies, by Dr. Allison

McCulloch, is the first major comparison of the two most common power-sharing models used in peace accords over the last 20 years.

Dr. McCulloch studied eight different countries that rebuilt governance through either consociationalism or centripetalism.

"Many societies are deeply divided along ethnic and religious lines," says Dr. McCulloch, "It's important to know what forms of democracy have worked elsewhere, when leaders create new government after conflict and must decide who gets a seat at the table."

Protecting Prairie Lizards

Manitoba's only lizard, the endangered northern prairie skink, will receive new protection thanks to efforts by a researcher from Brandon University.

Dr. Pam Rutherford, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, has convinced the Canadian Herpetological Society to designate Spruce Woods Provincial Park an Important Amphibian & Reptile Area.

The northern prairie skink is a small brown reptile about the length of your hand. Juveniles have bright blue tails but the colour fades when they mature.

"The skink is not found anywhere else in Canada, so it's vulnerable, especially to human activities," says Dr. Rutherford, a long-time skink researcher. "Protecting their home will help the survival of the Manitoba skink population."



National Dialogue Held on Civilian Internment



All Canadians touched by civilian internment were invited to take part in an historic discussion on civil liberty and national security in Winnipeg in the Spring of 2015.

Conference organizer Dr.

Rhonda Hinther says *Civilian Internment in Canada: Histories and Legacies*, which was funded by a \$25,000 SSHRC grant, is the first event of its kind to bring together scholars and researchers with individuals and families directly impacted by internment on Canadian soil.

"Our goal was to expand the internment conversation in new directions by considering internment experiences more comparatively," says Dr. Hinther. "We wanted to examine the connections, contrasts, and continuities among the civilian internments that have happened in Canada and to raise public awareness about the process and the consequence."

One Atom, Two Places?



Can something be in two places at once? Dr. Sarah Plosker has been awarded a federal research grant to explore a long-standing theory which says yes.

The \$75,000 grant, from the Natural Sciences and

Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), will help fund her five-year study into the mathematical foundations for physical realizations in quantum mechanics.

"The principle of quantum superposition suggests that subatomic particles can be literally two places at one time," says Dr. Plosker, Department of Math and Computer Science. "I will examine the mathematics on which this theory is based. A better understanding of quantum information can lead to new technology, including faster computers."



Reimagining Tradition

River Measures, the newest project within music professor Dr. Leanne Zacharias' Music for Spaces performance research initiative, was commissioned last year by the Austin New Music Co-op and funded through the Canada Council for the Arts as well as the City of Austin.

Unfolding over the course of three days, all nine recitals shared a fundamental structure, but each offered a unique perspective of time and measurement based on natural cycles, repetition and variation. The project was widely regarded as one of the top visual/installation/performance events of 2014 in the capital of Texas.

"Music for Spaces re-imagines concert traditions by exploring all types of space: natural, urban, rural, public, designed with sound and live performance," says Dr. Zacharias. "The project is deeply invested in innovative concert design, and creating and discovering new possibilities for exchange between performers, their audience, compositional works, collaboration and space."

Grant Fuels Professor's Research with Local Significance

Dr. Alison Marshall, Professor in the Department of Religion at Brandon University, recently launched her latest book, *Cultivating Connections: The Making of Chinese Prairie Canada*. This is Dr. Marshall's second monograph on Chinese Canadian History in addition to the award-winning *Way of the Bachelor: Early Chinese Settlement in Manitoba*, published in 2011. Both works are the result of major grant funding from SSHRC and the Taiwan-based Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, totaling almost \$400,000.

"This research is the result of a decade of work and more than

300 interviews with people from Quebec to British Columbia," says Dr. Marshall. "During the decade of research I built an archive of more than 4,000 Chinese and English documentary and photographic materials. Many of the research participants were Brandon University alumni and dozens were from the Brandon and Westman area."

Dr. Marshall is working on two additional book projects; one is on Filipino Canadian history and features Brandon area research participants, and the other is an edited volume on Multiculturalism in Canada with chapters written by SSHRC-funded research assistants, including BU alumna, Morganna Malyon, who is completing her Masters degree in History at Trent University.



Dr. Alison Marshall

New Project to Increase Rural and Urban Dialogue

Brandon University is leading a new \$5.2 million international partnership, including \$2.5 million in federal grants, to strengthen the voices of rural and northern communities.

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) will network scholars, politicians and citizens in a variety of ways including conferences, webinars and publications, to ensure that policy-makers are cognizant of the

characteristics, unique benefits and challenges associated with rural and northern places.

The RPLC is a seven-year initiative with funding from more than 30 partners, including a Partnership Grant from SSHRC. An existing global network of 90 institutional and individual participants will grow significantly as the partnership expands to include more countries, regions, and communities.

"Rural regions and urban centres remain connected through their labour needs, food production, resource development, and energy demands," says Dr. Bill Ashton,



Dr. Bill Ashton

Director of BU's Rural Development Institute (RDI) and project manager. "The RPLC will engage urban-based policy decision-makers with ruralfocused challenges, opportunities, and aspirations."

Stressors and Strategies

Dr. W. Dean Care, Professor and Dean of Health Studies, is collaborating with researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (Dr. Sonia Udod) and the University of Alberta (Dr. Greta Cummings) on a research project entitled: *Nurse manager role stressors and coping strategies: Perspectives for solving complex organizational conditions.*

This project is funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to the value of \$119,000 over a three-year period (2014-2017). The purpose of this study is to examine role stressors and coping

strategies of nurse managers in acute care organizations in three health regions in Western Canada.

"A stressful workplace can impair decision-making and affect the mental and physical health of nurse managers, leading to poor performance, which ultimately leads to decreased job satisfaction and turnover," says Dr. Care.

"The complexities of healthcare and work-life balance demand innovative approaches to achieve and sustain healthy work environments for nurse managers. Preliminary study outcomes suggest that chronic exposure to role stress and work complexity affect nurse managers' health and potentially threaten individual, patient, and organizational outcomes."



Dr. W. Dean Care



Future researchers are groomed in a Biology of Parasitic Disease lab.







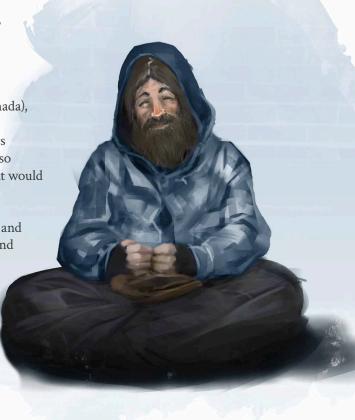
Housing and Support in the Community of Choice

A partnership between BU Faculty of Health Studies researchers, Dr. Renee Robinson and Katherine Pachkowski, and the Manager of Residential and Support Services with the Prairie Mountain Health, Brent White, has addressed the factors that contribute to migration and subsequent homelessness.

Dr. Robinson says the project, funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (now Employment and Social Development Canada), describes "the extent to which migration from rural areas contributes to homelessness in a medium-sized regional centre, and identify factors that contribute to migration and settlement difficulties. The project also investigates reasons for return to rural communities, and supports that would enable people to effectively settle in their community of choice."

Results from multiple data sources were synthesized into key findings and strategies for action. The study contributed to change at a local level, and increased opportunities for regional planning.

This research also involved partnership between researchers at BU, the Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation, and Prairie Mountain Health. Research engaged a range of stakeholders in Brandon and surrounding areas. This study explores the idea that reducing homelessness is a long-term venture that requires collaboration and investment across sectors, at multiple levels, and across community boundaries.



Head, Heart, and Hands

Dr. Chris Brown,
Associate Professor
in the Faculty of
Education and
Brandon University
alumnus, is making a
difference in the lives
of educators and their
students.

Dr. Brown has directed his doctoral research on anti-oppressive education toward cultural proficiency initiatives in the public school sector. The

theoretical framework explains how inequity is created in individuals, and maintained in society, through hegemonic meaning-making and socialization processes. From this framework, Dr. Brown created the *Head, Heart, and Hands* approach toward dismantling inequity via transformative learning.

"I teach about how to support students who are outside of the mythical norm," says Dr. Brown. "These conversations are necessary and important, given the growing disparity between the 'haves' and 'have nots' in Canada."



Dr. Chris Brown

Capacity Building in Northern Manitoba

The Vital Outcome Indicators for Community Engagement (VOICE) Research Project is a 5-year (2011-2016) Community-University Research Alliance project funded by SSHRC, Vale, Manitoba Hydro, Brandon University, and the University College of the North.

The focus of this research is success for children and youth living in northern communities and regions in Manitoba.

Success includes improved educational outcomes, development of workplace skills, increased engagement in community leadership and activities, retention of culture and language, more effective youth success programs, and increased career opportunities for youth in these communities.



Dr. Karen Rempel

"The VOICE Research Project uses a community-based participatory research process that actively involves eight community-based organizations, known as community circles, from across Manitoba as equal partners in the research," says Dr. Karen Rempel, Director of the VOICE Research Project. "All of the community circles are First Nations communities or have a high population of Indigenous people, and each community circle respects community traditions, practices and observances."

The VOICE project also provides Brandon University graduate students with the unique opportunity to work on a large multi-year, multi-partner research project. To date, more than 20 graduate students have been involved in the research activities including data collection and analysis, the preparation of journal articles and involvement in conference presentations.

At the community level, the VOICE Research Project has helped implement land-based curriculums for northern communities, peer mentoring and fine arts after-school programs, cultural proficiency, extra-curricular activities, youth leadership and technology-enhanced learning activities.

With the help of Faculty of Education researchers, communities involved in the VOICE project have also developed the capacity to carry out their own, locally-controlled research activities.



Student Leader Adrienne Thomas at BU's Graduation Pow Wow.

Two Futures Facing the Food Processing Sector in Manitoba

A report by researchers at Brandon University has outlined the need for immediate industry and government action in the province's food and beverage processing industry to support continued growth in sales, investments and jobs in the next few years.

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University released *Food & Beverage Processing Industry – Growth Pathways to 2020*, an expansive look at a major economic driver in Manitoba. Food and beverage processing accounts for 28% of all manufacturing revenue in the province and 15% of all exports, employing 12,000 people or one in every four in the manufacturing sector.

"This report is a rare opportunity across a large sector to see the future,"

says RDI Director, Dr. Bill Ashton. "The good news is, effective action now can result in growth across the industry, from \$4.7 billion in 2011 to \$5.4 billion by 2020."

In contrast, Dr. Ashton says a "business as usual" approach is projected to lead to less-than-optimal production in pork and potatoes, which already face market challenges, pushing the food and beverage processing industry into a \$100 million decline.

"A lack of action on the part of industry and government, or ineffective action, will impact producers, processors, the communities in which they operate, and ultimately every person in the province," says Dr. Ashton. "The message is clear – industry needs to work with government to find solutions now."

The RDI report examines major sectors including pork, potatoes, and canola, plus the other players in the province's food and beverage processing industry including meat, fruit and vegetables, dairy, grains and beverages. A sales profile of the industry was compiled using data from Statistics Canada and interviews with industry opinion leaders, which also helped establish trends to 2020.

The RDI report examines major sectors including pork, potatoes, and canola, plus the other players in the province's food and beverage processing industry including meat, fruit and vegetables, dairy, grains and beverages.

Researchers Develop Unique Program to Reduce Stigma

Brandon University's Psychiatric Nursing Program is currently offering a course that addresses the human element in the road to recovery from mental illness.



In partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada, BU's Psychiatric Rehabilitation and

Recovery course is being evaluated within the Commission's 10-year anti-stigma initiative, *Opening Minds*, for possible introduction nation-wide to reduce stigma on medical front lines.

The highlight of the course is the Recovery Narrative, which is meant to address an individual's own "We as professionals really need to change the paradigm of how we think and act."

personal story as treatment options are determined, and has a mutually beneficial effect on both the student and the participant.

"Students generally say it's an eyeopener," says Jane Karpa, professor of Psychiatric Nursing at Brandon University. "I think they get blown out of the water when they hear the experiences of these people. We as professionals really need to change the paradigm of how we think and act."

BU Psychiatric Nursing students are reporting that participation in the Recovery Narrative has increased their confidence in working with people who have a mental illness.

Examining Cultural Factors in Learning



Donna Forsyth

Work is well underway in the Assessing and Supporting Young Children's Oral Language and Writing Development through Play in Classrooms, Daycares and Homes in Northern Communities Project funded by a \$2.8 million SSHRC Partnership Grant awarded to the University of Toronto, the University of Saskatchewan, and Brandon University over a seven-year period (2013-2020).

The project aims to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children's literacy and to strengthen and sustain research and teaching capacity in northern rural Canadian communities.

Donna Forsyth, co-investigator and a co-applicant for this BU Faculty of Education project, will work with educators in northern and rural Manitoba school divisions as part of the nation-wide research.

"The cultural identity is essential in a child's academic achievements, but is often unrecognized in classroom instruction," says Forsyth, Assistant Professor in BU's Faculty of Education and former curriculum consultant with the Manitoba Government. "This is vitally important in Manitoba because of our growing cultural diversity."

Creative Process in the Digital Age



Music manuscripts have long been a source of information on how composers work. Mozart appears to have written his music out perfectly the first time, while Beethoven and Brahms scratched things out or glued corrections over top of their initial ideas.

Dr. T. Patrick Carrabré vividly remembers visiting the "Haydn House" museum in Vienna. "I was struck by the small desk and his collection of pencil nubs. I remember thinking pencils must have been expensive back then."

But the introduction of computers and recording technology may ultimately erase the role of the pencil and paper, eliminating clues as to how a composer's mind works. Dr. Carrabré still uses a pencil at his small desk in the School of Music—although it is a mechanical drafting pencil—but the large format monitors and studio speakers tell a different story about the modern creative process.

"I start out at the piano, and use manuscript paper to write out my ideas, but almost immediately move over to the computer," says Dr. Carrabré. "I use a program called Finale, which is like a word processor for musicians, as well as Ableton Live, which is good for transforming and blending sounds in new ways. I've become very interested in mixing live and manipulated sounds in performance."

On the jazz and contemporary music side, Professor Michael Cain's studio looks remarkably similar, with several keyboards and a desk covered by studio speakers and a large monitor. His creative process also begins at the piano, before taking an even bigger leap to the internet.

"When I work with other musicians, they can live anywhere in the world," says Cain. "After recording my initial ideas I send them to my collaborators to add new details." It is a multistep process that includes electronic editing and sound manipulation.

Whatever the fate of paper and pencil, BU's composers are happily exploring the potential of new technologies and collaborative creative processes. Now it will be up to future generations of musicologists to follow their electronic editing trails.

Former Bobcat Studies Impact of Sports on Students with Learning Disabilities

A Brandon University graduate is undertaking a year-long study to investigate the effects of school sports on students with learning disabilities.

Raisa Rybinski, in her second year of BU's Master of Education degree, has been awarded a \$17,500 federal grant to assist her research project, entitled *Sports Inclusion and Special Education.*

"Physical activity is key to living a long and healthy life,

and children and youth who are active in sports are healthier, more engaged, and achieve more in school and life," says Rybinski, a former award-winning basketball player with the BU Bobcats.

"My research will focus on how children with learning disabilities involved in school sports compare to those who are not involved, in terms of inclusion in the community, friendships, social skills, academic ability, effort, and achievement. Additionally, I hope to include in my research recommended ways in which families, schools, and communities can promote and support active living for children with and without learning disabilities."

Rybinski is receiving funding from the SSHRC Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's Program, which provides financial support to high-caliber students engaged in graduate studies.

BU's Associate Dean of Education, Dr. Jacqueline Kirk, says that Rybinski will bring remarkable personal insight to the research. "Raisa is a student athlete and she works with her family in the operation of a care home for individuals with special needs, so she has a depth and passion for this study that would be hard to match. She is the right person to do this research."



Brandon University Funding Facts



Our staff includes 140 tenured faculty...



...plus 34 tenuretrack faculty



We have 42 continuing faculty appointments

Including 4
Tier II Canada
Research Chairs

