

Alumni IN ACCtion

WINTER 2015

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION to honour OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ANNUAL DINNER

EACH YEAR THE ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION honours four outstanding alumni at the annual Alumni Advancement Dinner, being held Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Lady of the Lake in Brandon, MB. This special evening recognizes the exceptional professional and personal achievements of these

award recipients and is a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni.

Don't miss the alumni event of the year! Tickets are on sale now for \$40 each and can be purchased by contacting 204.725.8700 or toll-free 800.862.6307 ext 7124 or by emailing alumni@assiniboine.net.

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JEFF VASSART
Distinguished Alumni Award



DAVE BOTTERILL
Community Service Award



JERRYLYNN MANUEL
Excellence in Teaching Award



LEONARD SUMNER
One to Watch Award

MEET THE 2015 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Join us as we honour four outstanding alumni at the Alumni Advancement Dinner on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Lady of the Lake in Brandon. For more information or to purchase tickets to the Alumni Advancement Dinner call 204.725.8700 ext 7124 or email alumni@assiniboine.net.

JEFF VASSART

Distinguished Alumni Award

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD, which is presented to an alumnus of the college who has distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and their community, is Jeff Vassart.

Jeff was born and raised near Pilot Mound, MB, and graduated from the Agribusiness program in 1996. Currently, Jeff is the President for Cargill Limited, a position he has held since 2013. He serves as a Director of Wynyard Insurance and is a member of the Business Council of Manitoba and the Canadian Council for Chief Executives. Jeff also participates in and coaches a number of sports and activities with his children.

DAVE BOTTERILL

Community Service Award

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD, which recognizes an alumnus who has positively impacted the quality of people's lives through the service of others, is Dave Botterill.

Dave, originally from Brandon, graduated in 1981 from the Business Administration program and has had a successful career in management and business development in the IT sector. He has been involved in humanitarian efforts in Haiti, Peru and Mexico, assisting victims of natural disasters, providing food and livestock to impoverished families, building homes, clinics and orphanages in various communities and bringing computer and school supplies to children in these countries. Dave now resides in Calgary with his family and is on the board of directors for Inn from the Cold, an emergency family shelter in the city.

JERRYLYNN MANUEL

Excellence in Teaching Award

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD, which honours a faculty member for extraordinary contributions to teaching and the student experience, is Jerrylynn Manuel.

Jerrylynn, originally from Winnipeg, is an instructor in the School of Health and Human Services, teaching students in the Practical Nursing program at ACC's Winnipeg Campus and rural locations. Jerrylynn helps organize study groups, arranges peer tutors and always looks for opportunities to provide her students with exceptional learning experiences.

LEONARD SUMNER

One to Watch Award

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE ONE TO WATCH AWARD, which honours graduates who are 30 years of age or younger who have made exceptional achievements and significant contributions to his or her profession and/or community, is Leonard Sumner.

Leonard is originally from Little Saskatchewan River First Nation, MB, and graduated from Media Production (now Interactive Media Arts) in 2007. He is an accomplished musician who was named Best New Artist at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards in September 2014. Leonard now resides in Winnipeg and is working on his music career full-time. He also visits communities sharing his music and speaking to young people.



Congratulations!
to RUBY ANNE CHARTRAND

Graduate of Early Childhood Education (class of '12) on receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education!

ALUMNI PROFILE

MITCH ROSSET

MITCH ROSSET HAS ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND HIM

HIM, so his career choice doesn't come as a surprise to those who know him. "I was always interested in news and sports as a kid growing up," said Mitch. "I would race home the day the local newspaper came out to be the first one to read it. My parents would often call me nosy since I wanted to know everything that happened in town that day."

Mitch, who graduated from Media Production (now Interactive Media Arts) in 2008, is a Sports Reporter/Anchor for Global News Winnipeg. Despite the rapidly evolving media industry, ACC helped prepare Mitch by giving him the opportunity to learn various facets of the industry. "I still use several of the skills I learned from ACC, such as writing, editing, voicing and technical troubleshooting in my daily work," said Mitch. "ACC does an amazing job getting you ready for the industry. I don't have to look far for proof; several of my co-workers at Global TV are proud ACC grads."

Mitch remembers his time at ACC fondly, especially his early morning radio show. "I volunteered to do a weekday morning show (yes, a college student volunteered to wake up at 4 a.m.) on ACC's radio station, CJ106. The experience and confidence I gained helped me land my first paying job

in the industry – running the college's radio station during the summer months between my first and second year. It also taught me about responsibility and helped develop skills I still use today."

Originally from St. Claude, MB, Mitch now resides in Winnipeg and spends his work days reporting on local sports from amateur athletes to the pros to off-beat activities that keep people active. He also anchors the weekend sports segments and during the week when needed.

When asked what advice he'd give to people interested in the media industry, Mitch said "Try it out. If it weren't for the job shadowing I did, I probably would have never entered the industry. Don't be afraid to email people in the industry to ask if you could follow them for a few days or any questions you might have. We're always willing to help." Follow Mitch on Twitter @mitchrosset. 



MITCH ROSSET, a 2008 Media Production graduate, now works for Global News in Winnipeg as a Sports Reporter/Anchor.

ACC IN THE NEWS

• ACC Day in Neepawa was held on February 4 and community members enjoyed a variety of events including hands-on program activities at the high school and the Alumni & Friends Reception followed by Neepawa Natives game that evening.

• ACC's first international cohort graduated seventeen students from China from a ten-month Culinary Foundations certificate program delivered by ACC in Winnipeg.

• In December, Larry Maguire, Member of Parliament for Brandon – Souris, on behalf of the Honourable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced \$142,670 for ACC through the Western Diversification Program to provide mobile heavy equipment operator training.

• ACC trades students were presented with an award from the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) for their partnership with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (HFHM) to build a ready-to-move home in Brandon. Students in ACC's pre-employment construction trades programs (Carpentry and Woodworking, Plumbing and Construction Electrician) are building the home from the floor boards up as part of their curriculum of the 2014-15 academic year.

Join us for our Alumni & Friends Reception

ACC Day
in PORTAGE
Friday, February 20, 2015

**CALLING ALL
ACC GRADS!**

6 to 7 p.m. in the
Daily Graphic Room at the
PCU Centre

followed by free tickets to the
Portage Terriers game.

Contact alumni@assiniboine.net for
more information or to RSVP.

JOIN THE
ACC COUGARS
as they host the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference Volleyball Championships!
February 21-22, 2015
ACC Victoria Avenue East Campus, Brandon
www.mcacathletics.ca | varsity@assiniboine.net
MCAC

**ASSINIBOINE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COUGARS**

ACC ALUMNUS receives EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Derek Woychysyn, who received the Employer of the Year (Rural) award at this year's Apprenticeship Manitoba Awards of Distinction. Derek graduated from the Professional Cooking program at ACC in 1999 and now owns and operates Komfort Kitchen in downtown Brandon.

Since earning his Red Seal certification in 2002, he has gone on to help six other ACC grads to do the same. Derek was awarded with the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011.

Also deserving of an honorable mention is Dennis White, Agricultural Equipment Technician instructor at ACC and graduate of the Heavy Duty Mechanics program (class of '75), who was nominated for the Instructor of the Year award. 



DEREK WOYCHYSYN
and his nominator, **ERIN NICHOL**



DENNIS WHITE
(second from left) with some of his students

WHERE... ARE THEY NOW?



AMANDA CROOK

Agribusiness
class of '11
Hometown: Brandon, MB
Graduate of 2+2
program at University
of Minnesota at
Crookston and current Masters Student at
North Dakota State University in Fargo,
ND.

"My favorite ACC memory was winning the Business Planning presentation award with my classmates Jamie Hodson and Jeff Neufeld. I created lifelong friendships and developed industry relationships."



ANDREW SMART

Business Administration,
class of '10
Hometown: Waskada, MB
Financial Consultant
at Investors Group in
Brandon and current
board member for the ACC Alumni
Association.

"On our first day of business project, our group was sent to the Co-Op store on Richmond Ave to sell lemonade and right away I felt that it was a unique and hands-on method of learning."



KRISTINA MCWILLIAMS

Culinary Arts,
class of '09
Hometown: Clearwater, MB
Owner/Operator,
Clearwater Country
Market (grocery store,
bakery and catering) in Clearwater, MB

"My favorite memory of ACC is going on the Niagara Falls Wine Trip with some of my classmates and instructors!"

**LET US KNOW
WHERE YOU ARE NOW!**

www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected
alumni@assiniboine.net
800.862.6307 ext 7124

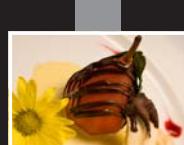
LOST ALUMNI

DID YOU GRADUATE FROM ACC
BETWEEN 1967 - 1975?

Or know someone who
did? If so, we hope you'll
reconnect with ACC!

Contact
alumni@assiniboine.net or
call 204.725.8700 ext 7124.

www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected



Legacy Gala Dinner

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

The Assiniboine Community College Foundation hosts the annual Legacy Gala Dinner, which raises funds for scholarships, awards and bursaries and has been supporting students since 1997.

For more information contact Michelle Atamanchuk
at 204.725.8739.

ALUMNI IN ACTION!

It's been a busy couple of months for the Alumni Association and we'd like to thank everyone who has joined us at one of our recent events. Not receiving the invitations to our events? Visit www.assiniboine.net/stayconnected and fill out your current contact information.



Gavin Robinson (Police Studies, class of '11) and Paige Thorburn (Early Childhood Education, class of '14) at the Alumni & Friends Holiday Reception on December 9.



Retired college staff reminisce over coffee at the annual Retirees Coffee Party on December 10.



Approximately 70 alumni and staff attended the annual Alumni & Friends Reception at MB Ag Days on January 21.



ALUMNI PROFILE **ERIN SIGVALDASON**

ERIN SIGVALDASON WASN'T SURE WHERE HER CAREER WOULD TAKE HER WHEN SHE BEGAN HER EDUCATION JOURNEY, but the path has been a successful and exciting one. "When I started at ACC I didn't have a clear career path," said Erin. "I decided to take the Business Administration program so I would have some formal training in basic accounting and bookkeeping. I didn't want to leave Dauphin to get the training so ACC was the perfect fit for me. It was my instructors at ACC that opened the door for me to a career in public accounting. It wasn't until my 2nd year of the program that I knew I wanted to pursue further education after my diploma at ACC."

Erin, a 2001 graduate of the Business Administration program at ACC's Parkland Campus in Dauphin, started working at a

local accounting firm in Dauphin prior to graduating from ACC. While working in her field, she obtained a Bachelor of Applied Accounting then went on to write the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) entrance exam and completed the two-year Strategic Leadership Program and became a designated CMA.

Erin spent several years working in the accounting field and is now partner at Letain Sigvaldason McMaster Professional Accountants, where she provides accounting and tax services to both individual and corporate clients. "My business administration diploma prepared me for working in a fast paced accounting office. It gave me all of the tools I needed to start my career without having to leave my hometown."

If you haven't encountered Erin in the accounting world, then you've likely met her in one of her many community roles. Erin is an active volunteer in the Parkland Region; she is on the board of directors for The Prevost Foundation in Ste. Rose and on the Advisory Committee for ACC's Parkland Campus. She chaired the Ste. Rose Splash Park Committee, a group of eight that fundraised more than \$350,000 for the

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 19 Alumni Advancement Dinner - Brandon
- Feb 20 ACC Day in Portage la Prairie (Alumni & Friends Reception)
- Mar 26 Legacy Gala Dinner Brandon
- Apr 14 Parkland Alumni Celebration - Dauphin

Contact alumni@assiniboine.net for more information.

construction of a community splash park. She's also involved in starting up a group called 100 Women Who Care, a group of women that meets four times per year to select a community group in Ste. Rose in need of donations.

Erin is also the chair of the newly formed Assiniboine Community College Parkland Alumni Committee – a group of ACC graduates and staff who coordinate and promote alumni initiatives in the Parkland region, with the support of ACC's Alumni Relations Coordinator.



ERIN SIGVALDASON

EMPLOYEE ANNUAL *giving* **CAMPAIGN** SUPPORTS ACC STUDENTS



ACC employees and All Charities Campaign Chairs Sandra McSymach and Michelle Atamanchuk receive the Outstanding Achievement Award from All Charities staff.

EACH YEAR, ACC EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN THE ALL CHARITIES CAMPAIGN, which provides current and retired Manitoba government employees with a convenient method of giving to registered charities of their choice. This year, ACC employees donated \$57,738.76 to the All Charities campaign. That's \$14,361.91 more than was donated last year! ACC was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award for the second year in a row for our increased pledges and participation rate.

As a part of the All Charities Campaign, one of the charities of choice is the ACC Foundation, which is the non-profit charitable organization that raises funds to ensure the stability and continuity for the future of ACC students. This year employees donated a total of \$30,734.68 to the ACC Foundation's 'Be the Difference Campaign,' up \$12,231.58 from last year. These funds go directly to support ACC students in the form of scholarships, awards and bursaries and donations are matched dollar for dollar by the Province of Manitoba.

Thank you to ACC employees for supporting our students! 



For more information about the ACC Foundation
visit www.assiniboine.net/foundation.

MEL AND RUTH TURNBULL *bequeath over* **HALF MILLION** TO BU AND ACC

A SUBSTANTIAL GIFT FROM A WESTMAN COUPLE WITH DEEP

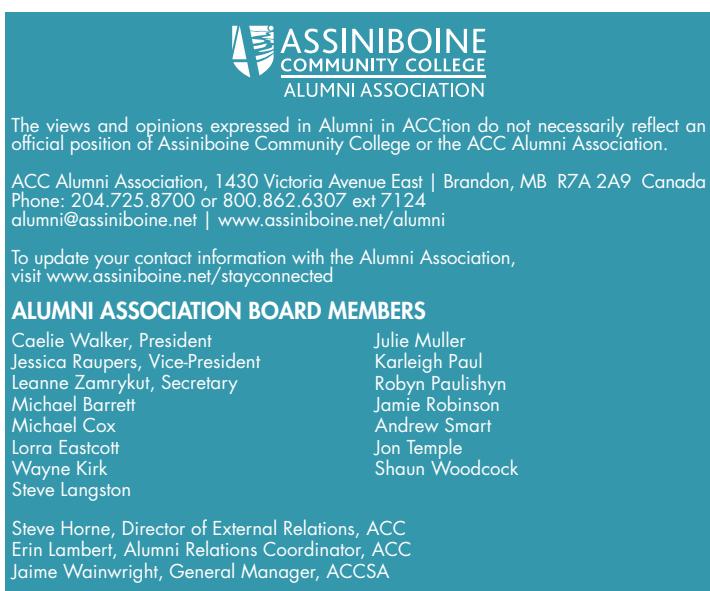
TIES TO THE AREA will assist future students at Brandon University (BU) and Assiniboine Community College (ACC) in achieving their educational goals. The Mel and Ruth Turnbull Trust is providing identical endowments of \$261,589 to both institutions in support of student awards. The announcement came on November 28, 2014 at BU with members of the extended Turnbull family in attendance, including Carrie Crisanti (nee McGregor) who is a 2014 graduate of the Business Administration program at ACC and great-niece to Ruth and Mel. Mel Turnbull passed away in 1996, and Ruth in 2013.

ACC will present two full-time students with bursaries of up to \$5,000 each year. Preference will be given to those who have graduated from Hartney School and will be selected based on financial need. After 10 years, the bursary may be given to any

ACC student, but will maintain a maximum of \$5,000. "Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull have left a legacy marked by deep appreciation and respect for education and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities," said Mark Frison, president of ACC. "This generous gift will dramatically change the lives of recipients every year by reducing the financial barriers to pursuing an education."^{fn}



(L-R) ACC Foundation president Bernie Whetter, ACC president Mark Frison, Marion MacGregor (niece to Ruth and Mell), BU president Dr. Gervan Fearon, BU Foundation president Nathan Peto.



LOOKING FOR A JOB?

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

Visit [www.assiniboine.net/
studentjobpostings](http://www.assiniboine.net/studentjobpostings)

to view a list of job opportunities being advertised to ACC students and graduates.