

Kelly Berehulka

Business Administration, 1990

The crowd applause signals a happy audience as the band leaves the stage. Once backstage, the lead singer shakes Kelly Berehulka's hand and thanks him for a wonderful night. As Kelly revels in the success of another show, he is already thinking about the next big act to hit the stage later that week. It is a busy life for Kelly, but he is passionate about his work and thrives in the excitement and the challenges that come with it.

As Manitoba Lotteries' Senior Entertainment Buyer, Kelly is responsible for working with major entertainment agencies across North America to program the concert schedules for McPhillips Station Casino and Club Regent Casino. During his 12-year career, he has organized over 1800 concerts and worked with a wide range of artists from many musical genres and eras including Randy Travis, Johnny Reid, Clint Black, Terri Clark, Default, Rick Springfield, Loverboy and even Michael Bolton.

"I enjoy the dynamic, fast-paced demands of my position," says Kelly, "and working with a network of artists, agents, and managers from across the North American music industry."

Kelly's career has taken him a long way from his hometown of Brandon, Manitoba, where he graduated from Assiniboine Community College (ACC) in 1990 with a Business Administration diploma, majoring in Marketing. Since then, he has attended events like the Juno Awards and the Canadian Country Music Awards (CCMA). He recently won the CCMA 2011 Talent Buyer/Promoter of the Year, an award for which he had been nominated for several years in a row.

"The Entertainment Industry is based around relationships, experience and mutual respect," says Kelly, "therefore, continually building these industry contacts is extremely important in delivering an entertainment program for our customers."

Kelly says his interest in event management actually began through the various activities that he was involved in at ACC. During his college years, Kelly helped plan the student ski trip to Banff, Alberta, was involved in the Business Administration Club, and helped plan the first two *Sun of a Beach* socials. In 1999, before becoming an Entertainment Buyer for Manitoba Lotteries, Kelly took on his first major event with the planning committee for the 1999 Pan American Games, where he assisted in sponsorship and event management.

While Kelly's job with Manitoba Lotteries is very exciting and may sound glamorous, it is also extremely challenging. He often works long days that stretch into late nights and spends many hours on the phone pursuing the next opportunity. While he is driven by a true passion for his work, Kelly has fond memories of his time at ACC, and credits the college and the excellent instructors there for his success.



"My work involves elements of contract negotiation, advertising, publicity, production, ticketing and many other operational logistics to ensure that both our customers and artists enjoy their experience at our venues," says Kelly. "The foundation of my career began with skills I learned at ACC because their instructors really took time to connect with every student. My time there helped me begin to build a network of personal and business contacts that I'll have for a lifetime."

Kelly believes that networking within your school and business community is a skill that college students are constantly encouraged to work on because it goes a long way to a successful career in any field. He values the education and the experience he received at ACC and urges every student to make the most of their time at the College.

"Employers search for motivated students who have demonstrated an exceptional work ethic," says Kelly. "Having a successful career requires dedication early on. One step leads to the next, so get involved in events at the College, or find that summer job that relates to your field of study. Most importantly use this time to find your passion, what motivates you, and search out that great career that awaits you!"



Legacy Gala Dinner

November 17, 2011

The first real snowfall of the season didn't hamper the turnout of supporters for the annual Legacy Gala Dinner. In stark contrast to the outdoor environment, the warmly lit rooms presented a luxurious and tasteful atmosphere that made everyone feel welcome. A champagne reception began the evening and allowed guests to mix and mingle before dinner.

Guests were treated to a delectable eight-course meal with tastes, textures and aromas tantalizing their senses. At the conclusion of the evening, a dazzling array of fireworks exploded against the winter sky. Guests were then chauffeured safely home, with memories to reminisce upon, until next year.

Thank you to the following sponsors for making the dinner a success:

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ACC Ambassador's Club

Many college events are supported by a well-established group of student volunteers from our Club. Our volunteers provide essential support to ensure the transition of events flow smoothly from start to finish. Some of the responsibilities that the Ambassadors carryout include greeting and directing guests, working at coat-check, chauffeuring, serving food and beverages, assisting photographers, as well as providing information.

In addition to supporting valuable services for ACC, this group also participates with community functions such as the CNIB Gift Wrap, United Way Christmas Tree Auction, Alzheimer Society Chili Cook-off and other such charitable events. Upon graduation, we expect that these enthusiastic and energetic volunteers will continue to support community organizations wherever they live.

Grey Owl Restaurant

January 23 to February 17, 2012

A marvelous dining facility, a celebrated culinary experience and enthusiastic guests filling the tables, all came together perfectly to make the 2012 Grey Owl a memorable experience.

This practical component is an integral part of the preparation for students. While many guests remark about the challenge in trying to get a reservation, it goes without saying, that the Grey Owl has established itself as a culinary destination that is well-worth the effort.

Students from the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts (MICA) soon forgot any apprehensions they may have had once the doors opened and they were able to put their skills into practice. Guest comments indicate to instructors and administrative staffs that students deliver an exceptional experience.

2012 Alumni Advancement Dinner

ACC's first-ever Alumni Advancement Dinner was held January 19, 2012 at Lady of the Lake and was a resounding success! Guests were treated to jazz music performed by American Songbook Trio while reminiscing and reconnecting with former classmates, instructors and other alumni. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of three new alumni awards.

Stacey Stott was presented with the ACC One to Watch Award. This award goes to a graduate of the college, 30 years of age or younger who has demonstrated exceptional achievement and significant contribution to their profession or community. Ms Stott earned her Chartered Accountant designation at a reasonably young age; something that typically takes several years throughout one's working life to successfully complete.



R: **Stacey Stott**
ACC One to Watch Award

Amy Knight was awarded the Community Service Award in recognition for the impact she has made to many students at the ACC Adult Learning Centre. As an adult student, Knight began helping her fellow classmates with math assignments. Upon graduation from the Adult Collegiate she continued to tutor students in a volunteer capacity. Knight uses her patience and knowledge to help explain the logic behind mathematical equations and helps students to achieve success in their studies.



R: **Amy Knight**
Community Service Award

Patti-Jo Burt was the recipient of the ACC Excellence in Teaching Award, for faculty of the college that made an extraordinary contribution to teaching and student experiences. To be nominated by former students is a great accomplishment and a significant indicator that the instructor truly understands their field. In a statement, Burt says "I am truly honored to receive this award. I love working with students to achieve their goals and to be recognized for this means so very much to me!" As an instructor in Office Administration for 16 years, Burt has provided student alumni with the knowledge and skills they will require to work in the administrative field.



R: **Patti-Jo Burt**
ACC Excellence in Teaching Award

Do you know anyone that deserves to be recognized in either of these three award categories? Contact us for nomination information for the second annual Alumni Advancement Dinner.

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 <http://public.assiniboine.net/Community/ACCFoundation/StudentsFirstCampaign.aspx> and show them your support in return!

Assiniboine Community College's Varsity Athletic Auction

Thursday, March 22, 2012

The 40, Trails West Inn

Doors open at 6:30 PM / Auction starts at 8:00 PM

ACC is hosting the inaugural Varsity Athletics Auction. Come out and support our athletes and varsity program! For \$20, you get two beers and pizza plus an opportunity to bid on some impressive items. Doors open at 6:30 PM, auction begins at 8:00 PM. Some of the items on the block include:

Vancouver Canucks Travel Package, Boston Bruins Winter Classic Jersey signed by Bobby Orr, Winnipeg Jets Tickets, Winnipeg Jets tickets and many other items!



Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors for supporting ACC's Varsity Athletics:
Brandon Sun, Christie's Office Plus, CKLQ, Labatt's, Manitoba Liquor Marts, McPhail Travel Brandon, Star FM and Westman Communications Group.

Call 725.8700 ext 6668 or email varsity@assiniboine.net for tickets.

Assiniboine Community College is interested in following the successes of our alumni (that's you), and for that reason, we want to hear from you. Just send us an email with your name and contact information and let us know how ACC made a difference to you. We'll add you to our mailing list so that you can keep track of what we are up to, as well as your fellow alumni.alumni@assiniboine.net.



ACC Alumni Wheat Kings Chill

Assiniboine Community College recently hosted an exclusive event for alumni. The inaugural **ACC Alumni Wheat Kings Chill** was held at the Keystone Centre on Friday, February 10, versus the Swift Current Broncos.

ACC Alumni ticket holders were invited to stop in at the Viewing Lounge during the game for refreshments and snacks. This event provided an opportunity for ACC alumni to meet and mingle while supporting the Wheat Kings at the same time.



The winner of the signed Wheat Kings jersey was **Wes Bonkowski**, a 1985 graduate from Business Administration.



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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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