

What makes a healthy community?

From health and education to policy and science, UNBers are putting the pieces together.



100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

**WHAT'S
YOUR
STORY?**



UNB.CA/ALUMNI/STORIES



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| Associated
Alumni

What makes a community healthy? In this issue, we take a closer look at that question through the stories of UNB alumni who are working to better the lives of others. Whether they're improving public health; supporting mental wellness; creating inclusive spaces; tackling food availability, ongoing inequality and environmental uncertainty; or helping people feel connected, our featured alumni are making communities stronger, at home and around the world.

With the challenges so many are facing today, it's clear that practical solutions, collective action, and compassion are needed. And as you'll see, many of our alumni are putting these into action.

Like Josie McKinney (BPhil'04), who is working to reform systemic injustice in her home province, and Tosin Ajibola (MTME'20), who's helping newcomers build a better life. These are just two of the many stories we're proud to share through our 100,000 Reasons to be Proud campaign, a celebration of the amazing work being done by our more than 100,000 alumni.

Our equity in action story features the work of three alumni who are tackling the root causes of housing instability, infant food insecurity, and the systemic barriers that keep communities in poverty. Whether it's through health care, teaching, policy, or science, our grads are stepping up with real solutions and sparking important conversations.

We hope you come away from these stories feeling inspired and informed. And most of all, connected to your fellow alumni and your university.

And if you have a story to share, we'd love to hear it.

Until next time.

Natalie Montgomery (BBA'99) ■

MEMBERS OF THE UNB ASSOCIATED ALUMNI COUNCIL (AS OF JULY 1, 2025)

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Current and former alumni council members at the 2025 Proudly UNB awards on April 11

Front row: Erin Stafford, Cindy Flann, Jennifer Sutherland Green, Ian Hardy, Andrew Martel

Back row: Kyle Ferguson, Beverley Kennedy Steeves, Beverly Guimond, Michelle McNeil, Olive Ozoemena, Jill Jeffrey

Missing from photo: Sarah Birch

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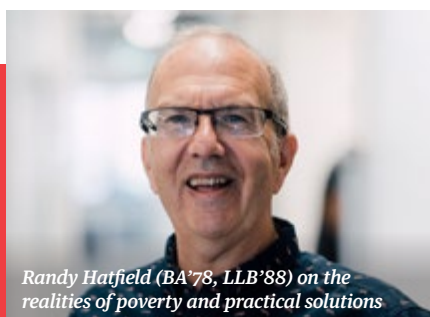
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our best*



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golden era of
human genetics*



This summer marks the end of my two-year term as president of UNB's Associated Alumni. It has been such a pleasure to serve in this role, to celebrate the successes of our students and alumni, and to help connect each of you to the life and work of the university.

My term was filled with many special moments – and some very exciting milestones! These included celebrating the 100th anniversary of the *Alumni News* magazine, the 60th anniversary of the Saint John campus and the inaugural Alumni Weekend, and crossing the 100,000th member of our global alumni family at last spring's graduation.

In April, we hosted the 2025 Proudly UNB Awards dinner in Saint John, celebrating 10 individuals and one alumni network. As always, this event left me feeling so proud to be part of the UNB alumni family. You can read more about the important work of this year's recipients on page 28, like community changemaker Li Song (BEd/BA'08), gender-based violence prevention activist Niko Coady (C-FVI/BBA'22) and UNB advocate Doug Johnson (BScCE'74, MScCE'79).

On behalf of the alumni family, I also want to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the over 2,000 graduates who received their alumni pin and joined our ranks at this spring's Encaenia and Convocation ceremonies from May 28 to 30. I can't wait to see what this group of graduates does to effect positive change in the world.

As I shared with you in my last message, and as you'll read throughout the pages of this magazine, UNB alumni are transforming knowledge into action and making a difference in their communities around the world. I've had the pleasure of meeting and

connecting with many of you throughout our various events and gatherings, and I continue to be left feeling inspired and motivated by your stories. Each of you represents 1 of 100,000 reasons I'm proud to be a UNBer.

I'm pleased to welcome UNB alum Andrew Martel (BCS'15) as our incoming president, effective July 1. It has been a pleasure getting to know Andrew over the last number of years, and I know he will be an excellent leader and supporter of our alumni community. I hope you will have an opportunity to meet him soon – or listen to Andrew and his wife Kayla-Renee Ossachuk (BA'15) as the new hosts of our alumni podcast, UNBeknownst.

UNB has impacted and shaped my life in many profound ways. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to represent our community as president and I look forward to continuing to do so on UNB's Board of Governors.

I would like to thank Michelle McNeil (BBA'03, MBA'09) and the amazing group of people who work in the Alumni Office. They are an incredibly dedicated team who work tirelessly on our behalf to advance the goals of UNB's Associated Alumni.

I leave you with one final reflection. To anyone who is considering volunteering for UNB or any other cause close to your heart, I wholeheartedly encourage you to do so. Volunteering doesn't require special skills, just a willingness to contribute and a belief in the power of community. Your efforts will matter. Together, we can achieve great things.



Jennifer Sutherland Green (LLB'99) ■



"I've had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many of you throughout our various events and gatherings, and I continue to be left feeling inspired and motivated by your stories."

JOIN US IN
Saint John FOR
Alumni Weekend 2025
SEPT. 19 TO 21

Come back to where it all began! Alumni Weekend is your chance to reconnect with classmates, explore what's new on the Saint John campus, and celebrate the legacy and future of UNB Saint John and our alumni community.

Don't miss the chance to catch up, reminisce and create new memories with fellow alumni. We can't wait to see you!

Weekend highlights include: alumni campus party, 25th and 50th reunion pin ceremony and UNB on the Waterfront: Signal Hill in concert.

For events details, schedule and to register, visit [UNB.ca/alumniweekend](https://unb.ca/alumniweekend).



WHAT A WEEKEND!

Thank you to the more than 400 alumni and friends who travelled from near and far to Reunion Weekend 2025 for the all classes meet and greet, faculty open houses, golden grad breakfast, 25-year and 50-year alumni pin ceremony, senior classes dinner, UNB at Picaroons, Maritime lobster boil, class gatherings and more!

SAVE THE DATE! Mark next year's Reunion Weekend on your calendar, June 4 to 7, 2026, on the UNB Fredericton campus.

Are you celebrating a graduation year ending in 1 or 6 and want to get your group together? Reach out to reunions@unb.ca to find out how we can help you plan an event for your class.

Visit [UNB.ca/reunionweekend](https://unb.ca/reunionweekend) for more details.



Noteworthy

Alumni stories and UNB news you may have missed
Check them out in full at [UNB.ca/alumni/news](https://unb.ca/alumni/news) or [blogs.UNB.ca/newsroom](https://blogs.unb.ca/newsroom)



The African stole and Indigenous stole were worn for the first time at UNB's spring graduation ceremonies

New graduation stoles honour Indigenous and African graduates

UNB marked a historic first at its 2025 spring graduation ceremonies with the introduction of two ceremonial stoles honouring, celebrating and recognizing First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and African and African diasporic graduands.

The stoles – created by artists deeply rooted in the communities they represent – were worn by students who were graduating on UNB's Fredericton and Saint John campuses. These visual symbols of cultural identity, achievement and belonging reflect a growing commitment at UNB to reconciliation, representation and inclusion.

One of the stoles, designed by UNB alumni and husband and wife duo, Natasha Martin-Mitchell (C-LS'16, BIS'16, MED'18) and Brandon Mitchell (C-LS'16, BIS'16, MED'18), recognizes First Nations, Inuit and Métis graduates. The other, designed by Norélice Mboutou, UNB's 2024-25 media artist-in-residence in the department of

media arts and cultures, honours African and African diasporic graduands.

For Natasha and Brandon, the stole represents years of grassroots work to increase visibility and celebrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis students and traditions at UNB. When Natasha graduated from UNB, she proudly represented her community by wearing traditional Mi'kmaw regalia. Now, the design she and her husband have created, offers other Indigenous graduates the opportunity to honour their identities and communities in a similarly powerful way.

For Brandon, a graphic designer, it was important the stole represented the Indigenous peoples in this territory. The design is a reflection of both Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqey territories that make up the Wabanaki Confederacy.

The couple purposefully avoided the inclusion of typical pan-Indigenous iconography like feathers and animals in their designs and instead celebrated the vibrant traditional designs found in their culture. The stole's double curve motifs represent fiddleheads, harvest

and abundance. The couple also drew inspiration from a 19th-century Mi'kmaq ceremonial coat lapel.

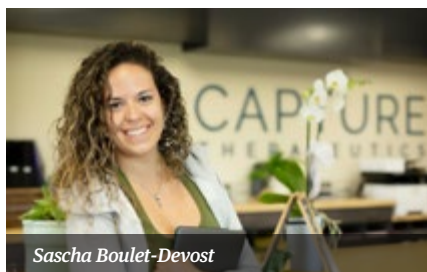
Similarly, Norélice, a multidisciplinary artist, looked for common threads – visual languages and symbols shared by cultures across the continent – throughout the African and African diasporic stole design process.

She drew inspiration from African masks and Afrocentric patterns, like Imigongo, a pattern rooted in resilience, healing and reclamation of Black and Afrocentric identity.

"African masks embody identity, transformation and a connection to our roots." Guided by her desire to create "something meaningful, respectful and empowering, I kept asking myself: how can this stole reflect pride, identity and unity for Black students at UNB?"

"For many Black and African-descended students, the academic path can come with unique challenges. Wearing a stole designed specifically with their cultural identity in mind can validate their experience and celebrate their achievements on their own terms. When a student wears this stole, it's not just decorative – it's a statement. It says, I am proud of where I come from, and I belong here."

Both stoles were developed in close consultation with UNB's Indigenous and Black communities, with support from Nadia Richards, associate vice president of human rights and equity at UNB; Todd Ross, interim Piluwitahasuwin and associate vice president, Indigenous engagement; and the UNB Council of Elders.



Sascha Boulet-Devost

Reshaping health-care delivery in rural communities

For the fourth year in a row, Sascha Boulet-Devost (BScKin'09), CEO of Capture Therapeutics, has been recognized by *Atlantic Business Magazine* as one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEOs.

When she reflects on her entrepreneurial journey to reshape health-care delivery and improve access in rural communities, she empathically states, "We're either setting new standards or challenging every rule that's held health care back – either way, we're amplifying our impact!"

Through its unique business model, Capture Therapeutics is driving a culture of transparency, attracting top talent and investing heavily in employee growth and development. Eleven years on, the company continues to grow, both in size and impact. Its hub is located in Grand Falls, N.B. There are four other locations – Woodstock, N.B., Kedgwick, N.B., Moncton, N.B., and Truro, N.S. – with a virtual vocational branch on the horizon.

Offering services in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, kinesiology, massage and more, the business model is centred on connecting each patient with the ideal practitioner in a space that is collaborative and ensures swift access to care.

"When I landed back home in Grand Falls after spending some years

away, it felt as though every health-care system surrounding me was built around waitlists and unethical compensation structures, which left the patient's needs as an afterthought. I started slowly creating what Capture Therapeutics is today, which was based on call-in and get-in to see someone, who can then direct you to the best team for your specific needs."

For Sascha, running a sustainable business has come with a lot of learning, leading through transparency and making continuous changes to best serve the community. She says what's most rewarding is allowing people to feel seen, heard and understood.

Through a community engagement 'Gratitude Project' created and led by an employee, Capture Therapeutics has provided over a quarter of a million dollars in free care to people who did not have access. They've used their own model to their advantage by giving back to the communities they serve.

"We're here for the people. Running this business isn't easy, and balancing it right takes real effort. I've always said, if I can't make a meaningful impact on health care or provide employment that makes me proud, then it's not worth doing. Go out and do what's right, it's that simple."

In her 11 years as a business owner and pelvic physiotherapist, Sascha has grown her team of two to over 70, allowing them to service more people in multiple rural and urban regions. About half of Capture Therapeutics' team is made up of Atlantic Canadians who have returned home to work, while the other half has moved to Atlantic Canada.

Through a structured, three-year mentorship program, Capture Therapeutics has attracted passionate and highly skilled professionals that also provides opportunity for personal and professional growth.

"My goal was to create exciting, diverse career opportunities that foster growth and help people discover their passion. Our commitment is to further their leadership skills, develop and support them. We hope to simply instill in them the drive to carry forward this health-care model, which delivers a true patient-centred approach."

As she looks ahead, her focus will be on finding the right growth capital to support the employees who are currently going through the three-year mentorship program and looking to launch their own clinics.



Law student Charlotte Peng

Where Leaders are Made campaign launched

On May 16, UNB Law launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the faculty's history. With the goal of \$23 million, the Where Leaders are Made campaign will support the people, places and programs that will define the next century for UNB Law through four campaign pillars: student support, classroom experience, experiential learning, and research that confronts societal challenges. For generations, UNB Law has produced a large number of extraordinary leaders: lawyers, premiers, cabinet ministers, judges, Chiefs and Elders, and executives at some of Canada's most prominent institutions. Its next chapter will take UNB Law's storied history and build on its past successes and new aspirations. Learn more at [UNB.ca/lawcampaign](https://unb.ca/lawcampaign)



Eric Carroll, Daniel Hie, Lacey Loder, and Lukas O'Connell

Currie Undergraduate Scholars

The 2025-26 scholars are Eric Carroll of Miramichi, N.B., Daniel Hie of Moncton, N.B., Lacey Loder of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L., and Lukas O'Connell

of Gloucester Junction, N.B. The scholarships, valued at \$75,000 each, were established in 2004 by one of Canada's most accomplished business leaders and philanthropists, UNB Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Richard J. Currie (Class of '60,

LLD'87), who was a Beaverbrook Scholar as a young man. Each year, the Currie Scholarships recognize Atlantic Canadian high school students for their leadership skills, community involvement, academic success and obstacles overcome.



Petra Hauf, UNB provost and VP academic; Paul Mazerolle (BA'89), UNB president; Wade MacLauchlan (LLB'81), UNB chancellor; Allison McCain (BScEE'72, DSc'07), former UNB chancellor; Wayne Carson (BScCE'87, LLB'90), board member and donor to the Engineering Commons; Tom Gribbons (BScF'83), then-chair of the Board of Governors; Nichole Baya (fifth-year chemical engineering student), EUS president; and Camilla Drost (D-TME/BScChE'25), past EUS president

Engineering commons opens

On May 27, UNB opened the doors to the Allison D. McCain Commons – a stunning, sustainable and state-of-the-art addition to the country's oldest engineering school. This 18,400 square-foot mass timber and glass structure

transforms the entrance of Head Hall on our Fredericton campus into a vibrant hub for learning, collaboration and innovation. At its heart is the Student Success Centre, a 1,500 square-foot space dedicated to empowering students with tutoring, mentoring, counselling and career support.

Named in recognition of Dr. Allison D. McCain (BScEE'72, DSc'07), a UNB engineering graduate, former UNB chancellor (2013-23) and lead donor to the project, the commons is a bold step forward in our vision to reimagine engineering education for the future.



Dr. Ahmed Shehata

New research chair advances UNB's global leadership in biomedical engineering

UNB strengthens its global leadership in biomedical engineering with Dr. Ahmed Shehata's (PhD'18) appointment as Canada Research Chair in Rehabilitation Engineering. His work will drive innovation in prosthetic control and mobility research, while training the next generation of experts. He will primarily work with the research team at UNB's Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBME), a hub of interdisciplinary research activity in mobility and rehabilitation engineering. The IBME has been a global leader in myoelectric prosthesis control for 60 years and continues to lead groundbreaking advances in the field. In addition to working closely with the IBME, Ahmed's research will span across disciplines and faculties including engineering, kinesiology and computer science, and across other major research centres and initiatives at UNB, including the Research Institute in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, the NB Institute for Research Data and Training, the Centre for Research in Integrated Care and the Integrated Health Initiative.



Seven third-year nursing students from UNB will join the first UNB-Shannex Long-Term Care Summer Institute

Nursing and Shannex launch long-term care summer institute

This summer, seven third-year nursing students will be participating in the inaugural UNB-Shannex Long-Term Care Summer Institute. Over 15 weeks, students in Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton will engage in unique work placements, learning from experienced registered nurses in

Shannex nursing home communities across the province.

The faculty of nursing developed the institute, which will support the delivery of the program for five years. Funding is provided with support from Shannex, as part of a \$1-million donation to improve care, decision making and a person's experience during the transitions of aging.

King Charles III Coronation Medal

Hats off to nursing alumni, as well as current and former UNB nursing faculty members, on receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Lorna Butler, dean; Lynn Nagle (BN'78), adjunct professor at the University of Toronto; Martha Paynter, assistant professor; Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard (MN'01), professor at l'Université de Moncton; Sharon Hamilton, teaching professor; Kelly Scott-Storey (BN'99, MN'07, PhD'13), associate vice president, research, innovation and partnerships; and Cheyenne Joseph, UNB's former Piluwitahasuwin, associate vice president of Indigenous engagement.

If you know of any other medal recipients from any UNB program, let us know so we can congratulate them.

Institute of Population Health seeks to transform health outcomes

UNB's Institute of Population Health (IPH) officially opened on April 17, a major step toward improving health and well-being in New Brunswick. The IPH's education efforts include outreach through public lectures and knowledge sharing. It works to sustain research collaborations, engages with funders and translates findings into policy recommendations. The IPH raises the profile of researchers and informs health policy to improve population health outcomes. It advocates for better health outcomes, connects with partner institutes and decision makers and leads or supports multidisciplinary research, including systemic reviews.



SPRING HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

John Gerhardt, Carol Loughrey and Subramonian Shankar

John Gerhardt

John Gerhardt (BA'85) received an honorary doctorate of letters for his remarkable achievements in fashion, branding and creativity. Hailing from Moncton, N.B., John is one of the world's most esteemed figures in luxury branding.

As the global creative director for Moët & Hennessy – a key division within LVMH, the world's largest luxury conglomerate – John oversees the creative for a \$7-billion portfolio and some of the most iconic brands in the luxury industry. His visionary leadership ensures these renowned brands continue to thrive and innovate in a competitive, ever-evolving market.

John has achieved extraordinary milestones throughout his career. *Time* magazine named him among "The Design 100," a celebration of the individuals who shape and influence design today. A creative powerhouse, John served as the creative director for Holt Renfrew, aligning the company's

brand development with cutting-edge creative marketing strategies.

As senior vice-president of branding and creative for DFS Group, based in Hong Kong and New York, John led the transformation of the multibillion-dollar luxury retailer and its 400 stores. His efforts revolutionized their branding while creating groundbreaking marketing collaborations and partnerships with industry giants like Estée Lauder, Tiffany, Burberry, Hermès and Cartier.

His contributions have been widely celebrated. *Flare* described him as a "national retail hero." *The Globe and Mail* declared him a "fashion guru," while *Architectural Digest* highlighted and lauded his personal style at his home in Paris. A defining voice in luxury branding, he has collaborated with top-tier fashion houses like Burberry, Dolce & Gabbana and Louis Vuitton.

John has guest lectured at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), McGill University, McCarthy Tetraault LLP and Verity. He has served on the board of The Sato Project in

New York City and is a board member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

John embodies a spirit of leadership and innovation, inspiring the next generation of creatives and industry leaders.

Carol Loughrey

Carol Loughrey (BBA'70) received an honorary doctorate of letters. She was the first woman to earn tenure in the faculty of business administration at UNB, achieving the positions of assistant dean and associate professor in 1986. She was the first woman to hold an academic administrative position in the faculty.

Carol was also the first woman in New Brunswick to qualify as a chartered accountant by examination. She later made history as the first female chair and CEO of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA), where she championed diversity in the profession.

In 1987, then-premier Frank McKenna recruited Carol to the provincial civil service, where she became the first

female comptroller in any Canadian province. She later served as New Brunswick's first female deputy minister of education and continued as a deputy minister from 1996 to 2006. Throughout her time in government, she mentored women, helping many to advance into senior leadership roles.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, Carol co-founded New Brunswick's first breast cancer support group and later the New Brunswick Breast Cancer Network Inc. As president of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation, she helped establish the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Research Centre at UNB. She has served in leadership roles in many local, provincial and national non-profit organizations. Since 2007, Carol has served as an outside director of the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation.

In 2005, she was named a Paul Harris Fellow and an officer of the Order of Canada in the industry/commerce/business category. She was recognized with the Order of New Brunswick in 2015 and received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilee medals.

Subramonian Shankar

Subramonian Shankar (MScEE'76) received an honorary doctorate of science. In 1985, he co-founded the international technology company American Megatrends Inc. (AMI), which focused on motherboard design and firmware. It took off after gaining the company now known as Dell Computers as its first customer. Headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, U.S.A., AMI has locations around the world and has been a household name among computing enthusiasts for more than 35 years. Subramonian served as its president and CEO until 2019.

Subramonian has consistently focused on giving back to the community. In 2019, he founded the Lakshan Foundation, a charitable organization

that supports meaningful causes, particularly in education, health, and hunger.

He demonstrated his commitment to education by funding the Subramonian Shankar Block, a modern computer science building at his alma mater in India. At UNB, his generosity led to the opening of the Subramonian Shankar Computer Science Laboratory in 2022, following a \$1-million contribution. Designed for onsite and remote access, the lab allows students to innovate and experiment, reflecting Subramonian's path to success.

In 2023, Subramonian worked with Emory University to establish the Emory Global Diabetes Research Center (EGDRC) Translational Accelerator. This initiative aims to accelerate the development of technologies to address the most challenging issues in diabetes. By providing funding, education, resources, and mentorship, the accelerator supports interdisciplinary teams of scientists, clinicians, engineers, fellows, and students as they work to transform academic research into commercially viable solutions.

To complement the efforts at Emory, Subramonian spearheaded the creation of the Shankar Center of Excellence in Diabetic Research (SCoEDR) within the department of medical sciences and technology at IIT Madras. This state-of-the-art centre will focus on multidisciplinary research, innovative treatments, public awareness, and capacity building to improve diabetes care and management in India. Collaboration between Emory University and IIT Madras will further foster the exchange of ideas, faculty, and students, enhancing the global fight against diabetes.

Recognizing the pressing issue of hunger in Atlanta, which worsened in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Subramonian engaged with the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB). This organization combats hunger by engaging, educating, and

empowering the community to ensure that people in metro Atlanta and North Georgia have access to nutritious meals. In recognition of their support through the Lakshan Foundation, Subramonian and his wife, Lakshmi, were named "Hunger Champions" in 2023.

Through the Lakshan Foundation, Subramonian is also providing financial support for the construction of a new Biological Sciences Annexe building to house the Molecular Biophysics Unit at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, India. The building is expected to be ready for occupation by mid-2025.

Recently, Subramonian joined the board of advisors of Sankara Nethralaya, U.S.A., with a focus on its Mobile Eye Surgery Unit (MESU); a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing preventable blindness and providing accessible eye care to underserved communities, particularly in rural areas of India.

Subramonian donates to the Indian American Cultural Association (IACA), whose primary goal is to preserve and promote cultural, charitable, educational, and literary activities within the Indian community in Georgia, U.S.A., while also organizing fundraising activities to support charitable causes.

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras honoured him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award, while UNB recognized him with the Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award.

Subramonian recently launched AmZetta Technologies to continue his contributions to the technology sector. His enduring dedication to philanthropy and innovation is a testament to the profound impact that purpose-driven leadership can achieve.

Read full bios at [UNB.ca/graduation/encaenia/honorarydegrees/](https://unb.ca/graduation/encaenia/honorarydegrees/)

Celebrating 80 years of *The Fiddlehead*

From its humble beginnings in the winter of 1945, *The Fiddlehead* has grown into one of Canada's most highly regarded creative writing magazines. Its contributors are diverse, and its readership spans the globe.

"It started off as a mimeograph: a small, stapled-together kind of zine," says Sue Sinclair (MA'97), associate professor of English at UNB and *The Fiddlehead*'s current editor. "Although the word 'zine' wasn't a word back then, that's effectively what it was."

The Fiddlehead began with a group of passionate students and their mentor, Alfred Goldsworthy Bailey (BA'27, DLitt'70). Meeting at Dr. Bailey's home, the group became known as the Bliss Carman Society – a creative writing group that laid the foundation for what would become a literary institution.

Ian LeTourneau (BBA'99, BA'00, MA'03), the current managing editor of *The Fiddlehead*, said the journal's first 16 or 17 issues were small and zine-like until it expanded to an international audience. "They outgrew the small, grassroots-style journal they were. They opened it up to the world."

This expansion was a significant milestone in *The Fiddlehead*'s history. Under the leadership of Fred Cogswell (BA'49), who became editor in 1953, the journal opened its pages to writers worldwide, transforming it from a local publication into an internationally recognized literary journal.

During Fred's editorship, the journal solidified its place on the UNB Fredericton campus. The Ice House (now McCord Hall) – a small building that stored ice before electric refrigeration – became the meeting spot for writers, both established and aspiring.

The "Ice House Gang," as Alden Nowlan (DLitt'71) called those who met there, became intertwined with *The Fiddlehead* insofar as many of the journal's editors and contributors frequented its meetings. It was once slated for demolition, but David McCord (DLitt'63) intervened, ensuring the building's preservation and ensuring its dedication as a space for creative writing. It remains a hub of creativity today.

Over the years, *The Fiddlehead* has published works by some of the most celebrated writers in Canada and beyond. Early contributors included Michael Ondaatje, David Adams Richards (DLitt'95), Carol Shields and Alistair MacLeod (MA'61, DLitt'02).

The journal has also featured artwork by renowned artists such as Bruno Bobak and Molly Bobak, a nod to its celebration of both literary and visual arts.

Some of New Brunswick's most remarkable artists established the legacy of *The Fiddlehead*'s cover art.

"Lucy Jarvis and Marjory Donaldson were influential in establishing the journal's visual identity," says Sue. "It is significant that these two women were driving forces at a time when women weren't necessarily in such roles."

The Fiddlehead's editorial team is committed to maintaining the journal's high standards while embracing growth and change.

"It's important for a journal that's 80 years old to continue to be curious, flexible, and interested," says Sue. "We'd always love to grow in subscribers and in voices," says Ian. "It's about expanding and diversifying the range of perspectives and experiences represented in the journal."

After 80 years in print, *The Fiddlehead* has established a reputation for literary and artistic excellence, building a vibrant creative community at UNB. Its influence endures with no signs of slowing down. ■

The story continues,
be a part of it.

CELEBRATING
80
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OF LITERARY FORAGING

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For 80 years, *The Fiddlehead* has championed the voices of emerging and established writers from Canada and beyond. Subscribers receive four print issues a year, bringing UNB's literary tradition right to their door.

VISIT: THEFIDDLEHEAD.CA



Preserving a Piece of UNB History

HONOURING EDITH G. McLEOD

**By Dr. Grant Williams
(BEd'90, MEd'95)**

In the spring of 2021, I became the owner of a charming home at 47 Kensington Court in downtown Fredericton. At first, I simply saw a house with great character and potential. But as I learned more about its past, I realized I had become part of a legacy deeply connected to UNB history.

Built in 1955 for Edith (Edie) G. McLeod (BA'1920, LLD'66), the house was home to UNB's first female registrar (1945-1968), a beloved figure known for her remarkable memory, mentorship, and dedication to students. She served UNB for 41 years, working under five university presidents and helping shape the experiences of countless students and faculty members.

Edith McLeod was known not just for her role at UNB, but also for the gatherings she hosted at her home. Faculty and staff would arrive for tea parties and receptions, dressed in tuxedos and ball gowns, before heading up the hill to formal university events. Her home was a hub of social life, a place where friendships were forged and university ties strengthened.

After Edie's passing in 1981, the house was left to Dr. Beverley F. Macaulay (BScE'28, DSc'74), UNB's vice president of administration (1960-1972), and his wife, Dr. Althea Warren Macaulay (BA'39, LLD'90), who taught in the faculty of science. In 1983, the Macaulays expanded the house, ensuring it remained a welcoming space for family and guests.

Althea Macaulay lived here until her passing at age 101 in 2019. She carried on the tradition of hosting, transforming the house into a lively gathering place for book club meetings, where dozens of guests would pack into the living and dining rooms, and Kensington Court would be lined with cars.

When I purchased the home from the Macaulays' son, Dr. John Macaulay (BSc'81) and his wife, Rosa (Vargas, BScChE'85), in 2021, I knew I was inheriting not just a house, but a piece of UNB's living history. While I'm a faculty member at St. Thomas University, serving as director of the School of Education, I'm also a proud UNB graduate. With a BSc in physics from Mount Allison (1988) and an Ed.D. in mathematics, science and learning

technologies from UMass Amherst (2011), my academic journey has taken me many places – but UNB has always been at the heart of it.

To honour this home's original owner, and in recognition of the recent demolition of the Edith G. McLeod House residence on campus, I have commissioned a plaque that reads:

Edith G. McLeod House

Built in 1955 for the University of New Brunswick's longtime and beloved Registrar (1945-1968), who made this her home until her passing in 1981.

Since moving in, I have undertaken renovations, bringing the home into the 21st century, while preserving its historic character. The 70th anniversary of its construction in 2025 feels like the perfect time to recognize its legacy.

Through this tribute, I hope to preserve the memory of Edith G. McLeod, the Macaulays, and the rich history of UNB that lives within these walls. Sometimes, the best way to honour the past is to keep its stories alive. ■

From Vision to Reality

An ecosystem where interdisciplinary health education, cutting-edge research and groundbreaking innovation converge seamlessly – that is the Integrated Health Initiative (IHI).

Introducing a unique bachelor's degree

The core of UNB's IHI is a suite of interdisciplinary educational options, including UNB's bachelor of health (BH). This unique program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates arts, business and science, and prepares students to excel as health-care administrators, policymakers, community leaders, and future health-care professionals.

The four-year program focuses on all aspects of health, with core courses covering the biological, psychological, and social determinants of health, health policy and the optimization of health-care services.

Students can major in three areas:

The **society and health major** focuses on policy development, Indigenous and global issues, and social and community health. Graduates move into careers in health services, community engagement, public health, and professional programs.

The **biomedical sciences and health major**, which is attractive to students interested in careers as health researchers, patient navigators and digital content creators, helps to prepare students for professional program entrance exams (medicine, dentistry, etc.).

The **management in health major** focuses on the administration of a wide variety of health-care systems, emphasizing core business principles, such as accounting, marketing, and management. Graduates often seek

a career in health administration, community organization, and government.

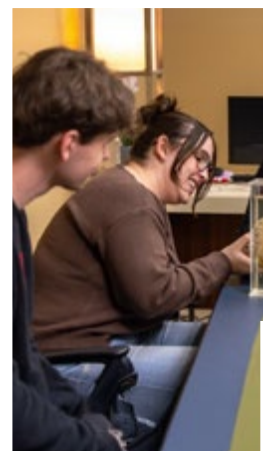
Experiential education is at the core of the program. Classroom learning is supplemented through community-based research assignments, lab-based courses, and a practicum in health. In their final year, students complete an honours research thesis or a team-based project focused on a critical health issue. BH students are eligible for advanced standing toward the Certified Health Executive (CHE) designation, Canada's top professional leadership designation for health-care leaders.

Providing solutions for an aging population

In New Brunswick, which has one of Canada's most rapidly aging populations, nearly one in four residents is a senior. To address this demographic shift, UNB and Shannex RLC Ltd. established the Shannon Family Research Chair in Aging Transitions at UNB Saint John and plan to set up the Aging Transitions Lab. The research chair and the lab will research the impact of transitions in aging to improve the level of care and patient experience for New Brunswickers.

The chair will be tasked with researching qualities, concepts, processes and structures that contribute to the development of age-friendly communities, examining impediments to the growth of healthy intergenerational communities and proposing policy initiatives to improve the quality of life for people of all ages.

The chair and the lab will be housed in the soon-to-be-completed Health and Social Innovation Centre on the Saint John campus, near Dalhousie Medicine (New Brunswick's physician education program), New Brunswick Community College's Allied Health program, Shannex campuses in Millidgeville and Quispamsis, as well as the Saint John Regional Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital, New Brunswick's leading centre for geriatric medicine.



Increasing digital literacy

One of the mandates of the IHI is prioritizing research that has social, economic, and community impacts. Increasing opportunities for children and youth in high-priority neighbourhoods is the backbone of the Promise Partnership.



Beginning in 2009 with a literacy initiative led by UNB Saint John volunteers and local youth, the partnership evolved into a formal initiative that provides students with educational resources and mentoring that continues to this day. This year, the partnership expanded its reach to Moncton.



The program features three levels tailored to different stages of learning, each supported by dedicated post-secondary mentors.



In the elementary program, Kindergarten to Grade 2 students explore digital technologies through guided play and interactive learning experiences

that build foundational skills. For students in Grades 3 to 5, the program introduces more complex, hands-on activities such as coding, 3D design and printing and introductory robotics.



In the middle school program, students receive personalized support from UNB student mentors who provide homework help, language support and digital literacy. They also engage in interactive projects aligned with the Middle School Technology Curriculum, including activities like the culinary program.

In the high school program, mentors provide academic tutoring and support for creative projects, adapting to each student's needs.

Last year, the Discovery Educational Enrichment Summer Camp Program became integral to the Promise Partnership. Hosted at the UNB Saint John campus, this initiative provides Grade 4 to 10 students with access to advanced science labs, hands-on experiments led by UNB instructors and presentations by guest speakers.

Envisioning a health ecosystem

A core goal of the IHI is to accelerate knowledge transfer and the commercialization of health innovation by building upon the current health ecosystem where public and private partners can engage with students and researchers to create new businesses, products and services. This will position Saint John as a national hub for health innovation in Atlantic Canada.

With proximity to key health partners, innovators and entrepreneurs can work alongside UNB students and faculty, research scientists and clinicians. This synergistic environment will foster discussions between people who otherwise would never run into each other, leading to innovations.

Incorporating the principles of health into its design

A new state-of-the-art space for the IHI's education, research and innovation is underway on the Saint John campus. The Health and Social Innovation Centre (HSIC), a 65,000-square-foot, three-and-a-half-story building, has been designed to create an environment conducive to experiential learning and innovative entrepreneurial research, as well as health and wellness.

Connected to the rest of the campus by walking paths, a tunnel system and a ring road, the building will adhere to green building standards, aiming for the highest LEED certification and low carbon footprint. The HSIC, which will be accessible to everyone, will incorporate a geothermal system to support sustainable heating and cooling.

The building, overlooking the scenic Kennebecasis River, will contain public, as well as quieter, private spaces. In addition to active learning classrooms, the HSIC will come with a suite of flexible spaces that can be used as faculty offices, conference rooms, or group study rooms. There will also be a large multi-purpose room paired with a teaching kitchen used to promote healthy eating.

The area south of the HSIC will honour New Brunswick's Indigenous history and UNB's commitment to truth and reconciliation through a healing garden. This space will honour and share Indigenous ways of knowing and healing.

A portrait of a man with short, dark, curly hair and a bright smile, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark suit jacket. A colorful patterned pocket square is visible in his jacket pocket. The background is dark and out of focus.

RESTORING THE JOY OF MOVEMENT

BRENDAN SHEEHAN
(BSc'05)

100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

Though no day is ever the same for Saint John orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Brendan Sheehan (BSc'05), each is driven by his passion for helping to restore a patient's function back to doing the activities they love.

When he's not at home caring for his two children, Brendan can either be found in his office reviewing referrals and talking to his patients about their injuries, treatments and diagnoses or in the operating room at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he may perform up to four to five operations a day.

"My sub-specialty is orthopaedic sports medicine. So, focusing on arthroscopy and minimally invasive surgeries to do things like ACL reconstructions and shoulder stabilizations for people who dislocate their shoulders or have rotator cuff tears."

Brendan treats a range of patients, including young athletes at various levels of sport, from high school to university to professional leagues. He smiles when he adds that he also treats injuries for the "weekend warriors."

"I love the ability to restore function to people. Particularly young athletes who get injured and have been removed from their ability to participate in the activities they identify themselves with."

"There's huge psycho-social implications for them. Things like depression, anxiety, loss of identity, in addition to the physical disability they have. It's amazing when you see someone that has had a debilitating injury and then a year or two later, they're back playing the sport that they love."

In addition to his day-to-day profession and active medical research, Brendan is

"There are huge psycho-social implications for them. Things like depression, anxiety, and loss of identity, in addition to the physical disability they have. It's amazing when you see someone who has had a debilitating injury, and then a year or two later, they're back playing the sport that they love."

a member of the executive committee for the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and the Arthroscopy Association of Canada. His leadership in the medical field comes as no surprise, given that Brendan was a longstanding and engaged leader in the community during his time at UNB Saint John.

Throughout his academic studies in the faculty of science, Brendan volunteered with the Students' Representative Council, led the Shinerama fundraising campaign, played as a member of the Seawolves men's volleyball team and travelled the world as a representative for the World University Service of Canada.

In addition to receiving the Arthur and Sandra Irving Primrose Scholarship in 2001, Brendan received the Alumni Student Leadership Award in 2003 and 2004 for his remarkable involvement. He is still one of the few to receive it twice.

As he reflects on his time at UNB, Brendan describes his experience as

invaluable. He says the interactions and skills learned at UNB have prepared him to become a leader in his field today.

"UNB Saint John taught me all sorts of lessons about leadership, how to become an engaged member of the community and how to interact with people. It taught me passion, empathy, and balance between athletics, academics and extracurricular activities. I can't imagine I would have gotten that at any other school."

Brendan, along with Dr. Dana Hanson (BSc'70, DSc'10), is working to raise awareness of the important role of the Integrated Health Initiative to the future of health care in the province. ■

Equity in action

From housing instability and infant food insecurity to systemic barriers that keep communities in poverty, three UNB alumni are tackling the root causes. Through evidence-based policy, community collaboration, and a focus on long-term change, they're redesigning the systems meant to support us all.



Fighting to end homelessness in Newfoundland and Labrador

Doug Pawson (MPhil'07) describes himself as a systems-based thinker focused on social impact. As executive director of End Homelessness St. John's, he's been on the front lines as the housing problem in Newfoundland and Labrador's capital city has rapidly grown over the last few years, just like it has in many cities across Canada.

When asked if systems thinking and design can end homelessness, food insecurity and poverty, he answers with a resounding "yes."

"By rethinking our systems and pursuing change using data and integrating across all levels of government and communities, we can intervene earlier and actually reach our goal of ending homelessness. But we can't make real headway independently of each other. Front line service providers, outreach teams, agencies, landlords, and municipal, provincial and federal governments need to coordinate resources and measure progress toward shared community goals in the same way. When we carefully plan various components together and integrate our systems, we see real results."

Doug says they are already seeing some success in Newfoundland. In early 2025, federal and provincial governments invested \$2 million to address the root causes of homelessness in Newfoundland and Labrador by constructing a micro-home pilot project and working with End Homelessness St. John's to provide wrap-around support to individuals living in the homes. In 2024, Doug's organization partnered with the provincial government for another Transitional Supportive Living Initiative that includes an on-site health clinic and life skills development to help transition from homelessness to more stable housing long-term.

"Good social policy is good economic policy. When we make investments in strong social policy, strong education policy, we're going to have better community and economic outcomes. Investments in people and communities pay off."

"These developments are exciting because collaboration across levels of government and the community is essential to achieving lasting change. This kind of focus on long-term results instead of band-aid solutions within a broken system is how we can help our neighbours not just survive but thrive."

But Doug says these programs are just the beginning. "We need to re-imagine our social safety net and prioritize new ways of supporting individuals, families and seniors. We need a living wage. We need paid sick days. We need to reform our social assistance programs. Good social policy is good economic policy. When we make investments in strong social policy, strong education policy, we're going to have better community and economic outcomes. Investments in people and communities pay off."

He has the experience to know what he's talking about. Before his current role with End Homelessness St. John's, Doug held progressive roles at community economic development organizations in Ottawa that provided pre-employment and employment programs and services to persons living with disabilities, mental health and addictions barriers, youth and persons who live in poverty. He also worked in micro-financing as an alternative lending solution to support entrepreneurs with mental health issues in gaining access to startup funds. His academic studies also focused on gaining knowledge and skills related to social policy, economics and development.

"I loved the interdisciplinary nature of the program at UNB. I bring that kind of integrated, multidisciplinary thinking to the challenges of poverty and homelessness. Nothing that gets done in isolation will end poverty. It has to be a permeation across all levels to provide a system of care and move the needle."

Addressing food insecurity for Canada's youngest population

When the infant formula shortage crisis hit Canada and the United States in 2022, it revealed a vulnerability of the industrial food system - and distanced us from the United Nations' Zero Hunger goal.

For Dr. Lesley Frank (PhD'13), Acadia University's Canada Research Chair in food, health and social justice, responding to the crisis - and tackling the broader problem of food insecurity for families in Canada - was not new. Her research over more than 10 years showed that formula and breastfeeding are part of a larger unsustainable food system made worse for families who are also experiencing economic hardship.

In her 2020 book *Out of Milk: Infant Food Insecurity in a Rich Nation*, she explored “the breastfeeding paradox - that those who are least able to afford formula are also most likely to use it.” Her work found that “the sustainability of any food system is determined by whether the producers of a given item can afford to feed themselves and aren’t suffering economic hardship. Breastfeeding infants becomes unsustainable if the producer (the mother) has no economic protection for the labour required.”

Lesley has been intimately involved in trying to alleviate poverty and food insecurity for decades, first on the front lines of community outreach programs in the Annapolis Valley and then as an academic, producing evidence-based research to put in front of decision and policymakers. While studying for a master’s degree at Acadia University and still working for a local non-profit, she coordinated one of Canada’s first prenatal nutrition programs, a community-based project to address the nutritional needs of those who were pregnant and children in infancy. She also played a pivotal role in creating an annual report card on child and family poverty in Nova Scotia, something she’s continued for the last 25 years.

She then moved to Fredericton to obtain a PhD in sociology at UNB while a single mother of four. “I had been working with families in crisis for a number of years, and it was becoming overwhelming. The unanswered

questions I saw on a daily basis in the community haunted me, so I decided to get a PhD so that I would have the credentials and evidence to put in front of decision makers and hopefully find some answers.”

“I had a great package of financial support to study at UNB, and I loved it there. It’s where I began my examination of food insecurity among infants and came to the conclusion that the solutions lie in creating the economic and social conditions necessary for optimal infant feeding, such as ensuring families have access to adequate parental leave, and other income supports.”

Lesley moved home and continued her work at Acadia University as a professor of sociology, focusing on family poverty and food insecurity, and in 2021, was named Canada Research Chair. Her research has established family and early childhood food insecurity as an urgent nutrition, health and social equity problem in Canada, requiring enhanced monitoring and national action. She and her research team are developing survey tools and analyzing food insecurity’s causes and social impacts. They are also collaborating with other academics and community stakeholders to support policies that will strengthen the well-being of all Canadians.

She’s already had some success. “Improvements are happening, and

I believe the research is making an impact. For instance, starting in 2025, Nova Scotia’s income assistance program will be indexed to inflation, meaning that payments increase annually based on the consumer price index. That’s an important step that finally happened because of our persistence and an evidence-based approach. With evidence, we can collectively hold governments to account to force evidence-based policy making.”

She’s become an international leader in disseminating food insecurity research and policy analysis and has been called to present to governing bodies around the globe. “It’s policies and better social supports that will solve food insecurity. While food banks and community outreach programs are necessary when people are in crisis, it takes public interventions like enhancements to child benefit programs, better maternity leave programs, increased seniors’ pensions, and better student loan/bursary programs to eliminate the problem.”

Lesley affirms that she will doggedly keep working for change. “With this type of sociology, we always link people’s everyday experiences to the research we put in front of decision-makers. We need more evidence-based policymaking. I’m very persistent. I’m doing this for my community and my neighbours - that’s what drives me.”

“The solutions lie in creating the economic and social conditions necessary for optimal infant feeding ...”

Redesigning our systems to work for humans

Scott MacAfee (BBA'94) has been working on the difficult challenge of poverty in Canada for over 25 years: first with the Government of New Brunswick at the department of social development and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, then as chair of Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty since 2019.

He's learned a few things over that time but says the most important may be that poverty is about systemic inequity - and has little to do with individuals.

"It's not about people doing something wrong. Poverty is often generational, hard to escape, or caused by systemic issues at some level. System inequity often keeps people down - especially women, minorities, people with disabilities and rural residents. Plus, Canadians are experiencing increased costs of living and inflation, increased mental health and addictions challenges, but wages, social supports, and health supports have not kept up. Poverty is a systems challenge, and individuals, families and communities are left to deal with it."

Scott says the National Advisory Council on Poverty is working with governments and communities to rethink our policies, systems and supports. "We do a lot of travel to communities across Canada to talk with front line organizations and people experiencing poverty. We bring back data, as well as stories and then provide advice to the minister of families, children and social development. We take what we learn, make recommendations and advocate for policy change."

The council's latest annual report - its poverty reduction strategy - has outlined six tangible recommendations to address higher

"We often get caught up in making systems stronger and more efficient but end up taking the human element out of them. We can instead design our systems to work for humans."

living costs, increase food security, improve access to benefits and delivery of supports, and enable equity for marginalized groups.

Scott is a big proponent of putting individuals first and caring for each other. "When everyone - individuals, communities, governments - come together to share what we have to support one another, we can thrive. Safe and healthy communities are created by caring for one another and sharing our privilege. People don't like paying taxes, but they're just an investment in each other. When we care about each other, positive things happen."

While he's concerned about the rapid rise in poverty, he's also hopeful.

"These are our systems, so if there's enough public effort, coupled with political courage, we can change them. We can position policy to be on the lead as opposed to following behind rising needs. We can enable a care-based society and improve systems so they work for everyone. We often get caught up in making systems stronger and more efficient but end up taking the human element out of them. We can instead design our systems to work for humans."

Scott, a native of Fredericton who still works from the capital city, affirms that his hometown is a great example of what a diverse, thriving, caring community can look like. "Fredericton is experiencing issues the same as every city right now, but we have individuals making a

difference, healthy food and shelter programs making a difference, and community policies and investment making a difference. We need to continue, together, to share and to advocate for governmental social investment (which is sharing) so that we can continue to see positive results in reducing poverty. We're in this together." ■

A portrait of a Black man with a beard, wearing a black suit jacket with a gold pocket square, against a red background. He is looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile.

HELPING NEWCOMERS FIND THEIR STRIDE

TOSIN AJIBOLA
(MTME'20)

100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

Social and technology entrepreneur Tosin Ajibola (MTME'20) moved from Nigeria to Canada to earn a master of engineering degree in technology management and entrepreneurship from UNB. Out of that hands-on program, he and other newcomer classmates co-developed Welkom-U, an innovative online platform that puts newcomers, immigrants, and international students in touch with the things they need to survive and thrive. As CEO of Welkom-U, Tosin is focused on solving problems through technology and making a social impact.

He is a member of the Atlantic Growth Solutions team, and he serves on the board of Venn Innovation, the board of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce and the advisory board at Social Enterprise World Forum. He also leads the Atlantic Canada Chapter of BlackBoysCode, a non-profit organization that aims to improve the future of young Black boys through computer science and technology. And he's been getting noticed. He was named a Top 30 Under 30 Innovator in Atlantic Canada in 2021, a Top 25 Canadian Immigrant in 2022 and Top Youth Immigrant in Canada in 2022.

One of the hosts of the UNBeknownst podcast, Katie Davey (BA'17), caught up with Tosin while visiting family back home in Lagos, Nigeria, to chat about challenges for newcomers to Canada and how he's using technology as a solution.

Katie: What was your experience moving to a new country? Was it what you expected?

Tosin: I tell a lot of people this. You can almost never be too prepared for it because it's a brand new life. You leave your friends, you leave your family, you leave a lot of the different things that you're used to, even food. So, there's a learning process, and sometimes it can be very overwhelming. I had a lot of help and I'm grateful for all the help that I had trying to settle down in. It was good because there are a lot of really nice people. I mean, Fredericton, frankly, has my heart right now because so many people made it a lot easier for me to transition into the city, into the culture.

"We noticed that so many people, so many Canadian companies, want to work with newcomers, but they need to establish an identity here first."

Katie: How are people using your business, Welkom-U?

Tosin: The last year [2024] has actually been somewhat of a restructuring phase for us because the first two years of operation, we realized that, yes, we're trying to help newcomers settle in, but there's a lot of information that is also required, from identity, social identity, to financial identity. Because there's some level of risk attached to doing business with the newcomer that doesn't have, maybe a credit score history in Canada. So, the last two years, we were able to do some of this verification, starting with Nigeria and India. We noticed that so many people, so many Canadian companies, want to work with newcomers, but they need to establish an identity here first. Newcomers were struggling for the first two or three months, so what we did was build the products that help verify social and financial profile in your home country. We find all that history and we're able to translate that through models that we're able to build in-house to the Canadian standard and give some form of guarantee to landlords, employers, banks, etc. This year we had three customers able to close on houses.

Now, Welkom-U has three pillars: the first pillar being identifying who these newcomers are. The second is helping them settle, and the final one is making sure they're still within the community and understand more around what the Canadian culture is like through different programming, through different events here and sharing what their own experience is.


Katie: Well, that's amazing. I'm struck by the fact that you in some ways have come back to the fintech space. Tell me a little bit about why it's so important to be doing

that integration and retention work and what that looks like?

Tosin: It's very important to the growth of our region and the progress of New Brunswick as a whole. What we realize is that a lot of newcomers coming into Canada want stability. So, the quicker access we can help these newcomers get to, the more likely it is that they stay. We look at Welkom-U as the Amazon for newcomers, where you come to us for literally anything you need, and we go out to the right organization, the right group that can help you achieve it because we understand your side as a newcomer. And we also understand being a Canadian business. We think the work we do is very important.

Katie: Yeah, it's such a great point. One thing that is on my mind a bit in this context is you're also square in the middle of this growing social enterprise movement in the region and really kind of ensuring that the socio-economic growth is just as important as the economic growth in the region. So, tell me a little bit about your reflection of being a business for good.

Tosin: You know I've realized that I get way more satisfaction from seeing the results in terms of the social gain than the financial gain. New Brunswick is trying to get to the growth that they want to achieve and I look at this as an opportunity to give back because of the help that I got setting up my company and getting comfortable in the region. Canada has the nicest people, you know, so just being part of the growth from a social standpoint, growing communities, bringing different people together so that you learn from one another - that's what gives me so much satisfaction when I see the impact we can make. ■



Preparing the NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Jen Woodland is reshaping health care in N.B. by turning research and education into action

Dr. Jen Woodland (MA'09, PhD'15) doesn't just study health problems – she solves them – and she is teaching the next generation of health professionals to do the same.

As a researcher with UNB's Integrated Health Initiative (IHI) and a professor in the bachelor of health program, Jen is a driving force behind the university's bold mission to transform health research, education and care across the province.

Her approach to research is pragmatic and hands-on: identify the gaps, dive into the data, uncover the best solutions and then help put those solutions into action. It is research with purpose and it is focused on producing meaningful outcomes for

the people of New Brunswick – a mindset she is passing on to bachelor of health students.

“My formal education is much different from the work I do now. I studied experimental psychology – specifically human sensation, perception and how our senses work together – but I always had this sense that the work could be useful in real-world contexts, especially in health care.”

While her early research focused on an area without an immediate practical application, Jen saw how it could eventually lead to real solutions. That instinct became the foundation of her work today.

After earning her PhD in experimental psychology from UNB, Jen joined Horizon Health Network, where she helped integrate research into medical training and clinical practice. In this role, she worked closely with health-care providers and students, building programs that supported applied health research in fast-paced clinical environments. This work laid the groundwork for the integrated, solutions-driven approach she now brings to UNB.

For Jen, simply generating knowledge isn't enough. The real challenge lies in making that knowledge accessible and applicable in real-world settings.

“We are reimagining how information is shared. We are making sure the right

people, in the right context, can use the information to make change.”

That means translating findings into accessible language for policymakers, clinicians and service providers, so they can make informed decisions and ultimately improve care and outcomes of health.

Jen’s approach is the very embodiment of the IHI’s effort to address complex health challenges by merging research, education and community health. As one of the initiative’s key researchers, she leads efforts to ensure that academic research translates into practical, community-driven solutions.

“We are producing research and finding ways to improve health-care outcomes in New Brunswick. We are working directly with communities, clinicians and students to identify needs, conduct relevant research and ensure those findings are put into practice.”

In her role as a professor, Jen is training the next generation of health-care professionals to approach health research critically, strategically and with a solutions-oriented mindset.

“The way we approach problems, the way we collaborate, the way we think about solutions – it is all about impact. I want to show students how they can have that same impact in their careers.”

She and her students regularly produce actionable guidelines, policy briefs and other resources that help service providers evaluate their work and deliver better care. Work that has an immediate, tangible impact on the province’s health-care system.

“The stakes are real. The work we do isn’t just theory – it directly affects New Brunswickers.”

One such project of impact Jen and her team are currently working on is viable

treatment management plans for kids living with asthma in New Brunswick.

She and her team are applying basic science principles from psychology to explore the barriers that make sticking to existing treatment plans difficult. Based on this research, they are developing actionable, evidence-based interventions that will improve patients’ lives.

“This touches on all aspects of research. From basic to applied science, it has implications for multiple pillars of health including academic and industry.”

Alongside her role at UNB, Jen serves on the board of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation, which keeps her connected to the health-care system’s ever-changing needs. This connection is vital to the bachelor of health’s mission of integrating research with practical, real-world solutions.

Within the IHI, her innovative approach is a testament to the power of collaborative, applied research and education that prioritizes real-world impact. Through her work in the classroom and beyond, she is shaping the future of health care in New Brunswick and ensuring the next generation of health professionals is equipped to meet the challenges ahead.” ■

“The way we approach problems, the way we collaborate, the way we think about solutions – it is all about impact. I want to show students how they can have that same impact in their careers.”

A portrait of Josie McKinney, a woman with dark curly hair, smiling, wearing a black top and red earrings. The background is a solid red color.

REFORMING SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE

JOSIE MCKINNEY
(BPhil'04)

100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

Josie McKinney (BPhil'04) came by her dedication to community and Indigenous issues naturally. Her mother, Patsy McKinney (BPhil'07), has always been a passionate organizer and advocate in the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities. Josie had grown up taking part in daily conversations about politics and rights issues around the kitchen table in her Harvey, N.B., home. "My whole extended family have been leaders in Indigenous issues. My upbringing has been the driving force behind my choices."

Those choices led Josie to become a leader in the criminal justice system and public service, serving as Nova Scotia's first Crown attorney dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking offences and currently as acting executive director of the Nova Scotia Status of Women office, the government office focused on achieving gender equality by eliminating gender-based violence and improving women's economic security and leadership opportunities.

"Nova Scotia has the highest rate of human trafficking in Canada. African Nova Scotians and Indigenous people are overrepresented victims of human trafficking. I have the opportunity to consult with the community and work with sexually exploited women and girls. Tackling systemic discrimination and injustice is a passion of mine, and to be able to take a leadership position on these issues is exciting."

After graduating from UNB, she attended the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University because of the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq Initiative. "It was a life-altering community. The support I received was amazing." One of Josie's summer jobs during law school was at a Crown attorney's office, and during that time, it hit her. "I never thought I would actually practice law, but being there – whoa – I just knew that's what I wanted to do."

Josie articulated with the Nova Scotia department of justice and public prosecution service. She then got the opportunity to be part of a pilot project as an Indigenous staff lawyer at the University of Ottawa legal clinic and

develop this new position to serve the needs of the underrepresented in the community.

In 2011, she was appointed Crown attorney in the Yarmouth office of Nova Scotia's Public Prosecution Service, moving to the Halifax office in 2018. She's also a member of the Public Prosecution Service Sexual Assault Working Group and the Equity and Diversity Committee. She is the primary author of the prosecution service's recently issued policy, Fair Treatment of Indigenous Peoples in Criminal Prosecutions in Nova Scotia.

She began the role of Crown attorney dedicated to prosecuting human trafficking offences in the summer of 2020, and her latest post at the Nova Scotia Status of Women office in 2023. "These were opportunities to combine my interests and experience. I get to weigh different experiences in society and justice and do better for the public interest."

As she was going through school and building her career, the conversations with her mom about these issues never stopped. During this time, Patsy made a decision that would change her life and help her become even more of a leader within the larger community.

"I remember it was a sunny day in April, and Josie suggested that I apply to Renaissance College. I wasn't sure at first. Finances were tight and I didn't even know how to work a computer."

Patsy remembers that some of it was very tough. "I failed the math and economics pre-requisite both semesters, and I was ready to quit. Josie said something that changed my mind: 'Are you quitting because you failed or failing because you're quitting?' I stayed and made it work and had an amazing experience."

Patsy is the executive director at Under One Sky Head Start and Friendship Centre in Fredericton, which provides programs and services to the urban Aboriginal community and offers a safe place to come together to celebrate Indigenous culture in an atmosphere of trust, respect and friendship. The centre is also a provider of Aboriginal Head Start early

childhood education – and Patsy served as chair of the National Aboriginal Head Start Council (NAHSC) for four years. She is part of the executive committee of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) Atlantic Research Centre, UNB and the UAKN National Network Council. She sits on the board of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC), is a lifetime member of the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) and is a member of the UNB Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre Council of Elders. In 2019, she was appointed to the Federal Expert Panel on Early Learning and Childcare Data Research.

"My work directly feeds into how our communities can remedy systemic discrimination."

Josie and Patsy say they've worked hard, and that timing and luck have influenced both paths. "The opportunities came for me at the right times," Josie reflects. "I was able to build something new in Ottawa and move into a career as a Crown attorney when that space had yet to have an Indigenous voice in it."

"We've been talking about these things for 500 years now. We need the action part."

Both women are intent on helping spur action on Indigenous issues in Canada. "Politicians say they want to change the relationship, but they don't actually do anything," Patsy asserts. "We've been talking about these things for 500 years now. We need the action part. Indigenous and other racialized people are overrepresented in prison and unemployment and suicide rates. Systemic racism and, poverty and ill-health are killing Indigenous people. We're still at the bottom of the socio-economic heap."

Josie adds, "We're at a critical point right now in peak social awareness. I'm excited by that, but we need to take awareness and translate it into structural change. We need to do justice to lives lost. That's the hard work. To change institutions like the criminal justice system, family court system, education, and health care requires everyone to own responsibility. We need to rewrite policy and change laws and educate people differently." ■

HONOURING OUR BEST

2025 Proudly UNB Award Recipients

On April 11, UNB's Associated Alumni celebrated the 2025 Proudly UNB Awards recipients at a ceremony in Saint John. These alumni have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their alma mater, their communities and beyond. The recipients were honoured by their supporters, fellow alumni, former classmates, and members of the UNB community.



ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes the significant contributions made by UNB alumni in their local communities and beyond for which they have been recognized regionally, nationally or internationally.

Paula C. Copeland

Paula C. Copeland (BA'93) is strategic adviser to the CEO at Port Saint John. She is also a global leader in port engagement and plays a pivotal role in driving inclusive initiatives that prioritize Indigenous relations, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. A committed community volunteer, Paula dedicates her time to the Harbour Lights Campaign and the Saint John Seafarers' Mission.



Jason H. Court

Jason H. Court (BBA'09) has received extensive recognition in the insurance industry. He is the president of the Insurance Professional's Association of New Brunswick, director of the Insurance Institute of Canada and a panellist for insurance education in Atlantic Canada. He is a longtime board member of PRO Kids Saint John, supporting the financial needs of youth participation in sports, arts, recreation and culture activities.



Mary R. Dable Arab

Mary R. Dable Arab (BBA'93), president and owner of BARA Management Group, is a trailblazer in business and philanthropy. She is a top Canadian fundraiser for Arthritis Canada and a patient adviser with the Paediatric Faculty of Rheumatology at the IWK. Mary sits on several community boards and has received the 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Platinum Jubilee Community Hero Award. She inspired the launch of "Women on the Move," where she invested in emerging female leaders, and continues to lecture and mentor business owners today.



Li Song

Li Song (C-TEL'07, BEd/BA'08) is an extraordinary champion for UNB and her community of Saint John, having received several awards and recognitions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, for her work with PRUDE Inc., her volunteerism within the multicultural community in support of immigrants, diversity and inclusion, and her work as a Realtor®.



Kathy L. Whynot

Kathy L. Whynot (BEd'09, C-TFL'18, MEd'19) has made significant contributions across various sectors and departments in her professional career and through her extensive board volunteer work. She has led the development of six provincial curricula for teaching English as an additional language, created five online courses, and produced six additional asynchronous modules for educators. Kathy also spearheaded an innovative program for high school newcomers and helped establish the first support teacher position for English as an additional language – the first of its kind in Canada.



YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Recognizes the outstanding achievements of
UNB alumni who are 35 years old or younger.*

Niko C. Coady

Niko C. Coady (BA'22) is an activist and leader in sexual and gender-based violence prevention. A published social justice writer with organizations such as the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment, Niko has worked with Women and Gender Equality Canada to develop a gender-based violence prevention toolkit for youth. She is also a contractor through Safe Workspaces PEI, and facilitates workplace harassment and violence prevention training for organizations across Canada, and currently works for the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.



Christena M. Curry

Christena M. Curry (BRSS'16, MASRS'22) has dedicated over 15 years to the recreation and sports sector, playing a pivotal role in crafting a strategic plan for First Nation communities across Nova Scotia. Her contributions have earned her a place in the Mi'kmaq Sports Hall of Fame. Through her work with Millbrook First Nation, she spearheaded a home gardening pilot project that has significantly improved food security and removed financial barriers for more than 65 households.



Jordan J. MacDonald

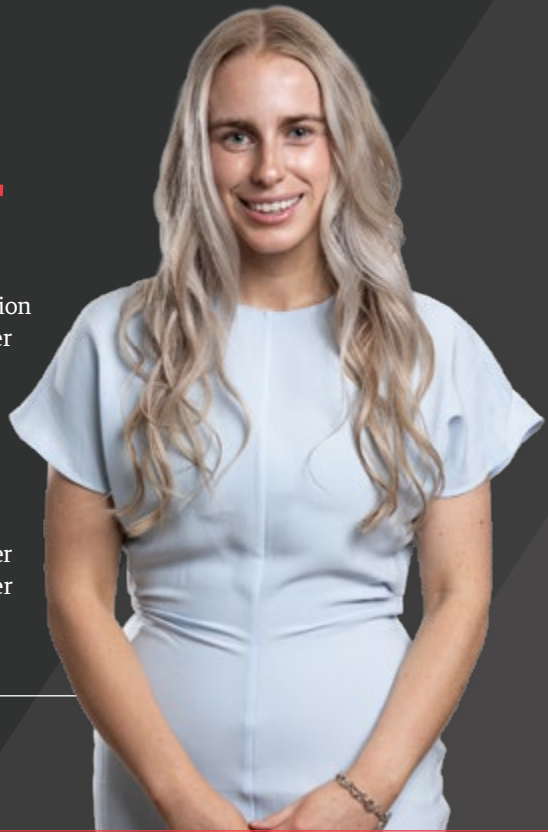
Jordan J. MacDonald (BA'21) is a UNB PhD candidate in experimental psychology and the founder and director of Adapt for Education, a nonprofit helping young parents complete high school and transition into post-secondary education or training. His SSHRC-funded doctoral research explores the lifelong outcomes of teen parenthood and develops evidence-based strategies to support young families, and his broad range of volunteer contributions spans academic, social, and community-based initiatives supporting marginalized communities.



Natasha J. Vatcher

Natasha J. Vatcher (BSc'22) has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to community service through various impactful initiatives. Her decade-long sustainable project, which provides knitted hats to those experiencing homelessness, earned her the prestigious Rising Youth Community Service Grant. Natasha also serves on the Opal Fredericton board, where she works to improve access to specialized services for rural families.

During her undergraduate years, she also founded UNBCares, further showcasing her passion for helping others and building stronger communities.



**SAVE
THE DATE** 

2026 PUNB CELEBRATION

APRIL 10, 2026 • FREDERICTON

VISIT [UNB.CA/PROUDLYUNB](https://unb.ca/proudlyunb)

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an alumni volunteer who has contributed to the university and/or the alumni association either as a member of an alumni group or individually.

Doug L. Johnson

Doug L. Johnson (BSCE'74, MScCE'79) has been a passionate advocate of UNB for 50 years as the driving force behind the civil engineering class of 1974. Doug has led the organizing of class reunions every five years and the establishment of a class scholarship for UNB engineering students, which will now provide two scholarships of \$1,000 per year, and has continued to tirelessly encourage class fundraising efforts.



ALUMNI GROUP OF THE YEAR



The UNB Alumni Ottawa Chapter Network is one of the association's oldest and most active chapters. Led by a dedicated group of volunteer leaders, the chapter committee is committed to fostering connections and contributing to the life of the university through several annual alumni events, fundraising for the Ottawa Alumni Chapter Thomas Foulkes Sr. Scholarship, and serving as community contacts for alumni who are new to the Ottawa region.



LISTENING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Stephen VanSlyke equips health-care providers to address suicidality with compassion

With nearly 40 years as a mental health nurse, including front line ER work, UNB nursing professor Stephen VanSlyke (BN'87, D-ADM'95, MN'02) is committed to addressing human suffering and reducing suicides. The latest project he is involved in – a three-hour online module “Talking About Suicide: Empowering Health-Care Providers, Instilling Hope in Clients” – helps nurses, physicians and other health-care professionals evaluate suicide risk, build trust with at-risk clients and develop short-term mitigation approaches.

The course, which was developed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada and CHA Learning (HealthCareCAN) “help[s] to draw people into the reality of how this [suicide] can affect very silently,” says Stephen. “Many people who struggle with suicidality hide their suffering, leaving no breadcrumb trail to say, I’m about to do this. It’s not like a bone sticking through the skin, rather suicidality develops insidiously, making detection challenging.”

“It’s a bit like an iceberg. Sometimes the person doesn’t present with suicidality, but it’s underlying – it’s in the background.” For instance, someone seeking medical detox or help with a foot infection may also suffer from underlying depression and suicidality, points out Stephen. The course, which touches on the pervasiveness of suicidality, also addresses chronic suicidality. As he explains, for some people, suicidal thoughts are a constant presence, never totally disappearing but only fluctuating in intensity.

UNDERSTANDING THE DEEPER STRUGGLES OF PATIENTS

Overall, the hidden signs of suicide vary significantly, although feeling trapped and hopeless is often present, says Stephen, who teaches mental health challenges and clinical courses in mental health nursing at UNB. “Suffering does exist. Mental illness does exist. Some people live with depression and other people live with catastrophic insults that leave them without a sense of hope.” He

adds that the risk of suicide increases in people who have experienced intergenerational trauma, adverse childhood events or chronic illness.

The course, which includes a reference to cultural competency, addresses working with Indigenous people, many of whom have experienced historical and generational losses and/or been harmed by the mental health system, he says. As well, the course discusses working with newcomers, who may have experienced trauma before they arrived in Canada and who also may come with a different perspective around suicide.

Because there are no obvious “red flags,” an intentional and open assessment of suicide is key, says Stephen, who worked to help develop a Certificate in Mental Health stream for undergraduate nursing students. He encourages professionals to ask a few respectful and caring questions that reach beyond the surface of a patient’s presenting issues – for instance, exploring how lack of sleep affects a patient’s daily life rather than

solely treating their sleep problems. Using empathetic communication is key when caring for patients who are marginalized, such as opioid users or the vulnerably housed, he says, adding that mental illness or substance use can alter a person's ability to cope. In his view, a simple act of kindness and caring can often help doctors and nurses understand the deeper struggles of their patients.

Stephen also points out that some people believe that asking for help creates a burden on others and is a sign of failure. Although depression and suicide are talked about more openly these days, they still remain highly stigmatized, he says. "When people die by suicide, it's complicated to word the obituary. It's complicated to know how to celebrate that person's life. It's complicated to know how to work into the school system if that person is a child."

BUILDING SAFE SPACES FOR PATIENTS, STUDENTS AND PROVIDERS

Not only do clinicians need to create safety for patients who experience suicidality, but instructors need to ensure that students who are learning about suicide feel emotionally safe. "People don't come with a blank sheet of paper about suicide. We all have been touched by suicide. I have people in my family and colleagues who have experienced suicidality, and I've worked with people who have died by suicide."

Instructors can create emotional safety for students by explaining what to expect in a session and then debriefing afterwards, he says. He stresses that instructors should normalize and desensitize the topic – perhaps by explaining how they themselves have been impacted by suicide.

Although "Talking About Suicide" is a self-directed course, one of the sections validates the common tensions practitioners may have about discussing suicide and presents ways to address those concerns. In addition, the course includes a section on self-care and emphasizes the importance of practitioners collaborating with others once they realize a patient is at risk. Participants are also made aware of local resources for suicidal people and toolkits for the helpers themselves.

Stephen would like course participants to come away with a greater understanding about the complexity of suicide and a recognition of the shared responsibility of health-care providers in addressing suicide and instilling hope in clients. Another goal is for health-care professionals to appreciate that they can interrupt suicidality by performing skillful assessments and compassionately engaging with patients. ■

"Many people who struggle with suicidality hide their suffering, leaving no breadcrumb trail to say, I'm about to do this. It's not like a bone sticking through the skin."



A portrait of Natasha Lee, a Black woman with short, grey hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red long-sleeved top and a red and black striped scarf. The scarf has the text "XUNB" and "Proudly UNB" printed on it. She has tattoos on her arms and is wearing a watch and rings. The background is a solid red color.

SOWING SEEDS OF GROWTH

NATASHA LEE
(BEd'16, MEd'20)

100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

Natasha Lee (BEd'16, MEd'20) seems to have boundless energy. She's acting vice-principal of the Exchange R.C. School in her home of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the 4-H Leaders Council of Trinidad and Tobago, secretary of the 4-H Caribbean Council, treasurer of County Caroni 4-H Voluntary Leaders Council, and a dedicated volunteer in numerous organizations in her community.

She also returned to school to complete her bachelor of education and master of education degrees from UNB, all while working and volunteering full time and raising her son.

Natasha says she was raised to help others without a second thought. "My parents were both teachers and were very giving to their community. I remember when I was very young, there was an accident at school, and a young child was hurt very badly. My father scooped him up and took him in his arms to the health centre without a second thought. That always stuck with me. It's important to give back at any opportunity, no matter how small. It makes an impact."

She adds that she's been blessed with many opportunities to help.

Natasha has been teaching since she was 18 years old. When the opportunity to attend university presented itself, she enrolled in UNB's bachelor of education program in 2012 under the ROYTEC-UWI banner. "UNB offered virtual courses with 1-2 weeks of face-to-face lectures with UNB lecturers right here in Trinidad, and that worked well for me as I needed to keep teaching." Her husband, Clint Lee (BEd'17), also studied in the program at the same time. Natasha completed a master of education at UNB four years later, earning double designation degrees in leadership and management and curriculum and instruction.

Natasha has also long been involved in 4-H in Trinidad and Tobago and has

"Our success is due to a lot of outreach. Our goal is to grow nationally, regionally and internationally, and we believe that to do that, we need to motivate teachers to become involved and volunteer."

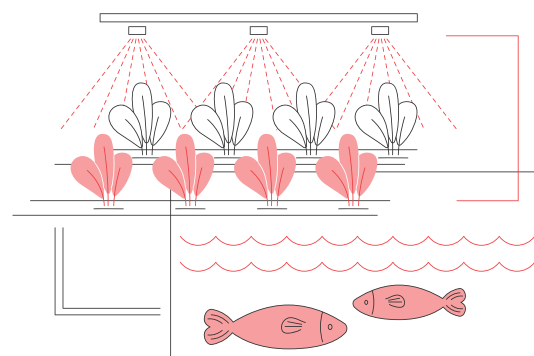
deepened that commitment over the past 20 years. Her mantra is, "Eat what you grow and grow what you eat." She has introduced aquaponics to several schools and encourages students island-wide to see the value and potential of farming and eating local. She hosts an Eat Local Day annually and even has her own YouTube channel, which she uses to promote local produce.

Under her leadership, 4-H club membership has nearly tripled, with revenues growing and new projects being implemented, all with active learning as the core element. Students in 180 schools across Trinidad and Tobago have been given the opportunity to become involved in growing plants in their schools through hydroponics, aquaponics and vertical planting. They've also been given the tools and knowledge to build backyard gardens, participate in beach clean-ups and manage recycling and composting bins.

"Our success is due to a lot of outreach. Our goal is to grow nationally, regionally and internationally, and we believe that to do that, we need to motivate teachers to become involved and volunteer. We worked with the ministry of education to give teachers one day off/month to access training, which they, in turn, use to teach the 4-H curriculum at schools, and it's been helping to get teachers to volunteer their time. We also make sure to provide them with help on the ground - it's all about caring for our teachers and making our programs accessible to everyone."

Natasha says that 4-H has had so much success in Trinidad and Tobago she's now helping other islands in the Caribbean with their own efforts to grow the movement. "Food insecurity is a big issue, and our focus on youth means kids can see where their food is coming from and appreciate fresh foods instead of imported produce. It also gets kids outside, stimulates their learning and gives them a sense of community. It works and has a big impact over time."

With so much activity and accomplishment, it would be easy to assume Natasha is ready to rest. But that's not the case. "There is a greater force driving me, and I've learned to listen to it. It's telling me to keep going, assist even more on a regional level and international level. Listening has always done me well." ■





On the front lines of **forest health**

Dr. Jakub Olesinski (PhD'11) has a cool job. As forest health specialist for Parks Canada, he spends a lot of time in a helicopter flying over the mountain preserve forests of British Columbia and Alberta, looking for disturbances and ways to mitigate them.

It's both exciting and challenging work. Jakub was on the ground when the catastrophic Jasper National Park fire ripped through the town of Jasper and surrounding forest land in the summer of 2024. "That was an unprecedented disaster that has unfortunately become our new reality. We have to be prepared for more events like the Jasper fire because the drying and warming trend we are experiencing in western and northern Canada is not going away. It's very stressful and makes this job even more critical."

Even with the stress, the job is a dream come true for Jakub, who imagined working in the forests of Canada since he was a boy in Poland reading books about the land. After a bachelor's degree, he worked for the Polish State Forests before coming to Canada as an international graduate student in the faculty of forestry and environmental management. "I was aware of the amazing program at UNB, and thanks to the efforts of Dr. Marek

Krasowski, I was able to fulfill my dream of coming to Canada to study and work in its forests."

While at UNB, Jakub studied below-ground ecophysiology, the physiological process of how trees change in response to climate and with varying environmental factors. "I looked at carbon cycling and how trees allocate carbon across their different parts, especially to fine roots, and how climate warming impacts that."

He says his research at UNB played a direct role in what he would ultimately go on to do. With a young family in tow, friends at UNB and in the Polish community in Fredericton were very supportive while he worked short-term contracts as a research associate for Natural Resources Canada, until an opportunity opened up in the Northwest Territories. In 2014, he and his family moved to Hay River, on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, where Jakub began

working as an ecosystem forester for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"It was an amazing opportunity and a huge challenge within a completely new environment. It's so different in the north - just the wildness and enormity of it - there are 80 million hectares of forest land. I was humbled by its pristine beauty, the vastness and remoteness. The forests up there are hard to manage because they are so inaccessible. But they are also completely ecologically driven in the north. People are very connected to the land, and the priorities are not driven by industry because there really is no forest industry there."

Jakub says his experience in climate change-related research and ecophysiology knowledge from UNB were huge assets to his work in the north. "Northern Canada is ground zero for climate change. I could see it directly impacting forests at a much faster pace than anywhere else in the country."



Submitted photo

Trees are dying from drought. Insect outbreaks are impacting large swaths of forests. Because of the warming climate, insect infestations are moving north to areas that have not seen this kind of disturbances before. Huge wildfire years are happening more frequently. And then there's the permafrost thawing - you get massive flooded areas next to dying areas because of drought. You don't have to be an expert to see what's happening."

He explains that when you zoom out to see how these types of disturbance regimes occurred historically in northern Canada, you can see that what's happening now is not normal. "The droughts, wildfires, floods and insect outbreaks are much more severe and happen more often now. It has an enormous impact on carbon cycling and storage. Forests in the north have always been a carbon sink - accumulating more carbon than they emit. That's still the case in a normal year, but in a big wildfire year, that's no longer true. Historically, we've had large wildfire years every 30 years or so. We've already had two record years in the past decade. So, if the interval is shorter now, we will see the shift from carbon sink to carbon source. It's very concerning because these northern forests have been one of the largest carbon reservoirs in the world."

During his time in the north, he was responsible for forest health, climate change adaptation and silviculture. "We had a small office, and we had to wear many hats in the north, yet we dealt with large-scale issues. It's a fascinating place

for ecologists and foresters to work. It was hugely stimulating, and I had the opportunity to collaborate with very interesting people, from Indigenous Elders to NASA scientists. I loved my time there."

In 2023, however, his dream job came calling. While in the Northwest Territories, Jakub was mentored by a forest health expert at the Canadian Forest Service in Alberta, who taught him the skills to map forest disturbances and severity while flying overhead in an aircraft. When his mentor retired, Jakub took the reins as forest health specialist overseeing forest health in the seven Canadian Rocky Mountain national parks along the Alberta-British Columbia border.

It's a big job: a critical position created in response to the critical need for consistent monitoring. "Park preserves used to be left alone for the climate to solve problems naturally. That's not possible any longer, as the climate is not the control agent it used to be. I monitor for disturbances and provide advice to Parks Canada to deal with risks."

There are, unfortunately, many risks.

"The mountain pine beetle in Jasper National Park and spruce beetle outbreaks in Glacier National Park were out of scale to any historical records. We have to decide what we can do to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate disasters like we saw in 2024 - and we have to do it quickly. Unfortunately, evacuations are now a new reality that communities are

going to have to continually face. Part of the problem is a very dense and mature forest, where historically it was a diverse mosaic of dense and non-dense areas. These densely packed forests create a challenge even if not disturbed. But, combined with disturbances of insect outbreaks modifying forests to become even more flammable, it can lead to catastrophic events. Recognizing the important ecological role of wildfire, Parks Canada has tried for years to apply controlled burns, but they are becoming more challenging because of shortened windows of safe application caused by increased heat, drought and winds. Monitoring, providing data and thinking ahead are now more important than ever."

Through it all, Jakub remains an optimist. "Science will always help if we trust it. We need to find ways of protecting our forests - which are very important to so many people for both home and work, as well as a critical habitat for countless species. Researchers are finding ways to make them more resilient, and as long as forests can regenerate, I'm hopeful. Forests do adapt, but it's slow. And climate change is coming fast."

For his part, Jakub will be doing everything he can to monitor and provide advice on managing our forests' health. "I absolutely love it, and I'm thrilled I was able to fulfill the dream I had as a boy. I followed my heart and I'm hopefully making an impact."

A portrait of Johanna Rommens, a woman with long, wavy brown hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a black top. The background is black.

LEADING THE GOLDEN ERA OF HUMAN GENETICS

JOHANNA ROMMENS
(BSc'80, PhD'86)

100,000 REASONS
TO BE
PROUD

“The past 30 years have really been the golden era of human genetics, and I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of it.”

When geneticist and senior scientist emeritus Dr. Johanna Rommens (BSc’80, PhD’86) was first featured in *Alumni News* magazine in 1996, she was riding the high of accomplishing breakthrough research that would change the fate of those diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF). A few years earlier, in 1989, Johanna, as part of a small team at SickKids Hospital in Toronto, identified and cloned the CFTR gene, which, when mutated, is responsible for causing CF.

The lead author of the gene-cloning paper, Johanna remembers her excitement that day. “It was a Friday in June 1989, and I was reasonably certain we had the right gene. I couldn’t sleep a wink that night. It was terribly exciting to think about how much of a difference this could make for patients and their families. It was a huge stride for patient survival and preventing serious outcomes.”

She would continue with groundbreaking research in her career, also discovering the gene responsible for Shwachman-Diamond syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that causes pancreatic and hematologic problems. “It’s a rare disease, and I observed that clusters of genetic diseases have commonalities, and we can learn so much from one to the other. These related pathways allow us to think about therapeutics we can use in common.”

Before becoming a global molecular genetics superstar, Johanna studied at UNB to earn an undergraduate degree in biology and organic chemistry. She’d moved to Fredericton from her home in Melrose, N.B., where her parents – immigrants from Holland – ran a dairy

farm. “I always wanted to be a scientist, and my father encouraged it. I received a Beaverbrook Scholarship, and that had a big influence on me because a kid from rural New Brunswick doesn’t usually believe they can be a professor. It gave me the confidence that I could do it.”

During her graduate studies, she focused on synthetic chemistry and molecular biology and received her PhD from UNB in 1986. “It was at this moment in time when DNA sequencing and new technology were becoming available, and I started dreaming of working at SickKids. I thought it was a pipedream.”

It wasn’t.

She was hired as a postdoc in the lab of Lap-Chee Tsui, a highly respected geneticist at the Hospital for Sick Kids that very year. Johanna was also a professor at the University of Toronto.

“The past 30 years have really been the golden era of human genetics, and I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of it. Families spend amongst the happiest or saddest days of their lives at SickKids, and this translates to us who have the opportunity to work there. But to be in both the practical world of a hospital and the theoretical world of the university is wonderful. I explore abstract thinking but dwell in practical limitations.”

Johanna says she fell in love with human genetics because it’s about people. “It’s a special kind of science – a human science about families and inheriting genes. I love being able to be in the hospital working on the people side of things.”

Over the years, Johanna says that ambitions got higher and the expectations to do more quickly grew.

“It’s slow work, and I hope we can keep moving faster because we need to keep making big steps. The contributions of genetics have been enormous for aging and health, and we’ve seen lately how fast we sometimes need to move to respond to needs. There’s a lot of pressure, and public distrust in science is worrying. The expectations are that everything is either yes or no, but in reality, it’s a lot of gray.”

Looking back over the decades, she’s as passionate as ever. “When I was young and ambitious, I didn’t dwell on grayness. As you get older, you realize it’s more complicated. But the advances made are amazing. We now study huge groups of people and are getting a good handle on health and wellness and preventing disease.”

Although semi-retired, Johanna is still at SickKids and involved in some CF projects. “What else would I do? It’s hard to imagine not doing this work if I’m healthy and able.”

With the discoveries that she and colleagues around the world are making, she may very well be able for quite some time. ■





Gatherings & MEET UPS

- 1 Trinidad & Tobago Alumni Reception
- 2 Annual Law Alumni vs Students Hockey Game
- 3 Calgary Annual Winter Warmer Pub Night
- 4 Empower Hour Science Alumni Panel
- 5 Geoscientists: Earth's First Responders Alumni-Student Panel
- 6 Hong Kong Dinner with the President
- 7 Montreal Reception
- 8 SIF Alumni Reunion in Toronto
- 9 Singapore Alumni Reception
- 10 Neill House Reunion 2024. [front]: John Williston (BA'81), Sameer 'Sam' Prasad (BScFE'84), Lewis Cobb (BScEE'81, MScEE'83), David 'Disco Hippo' Le Blanc (BBA'82), Geoff Walter (BScCS'80), Bob 'Shultzie' Morrison, David Doucette (BScCS'86) and Perry 'The Loon' Trimper (BScF'84); [middle]: Neil Morrison, Peter Larose (BBA'81), Troy Stokes (BBA'82, BED'83), Martin Nicolai (BA'84), Sven Tretrop, Glenn Moore (BBA'86),





Alan 'Commander' Colwell (BBA'82), Don Anderson and Brian Saunders (BScChE'86), [back]: Curtis Cox (BScCS'93), Bob Miller (BT'72, BA'73, MEd'79), Greg Fowler (BBA'85), Tim Miller (BScFE'85), Kevin Robinson (BScFE'86), Mark Wentzell (BScEE'85), Andre Charron

(BBA'81), Richard Charron (BSc'81, PhD'87), and Tim 'Puff' Ellis (BScFE'85)

11 MBA-MQIM Alumni-Student Connect at Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton

12 Ann McLean (BPE'67), Jenny Northcote-Green, Bob Orr (BA'67), Barb Orr (BA'67), Stephanie Seagram, Mike Seagram (BBA'69), James Northcote-Green (Msc'68), Don McLean (BScCE'69) met for lunch, in Huntsville, Ont., last August



GATHERINGS



- 13 Ottawa Chapter Hockey Afternoon
- 14 Alumni Luncheon in Halifax
- 15 Neville House alumni, Jason Frezell (BBA'00), Ron Savoy (BScME'98), Deon Cooper, Shane Goguen (BBA'97, LLB'99), Ben Crowell (BScEE'99), Darrel Fardy (BScF'01) and Jon Dysart (BSc'98), got together last summer in Nova Scotia
- 16 Law alumni at Osgoode Hall
- 17 Law alumni event in Calgary



Fuelling POTENTIAL

Shahrzad Sarrafizadeh Rafsanjani and Emma Morrison

UNB is committed to helping students become problem solvers and leaders in the world, and addressing the gender imbalance in technology fields is key to that mission.

The MacLauchlan McKenzie Scholarship was created by Julia MacLauchlan (BA'77, DLitt'10) and Warren McKenzie (BSCS'76, DLitt'10) to increase opportunities for women in tech. The scholarship, valued at \$10,000, is awarded annually to two upper-year female students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in UNB Fredericton's faculty of computer science.

This year, the scholarship was awarded to Emma Morrison and Shahrzad Sarrafizadeh Rafsanjani, both of Fredericton.

Emma Morrison has just completed her fourth year of the bachelor of computer science program. Emma loves the sense of community at UNB and finds her course work rewarding. "All the teachers are really kind and knowledgeable. I really like learning here."

Emma has undergone health challenges that have sometimes made it necessary to miss classes, but she is proud of persevering and maintaining her GPA. This year she has had the capacity to get back to creative pursuits in her spare time, which she says brings her a lot of joy.

Shahrzad Sarrafizadeh Rafsanjani is entering her third year of the bachelor of science in software engineering program. Shahrzad served this year as promotions director for UNB's Engineering Undergraduate Society and as a peer mentor for the faculty of computer science, and she says this involvement with the university community has been the highlight of her time at UNB. She was selected as a delegate representing UNB Fredericton at the Canadian Engineering Leadership Conference (CELC), allowing her to connect with engineering students from across Canada. She is proud of accomplishing all of this while also making the dean's list.

After graduation, Emma hopes to secure a remote programming position, which

will allow her to play a productive role while also protecting her physical health. "I find programming rewarding regardless of the specific project being worked on." Shahrzad, being earlier in her program, is keeping her options open but hopes to secure a position as a software engineer and obtain her PEng licence. "In the short term, I aim to secure a co-op position at a nuclear power plant. Several sessions at the CELC focused on nuclear energy, which piqued my interest in the field."

Both Shahrzad and Emma credit the MacLauchlan McKenzie Scholarship with facilitating their success at UNB. "This scholarship has enabled me to actively engage with the UNB community. Without it, I would have had to spend much more of my time working part-time, leaving me with less time to focus on my studies," says Shahrzad. Emma agrees, saying, "This scholarship has really positively impacted my university experience. I'm not sure I could work and do school at the same time.

"It really means the world to me." ■

HONOURING FRIENDSHIP *and* BUILDING FUTURES

Carl Fraser (BBA'74) was part of the very first graduating class from UNB Saint John, and his connection to the Saint John campus endures to this day.



Carl Fraser

Carl is supporting UNB's transformative Integrated Health Initiative (IHI) with a gift of \$100,000 to the Health and Social Innovation Centre (HSIC). In doing so, he honours a lifelong friendship with Professor Emeritus Wayne Jollineau.

The Jollineau-Fraser Classroom, to be located on level one of the HSIC, will be a 40-seat classroom with enhanced technology to support undergraduate health programs.

Carl says that when he was a student, the Jollineau family took care of him "like a second son."

He had dinner with Wayne and Wayne's wife Marilyn every Sunday, and Wayne helped Carl land his first job after graduation, in marketing at NB Tel.

After NB Tel, Carl spent 10 years as a banker before he decided to try something new. He went into portfolio management and has been helping people with their financial planning for 45 years. "It's still fun. There isn't a day that goes by that I mind coming into the office."

This isn't Carl's first time sponsoring a room at UNB Saint John - his name also adorns a study room in the Hans W. Klohn Commons, which opened in 2011. His generosity extends beyond the financial; he has given many hours to coordinating projects that benefit his community. One such endeavour was the building of an artificial skating surface in his home city of Dundas, Ont., which involved not just fundraising but contributing his labour as needed. "Kids should be able to go skating for free."

Carl is impressed by the interdisciplinary approach of the IHI. "That is a great, great way to give people a step up in the workforce when they graduate, while also providing for needs in the community."

"If you have a little bit and you can give, it's a way to give an opportunity to the younger people who are the future of Canada. And luckily, I also get a chance to recognize a family that is very, very close to me." ■

"That is a great way to give people a step up in the workforce when they graduate, while also providing for needs in the community."

FAMILY GIFT SUPPORTS HEALTH INNOVATION

The Nagle family has deep roots in Saint John, so it was a natural decision to invest in their community through UNB's Integrated Health Initiative (IHI).

"My parents, my grandparents, and my great grandparents were all born and raised in Saint John," says Michael Nagle, president and CEO of the Bayview Group. The company, started in 1972 by Michael's father in Saint John, now operates throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and a third generation has now joined in the form of his sons Christopher and Adam.

When Michael decided to support the IHI through a \$125,000 gift toward the new Health and Social Innovation Centre, he knew he wanted to name a

space in the building in memory of his parents. The M.T. Nagle Collaborative Space honours a legacy of community-building dating back to 1972, when his father started the business, while also acknowledging the exceptional care his parents received in their final years from Saint John-area health care workers. "If we can attract more doctors, nurses and health professionals to come to UNB and hopefully stay and work in Atlantic Canada, that's really what I'm hoping for."

Now under construction on a central site overlooking the Saint John campus quad and the Kennebecas River, the 65,000 square foot, three and a half-storey Health and Social Innovation Centre is a purpose-built,

state-of-the-art space for the Integrated Health Initiative's education, research programs and innovation. The building's proximity to Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Community College Allied Health, and the Saint John Regional Hospital will facilitate UNB's bold vision for transforming health care in New Brunswick and beyond.

"I wanted to do something for the Maritime provinces because I believe that all of Atlantic Canada benefits from the Integrated Health Initiative. Contributing to this is really a way of giving back to Atlantic Canada. It's just a small token of appreciation, to say we appreciate what UNB does and what health professionals do." ■

"I wanted to do something for the Maritime provinces because I believe that all of Atlantic Canada benefits from the Integrated Health Initiative."

Michael (centre) with his sons Adam (left) and Christopher (right)



SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS *and* BURSARIES

Thanks to our generous donors, the following student awards are just a sample of the many established in the past year that will support UNB students during their studies and beyond.

LESLIE AND PAULINE ASHFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Engineering and Nursing

VALUE: \$1,500 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: Pauline Ashfield in memory of her husband Leslie Ashfield (BScCE'64) and family

Awarded to a Fredericton campus student who has completed their first year in either the faculty of nursing or engineering. Consideration will be given to extracurricular activities and community involvement. This scholarship will alternate between the two faculties.

BUSINESS UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY

FIELD: Business

VALUE: \$2,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: Roberta (BN'76) and Tom (BBA'76) Clark, and The New Brunswick University Opportunities Fund

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a Saint John campus student who has completed the minimum requirements for the second year of the bachelor of business administration degree program and has demonstrated successful academic performance. The recipient must be a New Brunswick resident according to the definition of the provincial government's student financial services guidelines.

LYLA H. COYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN SOCIAL WORK

FIELD: Social Work

VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: The estate of the late Lyla Coyle (BA'07) who had applied to the BSW program at UNB Saint John for September 2024. She tragically passed away from cancer in January 2024. Lyla epitomized dedication, integrity, and empathy.

Awarded on the basis of financial need and scholastic achievement to a woman enrolled in the bachelor of social work program on the Saint John campus.

CHLOE BALL BURSARY

FIELD: Nursing

VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: Dwight Ball (BSc'70, MSc'75) and Barb Cogswell

Awarded on the basis of financial need to an undergraduate student in the bachelor of nursing degree program on the Fredericton campus. The student must demonstrate successful academic performance and be a graduate of a high school in Atlantic Canada. Preference will be given to students with an interest in pediatrics.

DR. DAVID H. COOMBS SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Science

VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: Margaret Trahms Coombs

Awarded to a third-year student in the bachelor of science degree who is majoring in biology or chemistry and who plans to pursue a graduate degree and a career in research in that area of science.

JOHN AND MARILYN DEWEYERT BURSARY

FIELD: Education

VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 5 **DURATION:** 1 year

DONOR: John and Marilyn Deweyert

Awarded on the basis of financial need to students enrolled in the bachelor of education program who have demonstrated successful academic performance. Preference will be given to students from New Brunswick, according to the definition of the provincial government's student financial services guidelines, with a specific preference for students from Carleton County or York County.

VISIT [UNB.CA/GIVING](https://unb.ca/giving)

for information on creating scholarships

DR. WOLFGANG FAIG ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP**FIELD:** Engineering**VALUE:** \$4,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Dr. Wolfgang Faig (MScSE'65)

Awarded to a full-time student enrolled in the bachelor of science in engineering program on the basis of financial need, scholastic achievement, and involvement in extracurricular activities. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and a New Brunswick resident, according to the definition of the provincial government's student financial services guidelines and have attended a New Brunswick high school for at least two years.

DR. SAYED ISMAIL SCHOLARSHIP**FIELD:** Civil Engineering**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Dr. El-Sayed Ismail (MScCE'72, PhD'79)

Awarded to a Fredericton campus civil engineering student who has achieved successful academic performance. Consideration will be given to students who have demonstrated financial need.

KATHLEEN (KATHY) MEAGHER SCHOLARSHIP**FIELD:** Kinesiology**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Kathleen (Kathy) Meagher (BPE'69)

Awarded to a student who has completed at least their first year in the faculty of kinesiology on the Fredericton campus and is a member of the women's hockey team. Recipients must have demonstrated successful academic performance (minimum 2.5 assessment year grade point average). Any requirements of Atlantic University Sport and U SPORTS will also apply.

LI SONG BURSARY**FIELD:** Bachelor of Health**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Li Song (C-TEL'07, BA'08, BED'08)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a Saint John campus student who is entering the bachelor of health program and is a new immigrant, international student, or permanent resident. Preference will be given to a woman of Asian, Black, Indigenous descent, and women of colour. Community engagement and volunteerism will be considered.

UNBF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**FIELD:** Unrestricted**VALUE:** Variable **NUMBER:** Variable **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** UNB Fredericton Student Union

Awarded to a full-time international student on the Fredericton campus who exhibits outstanding leadership abilities, dedication to contributing to the community and active participation in campus life.

GLEN HUNTER BURSARY**FIELD:** Unrestricted**VALUE:** \$1,200 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year (may be renewed)**DONOR:** GLEN HUNTER (BSCF'96)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a student on the Fredericton campus who is a resident of New Brunswick and who has demonstrated successful academic performance. Preference will be given to a student with a dependent(s) and/or who has overcome a significant barrier to attend university. If there are no students from New Brunswick, then a preference will be given to a student from Atlantic Canada with a dependent(s) and/or who has overcome a significant barrier to attend university.

CAROL H. MCKEEN BURSARY**FIELD:** Engineering**VALUE:** Variable **NUMBER:** Variable **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Keith R. McKeen (BScCE'69), in loving memory of Carol H. McKeen (BA'67)

Awarded based on financial need to a Fredericton campus student who has completed the minimum requirements for the first year of the engineering degree program and has demonstrated successful academic performance.

HONOURABLE HEIDI SHYU SCHOLARSHIP**FIELD:** Multiple**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** The Honourable Heidi Shyu (BSc'76, DSc'17)

Awarded to a woman undergraduate student who is enrolled in a degree program in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). Selection will be based on academic achievement and financial need.

DR. SUSHILA & CHANDRAKANT TOAL & LT.-COL. M. BOBDE AWARD**FIELD:** Health or Engineering**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Dr. Meghana and Satish Toal

Awarded to a woman student who is a graduate of Saint John High School is entering the first year of the bachelor of health or engineering degree program on either the Fredericton or Saint John campus directly out of high school. Selection will be based on academic achievement.

NELLIE A. VERMEULEN BURSARY**FIELD:** Kinesiology**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Elizabeth Vermeulen (BPE'63)

Awarded to a student graduating from Horton High School and who is entering UNB on the Fredericton campus to study in the field of kinesiology. Selection will be based on financial need and academic achievement.

Friends of **ALUMNI NEWS**

Thank you to our alumni for generously supporting Alumni News

We'd like to recognize the following UNB alumni for their generous support of Alumni News. The costs of producing and mailing the magazine are substantial and increasing annually. As such, we are seeking your support through FRIENDS OF ALUMNI NEWS. We encourage you to become a member by making a tax-deductable contribution.

Whether you choose to contribute at the Reader's, Editor's or Publisher's Circle, all gifts are appreciated.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following FRIENDS OF ALUMNI NEWS for their support between Jan. 1, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2024.

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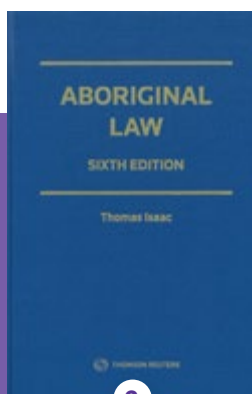
We welcome submissions about recent books by our alumni. If you have been published, send us the name of your book, the publisher, the ISBN and a cover image to alumni@unb.ca. Don't forget to include your UNB degree(s). (Multiple submissions will be spread among issues)



1



2



3

1 The Handmaid's Dairy

By: Bob Williston (BA'73, BEd'76)

Publisher: Go to Publish

ISBN: 978-1-64749-950-1

2 Purple Popsicles (and Other Preposterous Poems)

By: Aimee C. Trafton (BA'97, BEd'99)

Publisher: Library and Archives Canada

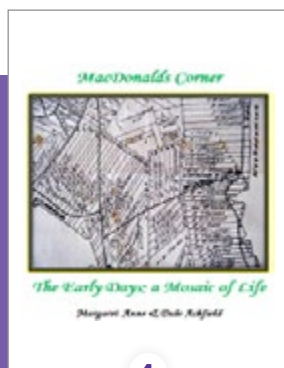
ISBN: 978-1738150205

3 Aboriginal Law, Sixth Edition

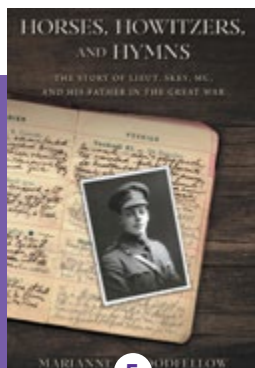
By: Thomas Isaac (LLB'91)

Publisher: Thomson Reuters

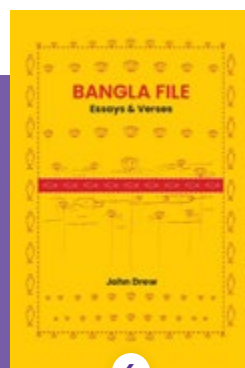
ISBN: 978-1-0382-0577-3



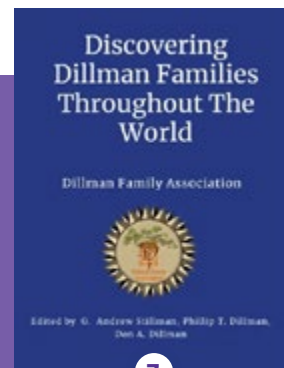
4



5



6



7

4 MacDonald's Corner, The Early Days: A Mosaic of Life

By: Dale Ashfield (BSc'70 BEd'71) and Mary-Anne Ashfield
Publisher: Independently published
ISBN: 978-1-7780491-0-1

5 Horses, Howitzers, and Hymns. The Story of Lieut. Skey, MC, and His Father in the Great War

By: Marianne Goodfellow (BA'75 MA'77)
Publisher: FriesenPress
ISBN: 978-1-03-831782-7

6 Bangla File: Essays & Verses

By: John Drew (BA'60)
Publisher: ULAB Press
ISBN: 978-984-95816-9-7

7 Discovering Dillman Families Throughout the World

Edited By: G. Andrew Stillman (BScCS'90)
Publisher: Dillman Family Association
ISBN: 9798988494010

HITHER & YON

Here is what some of our *Alumni* have been up to this year

Entries may be edited for length. For a complete Hither and Yon, visit UNB.ca/alumni/magazine/

Submissions between Sept. 15, 2024, and April 15, 2025, have been included.

'66



Photo courtesy of annemurray.com/gallery/

ANNE MURRAY (BPE, DLitt'78) of Halifax, N.S., once again made history, becoming the first female artist to receive the Juno Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award. This honour recognizes individuals who have made an enduring impact on Canadian music, and Anne — one of the country's most celebrated artists — is a fitting recipient. Long before topping the charts, Anne was a student at UNB. Though she initially pursued a career in teaching, her passion for music led her in a different direction — one that would cement her as a trailblazer in the industry. With 25 Juno Awards to her name, Anne remains the most decorated artist in the event's history. She was the first Canadian solo artist to earn a gold record in the U.S. and paved the way for generations of artists to follow.

'72



DAVE MORELL (BA, DLitt'23) of Fredericton, N.B., was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal, at Old Government House in Fredericton on March 23. He was selected for the medal by New Brunswick Senator Joan Kingston (BN'78) and was presented with it by the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick Louise Imbeault. Dave also received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. As a family note, his grandfather, Leonnard Webber of St. Stephen, N.B., received the King George VI Coronation Medal in 1937, while a member of the Carleton North Regiment.

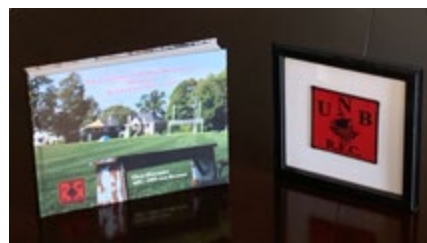
DONALD HYSLOP (BA) of East Kingston, N.S., was appointed the chair of the Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation in Middleton, N.S.

'76



The Reverend Canon **CHRISTOPHER PRATT** (BA) of Cambridge, Ont., received the King Charles III Coronation Medal from the Member of Parliament for Cambridge Brian May on Jan. 28. The citation offered an appreciation for Canon Pratt's governance work with St. John Ambulance at the local, provincial and national levels over thirty years of his association with the organization. His work in providing leadership to a team that created a Prayer Resource Book for St. John Ambulance which has been circulated provincially, nationally and internationally was also noted. Canon Pratt is one of 30,000 Canadians who will be given this recognition after having deemed to have made, "...a significant contribution to Canada..."

'81



KEN GOGGIN (BBA, BScSc'84) is one of the creators of *The History of Rugby at UNB*. This richly illustrated book reflects the spirit and celebration of rugby culture and the sport's long history at UNB. Creators chose a physical book as they wanted something readers could easily share and trigger memories when friends, family and old teammates come to visit.

'82



CLAUDE GRENIER (BPE) of Muenchendorf, Austria, came to UNB in 1978 to play on the Red Devils hockey team. After graduating, he engaged in a professional golf career which, in 1987, took him to Austria. He played professional golf in Europe, playing on different tours. He has represented Austria three times at the World Cup of Golf (1997, 1998, 2007), won the PGA of Europe Club Professional Championship (1997), and qualified for the British Senior Open in 2016. His last win was at the PGA of Canada Senior Championship in 2016 (photo). His biggest achievement however was coaching three Austrian players who became multiple world golf event winners; Markus Brier, Bernd Wiesberger and Sepp Straka. The last two have even represented Europe at the famous Ryder Cup. "So as one can see, another UNB [alum] who did well in sports!"

'84

BRUCE HUGHES (BA) of Douglas, N.B., after signing a book publishing deal with Purple Porcupine Publishing (NS), his first book, *A Stroke of Luck: Music, Medicine and a Miraculous Recovery*, is available at Indigo supplied bookstores in Atlantic Canada and online. The non-fiction tale is an 18-month window into his stroke journey that "instead of killing me, I ended up recovering better than anyone in the world and since 2018 have been the patient experience advisor for Therapeutic Services for Horizon Health, mostly assisting at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital's acute stroke and stroke rehab units. Giving hope and

inspiration to fellow stroke survivors and their families is the best way I could think to pay it forward. Having someone with lived experience to talk to has been a very useful tool in the health-care toolbox, for patients, their families and the health-care system overall."

'85



BARBARA WALLS (BN, MED'93) of Fredericton, N.B., received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her significant contributions to lung health in Canada.

'88

At their November 2024 annual meeting, Engineers PEI presented **LLOYD CUDMORE** (BScME) of Mount Stewart, P.E.I., with an honorary life membership, recognizing outstanding service to the profession. Lloyd is a past president of Engineers PEI and retired in May 2023 after 35 years in the construction industry with CBCL Limited and Precision Mechanical Inc.

'92

PETER WHITE (LLB) of Regina, Sask., started working as a Crown prosecutor for the Government of Saskatchewan based in Regina.

'93

JOHN MUNRO (BEd, MED'02) of Belfast, P.E.I., was recognized as P.E.I.'s Distinguished Principal of 2024.

'98

In September 2024, **AYNSLIE CRONEY** (BBA) of Moncton, N.B., won the National Outstanding New Member Award from the Canadian Progress Club (CPC). In addition, she will also serve on the National CPC board as director of communications and marketing.

'00

TREVOR BAXTER (BA) of Cochrane, Alta., is the proud father of Jocelyne Isabella Baxter, who was born on Feb. 10, 2024. Additionally, he earned his doctor of education from the University of Liverpool in 2025.

'02

TROY NELSON (BCS, MCS'06) of Ottawa, Ont., also known as Mr. Super Dude, was nominated for a 2025 East Coast Music Association (ECMA) Award for Children's Artist of the Year. It is his 5th ECMA nomination to date.

'22



CHISOM EZECH (MBA) of Saint John, N.B., received an award from CIBWE (Canada International Black Women Excellence) as one of Canada's Top 100 Black Women to Watch of 2024.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association notes with sorrow the passing of the following alumni (based on information received between Oct. 10, 2024, and April 15, 2025).

FREDERICTON

1940s

F. EILEEN WALLACE (BA'44, DLitt'01), Fredericton, N.B.

KATHLEEN MCFARLANE (McKnight, Class of '45), Port Hope, Ont.

MYLES D. RUSSELL (BScF'47), Doaktown, N.B.

EDWARD 'TED' D. MCCORMICK (BScCE'49), Peterborough, Ont.

1950s

J. BARRY KING (BSc'50), Rothesay, N.B.

MARY LOU JOYCE (O'Brien, BA'53, BEd'61), Saint John, N.B.

HELEN M. PETCHEY (BA'56, BEd'64), Sackville, N.B.

REGINALD J. DOYLE (BScF'58), Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

THOMAS W. WHITTINGHAM (BSc'50), Calgary, Alta.

LUCILLE KERR (Calp, BCL'54), Halifax, N.S.

J. DOUGLAS COOK (BScCE'57), Peterborough, Ont.

NANCY 'FRANKIE' M. FINDLAY (Ramey, BA'58, BEd'59), Fredericton, N.B.

DAVID A.T. YOULE (BScF'50), Halifax, N.S.

JOHN E. SEMPLE (BScF'55), Truro, N.S.

ELIZABETH 'BETH' D. EDIGER (Cattley, BA'57), Fredericton, N.B.

F. LYNDON GRAY (BScF'58), East Kemptville, N.S.

ROBERT GIBBS (BA'51, MA'62, PhD'70), Fredericton, N.B.

FRANKLIN M. TRUEMAN (Class of '55), St. Stephen, N.B.

JOE B. ROBINSON (BScEng'57), Moncton, N.B.

DENIS H. MATHESON (BBA'58, BEd'64), Saint John, N.B.

ROBERT B. RICHARDS (BA'51), Fredericton, N.B.

MALCOLM 'MAC' W. PERKINS (BScEE'58), Mississauga, Ont.

1960s

JOHN BATE (BScCE'60), Kingston, Ont.

DEREK BARTLETT (BSc'62), Collingwood, Ont.

A. GALE GOLDING (Campbell, BEd'64), Halifax, N.S.

TRUEMAN B. HIRSCHFELD (BPE'66), North Vancouver, B.C.

JOHN R.G. BRANDER (BA'60), Fredericton, N.B.

PETER T. GRANT (BSc'62, BEd'62), Truro, N.S.

PATRICK R. HICKEY (BScEE'64), Fredericton, N.B.

W. KEITH MACKENZIE (BPE'66), Truro, N.S.

W. WAYNE COLPITTS (BScCE'60), Fredericton, N.B.

CLIFFORD H. JONES (BSc'62, BEd'63), Waldeck East, N.S.

ALAN D. REID (BA'64, BCL'65), Kanata, Ont.

BRYAN K. PATTERSON (BScEE'66), Dipper Harbour, N.B.

JOHN B. DI DIODATO (BScCE'60), Fredericton, N.B.

HUGH O. SCHOOLEY (BScF'62), Pembroke, Ont.

OVE B. SAMUELSEN (BA'64, BCL'68), Sackville, N.B.

E. ALLAN GILLMOR (BEd'67), St. Stephen, N.B.

ROBERT 'BOB' F. DYKES (BA'60, BCL'63), Sarnia, Ont.

MARILYN WILEY (BA'62), Owen Sound, Ont.

MILTON R. SCHINDEL (BScEE'64), Peterborough, Ont.

J. STEPHEN 'STEVE' HOYT (BScF'67, MSF'72), Noonan, N.B.

DONALD 'DON' S. MACKAY (BScME'60), Hampton, N.B.

GORDON B. YOUNG (BScF'62, MSF'72), Fredericton, N.B.

PAUL J. GODIN (BCL'65), Dieppe, N.B.

ALIA KENT (Khan, BEd'67), Ottawa, Ont.

ANN F. OLDHAM (Limerick, BA'60), Fredericton, N.B.

RICHARD HERBERT BARNUM (BBA'63), Spring Hill, U.S.A.

ALAN D. HENDERSON (BScF'65), Dryden, Ont.

HUGHENA E. MACNEIL (Kennedy, Class of '67), Fredericton, N.B.

HAROLD P. SHORT-EVANS (BT'60, BEd'73), Plaster Rock, N.B.

GORDON 'BUTCH' E.E. BEANLANDS (BScF'63, MSF'65), Fredericton, N.B.

MARCIA E. JOHNSTON (Hunter, BN'65), Cornwall, P.E.I.

EVELYN PATTERSON (Egers, BN'67), Dipper Harbour, N.B.

CHARLES 'CHARLIE' H. SMALLWOOD (BSc'60), Elliot Lake, Ont.

FERNE J. KILBRIDE (Speedy, BA'63, BEd'66), Fredericton, N.B.

EDWARD G. KETTEL (BScF'65, MSF'67), Fredericton, N.B.

H. RAMONA 'MONA' SEGAL (Forbes, BN'67), La Jolla, U.S.A.

BRUCE C. TAYLOR, SR. (BScME'60), Surry, B.C.

TINA J. MCINTOSH (Plumstead, BA'63), Hampton, N.B.

GEORGE H. POWELL (BA'65), St. John's, N.L.

H. DAVID ATTIS (BA'68), Hastings, Ont.

JOHN 'ROBBIE' R. GARDNER (BScME'61), Saint John, N.B.

M. LOLITA 'LOIE' SMITH (BSc'63, BEd'64), Hanwell, N.B.

GERALD A. BELL (BScF'66), Upper Kingsclear, N.B.

ERIC B. CHAMPION (BScEE'68), Kelowna, B.C.

GRAHAM R. POWELL (MSF'61), Fredericton, N.B.

MARGARET 'MARG' A. STEVENS (Caldwell, BN'63), Hampton, N.B.

JEAN L. DOUCET (BCL'66), Gatineau, Que.

BERNARD A. CULLINAN (BCL'68), Saint John, N.B.

ALEC M. ROBERTSON (BScME'61), Red Deer, Alta.

ALLAN W. FURLONG (BA'66, LLB'71), Oshawa, Ont.

BRUCE C. MACKINNON
(BA'68), London, Ont.

WENDELL J. MAXWELL
(BCL'68), Moncton, N.B.

DONALD S. PELKEY (BSc'68, BEd'73), Saint John, N.B.

LLOYD D. SECORD (BSc'68),
Sussex, N.B.

1970s

KENNETH 'KEN' M. BETTS
(BA'70, MA'73), Surrey, B.C.

RICHARD 'DICK' W. BURGESS
(BBA'70), Fredericton, N.B.

ARNETA FERNE CROWLEY
(BT'70, BA'73), Harvey, N.B.

DEBORAH 'DEBBIE' J. DOWLING (MacFarlane, BN'70, BEd'72), Oromocto, N.B.

CHERYL E.P. FEINDEL (BA'70, BEd'80), Saint John, N.B.

DOUGLAS L. MACAFEE
(BA'70), Sussex, N.B.

ERIC 'VAN' SCOFFIELD
(BSc'70), White Rock, B.C.

JOHN A. SHAW (BScEE'70),
Oakville, Ont.

ALEXANDER 'ALEX' G. DINGWALL (BPE'71, PD-Ed'75, MED'76), Chipman, N.B.

R. MAURICE 'MOE' GAMBLIN
(BBA'71), Bairdsville, N.B.

DAVID W. GILLEN (MA'71),
Vancouver, B.C.

JOHN R. MAYES (BEd'71),
Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.

MURRAY ARTHUR MCEWEN
(BT'71, BEd'73, MED'84),
Nackawic, N.B.

THOMAS W.E. MCILLWRAITH
(MA'71), Carleton Place, Ont.

MATTHEW C. SUH (MA'68),
Rockcliffe, Ont.

ROBERT 'BOB' G. VINCENT
(BA'68), Rothesay, N.B.

RAYMOND A. BARTON
(BScCE'69, MScCE'71),
Ottawa, Ont.

G. MELVIN 'MEL' TURNER (BA'71, LLB'73),
St. Andrews, N.B.

HOLLIS B. COLE (BScCE'72),
Gulf Shore, N.S.

RAYMOND 'RAY' GALLANT (Class of '72),
Fredericton, N.B.

R. GORDON GANONG
(BBA'72), Bowen Island, B.C.

VLASTA N. LAJTAI (Nesetova,
MSc'72), Winnipeg, Man.

WAYNE R. MACDONALD
(BEd'72), Granville Centre, N.S.

JIM C. MATHESON (BA'72),
Fredericton, N.B.

PETER G. DAVIS (BScME'73),
Fredericton, N.B.

EDWARD M. MCGUIRE (BT'73,
BEd'79), Upper Queensbury,
N.B.

MICHAEL 'MIKE' J. SHEE
(BScF'73), Fredericton, N.B.

PAUL B. BUTLER (BT'74,
BEd'78, MED'88), Saint John,
N.B.

GARY D. FOWLER (BScCE'74),
Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.

DEBORAH J. HELLYER (BSc'74),
Windsor, Ont.

JOHN G. CALDER (BEd'69),
Long Reach, N.B.

JOHN 'JJ' CRUIKSHANK
(BPE'69), Campbell River, B.C.

JOHN LLOYD GRICE (BA'69),
Dartmouth, N.S.

BARBARA HUGHES-CAMPBELL
(BA'69), Fredericton, N.B.

FERENC 'FRANK' VILMOS HORVATH (BA'74, BEd'91),
Fredericton, N.B.

CLIFFORD D. KILCUP (BT'74,
BEd'85, MED'92), Perth-
Andover, N.B.

DAVID E. WELLS (PhD'74),
Fredericton, N.B.

MARGUERITE D. BOOKER
(Thomas, BA'75, BEd'76),
Fredericton, N.B.

SHEILA G. BOWEN (Myrtle,
BPE'75), Ulverton, Que.

ROGER B. CRISP (BT'75),
Nashwaak Village, N.B.

JAMES 'JIM' H. DODGE
(BA'75), Kelowna, B.C.

GARY D. ESSENSA (BScCE'75),
Oak Bay, N.B.

P. REED HALEY (BA'75),
Milltown, N.B.

PATRICIA JARDINE (Duffy,
BEd'75), Moncton, N.B.

AVIS D. LEWIS-BOOTH (BT'75,
BEd'79, MED'80), Saint John,
N.B.

TOBIAS F. MCDONALD
(LLB'75), St. John's, N.L.

CHARLOTTE DYKEMAN
(English, BEd'76),
Orleans, Ont.

EDWARD 'EMERSON' MILLS (BBA'69, LLB'71),
Riverview, N.B.

PAUL R. RILEY (BEd'69,
PD-ED'78, MED'78),
Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.

WILLARD 'BILLY' D. JOHNSON
(BScME'76), Rollingdam, N.B.

LINDA E.E. MACNEIL (BSc'76,
BScEE'79), Ottawa, Ont.

DENIS P. FOURNIER
(BScFE'77), Baie-D'urfe, Que.

BRUCE D. HATFIELD (LLB'77),
Fredericton, N.B.

GARY A. MILLER (LLB'77),
Upper Kingsclear, N.B.

RAVI KUMAR (PhD'78), Center
Valley, U.S.A.

GRAHAM J. MCKNIGHT
(BBA'78), Riverview, N.B.

ANNE B. PRICE (BEd'78),
Edmonton, Alta.

RICHARD 'RICK' L. ROACH
(LLB'78), Oromocto, N.B.

EUGENE 'GENE' W. ROLFE
(BA'78, MA'85), Strathadam,
N.B.

MYRA E. ROUSSY (LLB'78),
Montreal, Que.

SHAWN L. STOKES (BEd'78),
Riverview, N.B.

JANET A. WAUGH (Eckstein,
BBA'78), Kingston, Ont.

STANLEY 'STAN' C. RICHARDSON (BT'79, MED'79),
Fredericton, N.B.

ROBERT 'BOB' A. SNAIR
(BEd'79), Scottsdale, U.S.A.

1980s

JUANITA L. CHASE (BEd'80),
Tracey Mills, N.B.

GLENDA C. L. GREENE
(BEd'80), Fredericton, N.B.

KIM PLATER MCCUMBER
(BScF'80, BEd'01),
Long Reach, N.B.

DONNA C. DICKINSON
(Neilson, BPE'81, BEd'01),
Wakefield, N.B.

HARVEY A. HANOOMANSINGH (MED'81),
Sackville, N.B.

MERVIN 'MERV' PAUL SYMES, JR. (BScCHE'81), Moncton, N.B.

PARYSE MONA GUERRETTE
(BA'82), Fredericton, N.B.

RALPH 'SANDY' A. METZLER
(BA'82), Nasonworth, N.B.

RUTH A. AMOS GOODINE
(BN'83), Fredericton, N.B.

BRIAN JOSEPH FLOOD
(BBA'83), Rothesay, N.B.

JOAN FRALIC (Frellick,
C-BA'84), Mcleod Hill, N.B.

WILLIAM 'BILL' J. MULLIN
(MED'84), Fredericton, N.B.

SHARON VIRGINIA FLEMING
(BBA'85, BA'87), Charlottetown,
P.E.I.

KIMBERLEY ANN GRANT
(Graham, BEd'86), Charlie
Lake, N.B.

E. ELAINE REEVES
(Hynes, BEd'86, MEd'99),
Fredericton, N.B.

RICHARD 'RICK' REUBAN
JAMES GOULDING (PhD'87),
St. John's, N.L.

THOMAS 'TOM'
FRANKLIN MOFFATT (BEd'87),
St. Stephen, N.B.

STEPHEN BRENT MULOCK
(BBA'87), Ottawa, Ont.

PETER FREDRICK ADAMS
(BScME'88), Sudbury, Ont.

CLAUDE JOSEPH HICKEY
(BSc'88, BCS'02, BEd'03),
Campbellton, N.B.

ROB MURRAY (BScCS'89),
Fredericton, N.B.

ROCK SANTERRE (PhD'89),
Saint-Augustin-De-
Desmaur, Que.

1990s

BARBARA LOUISE LAWSON
(Gunter, BBA'90), Fredericton,
N.B.

GARY WILFRED STAIRS
(BEd'91, BBA'98), Douglas, N.B.

SHELLEY MARIE WILLIAMS
(Munro, BBA'91),
Charters Settlement, N.B.

TERRI A. MACPHERSON
(LLB'92), Mermaid, P.E.I.

SYDELLE R. GROBE (MEd'93),
New Maryland, N.B.

MARIE GEORGINA 'GEORGIE'
JONES (Doucet, C-PA'93,
BBA'98), Fredericton, N.B.

CRYSTAL VICTORIA LEE
(BN'93), New Maryland, N.B.

CHERYL LINDA JENSEN
(BA'96), New Denmark, N.B.

MARC-RENE JOESPH
MAZEROLLE (BEd'96),
Moncton, N.B.

EDWARD 'JODY' MCNEILL
(LLB'96), Pictou, N.S.

ANTONINE MAILLET (DLitt'97),
Outremont, Que.

KAREN LYNN CHANCEY
(LLB'98), St. John's, N.L.

DAVID A. PEABODY (BA'99),
Calgary, Alta.

2000s

MARILYN P. ROWAN (Thorpe,
MBA'00), Fredericton, N.B.

WAYNE J. FRANCIS (LLB'02),
Halifax, N.S.

SUSAN H. HURLEY SPICER
(BA'05), Fredericton, N.B.

CHRISTOPHER G. STAIRS
(BBA'05), Douglas, N.B.

JUSTIN J. AUDIBERT
(BScCMPE'06), Moncton, N.B.

DANIEL 'DAN' E. LISTER
(BScE'07), Harvey, N.B.

MICHAEL RUSE (DLitt'07),
Tallahassee, U.S.A.

STEVEN B. ELLIS (C-AED'08),
Tyne Valley, P.E.I.

K. MICHELLE HENNESSEY
(Stewart, BScCE'09),
Quispamsis, N.B.

2010s

NATASHA 'TASH' L. BROWN (BN'10), Greenfield, N.B.

SAINT JOHN

1970s

GREGORY J.
YEOMANS (BBA'76, MBA'05),
Moncton, N.B.

MARGARET R. RECORD
(Sullivan, BT'78),
Saint John, N.B.

RUTH 'ELINOR' GRAHAM
(Stairs, BT'79), Hampton, N.B.

1980s

A. ELIZABETH MESSER (Beckett, BA'83), Rothesay, N.B.

SUSAN MARY PETRIE (BA'84, MEd'95), Rothesay, N.B.

1990s

CHRISTINE M. MERCIER
(BA'91, BEd'92),
Saint John, N.B.

SHARON 'IRENE'
WILLIAMS (Monteith, BN'92),
McKenzie Corner, N.B.

RUTH RILLA KOVEN (Smith,
BA'95), Saint John, N.B.

CHRISTINE ELIZABETH ROSS
(Hawthorne, BA'95),
St. Andrews, N.B.

2000s

GINA L. BURKE (BAMHT'03),
Quispamsis, N.B.

ALICE JUDITH 'JUDI' CLARK
(McKim, BA'03), Rothesay, N.B.

SANDY E. BRIDGES (BA'04),
Saint John, N.B.

ANN M. BRANTNALL (BA'05),
Saint John, N.B.

2010s

TRUDI L. RICKARD-LYONS (BN'11), Upper Golden Grove, N.B.

From lab to **LEGACY**

Shannon McCue (BSc'97) has built a remarkable scientific career on the educational foundation she received at UNB, so she has committed to giving back, both now and in the future.

Shannon is a clinical researcher whose work has made a difference. Asked if there are any career highlights of which she is particularly proud, she describes working on a drug for a rare, debilitating disorder called Behçet's disease. Following global clinical trials and drug approval, one day Shannon and her team received a letter from a patient, thanking them for developing the drug that had changed their life. "When you know that your work is having such an impact on people, and how it can change their lives for the better, that is one of the most rewarding things about drug development."

Now, at Marengo Therapeutics in Cambridge, Mass., Shannon works in oncology research. Her team's focus is an exciting new treatment that could treat a wide range of cancers. "It's early stages, but it could potentially help a wide range of patients in the future."

Before completing her PhD in cell biology at the University of Toronto, Shannon studied biology at UNB, and she credits her UNB experience – small class sizes, supportive professors, a close-knit campus community – with laying the groundwork for her science career.

"At bigger schools, you often don't get the attention or immediate access to your professors. UNB professors provide a more personalized experience by helping to support the needs of the individual students."



□ Shannon McCue

This gratitude for her UNB experience prompted Shannon to give back by creating a scholarship, initially starting with a small annual donation early in her career. **The Shannon McCue Scholarship**, now valued at \$2,000, is awarded annually to a student in the bachelor of science degree program.

"I think education is so important, especially for young people – and now it is so expensive, so every little bit helps."

Shannon says the same motivations led her to continue her support by including UNB in her estate planning. "It's a great way to continue my legacy after my death – something still lives on. Hopefully others will benefit from it, and they'll keep the cycle going."

To her fellow alumni who might be considering including UNB in their will, Shannon's message is simple: "Do it! What have you got to lose? You'll keep helping people, help UNB, and give people the gift of education." ■

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