

FALL 2016 ALUMNI IN ACCTION

Keeping you connected.
Highlighting what's new.
Showcasing your accomplishments.

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NEW LEADERSHIP ON THE ALUMNI BOARD

The ACC Alumni Association welcomes
Wayne Kirk as the new President .

 **ASSINIBOINE**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Wayne Kirk, Agribusiness - Class of '03 -
President of ACCs Alumni Association*

DID YOU KNOW...

When you graduated from ACC, you automatically became a member of the Alumni Association? The Association's Board of Directors volunteer at various college functions, help plan events aimed at reconnecting with college graduates, and are leading ambassadors for ACC.

The board hosts many events throughout the year in many communities, including our annual Alumni Awards dinners in Brandon and Dauphin. As well, our Alumni in ACCtion newsletter is published three times a year with monthly e-newsletters in between. These often feature profiles and updates from alumni around the country and beyond!

We are always looking for new members to take part in any of these initiatives – if you would like to be included in an upcoming newsletter, attend an event, volunteer with planning and/or join the Association's board – then we'd love to have you!

For more information contact Lisa Huston at alumni@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8700, ext 7124



Wayne Kirk, Agribusiness - Class of '03

MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

The ACC Alumni Association Board of Directors recently voted in the Association's new President, Wayne Kirk (Agribusiness, class of '03), after Caelie Walker (Office Administration, class of '09) completed three years in the position.

Kirk has been on the board since February 2015 after becoming aware of the Alumni Association through his interaction with the college as Cargill Lead Recruiter for ACC grads.

Born and raised in Hamiota, Kirk attended three years at the University of Regina prior to attending ACC. "Both of my older brothers took the Agribusiness program and went on to land really good jobs," says Kirk, "After speaking with them about the courses within the program, and then landing a summer job with Cargill, I decided to apply to ACC."

After receiving his diploma in 2003, Kirk worked in the ag industry with other companies before beginning his career with Cargill nine years ago as a sales representative. "I work one-on-one with farm customers to support them in growing the best crop they can," says Kirk, "this includes providing them with the proper seed, fertilizer and chemical that will most benefit their individual operations."

"I believe that ACC provided me with the basic agronomic and industry knowledge that gave me confidence and a great start to be successful in my career. Being part of the board is an exciting opportunity for me to give back to the college through fundraising and increasing the brand recognition of the college," says Kirk. Along with his new leadership role on the board, he is also currently the

chairperson of the Alumni board's Cougars Classic golf tournament committee and is happy to report that this past June's event netted approximately \$10,000. The committee also helped trigger another \$10,000 in athletic sponsorships. This combined \$20,000 total will go 100% towards student athlete awards.

"I stay connected to the college because it provided me with the tools to begin my career," says Kirk, "many of my lifelong friends are people that I met while at ACC and I feel a real strong connection to the college because of those relationships I built while I was a student, and the career that I have built because of the education I received there."

Kirk's goals as president are to grow a highly engaged Alumni team that hosts successful events that span the broader community. He's excited for the opportunities to interact with other proud ACC alum who share his enthusiasm in helping ACC grow.

When asked to give his top three reasons for other ACC alumni to be involved and stay connected, he responds, "to share your pride of being an ACC alumni with others who feel the same. To be a part of the exciting future at ACC and its North Hill Campus plans. And it's an opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself."

SECOND IN COMMAND

Along with a new president, the Alumni board of directors also welcomed a new vice-president Jon Temple, Business Administration graduate from the class of 2008.

Temple works as a business advisor at MNP LLP, working with owner-managed companies to assist them with their accounting and tax planning needs. One of his colleagues, who is also a board member, thought Temple would be a great addition and recruited him to join the board in September 2013.

"I'm a part of the board because I want to see the college grow into its potential. ACC left an indelible mark on my life. The instructors were engaging, the training was a perfect fit for my abilities, and because it's important to acknowledge what got me to where I am today, and there is a certain magnetic feel that is shared between the college and its alumni,

which keeps reminding me of the value I received from the college."

Along with his role with the Alumni board, Temple also volunteers with the Brandon Film Festival's Evans Theatre where he contributes his creative and marketing talents to the theatre.

Jon's top three reasons why ACC alumni should be involved and stay connected:

1. Keeps you connected to the evolution of the college and its programs. Often times the next great idea comes out of the hard work and studies done at post-secondary institutions.
2. Allows you the opportunity to give back to the college to ensure its development and its continued student success.
3. Connect with other alumni in the various places their careers have taken them. A strong contact network is a valuable thing!



Jon Temple, Business Administration - Class of '08 - Vice-President of ACC's Alumni Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHEAT KING NIGHT OCTOBER 14, 2016

ACC is the game night sponsor so be sure to stop by the booth to reconnect!

SUN OF A BEACH NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016

Registrations are now open for teams to enter the annual event held at the Keystone Centre! Visit the Students' Association website at sunofabeach.ca/register to register your team.

THE HOLIDAY SHOP PARTY SOCIAL DECEMBER 16, 2016

Join us at the 2nd annual Alumni social, with proceeds donated to Samaritan House. Contact Lisa at alumni@assiniboine.net for more information or tickets.

WESTERN CANADIAN VOLLEYBALL COLLEGE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP NOVEMBER 26-27, 2016

The ACC Women's and Men's Volleyball teams will be hosting this event at the Brandon University gym, where teams from Manitoba and Saskatchewan will be compete for the title. ACC's women's team are the defending champs!

PARKLAND REGION ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Haven't heard of us yet? The Parkland Region Alumni Committee was revived about a year and a half ago. Our committee was formed in order to reconnect with other alumni in the Parkland area and to increase awareness of our amazing alumni and their accomplishments since graduating from ACC.

We are a fairly small committee with plenty of room to grow! If you're an Assiniboine Community College graduate from any of the college's campuses, and you are currently living in the Parkland area, we would love to hear from you!

The committee hosted two events last year. For the first time we partnered with the Dauphin and District Chamber of Commerce to host an 'After 5' networking event at the college in January 2016. Several alumni, members of the chamber of commerce and the Dauphin community spent a few hours at the college enjoying networking and fellowship. It was an excellent chance to meet a few new college grads and also to help promote the annual Parkland alumni awards.



Erin Sigvaldason, Chairperson on the Parkland Region Alumni Committee, Business Administration - Class of '01

In April we hosted the 5th annual Parkland Alumni Celebration dinner, where we recognized three outstanding alumni and presented them with the annual awards.

A big thank you to everyone who attended our events, in particular, our Celebration dinner which boasted the highest attendance to date!

If you have a story to share about your experience with the ACC or would like to become more involved in the activities of the Parkland Region Alumni Committee, then we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact Lisa Huston, Alumni Relations Coordinator at hustone@assiniboine.net, Ashley Sidlar at sidlara@assiniboine.net or Erin Sigvaldason at erin@smccpa.ca.

ACC & BU WELCOMES STUDENTS IN BRANDON & DAUPHIN

Assiniboine Community College and Brandon University teamed up in September to roll out the welcome mat for students across the cities.

Using yard and boulevard signs, business banners, and a social media campaign, ACC and BU took advantage of the back-to-school season to show-off and celebrate just how important students are to the communities.

The “Welcome Students” campaign aimed to visibly demonstrate the impact and benefits that students bring to Brandon and Dauphin. The campaign also included individuals, community organizations and businesses who volunteered to host the distinctive signage in their offices, storefronts, or in their yards or windows.

“The more than 6,000 students who attend ACC and BU each year bring our communities significant economic, cultural and social benefits. Students who spend their post-secondary years in a community can forge ties that will last for decades. They can build relationships, put down roots, and contribute to our region for many years into the future,” said ACC President Mark Frison. “When forecasts show that three-quarters of all new jobs will require some form of post-secondary education, it’s vital that we all come together as a community to support students and help them succeed.”

This new initiative builds on a growing history of collaboration between ACC and BU. In 2014 the institutions, along with the Province of Manitoba, signed Growing Together – Vision 20/20, a memorandum of understanding aimed at fostering collaboration between the two institutions to meet student, community and social needs.

A new selection of first-year university classes in Dauphin, through Brandon University, allows the two institutions to build on their ongoing partnerships and expand them to the Parkland community. Previous collaborations have included students sharing residence space in Brandon and transferring credit through 2+2 programs. The BU classes are being held at ACC’s Parkland Campus.



Welcome Students Sign

Sun of a Beach

\$5500 IN CASH PRIZES

November 18 -19, 2016
Manitoba Room, Keystone Centre

SUNOFABEACH.ca

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DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING ACC ALUMNUS? NOMINATE THEM TODAY!



The 2016 Alumni Award recipients, (L to R) Dean Johnson (Computer Systems Technology, class of '01), Clint Jensen (Business Administration, class of '90), Katelyn Rempel (Business Administration, class of '12) and Brad Lyall (Electrical Engineering Technology, class of '86)

ACC is now accepting nominations for its alumni awards, presented at the annual Alumni Advancement dinner in Brandon.

The awards are an excellent opportunity to recognize the great accomplishments of the college's alumni. Individuals in the community can nominate an ACC alumnus for one of three awards:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to an alumnus of the college who has positively impacted the quality of people's lives through service to others.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Awarded to an alumnus of the college who has distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and their community.

ONE TO WATCH AWARD

Awarded to an alumnus of the college, 30 years or younger, who has shown exceptional achievement and significant contribution to their profession or community.

There is also the Excellence in Teaching Award, which will be presented to a current faculty member who has made an extraordinary contribution to teaching and the student experience. Recipients of this award can be nominated by current students or alumni of ACC.

Awards will be presented at the annual Alumni Advancement Dinner to be held at the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts on ACC's North Hill campus, on March 9, 2017. Tickets for the dinner will go on sale in January 2017.

Nominations close November 18, 2016

For nomination forms and more information, visit assiniboine.net/alumniawards or email alumni@assiniboine.net.





ACC COUGARS BECOME FIRST CANADIAN COLLEGE TO COMPETE IN AMERICAN LEAGUE

This past July the college announced that the Cougars women's hockey team were accepted into the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). Starting this fall, the team will compete in the women's Division 2.

More than 430 college and university affiliated hockey programs are members of and compete in the ACHA (Men's Division 1, 2, 3; Women's Division 1, 2). The Cougars will compete against 32 other teams, primarily those in the north-west region including North Dakota State University, Minot State University, Rainy River Community College, and Lakehead University.

"This is a really exciting opportunity for the players and the future of Cougars women's hockey," said Beth Clark, Athletics Manager. "Playing against other universities and colleges instills a greater sense of pride in the school. And everyone loves a Canada versus USA rivalry on the ice!"

ACC is the first Canadian college to join the league. The team was granted a provisional membership and won't be eligible for playoffs in its first year but is considered a full-time member.

Aside from Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) hockey, the ACHA is the only other national title affiliated with post-secondary education that a women's hockey team can compete for in Canada. Outside of CIS schools, ACC is the only post-secondary institution between Thunder Bay, Ontario and Alberta that offers women's hockey.

"It's been our goal to play in this league since we started the program in 2007," said head coach Terry Arksey. "We have played some of these teams in the past and are excited and confident going into this season."

"Being accepted into the ACHA is huge, not only for the team but for the whole school. It's an exciting time to be an ACC Cougar!" says returning agribusiness student and forward Amanda Boland. "This will help us grow into a stronger, more competitive team that will show everyone what ACC is made of."

The Cougars women's hockey program has achieved success in the last three years at the senior women's level, winning western Canadian and provincial titles. The team has competed in exhibition games as a club team since the program began in 2007. This is the first full-time membership for the team in any league.

ACC Cougars will host a kick-off tournament featuring Minot State and Lakehead universities at the Brandon Sportsplex on November 11 to 13.



FAREWELL...

From July 1, 2015 to September 1, 2016 the following faculty said goodbye. From the Alumni Association, we say thank you and farewell – all the best in your retirement!

Joanne Broatch – Early Childhood Education
Paul Grimeau – Piping Trades



Valedictorian Annie Muir addresses guests and her fellow graduates at the Brandon Practical Nursing grad ceremony September 9

String of nursing graduations kick off September at ACC.

September may typically be ‘back to school’ time for many, but for 82 recent ACC nursing graduates, September marked the end of one chapter and the start of a new.

On September 9 at the college’s Victoria Avenue East campus in Brandon, ACC held its third Practical Nursing graduation ceremony for the week, where 27 students celebrated their achievements.

Valedictorian Annie Muir chose nursing as an occupation so she could put her skills to work helping others in the community.

“I chose to go into the nursing program to make a difference in people’s lives,” said Muir. “It’s a profession I can go home and feel proud about knowing that I have made a difference in someone’s life each day.”

Muir has already secured employment as a graduate nurse at the Brandon Regional Health Centre with plans to write her licensure

exam at the end of the month to become certified as a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

The day before the Brandon ceremony, 34 students who had taken the program at ACC’s campus in Winnipeg donned their white uniforms and crossed the stage to receive their diplomas in front of family and friends. While the day before that, 21 nursing students graduated in Pine Falls — a location that was selected back in 2014 to host one of the college’s rural rotating nursing sites.

“It’s a great time for these graduates to be entering the healthcare field,” said Karen Hargreaves, ACC’s Dean of Health & Human Services. “Employment opportunities are strong across the province and our Practical Nursing program has helped to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.”

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

Each year the college facilitates the Graduate Satisfaction & Employment Survey with recent alumni from all programs. The results are in and we’re happy to report some of the highlights from the most recent survey conducted from March to May 2016 and included those who graduated between July 2014 and June 2015.



94%
HAVE JOBS



94%
RECOMMEND
ACC

CAREER SERVICES

Are you considering a change in careers and find yourself wondering on where to start?

Starting a new job is often one of the most stressful events we encounter, so if you are looking at different opportunities you want to ensure that you identify a good fit the first time. This can be done in several ways. One is by identifying employers you would like to work for, researching them and delivering your resume directly to them. This will ensure that you are applying with employers that share your values and have a work environment that you can excel in. The second way is by taking the time to analyze opportunities as they become available, and then ensuring that each job is one you would enjoy performing and is in an environment that is a good fit for you.

Doing all of your research prior to submitting cold call resumes is very labour intensive. It requires you to take an active role in identifying the organizations you want to work for and actively going after opportunities in those organizations. We recommend that candidates take the time to deliver their resumes in person and follow up regularly to let the organizations know that you are still interested in coming to work for them.

The second approach is more of a shot gun approach and entails analyzing all of the opportunities that arise in your field and applying to the ones where you see a fit. Less targeted, this approach has you focusing your attention on opportunities that

become available in different social mediums like LinkedIn, through websites like Indeed and eBrandon, through the college Alumni Relations office, through recruiters like West-Can Human Resource Solutions and the print media.

Both approaches work well, but for the best results take an opportunity to use aspects of both. This will yield quality results in the shortest time frame. The most important aspect of any job search is to find something that you love, in an environment that you enjoy.

Submitted by Tim Silversides, Owner of West-Can Human Resource Solutions



87%
HAVE A CAREER
RELATED
TO THEIR STUDIES



\$45,708
AVERAGE FIRST YEAR
SALARY



93%
CHOOSE
MANITOBA

CATCHING UP WITH... STEPHEN SULIK

In this edition, we feature a Q & A with Stephen Sulik, alumnus from the college's Web Design program (now Interactive Media Arts), class of 2011.

Where are you currently employed?

Tictrac in London, England. We build applications to help people build healthier lives and make healthy choices.

What's your current job title?

I am currently a front-end (web) developer

How long have you been working there?

I've been working here for almost two years.

So what exactly do you do?

The main thing I do is write code (HTML, CSS and Javascript). But it can also vary quite a bit. Because our team is only about 30 people, I can end up doing a lot of different things. Some days I can be doing research, getting our product test by users to make sure we are on the right track, or working with designers to design user interfaces and help solve user experience problems.

What's London like as a place to live and as a place to work?

London is an amazing place. It is such an interesting city. There is so much history and so many things to do. There are endless museums, art galleries, and festivals to check out all the time.

Working in London is a lot different from back in Canada. There is a lot more of a hustle type vibe. The working hours are longer in my experience but you get a lot more mandatory holiday time. The best thing about working in London is that you end up working with people who are a lot smarter than you that you can learn things from.

What's the best thing to do in London when you're not working?

Going for a pint.

What made you choose London in the first place?

I chose London because it's the easiest big city to get a visa for. It's really hard to get a visa for the United States, and the next biggest tech city outside of San Francisco and New York is London. Now, I had never been to Europe before I moved here, so if someone else was thinking of doing the same kind of thing and they aren't as insane as myself, I would suggest visiting first.

Why did you choose this career path?

Well, coding was the only thing I was actually decent at and it turned out to be the thing I liked the most. It might not be something that I do forever, but I enjoy it right now.

Did you find it difficult to find work in your field? Did ACC provide you with the tools required to integrate yourself into the workforce or did you need further education/training?

To be honest, the first six months of me trying to find a job were very hard. There wasn't that many positions for web developers four to five years ago. It has gotten a little better now though. It took about six months for me to find my first position, but after that it was pretty smooth sailing. ACC taught me a lot. Most importantly, it taught me how to learn and problem solve. Those skills are something I will use every day for the rest of my career.

What additional steps did you take to get to where you are today (e.g., work experience, other training)?

I have been to workshops and conferences, but haven't done any other classes. Technologies change so often that you can't really keep up through classes. I would say the only step I've taken is hard work. That's another thing I learned at ACC. You get from the program what you put into it.

What made you decide to take Web Design at ACC?

I kind of lucked into it actually. Coming out of high school, I didn't really have a strong idea of what I wanted to do. I knew a little bit of code and stuff, so I did a Spend-a-Day in the program and decided the Web Design program would be something I could do. It was a kind of spur of the moment decision and it turns out I liked it.

What do you remember most fondly about your time as an ACC student?

The people for sure. My classmates and instructors were really awesome.

Did you have a favourite instructor or someone who made an impact?

My favourite instructor was Derek (Ford), he taught us a lot about quality and effort. He was also always willing to help. My classmate and one of my best friends Danielle Adriaansens also taught me a lot. We worked on a capstone project together and she really kicked my ass into gear. It was awesome to be able to work with someone so driven and that ended up preparing me for what it would be like to have a big kid job.

What advice do you have for other people who may be interested in this field?

Just start learning. There are so many online courses and tutorials available for web development that will teach you everything you need to know. School was the right choice for me because I wasn't a highly self-motivated person at the time, but that might not be for everyone. You can learn a lot of stuff for free if you put in the effort.

Since this interview, Stephen has returned to Canada. He plans to travel through Africa and Europe for a while waiting for a new visa, so he can return to London for another five years.



Stephen Sulik

COUGARS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT HELPS CONTRIBUTE \$20,000 TO STUDENT ATHLETE AWARDS

This past June, the Alumni Association, in partnership with the college's Athletic department and Foundation, hosted the second annual Cougars Classic golf tournament at the Shilo Country Club.

The event netted approximately \$10,000, along with another \$10,000 raised in athletic program sponsorships. This combined \$20,000 total will go entirely towards student athlete awards.

On behalf of the golf tournament committee, the Alumni Association thanks all fellow alumni and others who participated in the event. Their participation and the continued support of all sponsors and donors helped make this event a huge success.



(L to R) Bruce Delgarno, Morley Rollins and Barry Hayward – All from Plumbing, class of '70

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

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