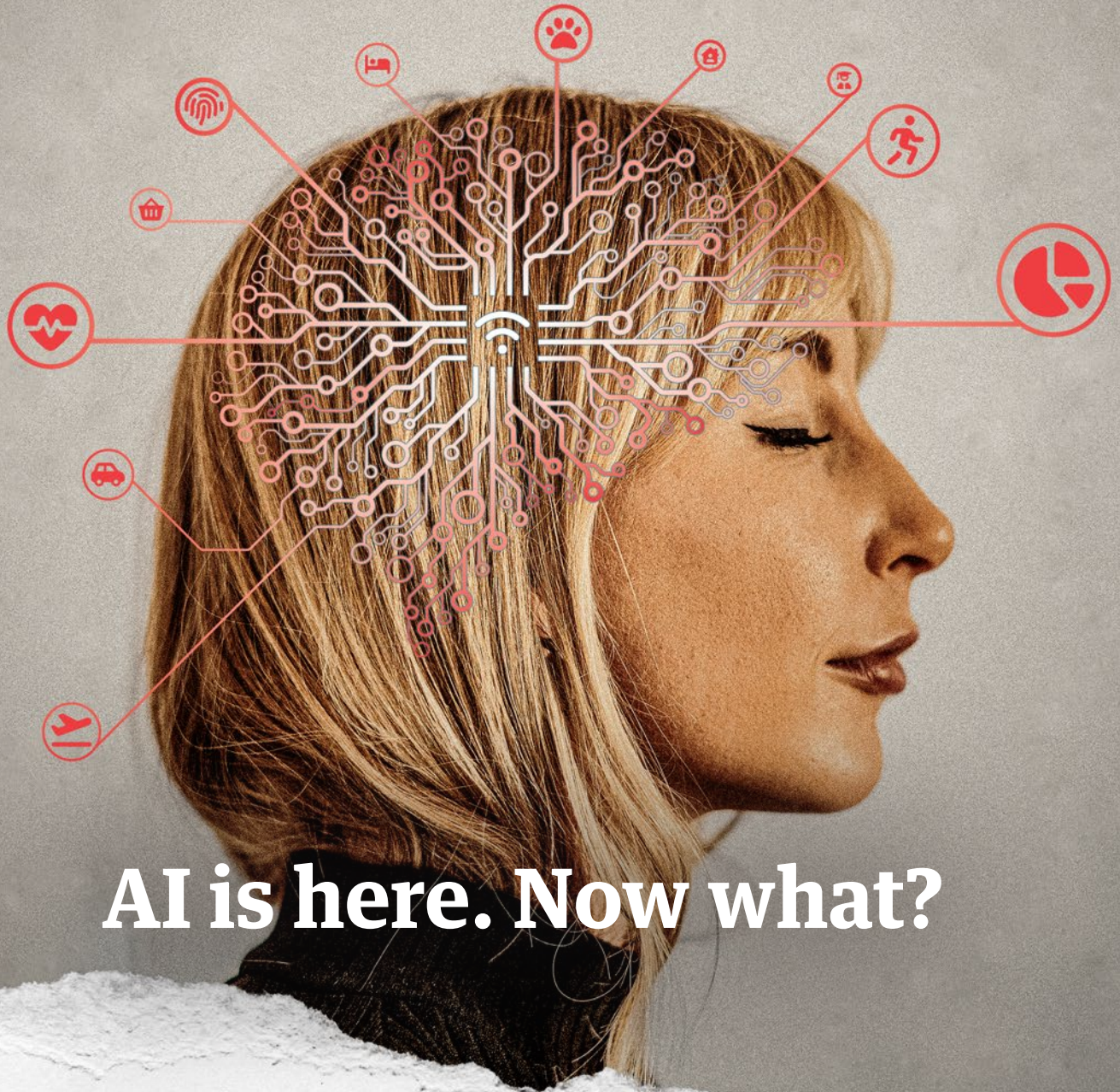


UNB

ALUMNI NEWS



AI is here. Now what?



Here's something to smile about.

You could save on home, car, travel, and business insurance with TD Insurance.

To learn more or to get a quote visit
tdinsurance.com/unbalumni



TD Insurance |



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address: 50 Place Crémazie, 12th Floor, Montréal, Québec H2P 1B6. Due to provincial legislation, this Car and Recreational Insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. All trademarks are property of their respective owners. *The TD logo and other TD trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.

CONTENTS



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES	4
NOTEWORTHY	6
ALUMNI FEATURES	12
COVER FEATURE: AI IS HERE. NOW WHAT?	15
PROUDLY UNB AWARDS 2026	36
GATHERINGS AND MEET UPS	46
LETTER FROM A READER	48
SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS	50
SUMMER READING	54
HITHER AND YON	56
IN MEMORIAM	58



Alumni council members at the 2026 Proudly UNB awards on April 10. Front row: Kierra MacAlpine, Sean MacKenzie, Beverley Kennedy-Steeves, Sarah Lawson and Cindy Flann. Backrow: Kyle Ferguson, Olive Ozoemena, Erin Stafford, Ian Hardy, Andrew Martel, Samuel Sakyi-Hyde Jr. and Michelle McNeil

Members of the UNB ASSOCIATED ALUMNI COUNCIL

(AS OF JULY 1, 2026)

President: Andrew Martel (BCS'15)

Vice-President: Erin Stafford (BSc'08)

Treasurer: Ian Hardy (BBA'07)

Secretary: Beverley Kennedy-Steeves (BA'11)

Saint John Rep.: Olive Ozoemena (MBA'16)

Past President: Jennifer Sutherland Green (LLB'99)

Councillors:

- Sarah Lawson (BBA'01, LLB'04)
- Randy Crealock (BBA'18)
- Kyle Ferguson (BBA'09)
- Cindy Flann (BBA'84)
- Beverly Guimond (BBA'04)
- Sean MacKenzie (BCS'22)

Student Representatives:

Kierra MacAlpine (BSc, Fredericton)

Samuel Sakyi-Hyde (BH, Saint John)

Acting UNB President:

Kathy Wilson (BN'87, PhD'08)

Associated Alumnae

Representative:

Jane Kidney-Hermelin (BBA'97)

Executive Director:

Michelle McNeil (BBA'03, MBA'09)

SUMMER 2026

UNB.ca/alumni/magazine/

PUBLISHER

Michelle McNeil (BBA'03, MBA'09)
alumni@unb.ca

MANAGING EDITOR

Natalie Montgomery (BBA'99)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Doug Barkman (MED'18)

HEAD WRITER

Angie Landry (BA'08)

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Creative Juices
thecreativejuices.ca

PHOTOS AND IMAGERY

Doug Barkman
UNB Media Services
Submitted
Shutterstock.com

CONTRIBUTORS

- Jamie Bird (C-SFT'15)
- Suzanne Boudreau (BBA'95)
- Khushi Chauhan
- Kayla Cormier (BA'18)
- Hilary Creamer Robinson (BA'11)
- Tim Jaques
- Angie Landry (BA'08)
- Anika Lavigne (BBA'23)
- Eric Marks (BA'92)
- Diane McAdam (BBA'89)
- Patty O'Brien
- Krista O'Reilly
- Natasha Rego (BA'13)
- Kara Stonehouse
- UNB Strategic Communications and Marketing Office

(Some content may have been assisted by AI, and reviewed, revised and approved by the editorial team.)

PRINTING

Advocate Printing

ADVERTISING

Email: alumni@unb.ca
Tel: 506.453.4847
Next issue: Fall 2026

UNB Alumni News is published by the UNB Associated Alumni and is distributed twice a year to alumni and friends of UNB.

Material may be printed in whole or in part with appropriate credit to UNB Alumni News, except where copyrighted by the author.

ISSN 1191-8276

Mailed under Canada Post Publications Mail agreement no.: 40063270

Printed in Canada

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-deductible 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, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025.

PUBLISHER'S CIRCLE *(gift of \$100 and up)*

Gilles Arseneau	Brian W. Derrah	Barbara M. Harrigan	Karen Ann McKay	Catherine A. Sutherland
Barrington J. Barlow	June D. Elder	F. Wayne Harrigan	Gary F. Mitton	Donald F. Taylor
Iris E.C. Bliss	Linda G. Faig	C. Robin Harrison	Warren E. Mizener	R. Dave Todd
John F. Briggs	Wolfgang Faig	Jennifer Harrison	J. Bruce Murray	Elizabeth Vermeulen
Arnold R. Budovitch	Cheryl A. Fetterly	Douglas Hayes	Charles E. Noonan	Victoria Foundation
Judy A. Budovitch	Neale W. Fetterly	Herchmer	Ian R. Poole	Jennifer A. Wade
Robert P. Chapman	Cindy M. Flann	David M. Irvine	Frank C. Robinson	Manford Wasson
Sally J. Cherry	Coreen G. Flemming	George Alexander Ivey	Janet Robinson	R. Howard Webster
David Cochrane	Ralph D. Fram	Pete Keilty	Peter Timothy	Foundation
Christine Coldwell	Glenrose Investments	Janet C. Kolanko	Stephen Ryan	David F. Woolnough
Stephen B. Coldwell	Limited	Emery P. LeBlanc	Albert C. Schmidt	J. Lynne Woolnough
Gavin T. Cosgrove	Louie J. Hachey	B. Dawn Logan	L. Burton Simpson	
Whitney A. Cosgrove	David W. Hansen	Ian G. Lutes	Derek M. Smith	
	Peggy L. Harcourt	Nancy McFadyen	M. Joan Smith	

EDITOR'S CIRCLE *(gift of \$50 - \$99)*

Anna M. Andow	William G. Hennessey	B. Ann McLean	John E. Rooke	Beverley H. Wace
Anne S. Carleton	Dawn L. Hicks	Donald G. McLean	Jonathon P. Scott	Burton W. Williams
David Neil Fraser	Catherine LaForest	Susan Mott	R. Sterling Shephard	J. Michael Wilson
Linda Gough	David Peter Lloyd	Winston A. Mott	E. Jane Tarn	Pamela J.T. Winsor
Peter C. Gough	John A. Luff	Kunhiraman P. K. Nair	Anna Tucker	
Ruby Hennessey	Kenneth S. Marchant	Mary Elizabeth Nowlan	James N. Tucker	

READER'S CIRCLE *(gift of \$49 or less)*

Carol V. Bray	Ronald E. Davidson	Brian L. McKenna	Linda Robinson
Dale I. Bray	Kathleen M. Kelly	J. Mark McLean	Robert A.C. Staples
Lillian Davidson	Ruth E. MacLean	Marc J.E.C. Pepin	Gail M. Wright ■

Give to Friends of Alumni News by

CALLING
(506) 447-3122



ONLINE
UNB.ca/friendsalumninews



“I am genuinely excited to meet alumni during my time as acting president and look forward to hearing your stories about UNB.”

I am privileged to serve as the acting president of the University of New Brunswick and welcome the opportunity to introduce myself and to connect with our alumni community during this important leadership transition.

I want to begin by recognizing and thanking former president and vice chancellor Dr. Paul J. Mazerolle for his leadership. Paul left UNB in a position of strength, having helped build momentum in teaching, research and establishing strong partnerships, all of which created significant and lasting impact. I am committed to maintaining this positive momentum as we respond to the current realities facing post-secondary education to ensure UNB is in the best possible position to welcome the 20th president and vice chancellor.

I am assuming this role at a time when universities are facing significant change, both here in New Brunswick and around the world. Yet change is something UNB understands deeply and can create opportunities for transformation. As Canada's first English-language university, we have a long history of adapting to – and often leading – periods of technological, social and economic transformation. Today, we continue to build on that strong foundation, and I want to assure our alumni that the university remains focused and prepared to move ahead with purpose.

This issue's theme – artificial intelligence – is a powerful example of how UNB is engaging with change thoughtfully and responsibly. Across our campuses, innovative teaching practices, research projects and operational initiatives are already using AI to advance learning and discovery. At the same time, we recognize the importance of clear guidance and shared principles. That's why UNB's Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (AIAC) has been working collaboratively on a university-wide

approach to support responsible use of AI – one that is grounded in academic integrity, human judgment and the public good.

The AIAC has launched a new AI Guidance & Resources hub that provides a central place for students, faculty and staff to explore principles, guidelines and learning opportunities. This work reflects collaboration across the university and the commitment of the UNB community to using emerging technologies with care and integrity.

UNB is deeply personal to me. I am a proud alumna, having earned two degrees here, and I quite literally grew up on the Fredericton campus while my father was a professor of civil engineering. Over more than 30 years working at UNB in a variety of roles, I have seen firsthand the remarkable impact our graduates make across our province, our country and the world.

I am genuinely excited to meet alumni during my time as acting president and look forward to hearing your stories about UNB.

The future of our university remains bright, thanks in large part to the commitment of our more than 100,000 alumni. I am deeply grateful for your pride in this university and your enduring connection to our community.

Proudly UNB,

Dr. Kathy Wilson
(RN, BN'87, MN, PhD'08)
Acting President and Vice Chancellor ■

Summer is here and UNB's campuses have quieted down – but the beauty is in full force. New Brunswick in summertime is unlike any other place on earth. Pure bliss.

A lot of change and excitement is happening here in New Brunswick and at UNB. As I'm sure most of you are aware, Dr. Paul Mazerolle has left UNB after almost seven years as its president and vice chancellor. Dr. Mazerolle has been a huge advocate for not only UNB, but also our alumni association – and more specifically, our alumni networks around the world. Dr. Kathy Wilson has stepped in as acting president during the search for UNB's next president and I'm certainly looking forward to continuing to work with her until the new president starts their term in 2027. You can listen to a special conversation between Dr. Mazerolle and Dr. Wilson on our UNBeknownst podcast, reflecting on his work at UNB, the state of education and his hopes for UNB in the future.

Last fall, we concluded our 2025 alumni engagement survey, and I'd like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who participated. UNB's overall alumni engagement score increased from 60.7 per cent in 2019 to 72.3 per cent in 2025! Additionally, in 2019, 18 per cent of our alumni were engaged with UNB. In 2025,

that number jumped to 44 per cent. These numbers certainly prove we're #ProudlyUNB!

Your voice and opinions have directly informed our five-year strategic plan that began on May 1. You can read more about our alumni engagement strategy **online**.

On April 10, we hosted our annual Proudly UNB Awards in Fredericton. We had a lovely evening of stories, pride and great company. As with every year, we are grateful for the amazing people that make up our community and network of over 100,000 around the world. Learn more about this year's Proudly UNB award recipients on **page 36**.

By the time you're reading this, we'll have ended another successful Reunion Weekend in Fredericton, which happened June 4 to 7. And as always, the team is very excited about all of the upcoming events, programs and opportunities to connect with our alumni community throughout the year.

I'm hoping to see you all at one of our upcoming events, but until then, take care and keep spreading your UNB pride.

Andrew Martel (BCS'15) ■



“Your voice and opinions have directly informed our five-year strategic plan that began on May 1.”

ALUMNI SURVEY SAYS

- **93%** feel great about their decision to attend UNB
- **89%** are satisfied with their academic experience
- **82%** would recommend UNB to others

Join us for
ALUMNI WEEKEND

Sept. 18 and 19, 2026, in Saint John

[UNB.ca/alumniweekend](https://unb.ca/alumniweekend)

Noteworthy

Alumni stories and UNB news you may have missed
Check them out in full at UNB.ca/alumni/news or blogs.UNB.ca/newsroom

UNB's century of electrical and computer engineering (February 2026)

From pinpointing Fredericton's longitude by telegraph in 1855 to advancing today's technology-driven systems, UNB's electrical and computer engineering story is one of constant reinvention. As the department celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026, it marks a century of education, innovation and leadership.

Alumni have played a foundational role in shaping the department, through contributions to power and communications networks, advances in computing and innovations in biomedical engineering. Their achievements in technology, entrepreneurship and research have strengthened the department's reputation and created opportunities for students and future generations of engineers.

Today, electrical and computer engineering education at UNB is strengthened by hands-on learning and research with real-world impact. Students work alongside faculty on subjects ranging from smart-grid systems and renewable energy to biomedical engineering, automation and artificial intelligence. Partnerships with industry and government ensure graduates are well prepared to address complex challenges as the next century of engineering innovation begins.

Siemens academic software grant brings world-leading AI tools to UNB students (January 2026)

Students now have access to state-of-the-art design and simulation

tools, thanks to an industry-grade software grant from Siemens.

Building on UNB's long-standing collaboration with Siemens, the grant provides students with access to the company's Global Academic and Future Workforce program, an initiative that equips graduates with the skills they need to enter the workforce as day-one-ready engineers.

With this grant, students and researchers have access to the same advanced tools that companies around the world depend on every day to shape the future of industrial AI and develop products in a wide variety of industries including automotive, aerospace, machinery, shipbuilding, high-tech electronics, and many more.

Using digital twin technology, learners work hands on with industry-grade engineering and manufacturing tools, gain knowledge of agentic AI systems and learn how intelligent software agents are able to assist in the planning, adapting and execution of complex tasks. These systems can autonomously manage complex workflows and collaborate with human experts in real-time to help drive exploration within the engineering domain and accelerate innovation.

Salmon restoration project earns top global recognition (December 2025)

A salmon conservation initiative, led by Indigenous partners, Parks Canada, UNB and an extensive network of academic, government and community partners, was named one of the UN World Restoration Flagship Initiatives.

The project, Respectful Returns: Restoring Resilience to Salmon Ecosystems, was selected for its leadership in Indigenous-led, science-based conservation and its transformative impact. This designation places the project among the world's most exemplary efforts to restore ecosystems at scale under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

UNB's contribution includes research led by Dr. Kurt Samways (PhD'17), Parks Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Restoration, along with his students. They work to restore degraded watersheds, improve spawning habitats and test innovative aquaculture techniques through collaborative stewardship.

Results include increased salmon returns, restored watersheds, new jobs and support for additional salmon recovery research projects.

White spruce in N.B. shows climate resilience, but warming could change that (December 2025)

White spruce (*Picea glauca*), a key species in New Brunswick's forestry sector, has shown resilience to recent droughts, according to new research. However, findings suggest that climate change may already be reshaping forest dynamics. Katherine Tripp (MScF'26) spent the past two years studying how these trees respond to drought. Her findings revealed a 25 per cent drop in growth during the recent 2017-2021 drought years, with 2019 marking the lowest growth increase since 1968. Larger trees were hit hardest.

Her study was based in the Black Brook district near St. Leonard, N.B., where she sampled white spruce trees across 32 planted sites. Using the science of tree

rings (dendrochronology), she measured annual growth and compared it with drought severity. Contrary to expectations, competition and site factors, such as slope, soil texture and water table depth, did not significantly affect drought response.

She attributed this to the nature of planted areas, where trees are intentionally planted on optimal sites and often thinned to reduce density. The study's results offer cautious optimism for forest managers. While growth declined during droughts, mortality rates remained low, suggesting that current thinning practices may help trees withstand dry conditions. Her findings have implications for forestry operations.

Larger trees, which are typically harvested for lumber, may need to be cut earlier to avoid drought-related losses. She noted that this could influence harvest rotation strategies, especially as climate models predict more frequent and severe droughts in Atlantic Canada. Her research also highlighted the importance of studying natural stands, which were not included in this study. Her work adds to a growing body of research aimed at helping the forestry industry adapt to climate change.

Cybersecurity training program opens doors for Indigenous talent (November 2025)

The first cohort of students completed a new 12-week program developed to help Indigenous people in New Brunswick move from foundational IT training into in-demand cybersecurity careers.

Hosted at Thales' National Digital Education Excellence Centre (NDEC) in Fredericton's Cyber Centre, the program offers immersive, hands-on experience in a real-world innovation setting. The first cohort ran from September to November 2025, giving participants the opportunity to apply the foundations they've gained through the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)'s IT training program as they develop, test and refine cybersecurity tools. Participants collaborated with Thales professionals and benefitted from the mentorship of JEDI's experienced instructors.

The program, co-designed by the McKenna Institute, Thales and JEDI, reflects current industry needs and provides experiential opportunities at Thales. By focusing on practical skills and real-world projects, the program aims to help students transition directly into the workforce upon completion.

UNB student launches study app aimed at building connections (November 2025)

From a spark of inspiration to a spinning wheel of connections, computer science student Owen Yesuf's app Buddy Sync is helping students find study partners faster and easier than ever.

In early 2025, Owen attended an entrepreneurship conference that spun out a big idea. Less than a year later, that idea is a study app quickly growing in popularity. With over 10,000 active users from around the world, Buddy Sync connects subscribers with a study partner with similar goals.

The app, which Owen co-founded with computer programmer, Chibuzor Ezeji, is designed to connect students who want to learn together.

Like many great ideas, Owen's was born from his own desire for human connection. Buddy Sync users are connected through the app's spinning wheel, a feature Owen is particularly proud of. Users create a profile where they input their location, area of study and study preference. After spinning the "study buddy wheel," users are matched with subscribers in similar programs with similar study preferences.

UNB and partners launch Accelerate AI to help contact centres use AI and train workers (November 2025)

UNB's McKenna Institute, in collaboration with ContactNB and a network of provincial and federal partners, launched a new initiative to accelerate AI adoption and workforce readiness across New Brunswick's contact centre sector.

The AI Adoption in Contact Centres project equips organizations and employees with the skills, tools and applied learning experiences needed to integrate AI responsibly into daily operations. The goal of the project is to enhance efficiency, improve customer service and create new opportunities for employees to grow and lead within a changing digital landscape.

Through the project, the McKenna Institute and ContactNB deliver AI training and upskilling programs to build capacity among contact centre leaders and employees. These programs are designed to complement human expertise by helping workers understand how AI can support decision-making, customer care and innovation.

The McKenna Institute is coordinating the project in partnership with New Brunswick-based NorthBound Advisory, ensuring alignment with the institute's mission to drive digital transformation and talent development throughout the province.

The project, launched in September 2025 and continuing through September 2026, aims to increase AI awareness and adoption among ContactNB member organizations and enhance digital literacy and leadership readiness to maintain a resilient workforce in New Brunswick's contact centre industry.

UNB's new MBA in supply chain management delivers its first graduate (October 2025)

For Jean Camino (MBA'25), the launch of UNB's MBA in supply chain management was perfectly timed, opening doors in Canada's fast-growing logistics sector. Last October, he became the program's first graduate. An industrial engineer with experience in Peru's mining sector, Jean had planned to pursue an MBA in an English-speaking country. After graduating, he received two job offers and now leads efforts to centralize supply chain operations at a growing vineyard in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. ■

UNB GRANTS FOUR Honorary Degrees



Habib Dable

Habib Dable (BBA'91, MBA'94) received an honorary doctor of letters. He is a leader in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors with more than 25 years of international experience.

After graduating, he joined Bayer Canada and moved through senior roles in Canada, the United States and overseas. In 2015, he became president of U.S. pharmaceuticals, overseeing work across cardiology, hematology, neurology, oncology and women's health. His responsibilities included leading teams, guiding product launches and managing long-term growth in complex health-care markets.

Habib later became president and chief executive officer of Acceleron Pharma. During his tenure, the company advanced late-stage programs and

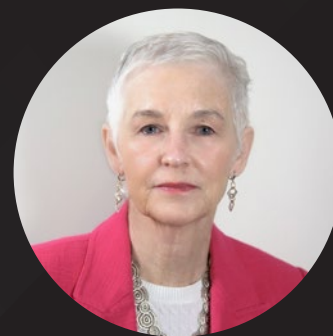
strengthened its path to market. In 2019, Acceleron delivered its first major therapy to patients and advanced a second program in pulmonary arterial hypertension. Over five years, Habib helped build the organization, raise capital and guide the company to its sale to Merck in 2021. He has since focused on board service, advisory work, mentorship and selective investment roles.

His work has been widely recognized. *Institutional Investor* named him a top-ranked mid-cap biotech CEO in 2019, 2020 and 2021. *Pharmaceutical Executive* included him on its Emerging Leaders list in 2016. His experience spans partnerships, product development and growth strategies across the United States and international markets. He is known for sound judgment, steady leadership and attention to patient needs.

Habib has long-standing ties to UNB. The faculty of management awarded him an Alumni Certificate of Achievement in 2016. He established the Joseph M. Dable Scholarship, which provides full tuition for entrepreneurial students in the faculty of management.

In 2023-2024, he served as executive-in-residence, meeting with students to discuss leadership, career paths and decision-making. Through the Dable Family Foundation, he also supports philanthropic work connected to education and community life.

Habib credits family influence, particularly lessons from his father, for shaping his ethics and perseverance. His career reflects sustained effort in complex health-care settings and a commitment to mentoring the next generation. He remains connected to UNB and to New Brunswick, returning often to share his experience and help students link classroom learning with real-world practice.



Andrea Feunekes

Andrea Feunekes (MScF'88) received an honorary doctor of science. She is a New Brunswick entrepreneur and community leader whose work links technology, resource planning and education.

Soon after graduation, Andrea co-founded Remsoft in Fredericton along with her husband Ugo (MScF'91). Over three decades, she helped build the company into a global supplier of

advanced analytics, modelling and spatial planning tools used for sustainable land-based asset management.

Remsoft now serves more than 150 clients worldwide. Clients using its software plan and manage about half a billion acres of land. The company maintains strong ties to UNB through hiring, research links in forestry and computer science, and long-standing participation in co-op and graduate internship programs.

Andrea's leadership includes service as chair of the New Brunswick Business Council. She has served on the boards of the Wallace McCain Institute, Opportunities New Brunswick and the Stan Cassidy Foundation, and sits on the boards of AstenJohnson, an international fabrics manufacturer, and Shaw Group Limited, which is one of Eastern Canada's leading community developers, residential builders and natural resource manufacturers.

She was a founding member of the Gathering Circle, which works to strengthen relationships between the private sector and Indigenous communities in New Brunswick. Her support has also included backing the documentary *My Name is Wolastoq*.

Her awards include the RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year and the Startup Canada Adam Chowanec Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been named an Edelman Laureate by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. She is a member of the Junior Achievement New Brunswick Business Hall of Fame and the forestry hall of fame of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick.

Andrea continues to advocate for women in STEM, stronger links between business and education, and practical steps toward reconciliation. Her career reflects steady execution, clear purpose and a record of building capacity.



Donald McAlpine

Donald McAlpine (BA'79, MSc'88, PhD'96) received an honorary doctor of science. He is a biodiversity scientist and museum curator whose career at the New Brunswick Museum spans more than four decades. He joined the museum in 1981, became curator of zoology and served as head of the department of natural history for periods in the 1980s and 1990s and continuously since 2006.

Donald's work brings together research, collections and public engagement. He has published more than 270 articles dealing with the fauna of Atlantic Canada in technical journals, books, conference proceedings and popular publications.

His studies have addressed emerging issues such as white-nose syndrome in bats, climate-change-induced range shifts in insects and small mammals and the introduction of invasive molluscs and crayfish. He co-edited a comprehensive volume on species diversity in the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone and helped produce practical identification tools used by field workers and students.

At the museum, Donald has guided significant growth and modernization of the natural history collections, including the acquisition of significant holdings of marine mammals, freshwater molluscs and insects, all now consulted regularly by researchers worldwide. He has designed or overseen exhibitions and created paths for students and volunteers to learn specimen preparation, field methods and data curation.

In 2009, he founded, and until his retirement in 2024, led BiotaNB, a biodiversity inventory program in New Brunswick protected natural areas. BiotaNB continues under a new generation of leaders. Each year BiotaNB brings together taxonomic specialists from across North America, students, volunteers and artists for two weeks of intensive fieldwork and a community open house. The program has produced about 60 scientific papers and helped train a generation of naturalists and biologists.

Donald has mentored more than 20 MSc students and several PhD students as a supervisor or committee member, given frequent guest lectures and widely collaborated with universities and agencies. National awards have honoured his work in conservation and museums, and a special journal issue has highlighted his impact on natural history research in the Maritimes.

Donald's career is one of rigorous field science, careful stewardship of collections and a commitment to sharing knowledge with the public. He remains closely tied to UNB and to the province he has served for a lifetime.



Anna Maria Tremonti

Anna Maria Tremonti received an honorary doctor of letters.

A Canadian journalist with a career spanning more than four decades in radio, television and podcasting, she is known for her work as the founding host of CBC Radio One's *The Current*, which she led for 17 seasons. Under her

leadership, the program became the most listened-to radio program in Canada. Her work brought depth and clarity to national conversations on public life, policy and global events.

Before *The Current*, Anna Maria reported for *The National* as an international correspondent. She was posted in Berlin, London, Jerusalem and Washington, covering events that reshaped regions and influenced global affairs.

Her reporting included the fall of the Soviet Union, the breakup of Yugoslavia, the first Palestinian intifada and stories across the Middle East. She also co-hosted *The Fifth Estate*, producing investigative documentaries that reached audiences in Canada and abroad.

Anna Maria began her career in Atlantic Canada. She hosted *Information Morning Fredericton*, where she developed the reporting skills and community ties that informed her later work. She went on to assignments with CBC in Edmonton, Ottawa and on Parliament Hill. Her work ranged from breaking news to long-form interviews, documentaries and live reporting.

Since 2019, she has led AM Tremonti Productions. She created two podcast series with CBC Podcasts. *More with Anna Maria Tremonti* debuted at number one on Apple Podcasts in 2020. Her 2022 podcast *Welcome to Paradise* also debuted at number one and drew wide attention for its examination of intimate

partner violence. In both projects, she used long-form storytelling to connect public issues with deep personal experience.

Anna Maria holds an honours BA in communication studies from the University of Windsor. She has received awards from Amnesty International, the Canadian Journalism Foundation, the New York Festivals and the Alliance for Women in Media.

She holds honorary degrees from Windsor, Carleton, Royal Roads, York and Mount Saint Vincent universities. Her career reflects a consistent commitment to public understanding and to the role of journalism in Canadian life. ■

Congratulations to the Currie Undergraduate Scholarship winners for 2026-27



Benjamin Alain of Stratford, P.E.I., **Bailey Bennett** of Stephenville, N.L., **Ella Coffin** of Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B. and **Tyler Murray** of Hampton, N.B. The \$75,000 scholarships are funded by Richard J. Currie (OC, ONB, CBHF, MBA, DLitt, PEng), who was a Beaverbrook Scholar as a young man. They are awarded to high school graduates in the four Atlantic provinces and are primarily based on future leadership potential, with consideration given to academic performance, financial need and obstacles overcome.

WE HAVE CONTACT!

UNB researchers track signals from NASA's Artemis II moon mission

□ NASA

High-fives soared as UNB researchers successfully picked up signals from NASA's Integrity spacecraft as it travelled to the moon and back last April. It's a major milestone for UNB, the only Canadian university involved in tracking the Orion spacecraft Integrity on its journey.

Dr. Brent Petersen, professor of communications in UNB's department of electrical and computer engineering, along with student researcher Megan MacDonald, confirmed detection of a radio frequency transmission from Integrity during early morning operations at the UNB Earth Station. It was a moment that underscored years of preparation, collaboration and research.

"On Saturday, April 4, at the UNB Earth Station, Megan MacDonald and I were able to detect the radio frequency transmission of Integrity at 08:12 Coordinated Universal Time," says Dr. Petersen. "That's 5:12 a.m. Atlantic Daylight Time. Integrity was 16.5 degrees above the horizon, and the azimuth was 186.5 degrees, which meant the antenna was looking over the Student Union Building."

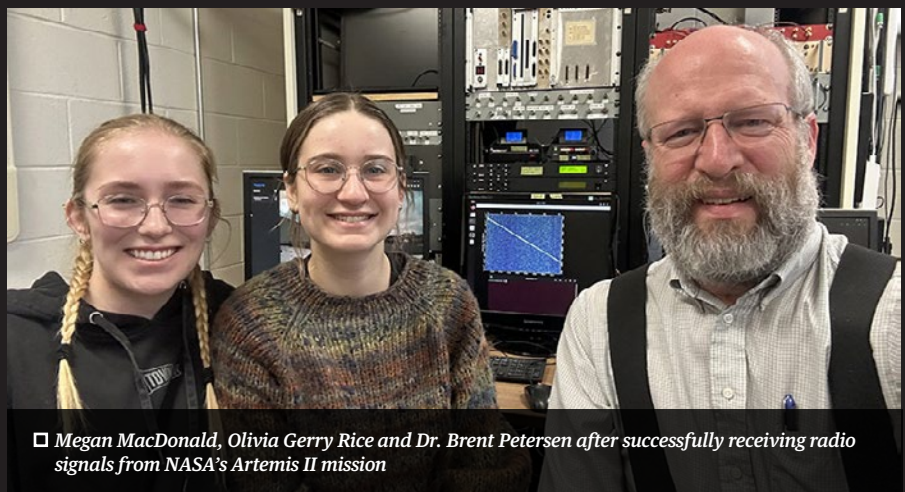
NASA selected UNB as one of only three Canadian contributors helping to track Integrity during its approximately 10-day mission around the moon. Of the three Canadian potential contributors, UNB was the only Canadian university involved.

UNB's contribution brought together expertise from CubeSatNB, the department of electrical and computer engineering, the department of geodesy and geomatics engineering, and the UNB Earth Station. The multidisciplinary team supports

hands on learning and advanced research in satellite communications.

As part of a global network of academic partners, commercial providers and volunteer stations, UNB helped passively track Integrity's radio signals during its voyage to and from the moon, contributing real world data to a historic space mission.

"Aerospace engineering is alive and well at UNB," says Dr. Richard Langley, professor of geodesy and precision navigation in the department of geodesy and geomatics engineering. ■



□ Megan MacDonald, Olivia Gerry Rice and Dr. Brent Petersen after successfully receiving radio signals from NASA's Artemis II mission

FROM HARDSHIP TO *Leadership*

Although Cliff Tshibungu (BA'16) has experienced great pain in his life, he has refused to let his suffering harden him. Instead of simply surviving, he has made meaning from what he endured by serving others.

At an early age, Cliff, who grew up in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was exposed to poverty, inequality and instability – forces that shaped a commitment to justice, peace building and the inherent worth of every human being. When he was 12 or 13, his family immigrated to Canada, settling in Toronto. Although Canada was more stable, Cliff struggled to find peace within himself. He became estranged from his family, and midway through high school, he was kicked out of their home. For the next five or six years, he bounced between living on the streets or couch surfing. “I was living day by day. Literally, day by day. The goal each day was: don’t think about tomorrow. Just get through today.” By leaning into his faith and connecting with people who believed in him, he finished high school, even without a permanent place to live.

Through all this, he turned to journaling for solace. Rereading those journals as an adult helped him realize how profoundly his experiences had affected him. “I went back, and I touched [the pages of] some of my journals... I could feel how intense it was – the paper was bubbling.” Sometimes, he says, he cries when he reads those entries.

“Acknowledging both the hurt and the healing has been essential,” he says. Although his life was “far from linear, far from perfect,” his trials and tribulations

helped him grow resilient. For Cliff, resilience “isn’t about toughness, or bouncing back, per se, it’s about learning how to grow without becoming hardened.”

When he was younger, Cliff did feel some bitterness, but instead of letting it weigh him down, he used it as fuel for growth. Over time, he learned to shift the script. Instead of asking, “why is this happening to me?” he began asking, “why not me?” That shift in perspective helped him recognize that his lived experience had made him the “perfect canvas” to help marginalized people. “Some people cannot relate to others’ stories because they never walked in that path. I have. I know what it feels like to be on the street saying, ‘Sir, can you please spare change?’”

In 2010, Cliff moved to New Brunswick after being recruited to play basketball, a sport that had provided him with structure, community and a sense of belonging during his challenging years. While this opportunity didn’t fully work out, the move marked a new chapter in his life. “New Brunswick became the place where my life began to stabilize and take clearer direction.” It was also where he met his future wife, Kristen, whom he describes as his anchor.

Rebranding his struggle

That same year, after realizing that higher education could be a pathway toward stability, purpose and service, he applied to UNB as a mature student. “UNB gave me that opportunity to rebrand my pain, to rebrand my struggle, to rebrand what education means to us

all. For me, it was starting and finishing something in the midst of discomfort.” At the time, he was living with Kristen and his step-daughter – their son would be born in 2019 – and balancing family responsibilities with school meant working two cleaning jobs to make ends meet. Despite the pressure, he was adamant that he could not fail. “This is my chance to really show myself that I can start something and finish it.”

After graduating, Cliff followed Kristen’s path into the military. He trained as a military police member, serving at CFB Gagetown from 2017 to 2024. His own encounters with police officers and soldiers as a youth shaped that decision. He wanted to bring humanity and understanding into roles that could feel intimidating to others. Growing up in DRC, he often saw UN peacekeepers on patrol, which sparked an early awareness of service and protection in communities facing instability. Later, his experiences of hardship in Canada strengthened his desire to support people who felt voiceless or powerless.

As a military police member, Cliff worked to bridge the gap between minority communities and law enforcement, an approach reflected in his everyday interactions. When interacting with youth and adults, he’d introduce himself by striking up a genuine conversation, sometimes even playing sports like basketball at outdoor courts to build rapport.

Although still a member of the military, he stepped away from policing in 2024 to pursue a master of divinity at Acadia Divinity College, specializing

in leadership, ethics and spiritual formation, and received the Dean's Achievement Award in recognition of his academic excellence and dedication. His goal is to become a military chaplain.

On the surface, policing and ministry may seem like very different callings. But Cliff sees them as deeply connected, noting that both paths "submerge into the same goal, which is community transformation, whether it's leadership ethics, whether it is personal growth, whether it is empowerment."

Interrupting the silence

Outside of his professional roles, Cliff has also worked to empower Black men by creating the Black Men's Dinner, a gathering where participants support one another in transforming experiences of oppression into growth. From the outset, he has encouraged vulnerability. "This is your space to say, hey, my name is so-and-so. I need help with this. If you don't utilize this space, it's going to burst out somewhere else." Many Black men, he notes, are expected to "survive silently." The Black Men's Dinner "exists to interrupt that silence" in a way that feels safe, human, and, above all, dignified.

The setting varies, but the gatherings always include a shared meal, and participants are expected to dress up. This "help[s] restore dignity and remind participants that their current struggle does not define their worth. You get dressed with your best clothes, you show up, you look good, you feel good, you smell good, you're sitting down at a table, a meal's there, wine's there, and all you're looking at is men in the same situation as you. No ego. No ulterior motives, nothing but honest conversation."

As an agent of change, Cliff is developing his motivational speaking skills so he can provide words that are "nourishing to the soul" to those who are struggling. He didn't plan on becoming a speaker, but he noticed that people consistently sought him out to speak, "not because I

"Resilience isn't about toughness, or bouncing back, per se, it's about learning how to grow without becoming hardened."

had perfect answers, but because I spoke honestly about struggle, responsibility and hope." He realized his ability to articulate hard truths in a way that resonates and mobilizes others was worth developing intentionally.

Underlying all of his work, Cliff says, is a spiritual framework that has helped him make sense of both suffering and purpose. Throughout his trials, he says, there's been a "divine imperative" guiding him through it. "I believe I was indeed meant to go through what I went through."

Cliff, who has been inspired by Black leaders such as Nelson Mandela and the Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba, was asked what he would change if he could go back in time. His answer was, "nothing." "If I change one thing, then everything, the whole story changes... [If you remove] one piece, you remove everything; it's not the same anymore. Everything needs to stay intact the way it happened, in sequence of how it happened. I am grateful to be alive and see the growth of my journey." ■



ON THE EDGE OF THE OLYMPICS

My humble ode to UNB



**Written by Dr. Ryan Hamilton
(BA'00, MScExSS'03, PhD'11)
on Feb. 8, 2026**

My plane is presently descending into Toronto's Pearson International Airport as I complete the first of my three-leg journey to Milan for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. I will be in Milan for 16 days, working as the mental performance consultant with Canada's men's Olympic hockey team. Yes, my dreams have come true.

I'm not sure what this tournament is going to ask of the team, or of me professionally, but I am wholeheartedly committed to doing my very best for Canada by navigating every challenge and taking advantage of every opportunity we meet. We all know the expectation is gold, and it's a privilege to work for a team with expectations like that.

I also know I am ready for these challenges, in large part because of my enduring affiliation with UNB. I've been on campus in some way, shape or form for 30 consecutive years. I've been an undergraduate and graduate student, and a part-time and full-time professor. I've been a residence don, a varsity cross-country runner, a Cellar Pub patron and a consultant with the varsity teams here.

My experiences at UNB have prepared me for the rich life I'm so grateful to live.

As a student, I had professors who challenged, mentored and supported me. I became a capable researcher and applied practitioner by the deep and nuanced education I received.

As a budding mental performance consultant, I had the opportunity to work with a host of amazing coaches who gave me the platform to do the work I'm so passionate about. Furthermore, they gave me a window into how they work, what they know about the psychology of sport, and what facilitating high performance should look like.

Today, as an associate professor in the department of psychology, I get to work with so many accomplished and supportive faculty members that I feel blessed every time I pull into the parking lot below Keirstead Hall. I appreciate the tangible and emotional support I receive from my colleagues; and much like our students, I am lucky to have you.

And finally, I am blessed with the opportunity to work with amazing students every time I enter Tilley 102, MacLaggan 105 or Bailey 146. Curious and driven in their own right, the students at UNB challenge me to

continually evolve and challenge my own status quo. Based on what I see from our student body, I know the future is bright.

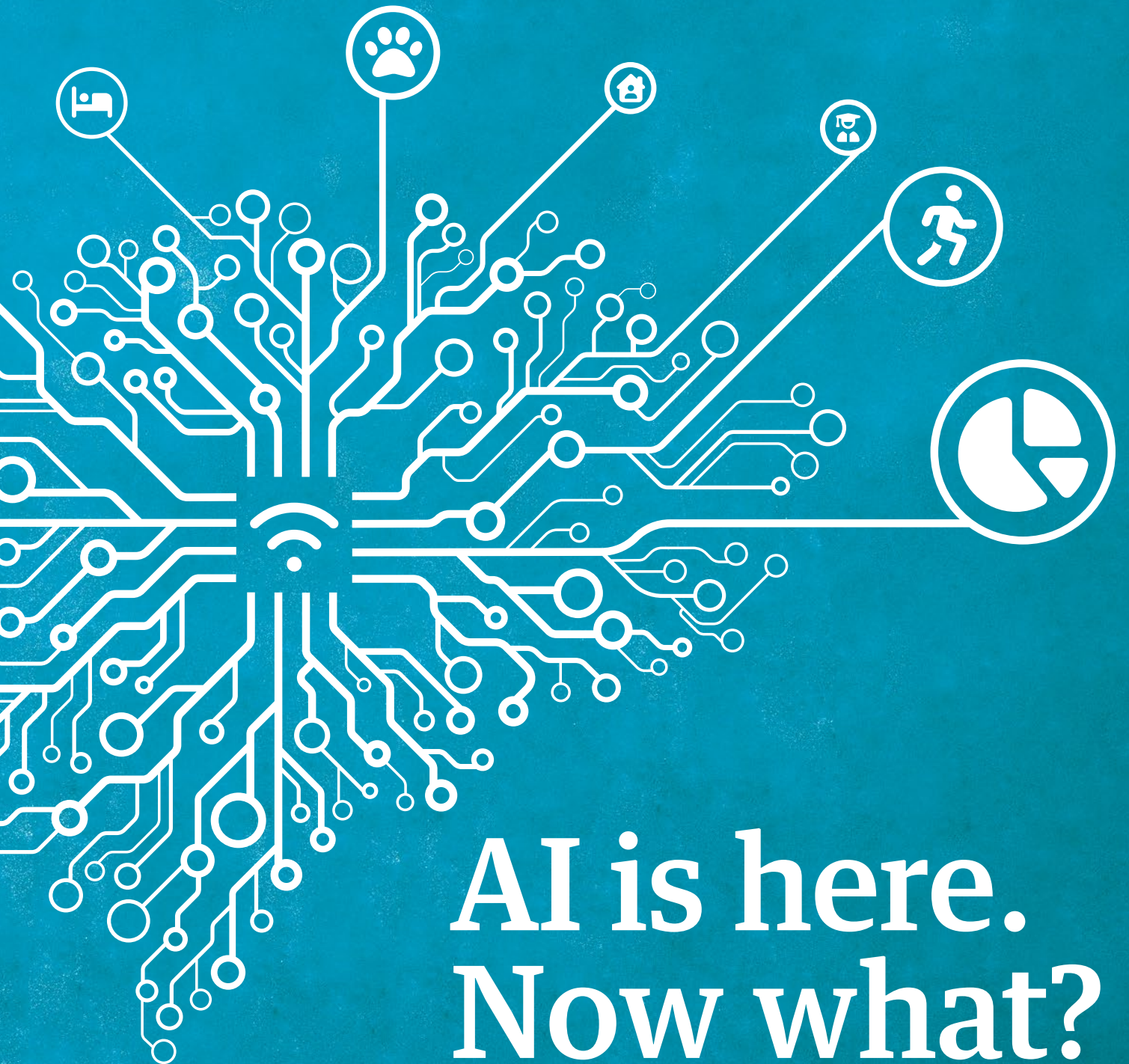
The Olympic men's hockey team has a motto for these games: "From Canada, For Canada." It's a reminder of where we came from and what we are doing this for. But I can also relate to a motto of "From UNB, For UNB," a school that's been a part of who I am for the entirety of my adult life.

So, as I sit here staring out the window at the urban sprawl of Mississauga, I can feel a building anticipation for the tremendous international adventure that awaits. And I am also aware of a feeling of deep gratitude to where I come from and the people that make it so very special.

This is my humble expression of thanks.

Go, Canada! ■

Ryan is an associate professor in the psychology department, a Fredericton-based sports psychologist and mental performance coach for the Tampa Bay Lightning. He served as the mental performance consultant for Canada's men's hockey team at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo.



AI is here. Now what?

**INSIDE: THE OPPORTUNITIES,
RISKS AND QUESTIONS**



□ Dr. Andrew Mathis

CURIOUS AI THAT LEARNS WHILE IT WORKS

UNB researchers have created a head-turning AI model that balances curiosity with efficiency, allowing it to refine its strategies in real time. Their recently published paper details how this system outperformed traditional models in managing pandemic policies by reducing health and economic risks. This patent-pending technology is already attracting interest in potential health care, energy and robotics applications.

A groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm developed at UNB could transform decision-making in unpredictable situations, from health care to energy management.

The new approach, known as curiosity-based control, allows AI to seek out information while performing its

tasks, an ability that sets it apart from traditional AI models.

“Most AI systems either passively learn from data or adapt based on what happens to them,” says Dr. Jon Sensinger, an electrical and computer engineering professor and director of UNB’s Institute for Biomedical Engineering.

“Our algorithm does something different: It actively explores its environment to improve future decisions.”

The research, co-led by Dr. Sensinger and Dr. Juan Antonio Carretero, professor and associate dean academic in the faculty of engineering, centres on work by Dr. Andrew Mathis (BScE’16, D-TME’16, MScE’19, PhD’24), who designed an AI system that balances this curiosity with efficiency.

The researchers published a paper entitled *Beyond Adaptive Control: A Control Method for Nonlinear Systems With Uncertainties, Applied to COVID-19*. The study presents an advanced AI-based control system that thinks ahead instead of reacting. When applied to COVID-19 policies, it led to smarter, more innovative and effective decisions. The approach has potential applications in many fields where uncertainty is a challenge.

How did it start?

Inspired by his experience managing his passive solar greenhouse, Dr. Mathis initially conceived an AI greenhouse control system.

“There is a temperature control, a humidity control, lights, ventilation and a passive solar and geothermal system built into it.”

“I proposed researching that, but then we realized we could develop something more widely applicable than just greenhouses.”

AI that proactively learns

Unlike conventional AI models, this new algorithm proactively tests its assumptions. It carefully probes uncertain aspects of a system while still working toward its primary goal, whether saving lives, reducing costs or optimizing efficiency.

One great advantage is this AI runs efficiently with minimal computing power: Dr. Mathis ran it on his decade-old laptop.

The key innovation lies in how the AI balances two types of information: states, which are tracked and adjusted, and parameters, which are slower-changing variables in the system. The challenge was to make the AI curious about these parameters while still focusing on its primary task.

“What is cool is this control algorithm can prioritize both things: learning while saving lives. It could test things when stakes were low, and then it had more information to make better decisions when the stakes were high.”

A new approach

The research paper explores a new approach to managing systems where outcomes are unpredictable due to uncertainties.

It introduces an advanced control method called dual iterative linear quadratic Gaussian (iLQG) control, which improves decision-making compared to traditional adaptive control.

Adaptive control learns from past data but does not plan future actions to improve learning. Dual control, on the other hand, experiments to gather helpful information, improving long-term outcomes.

Dr. Sensinger compared this method to driving on an icy road.

“You could just drive normally, applying past knowledge about winter driving. Or you could wait until you skid at an intersection and then react. But a better approach would be tapping your brakes early, testing the road conditions in a way that helps you make better decisions as you go. That’s what this AI does.”

The study applies dual iLQG to managing COVID-19 restrictions, using data compiled during the pandemic. This approach helped the AI find the best mix of COVID-19 policies (such as lockdowns or mask mandates) by balancing public health and economic impact, both of which had been government concerns.

It improves existing methods by simultaneously handling multiple uncertainties, circumventing a challenge known as Bellman’s curse of dimensionality.

The dual iLQG controller outperformed adaptive control by 6.4 per cent in reducing COVID-19 deaths and economic costs, while adjusting policies based on new data over time – proactively reducing uncertainties rather than just reacting.

Unlike standard models, it also accounted for the impact of overwhelmed health-care systems. It proved effective even when handling 16 uncertain parameters in a complex scenario.

Real-world applications

This AI could help governments and businesses make better decisions in uncertain situations, from pandemic responses to energy management and robotics. The team is already exploring collaborations, including a research project with the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation and Praxis Spinal Cord Institute.

Early discussions with health-care authorities and local companies suggest this AI model could be used to improve resource allocation in hospitals and government policy planning. While it performed well in simulations, real-world applications still need fine-tuning to account for human behaviour and external factors.

Commercial potential and future research

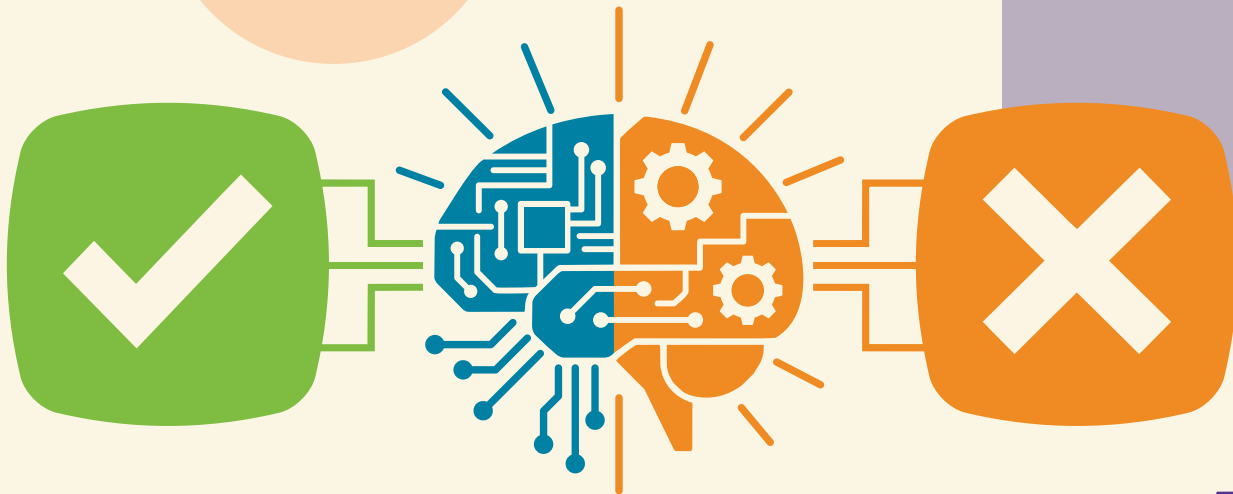
With a patent pending on the technology, UNB’s Fulcrum initiative seeks industry partners.

Dr. Sensinger believes this kind of collaboration is key to unlocking its full potential.

“This is an incredibly powerful tool, but for it to have an impact, we need to work with experts in different fields: policymakers, health-care professionals and energy analysts. The algorithm can suggest innovative solutions, but its strength lies in helping human decision-makers make better-informed choices.”

The researchers plan to refine the algorithm further, expanding its use in more complex, high-stakes environments. Dr. Sensinger sees possibilities for curiosity-driven AI, not just in automation but in scientific discovery itself.

“Curiosity is at the heart of all great research. If we can build AI that embodies that same principle, we open the door to smarter, more adaptive decision-making in every field.” ■



BUSTING MYTHS ABOUT AI

Artificial intelligence is evolving fast, but that doesn't mean humans should be left behind. According to UNB's Dr. Scott Bateman, they're needed now more than ever. Dr. Bateman, a leading researcher at UNB's Research Institute in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RIDSAI), SPECTRAL Spatial Computing Research Centre and the Human-Computer Interaction Lab, argues that human creativity, problem-solving and decision-making are more crucial than ever in a world driven by AI. He busts myths about AI and computer science and shares how students and researchers at UNB are shaping the future of human-AI collaboration.

Myth 1: AI will replace human creativity

Bateman: When we think about AI these days, most often we are thinking about large-language models (LLMs). LLMs are fantastic because they use a huge amount of data that already exists. They can find connections in that data and summarize it in a way that is easy to understand. But they are not creative in the same way people are.

They rely on data that they have already seen to make a guess at what sounds like something we want to hear; they are good at mimicking what people

have already created. This can seem like creativity, but it's a shallow type of creativity because it doesn't invent.

People will always have the innate ability for deeper creativity, inventing ideas and thoughts that no one has had before. Human emotion and our understanding of larger contexts and constraints allow for this kind of innovative thinking – and help us understand whether a creative idea is one that others will be receptive to. Solving society's biggest problems will require deep creativity.

Myth 2: AI will become more emotionally intelligent than people

Bateman: For some types of tasks, AI can do a reasonable job. For example, we have seen a rise in chatbots handling communications with customers, either via chat or sometimes voice. This works most of the time because people largely have the same questions about products and services that can be well-defined and tested beforehand.

But sometimes, chatbots fail. A Canadian airline had a chatbot give a passenger incorrect information about bereavement fares. The airline had to honour the chatbot's mistake in a situation where human sensitivity and compassion would have been appreciated by the customer. I like this simple example

because it reinforces the idea that those who take advantage of AI must be held accountable. It also suggests that while AI can streamline some tasks, we have to use it carefully. To maintain our humanity, human oversight is required.

Myth 3: AI will take computer science jobs

Bateman: I believe that humans will never be obsolete in the workforce. We need human oversight to identify when things are wrong or not working. We need humans to make sure that AI systems are used ethically, safely and securely. We will always need humans for deep, creative insights.

One possibility that we have to guard against is the amount of work people are responsible for. We have seen a steady increase in workloads with the introduction of transformative technologies (calculators, personal computers, the Internet and smartphones). This is referred to as the 'productivity paradox,' where new capabilities lead to much higher expectations.

To build on the airline example, say a customer service representative who was once responsible for handling dozens of customers on the phone over the course of the day now must provide oversight

on hundreds of cases that were filtered through a chatbot. This creates an increase in expectation and is another reason why human oversight and management is and will remain crucial. Because while humans might not be able to get through a task list as quickly as AI, the quality of work can suffer, and critical mistakes can be made. Reports like this one have been well documented and ideally should be avoided. Many of these reports suggest that people across a wide range of fields already feel overburdened.

UNB's contributions to AI education and industry collaboration

How is UNB preparing students to thrive in an AI-driven job market?

Bateman: There are a few ways UNB is doing a good job of preparing students.

First, we are doing what we have always done: providing world-class education in computer science that ensures students build a fundamental knowledge base. This is so important because when AI provides a bad solution or when real creativity is required, our graduates are prepared to tackle challenges and think critically and innovatively.

Second, we are always adapting our courses by incorporating new practices and the latest content. This includes adjusting how we assess students to make sure they are not becoming overly reliant on AI, while still providing opportunities for appropriate AI uses that support learning and reinforce industry best practices.

Third, we are creating new course offerings that cover the latest developments in AI, machine learning, cybersecurity, software engineering, systems architecture, human-computer interaction, social issues and ethics.

These topics go far beyond coding. They help prepare computer scientists to address bigger and broader topics and provide a platform for deep

understanding and creativity – not just related to building computer systems, but how to make sure they work in real-world situations.

UNB is collaborating with industry partners on game-changing AI innovations. Can you tell us more about their impact?

Bateman: This is a tough one to encapsulate because the ways that UNB researchers and students engage with industry are so vast. Let's talk about why these types of collaborations work so well.

UNB is second to none in terms of the ease and accessibility partners and collaborators have when it comes to gaining access to our deep pool of talented students and researchers. UNB's culture is unlike any other university I have worked with or visited, which includes universities across Canada, the U.S., Europe and Asia. It has a real advantage because as a medium-sized school, we can simplify partnerships so they focus directly on collaboration with researchers and students.

Companies collaborating with UNB see the value our researchers provide and the strength of our students' skills (whether bachelor's, master's or PhD students). Partners gain immediate access to our impressive talent pipeline. This leads to deeply synergistic opportunities where researchers are exposed to real world problems that they can take back to the classroom, while also lending their expertise. This benefits both our partners and our students, who in the process learn about innovation and creative problem solving.

Students almost always work directly with industrial partners on research and development projects. Because students are so close to the solid fundamentals they've learned in the classroom, they provide a fresh perspective and often, the most creative solutions. It's common for these relationships to turn into employment offers for students.

Many universities collaborate with industry, but at UNB, it's baked into the culture. This, and our size, coupled with the calibre of students, researchers and experts, is why our partners seek collaboration again and again.

Where is AI and human collaboration heading? What kinds of opportunities will UNB computer science students be part of in the next few years?

Bateman: UNB computer science students will have amazing opportunities. Not only will they be able to fundamentally understand how the technology that is transforming the world around us works, but they will have an opportunity to help code our future. This is because coders create the tools that people use on their phones and watches, in their kitchens and cars; everywhere there is a computer.

Society needs thoughtful people with excellent skills, ethics and an understanding of the importance of their work to provide safe, secure and reliable information and assistance. The world needs more UNB computer science graduates to help create the tools of the future and to guide us in a rapidly transforming world.

What excites you most about the future of AI and human problem-solving?

Bateman: I think what excites me most is the rate of progress that new AI tools will enable.

I imagine a future where people remain at the centre of decision-making and in full control of the work that they do, but use AI assistants, where available, for little tasks that currently slow us down, like sorting through emails or searching for a document.

While these small tasks seem simple and insignificant, they add up in the course of a day and eat up time. I hope that AI frees up our time so we can focus on deeper and more creative pursuits and tackle bigger problems. In other words, to do things that people are really good at. ■



ON THE FRONTLINES OF PHISHING

You receive an email from a familiar sender. It looks legitimate, but when you hover over the link, something doesn't quite line up. That moment of pause is where many cyber threats are either stopped or allowed through.

Understanding how and why those moments matter has become the focus of Nicole Bendrich (BScE'15, D-TME'15, MScE'20). As director of product at alumni-founded Beauceron Security, she helps organizations use data to better understand cyber threats and stay ahead of them. Her work focuses on the role people play in security systems and why they are more important than many assume.

"I see us as a human and behaviour change company. What I love about Beauceron, is we're not thinking about humans as the weakest link. We're not saying humans are the problem. We're saying humans are the solution. Humans are a company's strongest link,

and the reason that they're so important is that they're going to be able to determine if there's something wrong more effectively than technology."

That perspective shapes how the company approaches cybersecurity. While Beauceron's software suite includes phishing emails to train users, it also relies on those same users to flag suspicious messages. Nicole and her team created an AI tool that analyzes email data to sharpen the company's awareness about the latest threats and build specific protections to combat them. The automation has increased the email report rate by over 50 per cent.

Nicole's path into this role began during the uncertainty of 2020. Faced with a fluid job market, she opened her mind to a role outside of her field, in a company where she thought she would grow. "My philosophy was, well, I might as well go and learn something new," she recalls of her first role in sales at Beauceron Security. "I got my foot in the door and learned a ton."

She also learned that the company could use her skills as a data analyst. So, she pitched her idea to the CEO, though not without trepidation. "I will say I was terrified. I'd never really talked to a CEO before. I don't know if people would take me seriously, but I had that conversation, and I was like, 'I think that I can help here.'" That led to her becoming Beauceron's first data scientist. Today, she leads product strategy and a cross-functional team that spans ML/data science, product design, business analytics, instructional design and animation.

Keeping humans at the centre of tech

For Nicole, engaging humans is one of the best ways to fight on the frontline of cybersecurity. "I could give advice this week and say, 'this is what deep fakes look like,' and next week my advice needs to be completely different. But you and I in our own organizations, we know who we're frequently talking to,

/**

“Cyber threats, they continue to change and evolve. That just means we need to be a lot more mindful and quality-focused in how we are approaching technology, both building it and when it comes to us, interacting with that world.”

and we will know if something feels out of the ordinary.” She says that most people don’t realize that a phishing message they’ve received has also gone to many inboxes, so encouraging active reporting means organizations get a bigger picture of the attack and can take action to enact fixes and alerts.

As cyber threats become more sophisticated, especially with advances in AI, the challenge is growing.

“Cyber threats, they continue to change and evolve. Especially with AI, I can’t say that they’re not getting trickier.” She notes that while it used to take months or years for hackers to find system vulnerabilities, today’s AI can take a day. “That just means we need to be a lot more mindful and quality-focused in how we are approaching technology, both building it and when it comes to us interacting with that world.”

To explain, Nicole shares an analogy that suggests users need to think of their inboxes like a hotel lobby. “Where different people come in and out. Not everybody stays at the hotel. Not everybody should be at the hotel. Some people can be in the lobby with different intentions.” With that in mind, she says the key is to be more alert. “I don’t think that we need to be scared of it, but we just have to understand what is possible.”

In thinking about artificial intelligence, she is even more buoyant about the possibilities. “I can’t say we’re 50 per cent faster or anything like that. But even those small, incremental gains that

we’re seeing right now are still freeing us up to learn more in other areas. I’m excited about the augmentation of productivity and skills.” At the same time, she’s concerned that the tech field is moving so quickly that people aren’t making time for important conversations about its progress.

“I think what scares me the most when it comes to AI is outsourcing our thoughts and not taking the time for critical thought. That’s where I’m so happy that as part of my engineering program, we had to take a course in ethics.” Not surprisingly, she’s an advocate for current programs to include at least a minimum standard of ethics training.

She’s also careful to incorporate that mindfulness into her own work with data. “How can we, as people who are working with data, flag inconsistencies or biases in the data, so that we’re able to build something that is very clear on its limitations? Or how can we create something that is more helpful and holistic to the population?”

Building the toolkit

Nicole’s interest in this field developed through her academic path. She studied electrical engineering, and took electives in ethics and psychology, which she credits with adding much-needed context to her data skills.

“Studying engineering, you need to make sure that anything that you build is going to do good for society. Being able to layer in some of those

psychology pieces so that I could become more familiar with different biases was a really nice complement, that layered really well into my master’s as well.”

She went on to complete a research-based master’s degree and wrote a thesis, supervised by Dr. Erik Scheme (BScE’03, MScE’05, PhD’13), that looked at electroencephalogram (EEG) data to try and understand people’s emotional reactions by interpreting facial expressions as clues to feelings. “That really taught me a lot when it comes to the importance of not just getting the numbers but being really mindful of conclusions that you’re coming up with.”

Along the way, she found an interest in entrepreneurship and earned a diploma in technology management and entrepreneurship. She spent a summer on exchange at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and, in her final year of the bachelor’s program, co-founded a startup called Tempo, a workout app that integrates the intensity of a user’s music with the intensity of their workout using biomedical sensors.

From biomedical sensors to cybersecurity, the thread through Nicole’s career has been the same: start with the data, build it around people. ■

TRUST, TOOLS *and* STAYING GROUNDED



Reuben Peter-Paul (BCS'05, MCS'08) didn't arrive at UNB with a clear destination in mind. "I just knew I wanted to go to university. I didn't really know what I wanted to do."

That uncertainty will sound familiar to generations of UNB alumni. What made his experience different wasn't certainty, but what met him along the way were conversations that nudged him and moments when life arrived all at once and demanded clarity.

Looking back on his career, including his current work building software for a startup in the clean energy space, Reuben sees UNB not as a straight line, but as a place where judgment was slowly built. "I didn't take my undergrad as seriously as I should have."

Two students, one campus

When Reuben left his hometown of Oinpegitjoig First Nation to attend UNB in the early 2000s, he wasn't the only new student in his family. "My mom actually started university around the same time I did."

After spending years as a stay-at-home mom, Reuben's mother, Rose-Marie Wright (BA'02, BEd'04, MEd'13), returned to school to become a teacher. "So, I'd see her in the halls," he says, laughing at the memory. "Oh hey, mom."

At the time, it felt unusual. Years later, it feels instructive. "She made a life choice decision to go back to school and she became a teacher, and now she's retired."

Watching his mother return to education, balancing coursework with age differences and competing responsibilities, reinforced the idea that learning wasn't confined to a specific stage of life. Education, he learned, could be a turning point rather than a finish line.

The conversation that changed everything

Reuben's own turning point came early, and it came casually. He began university in the bachelor of business administration program, not because it was a calling, but because it felt practical. What he didn't feel was settled.

That changed after a conversation with Dr. Francisco Arcelus, a business professor well-known by students for his warmth and curiosity. Dr. Arcelus has since passed away, but his influence remains unmistakable. They met at A&W on Prospect St., talking less about career ladders and more about interests. Dr. Arcelus listened and offered a suggestion that would reshape Reuben's life.

"He convinced me to go into computer science. I didn't even know I could switch degrees."

It's the kind of moment alumni recognize instantly: informal and profound.

"Here I am. 25 years later."

Learning the craft

Computer science fit.

Reuben entered the program at a time when writing software required patience and precision. There were no shortcuts. Systems had to be understood step by step. "If you think of what we do as programmers as a craft. It's not a science. You take pride in it."

That sense of craft was reinforced by people like the late Dr. Rick Wightman (BScF'86, MScF'90), whose steady presence helped generations of students learn not just how to code, but how to think like programmers.

That mindset deepened through UNB's co-op program, which placed him in roles that exposed him to real systems and production environments – some more instructive than glamorous. "Even if you're just building a website, it's still something. It's something to talk about in interviews."

The emphasis on experiential learning, on seeing how systems function in the real world, became foundational.

The moment everything converged

After finishing his bachelor's degree, Reuben worked briefly before returning to UNB for a master's in computer science. Around the same time, his personal life accelerated. "I got married during my master's," he says simply. Not long after, he and his wife learned they were expecting their first child. He completed his thesis in May. Their daughter was born in June. "I defended with my baby at the defence," he says, smiling. "That was a good memory."

The mentors who tell you no

During his master's degree, Reuben's supervisor was Dr. Weichang Du, stepping in after his original advisor retired. At the time, Reuben was considering continuing to a PhD. "He talked me out of it," Reuben says without hesitation. "And that was probably one of the best decisions I made early on."

It was an important lesson: sometimes the most valuable mentorship is the courage to say no on someone else's behalf.

Staying, while the world expands

Reuben's career carried him through research, startups, multinational firms and eventually into work closely tied to Silicon Valley. Yet he never left Fredericton. "I haven't had to move. I just haven't had a compelling enough reason to uproot my family."

Remote work transformed that choice into an advantage. "Being in Atlantic Canada is being between Europe and the West Coast. It's been an interesting advantage. You can meet people during their actual day instead of asking someone to log on at four in the morning." It's a point of pride; one shared by many UNB alumni building global careers from familiar places.

Judgment in the age of AI

Today, Reuben is a founding software engineer at Bidirectional Energy,

"I'm at a point now where I can trust the code that is being generated. That's a major leap from 2023."

a startup building bidirectional electric vehicle charging systems.

The idea is simple, but technically complex: electric vehicles can both draw energy from the grid and send energy back when needed, helping stabilize energy demand.

Artificial intelligence

AI shows up in Reuben's day-to-day as a tool for efficiency, scale and speed – particularly when dealing with the repetitive, time-intensive parts of startup life.

"We didn't use AI to make decisions on behalf of our customers or any of the services we provide. We leaned into how we can use AI as a team of four to work as if we were a team of 20."

That includes using AI tools to streamline routine work, respond to audit requests, speed up development and documentation and free the team to focus on higher-level problem-solving.

The value of those tools becomes especially clear when the team is responding to long, detailed questionnaires. "A lot of times, you have no idea what they're asking for. But it's not a new ask. They've been asking these questions for years."

Large language models such as ChatGPT and Claude, trained on years of similar documentation, help bridge that gap and speed up response time. "You can ask your chatbot to reframe its explanation,

and it just makes it so much easier to understand what's being asked of you and to respond with clarity."

Over time, that practical use has shifted his relationship with the tools themselves. "I'm at a point now where I can trust the code that is being generated. That's a major leap from 2023."

What remains

In the end, what stands out to Reuben is not a single achievement, but the accumulation of small, human interventions.

A conversation over lunch. A supervisor who offered honest guidance. A campus that made it possible to change direction without starting over.

"UNB gave me people who cared enough to redirect me. And a foundation I still rely on."

That foundation, built over time, continues to shape how he works, decides and moves forward.

This fall, the story widens again. Reuben's daughter, Leyla, will begin concurrent bachelor of arts and bachelor of science studies at UNB, with hopes of becoming a teacher.

It's a full-circle moment, and a reminder that trust, tools and staying grounded can carry a story further than any straight line ever could. ■



From swordsmithing to **AI LAW**

In a small forest village nestled in south-central New Brunswick, Jacob Powning (BA'21, MIDST'22, JD'25) grew up surrounded by the magic of creation. Born into a family of artists, his childhood was a tapestry of imagination and craftsmanship.

“I grew up around creators. When I was 10, I began making my own toys. I cast my own Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles out of bronze.”

Jacob's fascination with history and mythology led him to a career in sword making, where he combined meticulous research into ancient civilizations with the art of forging – eventually developing an international clientele and having his work displayed in museums across the globe.

“I got to have this international career where I travelled and did presentations and workshops in Europe, Alaska and across the United States and Canada. My ultimate goal was to have one of my swords in a museum in Europe, and I achieved that.”

Jacob's bronze sword titled *Only in Dark the Light* lives in a permanent collection at the Deutsches Klingensmuseum (German Blade Museum) in Solingen, Germany.

Alongside his career as a craftsman, Jacob's interest in politics and societal regulation grew. He pursued

a bachelor of philosophy and an interdisciplinary master's in history, literature and philosophy.

These studies allowed him to explore the connections between language, identity, and more recently, artificial intelligence (AI).

“In my philosophy degree, I looked closely at human identity and how early modern concepts of identity developed around the idea that humans are mechanical creatures.”

Jacob noted that despite misconceptions that AI is a modern problem, philosophers have been grappling with questions surrounding AI and identity for centuries. He gave French philosopher René Descartes as an example.

“Philosophy looks at how language informs our understanding of ourselves and the world. When AI started convincingly creating human language from mathematical inferences, it created fascinating and frightening questions about identity.”

At UNB Law, Jacob found a place where his love of philosophy, writing, research and rhetoric converged, each enriching the other.

Alongside his work with the Legal Innovation Lab, his research delved into AI's legal implications, particularly

around copyright infringement, privacy and deepfakes. He explored how AI-generated content can infringe on artists' work and the potential dangers of deepfakes in undermining digital evidence.

“I began researching how to assign liability when you have an AI autonomously infringing in copyright law. That quickly led into looking at how AI trains and then into questions about privacy.”

His research also extended to ethical implications of deepfakes.

“Deepfakes are videos that have been digitally altered to imitate a person's likeness, doing or saying something they didn't do or say. The danger is that these videos could undermine the veracity of digital evidence and create convincing disinformation in courts.”

“The consequences of deepfakes can be catastrophic.”

Despite this, Jacob suggests that AI technologies can also be used for good.

“The technology that allows deepfakes are called generative adversarial networks and can be used to do all kinds of useful things, like in science, where the benefits outweigh the costs. There is a lot of value in AI, but we can't use it as a toy – something that's not regulated – because it really does have

significant epistemological dangers where it can undermine the truth.”

“I think we should treat AI as something that has the potential to be quite dangerous to the functioning of democracies, but not act in a superstitious way towards it, since it's a technology that we can use to do good.

“Ultimately, we should approach AI from a people-centred perspective.”

“Law is an opportunity to craft arguments, and so I look at it as an extension of my work as an artist and visual storyteller. It's just a different medium, and it benefits society in a different way.”

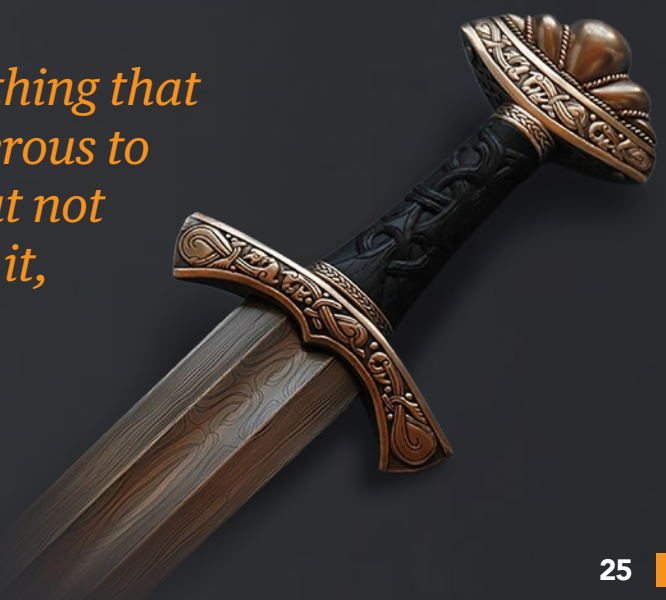
Jacob's journey from swordsmithing to law exemplifies the transformative power of education and the ability to carve out one's own unique path at UNB.

“I have a huge amount of gratitude that we have UNB here in the province. We have world-class people teaching here in New Brunswick. It's a pretty great place.”

Jacob says he is done making swords for now, but may create another series in the future.

“As far as my artistic endeavours, I have ongoing projects and will keep creating for the rest of my life.” ■

“I think we should treat AI as something that has the potential to be quite dangerous to the functioning of democracies, but not act in a superstitious way towards it, since it's a technology that we can use to do good.”





FROM BUILDING HIGHWAYS *to* BUILDING DIGITAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



Health information is among the most personal data people have. Questions about how it is collected, shared and protected are increasingly tied to whether people trust the health system – and whether they are comfortable with AI playing a role in their care.

For Gerry Fairweather (BScE'94, MEng'03), that responsibility has never been abstract. Ensuring the secure, ethical handling of health information has been a driving force of his work for decades. Earlier in his career, it was written directly into his role.

During his time as chief information officer for the Government of New Brunswick, Gerry was directly responsible for privacy oversight across provincial systems.

“I was accountable for the privacy legislation, RTIPPA, the Right to Information Protection of Privacy Act. So, I was sort of the business owner for that.”

Gerry explains that one of the hardest parts of applying AI in health care is balancing access to data with the responsibility to protect it.

“Rightfully so, privacy can be a barrier to that.”

But rather than seeing privacy as an obstacle, Gerry views it as a necessary guardrail – one that forces better design and more trustworthy systems.

Systems people rely on

Long before AI entered everyday conversation, Gerry was focused on the foundational systems people rely on.

Now he's the chief information officer at VeroSource, a New Brunswick-based digital health technology company that builds secure software to help people, clinicians, and health systems access and use health information safely and effectively.

“Do you know what MyHealthNB is?” he asks inquisitively. “We built that. And if you look even deeper into the app, you can see things like wait times for emergency departments, medical imaging and surgical access.”

MyHealthNB gives New Brunswick residents digital access to their health information alongside real time system data. To Gerry, it reflects years of foundational work – building the electronic health record systems and integration layers required long before a public facing app was possible.

Those foundations were built during his time with the New Brunswick Department of Health, where he spent more than a decade working in enterprise architecture and digital health.

He later served as the province's chief digital officer and then chief information officer with responsibility for cybersecurity, privacy legislation and provincewide digital transformation.

Where AI can and can't help

Gerry is careful to separate hype from reality. While he acknowledges the risks that come with emerging technology, he also sees enormous potential when AI is used thoughtfully with a clear understanding of its limits.

“There are a lot of things you can do with AI that you couldn't do otherwise. It can help us do so much more than we could before.”

VeroSource brings together scattered health information and helps people access their records, while AI and advanced analytics supports care teams with a full view of each patient, enabling more personalized approaches to care. It can also reveal patterns that improve planning and guide decisions when the system is under strain. The goal isn't automation for its own sake, but clarity that helps people focus where it matters most.

But that potential comes with risk.

“We still need the human side to make sure that we don't get lost in the technology.”

For Gerry, that means remembering that technology should support care, not define it. AI can surface insights, but it can't replace judgement, compassion or context.

A pivotal return to UNB

Gerry's path into digital health was not direct.

After earning a bachelor of science in survey engineering from UNB in 1994, he began his career building highways and working on projects like the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline. It was steady, practical work, but it wasn't where he saw himself long term.

Nearly a decade later, an offhand comment changed everything.

“The guy sitting behind me said, ‘If I were younger and didn't have a family,

I'd go back to school and do something else.’ And I remember thinking, I am younger, and I don't have a family. I'm going to go do something else.”

Returning to UNB to pursue a master of engineering in electrical engineering meant changing disciplines and relearning how to be a student after years in the workforce. It wasn't easy, and not everyone was convinced it would work.

“I had to see the dean of graduate studies, and he told me there was no way anyone would take me. I was a surveyor and had been out of university for a while,” he says. “I told him I already had a supervisor.”

That supervisor was Prof. Mary Kaye (BScE'75). “She really cared about students.” Once she agreed to supervise him during his master's in engineering, the path forward became possible.

To prove he could handle the shift, Gerry completed several qualifying courses in electrical engineering. In doing so, he found his way into information technology, setting the foundation for a career spent designing complex, human-centred digital systems.

The people behind the success

When Gerry talks about UNB, he talks about people.

He remembers Prof. Kaye's course, where students built a computer from scratch, as a turning point during a difficult time.

“She was such a great instructor. She inspired you to want to keep going.”

Another faculty member, Dr. Maryhelen Stevenson introduced him to artificial neural networks years before AI became common language.

“She'd arranged for me to get data from Sikorsky helicopters to be able to help predict component failure for a helicopter using artificial

neural networks. I mean, what are the chances of that, right?”

Dr. Kevin Englehart (BScE'89, MScE92, PhD'99), who taught random variables and stochastic processes, helped Gerry rebuild confidence after a decade away from formal mathematics.

“It was the hardest course I've ever taken. He didn't do me any special favours or anything, but he made sure I understood what I was doing.

“Engineering isn't solo work. You get through hard things because people have your back.”

Pride, nostalgia and staying connected

That belief continues to guide him, and it's one he shares with his leadership team. Every member of VeroSource's executive team is a UNB graduate, united by a common experience that continues to shape how the company leads, builds and gives back.

Gerry speaks about UNB with easy pride. “All of this happened because of UNB. It set the course for everything that came after.”

Today, Gerry remains closely connected to UNB, hiring co-op students, collaborating with faculty and returning to campus for talks.

If he could speak to his younger self arriving on campus, his message would be simple.

“This is one of the best decisions you'll ever make. It's hard, but it opens doors you don't even know exist yet.”

From highways to health systems, Gerry's career reflects engineering at its most human, grounded in responsibility and shaped by trust and dedicated to building systems people depend on, often without ever seeing them. ■

When performance is rewarded

AI FOLLOWS

Last April, three UNB students stood beside a single poster at the J Herbert Smith Centre's Student Systems-Thinking Symposium – Changemakers of the Future and asked a deceptively simple question: Why are so many students using generative AI?

What followed revealed something much deeper than technology alone.

“We never took sides saying AI is good or bad,” says Colton Kammerer, a fourth-year business student and two-time captain of UNB's men's hockey team. “It was more about understanding what is motivating students to use it and why it continues to rise.”

Colton worked alongside fifth-year entrepreneurship student, Sohan Kobiri and fourth-year mechanical engineering student, Aditya Raval in TME 3513: Introduction to Systems Thinking, taught by Dr. Kush Bubbar. Their project, Why Students Use GenAI in Canadian Undergraduate Education: A Problem of Incentives, Not Just Technology, earned first place at the symposium, securing the team a spot at the Map the System Global Competition at Oxford University this July.

Looking beyond the tool

At the outset, the team believed their project would focus on assessment design in the age of AI. That changed quickly.

“We started with a solutions-focused mindset,” Sohan says. “We thought we had it figured out. But as we started exploring, Dr. Bubbar really challenged our view and showed us things that we didn't really see.”

Systems thinking is a discipline that emphasizes relationships and underlying structures. It prompted the students to step back from surface-level debates about cheating and the tools and policies designed to control it.

Instead, they examined the broader system that shapes student behaviour. This includes grading practices, assessment design, instructor workload, inconsistent AI policies and deeply rooted beliefs about what success in university looks like.

The idea of cognitive debt

As the project evolved, the team introduced a concept that resonated strongly with both students and faculty: cognitive debt.

“Cognitive debt occurs when students repeatedly offload their thinking to AI in ways that make work a lot easier in the short term, but weaken true understanding in the long term,” Colton says. “Part of our report was that although that offloading may be okay in some settings, in a learning environment, it could have very negative consequences.”

Through surveys, interviews and informal conversations with peers, the students heard a recurring theme: many students felt disconnected from what they were learning, even while achieving strong grades.

“I asked one of my friends if he remembered what he learned in first or second year,” Aditya says. “He said, ‘I'll be honest, I don't remember anything.’”

The students were careful not to frame AI as the sole cause.

“AI came in as such a disruption in the system, a system already led by grades,” Aditya adds. “All the students surveyed felt they had to mindlessly offload their real learning onto AI and that's how the term cognitive debt came up.”

Teaching conditions matter

One of the clearest insights to emerge from their project was the link between teaching conditions, student motivation and AI use.

“We did find a very clear causal link,” Colton says. “Sometimes teachers underestimate how much their energy, attitude, the way they motivate their class has an impact on whether students use AI or not.”

To Colton, Aditya and Sohan, engagement and course design shape student behaviour.

In their research, the team found that many instructors want to respond more thoughtfully to AI but face real constraints, including large class sizes, heavy workloads and limited institutional support for teaching development. In that environment, things like bans or AI detection tools, often backfire.

“You can't trust a detection tool,” says Colton. “It's gotten to a point where you can actually get yourself into legal trouble as a prof if you try to rely on a detection tool to claim that people are plagiarizing.”

Instead of standardized rules applied across an institution, the students argued for course-level, ecological responses that align AI use with specific learning goals.

“Every course has different learning outcomes... When you standardize course design, you take the expertise out of the instructor because they know best, they’re experts.”

□ Aditya Raval, Sohan Kobiri and Colton Kammerer

“Every course has different learning outcomes,” Sohan says. “When you standardize course design, you take the expertise out of the instructor because they know best, they’re experts. So, supporting them where they come up with their own ecological response in the system rather than you just trying to tell them what they should do.”

Learning made visible

If the project reinforced anything for the team, it was the impact of course design.

“Dr. Bubbar wanted students to come in with their own ideas,” Sohan says. “The whole idea is that you evolve through the course. Dr. Bubbar really challenged our view and showed us things that we didn’t really see.”

The class allowed AI for specific tasks, such as interview transcription or research discovery, while designing assessments that required deep engagement, synthesis and reflection.

“The way he designed the course... we couldn’t have gone through this course with just using AI,” adds Colton. “We could use AI in some surface level things within the course, but to really

be able to find those motivations and deeper-rooted problems, it would have been impossible with AI.”

That experience also changed how the students approached their own learning.

“I came out of this course more confused than I ever was,” admits Aditya. “And I think that was Dr. Bubbar’s intent. He taught us how to question things. This course taught us a lot about thinking about the problem itself and not jumping to solutions or conclusions, mapping out the whole problem before we even get into anything.”

From a poster to Oxford

At the April symposium, the team presented their work to faculty members, politicians, social innovation professionals, academic leaders and administrators from across the university. The conversations were often challenging, but intentional.

“We are trying to challenge people’s perspective on a very hot topic,” Sohan says. “We’re just trying to show a perspective that you’ve never seen. If we can give people a new perspective, they can think about it and that pushes

the system towards change, and for me, that’s the whole purpose of this project.”

What comes next

For Colton, graduation means professional hockey before transitioning into his next chapter. Sohan recently accepted a role with a Y Combinator-backed startup and plans to continue applying systems thinking to entrepreneurial challenges. Aditya has another year and a half at UNB and hopes to carry these insights into his senior design project.

All three see their project as unfinished.

“There will be a delay in this system,” Colton says. “It’s part of systems thinking. You show where delays are and over the next five to 10 years, we’ll see if there is a consequence of that or not.”

For alumni reading this story – many of whom are navigating AI in their own workplaces – the takeaway is familiar and timely: technology alone doesn’t change behaviour.

Systems do. ■



What I learned

HOW AI TAUGHT ME TO BE MORE PRESENT

By **Matt Symes (BEd'04, BA'04)**

My dad called to tell me he had set a date of March 24, 2025. He was committed to the MAID process this time. I stared into the abyss. We had talked about this before. We'd even set a couple of previous dates. Because of his good health and his commitment to maintaining what little he had left of it, we were able to push them. But in this conversation, I knew it was different.

He had battled as long as he could. Struggle was becoming suffering. He was not interested in being dragged

around to events. He wanted to actively participate. When he no longer felt he could, he wanted to peacefully say goodbye.

I have good relations with multiple health authorities. I don't lack access to professionals. But when I asked for guidance on what families going through the MAID process should know, should do, should prepare for, there was a surprising void.

No one really knew. There was no playbook.

So, I turned to AI. Not as a productivity tool. As a lifeline to lead my family through the next 90 days and beyond.

I gave it a role: "You're an expert in child and family therapy. You're an expert in rare neurological diseases (my dad was contending with the final stages of multiple system atrophy) and in helping families navigate the end of life. You understand the MAID process. You know what it means to be an organ donor. You know what the family should consider for organizational and emotional support."

“Over the next 90 days, build me a playbook I can use to guide the journey.”

That playbook changed everything.

We arranged a reunion with my dad’s former work colleagues. A celebration of the impact he’d had over his career. People flew in from all over Canada. AI told us to hold it somewhere with distraction, so it wouldn’t feel like mourning. We did it in the box of a junior hockey game.

We had moved in with my dad two years earlier to give him love and laughter with my two daughters. AI told us to move out four weeks before the date. To give those same girls distance. New routines. So, the transition wasn’t a sudden hit.

It confirmed that a stuffy was an excellent idea. A stuffy with Dad’s picture on it. Something small for them to hold tight to.

When I got the final playbook, I ran it by a couple of doctors, a therapist, and a renowned psychiatrist. They made a couple of edits. That’s important.

AI is a co-pilot, not a pilot. It lies to you. And it lies to you so confidently that if you don’t have domain awareness, you can’t always tell the difference. And I say that as someone who has watched what happens when powerful tools outpace our wisdom to use them well. I’m not naive about what AI could break. But in this case, AI crafted something no professional in my network had been able to offer. And the professionals confirmed it was sound.

There was no playbook for what our family went through. So, I asked AI to help me build one. And because of that, we lived those 90 days with a depth of intention I would have missed otherwise.

I tell this story in rooms full of professionals who are skeptical of AI, or quietly afraid of it, or both. And I’ve

noticed something: the story doesn’t just move them. It shifts something in how they think about the tool.

Because here’s what those 90 days taught me about how AI actually works. Not in theory, but in practice when it means the most.

It rewards the person who brings judgment. I didn’t ask it to make decisions. I framed the inquiry (or the prompt). I asked it to help me see what I hadn’t seen, research what I didn’t know, and organize what I couldn’t hold in my head at once. Then I verified it. With experts. Just because it can give you a second opinion on a legal document, does not mean you’re a lawyer. And just because it offered confident (and mostly sage) advice on my situation did not mean I was now a unicorn of an expert in MAID, child therapy, and organ donation process.

Then I chose. The AI was extraordinary. But the framing came from me. The verifying was essential. And our family was responsible for showing up, making the hard decisions, having the important discussions, and executing the plan. AI can’t do that for you.

That same pattern holds across very different situations: a marathon training plan, a retirement portfolio review, a better version of Saturday morning breakfast with my daughter. The stakes change. The approach doesn’t. Give it a role. Give it the input. Give it the context. Give it the constraints (Tell it what you don’t want). And then evaluate and iterate on what comes back. It is the RICCE (Role, Input, Context, Constraints, Evaluate) method that has allowed me to intentionally incorporate AI.

I’m not a techno-optimist. I’m not naive to the downsides of AI. I hope our bureaucrats and politicians find a way to align with the private sector so that we can get the best of AI without having to suffer the worst of it. We missed that opportunity with social media and smart phones. But I’m also

a Darwinian pragmatist. The AI genie is out of the bottle. Ignoring it is not the answer. If anything, the capability of AI has forced us to take responsibility for the way we interact with it.

AI doesn’t replace judgment. It puts pressure on it. In a world where AI has access to the sum total of human knowledge; where AI can synthesize faster than any of us. The scarce resource becomes the person who knows what questions to ask, what answers to trust, and what decisions are theirs alone to make.

Most people are not thinking about it this way yet. They’re either dismissing it, using it as a less terrible Google or outsourcing to it. Those are all mistakes.

The ones who figure out how to work with AI, how to bring their own knowledge and values to it, are going to be in a different position than those who don’t. Not because the technology is magic. Because intentionality always compounds.

I learned that in a very real and visceral sense from the MAID playbook I co-created with AI in the last 90 days I had with my father.

AI has allowed me to live a deeper, richer, more intentional life.

It’s not the lesson I expected. But it’s the one I’ll carry longest.

Matt is the AI entrepreneur-in-residence with the UNB’s TME program. He is also CEO of Symplicity Designs. He has been named to the Top 50 CEOs four times by the Atlantic Business Magazine. Earlier this year, his firm was named the top change agent in the region in part because of the way they are helping leaders and organizations tackle AI. ■



The joy, pivots and building

AI WITH HEART

Sophia Sampath (BIS'13) is a hugger. The joy she brings into a room is intentional, something she has chosen as she built both her life and her career.

Today, Sophia is senior director of product at Reveal Security, a cybersecurity company focused on detecting identity-based threats after authentication. The company's platform analyzes behavioural patterns across human, non-human and AI-driven identities to identify risks such as insider activity, compromised credentials and misuse that can emerge beyond traditional access controls.

Last April, she returned to UNB as a speaker at the faculty of computer science's annual research expo, an event designed to showcase applied research and strengthen connections between academia and industry. She demonstrated Reveal Security's platform, showing how post-authentication behaviour can be analyzed to detect real-world security risks.

But at the heart of her story is something much more human: belonging and the belief that happiness is a measure of success.

Two homes, one journey

Sophia left Trinidad and Tobago 16 years ago to continue her education at UNB – young, on her own and saying yes to the unknown. “I remember at 16 when I was about to graduate, my parents asked, ‘Sophia, what do you want to do next?’ And I was like, ‘that’s a good question. I don’t know.’ And mom said, ‘what about computers? You want to get into computers?’ And I was like, ‘sure, why not?’”

She enrolled in the UNB-ROYTEC program in information systems, which took two years to complete. And when she turned 18, her dad asked her if she wanted to move to Canada. Again, the answer was the same.

Sure, why not.

She applied to universities and she heard back from UNB in two weeks. She said yes immediately.

“When I first arrived on campus, I remember thinking, wow, this is huge,” she says with enthusiasm. “Then there were the routines and the ceremonies. It felt like UNB was welcoming you into a community.”

Fredericton became home.

What UNB really taught her

When Sophia talks about her experience at UNB, she rarely begins with technology.

“Nothing really prepares you for a career. What UNB gave me was routine, knowing that you’re coming in, knowing that you’re interacting with people and different personalities. It was the foundation of taking the time to learn, because the world moves really fast. Slowing down and really understanding concepts and then understanding how to apply that to real world problems.”

That ability to move from theory to application defines her work in AI, where success depends on understanding how people behave and how systems are used.

“You learn that people show up differently in different spaces.”

Those lessons continue to shape how she approaches her work today.

Listening for the moment to pivot

Sophia’s career has taken her through several cybersecurity organizations, including Arctic Wolf, Huntress, Sonrai Security and IBM, before bringing her to Reveal Security. Along the way, she developed expertise in identity security and product leadership. The path looks intentional in hindsight, but she describes it differently.

“I have a clock in my heart.”

That intuition has guided every pivot, not because something was wrong, but because something new was calling.

Happiness for Sophia, is information. It tells her whether her values still align with her work.

When she evaluates a role or a team, one question always comes back.

“Does it make me happy?”

Bringing her whole self into her work

Outside work, Sophia’s creativity shows up in unexpected places. She builds Lego sets, practises aerial arts and loves heavy metal music.

“With Lego, you build it piece by piece... Sometimes I miss a piece. That is product building.”

That hands-on, incremental approach carries into her work in AI, where complex systems are developed block by block, allowing teams to test, adjust and scale with clarity and control.

Aerial arts taught her about flow and user experience.

“When I perform, I’m performing an experience. When we think about where do you start in the product? What do you need to navigate to next?”

That thinking translates into products with clear, intuitive journeys, helping users move confidently from first interaction to the outcome.

And heavy metal gives her energy and clarity.

“There is something electric about hearing guitars and just heavy metal in general. Let’s just be out there, be loud.”

That influence shows up in how she approaches product identity, shaping how tools are built, presented and experienced.

Together, these influences shape Sophia’s ability to deliver products that are structured, intuitive and confident – turning creativity into measurable product outcomes.

Why humanity matters in AI

In a field increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, Sophia believes the human side of the work matters most.

“With AI tools, when we think about the information that’s readily available, yes, it provides responses, but the next step is knowing that in your heart, that wasn’t a right response.”

Sophia’s work in behavioural AI has shown her just how powerful these tools can be. At the same time, it has made her acutely aware of their limitations. AI systems are built on data, probabilities and patterns, but they do not understand context, nuance or lived experience in the way humans do. The results they produce are not perfect – and they never will be.

“Having that intuition to say, I’m going to dive deeper. I’m going to do more

research and understand it. To me, that’s the advice I would give to others.”

Coming full circle at UNB

When Sophia talks about returning to UNB as a speaker, her voice slows.

“Now I can say, I was where you were.”

That feels meaningful.

Then she shares the moment that still catches her off guard.

“I dreamt about this. I remember looking at that woman up there knowing that she’s so confident in what she’s talking about, and she’s so excited about it.”

“For me, everyone is growing every single day, regardless of age, you’re learning every single day. And it’s being able to communicate and share your experience. To me, it’s just about being human.”

“I always ask myself: would my younger self be proud of this person?”

That question continues to guide her.

A message worth carrying forward

Sophia believes people deserve to be happy. That belief sits at the centre of everything she does.

Her story is not about titles or technology alone. It is about paying attention and trusting intuition. It’s also about choosing environments where curiosity, joy and care are valued.

Her story also challenges the idea that AI must be impersonal. That technical leadership can be grounded in kindness. And that joy is not something to set aside when building the future.

If you meet her, she will probably hug you.

And you will understand exactly why. ■



□ Aaloak and his son, Shivshankar

Q&A with Aaloak Jaswal

In 2024, Aaloak Jaswal (BScSc'93, D-TME'93) returned to Fredericton and UNB to take on the role of innovation director for the newly established Research Institute in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RIDSAI). Established with the support of the faculty of computer science and the McKenna Institute, RIDSAI is home to leading experts in the research, application and impact of data science and artificial intelligence, and is a focal point for fundamental and applied research in all areas of data science and AI. We checked in with Aaloak two years later for an update.

RIDSAI has become a hub for applied AI and real-world impact. How would you describe the institute's role today compared to when it was first established in 2023?

When RIDSAI was first established, the vision was to build a multidisciplinary institute that could help position UNB and Atlantic Canada at the forefront of

AI and data science research. Over the past few years, that vision has evolved into something much more operational, collaborative and outward facing.

Today, RIDSAI's role extends beyond research alone. We support interdisciplinary AI and data science research, help industry and public sector partners adopt emerging technologies responsibly, contribute to workforce and talent development and engage in broader public conversations around AI governance, ethics and societal impact.

A major focus for us has also been ensuring that innovation translates into meaningful outcomes, not only economically, but socially as well, including work connected to health care, sustainability, public services and other broader societal challenges. RIDSAI is also part of a broader Atlantic AI consortium involving nine universities across the region, reflecting the growing recognition that collaboration will be essential to building

a strong and globally competitive AI ecosystem in Atlantic Canada.

What has changed most since 2023 is the level of urgency and practical engagement around AI. Early conversations were often exploratory. Today, organizations are looking for guidance on implementation, productivity, governance, workforce transformation and how to apply AI in ways that create meaningful value while remaining ethical and responsible.

You've helped position RIDSAI as a connector across university, industry and government. What progress have you seen in building that ecosystem in New Brunswick?

The biggest shift has been the growing recognition that AI is becoming an economic and societal capability issue, not simply a technology trend.

RIDSAI has helped create spaces across sectors and we've seen much stronger engagement as a result, including increased participation from SMEs, stronger government involvement and growing interest in collaborative research, workforce development and AI adoption initiatives. The ecosystem feels far more connected and ambitious today than it did even a few years ago.

How has your thinking evolved around making AI more accessible to businesses?

One of the biggest lessons has been that businesses don't need more hype around AI. They need clarity, trust and practical starting points.

My earlier work with the United Nations and other large institutional environments reinforced that successful technology adoption is rarely just about the technology itself. It's about accessibility, governance and meeting organizations where they are. Increasingly, the challenge is less about technical capability and more about confidence, capacity and knowing where to begin.

There's growing momentum around positioning Atlantic Canada as a leader in applied AI. What role has RIDSAI played in shaping that regional ambition?

RIDSAI has helped create momentum by bringing together researchers, industry leaders, government and community partners around a shared vision for applied AI in Atlantic Canada through partnerships, collaborative research, public engagement and initiatives like the Atlantic AI Summit. We're also proud to be part of the Atlantic AI consortium, which as mentioned earlier, is a collaboration involving nine universities working to strengthen AI capacity and expertise across the region.

More broadly, we've worked to position Atlantic Canada not simply as a consumer of AI technologies, but as an active contributor to innovation, talent development and the responsible adoption of AI.

How important is regional collaboration to advancing AI innovation today?

It's non-negotiable. AI is evolving too quickly and becoming too foundational for organizations or provinces to operate in isolation.

Having worked across multiple countries and international systems earlier in my career, I've seen firsthand that complex challenges are rarely solved alone. Atlantic Canada has a real advantage here because collaboration between universities, government, industry and communities tends to happen more naturally and more closely than in many larger ecosystems.

RIDSAI continues to emphasize ethical and responsible AI. How has that conversation changed over the past two years and what challenges remain?

Even as little as two years ago, ethical AI discussions were often more theoretical. Today, those conversations have become much more practical as organizations

grapple with how to deploy AI in ways that are trustworthy, transparent and aligned with their values.

One of the biggest challenges now is ensuring organizations of all sizes, not just large enterprises, have access to the tools, expertise and governance frameworks needed to adopt AI responsibly and thoughtfully.

What progress have you seen in building the next generation of AI talent?

One of the most encouraging developments has been the level of student engagement across disciplines, not just computer science. Students increasingly recognize that AI will influence nearly every sector and profession, including health care, business, engineering, public policy, science and the arts and humanities.

We're also seeing growing interest from students in gaining practical experience through applied research, industry engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration. Creating more opportunities for students to work alongside researchers, organizations and community partners remains an important priority, helping them develop the skills needed to thoughtfully evaluate, build and apply AI technologies in real-world settings.

RIDSAI works across multiple sectors. Where have you seen the most tangible impact so far?

One of the most tangible areas of progress has been helping move organizations from curiosity about AI toward practical exploration and implementation.

We're seeing increasing interest from industry, government and community organizations that are actively exploring how AI can be applied to real-world challenges. Along the way, RIDSAI has helped facilitate new collaborations, support applied research opportunities, expand AI education and workforce development

initiatives, and create forums such as the 2026 Atlantic AI Summit that bring together stakeholders who might not otherwise be in the same room.

One example is an executive-focused AI leadership program that RIDSAI will be offering for senior leaders responsible for strategy, innovation and organizational transformation. While many organizations are still early in their AI journey, we're increasingly seeing a shift from curiosity toward more structured adoption and implementation.

Looking ahead, what does success for RIDSAI look like in the next five to 10 years, both for UNB and for New Brunswick's innovation economy?

The pace of advancement in AI is accelerating so quickly that it's difficult to predict exactly what the next five to 10 years will look like. What is crystal clear, however, is that AI will massively shape how we work, learn, govern, conduct research and interact with the world around us.

From my perspective, success means ensuring that UNB, New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada are active participants in shaping that future rather than simply reacting to it. That includes strengthening research capacity, helping organizations adapt responsibly, building and retaining talent and ensuring the region remains competitive and resilient as these technologies evolve.

Having said that, my biggest hope is that Atlantic Canada becomes known for a thoughtful and human-centred approach to AI, one that balances innovation with responsibility, inclusion, public trust and meaningful societal impact. If AI is going to shape how we work, learn and govern, then success isn't simply building smarter systems. It's ensuring those systems help people live better lives and strengthen the communities they serve. ■

HONOURING OUR BEST

2026 Proudly UNB Awards

On April 10, UNB's Associated Alumni celebrated the Proudly UNB Awards recipients at a ceremony in Fredericton. These alumni have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their alma mater, their communities, and beyond. They were honoured by their supporters, fellow alumni, former classmates, and members of the UNB community.



□ Front row: Janet Briaud, Alison Fox-Robichaud, Sandy Kitchen-Brewer, Genevieve Julien. Back row: Dwight Hornibrook, Tony Noble, Earl Brewer, Scott Brittain. Absent: Alexandre Hayward

ALUMNI AWARD OF HONOUR

Recognizes the important role played by alumni in promoting UNB and helping it achieve and maintain its position of prominence among Canadian universities. This is the highest honour awarded by the alumni association.



SANDRA (SANDY) J. KITCHEN-BREWER (BA'94, MA'08, DLITT'24) AND EARL A. BREWER (BA'70, LLB'74, DLITT'24)

Sandy and Earl are social activists and community supporters who are dedicated to improving the lives of others. Over the years, they have made significant contributions to education, food security, the arts, health and social innovation in communities throughout New Brunswick.

Their support for their alma mater has been unwavering, including the establishment of the Brewer Scholarship for UNB's faculty of law.

Sandy, manager of the Brewer Foundation, is a former research associate at the National Research Council of Canada. She is deeply invested in health care, especially women's health and well-being, as well as education and student food insecurity. She is lending

her support to an initiative aimed at establishing a women's health centre in Fredericton. She also serves on the board of the Lahey Clinic Canadian Foundation, which helps create training opportunities for physicians and nurses, and cross-border collaborations.

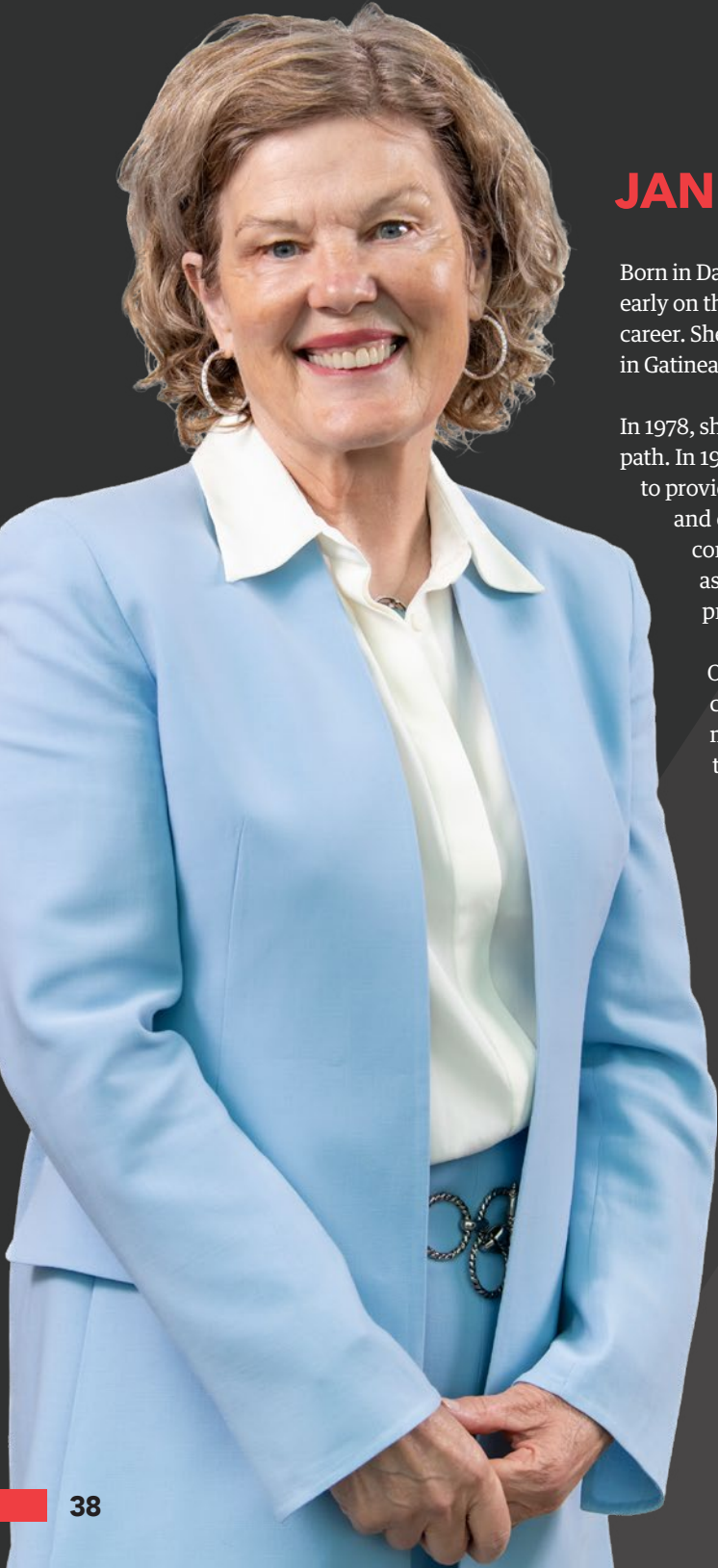
Earl is both a businessman and patron of the arts. An award-winning real estate developer, he is known for his considerate and sympathetic approach to new construction and historic conservation. His developments and co-developments include the historic Post on Queen, Barker House, Phoenix Square, The Waverley, Westpoint by the River and the Promenade on Queen. His buildings have helped shape Fredericton's downtown core, maintaining its past, while revitalizing its future. In 2000,

Earl co-launched Plaza Corp., which quickly became one of Canada's leading property owners, developers and managers of retail real estate.

Earl has lent his expertise and passion for the arts, outdoors and business to boards throughout the years, including the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon and Vestcor. He is dedicated to sustaining growth at UNB and continues to provide invaluable insight and guidance in many ways, including having served on Alumni Council and UNB's Board of Governors.

Forces for change, both as individuals and together, Sandy and Earl have, and will continue to, shape a brighter, healthier New Brunswick.

ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION



JANET I. BRIAUD (BPE'73)

Born in Dalhousie, N.B., and raised in a family of six children, Janet developed early on the values of hard work and perseverance that would shape her career. She began her professional life as a teacher in Fredericton, N.B., and later in Gatineau, Que., after completing a master's degree at the University of Ottawa.

In 1978, she moved to Texas, where she would go on to build an entirely new path. In 1986, she founded Briaud Financial Advisors, guided by a clear vision: to provide thoughtful, client-focused financial guidance grounded in trust and care. Janet had seen firsthand the conflicts that arise out of the commission-based model, so she established her business from the start as fee-only, which was considered a risky decision at the time but has proven to be the right one.

Over the decades, she grew the company with intention, choosing to prioritize quality over quantity. Today, her company manages \$1 billion in financial assets and serves clients across the country with a dedicated and highly-respected team.

Janet's leadership has earned national recognition, including the Robert J. Underwood Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors. She has also been repeatedly quoted in leading financial publications, reflecting her influence and credibility in the field.

Beyond her professional success, Janet remains committed to her community. She supports her local food pantry and serves on the board of American Momentum Bank.

Recognizes the significant contributions made by UNB alumni in their local communities and beyond. Alumni are recognized for truly outstanding achievements that may have earned them regional, national or international recognition or prominence through service to humanity; their professions and/or volunteer organizations; community service; advancement of knowledge or service to UNB and/or the Associated Alumni.

HON. SCOTT A. BRITTAIN (BA'00, LLB'03)

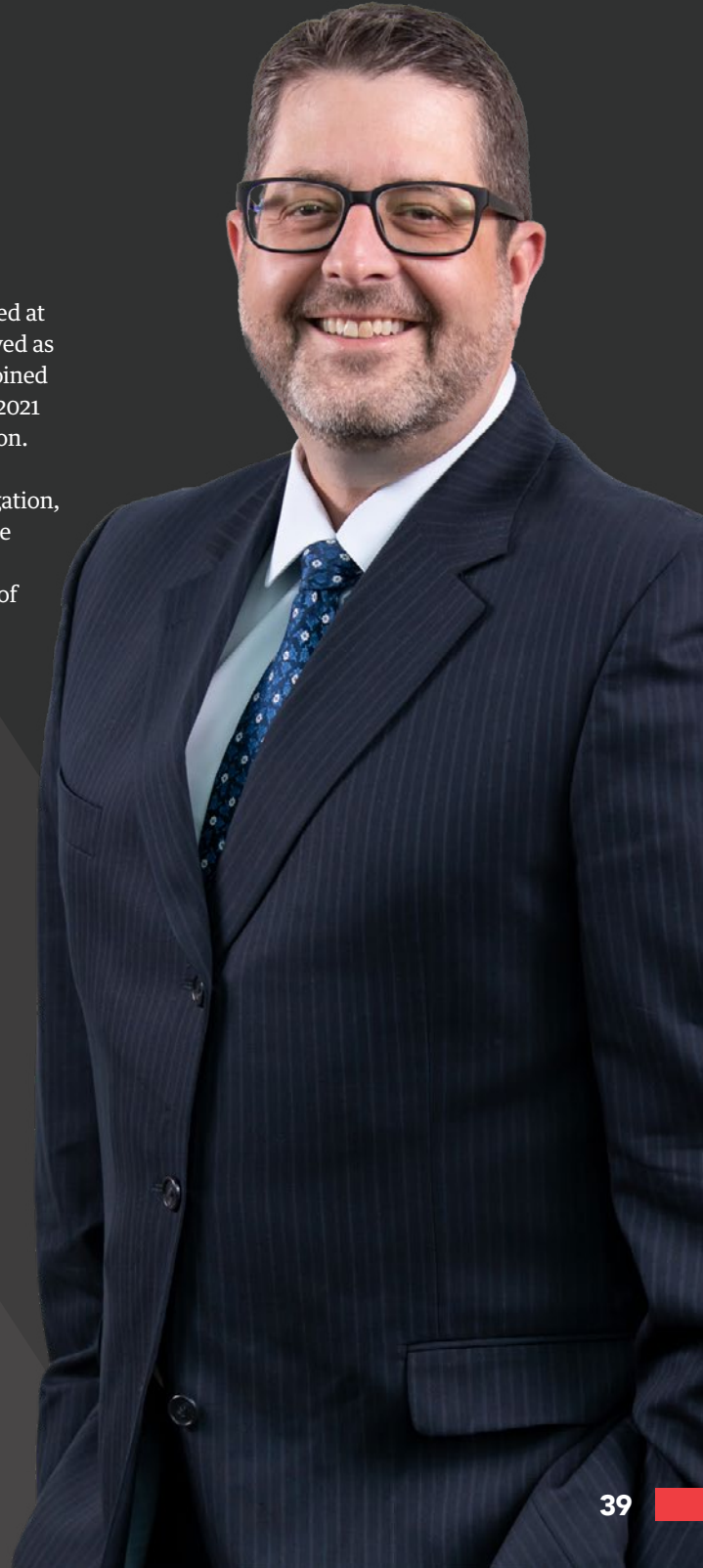
Called to the Ontario and New Brunswick bars in 2004, Scott first practised at Stewart McKelvey in Saint John for three years. At the same time, he served as vice-chair of the Worker's Compensation Appeals Tribunal. In 2007, he joined the City of Saint John's legal department, where he remained until early 2021 when he became a senior solicitor with New Brunswick Power Corporation.

Scott has built a broad and respected legal career encompassing civil litigation, labour and employment law, municipal law, administrative law, corporate and commercial law, pension law and procurement. He has represented clients in matters before all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada. His leadership within the legal profession has included serving as president of the Saint John Law Society, the New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of New Brunswick. In 2018, he was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel).

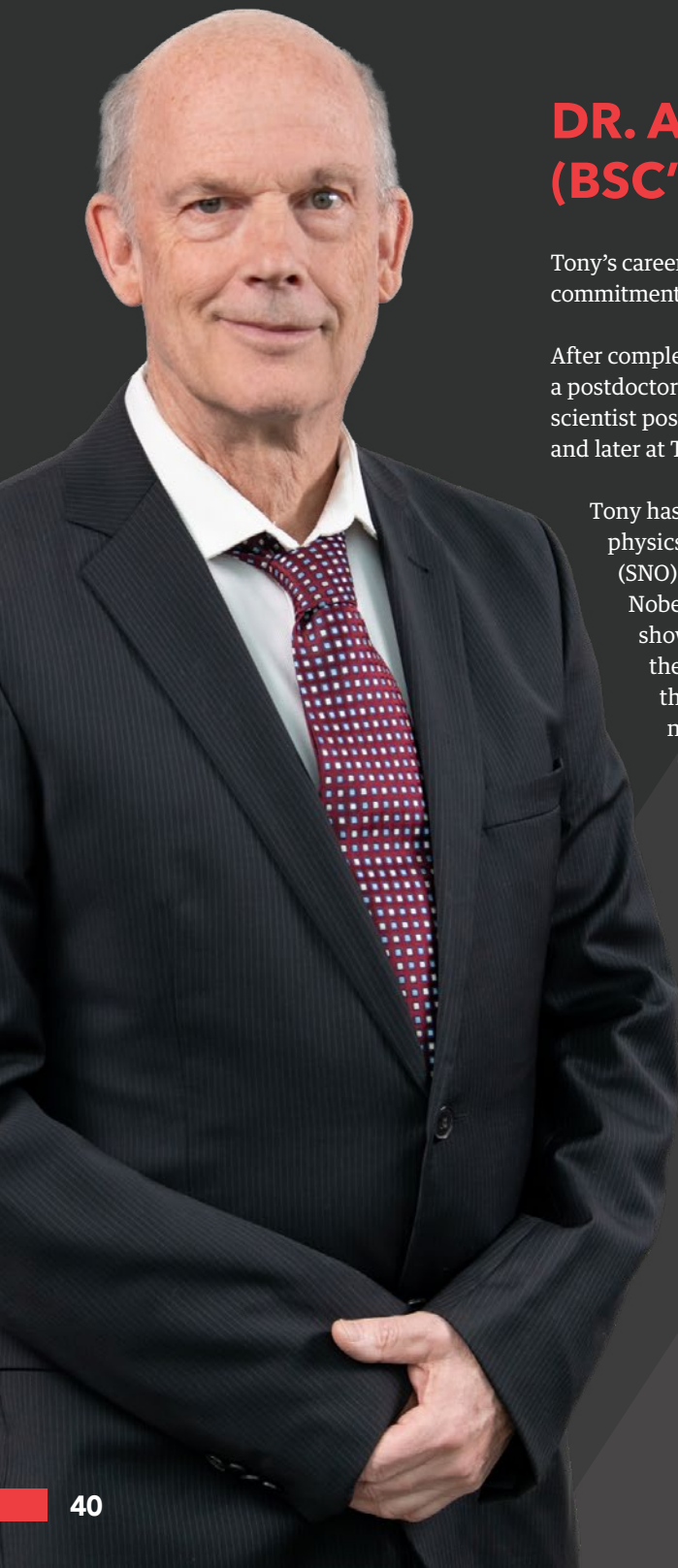
In 2022, he was appointed to the Provincial Court of New Brunswick, where he adjudicates criminal law matters. He is actively involved in the judicial profession and continuing education. He serves as secretary of the Provincial Court Judges Association of New Brunswick and co-chair of its education committee, and he co-chaired the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges.

He served nine years on UNB's Board of Governors and was an adjunct professor in both the faculties of arts and law. He co-chaired the organization of the UNB Saint John campus' 50th anniversary gala and UNB Law's 125th anniversary gala.

He has given his time to a broad range of local boards and community initiatives, including the New Brunswick Museum, Marathon by the Sea, Saint John Theatre Company, Saint John High School Alumni Association, Saint John Union Club and Sculpture Saint John.



ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION



DR. ANTHONY (TONY) J. NOBLE (BSC'83)

Tony's career has been guided by a curiosity about the universe and a commitment to advancing our understanding of its deepest mysteries.

After completing his master's and doctoral studies, he worked at CERN as a postdoctoral fellow with the University of Zürich before taking research scientist positions at the Centre for Research in Particle Physics in Ottawa and later at TRIUMF, Canada's particle accelerator centre in Vancouver.

Tony has contributed to some of the most important discoveries in modern physics. He was the associate director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) experiment, for which Arthur McDonald was co-awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics "for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass." This groundbreaking work redefined the basic laws of particle physics and deepened our understanding of the fusion reactions in the sun. This also unveiled how profoundly neutrinos shape the structure and evolution of the universe. The entire SNO team was co-awarded the Breakthrough Prize in 2016.

Since 2016, Tony has been the scientific director of the McDonald Institute, bringing together universities and research institutes across Canada to advance astroparticle physics. Through this leadership, he is helping to position Canada at the forefront of discovery in this field.

At Queen's University since 2002, Tony has been working with the astroparticle physics group to develop a world-class research team focused on the activities at SNOLAB and the creation of a new neutrino observatory in the Pacific Ocean.

Recognizes the significant contributions made by UNB alumni in their local communities and beyond. Alumni are recognized for truly outstanding achievements that may have earned them regional, national or international recognition or prominence through service to humanity; their professions and/or volunteer organizations; community service; advancement of knowledge or service to UNB and/or the Associated Alumni.

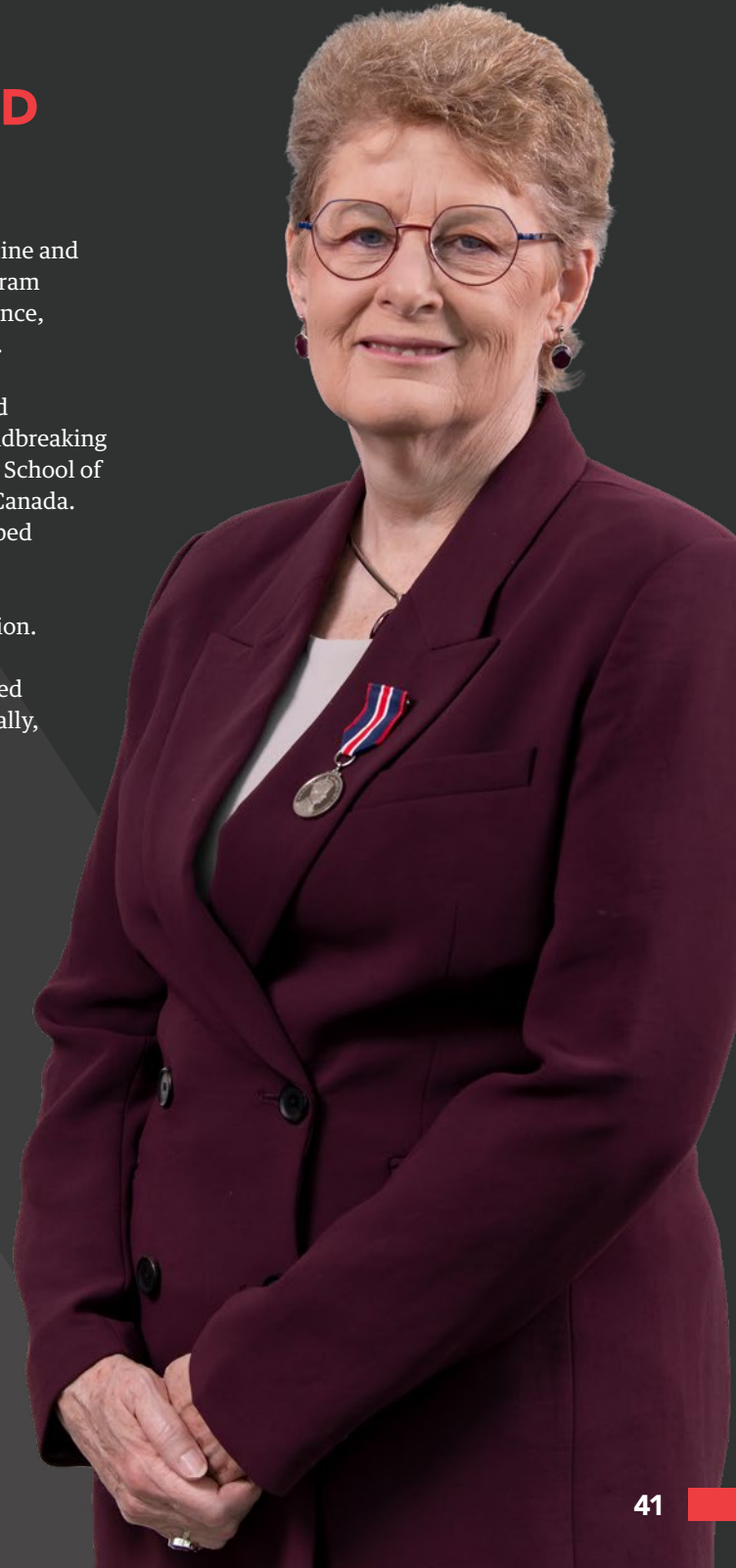
DR. ALISON FOX-ROBICHAUD (BSC'83)

Alison is an internationally recognized leader in critical care medicine and sepsis research. From her early days in the biology-chemistry program where curiosity and late-night lab sessions sparked her love of science, she has followed a path defined by discovery, dedication, and care.

Today, as the Hamilton Health Sciences chair in sepsis research and professor of medicine at McMaster University, she combines groundbreaking research with compassionate patient care. She is co-director of the School of Biomedical Engineering and serves as scientific director of Sepsis Canada. With more than 160 peer-reviewed publications, her work has shaped how the medical community understands and treats sepsis.

Alison has led the critical care community with vision and dedication. She has served as president of the Canadian Critical Care Society, chaired the Canadian Critical Care Examination Board and organized the 17th World Congress of Intensive and Critical Care. Internationally, she serves on the Global Sepsis Alliance board, is president-elect of the International Society for Rapid Response Systems and has been recognized with a King Charles III Coronation medal.

Alison comes from a line of UNB grads: her maternal grandmother Helen Tippett (BA'33), her mother Jo-Ann Fox-Threlkeld (BN'68) and her aunt Kathrine Tippett McCulloch (BA'70, D-AUS'92). She also met her husband Robert at UNB, beginning a partnership that spans 40 years.



ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Presented to an alumni volunteer who has contributed to UNB and/or the Associated Alumni either as a member of an alumni group or individually.

GENEVIEVE M. JULIEN (BBA'09, MED'16)

Genevieve has devoted her career to advancing education, fostering leadership and building meaningful connections across communities. Her work spans academic administration and leadership, curriculum design, professional development and strategic stakeholder engagement.

For more than two decades, Genevieve has been a dedicated ambassador and steward of UNB, building bridges that extend beyond its campuses and borders. Through her leadership with the UNB and UWI School of Business and Applied Studies Ltd. (UWI-ROYTEC) collaboration – one of the most enduring international partnerships in Caribbean higher education – she has connected students, faculty and institutions across continents, ensuring a seamless academic experience from orientation through to graduation. Her work has supported thousands of graduates, creating a strong sense of community and a loyal alumni network, while creating opportunities for professional growth throughout the region.

Now serving as executive director of the Judicial Education Institute of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, she supports the development and delivery of professional education and training for judges and judicial officers.

Grounded in the belief that education should empower individuals to achieve their full academic and professional aspirations, she remains committed to creating innovative learning experiences that encourage community engagement and provide career guidance, coaching and mentoring.



YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes the outstanding achievements of UNB alumni 35 years of age or younger. Young alumni are recognized for truly outstanding achievements that may have earned them regional, national or international recognition or prominence through service to humanity; their professions and/or volunteer organizations; community service; advancement of knowledge or service to UNB and/or the Associated Alumni.

ALEXANDRE A. HAYWARD (BSCE'23)

Following a spinal injury and broken neck at 15 during a AAA hockey game that ended his aspirations for a professional hockey career, Alexandre redefined his path through adaptive sport. He first found success in wheelchair basketball, captaining Canada's junior national team and representing New Brunswick at the Canada Games.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he began training in paracycling initially as cross-training, but soon it became his main athletic focus. He won his first World Cup trial in 2022 and earned national selection soon after. The following year, he dominated the Parapan American Games, capturing multiple medals across track and road cycling, including two golds. In 2024, he broke through on the world stage, earning bronze in the C3 3,000-metre individual pursuit at the Paris Paralympic Games, marking his first Paralympic podium. He added to his international success with medals in World Cup events and at the Track World Championships, where he claimed silver in the C3 scratch race. In 2025, he became world champion by winning gold in the men's C3 individual time trial at the UCI Para-Cycling Road World championships in Belgium. He followed that with a bronze medal in the C3 road race, further cementing his position at the elite level.

Alexandre recently returned to Quispamsis, N.B., where he works as a project engineer. He continues to train full-time, with his sights set on representing Canada at the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. He is also committed to giving back to his community, regularly speaking to students in schools throughout New Brunswick, engaging with patients at the Stan Cassidy Rehabilitation Centre and serving as president of Para Sport New Brunswick, where he advocates for greater access and opportunities in adaptive sport.



ALUMNI GROUP OF THE YEAR

Presented to a recognized Associated Alumni group that supports the alumni association, promotes UNB through a strong alumni network or further develops and promotes alumni pride and loyalty for the university. The group may have also had an impact beyond UNB and Associated Alumni by supporting other community or charitable organizations.



□ Pat Zwicker, Dwight Hornibrook, Robin Hopper, Mike Connolly and Morten Mooers

UNB'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S 2025 SOCCER REUNION COMMITTEE

The men's and women's soccer reunion group has demonstrated what it means to build community, celebrate legacy and give back in a meaningful way. The 2025 reunion celebrated a program that has shaped generations of student-athletes. From cheering on current teams at varsity matches, to sharing stories at the alumni kick-

around and BBQ and reconnecting over brunch, the weekend created lasting memories and renewed bonds.

Current student-athletes had the opportunity to meet and learn from those who came before them, strengthening a sense of tradition and belonging that will carry forward for

years to come. Through thoughtful outreach and a shared commitment to giving back, the committee raised nearly \$9,000 in support of the soccer programs. Just as importantly, they helped instill a culture of continued connection and generosity among alumni and current players alike.



Save The Date

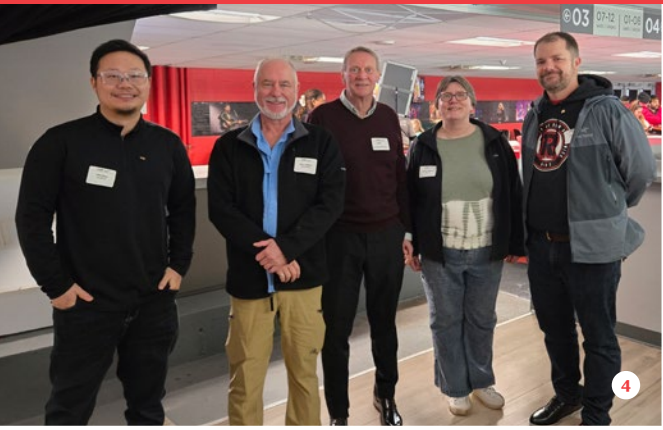
2027 Celebration
April 9 | Saint John



Gatherings & MEET UPS

- 1 Kathy Wilson and Monique Mallet-Boucher (MN'01) celebrated 30 years of the faculty of nursing's Moncton program last November
- 2 Faculty of management's 36th annual Business Awards Dinner
- 3 Department of earth sciences faculty and staff wishing Don Magnusson (MSc'55) a happy 94th birthday
- 4 Ottawa 67's hockey game
- 5 Hong Kong New Year's dinner celebrating the Year of the Fire Horse
- 6 Mumbai, India, alumni meet up
- 7 Gladys DSouza, UNB mom; and Jennifer Waldschütz, UNB alumni outreach coordinator; in Mumbai, India
- 8 Atif Siddiqui (MBA'23), travelled 12 hours by train from his city Parbhani, India, to be at the luncheon in Mumbai
- 9 Hyderabad, India, alumni meet up
- 10 Chennai, India, meet up with alumni parents and a trade commissioner from the Canadian High Commission







□ UNB days, 1970, Fredericton, N.B.: Front (starting with the student on the far left with the striped shirt): Nancy Conklin, Marsha Bires, Maggie Hylan, Bunny Watson. Back: Suzanne Fitzgerald, Lynn Gray, Evelyn Hill and Jocelyne Durant

A story of forever friends

by **Evelyn (Hill) Rasberry (BBA'73)**

Friends often tell us how special our bond is, and we agree. They've even suggested that we submit an article documenting our story to a magazine. So, here it is for *UNB Alumni News*.

We call ourselves 'the girls'. We met in 1970. The eight of us came together by chance: we all have distinct personalities, with different strengths and weaknesses; we come from four different provinces and eight different towns and cities; we studied four different disciplines at UNB and pursued many different careers; and we are all roughly the same age, give or take two years. But the one thing we all have in common is that our lives intersected at the same time,

September 1970, and at the same place, UNB's Fredericton campus.

Here's who we are (in birth order): Evelyn Hill (BBA'73), Jocelyne Durant (BBA'73), Marsha Bires (BA'74), Nancy Conklin (BPE'74), Maggie Hylan (BPE'74), Bunny Watson (BN'74), Suzanne Fitzgerald (BPE'74), and Lynn Gray (BPE'74).

We all share a similarity in our roots and backgrounds. We were all raised by two parents who guided their families with similar values. We grew up in multi-sibling households, ranging from eight children, down to two. Most of us lived in one house with one bathroom, one car, one telephone and – at least in the early days – one

black and white TV. Life growing up was simple and uncomplicated.

Our personalities differ – some are more alike than others – but when our jigsaw pieces come together, we form a true treasure box. The most beautiful thing about our friendship is that although we have all blazed our own trails and lived separately, we have never grown apart, even though we are living across Canada, from Duncan, B.C., to St John's, N.L., and one living near Orlando, Fla. 'Real age' doctors tell us that friends are good for our health. Some doctors even refer to them as Vitamin F (F for friends), essential for overall well-being.

We are rich in Vitamin F.



AI generated photo

□ 2025, Victoria, B.C.: Evelyn (Hill) Rasberry, Bunny Watson, Maggie Flynn, Suzanne Fitzgerald, Nancy Flynn, Lynn Nowry and Marsha Gagnon


Life over the years has been very good to us. We have all been married – among the eight of us, we have raised 21 children and now enjoy 23 grandchildren. We’ve built careers with entrepreneurial endeavours, in private industry and with government, volunteered in our communities, and travelled the world to destinations in North, Central and South America, and Europe, with a couple of us venturing to Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Of course, like everyone, we’ve faced challenges too. One of ‘the girls’ passed away far too young; two experienced divorces; one lost her spouse; and most of us have dealt with serious medical issues. All our parents have passed away, as have some family members, close friends and beloved pets. We worry when our children and grandchildren go through rough patches, and we celebrate when their lives are smooth sailing.

Fast-forward 56 years. We now have grey hair, wrinkles and a few extra pounds on our once-fit frames, but our friendship remains constant and committed. We make a conscious effort to stay connected, gathering regularly in-person through reunions, mini gatherings, visits and trips, as well as through phone calls, group chats, emails, online games and Zoom calls. This is quite a change from the olden days, when we were busy raising our young families and managing our careers, and had little time and money to see each other in person – we wrote letters, photocopied them seven times and sent them by snail mail to keep up with one another’s lives.

When we’re together, we celebrate each other’s joys and support one another through bumpy times. We talk a lot, laugh a lot and cry not so much. We gain strength,

understanding and empowerment simply by being together. When it’s time to say goodbye, we hug, promise to get together again soon – sooner rather than later – and quietly remind ourselves of those who have passed since the last time we were together. We say, “We’re not getting any younger, you know!” And it’s so true. So we start planning our next gathering.

What began as a chance meeting in September 1970 has become a lifetime of shared history, love, memories and unwavering friendship – and for that, we are endlessly grateful. Human connections matter above all else. We’re so thankful that we have each other as friends. ■



A MINDSET, NOT A PROFESSION

Richard Boissonnault's engineering legacy

When the late Richard Boissonnault (BScE'60) arrived at UNB for the first time, the only English sentence he understood was “please hand in your papers.” But Richard was determined to do whatever it took to become an engineer. Instead of going home for Christmas break that year, he stayed in Fredericton and studied. By the beginning of second semester, he was able to cope, and his years at UNB became some of the best of his life.

“He always claimed that he was lucky to have the privilege to have gone to UNB – that institution made it possible for him to have a good life,” says Richard’s son, André (BScE’85). Richard grew up the youngest of eight in a “happy but financially tight” family that got by through farming and logging. As the youngest, he was responsible for looking after the farm while his older siblings worked in the woods, and this hard work was foundational for him. “Later, when talking about his life, he would say he wouldn’t change a thing if he could

have,” says André. “He was a man of character.”

A huge part of Richard’s character was his identity as an engineer. “Being an engineer was not his profession; it was his mindset. He would tell us, ‘It is difficult to become an engineer, but it is even harder to not be an engineer once you are one.’” His passion was infectious, and he marked the beginning of an ongoing family tradition of engineering – two of his six children are engineers, as are multiple nephews and grandchildren, along with André’s wife, Charline (BScE’89) and their son, Martin (BScE’14, D-TME16, MScE’20, BScE’25).

After Richard’s death in 2020, André was inspired to honour his father’s legacy by creating two engineering scholarships in his name: the Richard J. Boissonnault Scholarship in Engineering and the R. J. Boissonnault Scholarship.

The R. J. Boissonnault Scholarship, valued at \$4,000, is awarded annually to a graduate of a New Brunswick

high school who has completed the requirements for the first year of the bachelor of science in engineering (civil) program. Selection is based on academic achievement, community involvement, and financial need, with preference given to Indigenous students.

The Richard J. Boissonnault Scholarship in Engineering, also valued at \$4,000, is awarded annually to a graduate of a Francophone New Brunswick high school who has completed the requirements for the first year of the bachelor of science in engineering program. Selection is based on academic achievement and community involvement, with preference given to a student with financial need in civil engineering.

With his simple and straightforward approach to the profession of engineering, Richard Boissonnault was the origin point for a tradition extending across the generations of his family. Now, through these awards in his name, that legacy will extend far beyond – for generations to come. ■

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR *Community*

For Peter Buckley and Kelly Patterson, supporting UNB's Integrated Health Initiative is an investment in their community's future.

The couple recently donated \$100,000 in support of the Health and Social Innovation Centre on UNB's Saint John campus. Construction is underway on the 65,000 square foot facility, optimized for health education through technology-driven teaching and innovation.

Located on UNB's Saint John campus at the heart of a thriving health sector, which includes New Brunswick Community College's Allied Health Building, Dalhousie Medicine NB's physician education program and the Saint John Regional Hospital, the Integrated Health Initiative serves as an ecosystem where interdisciplinary health education, cutting-edge research and groundbreaking innovation converge. Its impact is already substantial, increasingly positioning New Brunswick as a hub of health innovation.

Kelly and Peter, principal partners at BPS Securities in Rothesay, credit their trusted friend and IHI campaign cabinet member, Charlie Harling (BBA'85) with introducing them to the project.

Peter says his connection with UNB Saint John, where he played basketball as a student, was also fostered by two basketball coaches – current Seawolves

men's coach Paul Vaughan, whose work to reconnect with alumni has had a meaningful impact, and Bob Bonnell (BA'71), who coached Peter as a player.

Peter and Kelly are longtime supporters of community initiatives for change and advancement. "We are particularly drawn to organizations who are innovative, creative and ambitious in their approach," says Kelly. "We are committed supporters of Sistema NB, Kaleidoscope Social Impact and the United Way. The UNB Integrated Health Initiative similarly is a bold and innovative project that will bring widespread benefits to Saint John and the province as a whole."

"We hope others will join us in supporting this important project." ■



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.

RUTH GOODINE AMOS MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Nursing
VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Family and friends of Ruth Goodine Amos (BN'83)

Awarded to a third or fourth year nursing student on the Fredericton campus. Preference goes to a student with financial need.

ESMÉE CARSON SCHOLARSHIP IN HEALTH

FIELD: Health
VALUE: \$6,000 **NUMBER:** 4 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Esmée and Wayne Carson (BScE'87, LLB'90)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a Saint John campus student enrolled in the bachelor of health degree program who demonstrates successful academic performance. The recipient must be a New Brunswick resident, according to the definition of the Provincial Government's Student Financial Services guidelines.

PAULINE GREENBLATT SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Unrestricted
VALUE: \$2,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Pauline Greenblatt (BBA'76)

Awarded to an undergraduate student at the University of New Brunswick, primarily on the basis of scholastic attainment.

DR. GORDON M. HOWSE FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Forestry
VALUE: \$5,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Estate of Dr. Gordon M. Howse (BScF'62)

Awarded to a Fredericton campus student who has completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year in the bachelor of science in forestry. Selection will be based on academic achievement and financial need. Preference will be given to a student who has demonstrated interest in pursuing a profession in entomology.

AUDREY G. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL BURSARY

FIELD: Engineering
VALUE: Variable **NUMBER:** 1 or more **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Suzanne Johnston (BN'92, MN'00) and John Johnston (BScE'77)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to students who have completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year of an engineering degree program (any discipline). Recipients must demonstrate successful academic achievement.

MARJORIE E. MACKIN MEMORIAL BURSARY

FIELD: Nursing
VALUE: Variable **NUMBER:** 1 or more **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Suzanne Johnston (BN'92, MN'00) and John Johnston (BScE'77)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to students who have completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year of the bachelor of nursing degree program. Recipients must demonstrate successful academic achievement.

DR. SALEM & LAILA MASRY SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Engineering
VALUE: \$20,000 per year **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 4 years
DONOR: Dr. Salem (DSc'06) and Laila Masry

Awarded to a student entering the bachelor of science in engineering degree program on the Fredericton campus. Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and demonstrated community involvement.

MACLAUHLAN MCKENZIE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

FIELD: Computer Science
VALUE: \$5,000 **NUMBER:** 2 **DURATION:** 2 years
DONOR: Julia MacLauchlan (BA'77, DLitt'10) and Warren McKenzie (BScCS'76, DLitt'10)

Open to Fredericton campus students who are in the third year of an undergraduate degree program in the faculty of computer science, enrolled in a course in entrepreneurship in digital transformation, and will attend the Fredericton campus during the tenure of the award. Selection is based on academic achievement (minimum 3.0 assessment year GPA). Consideration will be given to renewing the scholarship for the recipient's fourth year of study as long as the student has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the third year. The recipients must be Canadian citizens.

MADDY MURPHY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Unrestricted
VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Family and Friends of Maddy Murphy

Awarded to a Saint John campus student who is a member of a UNB Seawolves soccer team and has completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year of an undergraduate degree. The recipient must demonstrate determination and dedication to both the sport and their teammates. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates involvement in campus and community initiatives, with particular consideration for those that advance mental health awareness, support or advocacy.

MARIA NEUMANN LAW SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS

A \$5,000 scholarship is given to a student who demonstrates good academic achievement in the study of human rights and international law. This scholarship was established by the estate of Peter Falk (LLB'83) in memory of his mother, Maria Sylvia Neumann.

DR. AL AND DEBBIE PRESCOTT BURSARY

FIELD: Science
VALUE: \$5,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Dr. Al (BSc'69) and Debbie Prescott

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a student who has completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year of the bachelor of science degree program. Preference will be given to students from the Maritime provinces. Recipients will hold no other major UNB awards.

DR. AL & DEBBIE PRESCOTT SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Science
VALUE: \$5,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Dr. Al (BSc'69) and Debbie Prescott.

Awarded to a student who has completed at least the minimum requirements for the first year of the bachelor of science degree program. Preference will be given to students from the Maritime provinces. Recipients will hold no other major UNB awards.

FREDERICK C. RISTEEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Science or Engineering
VALUE: \$12,500 **NUMBER:** 2 or more **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Risteen Family

Awarded to a Fredericton campus student who has completed the minimum requirements for the first year of the science or engineering degree programs. Selection will be made based on academic achievement and financial need.

EUGENE W. ROLFE SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Arts/Unrestricted
VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Richard C. Morgan (MA'83) in memory of Eugene W. Rolfe (BA'78, MA'85)

Awarded on the basis of financial need to a member of an Indigenous community. Priority will be given to a female member of the Mi'kmaq community studying for a bachelor of arts or master of arts at UNB on the Fredericton campus but men and women from all Indigenous communities in any field of study and on either campus may be considered.

BERNARD SHARPE SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Unrestricted
VALUE: \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Nathan Tozer (BScSWE'21)

Awarded to an undergraduate student on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. Preference will be given to a first-generation student.

MARGARET A. (CALDWELL) STEVENS BURSARY

FIELD: Nursing
Value: \$4,000 **NUMBER:** 2 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: George Stevens (BScF'62)

Awarded to one Fredericton and one Saint John student on the basis of financial need who have completed the minimum requirements for the second or third year of the bachelor of nursing degree program and have demonstrated successful academic performance. The recipients must be New Brunswick residents according to the definition of the Provincial Government's Financial Services guidelines.

IAN LEE VEACH SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD: Electrical Engineering
VALUE: \$4,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year
DONOR: Ian Lee Veach (BA'74, BScE'79, MScE'84)

Awarded to a student on the Fredericton campus in electrical engineering, who has successfully completed their first year of a bachelor of science in engineering, with financial need.

VISIT UNB.CA/GIVING

for information on creating scholarships

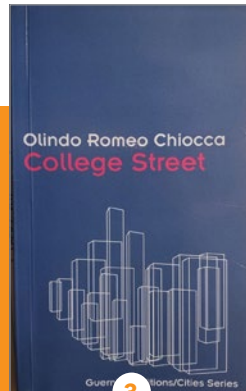
Summer Reading BOOKSHELF



1



2



3

1 Blue Collar ABC

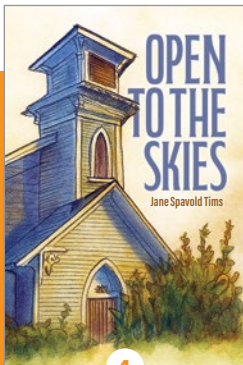
By: Lewis Vandervalk (BScE'19)
Publisher: Independently Published
ISBN: 9798369868379

2 What Holds

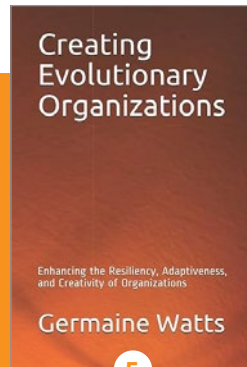
By: Dina E. Cox (Coates, BA'68)
Publisher: Aeolus House
ISBN: 9781987872781

3 College Street

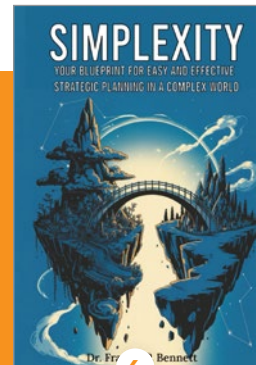
By: Olindo Romeo Chiocca (BScE'87)
Publisher: Guernica Editions
ISBN: 9781550712179



4



5



6

4 Open to the Skies

By: Jane Tims (BA'12)
Publisher: Merlin Star Press
ISBN: 9781778142796

5 Creating Evolutionary Organizations: Enhancing the Resiliency, Adaptiveness, and Creativity of Organizations

By: Germaine Watts (BBA'83)
Publisher: Independently published
ISBN: 9798526646840

6 Simplicity: Your Blueprint for Easy and Effective Strategic Planning in a Complex World

By: Francis P. Bennett (BEd'98, PhD'18)
Publisher: Writers Clique Publishing 2025
ISBN: 9798262564453

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)*

7 Backyard History: Forgotten Stories from Atlantic Canada's Past (Vol. 2)

By: Andrew MacLean (BA'07)
 Publisher: Friesen Press
 ISBN: 9781039186736

8 The Little Ghost Quilt's Winter Surprise

By: Riel Nason (BBA'92, BA'93)
 Publisher: Penguin Random House
 Young Readers Canada: Tundra Books
 ISBN: 9781774885376

9 Anamorphic Distortion in Literature, Visual Art and Film

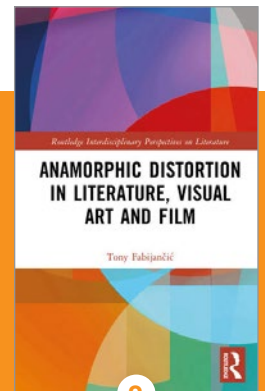
By: Tony Fabijančić (PhD'95)
 Publisher: Routledge
 ISBN: 9781040628690



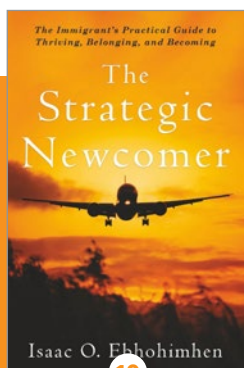
7



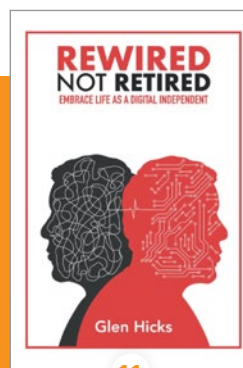
8



9



10



11

10 The Strategic Newcomer: The Immigrant's Practical Guide to Thriving, Belonging, and Becoming

By: Isaac O. Ebhohimhen (MBA'23)
 Publisher: The Publishing Pad
 ISBN: 9781963732177

11 Rewired, Not Retired: Embrace Life as a Digital Independent

By: Glen Hicks (BScCS'90)
 Publisher: Independently Published
 ISBN: 9781777934002

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, 2025, and March 15, 2026, have been included

'73

BOB A. PETERS (BPE, MEd'76) of Quispamsis, N.B., completed a unique book in 2025, *Biography of a Lifelong Learner*, as a historical 100-page tribute to his father, Alexis F. Peters. A hard cover copy is held within the Provincial Library Services of N.B. for general circulation, along with a copy placed in the reference section of the Market Square site in Saint John.

'76



DEBORAH FISHER (BA), of Saint John, N.B., received the King Charles III Coronation Medal presented by The Honourable Senator Jim Quinn for her 25 years of working in partnership with local schools, the community, and

children living in priority neighborhoods in Saint John through the PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) program. PALS was co-founded by James K. Irving (DLitt'87) and the Anglophone South School District (at that time, School District 8). It is a program that partners local schools with representatives from all sectors and businesses. It works to provide mentorship, basic need support, enrichment opportunities, and career guidance.

'77

RAYLENE HAYMAN (BEd) and **JOHN HAYMAN** (C-BA1'94, C-BA2'97) moved to New Maryland in June 2025.

'78

LAURENCE (Laurie) **CORBETT** (BScE, ME'96) of Wuhr's Beach, N.B., assisted retired civil engineering professor, **DALE BRAY** (BScE'63, MScE'65) in acquiring a CSCE Place of Historical Significance plaque on the city's 1883 pump house in 2018. This rekindled his interest in local history, and he has written two

books about Fredericton history, the second released in July of last year. The first book, released last October is *Fire, Disease, and the Pump House, What had to Happen Before Fredericton had Running Water*, while the second is *Three Decades with the Pump House, How Fredericton's Water Works Surpassed All Others in Canada*. Both books document Fredericton's history through early technological change. They are available at Amazon.ca and through bookstores.

'83

ANDREW DIXON (BBA) of Rothesay, N.B., has retired after over 40 years working in the field of logistics from the Saint John Port Authority at the end of January 2026. Following a career at Sunbury Transport, EMCO, and Logistec Stevedoring, Andrew joined the Port Authority in 2004 as vice-president, business development and operations. At the time of his retirement, he was the chief operating officer. Andrew was recognized by the CITT in 2010 with the Lifetime Achievement Award of Excellence in Logistics. He served on several boards over the years including the Fort LaTour Development Authority and the Fundy Trail Parkway Development Authority, and he was the founding chair of the cruise committee of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities. Andrew has moved into the role of 'special advisor' at Port Saint John. He and his wife, Barbara, have two grandchildren and intend to spend more time with family, travelling and motorcycling.

'86

THOMAS P. COOLEN (Class of '86, MEd'11) of Fredericton, N.B., has coached various levels of hockey throughout Atlantic Canada and coached professional hockey teams in Finland, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, Denmark, Austria, Poland, Latvia, and the US, and was an assistant coach for Latvia's national team at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

'87

RANDY JENKINS (BScF) of Wellington, N.Z., has been living in Wellington and working as a compliance manager with an international fisheries organization (SPRFMO) that is engaged in the management of fisheries activity for non-highly migratory high seas fish stocks in the South Pacific.

SAMUEL J. JOHNSTON (BA, BEd'89, MEd'99) of Miramichi, N.B., is an eighth-degree black belt in tae kwon do. He was the New Brunswick heavyweight champion, Maritime champion, Eastern Canada heavyweight champion and won a World championship gold medal in 2017.

DERRICK STANFORD (BA), of Beaverdam, N.B., accepted the role of chief executive officer of the New Brunswick and P.E.I. division of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires in July of 2025. He and his wife, Kathi's three adult children (all UNB grads) live in the Fredericton area.

'92

DONALD A. RYAN (BPE) of Fredericton, N.B., has been the head coach of the UNB wrestling program for over 33 years and is a 16-time Atlantic University Sport wrestling coach of the year. He has served as vice-president of United World Wrestling Americas and president of the Commonwealth Wrestling Committee

'94

JOEL CORMIER (BPE) of Lexington, K.Y., U.S.A., was inducted into the Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA) Hall of Fame as master educator in 2025. For the past three years, he has been the program director of Eastern Kentucky University's sport management program, having gained promotion to full professor. A finalist for a Fulbright Scholar in the

fall of 2025, his book *Hockey (Mid)Night in Kentucky* is proudly available in the Harriet Irving Library.

'96

GARY FENN (BEd) of Peterborough, N.B., retired in June 2025, after 30 years in the public education sector. The first half of his career was teaching Canadian and World Studies at a high school in Peterborough, and coached curling and rowing. Gary got involved in his union, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) on the local executive shortly after starting his teaching career. He then took a job opportunity at the OSSTF provincial office in the communications and political action department. In 2019, Gary became the director of the department leading a team of dedicated staff supporting over 60,000 teachers and education worker members. Gary is looking forward to spending more quality time with Michelle, watching his daughter, Lizzy, who is now a teacher in Ottawa; and stepchild, Isaac, who is completing their degree in theatre production; begin successful careers.

'18

JACKSON JONES (BBA) and **LAURA CALDWELL** (BA/BEd) are getting married in summer 2026. They are both from the spring 2018 Convocation of UNB Saint John. They did not know each other in university but can be seen standing near each other in the graduation champagne toast photo. They met through a mutual connection in September 2024 and have been inseparable ever since. They can be found running the trail systems of New Brunswick with Ollie the dalmatian, hanging out with family or relaxing. Jackson proposed on Jan. 1, 2026, in the Irving Nature Park trails. A special place for them both.

Attention Chemical Engineering Grads from 1985-88



In coordination with the UNB Associated Alumni, we are planning a fantastic four-day reunion from June 3 to 7, 2027, on the Fredericton campus.

We are also trying to find chemical engineering alumni from the years 1985 to 1988 to make sure their email contact is up to date (most communications from the Alumni Association are through email). Please ensure your contact information is up to date. Visit [UNB.ca/alumni/updates](https://unb.ca/alumni/updates).

We have set up a Facebook page to help with planning and staying in touch. It contains regular updates, pictures and chat, and already has many members. If you have an account, please follow our page.

If you are in contact with fellow classmates, we would appreciate you sharing this information with them.

The impromptu organizing committee,

**Judy Barr ('87), Trish Meng ('87),
Louise Steward ('88)**

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association notes with sorrow the passing of the following alumni (based on information received between Oct. 31, 2025, to March 15, 2026.)

FREDERICTON

1940s

AUDREY G. GILLIES-HICKS (BSc'48), Thornhill, Ont.

1950s

MERRILL A. EDWARDS (BSc'53), Fredericton, N.B.

J. WILLIAM 'BILL' BAKER (BSc'55), Tillsonburg, Ont.

IAN P.L. MACDONALD (BScE'56), Perth, Ont.

MIKE CAUGHEY (BScE'58), Almonte, Ont.

RODERICK D. CLARKE (BA'58), Shuniah, Ont.

ESTHER BONITA HARRISON (Greaves, MA'58), Calgary, Alta.

JOHN M. LOWE (BScE'58), Calgary, Alta.

GEORGE J. GREER (Class of '59), Fredericton, N.B.

1960s

J. GORDON MAWHINNEY (BA'60, BEd'63), Saint John, N.B.

RAY W. DIXON (BA'60, BEd'61, BCL'65), Fredericton, N.B.

ERIC D. MCCARTNEY (BSc'61), Saint John, N.B.

JOHN A. MUNRO (BScF'61), Halifax, N.S.

HAROLD SAUNDERSON (Class of '61), Fredericton, N.B.

V. GREGORY TRACEY (BScE'61), Florida, U.S.A.

ANN C. MATTHEWS (Bishop, BPE'62), Dartmouth, N.S.

WILLIAM 'BILL' H. MCILWAINE (BSc'62, MSc'68),
Cambridge, Ont.

ROBERT 'BOB' M. RITACCO (Class of '62), Truro, N.S.

D. LESLIE SMITH (BScE'62, BCL'68), Fredericton, N.B.

RHEESE L. DICKIE (BA'63, BEd'67), Riverview, N.B.

HOPE HYSLOP (BA'63), Kamloops, B.C.

CLIFFORD H. MOULDER (BScF'63), Redbridge, Ont.

EDWARD DAVID CHAPMAN (BScE'64), Antigonish, N.S.

CARLOS D. FREEMAN (BEd'64), Saint John, N.B.

MARGO J. GREENOUGH (McCann, BN'64), Riverview, N.B.

GORDON 'GORD' F. JAMIESON (BScE'64), Simcoe, Ont.

JON H. THOMPSON (BSc'64), Fredericton, N.B.

ERIC OICKLE (BPE'64, BA'65), Bridgewater, N.S.

KENNETH 'KEN' M. TREVORS (BScE'65), Orleans, Ont.

ROGER A. DEGRASS (BScE'66), North River, N.S.

RICHARD M. LAWTON (BScE'66), Scarborough, Ont.

SUSAN C. LITTLE (Grant, BA'66), Collingwood, Ont.

GEORGE W. NELSON (BBA'66), Windsor, N.S.

FRANK L. GODDARD (BScE'67), Fredericton, N.B.

ALLAN 'SKIP' M. STAFFORD (BA'67, BEd'87), Sussex, N.B.

ROBERT L. WILLIS (BA'67, BEd'68), Bathurst, N.B.

PAUL CASSIDY (BBA'68), Moncton, N.B.

MICHAEL B. CURRIE (BScF'68), Keswick Ridge, N.B.

DAVID M. GREGORY (BA'68, BEd'69), Fort MacLeod, Alta.

PETER I. MACDONALD (BA'68, BEd'70), Fredericton, N.B.

D. ALEXANDER 'SANDY' MACGREGOR (BScF'68),
Brookville, N.S.

PATRICE 'PATTY' G. BRETT (Steeves, BA'69, BEd'74),
Quispamsis, N.B.

GAIL C. LOVE (BA'69), Halifax, N.S.

A. PATRICK 'PAT' PETERSON (Class of '69), Fredericton, N.B.

NICHOLAS 'NICK' F. PIPPY (BPE'69), Shelburne, N.S.

ALLAN 'BUTCH' W. STUART (BSc'69, MSc'75),
Hammonds Plains, N.S.

1970s

PETER J. HARDING (BPE'70), Kirkland, Que.

DONALD 'DONNIE' H. JONES (BT'70, BEd'71), Saint John, N.B.

WILLIAM 'BILL' T. WALKER (BSc'70), Moncton, N.B.

MARGARET 'MARGIE' ROSE COYLE (BA'71), Saint John, N.B.

PATRICIA N. MCCARDLE (BEd'71), Charlottetown, P.E.I.

DOREEN 'DEE' AGNES MCCARTHY (BT'71), Saint John, N.B.

HARRY H. WILLIAMSON (BA'71, BEd'72, LLB'75), Bathurst, N.B.

ERIC L. BALKAM (BBA'72), Halifax, N.S.

F. ANDREW 'ANDY' REID (BScE'72), Halifax, N.S.
SANDRA GAIL 'SANDY' SHREVE (BA'73), Pender Island, B.C.
JOHN DARYL MACRAE (BScE'74), Taymouth, N.B.
HERBERT 'HERB' W. REES (BScF'74), New Maryland, N.B.
BRUCE D. VINCENT (BSc'74), Calgary, Alta.
EUGENE BARANOWSKI (MSc'75), Orleans, Ont.
SHELLY L. DELBRIDGE (Orser, BSc'75), Kentville, N.S.
PAMELA J. HICKIE (Cail, BScCS'75), Fredericton, N.B.
LINDA B. HITCHCOCK (Larose, BA'75), Fredericton, N.B.

HEATHER G. MACDONALD (Robertson, BSc'75), Halifax, N.S.
GEORGES M. BOURGEOIS (MCS'77), Shediac River, N.B.
G. VINCENT 'VINCE' COSTELLO (BScE'77), Orleans, Ont.
RICHARD 'RICK' M. MANUEL (BSc'77), Summerville, N.S.
HAROLD J. ALEXANDER (BScF'78), Barton, N.S.
JUDY L. BRODERSEN (Kincade, BEd'78), Rothesay, N.B.
GEORGE H. LEBLANC (BBA'78, LLB'84), Moncton, N.B.
WENDY L. DUPLESSIS (Estey, BEd'79), Massachusetts, U.S.A.
MAUREEN N. WARWICK (Small, BT'79), Hampstead, N.B.

1980s

GERALD 'GERRY' P. MURPHY (BEd'80, BPE'80, MEd'89),
Oyster Bed Bridge, P.E.I.
PETER 'JON' HUTCHINSON (BScF'81), Bonshaw, P.E.I.
JOHN BERTRAM LEONARD ROBINSON (PhD'82),
Green Hill, N.S.
JEFFREY B. WALLEY (BScE'82), Victoria, B.C.
KATHRYN G. WILSON (MEd'82), Hatfield Point, N.B.
SEE HEAN QUEK (MScE'83), Fredericton, N.B.
JERRY JOSEPH SONIER (BSc'83), Ottawa, Ont.
JAYNE A. SPINA (Fawcett, BSc'83), Courtice, Ont.
GRACE ROBERTINE SHAW (Vautour, BA'84, MEd'87),
Woodstock, N.B.

NANCY C. COOK (Morris, C-FR'85), Nasonworth, N.B.
DANIEL 'DAN' ALEXANDER WALSH (BSc'85, BEd'87),
Madoc, Ont.
NICHOLAS 'NICK' DOMENIC DICARLO (LLB'86),
Fredericton, N.B.
CYNTHIA 'CINDY' JOAN WEAVER (LLB'86), Brighton, Ont.
KELLY LISA HUSTWAIT (Eglington, BA'87),
North Vancouver, B.C.
LORI ANN NORTHRUP (BA'88), Fredericton, N.B.
DAVID M. J. DUFFEY (BPE'89), South Carolina, U.S.A.

1990s

THOMAS F.F. HANLEY (Class of '90), Halifax, N.S.
G. IVAN COURT (MEd'93), Saint John, N.B.
HENRY JOSEPH RICHARD (BEd'93), Campbellton, N.B.
ROBERT PAUL HULSMAN (BA'94), Moncton, N.B.
KEVIN CHARLES PARKER (BScE'94), Campbellton, N.B.

ELAINE THERESA CLANCY (Léger, BEd'95),
Steeves Settlement, N.B.
DAVID ANTHONY JAMES MCCARTHY (LLB'95), Conestogo, Ont.
MARIANNE INGRID SKARBORN (Schäff, MA'95),
Fredericton, N.B.

2000s

KELTSIE ANN GAUDET (Easton, C-CCN'03, BN'04),
Saint John, N.B.

DAVID GORDON SHEARER (C-AED'05, BEd'05), Oromocto, N.B.
MURRAY A. MCEACHEN (MA'06), Fredericton, N.B.

2010s

LAURA A. STEEVES-GREEN (BA'11), Greenwood, N.S.

2020s

ANTHONY J. BOSCHI (D-TME'20, BA'20), Etobicoke, Ont.

SAINT JOHN

1960s

LINO J. CELESTE (BScE'60, DSc'96), Saint John, N.B.

RON J. BROWN (BT'68, BEd'85), Saint John, N.B.

1970s

SALLY M. MARSHALL (BT'74, BA'82), Saint John, N.B.

DEBORAH 'DEB' A. RINEHART (BBA'77), Saint John, N.B.

TERRENCE 'TERRY' W. MACKENZIE (BBA'76), Saint John, N.B.

J. JEFFREY 'JEFF' KEITH (BBA'79), Saint John, N.B.

1980s

MARY 'SUSAN' JOHNSTON (McAdam, BA'82), Utopia, N.B.

1990s

THELMA ALICE LOURIE-GOSSE (MEd'91), Saint John, N.B.

2010s

ANDREW CARRUTHERS GARROD (DLitt'17), New Hampshire, U.S.A.



Making education more accessible, FOREVER.

Bob Young (BBA'74) and Pat Neill both know firsthand the challenges that come from supporting oneself through university – both came from economically challenged backgrounds and worked to fund their own educations. While this was rewarding they say, it was also challenging. “We want to make this a little easier for future students.”

Bob and Pat have established the Robert (Bob) Young and Pat Neill Bursary at UNB Saint John, awarded based on financial need to upper-year bachelor of arts or bachelor of business administration students. Along with funding the bursary in their lifetimes, they have also included it in their estate planning, ensuring support for struggling students for generations to come.

As a member of UNB Saint John's first class of business graduates, Bob says he has always felt a strong sense of connection to UNB and to his graduating class – he and Pat would attend reunions every five years during two and a half decades spent in Toronto. While not an alumna herself, Pat also built strong friendships with Bob's classmates, ultimately easing the couple's eventual move to Saint John.

“I have always felt a need to give back to the school that has had such an impact on my life,” says Bob.

It's important to both Pat and Bob that they support organizations that have enriched their lives, and part of that is via gifts that will live on through their estate.

“We were given an opportunity early in life to obtain an education that served us well during our working years. We want to help students have the same opportunity we have had, and not be restricted by the financial constraints of today's costs.

“When you receive letters of appreciation from scholarship recipients that tell you about the impact that the bursary has had on their personal and educational experience, you know it's the right thing to do. Providing a legacy donation allows this to continue well beyond your lifetime.” ■

PLAN YOUR ESTATE, SUPPORT THE UNB OF TOMORROW

It's easy to have an impact: A \$50,000 gift in your will creates an annual \$2,000 scholarship in perpetuity.



To learn more about planned gifts
and the UNB Legacy Society, visit:
UNB.ca/legacysociety

Contact us:
DEVELOPMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS
E: bequests@unb.ca T: (506) 453-5053



“I was fortunate to benefit from the financial support of UNB men’s volleyball alumni. I take pride in continuing that tradition by supporting current student-athletes. Now, as a father of two, I also hope my own actions leave a similar impression on my children and instill in them the same values.”

ANDREW COSTA
BScE’13, D-TME’13, PEng

Join the President’s Circle

TOGETHER, WE SHAPE TOMORROW

Help shape UNB’s future by joining Andrew in making a President’s Circle leadership gift to the area that matters most to you, whether faculty related, athletics, scholarships, or another project of your choosing.

The President’s Circle recognizes donors who give \$1,000 - \$4,999 each year.



UNB.ca/donate
1-844-968-0039

