

Alumni IN ACTION FALL 2014



LEONARD SUMNER

GETTING A BIG BREAK

CONGRATULATIONS TO ACC ALUMNUS, **LEONARD SUMNER**, for being named Best New Artist at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards this past September!

Leonard, a Media Production graduate from 2007, said getting into the performing side of the music business wasn't exactly planned, but the work he's done to get where he is today has been far from easy.

"It's definitely not easy. People think it's pretty glamorous, but it's not really. You have to work just as hard as a 9-5 and sometimes harder because some days you start at seven in the morning and you're not done until three in the morning. It's definitely got its own weird hours, it's nice, but it's not easy."

His debut album, *Rez Poetry*, was released in June 2013 with 11 tracks. According to Leonard's biography his music is described as a fusion of rhythm and blues, roots, hip-hop and country. Originally from Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Leonard took a few years off after high school before enrolling at ACC.

"I took Media Production because I wanted to learn audio recording because I had an

interest in music, but I didn't really know how to play any music or write music. While I was at ACC learning about video and audio, I started learning music at the same time. I taught myself how to play guitar and how to sing and play at the same time. It all kind of worked together naturally," Leonard said.

Leonard's goal to learn more about the technical side of performing has served him well. He credits his time at ACC as being invaluable in helping with his performances and having a good handle of what's happening on and off the stage.

This Manitoba-born artist is now working on his music career full-time. He is currently still on tour with his first album, but has plans for the next three years to record and tour with a new album. His travels generally take him across the country where he plays in major cities at various folk festivals. As well, he plays at many isolated, remote First Nations communities such as Little Grand Rapids, Garden Hill and Iqaluit. He hopes to eventually make it onto the world music festival scene.

When asked, what advice he had to share with ACC students, he replied, "Whatever they want to do is really up to them, and how much they want to do is up to them. Their output is completely up to them – they have to show up and work hard." 🎸

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 20	Open House (Brandon)
Nov 25-27	Holiday Buffet (Brandon)
Nov 28	Deadline for Alumni Awards nominations
Dec 9	Alumni & Friends Holiday Reception (Brandon)
Jan 21	Alumni & Friends Ag Day Reception (Brandon)
Feb 19	Alumni Advancement Dinner (Brandon)

Visit www.assiniboine.net for more information.

NEW SEASON NEW COACHES



ASSINIBOINE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COUGARS

AS THE ACC VARSITY SEASON GETS UNDERWAY, two new coaches are gearing up for a great year of volleyball.

Joel Small and Bryce Wilson were announced as the new head coaches for the ACC Cougars this summer. Bryce is looking forward to his position with the women's team, while Joel will coach the men's team.

Joel is a Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School graduate and volleyball player, a former Brandon University Bobcats player and he also played two seasons with the Canadian Men's National Volleyball Team. He has a Bachelor of Physical Education and was named a Canada West All-Star player twice during his time with the Bobcats. He has a number of years of coaching experience at the club and high school levels.

"It's an exciting opportunity for me," Joel said. "We have a few really, really good players. Some of them are young and need some development, but I think that's one of my strengths, developing young players."

Warren Birch and Cal Vanderschute will work with Joel this year as assistant coaches on the men's team.

"I like to win whether I'm coaching or playing, so I hope to instill that mentality with the guys. If you're there and you're putting in the time, we're going to see positive results," Joel said.

And on the women's team, Bryce has over 16 years of coaching experience at the junior high and high school level, as well as at the club volleyball level. From 2001-09 he was head coach for six provincial club championship teams and was also the head coach of the U18 Storm club team that won a national bronze medal in 2004. He also coached the U17 national silver medalists in 2006 and 2008.

As the Manager for Parks and Recreation for the City of Brandon, Bryce is immersed in the sporting world and is optimistic about his new role with the ACC Cougars.

"I'm looking forward to coaching at the next level, at a post-secondary institution and to the challenge of building a team. I'm very excited to get ACC athletics back on the map," said Bryce. "Hopefully, we can build a credible program that has respect around the community and throughout Manitoba so we can encourage more student athletes to attend ACC."

Kim Richels and Katriana Miller will round off the team as assistant coaches.

The volleyball season for the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference runs from the beginning of November to the beginning of February with championship action taking place February 21-22. Check out www.assiniboine.net/varsity for the complete schedule including home games or follow them on Twitter @CougarsACC.

ACC IN THE NEWS

- In January, Practical Nursing rural rotating sites were announced for Portage la Prairie in September 2014, in Pine Falls starting January 2015 and in Dauphin starting September 2015. Also in nursing news, ACC once again began accepting applications for its two-year Practical Nursing program for Brandon and Winnipeg.

- The college hosted the Hockey Manitoba's Senior Female Provincials in March and the ACC Cougars Women's Hockey team took the Senior B Provincial champs title!

- ACC and Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (HFHM) entered into a partnership to create a unique learning experience for students in ACC's construction trades programs. The students will build an HFHM home for a deserving Habitat family.

- Two new bridging programs for newcomers were announced this year. Students with a background in transportation trades or child care and early learning will be able to enroll in programs to gain the technical training and skills development to work within the Canadian context.

- In April, ACC hosted its first Student Achievement Celebration dinner handing out a total of 49 awards to current students and two awards to instructors.

- Fourteen ACC students won medals at the 17th annual Skills Manitoba competition in April. Then in June, three of the six students who represented the college at the Skills Canada National Competition won medals in their competitions. Outstanding!

- The college partnered with Park West School Division to facilitate the delivery of ACC's Comprehensive Health Care Aide program over a three-year period at Birtle Collegiate.

- 100 per cent of this year's Practical Nursing spring graduates passed the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam.

- The launch of a new advanced diploma in Sustainable Food Systems was announced in July. The one-year program is designed to emphasize innovation in food production, food security and post-harvest management.

- ACC embarked on an exciting journey to develop a campus master plan for Brandon's North Hill Campus. Public and internal events were held to encourage students, faculty, staff and the community at large to share ideas and opinions on the work completed to date and to help guide the future of the campus.

Thank You

The ACC Alumni Association would like to thank Lisa Huston (Business Administration, Class of '96) for taking on the Alumni Relations Coordinator role while Erin Lambert was on maternity leave. 2013 was a great year for the Alumni Association with her at the helm!

CREAM OF THE CROP

YES, IT'S TRUE WE'RE LOOKING FOR ACC'S SUPER STARS!

We are now accepting nominations for this year's Alumni Awards.
Four awards – four outstanding professionals.

Nominate someone today for:

Distinguished Alumni Award
Excellence in Teaching Award
Community Service Award
One to Watch Award

Nominations close November 28, 2014.

Visit www.assiniboine.net/alumniawards for nomination forms.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

ENERGETIC, ENTHUSIASTIC AND ENTHRALLED. That's pretty much how I would describe the people currently in charge of the ACC Alumni Association. Plus, their positive outlook and drive for success is absolutely contagious.

I'm talking about, Erin Lambert and Caelie Walker. This duo of former ACC graduates is a force to be reckoned with.

In the last couple of years, the college has worked hard to put more resources and emphasis on its Alumni Association. And it seems, the return on this investment is already paying off.

Caelie, who has been the association's president for a year and board member two years before that, said having an Alumni Relations Coordinator, focusing exclusively on the association and its goals made all the difference.

"It has been an amazing year and it exceeded my expectations! Having somebody there full-time made a huge difference. We couldn't have pulled off the events that we did and connect with so many alumni without that position," Caelie said.

Erin took over the Alumni Relations Coordinator position just over a year ago and while she's new to the association, she's not new to the college. Erin recently celebrated her eighth anniversary as an ACC employee, prior to this position she was the college's one and only Recruitment Officer.

She's proud to not only work at the college, but to be a graduate as well, she completed the Hospitality Administration program in 2006. As a college employee and an alumna she has an invested interest in the association and what the future holds.

"Our vision for alumni relations going forward is to have not only increased contact with the alumni association, the college and fellow alumni, but more importantly, we want to increase engagement. We would like to have our alumni more involved in the college, so they can contribute to as well as benefit from the college's success," Erin said.

The Alumni Association hosted and attended a number of events this past year so they could find, meet and connect with ACC alumni from as many programs and graduating classes as possible. This trend will continue and, if possible, the association would like to be even more involved in the community.

"In order for us to be able to communicate with and in turn engage with our alumni, we need to re-connect with a lot of them. We're constantly at events in the community and at the college trying

to connect with alumni to get their current contact information and to see where they're working because their success is our success," Erin said.

Caelie, an 2009 Office Administration graduate, is pleased with this direction and believes that there are many others like her who had a great experience at the college and now want to pay it forward.

"Without the college I wouldn't be where I am today, so it's only natural for me to give back - it's a gratitude thing. This is my thanks to the college," Caelie said.

Want to get involved with the Alumni Association or simply reconnect with ACC? Email us today alumni@assiniboine.net or visit our website www.assiniboine.net/alumni.



CAELIE WALKER AND ERIN LAMBERT

WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH ACC STUDENTS

- Become a tutor
- Set your own hours
- Honorarium offered

EXPERTISE NEEDED IN:

Accounting, Advanced/ Specialized Mathematics, Anatomy and Physiology, Communications Engineering Technology, Computer Systems Technology, Economics, Interactive Media Arts software, Practical Nursing Skills Demonstration and Statistics

LET'S TALK!

Contact Anne at bridgea@assiniboine.net for more details.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ACC grads are everywhere and it used to be difficult to keep track of them, but now with Twitter we can easily follow their success and you can as well!

Kelly Mathison - @KellyMathison11
Farm Machinery Mechanics, Class of '84

Terry Burgess - @TBurgess17
Business Administration, Class of '85

Caelie Walker - @CaelieW
Office Administration, Class of '09

Leonard Sumner - @LeonardSumner
Media Production, Class of '07

Ben Myers - @iamhabitat
Media Production, Class of '05

Steve Langston - @Frisbeeplate
Business Administration, Class of '04

Erin Lambert - @Erin_411
Hospitality Administration, Class of '06

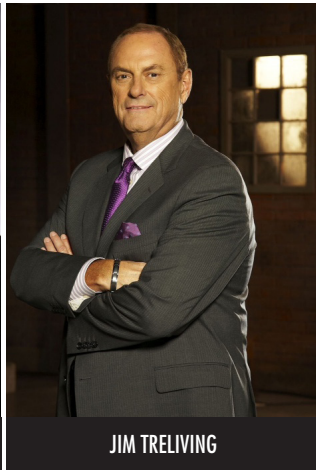
Alex Robinson - @AlexRobinsonTV
Media Production, Class of '11



@ACCMB



HARVEY ARMSTRONG



JIM TRELIVING

HATS OFF

"It's gratifying to see our students receive certificates and diplomas that will transform their lives. Like family and friends, we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments," said Mark Frison, ACC President.

In addition, the college presented honorary diplomas to two highly recognized and successful individuals at both graduation ceremonies.

Harvey Armstrong was presented with his honorary diploma at the ceremony in Dauphin. He is a successful businessman, community leader, volunteer and champion of the college. He was a member of the college's Board of Governors from 2005-2012, holding the position of chairperson for six of the eight years.

The second honorary diploma was presented to Virden-born and raised, Jim Treliving, at the Brandon celebration. You might recognize him for his role on CBC's television series Dragons' Den. He and his business partner, George Melville, manage and invest in a collection of companies under T&M Group, which includes Boston Pizza. Jim is an entrepreneur, television celebrity and philanthropist; he has also served on a number of boards.

The college awards honorary diplomas to those who demonstrate excellence in their personal and professional accomplishments. ●

IN THE COLLEGE WORLD, graduation is (and should be!) one of the most important events of the year and at ACC this is no exception. While smaller gatherings and ceremonies take place throughout the year and throughout the province, the largest of the celebrations take place in June.

This is when we pull out the red carpet and put our students at center stage to celebrate their success. This past year, 82 students received their diplomas at the Parkland Campus in Dauphin, graduating from eight different programs. In Brandon, 822 graduates celebrated their success in front of family, friends and college staff. These are graduates from 43 different certificate, diploma and apprenticeship programs.

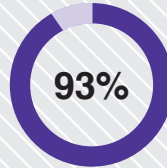
ACC Grad Survey



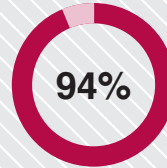
The survey was conducted in the Spring of 2014 and included those who graduated between June 2012 and July 2013.

\$43,904

is the average gross annual salary of recent graduates



of recent graduates that are seeking work have found employment.



of grads are very or somewhat satisfied with the quality of education they received.



of grads believe the skills they learned at ACC helped them to find their current job.



of those who found work after graduating have already secured permanent employment.



of our graduates stay in Manitoba.



ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Caelie Walker, President
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- Michael Tremaine, Vice-President
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The views and opinions expressed in Alumni in ACCtion do not necessarily reflect an official position of the Alumni Association or Assiniboine Community College.

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www.assiniboine.net/alumni

To update your contact information with the Alumni Association, visit www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected.

- Steve Horne, Director of External Relations, ACC
- Erin Lambert, Alumni Relations Coordinator, ACC
- Jaime Wainwright, General Manager, ACCSA

Wanda Kurchaba, Writer, Alumni in ACCtion Fall 2014