

SPRING 2013



Assiniboine Community College (ACC) is happy to provide you with the Spring 2013 edition of the Alumni in ACCtion newsletter so that you can see what's happening in your own backyard.

If you know of an ACC graduate who could inspire others through a feature in an upcoming issue or if you are an alumnus of ACC, please contact the Alumni Relations Coordinator at alumni@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8700 or 800.862.6307 ext 7124.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Alumni in ACCtion newsletter.

Alumni IN ACCtion



CAELIE WALKER, President of the ACC Alumni Association

with a medical specialization from the Office Administration program. Since graduating in 2009, she has been employed with Prairie Mountain Health Authority (formerly Brandon Regional Health Authority) as an administrative secretary and has held other similar positions within the health authority.

Walker has maintained her connection to ACC through her volunteer work with the Alumni Association. Her reason for staying involved was to be able to "pay back and pay forward" and keep in touch with alumni, faculty and staff.

"These are exciting times at ACC and what a great time to be involved," said Caelie Walker, ACC Alumni Association president. "Being on the Alumni Association board gives me an opportunity to reach out to all ACC alumni and encourage them to stay connected and get on board with some of the great events that we make available to graduates."

Walker looks forward to her new responsibilities and the opportunity to develop her leadership and communication skills in the president's role. ●

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *appoints* NEW president

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) recognizes outgoing ACC Alumni Association

president Jamie Robinson for his contributions to the college. Robinson has held this position for more than ten years, since the inception of the organization in February 2002.

Robinson is pleased to announce that board member Caelie Walker has picked up the reins and he believes that she will be an exceptional leader for the board.

Inspired by her mother who worked as a receptionist and transcriptionist in the local medical clinic in Carlyle, SK, Walker attended ACC from 2007 to 2009 and graduated

ALUMNI PROFILE **LYZA SALE** MEDIA PRODUCTION **2011**

WRITTEN BY **Lyza Sale**



LYZA SALE, a 2011 Media Production graduate, now works for CBC in Winnipeg.


"EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED" is the best phrase I can think of to best define my job. It's been just over a year since I started working in the industry and it has been quite the experience. I'm working with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in Winnipeg as a videographer, editor and currently, microwave truck operator.


From covering feel-good stories to hard hitting news, travelling to rural communities around Manitoba, covering Prime Minister Stephen Harper's announcement for the cleanup of Lake Winnipeg, the unforgettable flood of 2011 and the return of the Winnipeg Jets; these are just a few examples of how exciting, exhilarating and different every working day is. Thanks to ACC and the Media Production program, I'm armed with enough knowledge and skills to successfully tackle the unexpected.

The small class sizes meant a better interaction with instructors which added up to a pleasurable learning experience. Industry standard facilities and equipment made hands-on, practical learning engaging and realistic. The weekly live TV newscast, radio broadcasting and the 2010 Civic Election coverage were all meaningful learning experiences. The Media Production program's partnership with Westman Communications Group TV and MTS on Demand had also helped me hone my skills in shooting and editing. All of these hands-on experiences served me well when I entered the real world of news gathering/television production.

ACC enabled me to be part of the industry's biggest trade show, the National Association of Broadcasters Show in Las Vegas. There I saw James Cameron, Phillip Bloom and Vince Pace, and got to be in a room full of the newest industry gear and equipment.

If it weren't for the instructors, who are well experienced in the industry, passionate about their craft and who strive to give their students the best learning experience they can, I doubt I would have been as prepared as I am.

I can safely say that ACC and the Media Production program served as a foundation to my success as a broadcaster. 

ARE YOU
AN ACC
ALUMNUS 

Enter to Win!

Visit www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected and fill out the online form by September 13, 2013 to ensure that we have your most current contact information. You'll be entered to win a Winnipeg Jets Weekend Package or one of our many weekly draws!

Thank You

The ACC Alumni Association would like to thank Pat Stowe for her contributions to the organization. Pat recently retired from the position of Administrative Assistant for the ACC Alumni & Foundation after 18 years with the college.

ACC Honours
OUTSTANDING Alumni

THE PRESENTATION OF four alumni awards was the raison d'être for the sold out Alumni Advancement Dinner on January 17, 2013 at the Lady of the Lake Café in Brandon, MB. Hosted by the college's Alumni Association, the restaurant provided an ideal venue for the event, while the American Songbook Trio complemented it with subtle background music. Combined, all these pieces set a wonderful mood as the college recognized the achievements and contributions of the award recipients.

The Alumni Community Service Award is presented to an alumnus of the college who has positively impacted the quality of people's lives through service to others. Joshua Roels, a 2006 graduate of the Business Administration program, is this year's recipient. Joshua is currently the vice-chair of the Young Leaders of Westoba Council, and has also been the treasurer for the Souris Co-Operative Daycare and the Souris Glenwood Community Development Corporation. He has also volunteered his time as a curling coach for the Special Olympics. He is currently Branch Manager for Westoba Credit Union's Kirkcaldy and Shilo branches.

ACC RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ON FEBRUARY 28, 2013, ACC recognized some truly amazing community partners who continuously support the college. The first-ever ACColade Breakfast Reception was hosted at the elegant Grey Owl Restaurant at the North Hill Campus and was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Restaurant Management students.

"We are proud to partner with ACC and their Culinary Arts program to grow the future leaders of our communities," said Ellen Pruden, Education and Promotions Manager for the Manitoba Canola Growers Association. "ACC provides the foundation for the next culinary stars and the Manitoba Canola



Community partners enjoy breakfast at the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts.

Growers are excited to be part of the journey connecting students to farmers."

Financial gifts from community supporters and other donors sustain ACC's commitment to excellence, making it possible to provide first-rate facilities and equipment for students. These loyal partnerships are what enable ACC to continue to provide exceptional learning

experiences for students. Financial support from donors has a tremendous impact in determining the future of learning for students.

ACC recognizes and appreciates the generosity of our donors for investing in the future of our graduates. Thank you to all who attended the breakfast and a sincere thank you to our many donors. ●

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{CONTINUED FROM PG 2 – ACC HONOURS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI}

The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented to a faculty member of the college who has made an extraordinary contribution to teaching and the student experience. This year's recipient, Bruce Palmer, began his career instructing at the college in 1982. For more than 30 years, Bruce has taught Anatomy & Physiology and Medical Microbiology to countless students. Bruce makes a challenging course fun and

interesting – both in the classroom and through his unique online courses.

Steve Langston is this year's recipient of the 'One to Watch' Award. This award is presented to an alumnus of the college, 30 years of age or younger, who shows exceptional achievement and significant contribution to their profession or community. Steve is a 2004 graduate of the

Business Administration program and is president and founder of Dirty T Shirt Productions, an Internet and social media marketing company. In 2010, Steve and two of his friends documented his 2,000 kilometre, 30-day bicycle tour across the Yukon and Northwest Territories in a film called Riding North. Steve was also presented with the Travel Manitoba Aspiring Youth Award in 2012. ●



L - R: Joshua Roels, Bruce Palmer, Jamie Robinson and Steve Langston

JAMIE ROBINSON was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award, which is presented to an alumnus of the college who has distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and their community. Jamie is a 1983 graduate of the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program and has been an instructor in the same program since 1998. Jamie volunteers at student and staff events, drives the college's semi-trailer in parades throughout the province and was president of the ACC Alumni Association for ten years. Jamie also clears the alley and parking area near the Sugar Bowl toboggan hill (34th Street) each winter so parents and children can toboggan.

SUSTAINABLE Greenhouse OFFICIALLY OPENS

A HEAVY FOG ENVELOPED ACC's North Hill Campus the morning of March 28, preventing a special guest from landing at the local airport. While Premier Greg Selinger was circling above the fog, waiting for an opening to land, the sustainable greenhouse ribbon-cutting, or in this case, the ivy-cutting, began.

Guests included Horticultural Production, Agribusiness, Hotel and Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts students, ACC Foundation board members, local dignitaries and media. Guests toured the new sustainable greenhouse and spoke to faculty and students who have been using the facility since January 2013.

"Faculty and students in the Horticultural Production certificate program will be the primary users of the greenhouse," said Dr. Jack Moes, ACC Vice-President, Academic. "The link, however, between research and many of our other programs really changes the landscape of how our students learn and how they are taught. Working in a facility, such as this, on a daily basis truly offers a valuable hands-on experience."

The ACC programs that will benefit from the sustainable greenhouse include:

Horticultural Production – all aspects of program, plus continuing education courses.

Agribusiness – conducting growth experiments, dissections of plants, analyzing and identifying weeds and conducting experiments with weeds.

Land and Water Management – plant identification, growing of riparian related plants and analyzing water quality systems related to the design of the building.

Culinary Arts – using fresh herbs and produce grown in the greenhouse.

The building was designed by Sputnik Architecture and constructed by Ben Wiebe Construction (1985) Ltd. The facility is 3,300 square feet which includes an experimental solar greenhouse and a conventional greenhouse, each approximately 1,300 square feet.

Visit www.assiniboine.net/greenhouse to learn more, and find out how you can contribute to the **Growing the Greenhouse** campaign. 🌱



Students from ACC's Horticultural Production, Agribusiness, Culinary Arts and Land and Water Management programs will benefit from the new sustainable greenhouse.



L-R: Mark Frison, ACC President, Michelle Sleshinski, Horticultural Production student and Dr. Jack Moes, ACC Vice-President, Academic cut the ivy to officially open the greenhouse.

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER AT ACC'S Greenhouse

The new sustainable greenhouse at ACC's North Hill Campus has been abuzz with some happy gardeners, thanks to the community outreach program that began as a result of an initiative from ACC's Horticultural Production Instructor/Researcher, Lord Abbey.

The outreach program has proven to be fun for all groups including the participants, community support workers and volunteers. "Gardening brings together the inner you and the outer you," said Lord Abbey, Instructor/Researcher for ACC's Horticultural Production program. "And, by meditation, the outer you feels the inner silence, peace and love gifted to you by nature."

The therapeutic effects of gardening have long been recognized. Several national and international organizations, such as the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association and the International People Plant Council, promote the health-stimulating aspects of engaging in horticultural activities. ACC's community horticulture programs are based on this premise with the primary goal being to introduce participants to the concept of healthy, locally grown food, combined with some basic hands-on horticultural skills.

The initial offering of this program is a pilot project that is being evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure that participants benefit from their greenhouse experience. Three groups currently accessing the outreach program include senior citizens from nursing homes, persons from Mental Health/Brandon Support Services, as well as school children, aged 10-11. The seniors' group still has available space and interested people can contact Lord Abbey at 204.725.8700 ext 6021 for more information.

The groups have been planting seeds and have already seen some of their work sprout. Some participants will have an opportunity to decorate their plant containers and all groups will participate in other greenhouse processes including worm composting, nurturing, thinning and pricking out plants.

Each group will discuss related topics such as the "field to fork" concept which demonstrates how food gets to our plates. The school-aged group will also learn about hydroponic gardening, flower and branch arrangements as well as plant pathology.

One of the participants has been inspired to start some plants in his own flower pot at home, while another wrote this poem:

Gardening

We all get together every Saturday
To plant our seeds into pots.
We find such pleasure to see them grow
So green and colorful!
Then once they're so big and tall
We get such joy in one and all.
We get so anxious to take them home
So beautiful they look and smell,
So green and colorful!

Rhonda
April 6, 2013

The program will conclude in June with a celebration, complete with participants tasting some of the fruits of their labour. Surplus seedlings will be given away to low-income families that have plots in local community gardens. 🌱

Community participants work together in ACC's sustainable greenhouse.



I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.

— John Burroughs

ALUMNI RECEIVE 'ROYAL TREATMENT'

In honour of the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, 60,000 Canadians who made significant contributions to an area within Canada, received a commemorative diamond jubilee medal in 2012. ACC is proud to recognize two alumni presented with this honour.

DORIS Nabess-Flett

Early Childhood Education, 2003
Cormorant, MB



L-R: Niki Ashton, MP, James Nabess, Doris Nabess-Flett, Lyndsie Flett, Alix Flett

Some people see a community need and act on it, instead of waiting for someone else to make it happen. Such was the case of Doris Nabess-Flett, an ACC Early Childhood Education alumna who raised funds to build an early learning child care centre in her small community of Cormorant. She then worked at and maintained the centre for nearly three years without pay, until government funding became available in September 2012.

After graduating from ACC's Adult Collegiate in 2000, she graduated from the two-year Early Childhood Education program in 2003. Doris worked for a period in Brandon but in 2007, she and her family moved north to Cormorant, approximately 650 km from Brandon, to open a child care centre.

In September 2010, Doris began the process of identifying a safe and suitable space for an early learning centre. On November 24, 2011, without government funding, the Margie Nabess Memorial Early Learning Centre Inc. opened for 17 children. Named after her mother, who raised 10 children next door, the centre was built by Doris borrowing funds from her family in order to operate it. In fact, she did not receive a salary from the centre until September 2012.

Last May, at the Margie Nabess Memorial Early Learning Centre in Cormorant, Manitoba, 45 family members and local dignitaries gathered together as Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament for the electoral district of Churchill in Manitoba, presented Doris Nabess-Flett, with one of the Diamond Jubilee medals, on behalf of the Honourable Philip S. Lee, Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor. 🇨🇦

DINAH Cepelis

ACC Retiree
Minnedosa, MB



L-R: Jeff Wharton, Dinah Cepelis and James Bezan, MP

Agriculture Institute of Canada (AIC) member Dinah Cepelis was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal at a ceremony in Gimli, Manitoba in December 2012. The medal, presented by James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, recognizes Dinah's extensive contributions to international development, many of which have been through her volunteer work with AIC.

Dinah Cepelis is a semi-retired adult educator/agricultural extensionist who has done tremendous work throughout her career improving the lives of those less fortunate in Africa. During her career, Dinah has worked closely with the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society in partnership with the Tanzanian Society of Agricultural Education and Extension in helping to establish micro-enterprises to aid rural youth and women to lead productive, diversified lives. In addition, she serves as a volunteer coordinator member with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and the Ghana Institute for Horticulturalists partnership to assist farmers in the poorest part of Ghana to improve food security by producing irrigated vegetables during the dry season.

She made 15 trips to Tanzania to do rural agriculture work with Assiniboine Community College, the Agricultural Institute of Canada and other organizations from 1993-2011. Dinah is also a recipient of the Agricultural Institute of Canada International Recognition Award.

Dinah was grateful to receive the medal. "I am honoured to be recognized for the 20 years of partnership with Tanzania through various organizations and 12 years with Ghana through AIC. As a daughter of Latvian immigrants, I have had opportunities for quality education, satisfying employment and enriching volunteerism. As Canadians involved with agriculture, we can use the skills, abilities, political and financial resources available to us to work within our communities, educational, social and professional institutions to build linkages with overseas partners for enhanced equity."

2012-13 marked the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to mark this historic event and honour Canadians' significant contributions and achievements. 🇨🇦

Article courtesy of Agricultural
Institute of Canada www.aic.ca



A HOCKEY STAR IN THE MAKING

SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES, SHE BLOGS, SHE COACHES, SHE TEACHES...HOCKEY IS IN HER BLOOD AND SHE IS IN HER ELEMENT.

Sherri Bowles hails from Elkhorn, Manitoba and is making a name for herself in the increasingly competitive world of women's hockey. Bowles was recently named Hockey Player of the Year for the Alberta College Athletic Conference. While attending ACC in 2009, she played for the ACC varsity women's hockey team and was recognized as a female Athlete of the Week by the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC). The recognition came as a result of a game in January 2009, in which she scored a hat trick within the first two periods. It didn't end there; during the third period she donned goalie pads and spent the rest of the game as goaltender.

Bowles is currently on a hockey scholarship and in her third year of the Bachelor of Business Administration Degree (Human Resources major) at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton, Alberta. "It was one of the best decisions I have ever made," said Bowles. "I've had so many wonderful experiences and to be playing at this level of hockey is a huge accomplishment for me. It has definitely been a learning experience and I am so lucky to be able to do what I love."

She credits her experience at ACC for pointing her in the right direction with her hockey skills. "If it wasn't for my coaches at ACC (Larry Shannon and Terry Arksey) I wouldn't be where I am today," said Bowles. "We planned a trip to play against



SHERRI BOWLES began her college hockey career with ACC and now plays with NAIT.

NAIT in a couple of exhibition games a few years ago and that is how I was scouted to play here at NAIT."

ACC women's hockey coaches Terry Arksey and Larry Shannon have nothing but praise for Bowles' contributions to her team. "Sherri is a coach's dream player," said Terry Arksey, Head Coach for ACC's women's hockey team. "If you could have a team of Sherri Bowles, you would never lose a hockey game. She comes to the rink with a smile on her face, works hard during practice, provides leadership on and off the ice and competes at a very high level. She makes players around her better by demonstrating

her strong work ethic, determination to win and her willingness to compete in all areas of the ice. She is a very coachable young lady that wants to get better each and every time she steps on the ice. We are proud to be a small part of her success and wish her the best in her future hockey and career endeavors."

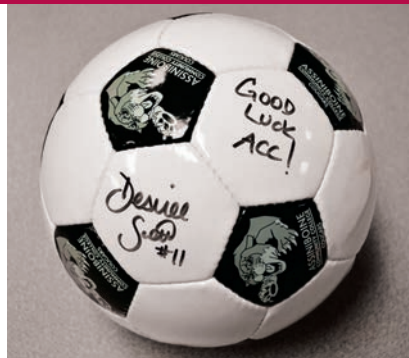
Bowles hasn't decided her future yet but has another year at NAIT to make those decisions. At this point, the only thing she is certain about is that she will continue to play hockey somehow, somewhere, as long as she is able to. 🍓

Follow Bowles' blog on the Women's Hockey Life website at www.womenshockeyslife.com.

ACC NAMES VARSITY SOCCER COACHES

ACC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE the coaches for its first varsity soccer teams which begin play this September.

Bo Kampmann has been named the men's soccer coach for the ACC Cougars. Originally from Duisburg, Germany, Kampmann has more than 40 years of experience in soccer as a player, coach, referee, teacher and builder of the sport. Since settling in Brandon in 1989, Kampmann has contributed to



every facet of the game and currently coaches the Brandon Kickers Senior Men's (2nd Division) team.

Mark Dabbs will be on the sidelines as head coach of the women's varsity soccer team. For the last nine years, Dabbs has coached premiere development girls' and women's teams from Westman, including the last four years with the Brandon Chaos Under 21 women's team.

{CONTINUED ON PG 8}

"We are thrilled to have soccer coaches of the caliber of Bo and Mark join our coaching ranks," said Larry Shannon, Athletic Director for ACC. "Their experience and relationships in the sport will benefit ACC greatly as we launch our soccer program this fall."

The coaches have started working on the top priority in building the program – player recruitment. "Finding key players, building team pride and bringing out the best in each student-athlete through training, direction, strategy and encouragement are key components to team management and coaching," said Kampmann. "I believe in preparing athletes for competition by adjusting coaching techniques based on the strengths of each student-athlete."

ACC's soccer teams will practice and play home games in September and October at the Kirkcaldy Heights School field.


Both teams will participate in the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC). Other colleges fielding teams include Providence University College, Université de Saint-Boniface, Canadian Mennonite University and Red River College.

"I am proud to say there are several players I coached who are now playing at colleges and universities in Canada and the United States," said Dabbs. "College soccer is an exciting development for Westman. I know my ties with Brandon Youth Soccer Association will allow me to stay in touch with the local upcoming talent who will now have an option of going to school and playing competitive college soccer right here at home."

During Soccer Day in Brandon last fall, Canadian National team member and Olympian bronze medalist Desiree Scott, along with representatives from the Canadian Soccer

Association, Manitoba Soccer Association and Brandon Youth Soccer Association, helped ACC announce the soccer program. ACC's varsity athletics program also includes men's and women's basketball, men's and women's volleyball and women's hockey.

ACC's varsity athletics program is looking for financial support to cover the costs of equipment, uniforms, travel expenses, trophies and other expenses. Volunteer opportunities with the men's and women's basketball, volleyball and soccer teams, as well as women's hockey will also be available.

For more information or to donate, volunteer or play for ACC's soccer teams, please contact Larry Shannon, Athletic Director at 204.725.8700 or toll free 800.862.6307 ext 6647 or varsity@assiniboine.net. 

ACC
STUDENTS
RECEIVE
\$155,000

Award winners L-R: Kim Fischer, Nicole Lawrence, Timothy Blampied and Christine Sokal




AT THE 11TH ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

held last December, ACC presented \$155,000 to well-deserving students. Family, friends and donors were in attendance as more than 135 awards were presented to ACC students through scholarships, awards and bursaries. Through the generosity and philanthropic spirit of many community donors, student award recipients received financial support for their post-secondary education.

"I can't emphasize enough to the donors what a difference their support makes to our studies," said Alexandria Turnbull, Year 2 Environmental Technologies – Land & Water Management student and award winner. "If it weren't for their help to relieve some of the financial worries, many students wouldn't be able to put the focus needed on their studies."

The three types of awards presented included scholarships, which are based primarily on academics, bursaries, based primarily on financial need, and awards which usually involve multiple criteria such as academic achievement, demonstrated financial need and school or community involvement.

If you want to know how you can support the success of ACC students, call 204.725.8722 or visit www.assiniboine.net/foundation for more information. 

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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.

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