

WINTER 2019

Assiniboine agriculture instructor Poonam Singh is using good bugs to fight bad bugs in federally-funded research to reduce pesticide use.

# ALUMNI IN ACCTION

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IT'S A  
BUG-EAT-BUG  
WORLD!

ASSINIBOINE  
INSTRUCTOR USES  
NSERC GRANT TO  
REDUCE PESTICIDE USE

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

 **ASSINIBOINE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# IT'S A BUG-EAT-BUG WORLD, SAYS ASSINIBOINE FACULTY MEMBER

## RESEARCHER USES \$25,000 NSERC GRANT TO REDUCE PESTICIDE USE

### Bugs that eat bugs fascinate Dr. Poonam Singh.

The instructor and researcher at Assiniboine Community College is studying the effectiveness of using "good bugs" to control pests that injure and sometimes kill plants.

Dr. Singh is the first instructor at Assiniboine to receive a grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada—\$25,000 from the NSERC Engage program.

"Using biological control agents can reduce and even eliminate the need for spraying chemical pesticides on the plants," said Dr. Singh.

"Resistance is developed so fast in this pest world. Then you have to go to an even stronger pesticide. This is a pesticide treadmill. Once you are on it, you can never get off it. You are just paving the way for having stronger, more resistant pests," she said.

"These biologicals, they are safe and economical. They provide a long-term solution. They're very good for the customers who don't want pesticides on their plants. They're good for the environment and they work really well."

The bugs used to control the pests are either predators or parasitoids. Predators eat the pests. Parasitoids lay their eggs in the pests, killing them in the process.

"Eventually, when there are no more pests, the good bugs just die as part of their natural cycle."

The practice of using biological control agents is already widespread in greenhouses used to grow vegetables. But many flower and shrub nurseries still use chemicals to kill pests as the cheapest way to protect plants from damage.

One of the requirements of the NSERC Engage grant is recruiting an industry partner who will benefit from the research.

Dr. Singh contacted Shelmerdine Garden Centre in Headingley, just west of Winnipeg, after hearing from a source in the industry that it was starting to use biological control agents in its greenhouses.

"They were very keen on getting this started, but they hadn't been as successful as they had hoped," Dr. Singh said.



"We are developing a customized integrated pest management program for them, using biological control agents. They told me they get almost 20 per cent economic loss because of the pests in their nursery. If we can somehow reduce plant damage using bio-control agents, it's going to reduce their economic loss and increase their sales."

Even though it was not required to, Shelmerdine committed \$1,000 to the project. More importantly, it made in-kind contributions of plants and staff time. Dr. Singh has visited the garden centre many times, training greenhouse staff to run the program, while helping the marketing staff sell it to pesticide-wary consumers.

Shelmerdine vice-president Chad Labbe said his team has "really enjoyed working with Poonam and her students for this project. We have learned a tremendous amount during this process and look forward to learning more as the season continues."

If the program at Shelmerdine is successful, Dr. Singh will make presentations to the Manitoba Landscape and Nursery Association, hoping to spread the practice throughout the industry.

The project is a great opportunity for students to "learn by doing," which is Assiniboine's motto.

One Assiniboine student, Tiffany Nykolyshyn, works on the project as a research intern, funded by the NSERC grant. Two other students work on the project as part of their course practicum. Dr. Singh has also taken the whole class from both her Sustainable Food Systems program and her Horticultural Production program twice to Shelmerdine to help identify and monitor the pests.

"The students will help us make decisions about implementing this program. They will be able to see the live implementation of this program. And they will learn from this real-world situation."

Dr. Singh first piloted her program by pitting good bugs against bad ones inside the Sustainable Greenhouse at the college's North Hill campus in Brandon, with students helping to initiate the program.

That part of her research was funded by Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial program recently renamed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Her future research projects may include study of "biofertilizer"—using the waste products from organic materials to enhance plant health.



# ASSINIBOINE AG PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

- » Agriculture is a huge economic driver, and it's growing fast.
- » Agriculture supports employment, international trade, research and innovation.
- » Agriculture contributes 62,000 jobs to our Manitoba economy, directly employing 30,000 people.

Please join us and help support agriculture in our community.

Assiniboine Community College's annual Ag Partnership Breakfast is happening on January 24, 2019. We are excited to announce Kim McConnell as our guest speaker to discuss **Our Shifting Agri-Food Industry-Technology, Biotechnology, Commodity Changes and Public Scrutiny.**



Kim is a southwestern Manitoba farm boy and founder of AdFarm, an international agriculture-focused marketing and communications firm. He is the recipient of many national business awards. In 2012, Kim was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian award. He is passionate about agriculture, food, youth and the entrepreneurial spirit.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our ag students, members of industry, government, and alumni while raising funds for scholarships in agricultural-based programs. Your support allows us to deliver responsive programming, resulting in highly trained employees who are ready to contribute to the industry.

Over the years, Assiniboine has graduated well over 1,000 students from our ag programs including Agribusiness, Land and Water Management, Geographical Information Systems, Horticultural Production, Sustainable Food Systems and our Ag Equipment Technician apprenticeship program. 100% of our Agribusiness alumni secure employment within nine months of graduation.

Join us on January 24th to further our efforts to support student and graduate success in the agriculture sector by purchasing tickets for you and your team or as a sponsor of the breakfast. Tickets are \$40 each, with a portion of the ticket price eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

## Thank you to last year's event sponsors!

Assiniboine Community College is proud of its partnerships with organizations throughout Manitoba, and we thank the sponsors of this event.



Over 100 guests were treated to a breakfast buffet where they heard from an expert industry panel discussing challenges and opportunities of ag labour in Manitoba. Three new \$1,000 scholarships were created for students in ag-related programs.

# CATCHING UP WITH...

# JOSH SEBASTIAN



Josh Sebastian

In this edition, we feature a Q & A with Josh Sebastian, alumnus from the college's Environmental Technologies, Land and Water Management program, class of '09.

**Name** Josh Sebastian

**Hometown** Brandon, Manitoba

**Where are you currently employed?**

SNV – Netherlands Development Organisation

**What is your current job title?**

Energy Sector Leader Tanzania;  
Energying Development (EnDev)  
Tanzania Programme Manager

**Briefly describe your occupation**

With SNV, I am mainly responsible for the design, development, implementation and management of two EnDev-funded projects implemented by SNV in Tanzania (Tanzania Improved Cook Stove (TICS) and RBF for Rural Market Development of Pico Solar). I contribute directly to the management of the EnDev Tanzania programme as an innovation facility, including its focus on clean cooking and solar sector financial incentive mechanisms and appraisal of potential low-carbon growth sectors. I work with energy enterprises ranging from multi-national corporations through to informal rural micro-enterprises alongside development finance institutions and partners that, to date, have supported energy access to more than 500,000 rural Tanzanian families with clean cooking and lighting options.

On a day-to-day basis, I directly manage a team of 14 local employees and interns throughout Tanzania in their daily work with more than 70 energy enterprises. As Energy Sector Lead, I further contribute to management of SNV's full country programme of more than 80 staff.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

When looking at returning for studies as a mature student, I had a keen interest in sustainable development and renewable energy. In the Land and Water Management program, we had an opportunity through our capstone projects to work with local Manitoba institutions in developing new environmental programming. The organization I worked with in Brandon had a need to develop climate programming for their international partners in Tanzania. The work was fascinating and I discovered I could add a lot of value in practically sharing the skills gained in my studies both locally and internationally. I've been hooked ever since.

**Did you find it difficult to find work**

**in your field?** I entered this area of work at a time when Canadian international assistance as a whole was in decline. I found my way mainly by taking on additional volunteering, internships and consultancies to build a track record of experience. When I had a chance to visit Tanzania and see some of the projects I had supported in developing over a couple of years, I was able to find some entry-level positions with organizations in Tanzania including SNV.

With the nature of the development sector mainly being financed through donor support, the biggest limitation to anyone entering the field is really about ambition. If you are motivated to design and develop projects and see them through to realizing financing, you can have the opportunity to literally create your own job.

Colleagues I know who have specialized in international development programs have struggled (and often failed) to find meaningful employment of any kind. The skills from Assiniboine really set me apart from the pack as I had practical and tangible abilities in agriculture, environment and project management.

**Did you take additional steps to get you**

**where you are today?** I always kept (and still do) an open mind and an open door. I've had the opportunity to work for Google and the Agricultural Institute of Canada on shorter term assignments that allowed me a lot of opportunity to learn while doing. Rather than always looking for paid employment, I take a lot of time to attend workshops and seminars related to areas of personal interest in my field.

During the course of my studies, I developed a very good mentoring relationship with senior professionals. That has probably been the most important thing to my career development, as I learned what works and what doesn't on a very practical basis and limited the amount of effort going to re-inventing the wheel. I really gained a lot from my mentor on where and how to steer my energy.

**Do you have a career 'highlight' that you're**

**most proud of?** I'm not sure if I could reference one specific event. The biggest thrill for me is always seeing the beneficiaries we support make their leap and achieve personal goals (from putting kids in school to building independent production sites). Watching our younger local staff develop professionally is likely what I would consider my biggest accomplishment. In every project, I develop a clear path for internships with trajectories to career development with entry-level employment opportunities. Seeing kids work their way through from internships and upwards to now even more senior levels of employment demonstrates the most progress—even more so when they start creating opportunities for new folks themselves.

**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've always had a keen interest in learning and do a lot of self study.

Assiniboine was very appealing as it presented an opportunity to further build upon academic knowledge I had accumulated while giving me the skills to apply it tangibly and practically. The scheduling of the program was also very attractive as it was more akin to working day hours with a mix of opportunity to work outside in the field.

**What were the most important skills that you gained at Assiniboine and how have these skills applied to your career?** Hands down, project management. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the second year of the program being focused to a project management lens through the capstone project work. Project management skills are invaluable and incredibly scarce. I work with folks typically holding Masters and even PhDs; I ended up at the behest of SNV in training ALL of our country staff in project management as virtually no one had any structured background in this skill.

**What advice do you have for people who may have similar interests in this field or a related one?** Place a higher value on your interests than in your starting wage. Look for good people to work with in good places—the rest will likely fall into place.

Dr. Sajjad Rao checks out a sweet potato being harvested from a field near Assiniboine's Sustainable Greenhouse.

# STRAWBERRIES IN THE SNOW?

ASSINIBOINE RESEARCH  
COULD HELP GROW FRUITS AND  
VEGETABLES IN NORTH

## Strawberries, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and other warm-weather crops could be grown in northern Manitoba, thanks to research being carried out at Assiniboine's Sustainable Greenhouse.

Dr. Sajjad Rao, agriculture instructor and researcher, said he has been contacted by organizations in northern Manitoba that would like to build greenhouses to grow fresh vegetables and fruit.

"They are interested in our research. We are not a commercial enterprise. We are not going to build the prototype and manufacture a greenhouse and take it to northern Manitoba. We are here to provide them with information," Dr. Rao said.

Assiniboine's Sustainable Greenhouse was opened in 2013 at a cost of \$1.3 million. The funding came from donors to the Assiniboine Community College Foundation and other sources, including the federal and provincial governments.

Dr. Rao was attracted to Assiniboine from the private sector because of the opportunity to conduct research in the state-of-the-art greenhouse that was already under construction.

"This greenhouse was a big learning experience for me. It was built in front of me, so I have seen all the steps as it was built," he said.

Dr. Rao has published two articles in scholarly journals on his research.

The article in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* was co-authored by Dr. Lord Abbey, a former instructor at Assiniboine, now a professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The article in *Acta Horticulturae*, published by the International Society for Horticultural Science, was co-authored by Dr. Abbey and Dr. Mohammad Khakbazan of the Brandon Research and Development Centre of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

The college's greenhouse has three pods, each more technologically sophisticated than the last.

In the low-tech greenhouse, a black wall heats up with the passive solar heat coming through the roof. The floor is made of gravel. Temperature and humidity are controlled by the operator.

The medium-technology greenhouse uses solar panels beside the building to heat a mixture of glycol and water that is pumped through pipes in the concrete floor.

The high-tech greenhouse has many features that are standard in the industry, including computer control of temperature, humidity, irrigation and ventilation.

Dr. Rao's first scholarly article evaluates the effects of the "micro-climates" created in each pod on the growth of collards, carrots and tomatoes. The second article examines the difference in the growth and yield of tomatoes between the low-tech and the medium-tech greenhouses.

Dr. Rao is recommending the low-tech or medium-tech models as the template for greenhouses in northern Manitoba, because the requirements for the high-tech model would be difficult to support in remote areas.

The medium-tech model is the best for growing tomatoes in winter because of the heated floor, he said in his second scholarly article.

"There are a lot of visitors to the greenhouse. They ask, 'If we're going to have a greenhouse like this, what do we need to do?' We have a prototype here with three or four years data," Dr. Rao said.

Part of his research is focused on the cost of using the three different technology levels.

"Does the heat coming from the floor in the medium-tech greenhouse make a significant difference in crop production? How much electricity and propane do we need to use to reach a certain temperature? I am trying to calculate the cost of the energy in terms of dollars."

Now in the fourth year of his five-year research plan, Dr. Rao said his research shows residents of northern Manitoba could grow a variety of crops in a low-tech or medium-tech greenhouse.

"They can grow baby carrots and all kinds of greens. They can produce planting material like sweet potato slips in April and May and in June they can plant them outside in their grow plot. From there, they can produce their sweet potatoes. They can start tomatoes in the greenhouse and plant them outside in the summer months."

Dr. Rao is also researching the best strains of strawberries and sweet potatoes to grow in Manitoba's climate.

Part of his research has been funded by Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial program recently renamed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

# WE'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE, MAN!

Assiniboine Agribusiness students learn by doing — and by travelling. The students spent many of their fall classes visiting farms and companies involved in agribusiness all over Westman.

## Hamiota



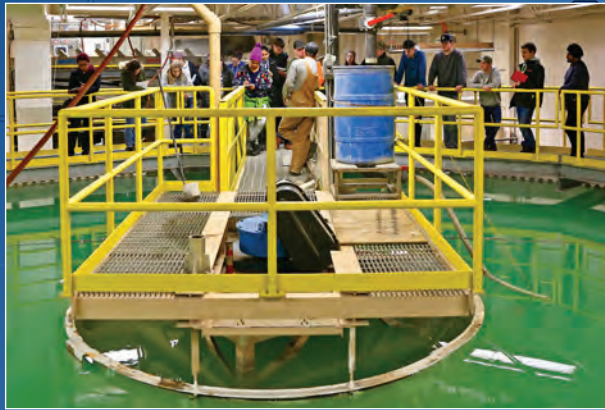
Top, Hamiota Feedlot opened its doors to students in Assiniboine's Agribusiness and Land and Water Management programs.

Bottom, the day was the first snow of the winter. Moo! Students took soil samples near the feedlot.



Students field scout and collect soil samples at Ardiel farms, south of Brandon





Students get a close-up look at the Brandon water treatment plant. Upgrades to the plant will change how it is operated.



Students are taken under the wing of a crop sprayer at Westman Aerial Spraying, east of Brandon on the Trans-Canada Highway.



Students visit Bailey Farms, a potato farm south of Carberry, at harvest time.



Students take part in a field trip to Howpark Farms, which is located southeast of Brandon in the Brandon Hills.

## Brandon

## Brandon Hills

## Carberry

# PAYING IT FORWARD

## —ASSINIBOINE ALUMNI HELP CLEAR A PATH TO EDUCATION FOR FUTURE ALUMNI

On October 17th, the Alumni Board of Directors launched its second annual alumni giving campaign.

Once again led by campaign co-chairs Robert Eslinger (Business Administration, class of '85) and Caelie Walker (Office Administration, class of '09), the campaign kicked off at a free lunch event held on the parking lot of the Valleyview Co-op store in Virden, Man. Many alumni and friends from the area joined staff to help kick off the month-long initiative that aimed to raise funds for scholarships, awards and bursaries, helping to break down barriers for success for Assiniboine students. Many alumni and employers in the Virden area stepped up and made some of the first donations that brought the Day 1 total to close to \$6,000. Representatives from Valleyview Co-op, RFNow, Custom Software Solutions, Andrew Agencies and Sunrise Credit Union were on hand to jumpstart the campaign.

A new component to this year's campaign provided an opportunity for teams to play the Escape Room Challenge. The Assiniboine alumni-themed room was first opened at Escape: The Final Countdown in Brandon last March and challenges players on their creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Teams from BDO, RBC, the Assiniboine Students' Association and Investors Group gathered pledges and tested their abilities in the 60-minute challenge.

As was the case last year, the real highlight of this initiative was the generous outpouring of donations made by individual alumni from the past 40+ years. The 2018 campaign was far-reaching in reconnecting the Alumni Association with many college graduates

from all decades stemming back to 1966. Alumni donors had the chance to speak with current students who were hired to facilitate phone campaign nights during the month of November, connecting past graduates with soon-to-be graduates.

For 20 years, the ACC 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.

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



Campaign co-chairs Caelie Walker and Robert Eslinger



Board volunteers and students participated in the 2018 campaign



Staff from BDO tackled the Escape Room challenge while helping raise funds for the campaign



# FALL FEAST, ELDER VISITS AND MORE— UPDATE FROM INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

## GREETINGS ASSINIBOINE ALUMNI!

The Indigenous Affairs department has completed its first strategic proactive advising model. Proactive advising is all about planning ahead to ensure students are connected and supported from point of application to graduation and employment. One of the ways we can do that is through increased student contact and cultural activities throughout the year.

To that end, a Fall Feast was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> to mark the autumnal equinox and time of transition for students. It was attended by close to 100 participants, including friends and family. Students visited booths with information on a wide range of college and community supports. Elder Shirley Norquay and Knowledge Keeper Brent Rosnoski shared teachings on the turning of the season and its relationship to youth-adult transformation.

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### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- » We had the opportunity to present Assiniboine's Indigenization strategy at the Creating a New Legacy (Indigenous Mental Health) Conference held on October 23rd. The feedback we received from session attendees was very positive. One participant stated, "Great real-life examples of trying to embody reconciliation at Assiniboine; appreciated the genuineness of the session".
- » A joint Indigenous graduation and Powwow celebration is being considered between the Brandon School Division, Brandon University, and Assiniboine. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the success of our Indigenous students as a community. Our first meeting as a group is scheduled for this December. We will share more details as they become available.

# COUGARS CLASSIC

5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

**June 20, 2019**

**Shilo Country Club**

Early bird registration fees until May 31, 2019:

\$100 - individual registration fee

\$400 - foursome registration fee

Registration fees after May 31, 2019:

\$125 - individual registration fee

\$500 - foursome registration fee

For more information, contact [alumni@assiniboine.net](mailto:alumni@assiniboine.net)



**COUGARS**

[assiniboine.net/cougarsclassic](http://assiniboine.net/cougarsclassic)



## CALLING ALL ASPIRING FILMMAKERS AND CREATIVE BRAINS

WIN UP TO \$1,000 TOWARDS IMA TUITION!

**Four categories to choose from!**

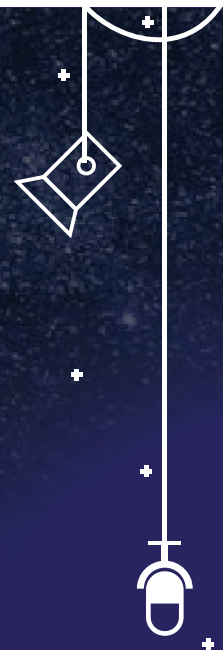
Know someone interested in Assiniboine's Interactive Media Arts (IMA) program?

Our *IMAgine Video & Audio Challenge* was meant for them! Submit a video, audio, or multimedia project for a chance to win up to \$1,000 that can be applied directly towards the first year of IMA tuition.

Enter as a solo act or with a buddy. Contest closes April 1, 2019.

For more information, visit [assiniboine.net/IMAgine](http://assiniboine.net/IMAgine).

[assiniboine.net/IMAgine](http://assiniboine.net/IMAgine)



Assiniboine students and others participate in Weed Seedling Identification Day at Assiniboine's Weed Identification Garden, right beside the college's Sustainable Greenhouse.

# WEED ID CONFERENCE HELD AT ASSINIBOINE

## GARDEN PROVIDES HANDS-ON PRACTICE IN IDENTIFYING WEEDS

The Weed Identification Garden, growing right beside the college's Sustainable Greenhouse, was the site of the province's second annual Weed Seedling Identification Day.

About 85 participants were given numbered specimens of 75 weed species to identify at their own pace.

They also heard a presentation by Ingrid Kristjanson of Manitoba Agriculture on the basics of weed identification and the unique characteristics of the common weed species found in Manitoba.

The garden "provides live weed specimens that people can use to hone their observation skills. They are able to see characteristics that are often difficult to see in pictures. They are also able to touch and smell the plants which can be really useful when identifying certain species. Some weed species can look very different from one growing location to another," said agriculture instructor Danielle Tichit.

Students from Agribusiness, Land and Water Management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Horticulture and Sustainable Foods use the garden as part of their programs.

"Students often have limited or no previous experience with weed identification and management. This garden provides an opportunity to work with a wide variety of weed species in one location. Many of these weeds are found in very specific areas of the province or may have completed their

life cycle by the time students begin their studies in the fall. The garden allows us to expose the students to species that they may not see otherwise," she said.

The garden was established with a grant from the Manitoba Zero Tillage Research Association.

Dr. Tichit said she hopes to continue to develop the garden as a learning resource for students and the public.

"This will include educational signage on such topics as Integrated Weed Management, control measures for the various species in the garden, tips for identification of grassy versus broadleaf weeds and information about weed resistance and weed abundance in the province," she said.

Come spring, when everything sprouts again, the Assiniboine Weed Identification Garden will be open to the public.

Homeowners, gardeners, farmers and anyone else having trouble figuring out what weeds are growing where they're not supposed to can bring them to the weed garden for identification. All the weeds have signs identifying their species.

It's located beside the Sustainable Greenhouse at the college's North Hill campus. Enter from Lori Road and follow the signs.

# ASSINIBOINE HOSTS 9TH ACC DAY EVENT IN WINKLER, MB

Staff and students from Assiniboine Community College were happy to spend the day in Winkler, Man. for the ninth ACC Day event on October 30.

ACC Days were started by the college five years ago to engage communities through a day-long series of events for prospective students, alumni and community members. Previous locations have included Virden, Dauphin, Neepawa, Portage la Prairie, Boissevain and, most recently, in Ebb and Flow First Nation.

The day kicked off with a community coffee chat in the lobby of the Quality Inn, where Assiniboine alumnus Chuck VanDaele hosted a live radio remote with The Eagle 93.5. Since graduating from the Media Production program in 2004, VanDaele started his radio career with 94.7 Star FM in Brandon and has since moved into the Program Director/Announcer role with Golden West in Winkler.

"I am currently overseeing around 15 people and am responsible for all of the on-air and much of the online content on our two radio stations. That includes news, radio shows, blog posts, and promotions planning for Country 88.9 and The Eagle 93.5. I also host an afternoon show on Country 88.9," says VanDaele.

Events such as ACC Days are just one example of the many community initiatives VanDaele gets to be a part of through his job.

"My job is community involvement," he says.

"We look for every, and any, event and try to hop on board and make it better. I call them the three F's: Fairs, Festivals and Fundraisers. It's where we spend a lot of our year."

VanDaele is a member of the board of the Winkler Beach Volleyball Committee.

"We're just finishing up a major project where four brand new court facilities will be ready to go in the spring," he says.

In addition, he's had the opportunity to expand on his role and act as emcee for many large community events.

"I've stood with Olympians and hosted the Olympic flame ceremony as it came through Winkler on the way to Vancouver. I've celebrated with two local Stanley Cup Champions when the Cup came to town.

"I've been a part of helping set two Guinness World Record Harvests. I've met numerous bands, given away cars, cash, you name it. It's a pretty fantastic job!"

As the day carried on, the college's Continuing Studies team hosted a free lunch 'n learn on the topic of Keys to Successful Communication.

Simultaneously, students in grades 10 and 11 at the Parkway Collegiate High school were welcomed to a bell-ringer session in the school gymnasium where they could visit any one of seven stations set up around the gym with students and faculty from Assiniboine programs. At the sound of the bell, they moved from one station to the next, learning more about the hands-on approach to education offered at the college.

Some of the program activities that were represented in Winkler included Police Studies, Business Administration, Office Management, Communications Engineering Technology, Practical Nursing, Land and Water Management, along with a coach from the college's Cougars soccer program.

Topping off the day, Assiniboine President Mark Frison dropped the official puck at the Winkler Flyers' game as Assiniboine was the game night sponsor.

As part of the College Review released earlier this year by the province of Manitoba, a number of regions were identified as areas that may require further training to support their growing labour market.

Assiniboine was pleased to connect with a number of local business owners and elected officials to gain insight to the unique features of the Winkler, Morden, and Carman region.

"I was particularly impressed with the level and variety of industry in the region. However, one thing truly stood out and that was the need for increased training in this region," said Frison.

"We are keen to have further discussions with stakeholders from the region to help identify where college-level training could assist with the numerous companies here," he added.

Assiniboine's relationship with the town of Winkler extends back to 2008, when the college ran the Practical Nursing program in the community. Since then, it has collaborated with Garden Valley Collegiate through the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program, where graduates from the high school's program earned credit towards the Assiniboine program. As well, over the years the college has offered a number of programs to help support the pork industry.

Above photo: Assiniboine's President, Mark Frison (far right) and Director of External Affairs, Derrick Turner (far left) join Media Production alumnus, Chuck VanDaele at the community coffee that kicked off ACC Day in Winkler. VanDaele hosted the live radio remote during the event.



**Top left:** Assiniboine President, Mark Frison does the ceremonial puck drop at the Winkler Flyers game during ACC Day in Winkler.

**Top right:** Assiniboine Police Studies alumnus, Max Tschuschba, catches up with Bruce Klassen (left), Assiniboine Chairperson, Public Safety and Ian Grant (right), Assiniboine Special Advisor, Public Safety during the ACC Day event.

**Bottom left:** Assiniboine Recruitment Manager, Erin Lambert, rings the bell during the bell ringer sessions held at Northlands Parkway Collegiate High School.

**Bottom right:** High school students learn about Assiniboine's Land & Water Management program from instructor James Hood, during ACC Day in Winkler.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**ASSINIBOINE AG PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST**  
JANUARY 24

The annual event is being held at the Canad Inns Great Western Roadhouse at the Keystone Centre from 7 to 9 a.m. This year's guest speaker, Kim McConnell, will discuss *Our Shifting Agri-Food Industry*. Tickets are \$40 each, and can be purchased by calling 204.725.8739.

**COUGARS VS. BOBCATS**  
JANUARY 25

The Cougars Men's and Women's futsal teams take on the BU Bobcats at the BU Healthy Living Centre. ACC Cougars alumni are invited to attend and cheer on current athletes, in the VIP area. Email [alumni@assiniboine.net](mailto:alumni@assiniboine.net) for more information.

**ACC FOUNDATION LEGACY GALA DINNER**  
MARCH 21, 2019

Guests are treated to an eight-course meal carefully prepared by our Culinary Arts students and a unique wine pairing chosen to complement each course by our Hotel & Restaurant Management students. Guests are also chauffeured to and from the event by our Police Studies students. This year, proceeds will create scholarship funds for Early Childhood Education Students. Email [foundation@assiniboine.net](mailto:foundation@assiniboine.net) for more information.

**ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT DINNER**  
APRIL 4, 2019

The 2019 alumni awards will be presented to recipients at the annual dinner. For more information, or to purchase tickets, email [alumni@assiniboine.net](mailto:alumni@assiniboine.net).

**PARKLAND ALUMNI CELEBRATION DINNER**  
APRIL 11, 2019

The 2019 Parkland alumni awards will be presented to recipients at the annual dinner held in Dauphin, Man. For more information, or to purchase tickets, email [alumni@assiniboine.net](mailto:alumni@assiniboine.net).

**COUGARS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
JUNE 20, 2019

Early bird registration deadline is May 31, 2019, so be sure to register early for the annual tournament and help raise funds towards athletic scholarships at the college. For more information, contact [alumni@assiniboine.net](mailto:alumni@assiniboine.net).

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Crystal Jensen  
Jill Hruska  
Lorra Eastcott  
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