

ALUMNI ACTION

Paul Beaudry

Media Production, 2005

Ben Myers

Media Production, 2005

Tyler Johnston

Web Design, 2007

In an age of social media and smartphones, three Assiniboine Community College and one Brandon University alumni, found the only thing missing was musical freedom in social settings.

"Our team was at a pub and the bartender was playing an entire *Foo Fighters* album. Half our team liked it, but the other half didn't. We realized that we were stuck in a kind of musical dictatorship," Myers said. "Our phones know our location and our musical tastes, so why are we here, listening to music we don't like?"

Consequently, the situation sent Web Design and Media Production grads, Ben Myers, Paul Beaudry and Tyler Johnston, into the fast-paced world of application development

Feeling inspired, the group set out to fulfill their goal of giving music lovers like themselves the democratic listening environment they craved. Beaudry and Myers toyed with upwards of 20 projects before landing on the Anthm concept. "I think it's important to admit to yourself when something just isn't going to work, which in our case, happened a lot!" Beaudry said. "You can learn more from failed projects than successful ones."

Anthm allows users to select their favourite tune and vote it up the queue in a bid to get their selection played sooner. Thanks to their dogged determination, Anthm successfully launched in February 2012 in San Francisco, California with seed funding following almost three months after launch.

"I think it's a relatively new technology that people get excited about when they hear the idea," said Johnston, co-founder and the lead designer on the Anthm project. "This social music listening space has really taken off this past year and I think we're in at the right time."

Director of Development and fellow co-founder, Paul Thorsteinson, (Brandon University 2004 graduate) says, "We've found people often treat Anthm like a fun social game. They rally their friends to vote songs up and take pride when their song jumps to the top of the queue."

"Music is something that's really personal to people. With Anthm you give your friends a fun way to share and discover music in a social setting."

To date, the free application has been downloaded by 70,000 music lovers across North America. These numbers, coupled with heavy-hitting partners, has this venture well on its way.



Paul Beaudry (l), Ben Myers (centre), Ty Johnston (r) at Launch conference in San Francisco, CA, February 12, 2012. Missing: Paul Thorsteinson

Users who download the application and its sister service, Rdio, have access to a library of 15 million songs and more are being added weekly. The group also plans to integrate with digital music provider, Spotify, to increase visibility and the number of downloads.

Diving head first into the competitive world of application development would have been a much steeper hill to climb if it weren't for what three of the four men say were life- and career-enriching years at ACC.

For Myers, a Media Production graduate, he says the multi-faceted program showed him how open the career options were upon graduation. He has worked on visual effects projects such as *Dragonball Evolution*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*, *Duplicity* and *The Ruins*. Beaudry and Myers applied their ACC skills to work on the movie *Avatar*, and more recently *The Hunger Games*.

For Beaudry, also a Media Production grad, it was the hands-on approach and one-on-one learning opportunities that helped him find his niche. "The program really was a crash course in working in any creative environment," he said. "We learned how to collaborate as a team to take creative ideas, give them substance and present them to people in an interesting and meaningful way. I've used those skills every day since graduation."

Student access to industry-leading technology and what the three men say were the instructor's will to help each student find their forte in the industry, helped plant that entrepreneurial inspiration early on.

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Welcome New Alumni



Jamie Robinson

Assiniboine Community College
Alumni Association
Graduated: 1983
Heavy Duty Equipment

On behalf of Assiniboine Community College Alumni Association, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to all new ACC Alumni Association members who graduated in 2012.

As ACC alumni, we alert you first to alumni activities and events, such as the Varsity Athletics Auction, Alumni Advancement Dinner, reunions, celebrations, as well as other alumni activities.

ACC graduates from around the globe keep in touch with

us and with their fellow alumni through this newsletter, the ACC facebook account as well as the ACC website. We feature some of our alumni in our newsletter *Alumni in ACCtion* and are always looking for graduates who have achieved remarkable success since graduation.

Alumni can also tap into job postings found on our website:

www.assiniboine.net/studentjobpostings

We make a special effort to keep in touch with graduates so that we know how your careers are progressing as well as providing opportunities for you to network with other alumni and to give back to ACC through participation at events, alumni committees and through fundraising endeavors.

If you are interested in maintaining your connection with ACC and alumni you can be as active as you wish, just complete the **Stay Connected** form and let us know how you would like to participate.

Congratulations on your achievements and best of luck with your career choices.

Stay Connected

ACC AMBASSADORS

In 2011-12, ACC Ambassadors' Club participated in a variety of college and charitable organization activities throughout the Brandon area.

Some of the reasons why club members like to volunteer are to gain work experience, to support causes that may impact them personally, to learn more about various local charities, to meet people who can support them through guidance and to meet other students at some of the exclusive club events.

If you want to know more about the Ambassadors' Club and the activities they support, check out the details on the ACC website www.assiniboine.net.



ACC team representing part of the Manitoba contingent at the national competition:
L-R Brittany Ross, Hotel & Restaurant Management; Robert Prettie, Heavy Duty Equipment Technician; Jesse Kernaghan, Interactive Media Arts – Interactive Specialization; Brendan Cook, Industrial Metals Fabrication

2012 Skills Competitions

The 15th annual Olympic-style Skills Manitoba Competition was held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at Red River College (with over 500 students from across Manitoba competing). It was an amazing display of hands-on expertise, talent and determination that showcased the diversity of skilled trades and technology and the many promising futures to be found in these occupations. Students competed in over 40 different contests and gold medal winners formed Team Manitoba to compete against their peers at the 18th Skills Canada National Competition in Edmonton, Alberta, May 12 – 16, 2012. Visit www.skillsmanitoba.ca for more information.

Skills Manitoba Award winners from ACC included:

- Bronze: Kara Smith, Cooking
- Gold: Mark Calvert, Electrical Installation
- Gold: Jordan Twerdun, Geographic Information Systems
- Gold: Robert Prettie, Heavy Equipment Service
- Gold: Chad O'Dow, IT Network Systems Admin
- Silver: Marlee Buhler, IT Software Solutions
- Bronze: Kourtney Strandlund, 09 IT Software Solutions
- Silver: Branden Smith, Mechanical CAD
- Silver: Kelly Semenko, Plumbing
- Gold: Brendan Cook, Precision Machining
- Silver: Daniel R. Young, Precision Machining
- Gold: Brittney Ross, Restaurant Service
- Silver: Laura Muir, Restaurant Service
- Bronze: Kaleigh Bowie, Restaurant Service
- Gold: Jesse Kernaghan, Website Development
- Silver: Alyssa Fraser, Website Development
- Bronze: Jocelyn Fenty, Website Development

Team ACC had a strong presence at Skills Canada National Competition in Edmonton May 12 – 16, 2012 with Brittney Ross winning bronze in Restaurant Service. Robert Prettie in Heavy Equipment Service, Jesse Kernaghan in Web Site Development and Brendan Cook in Precision Machining finished just out of the medal count.

From a Team Manitoba perspective, the 2012 competition was very successful. A total of 22 medals was garnered which included eight Gold medals, six Silver and eight Bronze. Congratulations to all competitors and coaches on a job well done!



Greenhouse Project

On April 25, 2012, ground was broken to set in motion the construction of a sustainable greenhouse at ACC's North Hill Campus in Brandon, MB. Slated to open in the fall, this facility will be a centre for training and applied research where ACC instructors and students will work on projects aimed at producing food while sustaining and enhancing the environment.

Activities undertaken will benefit local and rural businesses and communities in a variety of ways:

- By demonstrating and testing a greenhouse as a model business enterprise,
- by addressing needs for applied research on local food production and
- as a model building system, demonstrating and testing low energy consumption using highly renewable approaches.

Programs that will benefit from the sustainable greenhouse include: Agribusiness, Culinary Arts, Environmental Technologies and ACC's new Horticultural Production program.



In addition to the funding provided by the Canada-Manitoba Growing Forward Strategic Innovation Fund - Advancing Agri-Innovation Program, financing for the 1.3 million project is provided by ACC and its partners/donors to the Growing the Greenhouse Campaign. With a goal to raise \$800,000, the campaign has raised \$575,000 to date. For more information about donating to this project contact Russell Maloney at 725.8700 ext 6324 or email greenhouse@assiniboine.net.

[Check out construction progress as of June 27.](#)

Pictured above L-R: Jack Moes, ACC Vice-President, Academic Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Bernie Whetter, ACC Foundation's Greenhouse Capital Campaign Chair, Mark Frison, ACC President and Hon. Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba

Putting Students First Campaign

When seeking out a new career, everyone needs a chance to prove themselves. Many of Westman's promising students receive this opportunity through the generous funding of scholarships, awards and bursaries, which allow them to shine during their academic training. On behalf of our students and their future employers, thank you to all who donated to this year's Students First Campaign, going above and beyond in the effort to infuse our community with skilled employees. Check out a list of the donors at www.assiniboine.net/studentsfirst and show them your support in return!

Varsity Athletics Auction

If you weren't at the first-ever Varsity Athletics Auction on March 22 at The 40, you missed out on a seriously fun event!

Through generous donations from corporate sponsors and other auction donors, over two hundred guests had the opportunity to take part in a silent auction, live auction, ticket draws, 50/50 tickets and door prizes. The largest bid was for the Vancouver Canucks package which included tickets, flights and a \$300 travel cash voucher that went for \$2,900 in the live auction.

The night would not have been such a success without the support from our sponsors as well as the ACC Ambassadors' Club and ACC Alumni volunteers. The proceeds of approximately \$10,000 will go towards ACC's Varsity Athletics program.

For a copy of the 2012 auction program detailing sponsors, prizes and other information: www.assiniboine.net/athleticauction.

See you next year!



**ASSINIBOINE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
COUGARS

Dinner Honours Retirees

Each year, ACC honours retirees from all areas of the college at a retirement dinner. This year's dinner was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 in the cafeteria of the Victoria Avenue East Campus. This event is an opportunity for college President, Mark Frison and fellow colleagues to show their appreciation for the employees' service and dedication to the college.

ACC honoured and paid tribute to eight retirees. Each one had time to reflect on their careers with the college with those in attendance. Those retiring included:



- Patricia Buri, Instructor, ACC Adult Collegiate
- Susan Hawkins, Instructor, ACC Adult Collegiate
- Barb Pentney, Administrative Assistant, College Advancement & External Relations
- Carl Graham, Instructor, School of Business, Agriculture & Environment
- Doug Matthews, Project Manager, New Campus Development
- John McNarry, Instructor, Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Apprenticeship, School of Trades & Technology
- Dan Collens, Director, Campus Services
- Carol Frost, Clinical Placement Coordinator, School of Health & Human Services

The Alumni Association would like to extend its appreciation and congratulations for a job well done to all retirees. We hope that you will continue your relationship with ACC through the Alumni Association and Foundation.

Helpful Links

Looking for job ads has never been easier. www.wowjobs.ca

ACC Student Services Job Postings:
www.assiniboine.net/studentjobpostings

ACC ALUMNI KEEP IN TOUCH



SPECIAL EVENTS

E-NEWS



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 **ASSINIBOINE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Association Board Members

President: Jamie Robinson	Sandra Mulvihill
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Russell Maloney	Caelie Walker

The Alumni in ACtion newsletter serves to connect alumni with the college and each other by highlighting new developments at our many campuses and showcasing the accomplishments of graduates as they succeed in their areas of expertise.

The views and opinions expressed in Alumni in ACtion do not necessarily reflect an official position of the Alumni Association or Assiniboine Community College.

College Advancement and External Relations

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Web: www.assiniboine.net/alumni

To join the Alumni Association, visit www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected

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Environmental Technologies – GIS Specialization (Two-year diploma)

- Dynamic program, modern equipment and software using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Careers in precision agriculture, forestry, watershed management and municipal GIS

Environmental Technologies – Land and Water Specialization (Two-year diploma)

- Exciting program that looks at natural resources, technology and the environment
- Employment as water manager, habitat specialist, environmental technician, research, management and consultant

Business Administration (Two-year diploma)

- A program with an entrepreneurial spirit
- Specializations in accounting, financial services, human resources, management, marketing and supply chain management
- Connections with universities, colleges and other partners for credit recognition for furthering post-secondary studies



Communications Engineering Technology (Two-year diploma)

- Fast-paced, ever changing communications and information sector
- Careers in computer-aided design, electronic design and repair, computer programming, network design, communications installation or design

Aboriginal Community Development (Two-year diploma)

- Focuses on building and maintaining resources in communities for healthy places to live and work
- Employment in women's shelters, government offices, band offices, tribal councils, social and human service organizations and economic development

Computer Systems Technology (Two-year diploma)

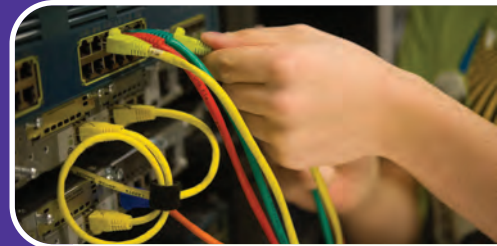
- Modern applied technology of computer hardware architecture, networking and software applications
- Excellent opportunities for employment in installing, troubleshooting and supporting data and networks in every industry

Horticultural Production (One-year certificate)

- Traditional and sustainable concept and practices for production of fruits, vegetables, nursery and ornamental plants
- Positions as fruit and vegetable growers, nursery assistants, plant propagators and research assistants

Hotel and Restaurant Management (Two-year diploma)

- Flexible, faced paced career in the hospitality industry
- Variety of positions in the food and beverage industry in administration, management, human resources, marketing, banquet and catering and new venture development



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