

ALUMNI IN ACCTION

PAGES 2-5

PAYING IT FORWARD

COLLEGE ALUMNI RAISE OVER
\$31,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS
AND BURSARIES

- » Keeping you connected
- » Highlighting what's new
- » Showcasing your accomplishments

 **ASSINIBOINE**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

(from l) Tim Rowan regional director with Investors Group (IG), Caelie Walker, campaign co-chair, and Andrew Smart, division director with IG are joined by staff from the IG Brandon office, as they present a cheque for \$11,400 toward the alumni association's 30K in 30 Days alumni giving campaign.



PAYING IT FORWARD

HOW ASSINIBOINE ALUMNI
RAISED OVER \$31,000



According to the experts, participation rates in alumni giving campaigns —donations made by alumni to the college or university they graduated from—across Canada is far less than what they see in institutions within the United States. These statistics are even lower when you look at donors to community colleges versus universities. However, this past fall Assiniboine alumni defied these assumptions and raised over \$31,000 for scholarships, awards and bursaries for future Assiniboine students.

On October 17th, the Alumni Board of Directors, led by campaign co-chairs Robert Eslinger (Business Administration, class of '85) and Caelie Walker (Office Administration, class of '09), launched its first annual alumni giving campaign at a pancake breakfast event at the Victoria Ave East campus in Brandon. Many alumni from different areas of Westman, joined staff to help kick off the month-long initiative that aimed to raise 30K in 30 Days. Recognizing that the 30K in 30 Days campaign could provide an opportunity to pay it forward and help a new crop of college alumni achieve their goals, many alumni and employers in the Virden area stepped up and made some of the first donations that brought the first-day total to close to \$4,000. Representatives from RFNow, Custom Software Solutions, Andrew Agencies, T.L. Penner, LRB Consulting and Sunrise Credit Union were on hand to jumpstart the campaign.

Midway through 30K in 30 Days an announcement was made regarding a major donation from alumni and employees at the Investors Group Brandon office. Their individual donations combined with the company's matching gift program added \$11,400 towards reaching the campaign goal. Many other organizations joined the momentum and held a variety of activities within their organizations that

Campaign co-chairs, Robert Eslinger and Caelie Walker, make the closing campaign announcement on Nov. 15.



helped raise donations amongst their staff—many of whom are Assiniboine alumni. Organizations like RBC, Rotary Villas, and MNP created new activities—or donated from existing ones—amongst their employees that raised approximately \$1,500 in total.

However, the real highlight of this initiative was the generous outpouring of donations made by individual alumni from the past 40+ years. This support is what made the Alumni Association successful in reaching its goal. The 30K in 30 Days campaign was far-reaching in reconnecting the Alumni Association with many college graduates from all decades stemming back to 1970 all the way up to last year's June of 2017 group of graduates. The different programs that alumni donors graduated from was quite varied and included many of the current programs offered at Assiniboine, along with those from days gone by including Web Design, Hospitality Tourism, Media Production, Automotive Service Technician, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Electronic Technician, Electrical Engineering Technology, Professional Cooking, Farm Machinery Mechanics and Secretarial just to name a few.

Students and volunteers who helped with the 30K in 30 Days campaign, celebrate its success on Nov. 15.



For twenty years, the Assiniboine Foundation has helped students attend and complete their college education by supporting them with scholarships, awards and bursaries. More than \$300,000 annually is presented in student awards, including \$342,000 awarded to more than 300 students in 2016-17.

As an Alumni Association, each member—all of you—should feel very proud of the donation you have made to the Foundation's efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Assiniboine Alumni Association Board of Directors

THANK YOU FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



"What an honour it was to co-chair the 2017 30K in 30 Days alumni giving campaign. I had the opportunity to meet many college alumni and learned so much about Assiniboine and the great things the Foundation is doing. A big thank you to all of you that supported this important cause and to those who I personally contacted. Thank you for the warm reception and sharing my passion for Assiniboine."

Robert Eslinger, 30K in 30 Days co-chair
Business Administration, class of '85



EMPLOYER SUPPORT

"I am very proud of the involvement of our RBC staff - many of whom are Assiniboine alumni - in giving back to the community through events like the 30K in 30 Days campaign! Their activities on behalf of the Assiniboine Foundation, mirror RBC's continued support of one of the most important institutions in Brandon and indeed, Manitoba! Special Thanks to Shaun Woodcock for his involvement on the Assiniboine Alumni Board of Directors and congratulations to Robert Eslinger and Caelie Walker on their successful leadership of the campaign! It has been fun watching Western Manitoba businesses get involved in the Assiniboine alumni giving campaign and I encourage other community-minded businesses to get involved in next year's promotion!"

Terry Burgess, Business Administration, class of '85
Regional Vice President, Manitoba South, RBC

"Being an Assiniboine alumnus, and a past recipient of scholarships/bursaries, I recognize the importance of raising funds to help students reach their education goals. I was very fortunate during my time at the college, to receive assistance from the scholarship/bursary program, and I am honoured to now be in a position to give back. At RBC, I work with many colleagues who share the same positive experiences I had at Assiniboine. When I heard about the 30K in 30 Days campaign, I was excited to share this news with my colleagues and brainstorm ways in which we could raise funds, beyond just asking for a cheque. I organized a silent auction that included all RBC team members and brought in 22 individual donations, raising close to \$500. It was a highly engaging event that allowed for everyone to participate and give to a good cause!"

Shaun Woodcock, Business Administration, class of '10
Financial Planner, RBC



"Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's 30K in 30 Days alumni giving campaign. The opportunity to co-chair this project and work with college staff and students, alumni and their employers and all of our community supporters has been very humbling. Future Assiniboine alumni now have additional ways to access funds for their post-secondary education. Thank you to those who contributed to our campaign through donations, volunteerism and social media support."

Caelie Walker, 30K in 30 Days co-chair
Office Administration, class of '09



ASSINIBOINE SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & BURSARIES

Many Assiniboine alumni already know that a college education can transform the life of individuals and their families. Scholarships and bursaries are often a catalyst to encourage students to further their post-secondary studies.

Assiniboine's Scholarships, Awards & Bursary Fund enables students to get an education, by supporting students based on academic merit or financial need. With the help of generous donors, the Assiniboine Community College Foundation helps students attend and complete their post-secondary education.

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Assiniboine post-secondary graduates see a big return on investments, with the average two-year diploma alumni seeing an increase in earnings of \$11,700 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma. 93% of Assiniboine graduates choose to live and work in Manitoba.

THE PROSPERITY GAP IN MANITOBA

Manitoba currently has the lowest level of post-secondary attainment in the country (57% in MB vs. 65% nationally). Further, it has one of the lowest levels of college attainment (26% in MB vs. 37% nationally). Your support will help more students to complete a college education.

DONATING IS EASY

You can donate online at assiniboine.net/donatetoday or for more information contact:

Michelle Atamanchuk
Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries
1.204.725.8739/1.800.862.6307 ext 6686
foundation@assiniboine.net

Nurturing lifelong learners in First Nation communities

that's the  Assiniboine Effect

Phyllis Racette
Early Childhood Education graduate 1999
Applied Counselling Skills graduate 2017



Assiniboine's Early Childhood Educators are helping to nurture lifelong learning in First Nations communities and across Manitoba. Phyllis is part of The Assiniboine Effect—a quiet phenomenon that's having a big impact on the growth of Manitoba.

→ Watch Phyllis's film at AssiniboineEffect.ca



★ **LOOKING FOR A JOB?** ★

Assiniboine graduates are in high demand and employers are looking to hire you!

Visit assiniboine.net/studentjobpostings to view a list of job opportunities being advertised to Assiniboine students and graduates.

★ **LOOKING FOR A JOB?** ★

★ **LOOKING FOR A JOB?** ★

ACC graduates are in high demand and employers are looking to hire you!

CATCHING UP WITH... TYLER CRAYSTON

In this edition, we feature a Q & A with Tyler Crayston, alumnus from the college's Media Production program, class of 2003.



Tyler Crayston (left) with legendary mens' BU basketball coach Jerry Hemmings. Photo courtesy of BU Athletics.

Name Tyler Crayston
Hometown Glenora, Manitoba

Where are you currently employed?

Brandon University

What is your current job title?

Athlete Services and Events Coordinator. I work with the local business community to develop partnerships in support of our athletic teams and programs. I also work with our Bobcat and College Cap alumni, which is the most rewarding part of my job. I also help promote our current Bobcat teams by developing different event ideas.

Why did you choose this career path?

I was watching CKX TV on the family farm while eating a bowl of tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich as a teenager. My mom told me 'you'd be a great broadcaster' as we watched the sports report. The rest is history.

Did you find it difficult to find work in your field?

I got a lucky break and managed to get a job in Brandon, which is close to my friends and family. Brandon is a great community and a city I am proud to live in.

Did you take additional steps to get you where you are today?

I went to CKX for work experience in grade seven. A light bulb kind of went off then. I also did play-by-play with the Bobcats for a number of years while working for Q-Country 91.5 as their sports reporter.

Do you have a career 'highlight' that you're most proud of?

Organizing College Cap and Bobcat hockey and football reunions at Brandon University. Very rewarding projects when you see alumni re-connecting for the first time in decades.

Looking back to when you first started to think about getting a post-secondary education, what first attracted you to the program that you took at Assiniboine?

I had a dream of becoming a sports broadcaster and the media production program seemed like a great place to start building towards that. ACC was close to home and being a farm boy I did not want to stray too far from my small town roots. I owe a lot to ACC. Crazy to think where life would have taken me if it had not been for the media production program.

What advice do you have for people who may have similar interests in this field or a related one?

Always believe in yourself, be humble and work hard. I am a lifelong Green Bay Packers' fan and legendary coach Vince Lombardi had a quote that really hits home for me. 'Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.'



ASSINIBOINE IN THE NEWS!



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARIES OF MICA AND GREY OWL

Tenth year anniversaries may traditionally be celebrated with tin, but at the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts (MICA), a more fitting gift would be sugar. The 2017-18 academic year marks the 10th year of the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts at the college's North Hill campus in Brandon. It is now home to the Culinary Arts, Hotel & Restaurant Management, Horticultural Production, and Sustainable Food Systems.

As the first building opened on campus in 2007, it also formally signaled the beginning of the college's relocation and expansion to the North Hill.

However, the history of the building dates back much further to when the entire site was the Brandon Mental Health Centre. Formerly the Nurses' Residence, the building was constructed between 1921-1923 under the designs of Winnipeg architects Jordan and Over. Now a designated provincial heritage building, parts of the building are restored to much of their former grandeur.

Oak paneling, mosaic tiling, decorative plaster moldings and decorative stonework can all be admired on the main floor.

Juxtaposed among the impressive splendor of the original building are modern additions: a modern teaching kitchen, classrooms and the Manitoba Canola Growers Culinary Theatre. The result is a contemporary learning space for students that maintains the original integrity and charm of the three-story building. And charmed by it the community is.

In the past decade, more than 22,000 guests have passed through the doors to enjoy events led by Culinary Arts and Hotel & Restaurant Management students. From Holiday Buffet to the International Wine & Food Festival, visitors visit from across the province to experience the tastes, smells, ambiance and hospitality that is offered. Events sell out in a matter of hours and are heralded by many as the hottest tickets in town.

For students, these events offer challenging 'learn by doing' experiences, where they put their skills and knowledge to use in environments that model what they'll encounter in industry.

And when it comes to these events, the Grey Owl Restaurant is arguably the community favourite with reservations being completely booked within two hours of phone lines opening in early January. The four-week fine dining restaurant runs mid-January to February each year and champions a harmony of classic and nouvelle cuisine complemented by graceful and polished hosting.

Coincidentally, alongside the 10th anniversary of MICA, the college celebrates Grey Owl's 30th consecutive year. The restaurant is a perfect fit for the grandeur of MICA. Grey Owl continues to be a star attraction and will surely continue to be a pearl cherished by the community in the years to come.



A LONG HISTORY OF COMMUNITY- BASED TRAINING

When one thinks of alumni from Assiniboine, it's likely the picture is of someone who came to one of our campuses to take a diploma or certificate program. But, that is only one segment of the college's alumni base.

A large number of Assiniboine graduates are the outcome of community-based training programs. These programs, and the communities that these students come from, are diverse and dynamic.

For the past 16 years, the college has been collaborating with communities including God's Lake Narrows First Nation and Rolling River First Nation to provide the Mature Student High School Diploma.

As well, Assiniboine developed a new Pork Processing Certificate for delivery in Sandy Bay First Nation. Four cohorts of 16 individuals from Sandy Bay First Nation will have the chance to complete this program

at the only meat cutting school currently operating in Manitoba.

In the 2017-18 academic year, there will be a new group of Practical Nursing graduates from the Southport training site near Portage la Prairie. These students come from a partnership group that includes five First Nations in the Portage region and the Manitoba Métis Federation.

In the fall, two groups graduated from two newly accredited trades programs. The Applied Plumbing Installation Certificate was the outcome of a partnership between the Peguis First Nation and the First People's Development Inc., and a number of First Nations in the West and Southwest regions

partnered with Assiniboine to provide the first Applied Electrical Installation Certificate. These programs will be followed up with another Applied Electrical Installation Certificate program in Dauphin this winter, which will be funded by the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. Additionally, an Applied Building Construction Certificate program in Waywayseecappo started this past July.

Assiniboine continues to explore partnership possibilities and anticipates many exciting, new program offerings in the upcoming months. The Alumni Association is proud of these alumni and look forward to staying connected with them in the future.

COUGARS CLASSIC

4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE!

June 21, 2018

Shilo Country Club

\$100 to register as an individual or
\$400 to register as a foursome

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact
alumni@assiniboine.net or visit assiniboine.net/cougarsclassic





PARKLAND REGION ALUMNI COMMITTEE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR ANNUAL PARKLAND ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for this year's Parkland Region Alumni Awards, which will be presented in April (date tbd), at the annual Alumni Awards Celebration Dinner.

"The alumni awards are an excellent opportunity to recognize outstanding ACC alumni in the Parkland Region," says Erin Sigvaldason, chair of the Parkland Region Alumni Committee and a 2001 graduate of the Business Administration program at Assiniboine's Parkland Campus. "The annual Awards Dinner is a great event to celebrate these achievements and also to reconnect with fellow Alumni members."

FOUR AWARD CATEGORIES ARE OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS:

- » Distinguished Alumni — presented to an alumnus of the college from the Parkland region who has distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and their community.
- » Community Service — recognizes an alumnus of Assiniboine from the Parkland region who has positively impacted the quality of people's lives through the service of others.
- » One to Watch — honours an Assiniboine graduate from the Parkland region who is 30 years of age or younger at the time of nomination and has made

exceptional achievements and significant contributions to his or her profession and/or community.

- » Excellence in Teaching — honours an Assiniboine faculty member from the Parkland Campus for extraordinary contributions to teaching and the student experience.

Deadline for nominations is March 2. For more information and for nomination forms, visit assiniboine.net/alumni/alumni-awards-parkland or email alumni@assiniboine.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT DINNER
MICA BUILDING, ASSINIBOINE
NORTH HILL CAMPUS, BRANDON, MB
MARCH 8, 2018

Annual dinner hosted by the Alumni Association where four outstanding alumni will be presented annual awards.

PARKLAND REGION ALUMNI CELEBRATION DINNER
TBA
APRIL 2018

Annual dinner hosted by the Parkland Region Alumni committee where four outstanding alumni from the Parkland region will be presented annual awards.

COUGARS CLASSIC ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT
SHILO COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 21, 2018

Annual golf tournament hosted by the Alumni Association, that aims to reconnect with college alumni while raising money for athletic awards.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS

Wayne Kirk, *President*
Jon Temple, *Vice-President*
Paige Cuvelier
Dan East
Lorra Eastcott
Robert Eslinger
Mike Lamb

Steve Langston
Larry Makarikhin
Julie Muller
Jamie Robinson
Tanya Salmon
Andrew Smart
Caelie Walker

Parkland Region Alumni Committee

Erin Sigvaldason, *President*
Carissa Caruk-Ganczar
Nina Crawford

Gabriel Mercier
Ashley Sidlar
Dave Simmonds

Danielle Adriaansen, *Director of External Relations, Assiniboine*
Lisa Huston, *Alumni Relations Coordinator, Assiniboine*

Assiniboine Alumni Association

1430 Victoria Avenue East
Brandon, MB R7A 2A9 Canada

Phone: 204.725.8700 or 800.862.6307 ext 7124

alumni@assiniboine.net
assiniboine.net/alumni

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

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