

# UNB

ALUMNI NEWS

# Final Frontier

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in space science

SUMMER 2024 | [UNB.CA/ALUMNI/MAGAZINE](http://UNB.CA/ALUMNI/MAGAZINE)

## SUMMER 2024

unb.ca/alumni/magazine/

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Anton Balash/Shutterstock.com

### PHOTOS AND IMAGERY

UNB Media Services  
Submitted  
Shutterstock.com (through licensing agreement)

### PRINTING

Advocate Printing

### ADVERTISING

Email: alumni@unb.ca  
Tel: 506.453.4847  
Next issue: Fall 2024

Available online:  
unb.ca/alumni/magazine/

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  
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ISSN 1191-8276

Mailed under Canada Post Publications Mail  
agreement no.: 40063270

Printed in Canada

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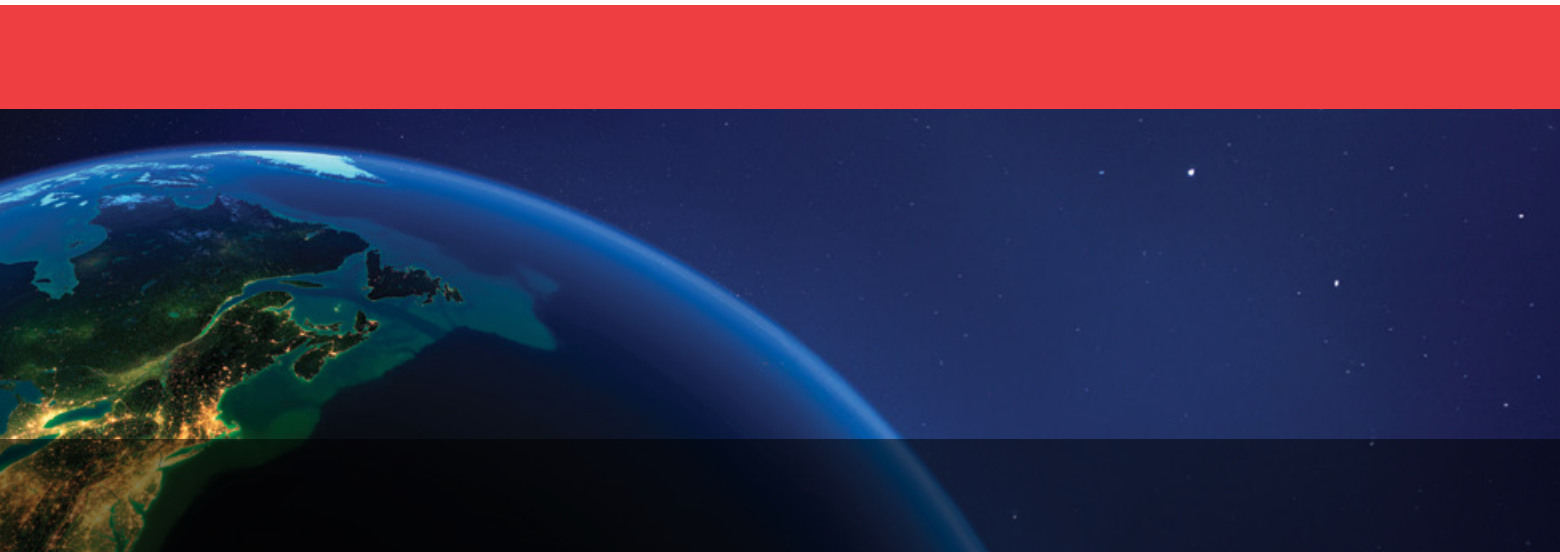
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**W**elcome to another issue of *Alumni News*. It's always a pleasure to connect with you and share stories and updates from our alumni and university communities.

Working at UNB and for the Alumni Association is a humbling and rewarding experience for me. Every day, I read or hear stories about alumni, students, researchers, faculty, and staff who are jumping in feet first to tackle issues that are important to them. There are not enough pages in the magazine to recognize them all, but I'm proud to be a part of their UNB family.

We cover a lot in this issue: students who are tackling hunger on campus; researchers who are making strides in addressing the affordable housing crisis; and alumni, students and researchers who have reached new heights in space exploration. And (as I always love to do in every issue) we celebrate our students who are excelling athletically and/or academically; as well as our Proudly UNB award recipients who have made us proud through their professional achievements and service to their communities.

Over the past few months, I've been exploring new ways to bring you stories and keep our magazine engaging and relevant. Last April, I attended a conference with magazine editors from across North America. This experience was invaluable, and I came away with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. Among the highlights of the conference was the magazine expo, where hundreds of magazines were on display, showcasing the best in design and storytelling. A few things that stood out were the use of illustrations and

AI-generated images to complement and supplement stories, and quick and quirky headlines that captured my interest. I also attended two conference workshops on the integration of artificial intelligence in publishing. While I still have a lot to learn about the world of AI, these sessions inspired me to dig deeper into ways to enhance your reading experience.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled to announce some exciting changes for the magazine for Fall 2024. We're in the process of overhauling our digital version, making it look and feel more like the print issue, but with the bonus of an immersive reading experience through photos, videos and images.

And, in Summer 2025, we'll unveil a refreshed design for the print magazine. This update has been inspired by the digital version, as well as the insights from the conference and other alumni magazines, and your feedback. Your opinions matter greatly to me, and I keep them top of mind as I prepare for each issue.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who take the time to read the magazine – whether you delve into the cover story or simply flip through to Hither and Yon. Your stories, updates, and suggestions are what keep this magazine thriving.

This issue, like every issue, is our way of showing you how proud we are to have you as a part of the UNB family.

**Natalie Montgomery (BBA'99)** ■

*“This issue, like every issue, is our way of showing you how proud we are to have you as a part of the UNB family.”*



**W**hen I last wrote to you in our fall issue of the magazine, we were wrapping up celebrations of the 100th anniversary of *Alumni News* and all the amazing alumni stories, successes and growth captured over the last century. Now, I'm so thrilled to be sharing another remarkable milestone with you. This spring, we welcomed our newest graduates across the stage at Encaenia and Convocation. We also celebrated our alumni family growing to 100,000 members!

The milestone was reached during our third Encaenia ceremony on the Fredericton campus. With it brought great excitement and celebration as we formally recognized the significance of not only growing in numbers, but in impact. Across the globe, 100,000 UNB alumni are collectively making a difference in their communities and in their professions. Now how's that for #ProudlyUNB! We hope you share this exciting update within your circles, and help spread the word that UNBers, like you, are a positive force.

We certainly saw this firsthand at our 2024 Proudly UNB awards dinner on April 5, where we recognized the accomplishments of 11 UNB alumni. Our honourees are leaders in law, education, health care, business, sports, science, and engineering – and as always, I was left feeling fascinated and inspired by their heartwarming experiences. You can read more about our Proudly UNB award recipients in this issue.

Later that weekend, we also officially reopened the Alumni Lounge and Presidents' Tartan in the Alumni Memorial Building on the Fredericton campus. This building and the spaces in it are a testament to the generosity

with which UNB alumni have long supported their *alma mater*. The recent renovation will ensure that the Alumni Lounge and Presidents' Tartan Room will be a welcoming space for university gatherings for years to come. In fact, we opened these two spaces to students as a study space during exam week, bringing the rooms back to their original purpose. Thank you to all of the donors and supporters who were instrumental in bringing this exciting project to fruition.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Saint John campus and the 50th anniversary of the first alumni who graduated from the campus. This is also the year we introduce an exciting new tradition on our Saint John campus – our first Alumni Weekend will take place Sept. 20 to 21, 2024! We are thrilled to welcome our alumni back to campus for a weekend of events, and to gather and reminisce with members of our first grad class of 1974. We hope to see you there! Registration for Alumni Weekend can be found online at [unb.ca/alumni/events/reunions/reunion-weekend.html](https://unb.ca/alumni/events/reunions/reunion-weekend.html).

As you can see, there is lots of exciting change, growth and connection happening for the Associated Alumni. I look forward to connecting with you, hearing your stories and sharing my pride in our alumni family – 100,000 strong!



**Jennifer Sutherland Green (LLB'99)** ■



*“Across the globe, 100,000 UNB alumni are collectively making a difference in their communities and in their professions.”*



# AN *Interview* WITH PAUL

□ UNB President Paul Mazerolle reflects on his first term and shares his vision for the future.

**T**he managing editor of *Alumni News* sat down with UNB President Paul Mazerolle (BA'89) in May to talk about his first term as president and what's in store for his second term.

***The UNB community had to pivot quickly in March 2020. Looking back, how did the pandemic influence your tenure?***

It was really a major turning point for us. When I started in July of 2019, we were doing a lot of planning around the strategic vision. Our Board of Governors had approved it unanimously two weeks before the pandemic hit. It was a grand pivot for us, and we had to mobilize. We adopted what I call a principled approach to managing the university through the pandemic. We identified three principles: the safety of our community, the accessibility of the university, and the need for flexibility. We applied those principles to all the major decisions. COVID didn't define us as an institution. If anything, it magnified our leadership opportunity. We've used the principled approach

in other big projects, identifying core issues – where do we have to focus and how do we stay true to who we are? That has allowed us to say focused on our mandate, which is to implement a strategic vision. And ultimately, for me, that's about how we change the world through UNB.

***UNB's strategic vision, UNB Toward 2030, has evolved during your tenure. Can you give us a progress report, and outline any new priorities or areas of focus for your second term?***

It's a very ambitious plan, with growth and impact as high-level objectives. We're making great momentum, but we still have a lot of work to do. We're making great progress on the research pillar, with research income growing by about 20 per cent. Our goal is to achieve 100 per cent growth, so we still have a lot more work to do.

In the area of transformative education for our students, we have developed more programs and are welcoming more students to UNB. We're growing

as an institution, around 5 per cent a year. Last year, it was 4.5 per cent, and this year, we should be at 7 per cent. This growth means more students will experience the UNB environment, which we believe is excellent.

Our experiential learning and experiential education opportunities have expanded significantly, so more students are having placement opportunities that often lead to their first job. We are excited about that. Additionally, we have more students who are taking advantage of opportunities overseas.

***Diversity, equity and inclusion have been important themes during your presidency. How do you plan to continue advancing these values in your second term?***

I'm proud of the achievements we've made. We have great leadership in place. We've had the office reviewed a number of years ago under the strategic vision because we wanted to look at bringing equity in education awareness into the Human Rights Office; and being an institution where people can



be themselves and be comfortable and be accepted.

We have a role to play in raising awareness across various issues and to make people feel that UNB is a welcoming institution. I think we've made great progress there. We've made good progress in the area of First Nations issues. We now fly First Nations flags on our campus and that was an important symbolic initiative.

But we have a lot of work left to do. We have new leadership in place with Cheyenne Joseph, UNB's Piluwitahasuwin, and she's doing a terrific job, and we're doing more with campus efforts in the First Nation space, working with our council of Elders.

***Collaboration and partnerships have been a key priority under your leadership. How do you envision strengthening these partnerships?***

Partnerships are fundamental to our ability to operate as an institution. Our Strategic Partnerships Office has been expanding. So, we're working with more big employers and that has implications for student placements and for industrial research. So, whether it's with OSCO or McCain Foods, we want to be doing industry-focused research with them but also provide opportunities for their staff to come and study at UNB.

***What initiatives is UNB undertaking to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility?***

We're making really good progress. We have LEED-certified buildings on both campuses now, with a new one that's being built in Saint John. We're looking at sustainability all the time and how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Economically, we're living within our means, and heading into our third year of balanced budgets and investible surpluses. So, in terms of the vision, it's a big vision. With some of the priorities

going forward, we've had to do a major restructuring to enable the vision.

But some areas where we're a little bit behind are around research architecture. So we've developed a new Institute on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence that was launched last year. This year, we'll be launching a new Institute on Population Health. But we have three more in development. One is on climate change, one is on entrepreneurship, and one on public policy. Those will probably be 2025 initiatives. Finally, we're focusing our research on four big, grand challenges around health, security, future energy, and environment and water.

***What are the main issues students are bringing to you?***

They are concerned about affordability at the moment, that's a big issue affecting many students. Food security is a big one. We were very fortunate this year to work with our student union and students' representative council on a couple of initiatives and fundraisers, which provided more food security and availability of food.

Students are also concerned about housing, and about what's happening in the world. They're worried about what's happening in Gaza and in Ukraine. They're worried about climate change. We want to make sure that we're a university where people's voices can be heard. We want to be an open university. We want to be an advocate for open dialogue, so we're hosting events like Diversity Dialogues and the Shaping the Debate series to facilitate discussion.

Students are also looking for flexibility in their course offerings. So we're looking at some of our programs and how to build flexibility for choices. How do we make sure that if students want to take courses around Indigenous history, they can build it into the program? They want to take courses around artificial intelligence, how do we make that available?

***As a university with two campuses, how do you ensure a cohesive and unified experience for students, while maintaining the unique identity of each campus?***

One of the issues that we've been focused on through the strategic vision has been moving to a one UNB model, with two campuses. Our campuses are both unique, very distinctive, so they're going to have a different look and feel in terms of the scale.

Part of the reason why we did all the hard work in the last two years to develop a provost model and to move toward administrative integration, was to embrace this one UNB framework, where there would be more equity in terms of opportunities for students and student services.

We've been doing this by making sure we get the right structures in place. We now have an academic provost who has oversight of both campuses. Student services has one leadership team, so that they can share ideas and best practices.

The head of residential life is one person and has oversight and can look for consistency and equity. It's a massive change for UNB.

***Will there be any kind of impact on the academic side of things, as well? For example, students studying on the Saint John campus having courses applied to Fredericton?***

That's where we're headed. One of the challenges that we faced previously, was that if you're a student on one campus, it was not easy to take one course on another campus or transfer to another one. We were often treating our own students as if they were from a different university. So, we're trying to blow all of that up. We're looking at the advising model, the timetabling model. We're looking at those course selection issues. And this will take a bit of time. Just building the provost model was big.

***How does UNB view the role of disruptive technology and artificial intelligence in shaping the future of education? And can you give examples that are working for UNB?***

AI has been with us for quite some time. For us as an institution, not at an academic level, but at an organizational level, AI needs to be embraced by UNB, and we're probably late to the party on that. Recent leadership changes within our IT departments signal a proactive shift towards AI integration across various facets of university operations. For example, leveraging AI technologies to enhance efficiency and accessibility, such as optimizing parking systems and streamlining information dissemination.

The second issue that we're looking at is navigating the complexities of Generative AI, like ChatGPT, on academic integrity, while balancing how students use this technology, how the classroom is embracing it, and the transparency in using it.

And thirdly, our students as graduates will have AI in the future, and it's going to affect their workplaces. And so, we need to make sure that we get AI modules into almost every program. So, whether you're a history student or a physicist, what does it mean for your profession? What is it? What is the potential, what are the risks, and what are the ethical challenges? So, we're looking to reform our curriculum, as well.

***Can you elaborate on recent infrastructure developments or plans aimed at enhancing the overall student experience?***

This has been something that we've been very excited about. It's been part of our vision as we're confronting some of the challenges as a university over 230 years old. We're going to have a lot of deferred maintenance. In fact, it's over \$300 million, which is a big number. But for many universities of our age, it's very reasonable.

But the issue is how do you confront all these issues? Well, number one, we needed to grow as a university so that we can have investments, so we can have the investible surpluses to confront our built environment. So, what have we been doing? Number one, we've been growing residences. We've built a residence on the Saint John campus.

And we've been renewing old residences on the Fredericton campus. We're looking to update every year.

On the Saint John campus, we have the Health and Social Innovation Centre that is under construction right now. That's a \$65-million building. The great challenge for us is that it was a \$33-million building when we started the project five years ago. Things are a lot more expensive. Fortunately, we have support from the province and the federal government. But there's still work that we're doing with respect to fundraising and looking at ways to finance these things. That'll be an iconic building on the Saint John campus and house many new health programs, along with some of the health researchers.

In Fredericton, the big project that we're working on is the Learning Commons, which is a new entryway to Head Hall. That's really the first major infrastructure change to Head Hall in several years. But it's part of a larger conceptualization of the future of engineering. So that's a three-phase project and phase one is to be completed this summer. Collectively, this is about a \$200 million set of initiatives that we're undertaking.

Within less than two years, we'll be taking over the Justice Building in downtown Fredericton, where our law school will be located. That's about a \$60-million initiative, but we think that'll be an iconic opportunity as well.

***What steps do you plan to take to ensure that UNB remains adaptable and resilient in the face of future challenges?***

Part of what I've been really interested in is not just growing the institution, not just looking at our impact, but looking at modernization. We are on a pretty progressive modernization track right now, and part of that is putting the right leadership in place. We have new leadership in the IT area that is pushing us ahead. We're looking at modernizing some of our policies as well, making sure that they're fit for purpose toward best practice. We're also modernizing the whole EDI framework to strengthen the university, investing in education and awareness.

***What would you like to say to alumni? If you had to leave them with one overarching message, what would it be?***

Their alma mater is in very good shape and has enormous momentum. We're one of the very few universities in Atlantic Canada that is growing. We have a very ambitious strategic vision; we're confronting our challenges through our capital investments. We're looking to enhance the student experience, both inside the classroom and outside. We're focusing on being the University for New Brunswick, and we're looking to advance the university for the public good. Of course, building knowledge is fundamental, but so too is translating the knowledge toward impact, and we want to be at the forefront of being an impactful university. ■

*For more of the Q&As, visit the online issue of the magazine at*

**UNB.CA/ALUMNI/MAGAZINE/2024-SUMMER/**

*and check out our latest UNB Talks with Dr. Mazerolle at*

**UNB.CA/ALUMNI/EVENTS/WEBINARS.HTML**





From innovative teaching methodologies to ground-breaking research initiatives, UNB is embracing transformative shifts and elevating our province.

For the full report on the progress UNB is making, visit [UNB.ca/progressreport](http://UNB.ca/progressreport)



UNB  
TOWARD 2030

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## at UNB | PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH

For more of what's happening at UNB, visit [blogs.unb.ca/newsroom/](http://blogs.unb.ca/newsroom/).



### UNB honours trailblazing lawyer and civil rights pioneer

On Feb. 27, UNB named a street on its Saint John campus Abraham B. Walker Way. A collaboration between UNB and the City of Saint John, Abraham B. Walker Way pays tribute to Walker, a distinguished civil rights pioneer, the first Canadian-born Black lawyer and UNB law's first Black student.

□ Greg Turner, minister of post-secondary education, training and labour; Donna Noade Reardon, mayor of Saint John; Mayowa Charles-Afolabi, Graduate Student Association vice-president administration; and Paul Mazerolle, UNB president.

## UNB lab uses AI to help grow local company

UNB's Analytics Everywhere Lab (AE Lab) in the faculty of computer science has leveraged the power of AI to help a local company expand its range of products that detect defects in manufacturing sectors like automotive and paper processing. Under the guidance of computer science professor Hung Cao (PhD'20), the AE Lab explored how to train a computer model to make decisions about manufacturing defects, based on data found in quality control images taken during the manufacturing process.

The joint project, called Automated Defect Detection Using Transfer Learning, brought together the leading-edge knowledge of AI capabilities from the AE Lab and the real-world industrial solutions being pioneered at Fredericton's Eigen Innovations. The



□ Joshua Pickard (BScEng'12, PhD'18), senior director of product and innovation at Eigen Innovations, and Atah Nuh Mih, master of computer science student.

company operates worldwide, providing products that help make manufacturing more efficient by analyzing data from machine vision systems and process sensors using intelligent algorithms to identify and predict defective products in real-time on an assembly line. Their

systems have done everything from identifying coating defects on specialty paper using thermal imaging, to seeing critical surface defects on automotive parts using synchronized illumination and image capture, resulting in millions saved for manufacturers.

## UNB legal clinic sees success and growth in first year of operation

After being open for almost two years, the UNB legal clinic has emerged as a powerful resource in improving access to justice, not just in the City of Fredericton but throughout New Brunswick. Since opening its doors in September of 2022, the clinic has answered hundreds of inquiries and provided legal support for well over 100 clients in need. Jeannette Savoie, supervising lawyer for the clinic, has seen a remarkable demand for services, specifically surrounding tenancy. "We're seeing a lot of issues with evictions, especially around large rent increases, renovations, or landlords claiming they are changing the use of the premises—also, unreasonable house rules and lease requirements."

**For this story, and more from the faculty of law, visit [Nexus magazine online](#).**



□ Victoria LaBillois with Devashis Mitra, dean of management.

## Victoria LaBillois inducted into faculty of management Wall of Fame

Mi'gmaq entrepreneur, and national and community leader, Victoria LaBillois (BA'91, MBA'04), has been honoured with the faculty of management's

Certificate of Achievement Award and inducted permanently on the faculty's Alumni Wall of Fame.



## Forestry student uses two-eyed seeing to enrich research on watersheds

Kieran Johnson has always kept her perspective focused on the environment and the human impact on it. That longstanding work was recognized last November when Kieran won the Golden Award for the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative in Cape Breton. Hailing from the Eskasoni First Nation in Unama'ki (Cape Breton), N.S., Kieran's work focuses on the watershed in that community – primarily on species at risk, including animals and fish that live in the watershed, as well as plants and other flora.

She worked to help make one of the rivers in the system more habitable for salmon and other plant and animal life. Using deflectors made of logs and rocks, the community is working to transform the river into a healthier environment for the salmon that call it home. “The deflectors divert the water towards the center of the river. They make the water deeper, create pools, and help build up the banks, creating cooler water and spots for salmon and other fish to rest in. I was working on assessing the effectiveness of these deflectors and trying to encourage the salmon to come back.”

Kieran explains how Elder Albert Marshall related the concept of two-eyed seeing (Etuaptmumk) to her. “It is taking the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and

the strengths of western knowledge and ways of knowing and using ‘both eyes’ (both perspectives) for the benefit of all. It is a guiding principle and is action oriented.”

Differing definitions between the Indigenous and Western perspectives highlight the need to acknowledge and reflect on the multiple ways of understanding the environment. One definition Kieran is interested in is old-growth forest.

“What I would like to do is go through the old growth policy [in Nova Scotia] and see what is considered old growth to them, and I know that our community has also talked about what is old growth. I'd really like to compare the two and really use both to classify areas.”



## Elizabeth Steele Meier: Doyenne of the Currie Scholars selection committee

When the prestigious Currie Scholars program for Atlantic Canadian students was established in 2004 by then-Chancellor Richard J. Currie (LLD'87), Elizabeth Steele Meier (BA'71, MSc'75) was a founding member of the selection committee.

Over the past 20 years, Liz, who stepped down from the committee this spring, has interviewed some 200 final candidates for UNB's most valuable renewable awards, selecting more than 65 accomplished award recipients.

The rigorous application process looked at the candidates' academic record, character, communication skills, leadership potential and, like Dr. Currie, their ability to face and overcome obstacles and barriers in their lives. Although the application information and essays were important, the real decision was made after meeting and interviewing the candidates.

According to Liz, “The most enjoyable aspects of the selection process were the events of the scholarship weekend itself. Meeting the students at the reception and having a chance to watch and talk with them at the dinner were not only instructive but a lot of fun. We also had fun at the interviews. It never

was our intention to put anyone on the ‘hot seat’ but rather to make them feel comfortable enough with us to let their true personas show. There was a lot of joking and laughter going on always at the interviews. After meeting these outstanding young people, I would leave the weekend feeling that the world was going to be a better place from the ripple effect of what these students could contribute on their life journeys.”

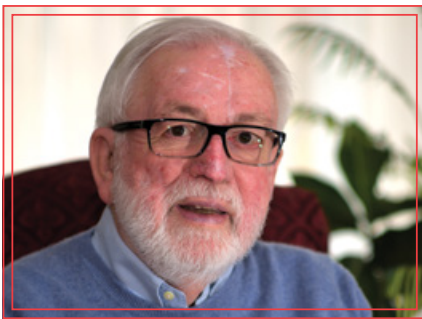
A published cancer researcher and award-winning realtor, Liz has also been a long-time, active volunteer for various health, education and newcomers organizations.

The current selection committee, inspired by Liz's dedicated example, has just completed its work for 2024-25. Members are Beth Currie Watt (BPE'93), and former Currie Scholars Taylor Steele (BScCE'13) and Brendan Wood (BScEng'10, MScME'13). ■

# UNB GRANTS

## *Six Honorary Degrees*

### DURING SPRING GRADUATION CEREMONIES



**Frederick (Fred) J. Beirsto (BScCE'63)** received an honorary doctorate of letters. A lifelong Frederictonian, Fred is an entrepreneur and humanitarian. He was a major contractor and businessman in New Brunswick. After purchasing W.J. Beirsto Co. Ltd., he built the small plumbing and contracting company into one of the largest mechanical contracting businesses in the province. He also co-founded P.E.S. Sales Ltd. and Beacon Hill Investments Inc.

Fred held the position of president of UNB's Associated Alumni Council and was a member of the university's Senate and Board. In 1982, he was presented with an Alumni Award of Honour, which recognizes outstanding service and commitment to UNB and the Associated Alumni. Understanding that students often face financial

challenges, his wife, Dixie, and he created the Fred and Dixie Beirsto Emergency Aid Fund to support undergraduate students in need.

Fred has been recognized with an Order of New Brunswick, the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizens Award, the Fredericton Community Foundation's Philanthropy in Action Award, Rotary International's Paul Harris Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick's Excellence in Aging Award.



**Earl Brewer (BA'70, LLB'74) and Sandra (Sandy) Kitchen-Brewer (BA'94, MA'08)** received honorary doctorates of letters. They are social activists, philanthropists, and community

supporters who are dedicated to improving the lives of their neighbours and fellow New Brunswickers. Their activism and quiet generosity have had significant impacts across the province on education, food security, the arts, health and social innovation.

In 2006, they began the Studio Watch Emerging Artist award program with the Beaverbrook Art Gallery as a way to increase the exposure of young, upcoming artists in New Brunswick giving them an opportunity to be celebrated, to excel in their field, and to advance to the next step in their career. The award is in its 18th year.

In 2009, Earl and Sandy established the Brewer Foundation. Initially, their interest was to provide educational scholarships to students, especially those with good academic achievement and a great deal of fortitude. In 2016, they became focused on the local student food insecurity program. Since then, they have invested heavily to establish or help existing student hunger programs in over 80 schools across the province.



Earl, with Sandy's whole-hearted support, is deeply committed to UNB's faculty of law, recently donating \$1 million to establish the Brewer Scholarship, which will be second only to the value of the prestigious Beaverbrook Scholarship. Earl and Sandy have also donated to the renovation of the Justice Building.



**J. Darrell Duffie (BScCE'75)** received an honorary doctorate of letters. He is the Adams Distinguished Professor of Management and Professor of Finance at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University.

A respected expert in the field of finance and economics, Darrell has been recognized with research awards, fellowships, teaching awards, and the International Association of Financial Engineering's Financial Engineer Award. Darrell has been an adviser for the World Economic Forum, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Society of Financial Econometrics, and the Scientific Councils of the Swiss Finance Institute and the Duisenberg Institute, among many other international bodies. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He is the author of more than 70 peer-reviewed research articles and numerous books, including *How Big Banks Fail – And What to Do About It*. His highly regarded and widely cited graduate textbook, *Dynamic Asset Pricing Theory*, offers a comprehensive exploration of modern mathematical finance.



**Hans S. Keirstead** received an honorary doctorate of science. He is an internationally known neuroscientist and entrepreneur who, through his research and innovations, has made remarkable contributions to the field of regenerative medicine. He has strong ties to the province of New Brunswick; his father, the late scientist and entrepreneur Kenneth Keirstead, lived in Fredericton and attended UNB.

His research had led to major biomedical breakthroughs and innovations, including the development of a treatment that can restore movement and function to people with quadriplegic spinal cord injuries. His work in spinal cord injury earned him the distinction of being one of the 100 top scientists of the year in *Discover Magazine*. He was featured on *60 Minutes* in a full segment covering his treatment for spinal cord injury. Hans has successfully developed treatments for people suffering from melanoma, brain and ovarian cancers. He has also led therapy development for immune disorders, motor neuron diseases, retinal diseases and a multi-pathogen vaccine.

Hans has received a number of major awards throughout his career, including the Distinguished Award for Research, the UCI Academic Senate's highest honour; the UCI Innovation Award for innovative research leading to corporate and clinical development; the National Institutes of Health's Solowey Award for the most promising scientist of the year; and Singularity University's Touching One Billion People Award.



**Margaret MacMillan** received an honorary doctorate of letters. She is an award-winning author and influential historian.

Margaret is a scholar who is a sought-after media commentator on both history and current international relations. Her best-selling, critically acclaimed books, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* and *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*, are two of the most influential studies ever written on the First World War.

A *New York Times* best-selling author, she has won many awards for her writing, including the Governor General's Literary Award, the Duff Cooper Prize and the Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History. She is the first woman to receive the Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Canada. She is a trustee of the Imperial War Museum and the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna).

In 2006, she was invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada and became a Companion in 2016. In 2022, she was recognized by Queen Elizabeth II with an Order of Merit, a special mark of honour conferred by the Sovereign on individuals of exceptional distinction in the arts, learning, sciences and other areas such as public service.

**CORRECTION:** In the Fall 2023 issue of *Alumni News*, we identified Dr. Alan Cherrington as a professor at the University of Toronto. He is a professor at Vanderbilt University. We apologise for this error. ■

# Filling shelves Fuelling minds

## Students addressing food insecurity on campus



□ Lucy Armstrong

**F**ood insecurity is about more than just not having enough calories to get through the day.

“It’s one of those things where you wouldn’t look at someone and say, ‘that person is food insecure,’” says Lucy Armstrong, bachelor of philosophy and interdisciplinary studies student, co-founder of the UNB Fredericton campus food bank, and UNB student union food coordinator. “Food insecurity is the lack of access, or funds, or anything that prevents you from being able to provide food for yourself.”

Through the pursuit of her degree at UNB’s Renaissance College, Lucy discovered that she had a passion for food security both on and off campus. That led her into a partnership with

the UNB student union to co-found the Fredericton campus’ first food bank, last fall.

“Whether it’s providing food in general or finding food that has the correct nutritional value to keep up with your needs, being able to find the right cultural foods, or having the equipment to cook food – food insecurity is a big issue that people face. They might not have the cooking skills or they might not have a pan to cook their meals and that creates a lot of barriers for people.”

When students are at school, they often put all their financial resources towards books, tuition and rent, making food a second or even third-tier priority, she adds.

With the introduction of an easy-to-access, on-campus food bank, student clients can lay down one of the burdens they carry in their journey to complete their education.

“Some of the impacts of the food bank I’ve seen are students not having to worry about where they’re getting food from or stress about how they’ll be able to afford it. It’s giving students more time to be able to focus on their studies as well as be fully nourished and have the energy to be able to focus on their studies.”

Working with the student union, the food bank has implemented several policies to maintain the privacy of clients, and to help alleviate any shame people may feel about using this service. Clients are assigned an identification number and a time to visit the bank to protect their anonymity.

The only goal of the program is to get food to the people who need it, so they can focus on their reason for being at university – to get an education.

“I just want to help people get up on their feet and be able to succeed.”

Former UNB student union President and food bank co-founder Amanda Smith (BA’23) says, “Cost of living, tuition, students facing inflation,

textbook costs, housing costs; it's a whole affordability thing right now, and it's us trying to navigate that."

Amanda says that it's taken a while to get the project going because the student union wanted to make sure the proper policies were in place before starting, with procedures covering food safety and food bank customer confidentiality.

"We wanted to make sure we had a system for sign-up so that students can register. What we do is give them an identifier number so that the volunteers don't know who they are by name because we want to respect students' privacy."

The food bank project has been in the works since last summer, as the student union saw interest for their previous program – food boxes from Fredericton-based food security initiative Greener Villages – outstrip their capacity.

With an ever-increasing demand for the food box service and limited hours when the boxes could be picked up, Greener Village agreed that a different approach was needed.

Pick-up time limitations meant that hampers containing perishable items needed to be returned to Greener Village for refrigeration. That led to a reimagining of how the food security initiatives could work and the food bank program was born.

Amanda turned to student services and on campus food provider, Chartwells, for help getting the initiative off the ground. Both stepped up to help provide needed shelving and a first round of products to fill those shelves.

According to Alex Boyd, CEO of Greener Village, Fredericton, N.B., which will use its bulk purchasing power as a region-wide food provider to buy food for the bank moving forward, the student food bank is one of the most important initiatives the organization is undertaking.

"Poverty is a trap," he says. "It sucks people in, holds on to them and doesn't let them escape." "We know that one of the most effective ways to break that trap is through education. It's one of the cycle breakers and it's massively important."

When people have immediate, high-priority needs like access to food or shelter, it's impossible for them to address longer-term needs like skill development and education.

"How much energy can you invest in education when you think, 'I've got nothing to eat?'" asks Alex. "If you can help people to complete their education to gain the employment that they need, they become more in control of their food and financial resources."

Breaking the cycle of poverty in early adulthood is why Greener Village's partnership with the UNB student union is so important. "It's a way for us to improve food security among students," says Alex. "And to have someone else dedicated on the ground, helping us to accomplish that is pretty special."

The students' representative council (SRC) on the Saint John campus also started a food bank. The campus food pantry opened in November. Using QR code technology, the bank gives clients a time slot to pick up their items, with a maximum of one visit per week. This is in addition to the Tuesday morning breakfast program the SRC runs at Hazen Hall, which also started in late November. Both programs are stocked with fresh, healthy food, and are supported by a mix of government grants, SRC funding and alumni donations.

"Forty per cent of post-secondary students in Canada are food insecure, with direct effects on both physical and mental health. With rising costs of living across this country, food insecurity is at epidemic proportions never before seen," says Madison Worth (BSc'24), former SRC president and science student.

Madison adds that when students neglect their nutrition because of cost,

"It's not an ideal environment for learning, it's not an ideal environment for mental health." "There are a mix of students accessing the food pantry and breakfast programs including international students, mature students and the biggest demographic – domestic students. "It's kind of been taken to a whole other level now," Madison says of rising expenses for students, noting that homeless shelters and food banks off campus are now seeing students using their services.

The SRC is taking a holistic approach to address not just food costs, but other necessities in the years ahead. "We're targeting the housing problem and setting up a new bursary for that, as well as some other transportation initiatives." ■

***"Forty per cent of post-secondary students in Canada are food insecure, with direct effects on both physical and mental health. With rising costs of living across this country, food insecurity is at epidemic proportions never before seen."***

**– Madison Worth,  
former SRC president and  
science student**



*Advocates for Change*

# **Transforming Housing Injustice Into Community Solutions**



*“Many people are waiting for affordable housing right now, and that’s largely due to the crisis that we as a society are in. We have recently seen our housing waitlist double, so we know there’s a lot of need.”*

**A**midst widespread housing injustice, there emerges an urgent plea for bold, transformative measures to address systemic inequities and foster meaningful change.

Enter Julia Woodhall-Melnik.

Dr. Woodhall-Melnik, Canada Research Chair in Resilient Communities at UNB, is a researcher and social justice advocate who is pushing for the systemic changes required for individuals to meet their basic needs. She is also the principal investigator of the Housing, Mobilization & Engagement Research Lab (HOME-RL), which explores the connections between housing affordability, and mental health and well-being, and how policymakers can develop solutions for improving living conditions for low- to moderate-income individuals.

Her work is driven by the needs of individuals experiencing poverty and the agencies that serve them. As a community-based researcher, Woodhall-Melnik looks for solutions to help some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Her goal is to use her research to create an evidence-based demonstration project that focuses on housing affordability, suitability, and access. The chair has provided her with a lot of opportunities to connect with people across a broad spectrum. Recently, she went to the European Network for Housing Research conference, and she regularly collaborates with people from the Canadian Housing Evidence

Collaborative about their national perspectives on housing.

She is also developing a model for affordable housing that can help everyone live healthy and meaningful lives. Her research finds that struggling under the stress of housing unaffordability is unfair, dangerous and unhealthy, and it does not provide people with the mental space to thrive.

“Early findings for one of our studies indicate a high prevalence of depression and poor physical health and distress among our baseline population. We hope to use this data to identify some of the barriers to improving housing security in the province and work with service providers and other partners to create affordable and inclusive housing options.”

Woodhall-Melnik hopes to use the data she collects through her research to advocate for change and share that data with government, non-profit and industry partners, and other academics. She wants to shed some light on what is happening and break down some assumptions and stigmas.

“It is important for us to identify the misconceptions we may have about individuals who experience the effects of systemic and structural injustice. It can help a lot in terms of building solutions, generating a willingness to address a problem and investing in things going forward. I find it completely unfair that some parents are under constant stress to maintain

roofs over their heads; that folks who have worked hard all their lives live in poverty in retirement; that youth who are just starting out cannot afford stability and the ability to grow; that people who experience disabilities and neurodiversity are regulated to poverty by social support systems that cannot provide enough to live but penalize them for working.”

Woodhall-Melnik understands that a person’s quality of life is largely dictated by where they are born. She is addressing these injustices and will use this work to make our communities stronger, healthier and kinder. “Once people get into housing, we need to figure out how to effectively implement trauma-informed support services that focus on education, self-actualization, mental health and well-being and optional substance use programming. I envision a type of government care system that helps people design spaces that are therapeutic to them instead of places that are triggering and retraumatizing.”

She acknowledges other options, such as affordable homeownership programs and cooperative housing. “We are at the point now where our data points to the problems, and we’re looking forward to building towards the solution. Right now, we have been trying to understand the experiences of people so we can better advocate alongside them for evidence-based solutions as allies. We want to help alleviate barriers towards social and economic inclusion. Once we understand those barriers, we can start to work with that population to advocate for, develop and experiment with solutions.”

*“Although people have a right to housing, there are often many things interfering with access. Homelessness is one of the most significant social problems facing society today. I want to change people’s minds about what that means, and I want to be part of the solution.”*

**E**ric Weissman, an assistant professor of sociology on the Saint John campus, is asking important questions about how we respond to homelessness. Through his research, he wants to understand whether our approaches related to homelessness work and what role people who experience homelessness should play in developing their housing solutions.

By using several media-based examples, such as photography and documentary filmmaking, he raises awareness of the ethical and practical issues related to urban social problems, social innovation, health care, homelessness and housing planning. As a member of the Institute for Urban and Community Studies (UCSI) at UNB, Dr. Weissman uses a variety of digital media captured over the last 20 years across several cities.

Much of Weissman’s research examines emerging and evolving alternative solutions to homelessness, such as tiny home communities like Dignity Village in Oregon and supported emergency tent encampments like Right to Dream Too, also in Oregon, to create self-governing communities for the previously homeless. Drawing from his own experiences with addiction and homelessness, he also analyzes the social factors and personal traumas that drive people out of housing, into housing precariousness and often to the streets, and considers the future of homelessness.

Weissman is a co-principal investigator working on the NB Housing Project with Horizon Health and various Saint John community partners. He is the principal

investigator for Visualizing Home, A Filmic Study of Place Attachment in New Brunswick. He is also the principal investigator of Post-Secondary Student Homelessness (PSSH) in Canada: Informing Prevention Through Qualitative Analysis.

Weissman believes that the research he engages in is not only a sort of community activism but, at times, a form of social work. “Housing needs to be seen as a type of healthcare, and we have to think of housing as a form of harm reduction for everyone, not just people who are struggling with homelessness. There is no doubt that having lived experience of these issues helps, we work with the people in my research, and as I discuss in my last book, this research occurs on the front lines.”

He explains that some forms of homelessness will always be with us and what we must do is make sure we make those hostile and literal types of homelessness livable. “In order to do so, we must understand the historical and larger structural conditions that provide contexts for understanding poverty and homelessness and the types of spaces set aside for those experiencing it.”

He adds that 20 years ago, nobody wanted to put money into housing for people who might have addictions or mental health issues as they were seen as undeserving. “Unfortunately, many people have outdated notions about what it means to be deserving.”

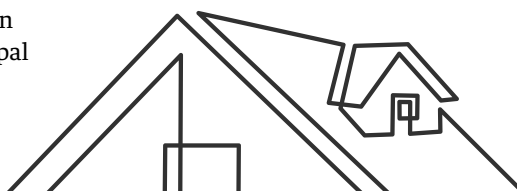
Weissman says that housing, especially supportive modes for those who need it, is not only a stable, safe place that protects a person from the elements, but it also contributes to overall health. “We need to prevent people from entering homelessness in the first place. So how do we do that? How can we work with our partners to create safer, inclusive spaces for those people impacted by homelessness? And what are the impacts of housing on harm reduction?”

Through his work, he wants to help people explore the connections between their defences and values and the defences and values of homeless individuals. “We want to understand that solutions, such as tent camps and other intentional communities, are not just about shelter, but people needing attachments to others or community. Once such connections are made, it is hard to hide behind exclusionary narratives.”

Overall, Weissman says his work is not just about housing. “We know what housing is; we know how to build it; we know that it works, and we know what it costs. My work is about changing the narrative to find ways to change people’s opinions about housing not only as a fundamental human right but as a way of reducing social harms and harms for individuals.”

He adds that it has been proven that providing housing ameliorates several health issues. “It is both morally satisfying and ethically correct to provide housing for people. ■

*These features were originally published in the UNB newsroom in October 2022.*





# UNB launches province's first satellite into orbit

**O**n March 21, a piece of New Brunswick reached new heights when UNB's CubeSat NB VIOLET hitched a ride to the International Space Station (ISS) on a SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft on the company's Falcon 9 rocket.

VIOLET joined satellites from Newfoundland's Memorial University and the University of Sherbrooke for its trip to space. As part of the Canadian Space Agency's (CSA) CubeSat Project, these milk-carton-sized pieces of technology can be used to test instruments, conduct experiments or support commercial or educational endeavours in space.

Deployed from the ISS on April 18, all three satellites entered orbit around Earth, with the capacity of transmitting data back to ground stations using radio signals. VIOLET's mission is to collect information about the sunspot cycle and its effects on Earth's upper atmosphere, thanks to its solar panels, which double as orientation sensors.

"It will be one of the first satellites of its kind to study space weather at the altitude of the International Space Station," says Brent Petersen, professor of electrical and computer engineering and co-principal investigator of the CubeSat VIOLET Project. "VIOLET will burn up in orbit

in a few months, but its scientific data would be valuable forever."

UNB's satellite was designed, built and tested over the past five years by almost 300 students from UNB, l'Université de Moncton and the New Brunswick Community College.

The CubeSat Project, aims to advance space technology through the deployment of compact satellites, like VIOLET, for scientific and educational purposes. This initiative highlights Canada's role in the international space community and its dedication to space exploration.



Named VIOLET after the provincial flower, the satellite is part of the larger CSA project, which saw 15 educational institutions across the country create their own satellites.

VIOLET had a brief moment in the sun in November 2023, when it had public viewing at Head Hall before heading to the CSA in Montreal in preparation for a March launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

After its deployment from the ISS, VIOLET began its even longer moment in the sun – orbiting Earth for anywhere from three to six months or longer. VIOLET will deliver information about the upper atmosphere including the ionosphere, the uppermost part of Earth’s atmosphere, where ultraviolet light and x-ray solar radiation cause electrons to pop free of their atomic and molecular bonds leaving ions behind.

Richard Langley, a geodesy and geomatics engineering professor and radio scientist, says VIOLET is perfectly positioned to study the 11-year sunspot cycle, which is reaching its peak. Energetic particles emitted from the sun can intensify during this period, making the upper atmosphere thicker and providing a wealth of information about the relationship between it and the sun’s activity.

“The satellite will de-orbit faster, the more atoms and molecules that it’s running into,” Dr. Langley says of VIOLET’s journey through the atmosphere before disintegrating as it falls back to Earth. “We can learn something about what the atmosphere is doing just by following the motion of the satellite.”

Oriented along the Earth’s magnetic field lines by a magnet at its centre, VIOLET’s four sets of solar panels will capture light variations.

“When we look at the illumination on the solar panels, we’ll get a sense of the dynamics of the satellite,” Langley says.



“Just from tracking data provided by the U.S. Space Command and NORAD, we saw that the orbit of our satellite was significantly affected by the geomagnetic storms in May that produced the beautiful auroras seen around the world.”

VIOLET will not only gather data but it will also carry a special message for New Brunswickers of Indigenous descent.

Cheyenne Joseph, Piluwitahasuwin associate vice-president of Indigenous Engagement, inscribed VIOLET with a Mi’kmaq hieroglyph.

“It means ‘the people,’” she says of the looping symbol drawn on the top of VIOLET’s rectangular structure. Joseph says she was happy to add the inscription at the request of the CubeSat team.

“Knowing that the satellite’s going over the province...this is one way to

honour that commitment to work with Indigenous people. It’s a way to leave our mark and to be included.”

Samiha Lubaba is an electrical engineering master’s student who started working on the CubeSat project this past summer.

“[I worked] on the ground station communications,” she says. “I’m going to be communicating with VIOLET to make sure it’s working fine up in space.”

Her work involved transmitting information ‘packets’ to and from the satellite using the two large antennas the team set up on the roof of Gillin Hall.

Using Ham Radio Deluxe software, the VIOLET team will try to communicate with the satellite as it makes its numerous passes through the sky, some directly overhead and some just peeking over the horizon. The team estimates it will get about 30 minutes of communication with the satellite daily.



The students, like Samiha at the ground station, will manipulate the antenna's movement from the building's control room. An azimuth-elevation rotator track will allow the equipment to rotate and tilt to align with the satellite no matter where it is in the sky above.

“Unfortunately, we haven't been able to contact VIOLET yet and are not sure what the problem might be,” says Dr. Langley. “It could be that VIOLET's antenna has not properly deployed. We are investigating different possibilities and are transmitting to the satellite almost every day in the hopes of getting a reply.”

He says for now, the plan is that the UNB station will be the only one actively trying to communicate with VIOLET, but that the door is still open to working with a network of other ground stations across the country and even around the world, to collect VIOLET's data.

“The ground station is almost a separate project that students can use to track

other kinds of satellites. Even weather satellites or other science satellites,” says Langley. “That exposes them to even more aerospace technology.”

As one of the students who delivered VIOLET to the CSA in Montreal, Samiha was excited for the March launch.

“It's a career-transforming project for me. I'm really proud because it's New Brunswick's first satellite and I'm a part of it.” ■

### UNB in space

While VIOLET may be the first N.B.-built satellite to go to space, it is certainly not the only technology developed at UNB to leave the planet and contribute to space-based research.

- Working with NASA and the Canadian Space Agency, UNB researchers are developing Spatial Heterodyne Observations of Water (SHOW), which will be part of the Atmosphere Observing System mission. This

mission will improve extreme weather prediction, climate modelling and the monitoring of disasters.

- Researchers from UNB are also lending their expertise to a new NASA project led by Boston College. The Space Weather Research and Technology Applications (SPARTA) Center of Excellence will study space weather disturbances and develop solutions to improve satellite performance in these adverse conditions. UNB's team will bring the extensive knowledge gained from the Canadian High Arctic Ionospheric Network project.
- UNB researchers have also created computer simulations to better understand what goes on inside black holes, and others are using satellites to detect and protect endangered North Atlantic right whales.
- For more than a decade, UNB scientists have been involved in the day-to-day operations of a NASA-led mission to the planet Mars. They helped operate one of the scientific instruments on 'Curiosity,' the Mars Science Laboratory rover.
- UNB researchers, in collaboration with the CSA, the University of Calgary, and Magellan Aerospace, developed the GPS Attitude, Positioning, and Profiling instrument for the Canadian e-POP/CASSIOPE satellite. The satellite had its 10th anniversary in space last September.

1 The breadbox-sized satellite is named VIOLET after the provincial flower.

2 UNB's satellite was designed, built and tested over the past five years by almost 300 students from UNB, Université de Moncton and the New Brunswick Community College.

3 VIOLET was inscribed with a Mi'kmaw hieroglyph by UNB's Piluwitahasuwinn Associate Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement, Cheyenne Joseph.





## ABOVE THE CLOUDS

# Balloon project redefines eclipse viewing

**A** total solar eclipse is a rare and awe-inspiring opportunity to marvel at nature and the cosmos. But for many UNB students and alumni, the celestial event that happened in central New Brunswick on April 8 was even more special.

That's because they were part of a years-long project to launch a high-altitude balloon with a solar telescope to capture the event, making live images of the eclipse available to watchers on the ground even if there was cloud cover that day.

The 185 km eclipse shadow swept into New Brunswick near Florenceville-Bristol, which was perfectly situated at nearly the exact centre of the path of totality, making it the ideal spot to view the eclipse. Resident David Hunter, a retired medical physicist and astronomy buff, knew this was an opportunity he couldn't let pass.

"It's very rare to be in the path of totality for a solar eclipse, and since April is typically cloudy, I didn't want to miss it. The balloon and the payload it carries – an intricate grouping of



□ Ground Station team: James Tompkins (BScEE'88), Chip Hunter, Tom Sisk (BScEE'82), Stephen Downward (BCS'21), Chris Docherty, David Hunter, Geoffrey Foster (BA'76, BBA'76), James Blackie, Cecile Blackie, Sandy Hunter, Lawson Hunter (BSc'67, LLB'70, LLD'11), Makenzie Dixon, Jason Hovey and Gordon Hunter (BA'65, BCL'68).

four computers, six cameras, two tracking devices, a radio transmitter and instrumental gear – is expected to transmit live, magnified, telescopic images and video back to Earth for a live feed of the eclipse no matter what the weather conditions,” he explains.

“The payload system has a sophisticated cutdown unit which can first detach the payload from the balloon, and then seconds later deflate the balloon. The payload has a parachute which brings it to the ground with a soft landing.”

David, a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada New Brunswick Centre, began developing plans for the unique project in 2019 and quickly assembled a team of scientists, engineers and other volunteers to help with what has turned into a very complicated and sophisticated project. That team includes his brother, Lawson Hunter (BSc'67, LLB'70, LLD'11), as well as 12 UNB engineering students and numerous UNB alumni.

“A novel piece of the project was developing a small telescope system

capable of dynamically pointing to the Sun and Moon,” David describes. “In high-altitude balloon projects to date, non-magnifying cameras randomly point to the Sun, the Moon or the horizon with no directional control. We need it to be reliable to capture this rare event.”

#### **That’s where UNB engineering students came in.**

For the past three years, multidisciplinary teams of mechanical and electrical engineering students worked on the project as part of their capstone design course in their final year of the undergraduate engineering degree at UNB. This year’s team contributed to very specific challenges the project was facing.

Olivia DeMerchant (BScME'24) explains, “My mechanical engineering teammate, Zoe Devries, worked on an automatic anti-rotational mechanism for the telescope. One of the major issues encountered was that when the balloon is launched, it rotates and is moved by the wind.”

“A great deal of effort has been expended on developing a device: the agile eye – a solar tracking system that includes the telescope lens. The agile eye keeps the sun shining into the telescope even at relatively high rotation rates. However, residual motion occurs which causes some distortion of the image. So, reducing the rate of rotation is important. We’ve been developing a mechanism to decrease the rotation of the payload. It’s basically a weighted wheel – a reaction wheel – that spins in a direction opposite to the payload rotation direction to bring rotation to a stop in a controlled way.”

Matt Snell (BScEng'24) adds, “My part has been working on the agile eye to use a fisheye lens to capture the eclipse, process and communicate it back to the motor system. Zach Demerson, my electrical engineering teammate, worked on a way to auto focus the lens when in the stratosphere.”

Troy Lavigne (BScEng'92, MScEng'11), a project engineer with UNB’s faculty of engineering, and Andy Simoneau, chair of the department of mechanical

engineering at UNB, oversaw the students in the capstone design course.

“Students who work with external clients on real-world projects like this gain so much, but this unique and extraordinary opportunity has been tremendous,” says Troy. “The students are mentored by David and UNB alum Tom Sisk (BScEE’82), both of whom are incredibly knowledgeable and whose excitement is infectious. The students have had the opportunity to work with technology they never would have used otherwise, and they get to apply the theory learned in the classroom to design and testing in a real-life situation.”

Tom was pulled into the project by David early on because of his vast experience in engineering design, but also because he is one of the few people in the region who has put a small payload into the atmosphere on a balloon. The retired engineer and consultant had volunteered at Bliss Carmen Middle School in Fredericton and helped students put a helium balloon with a camera into space to measure temperatures and other scientific data. When he met David, Tom says he became “the balloon guy” for the project.

“We’ve tried to make the payload as small and light as possible, but as the project kept getting bigger and heavier, we realized we needed to get regulatory approval,” Tom explains.

“Transport Canada is now involved and the balloon will carry an aircraft transponder and be supervised by a commercial pilot who will be in touch with air traffic control in Moncton and Boston the whole time the balloon is in the air. The whole assembly is now almost 8 kg, which is much heavier than a weather balloon. We’ve done three tests to date and have learned a lot on each one. We now feel pretty comfortable that the mission on eclipse day will go as planned.”



□ *The high-altitude balloon carried a telescope system designed with the help of UNB engineering students to capture the solar eclipse on April 8.*

Tom and David say that having UNB students involved in the project was integral to its success.

“I wanted to engage students, both for critical resources and also to provide a unique learning opportunity,” David says. “The first groups of students worked on the beginning models of the payload and we’ve been getting more and more detailed and sophisticated from there.”

Ethan Garnier (BScSWE’24) was a software engineering student involved in year two of the design.

“I was forced to step outside of my comfort zone on this project. The problems we were tasked with solving weren’t cookie-cutter, so we couldn’t simply look up the answers,” he says. “We failed a lot, but through that we were able to learn and design solutions that worked. The entire process was extremely beneficial to my growth as an engineer and being part of this project has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Since finishing coursework on the project in April 2023, Ethan has continued to consult on software-related issues and has helped on launch days. “Being part of this is just so exciting and such a privilege.”

Indeed, not many students – or anyone – can say they’ve worked on projects above 99 per cent of the atmosphere. Lawson Hunter, who has been a big part of generating the funding, approvals and partnerships to make the project a success, says that “this is the only citizen-led project of its kind outside of NASA.”

The eclipse and balloon launch certainly was a moment of wonder – one that anyone involved or witnessing will not soon forget. The last time there was a total eclipse of the sun in central New Brunswick was in the year 932 and the next will not be until 2079. ■

*This story was originally published in the UNB newsroom on March 21, 2024.*





# Thank you **GARDINER**

*Gardiner MacDougall, the winningest coach in U SPORTS men's hockey regular season history, has retired after leading the UNB REDS for 24 seasons. In 2014, the Associated Alumni awarded Gardiner with an honorary membership. Here are some highlights from his momentous career.*

- 490 regular season wins (most by any coach in Canadian men's university hockey history)
- 9 national titles (tied for most U Cup titles by a coach)
- 12 U Cup gold medal games
- 12 AUS championships (including the last 6 in a row)
- 16 consecutive Atlantic conference regular season titles
- 17 appearances at national championships (a new record); 9 consecutive appearances (tied for second in that category)
- 732 wins, 232 losses and 21 ties (.743 winning percentage)
- 985 regular season, conference playoff, national championship tournament and exhibition or non-conference games
- more than 125 different student-athletes achieved U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian status under his guidance

# ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE



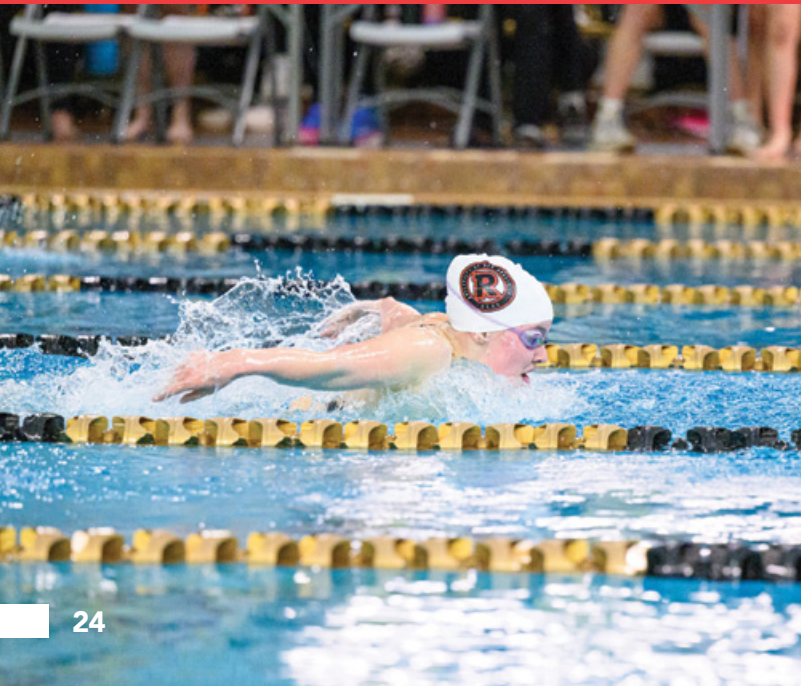
*Jared Howse ran to a third-place finish in the men's 1,000-metres at the U SPORTS track and field championships, in Winnipeg, in March. (Photo: Manitoba Bisons Athletics)*

*Mitchell Kean stood atop the medal podium with teammates Jared Howse (L) and William Boyle (R) after they finished 1-2-3 in the men's 1,500 metres at the AUS championships in February. (Photo: Normand Leger/for U de Moncton Athletics)*



*Èlodie Martin, Blake Kingston, and Emma Sinclair (in photo by Trevor MacMillan/Dal Athletics) medalled at AUS championships in Halifax on Feb. 24 and 25.*

*Èlodie won the women's 50-metre freestyle and claimed silver in the women's 100-metre freestyle; Emma captured gold in the women's 200-metre butterfly, marking her third medal of the championships; and Blake won gold in the men's 100-metre and 200-metre breaststroke and silver in the men's 50-metre breaststroke, which qualified him for the U SPORTS championships.*





Women's hockey won their third consecutive AUS championship  
(Photo: James West/for UNB Athletics)



REDS won the AUS women's curling championship in February. Coach Wayne Tallon, skip Jenna Campbell, third Carly Smith, second Véronique Carroll, lead Rebecca Watson, and alternate Kirsten Donovan, with the AUS championship plaque. (Photo: Mike Needham/for UPEI Athletics)

Badminton made a strong comeback to varsity sports, and after a 16-year hiatus, the Seawolves' mixed doubles team, Vaibhav Bhatta and Sydney Arseneault, placed second at CCAA national championships. This achievement made history as the highest medal in the Saint John campus' history.



Men's hockey won:

- 20th AUS championship
- 10th U Cup
- 43-0 season

(Photo: Curtis Martin/for Toronto Metro University Athletics)





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UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

## *Lessons* FROM A *Career* IN *Biotech*

**T**aking calculated risks and doing meaningful work is what Habib Dable (BBA'91, MBA'94) says helped him build a successful career.

That career is not only successful, it's impressive.

Habib has risen to the highest ranks of the biotech industry, including as former president, U.S. pharmaceuticals for Bayer, and former president and CEO of Acceleron Pharma.

He says it's ironic, given where he was in his first term as an undergraduate student at UNB.

"I entered science at UNB and quickly found, during a chemistry lab where we were making acetylsalicylic acid, that I didn't see myself working in hands-on chemistry. I switched to the business program, and ironically my first job – and where I spent 22 years of my career – was with Bayer, the makers of the iconic acetylsalicylic acid product, Aspirin."

Combining science and business turned out to be a great combination for Habib. He joined Bayer as a sales rep soon after graduating from the MBA program. “I had learned about management and running companies, but you need to start on the ground. After three years I received an opportunity with the company to join a program to train as a management intern and broaden my perspective of the overall enterprise. That led to becoming an area sales manager for the Atlantic region, based out of my hometown in Fredericton once again.”

His next move was one that Habib says was huge for him both professionally and personally – he moved to Japan to become head of strategic planning for Bayer.

“It took me out of my comfort zone. It was my first time in an environment where I really struggled to have influence – I was young and an outsider who didn’t speak the language. The Japanese culture values hierarchy and tenure, so it was challenging at first. I took it upon myself to learn the language and build respect within senior management in Japan. I proved that I could work in difficult environments. I pressure-tested myself and really grew on a personal level. I also met my wife while I spent three great years there.”

His next move was to North Carolina to Bayer’s biologics business. “This was another tough but beneficial growth opportunity for me. I was headed there to help build the biologics business, but as I was travelling, the deal with a partner company fell through and instead, I was tasked with divesting the business. I did that successfully, learning along the way and proving again that I could rise to the challenge.”

Habib then moved to California to launch a new drug in the hemophilia space and gained critical experience over the next three years in specialty medicine and biologics. This set him up for a move to

U.S. headquarters in New Jersey as global head of neurology/ophthalmology.

“During this time, I had a big decision to make. We had a drug in Phase 2 development, but it was outside of Bayer’s core product line. I could go along with executive management who considered divesting it, or convince them that it was an important asset with huge potential. I advocated for the product and myself, and they charged me with making it work. It meant going back to running the product myself with a team of only one person at a time. I took the opportunity because I believed in it. It was a big risk but an even bigger win. Today that product is making a huge difference for people with age-related macular degeneration and doing over \$10 billion in sales.”

From there, Habib became global head of specialty medicine, and then president of U.S. pharmaceuticals for Bayer, a position that is considered by most to be the pinnacle in a career in the industry.

Yet Habib took another risk: he moved from the global company where he’d spent his entire career to a small biotech company in Boston, Acceleron Pharma.

“This was a huge decision and difficult one for me. But I believed in the portfolio and the people behind it, so the next thing I knew I was running my own pharma company. I put a lot of sweat equity into growing it for five years and formed an amazing team. Among other products, we developed a therapeutic candidate, sotatercept, which has a novel mechanism of action with the potential to improve outcomes in patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a progressive and life-threatening blood vessel disorder. We had the potential to make a huge impact on people’s lives. It was a fun place to be.”

In 2021, Habib and the company entered into an agreement with Merck to be acquired for \$11.5 billion. “It was one of the most difficult decisions I’ve

ever made. But the ability for Merck to harness the potential of sotatercept to make an impact on cardiopulmonary disease and benefit so many people was compelling.”

Since then, Habib has joined the boards of three public biotech companies and is also doing advisory work, mentoring executives and contributing to a venture capital firm.

“I loved the challenge of being a CEO and taking on accountability. It made me smarter and sharper, so I imagine at some point I may look for the right opportunity for that again. I’d like to continue doing work that will have a significant impact on people’s lives. Right now, I enjoy participating in the industry and helping teams grow and be successful. I’m a strong believer in mentorship.”

In fact, he’s bringing that mentorship back to Fredericton as UNB faculty of management’s executive-in-residence. “I’m looking forward to sharing my story and insights with students and giving them a perspective they might not otherwise get.”

Habib says he tells students – and everyone he mentors – that the most important thing you can do for your career is to advocate for yourself. “My success came by doing work that I believed was meaningful, and by advocating for myself every step along the way. I took risks – but always with a lot of diligence to reduce the probability of failure. After all, I spent most of my career with one company, so I’m not really that big of a risk-taker. The key was to take opportunities to grow and develop and prove myself, so that I could advocate for myself when the next opportunity came up. It’s been an amazing ride.” ■





FROM  
*Concert  
Halls* TO  
CYBERSECURITY



**M**elanie Anderson (BCS'03), a pro in both cybersecurity and classical music, says music has been the key to her success. "It's all about math and logic."

Currently the Director General of Information Assurance in the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security at the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), Melanie and her team are responsible for applied cryptographic research, architecture, engineering and development of secure cryptographic solutions. This includes Communications Security (COMSEC), evaluating the security of cryptographic products and providing cryptographic advice and guidance, including preparations for the quantum threat to cryptography.

Since graduating with a bachelor of computer science degree from UNB and joining the CSE in 2003, Melanie has honed her skills as a software developer, technical trainer, and leader in incident management and cyber defence. She even spent four years based in the United States as a technical liaison for CSE. She knows her stuff.

She's also a professional opera singer, pianist and music teacher, having spent time in Italy training and developing her craft. She's sung in Italy as well as the United States and here, at home in Canada.

"There are so many linkages between math and music. I was always good at math, but music makes you see how sequences flow together logically. Cybersecurity and opera productions

are more similar than you might think. As a team member, you have to hone your craft and work together in time with the rest of your team. And as a conductor, you need to understand the full picture and pull everyone together to help people feel the music."

Having grown up in the musical small town of Harvey Station, N.B., Melanie considered studying music, but chose computer science because there was a push to get more women into the field and "it seemed like it would be a cool job."

Her instincts were bang on.

"The variety of jobs I've held over the past 20 years and the brilliant people I've worked with and learned from has me pinching myself. My biggest shock was when I was selected to be a technical liaison for CSE in the U.S. You never know where your career will take you – the sky is the limit in cybersecurity."

After a three-year break to pursue her music career, Melanie came back to the CSE in Ottawa. "It was a turning point for me in 2016. I grew a lot as a human while on a three-year break for my music journey. As a performer, you have to know yourself well to project well. It led to changes in my life and helped me realize that I can be creative and do all the things I'm passionate about – and that only helps me bring my whole self to cybersecurity."

In 2019, Melanie started working in the cryptography domain. "Cryptography is a fundamental part of cybersecurity. It's the math behind encryption. I love it – it's super interesting. I have brilliant

people on my team that do impressive work in research, development, operations and preparing Canada for the quantum threat to cryptography. I take what I learn from the team at a high level and talk to CEOs, governments and others in the industry to share the work we're doing in this space, with the goal of sharing knowledge and building collaborative partnerships to ensure systems and data are secure."

Though she was named in 2023 as one of Canada's Top 20 Women in Cybersecurity by IT World Canada and recognized by Deloitte as one of '30 Women in Cyber' at the forefront of the cyber revolution, Melanie is humble and focuses on mentoring other women to join her in the space.

"I would not be where I am without those around me, and I never would have had the confidence to do what I've done in my career without wonderful mentors. Without mentorship, it can be very tough to make it in this industry as a woman."

"The global cybersecurity landscape has dramatically changed the way we do business and live our lives. Now, more than ever, having cybersecurity at the heart of an organization's overall strategy is crucial, and requires diverse thinkers. Yet there is a marked gender disparity in the cybersecurity workforce, with women holding just 25 per cent of the jobs. It's critical that we change the equation and inspire future generations of women – and all underrepresented groups – to enter careers in cyber. Diverse perspectives are critical to being effective in our work." ■



# FROM *Airwaves* TO THE **PRINTED PAGE**



**In** this new magazine series, we're bringing our podcast, UNBeknownst, to the page. We're sharing excerpts from the podcast transcripts. Read some of what our alumni have to say about topics and issues close to their hearts and their professions. Then check out UNBeknownst, hosted by Katie Davey (BA'17), for the full conversation.

Episode 29, Season 2, which aired on May 11, 2023, features Lea Nicholas MacKenzie (BA'91). Lea is a trailblazer for Indigenous rights. She's the former special advisor for Indigenous issues to the UN, former chief of staff to former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, and past chief of staff to the National Chief at the Assembly of First Nations. She also served as director of aboriginal participation and chief of protocol for the Four Host First Nations during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Lea is a member of the Wəlastəkwey Nation at Tobique, N.B. She has extensive experience in international relations focused on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2021, she was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women.

## **In this episode, Lea talks about:**

- Her family background and family role models – and how she learned that advocacy can make a difference
- Her first roles and how she learned how the system worked
- Her experience on and off for many years at the Assembly of First Nations, including chief of staff at age 27
- Her experience advocating at the United Nations
- What led to becoming a seasoned leader and ready to serve with Jody Wilson-Raybould in the Minister of Justice and Attorney General's office, and her experience with that chance to make change
- Her principles of justice, integrity and truth telling and how they didn't always mesh with the realities of politics
- Her work today in human rights, governance and reconciliation
- The Indigenous rights advancements that are giving her hope
- Ideas for being an ally moving forward and how to further the Calls to Action
- What she is optimistic about for the future

**Katie:** If we turn our attention back here in Canada, it's been around 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report was tabled. We have, in some ways, seen quite a lot of progress, but in other ways, very little or no progress at all for the human rights of Indigenous peoples here in Canada. So, I'd love for you to take a second and just reflect on some of the things over the last few decades where you've seen the most progress, and some areas where you feel we're not making any progress at all or it's much slower.

**Lea:** Yeah, that's a great question. What I would say is that it's taken centuries to get us to where we are right now. It's probably going to take a long time to turn this particular ship around. That being said, there are advancements that I've seen that give me hope. The devil is always in the details, of course, but if you look at the province of British Columbia, where I live now, they passed legislation in 2019, which requires the government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We've also got a federal government that now has legislation to do the same.

If you think about the progression, Canada in 2006 when it was on the Human Rights Council, voted against the UN Declaration, along



with the Russian Federation. Those were the only two ‘No’ votes at that particular human rights body. Then, the declaration came to the General Assembly, where Canada voted against it again, along with Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Now, all of those countries have since adopted or endorsed the UN Declaration. Australia, in fact, has just named an ambassador for Indigenous issues, which is really exciting. As a group, Canada works with Australia, New Zealand, and the US fairly regularly, and generally, they can push each other to do better. So, I think they are working together well on issues related to the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

But when I said, the devil is in the details, we’re now at a point where we’ve got a draft action plan to implement the UN Declaration at the federal level that Indigenous leadership are not happy with. So, we’ll see what comes out of that. I’m withholding judgment a bit, but I would say that over the years, we have seen quite an extraordinary change when it comes to even the development of legislation. We went from things being done to us as Indigenous peoples to things being done for us as Indigenous peoples, but without our input, to now many things being done together.

For example, the development of legislation over languages, although people like my mother would say that the legislation is lacking, at least we have a starting place to work from. Legislation over child welfare that was co-developed between Indigenous peoples and the government. It used to be that the government would say, “Oh no, we can’t share legislation with Indigenous peoples and now we’re at a point where we’re actually co-developing it. That makes me feel like we are doing things differently. If a new government comes in, it’s going to be hard to turn that particular ship around. So, that’s very good.



**Katie:** What’s exciting you most these days or what has you optimistic about the future?

**Lea:** I am excited about the possibilities of the UN Declaration legislation, both here in British Columbia and across the country. As I said, we’ll see what happens with the national action plan, Canada-wide. I would say that I’m very excited. There seems to be a real resurgence of Indigenous pride, language, and culture. Indigenous peoples are becoming much more prominent Indigenous creators, fashion designers, artists. It’s really important to me that young Indigenous people see role models very visibly. We’ve got a governor-general who is Indigenous, we’ve got Indigenous actors, performers, songwriters, you name it; and so, it’s that prominence that is important.

But there are a couple of things that I’m involved in that I’m excited about, and one is a project that I’ve been working on. It’s an initiative of Fulbright Canada, called Honouring Nations Canada, and basically it is modelled after the Harvard Honoring Nations project, where they honour examples of good governance in Indigenous nations, and so we are doing something very similar in Canada. We just launched the call for

nominees on Monday and I’m really excited about this opportunity to uplift these very inspiring stories and help inspire other nations to know what’s happening elsewhere across the country. Hopefully, it will inspire non-Indigenous governments, as well to say, ‘these are people doing amazing things,’ whether it’s in finance, economic development, human rights, or environmental protection. It’s exciting to be involved in the early days of such an amazing project. And it’s also nice to talk about Indigenous excellence. We too often talk about the challenges and it’s very important to talk about the challenges; we face so many of them and the challenges are so great. But at the same time, there’s some amazing stories out there that are really uplifting and inspiring. ■

*Listen to this podcast, and all UNBeknownst episodes, at*

**UNB.CA/ALUMNI/  
ALUMNI-NEWS/UNB-  
ALUMNI-PODCAST.HTML**





# *Scottish Highlands and Giller Heights*

*“What I love the most is the sound of the language, the feeling of making something that feels, especially in early stages, a bit like a secret.”*

**F**or Sarah Bernstein (MA'12), 2023 was a big year.

Her latest novel, *Study for Obedience*, won the 2023 Giller Prize and was shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize. She was also named to Granta's Best of Young British Novelists 2023 list.

But the Montreal-born author, who now lives in the Scottish Highlands, says that while the prize nods are “huge and inconceivable honours that have opened up opportunities for wider readership,” what continues to drive her is the writing itself.

The early stages of Sarah's writing began when she was just a kid. A self-professed shy child, she says that writing was the way she was able to make sense of the world around her. “McGill used to run a young author's conference, which I remember attending a couple of times, and that was the first time I'd seen or met any published writers. But I don't think I really thought about publication for a very long time – I was writing because I felt I had to write, not necessarily out of any idea I might make a career out of it.”

Sarah received a joint English and creative writing undergraduate degree from Concordia University before going to UNB for a master of arts degree. “UNB allowed me to take graduate-level English classes alongside creative writing workshops, which was important for me. Also, I was extremely lucky to have funding for the duration of my master's, without which I don't think it would have been possible for me to continue my studies.”

While at UNB, Sarah became involved with *The Fiddlehead and Qwerty* publications and participated in the Frye Literary Festival. “At *The Fiddlehead and Qwerty*, I read and responded to submissions, which is useful for writers, I think, in that it reminds you how subjective the selection process is when you're submitting your own work and having it turned down. I also supported other editorial activities so I got a sense of how literary magazines are run and the tremendous amount of work (much of it voluntary) that goes into making them. I went to the Frye Literary Festival in 2012 to read my work as part of a panel of emerging writers, and it was the first time I'd read my work in a professional setting like that, and not just as part of a reading my classmates and I had organized. It was exciting and quite intimidating.”

“The instructors at UNB always treated our creative work very seriously – that is so important for emerging writers, to have mentors who are willing to try to read your work on its own terms. I stayed in Fredericton to work and save money for a year after my degree while I applied to PhD programmes, and I eventually got funding to go to the University of Edinburgh to study for a PhD in English literature. I really cannot say enough good things about the UNB program and the people.”

Now, in addition to writing, she's the one teaching literature and creative writing at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. After teaching at the Universities of Sheffield and Edinburgh, she joined the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow as a lecturer in Scottish literature and creative writing. She admits it's not always easy

to find time to write but does her best to “carve out bits of time to work on creative projects.”

Her current environment certainly inspires her. “I think the Scottish Highlands have influenced my work in the sense that where you live determines to some extent what you see and how you see it. So, for example, being up here I've learned a bit about the politics of landownership and land reform in Scotland, and how the landscape has been shaped through land use. These are the sorts of ideas I'm interested in exploring at the moment.”

Her current work, *Study for Obedience* explores the world of a woman who leaves her hometown to move to a “remote northern country” where locals, already suspicious of newcomers, become hostile toward her as she tries to find a way to shape her life. The Booker Prize 2023 judges panel describes the work as “an absurdist, darkly funny novel about the rise of xenophobia, as seen through the eyes of a stranger in an unnamed town – or is it?”

This is Sarah's third publication, and as her accolades accumulate and her readership grows, she notes, “I have found myself so moved by some of the reader responses to *Study for Obedience* – particularly readers who say that they found the book difficult in the sense that it was doing something they hadn't encountered before and that they found themselves, or their usual approaches to reading or seeing the world, changed by the encounter with the book. It's amazing to see that kind of intellectual generosity.” ■



# HONOURING **OUR BEST**

## 2024 PROUDLY UNB AWARD RECIPIENTS

*On April 5, UNB's Associated Alumni celebrated the 2024 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. The 11 award recipients were honoured by their supporters, fellow alumni, former classmates, and members of the UNB community.*

### **ALUMNI AWARD OF HONOUR**

*Recognizes the important role played by alumni in promoting the Associated Alumni and the university, helping it to achieve and maintain its position of prominence among Canadian universities.*



**Jamie Petrie (BBA'90, LLB'94)**

Throughout his distinguished career, Jamie has worked as a partner at Stewart McKelvey; executive vice-president, chief operating officer, and general counsel for Plaza Retail REIT;

and is now chief legal officer for NB Power. He also taught employment law for seven years at UNB's law school. Jamie has made a lasting impact as an avid volunteer, fostering connection, and enhancing the well-being of the Fredericton – and UNB – communities. He is past president of the UNB Beaverbrook Scholars Committee, celebrating exceptional students and alumni, and previously served as treasurer of the UNB Associated Alumni Council. Through these roles, Jamie has contributed his time and effort to numerous student and alumni events

and initiatives. It is not often that Jamie would pass up an opportunity to help represent the UNB alumni family.

In the community, Jamie is an appointed member of the honorary council for the Fredericton Community Foundation, where he also previously served as chair. He's also served as the Atlantic Government Relations chair of the International Council of Shopping Centres, chaired the labour and employment section of the Canadian Bar Association, and was president of the Fredericton YMCA.



## ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

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



**Chief Patricia Bernard (BEd'96, LLB'99)**

Patricia is a lawyer and Chief of Madawaska Maliseet First Nation in northern New Brunswick. She was the first Wolastoqey woman to graduate with a law degree and was called to the New Brunswick Bar in 2000. It was during her second year of law at UNB when Chief Bernard submitted a land claim that would begin a 25-year journey to resolve a 250-year-old wrong, culminating in a \$145-million settlement for Madawaska Maliseet First Nation in 2021 – the largest federal land claim settlement in Maritimes history.

Before entering leadership positions, Chief Bernard worked for the federal government in the Specific Claims Branch in Ottawa, and Governance and Registration in Amherst, N.S., with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Throughout her career, she's focused on developing and implementing policies, by-laws and protocols that work towards transparency, accountability, fairness, and overall good governance. She has been instrumental in advocating for the advancement of the Wolastoqey and Indigenous people of New Brunswick, having Aboriginal and Treaty rights recognized and implemented within the province, and advancing the vital work of reconciliation.



**Joël Dickinson (BA'94, PhD'06)**

Joël has made significant contributions to education across Canada. Her teaching career as a professor of psychology has spanned UNB, Mount Allison University, Laurentian University and Mount Saint Vincent University. In 2022, she was appointed president and vice-chancellor of Mount Saint Vincent University, and before that, held the positions of dean of the faculty of arts at Laurentian University and of acting associate vice-president of teaching and learning.

She also held a leadership role on the Laurentian University Sexuality and Gender Diversity Committee, was a long-standing member of the Presidential Advisory Committee for the Status of Women and served on the university's Native Education Council.

Recognized for her outstanding service to the field of education, Joël received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, among other awards. She designed a Safe Space Training course and trained more than 900 members of Laurentian University's community and the Sudbury community at large. Since then, she has frequently presented workshops across the country on teaching, social media, violence against women, and inclusion in the classroom. An active community member and volunteer, she served on the Women in Cognitive Science Canada advisory committee, the Réseau Access Network and, she serves on the board of 211 Nova Scotia.



**Sarah Downey (BSc'90)**

Sarah believes that mental health is the most important health issue of our lifetime. A senior health-care leader whose career spans over 25 years across a broad range of hospitals and complex multi-institutional organizations, Sarah – in 2022 – took on the role of president and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital and a world-leading research centre in this field. Before that, she served as president and CEO of Michael Garron Hospital, where she led the large community teaching hospital through a \$500-million redevelopment project that redefined the hospital's vision and brand, and continued her commitment to inclusion and diversity.

Throughout her career, Sarah has made numerous and significant contributions to health care in Ontario – from cancer and mental health programs to capital and strategic planning, workplace safety and wellness, and community building. Currently past chair on the Ontario Hospital Association board of directors, she has served on many provincial and national committees and boards and has been recognized for her leadership.



**Michael King (BA'04, MEd'21)**

Mike is the physical education specialist at Connaught Street Elementary School, and also a leader in the New Brunswick sports community, devoting hundreds of hours to his community as a coach, mentor and fundraiser. He is the head coach for the Fredericton High School varsity boys' basketball team, coaches the U11 boys' competitive team in Fredericton, is the head coach for a UNB Reds selects basketball team and is vice-president of the Fusion Minor Basketball Association. In the summer months, he volunteers with the Fredericton Minor Baseball Association as a coach.

Mike and his wife Katie have hosted the annual Kinger Classic Golf Tournament since 2005 – the proceeds of which go to the Brendon Oreto Foundation to help families who need support to afford the cost of equipment and fees for their children. He also co-founded and continues to organize the Don Nelson Charity Golf Tournament which raises vital funding for the UNB men's basketball team. Mike was an AUS all-star while playing for the UNB men's basketball team as a student. His philanthropic work in support of the REDS basketball program has helped to attract top talent. Through his efforts, Mike is positively impacting hundreds of local youth annually, while providing opportunities for more children to participate in sports.



**Natasha Lee (BEEd'16, MEd'20)**

Natasha is the acting vice-principal at the Exchange RC School in Trinidad and Tobago and is also president of the 4-H Leaders Council of Trinidad and Tobago – an organization that she's long been involved with. Through 4-H, Natasha introduced aquaponics systems to several schools in the country and established thriving school gardens, adopting the mantra: "eat what you grow and grow what you eat." Recently leading the organization to receive the second runner-up national award for excellence in Most Outstanding Youth Group, she's encouraged students island-wide to see the value and potential of farming and eating local. Natasha continues to host an Eat Local Day annually, for the 11th consecutive year and has her own YouTube channel, which she uses to promote the use of local produce.

Under Natasha's leadership, 4-H club membership has almost tripled, revenue has grown, and new projects have been implemented – all with active learning as the core element. Students across Trinidad and Tobago have been given the opportunity to become involved in growing their school and backyard gardens, participate in beach cleanups, manage recycling and composting bins, and implement community and school projects in hydroponics, aquaponics, and vertical planting.



**Eugene Lewis (BScEE'64)**

Eugene is an engineer, a professor, and an entrepreneur. But beyond those things, the title that seems to truly fit is humanitarian. His contributions to international projects are remarkable in impact and number. They began in 1973 when he volunteered with the International Federation of Animal Welfare to engineer the development of a wireless communication system for the observation of seal pups in the Northumberland Strait.

In 2004, he initiated the Bhutan Light Project, which provided over 1,000 hand-cranked electric chargers and battery-powered LED light sources for Bhutan homes in mountainous regions without any power. Following the devastating Haitian earthquake in 2010, Eugene spent more than two years raising funds, delivering supplies and constructing an orphanage in Haiti to house many children who were left without families. He continued his work there installing a solar-panel-powered pump to supply water to a mountain village, constructing two elementary schools and upgrading more orphanages. In 2017, Eugene volunteered in 18 remote villages in Guatemala replacing traditional indoor cooking fireplaces with smoke-free, efficient brick stoves. An avid volunteer, he has also actively fundraised for ShelterBox Canada, which provides shelter and aid to families made homeless by natural disasters or conflict around the world and was recently invited to join its board of governors.

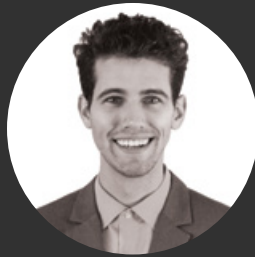
## YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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



**Katie Davey (BA'17)**

A self-described policy wonk, Katie wants to find creative and innovative solutions to improve policy, program, and system challenges in our region and across Canada. While completing her undergraduate degree in political science at UNB, she was voted president of the student union. A leader on and off campus, that experience followed her into her career as director of policy and stakeholder relations at the Office of the Official Opposition in New Brunswick, and as senior adviser for policy and stakeholder engagement in the New Brunswick Premier's Office. She also served as director of policy at think-tank Public Policy Forum and was recognized as a 2021 Young Impact Leader by Future of Good for her role in creating and producing Public Policy Forum's podcast. She has since returned to UNB as executive director of the Pond-Deshpande Centre, where she is helping to grow and support a stronger culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in New Brunswick. Known for creative and innovative solutions, and advocating for the integration of economic and social policy, Katie was named a 2019-20 Action Canada fellow, and one of *Atlantic Business Magazine* 20 Under 30 recipients for 2023.



**Matthew Hynes (BSc'19)**

Matthew is a firm believer in helping others and improving the health of communities. While completing his bachelor of science in molecular microbiology degree at UNB, he co-founded the UNB lifesaving sport team and volunteered more than 175 hours for the AIDS NB needle exchange program. Recognized for his academic excellence and leadership, he was inducted into UNB's Sir Howard Douglas Society. After graduating from UNB, he attended medical school at Queen's University, where he helped found the inaugural steering committee of the Canadian Queer Medical Students Association – the first national association of 2SLGBTQ+ medical students in Canada; and was one of only 11 Canadians to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford in 2021. At Oxford, Matthew completed a master of science in global health science and epidemiology, researching the connection between body composition and hormonal biomarkers related to cancer. He also completed a master of public policy, focused on health-care policy. He has since returned to Queen's to finish his training and pursue a career as an advocacy-oriented physician. A proud UNB alum, Matthew now mentors UNB students and serves on the newly formed UNB Rhodes Scholar Committee.



**Stephen Muzzerall (BBA'14)**

Stephen is president of the Capital Winter Club (CWC) in Fredericton, N.B., and has spent countless hours volunteering at the rink and in the community growing interest in the sport. Recognized in 2023 by Curling NB for his contributions, Stephen serves as the 'Little Rock' coordinator at the CWC, coaching and helping to develop their youth development programs. Stephen is serving a second term as president of the board at the CWC, and has successfully attracted major national curling events to the province, including the recent 2024 CCAA curling championships and mixed doubles championships held at UNB's Aitken University Centre. This event brought economic stimulus to the capital region and highlighted the university on a national stage. An advocate for youth mental health, Steven was part of the 10-person squad in 2021 that set a world record for the longest curling game, generating an impressive \$200,000 for mental health and counselling services for Fredericton area youth. Curling for 120 hours, three minutes and 8.8 seconds, the group has seen the direct impact the money raised has had on local youth and destigmatizing mental health.





**Reid Sutherland (BSc/BA'22)**

Reid's fieldwork and research initiatives as a Dalhousie University master of marine management student have helped inform and develop conservation strategies around the world, and she's working towards her goals of promoting ecosystem health and contributing to provincial and federal conservation and climate resilience. Life and work have taken Reid from the reefs of Jamaica to the coastlines of Thailand, to the river systems of New Brunswick and to the Bedford Basin in Nova Scotia. In addition to serving with the Canadian Coast Guard as a search and rescue responder, Reid has also undertaken research with the Canadian Atlantic Shark Research Laboratory and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to map shark distributions. This research will help inform revisions to federal and provincial conservation and management strategies, that promote more effective protection of endangered sharks in Atlantic Canada. As a host for the internationally recognized Fisheries Podcast, Reid also shines a spotlight on local research initiatives, sharing the platform with contributors from rural Canadian communities. While studying at UNB, Reid was widely recognized for her academics and leadership on campus, where she was active in residence, within her faculty, and as a member of the REDS women's rugby team. ■







*Save the Date*  
2025 PUNB CELEBRATION  
APRIL 11 | SAINT JOHN

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

# JOIN US IN *Saint John* FOR *Alumni* *Weekend*

**SEPT. 20–21**

It has been 60 years since the Saint John campus was founded and 50 years since the Associated Alumni welcomed our first graduates from the Saint John campus! In celebration, we invite all alumni back to campus to connect with friends old and new.

- Visit your faculty during our campus open house
- Take a campus tour to see what's new
- Join in on the fun at the ice cream social in the quad for Red+Black Day
- Learn more about the future vision for the campus
- Join us for a cocktail party and dance in the gym
- Take part in special events just for the 25th and 50th grad classes

**Want to plan a small gathering for your class or student club?**

**Want to volunteer to help us make the weekend memorable for everyone?**

Contact Erika King at [erika.king@unb.ca](mailto:erika.king@unb.ca)

For schedule details, information about hotel room blocks and to register, visit us at:  
[unb.ca/alumni/events/reunions/alumni-weekend.html](http://unb.ca/alumni/events/reunions/alumni-weekend.html)



□ Photos from the 1974 UNB Saint John student yearbook.



# Graduating STUDENT LEADERS



**T**wenty six graduating students from the UNB Saint John campus have earned 2024 Graduating Student Leadership Awards for the remarkable initiative they've taken during their time at UNB.

*Read more about our remarkable 2024 recipients online at*  
**UNB.CA/ALUMNI/AWARDS/  
STUDENTS/LEADERSHIP**

Tosin Abe, BA  
Abdullah Al Sheikh Zein, BH  
Jennifer Burpee, BBA  
Allison Cooke, BBA  
Angel Cote, BSc  
Avery DeMerchant, BSc  
Kahlan Edwards, BBA  
Kylie Ellis, BBA  
Lydia Flanagan, BH  
Walter Fuerniss, BBA  
Jack Fury-Miller, BBA  
Emma Harper, BSc  
Hayden Hovey, BA

Manjot Kaur, BBA  
Sungmok Lee, BSc  
Leen, BA  
Julianne MacCallum, BSc  
Sarah Mahmood, BSc  
James Martin, BA  
Kaitlyn McIntosh, BN  
Andrene Mosher, BH  
Camryn Newlands, BSc  
Tega Tiete, BN  
Rebecca White, BBA  
Emily Wheaton, BA  
Madison Worth, BSc ■

**100,000**  
**—PROUD—**

We celebrated a significant milestone this spring at Encaenia when our global network of UNB alumni grew to more than 100,000. The occasion was marked when Leah Myles crossed the stage to receive her juris doctor and was announced as the 100,000th member of the Associated Alumni family.



# What a WEEKEND!

Thank you to the more than 450 alumni and friends who travelled from near and far to Reunion Weekend 2024 for the All Classes Meet and Greet, Faculty Open Houses, Golden Grad Breakfast, 25-year and 50-year Alumni Pin Ceremony, Senior Classes Dinner, UNB at Picaroons, Maritime Lobster Boil, class gatherings and more!

Mark next year's Alumni Reunion Weekend on your calendar, June 12 to 15, 2025, on the UNB Fredericton campus.

*Are you celebrating a graduation year ending in 0 or 5 and want to get your group together? Reach out to [reunions@unb.ca](mailto:reunions@unb.ca) to find out how we can help you plan an event for your class.*

*Visit [unb.ca/reunionweekend](http://unb.ca/reunionweekend) for more details.*



# AFFINITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Through these programs, we connect with engaged alumni through exclusive alumni benefits and services.

When you purchase through our affinity partners, you're supporting sponsorships, programming, and scholarships for UNB students — our future alumni.



# FROM *Our* READERS



Dear *Alumni News* editor,

In a recent publication of the *Alumni News*, I noticed an article on a UNB family. I am bringing to your attention another UNB family and the remarkable lady who played the most significant role in her family's UNB achievements.

Florence E. (Currie) Hawkins was my wife. She began her education in a one-room schoolhouse with eight grades and only one teacher. Despite many obstacles, she managed to attend high school in Fredericton, where she graduated from the commercial program in 1956. She soon began working at UNB in the Registrar's Office, before joining Dr. John Meagher in UNB's newly created physical education department (now the faculty of kinesiology), working as his secretary with many added administration duties.

In 1966 with Florence's support and assistance, I was able to attend UNB and graduated in 1968 with a bachelor of business administration degree. In the early 1970s, Florence decided to continue her education and become a teacher. This aspiration became possible with the help of UNB officials and through an intensive study program

involving summer school sessions and regular university classes. She proudly graduated with a bachelor of education degree in 1976. Upon graduating, she began her teaching career at Oromocto High School. She taught there until her retirement in 1995.

In 1982, our eldest daughter graduated from UNB with a bachelor of business administration degree and began working toward a UNB law degree, while our youngest daughter worked toward a UNB education degree. During this time, Florence decided to advance her teaching skills and knowledge. Earning a bachelor of arts degree, in which she excelled in English and history. At the 1985 spring Encaenia, she proudly graduated with her two daughters.

In her retirement, Florence devoted much of her time to her seven grandchildren. Motivating and supporting them in their lives and education. All of them attended UNB. Six graduated with one or more degrees. The seventh finished at St. Thomas University.

When our grandchildren were young, Florence set up and regularly contributed to scholarship funds for her grandchildren, as well as encouraging

them to attend UNB. She spent many evenings proofreading their essays, guiding them through their writing and providing valuable feedback.

During her lifetime, Florence influenced the achievements of 17 UNB degrees by family members. With an additional four UNB degrees from two of our granddaughters' spouses. One granddaughter completed a dual-degree master's through UNB's TransFOR-M program. Another granddaughter dedicated her master's report to Florence and has applied to the UNB interdisciplinary studies PhD program to do a study inspired by Florence.

Florence's journey at UNB has gone from working as a secretary with numerous administration duties for a new faculty to a two-time alumna with distinction, to the matriarch of a large UNB family.

Her life journey from a one-room schoolhouse to her many achievements is remarkable. I am proud to have been her partner through these journeys. My family experienced a profound loss with her passing, but her legacy continues.

Proudly UNB,  
**J. Max Hawkins (BBA'69) ■**



# DEDICATED *to* EDUCATION

**W**hether in front of a lecture hall, behind a microphone or amid a herd of standardbred horses, Dawn (BA'60) and Theodore (Ted) (BScCE'60) Bremner were a force for good who shared a deep connection to their community and a commitment to education.

Ted, who grew up in Napan, N.B., was a member of UNB's faculty of engineering for more than three decades, teaching engineering materials courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Instrumental in the development of a common course in materials for all engineering students in Canada, the author of more than 200 journal articles and conference papers, and an enthusiastic teacher, Ted was named UNB professor emeritus in 2004.

With family roots predating Confederation in Jemseg and Grand Lake, N.B., Dawn was immersed in the history of central New Brunswick, serving as the first president of the Queens County Historical Society

and on the board of Kings Landing Historical Settlement. She was a regular radio commentator on CBC New Brunswick, sharing her passion for the history of the province. Dawn also served as a member of New Brunswick's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, as a member of the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission, and as president of the Atlantic Standardbred Breeders Association. In recognition of her outstanding service, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

Dawn and Ted shared much in life — a love of family, a devotion to animal welfare, and a strong bond to the land. They will be remembered for all of

these things, but particularly for their abiding dedication to education.

Through their estate, Ted and Dawn created two scholarships at UNB, one for students in history and another for students studying engineering. Valued at \$6,500 each, the Bremner Memorial Scholarships will be awarded annually to students from Queens and Northumberland counties in New Brunswick.

"We are honoured to have Ted and Dawn's names forever associated with our university," says UNB President Paul Mazerolle. "Their legacy will live on in perpetuity through these scholarships and the students they support." ■

□ Dawn (BA'60) and Theodore (Ted) (BScCE'60) Bremner.



# Building *a Future of* INNOVATION

**W**hen students return in September, they'll be greeted by an inspiring sight. UNB's Engineering Commons at Head Hall will change the landscape of the campus while creating new opportunities for engineering education and research.

Many alumni, businesses and friends of the university have contributed to the project, but the man who got the ball rolling with a \$1.1 million foundational gift is William (Bill) Press Cooper, P.Eng., FCSCE (BScCE'62) and he is hoping others will join him at any level of giving. Bill's gift will be directed to the construction of the new atrium and the lobby outside the Dineen Auditorium, together with the seminar room outside the Student Success Centre.

Bill graduated from UNB's civil engineering program in 1962. After graduation, he went to work at Cooper Construction, a third-generation family-owned construction and real estate development company in Oakville, Ont., working his way up to president and Chief Executive Officer in 1978. Under his leadership, the company has become an industry pioneer in design/build and expanded to commercial and industrial real estate development, as well as facilities management.

Since 1976, Bill has supported many initiatives at UNB, including multiple campaigns, the President's Fund, renovations to Maggie Jean Chestnut residence (home of Renaissance College) and the 225th anniversary celebrations. The one dearest to his heart is the William P. Cooper Scholarship he established in 2005 to support civil engineering students at UNB. He was inducted into UNB's Engineering Wall of Fame in 2020.

Bill says that UNB had taught him the value of keeping his family's business at the leading edge of engineering practice and technology. When he heard about the Engineering Commons initiative, he wanted to ensure its success.

"I've had the privilege of working with universities on several buildings, and I have seen the transformational impact that a purpose-built structure can have on education and innovation. When I learned of this project, I was struck by the significance and wanted to be part of it and I hope others do too."

The Engineering Commons will create 18,400 square feet of new space in a three-storey mass timber and glass structure. The commons project also includes some renovations in neighbouring spaces in Head Hall, making way for the renewal of 22,800 square feet of existing infrastructure. These improvements will support UNB's focus on growth, sustainability and prosperity through cutting-edge engineering teaching and research.

By expanding the lobby of Head Hall and creating new learning, research, meeting and teaching spaces, the commons will foster enrolment and increased economic impact, including more training of talented, job-ready engineers, more applied research, and more knowledge transfer from research labs to Canada's industrial economy.

UNB President Paul Mazerolle says, "Bill Cooper is a distinguished example of all that one can achieve with a UNB education in engineering. With this gift, he is passing the torch of innovation and leadership to the next generation and challenging other alumni to help

our university remain at the forefront of engineering education."

Murdock & Boyd Architects produced the Engineering Commons design in consultation with UNB's faculty of engineering, and EllisDon is managing the construction. The building is scheduled to be completed in June and will be ready for students and faculty in September. ■

*To support the Engineering Commons or to learn more, contact Craig Poole at (506) 452-6045 or visit [UNB.CA/COMMONSENG](http://UNB.CA/COMMONSENG)*

□ *William (Bill) Press Cooper, P.Eng., FCSCE (BScCE'62).*



# 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.*

## WALTER BODZIAN SCHOLARSHIP IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

**FIELD:** Civil Engineering  
**VALUE:** \$4,000    **NUMBER:** 1    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Walter Bodzian (BScCE'59)

Awarded to a student enrolled in the bachelor of engineering (civil) degree program. Selection will be based on scholastic attainment and financial need.

## CBCL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Engineering  
**VALUE:** \$1,000    **NUMBER:** 1    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** CBCL Limited

Awarded to a woman student entering an undergraduate degree program in the faculty of engineering on the Fredericton campus. Selection will be based on academic achievement. This award is open to transfer students as well.

## DR. BAO YIH CHANG FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Forestry  
**VALUE:** \$3,000    **NUMBER:** 1    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Bao Yih Chang (MScF'70) and Pauline Chang

Awarded to a Fredericton campus student who has completed the requirements for the second year of a bachelor of science in forestry degree program. Selection will be based on academic achievement and financial need.

## ARTHUR L. IRVING FAMILY FOUNDATION TRACK AND FIELD SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Unrestricted  
**VALUE:** \$4,000    **NUMBER:** 2    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Arthur L. Irving Family Foundation

Awarded to one member of the women's track and field team and one member of the men's track and field team on the UNB Saint John campus. The recipients must have demonstrated successful academic performance (minimum 2.0 scholarship grade point average, as per U SPORTS regulations). These scholarships are open to transfer students.

## H. WADE MACLAUCLAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship valued at \$5,000 is awarded to a student entering the first year of the JD program on the basis of academic excellence and financial need. It is supported by H. Wade MacLauchlan (LLB'81), former dean of the faculty of law and former premier of Prince Edward Island.

## G. WALLACE F. MCCAIN, CC, ONB SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Computer Science  
**VALUE:** \$10,000    **NUMBER:** 2    **DURATION:** 4 years  
**DONOR:** The Hon. Dr. Margaret Norrie McCain, CC, ONB, in honour of G. Wallace F. McCain, CC, ONB, through the McKenna Institute

Awarded to a student entering the bachelor of computer science or bachelor of science in computer science or bachelor of science in software engineering degree program. Selection will be based on academic achievement. Preference may be given to women and/or Indigenous, and/or people from rural communities. Consideration may be given to financial need.

## KIMBERLEY AND LYNN MUNROE SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Nursing  
**VALUE:** \$2,000    **NUMBER:** 1    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Kimberley Munroe, in memory of her sister Lynn

Awarded to a woman student who is enrolled in a bachelor of nursing degree program on the Fredericton campus. The recipient must be a New Brunswick resident, according to the definition of the Provincial Government's Student Financial Services Guidelines, a Canadian citizen and have graduated from a New Brunswick high school. Selection will be based on academic achievement and financial need.

## MARY O'NEILL OBSTETRICS SCHOLARSHIP

**FIELD:** Nursing  
**VALUE:** \$1,500    **NUMBER:** 1    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Alumni of the Saint John General Hospital School of Nursing

Awarded to a Saint John campus student who has completed at least the requirements for the second year of the bachelor of nursing program. Selection will be based on demonstrated excellence in the area of obstetrics.

## OLIVE OZOEMENA BURSARY

**FIELD:** Integrated Health Initiative  
**VALUE:** \$1,000    **NUMBER:** 1 or more    **DURATION:** 1 year  
**DONOR:** Chika Olive Ozoemena (MBA'16)

Awarded on the basis of unforeseen financial need to a Saint John campus student who is in the bachelor of health program as an international student. Community engagement and volunteerism will be considered. This is a flow-through bursary.



**MARY LOU STIRLING EDUCATION BURSARY****FIELD:** Education**VALUE:** \$1,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Mary Lou Stirling (BA'68)

Awarded to a student enrolled in the Bachelor of education degree program on the Fredericton campus. Selection will be based on financial need. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates an interest in reading/language arts.

**UNB ALUMNAE EMERGENCY BURSARY****FIELD:** Unrestricted**VALUE:** \$2,000 **NUMBER:** 5 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** UNB Alumnae

Awarded on the basis of financial need to women students enrolled full-time at UNB in an undergraduate degree program. The recipient must demonstrate successful academic performance.

**WOON WONG FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP****FIELD:** Engineering or Computer Science**VALUE:** \$2,000 **NUMBER:** 1 **DURATION:** 1 year**DONOR:** Woon Wong family (UNB engineering and computer science alumni)

Awarded to a first-year student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in the faculty of engineering or the faculty of computer science on the Fredericton campus. The recipient must be a New Brunswick resident, according to the definition of the Provincial Government's Student Financial Services guidelines and have graduated from a New Brunswick High School. Selection will be based upon academic performance and financial need.

**WALKER WOOD FOUNDATION ARTS SCHOLARSHIP****FIELD:** Arts**VALUE:** \$6,000 **NUMBER:** 2 **DURATION:** 4 years**DONOR:** Walker Wood Foundation

Awarded to students beginning an undergraduate degree program in the faculty of arts. Students must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and from the Atlantic provinces. Preference will be given to students who participate in extracurricular activities.

**WALKER WOOD FOUNDATION NURSING SCHOLARSHIP****FIELD:** Nursing**VALUE:** \$6,000 **NUMBER:** 2 **DURATION:** 4 years**DONOR:** Walker Wood Foundation

Awarded to a Saint John campus student and a Fredericton campus student who are beginning the bachelor of nursing degree program. Students must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and from the Atlantic provinces. Preference will be given to students who participate in extracurricular activities. ■

**VISIT [UNB.CA/GIVING](https://unb.ca/giving)***for information on creating scholarships*

# 2024 Currie Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients



*Rozalynd  
Cummings Ward*



*Chad Sheppard*



*Maximilian  
Doyle*



*Daniel Burton*



*Rebecca  
Williams-Simms*

**T**his year's recipients are Daniel Burton of Petty Harbour, N.L., Rozalynd Cummings Ward of Saint John, N.B., Maximilian Doyle of Woodmans Point, N.B., Chad Sheppard of Weston, N.B., and Rebecca Williams-Simms of Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.

The scholarships, valued at \$65,000 each, were established in 2004 by one of Canada's most accomplished business leaders and philanthropists, UNB Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Richard J. Currie, (LLD'87), who was a Beaverbrook scholar as a young man.

Each year, the Currie Scholarships recognize Atlantic Canadian high school students for their leadership skills, community involvement, academic success and obstacles overcome. ■



# Gatherings & MEET UPS

- ❶ Vancouver chapter annual reception
- ❷ Ottawa chapter bowling
- ❸ Student Investment Fund (SIF) 25th anniversary event in Toronto
- ❹ Alumni Association vice-president Andrew Martel (BCS'15) and Kayla-Renée Ossachuk (BA'15) met up with Chris (BScF'92) and Tanya (BA'92) Cox in Panama City
- ❺ BScME'63 alumni in Toronto: John Lutz, Max Steeves, Hugh Moore, and Alex Vorvis
- ❻ Calgary chapter pub night
- ❼ Calgary chapter annual dinner
- ❽ Edmonton chapter annual gathering
- ❾ Delhi reception
- ❿ Bhutan reception
- ⓫ The SIF students in the BBA program placed first in the Atlantic CFA Institute Research Challenge in Halifax: Patrick Doyle, Ryan Hebert, Urvashi Sharma, Adebukanla Fabamwo and Alex Sturge
- ⓬ Ottawa chapter hockey afternoon
- ⓭ Halifax Comedy Fest









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/](http://unb.ca/alumni/magazine/)

*Submissions between Sept. 15, 2023, and March 15, 2024, have been included.*

'60

**JOHN DREW** (BA) of Cambridge, England, had a collection of essays on diverse cultural subjects published by a university press in Bangladesh. While all these essays were written for a Bengali audience, you may be interested to learn that it includes one about Allen Ginsberg's visit to UNB Saint John in 1967. Allen is honoured in Bangladesh for the poem he wrote at the time of its Liberation War four years later: *September on the Jessore Road*.

'64

**ROBERT (BOB) COCKBURN** (BA, MA'66) of Fredericton, N.B., has been inducted into the Fredericton Sports Hall of Fame for his 31-year career as coach of the UNB Ironmen team. He captured 15 Maritime University championships, three Caledonia Cup Maritime senior championships, and seven McNair Cups as New Brunswick Rugby Union champions.

'66



**BILL HAND** (BA) of Rockwood, Ont., and **TESS MADIGAN** (BSc'88) of Fredericton, N.B., met up in Kruger Park, South Africa, in September 2023. You meet UNB graduates everywhere.

'70

**ROBERT (BOB) CARFRA** (BA, LLB'72) of Penticton, B.C., retired his legal practice in Victoria, B.C., in December 2023.

'76

**CAROL MULHOLLAND** (BBA, MPE'79) of Fredericton, N.B., has been inducted into the Fredericton Sports Hall of Fame. She is an elite athlete as a racquetball player and later a coach, a

two-time coach of the year and a strong administrator, executive director of two provincial sport organizations at the same time at one point, the New Brunswick Racquetball Association and Athletics New Brunswick. She continues to train and mentor elite athletes in several sports.

'77



Photo credit: Sgt. Anis Assari, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2024

**DAVID LYNCH** (BScChE, DSc'18) of Edmonton, Alta., was invested as an officer of the Order of Canada in 2022 for his contributions to the science and technology of environmental engineering in Canada and for his visionary leadership in engineering education. He was presented with his insignia at the 2024 investiture ceremony held in May.

'78

**PHILOMENA WALSH** (BPE) of St. John's, Nfld., is proud to announce that her son Brendan James Walsh, a kinesiology graduate from Memorial University, and an honours degree with distinction from Western University, has opened an orthotic franchise, Bioped, in Bedford, N.S. Drop by if you are in the area and get fitted for some great orthopedic footwear. Tell him his mom sent you! Her daughter **KELLY SWEERS** (JD'17) graduated from UNB with a law degree and is working with the RCMP detachment in Calgary, major crimes division.

'82

**MARK THOMAS** (BScChE) and wife, Lori, are living in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain where Mark is the group chief

executive officer of Bapco Energies, the group of companies responsible for the Kingdom of Bahrain's energy sector assets including oil and gas, renewables, SMR, and hydrogen. After 40 years with BP and a very short retirement, Mark couldn't stay away from the sector he knows best and wishes all his friends and colleagues from UNB engineering a safe and prosperous year.

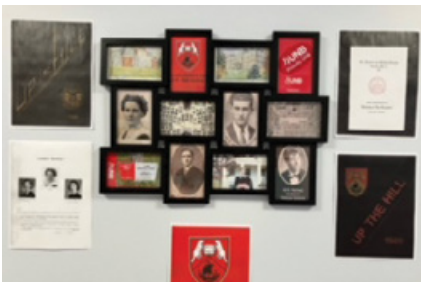
**'84**

After 35 years in the industrial automation industry, **DON ROBINSON** (BScEE) of Markham, Ont., and West Quaco, N.B., sold his business and retired. He plans to split his time between Markham and West Quaco. He'd love to hear from former classmates. Email him at donbrob1962@gmail.com.

**'88**

At their recent annual meeting, Engineers Nova Scotia presented **DAVID LEA** (BScME), FEC P.Eng., with the F.H. Sexton Gold Medal Award in recognition of exceptional achievement in the practice of professional engineering, service to the profession, and contributions to the community. David is a past president of Engineers Nova Scotia and is a senior partner with CBCL Limited in Halifax.

**'89**



After almost three years with the Office of the Registrar, **W. R. RAMSAY ANDERSON** (BA) of Fredericton, N.B., accepted a position as one of three

academic advisers, student support coordinators with the faculty of management in Singer Hall. "I was entering the fall term in my third year at UNB, when Ethel Singer Hall opened that September 1987. I never had much opportunity to use this new state-of-the-art building at the time, as most of my classes were in Tilley and Carleton.

After 32 years working in sales and the hospitality/tourism industry, I feel very fortunate to be back at UNB in my new advising role. I have tried to make my office a safe and inviting space, as well as show how proud I am to be a UNB alum. On my office wall, I have proudly hung my UNB diploma and a collage of my UNB family photos: my grandmother Millicent Anderson (BA'38), her 1938 grad class, and the cover of her 1938 *Up The Hill* yearbook; my grandfather William Royce Anderson (BScEE'34) and his 1933-1934 class; my great aunt Jean Ramsay, dean of women 1965-1966, her memorial forest plaque is near Kidd/Dunn/Tibbits; my great great grandfather James Harvey Ramsay (1912 – I believe science or engineering); me, William Royce Ramsay Anderson, my Encaenia program and cover of my *Up The Hill* yearbook."



**KEVIN ENGLEHART** (BScEE, MScEE'92, PhD'99), professor of electrical engineering and associate dean of the school of graduate studies at UNB, has been made a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, in recognition of his "contributions to myoelectric signal processing in rehabilitation engineering."

**ANDREW MARK FRANCIS** (BPE, BEd'94, MARSA'09, MBA'09) of Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A., accepted an exciting new role as Woodard Family Foundation fellow and senior sports business instructor at the University of Oregon. He will also be retaining his part-time role as a sports business consultant and senior sports business instructor at UCLA. "I'm also pleased both of these great schools are heading to the Big Ten Athletic Conference in Fall 2024!"

**'90**

Justice **STEPHEN DOUCET** (BA) of Grand-Bouctouche, N.B., was appointed a judge of the Court of King's Bench of New Brunswick, trial division, judicial district of Miramichi, on Oct. 6, 2023.

**'93**

**PAUL BRAGDON** (BScCE, MScCE'96) of Fredericton, N.B., is the structures constructability lead for the East Harbour Transit Hub Project in Toronto. It is an alliance between Metrolinx, Bird Construction, and AtkinsRéalis.

**'98**

**NEIL VIBERT** (BScCE, DTME) of Miscou, N.B., joined the mining corporate team of SNF for North America. In 2023, Neil completed an executive MBA from the London School of Economics, and currently sits on UNB's Board of Governors, the Provincial Judicial review board, the board of Museum NB, and recently received a Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal for his work to preserve and restore the historic Miscou Lighthouse.

'02

**TROY NEILSON** (BCS, MCS'05), aka Mr. Super Dude, of Ottawa, Ont., released a new family-oriented music video for 'Funky Dance'. This is the second kids' single he has released. You can find it at [mrsuperdude.com](http://mrsuperdude.com); on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/gxTmuOqIH64>; and through audio at <https://orcd.co/funkydance>.

**ALI MCGILL** (BN) of Saint John, N.B., graduated with her PhD in interdisciplinary studies from Memorial University. Her research aims to examine, model, and analyze complex health systems. She now works as an assistant professor in the faculty of nursing on the Fredericton campus.

'03

**CHRISTOPHER BOYSE** (BA, BBA'04) of Calgary, Alta., joined Admiral Markets Canada as chief compliance officer, helping the firm expand into North American financial markets by providing investors with innovative solutions that are in compliance with regulatory requirements.

'04

In January, **GRACE PIERCY** (BScEE, JD'14) of Franklin, Tenn., U.S., participated as a panel member guest at a student function at Murray State University in Kentucky, talking about her path from UNB to where she is today, senior program manager, power quality, at Tennessee Valley Authority based in Knoxville, Tenn., and opportunities for young engineers.

'08

**JOHN MACLEAN** (LLB) of Iqaluit, Nunavut, has been promoted to senior legal counsel in the legal and constitutional law division of the Nunavut department of justice, which began in March 2023.

'22



**STACIE SMITH** (BEEd) of Halifax, N.S., received the Emerging Leader Award for Atlantic Canada as part of the Canada Volunteer Awards. "As someone who lives with mental illness, this is an example of how you can persevere and overcome any challenges you face. Receiving this award is very special to me, as it showcases my passion for improving the lives of young people across the country. Recognizing this work and the organizations I've collaborated with will help bring awareness to these issues affecting youth."

As co-director of the Young Canadians Roundtable on Health, Stacie leads a team of about 50 young Canadians. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stacie's focus shifted towards initiatives like ScienceUPFirst and Children's Healthcare Canada. The goal was to encourage vaccination among Canadian youth and improve their mental health. Under Stacie's leadership, the YCRH has experienced remarkable growth. It has expanded its youth membership by 50 per cent, introduced innovative workshops, and created new employment opportunities for young members. This expansion has gained national attention, highlighting the importance of young people's perspectives in public discussions. Stacie is also involved with the Coalition for Healthy School Food to reduce food insecurity. This initiative aims to give students healthy meal options and improve their well-being.

'15

**EDWARD CHOI** (JD), of Unionville, Ont., became a partner at Metcalfe, Blainey & Burns LLP (MBB Law) as of Feb. 1, 2024. He joined MBB Law in 2015 as an articling student and worked as an associate after his articles. His specialty is civil litigation and dispute resolution. His clients include landlords, tenants, real estate investors, employers, employees, shareholders, religious charities, and other individuals and companies. He appeared in courts and tribunals, from Small Claims Court to the Ontario Court of Appeal. ■



**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

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**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FORMER CLASSMATES**

New job? Just married? Recognized for your work?

Let us know what you've been up to.

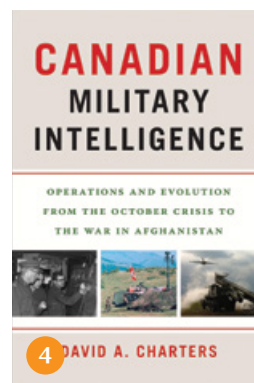
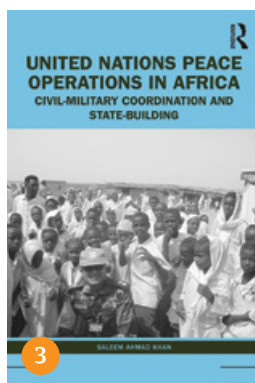
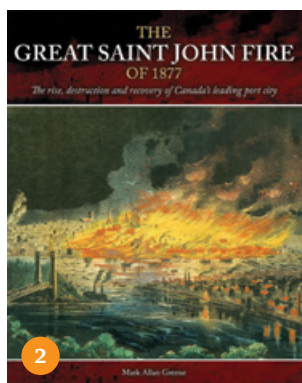
SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO [ALUMNI@UNB.CA](mailto:ALUMNI@UNB.CA)

Submissions may be edited for space.



# Summer Reading BOOKSHELF

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](mailto:alumni@unb.ca). Don't forget to include your UNB degree(s). (Multiple submissions will be spread among issues).



## 1 The Deer Yard and Other Stories

By: Tom Mahoney (BA'66)  
 Publisher: Donovan Street Press  
 (in association with Blue Mountain  
 Entertainment)  
 ISBN: 9798782622268

## 2 The Great Saint John Fire of 1877 the Rise, Destruction and Recovery of Canada's Leading Port City

By: Mark Allan Greene (BBA'97)  
 Publisher: Formac Publishing  
 Company Limited  
 ISBN-13: 9781459507074

## 3 United Nations Peace Operations in Africa Civil-Military Coordination and State-Building

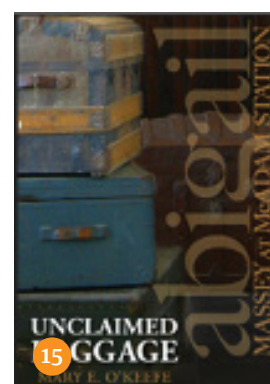
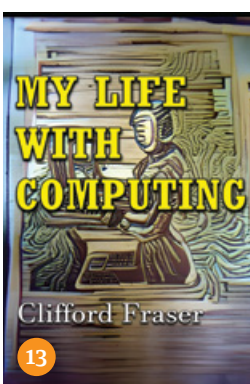
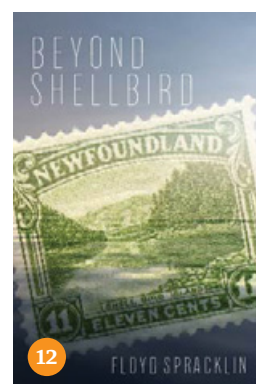
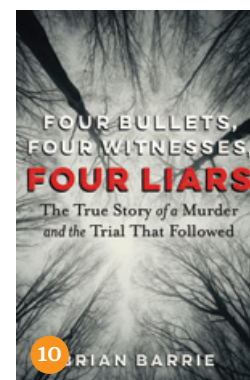
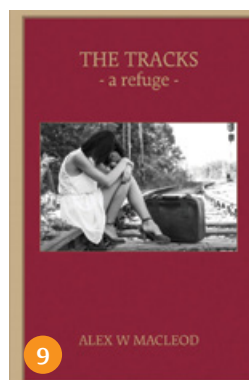
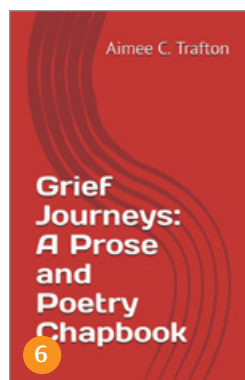
By: Saleem Ahmad Khan (PhD'20)  
 Publisher: Routledge India  
 ISBN: 9781032230467

## 4 Canadian Military Intelligence: Operations and Evolution From the October Crisis to the War in Afghanistan

By: David Charters (BA'71, MA'73)  
 Publisher: Georgetown University Press  
 ISBN: 9781647122942

## 5 Drink in the Summer a Memoir of Croatia

By: Tony Fabijančić (PhD'95)  
 Publisher: Athabasca University Press  
 ISBN: 9781771993807 (paperback)  
 9781771993814 (pdf)  
 9781771993821 (epub)



**6 Grief Journeys: A Prose and Poetry Chapbook**

By: Aimee C. Trafton (BA'97, BEd'99)  
 Publisher: Independently published  
 ISBN: 979-8857261903

**7 The Doggerelist**

By: David Colpitts (BA'64, MA'65)  
 Publisher: Pagemaster Publishing  
 ISBN: 9781773543499

**8 Blowing Up**

By: Biff Mitchell (Thomas Mitchell) (BA'74)  
 Publisher: Double Dragon  
 ISBN: 9781786957054

**9 The Tracks a Refuge**

By: Alex MacLeod (LLB'93)  
 Publisher: Self-published  
 ISBN-10: 0994914202  
 ISBN-13: 978-0994914200

**10 Four Bullets, Four Witnesses, Four Liars: The True Story of a Murder and the Trial That Followed**

By: Brian Barrie (MA'72)  
 Publisher: Irwin Law Inc.  
 ISBN: 9781552217016

**11 A Nurse for all Seasons**

By: Virginia Bliss Bjerkelund (BA'51)  
 Publisher: Chapel Street Editions  
 ISBN: 9781988299525

**12 Beyond Shellbird**

By: Floyd Spracklin (MEd'95)  
 Publisher: DRC Publishing  
 ISBN: 9781988358680

**13 My Life With Computing**

By: Clifford Fraser (BScCS'81)  
 Publisher: YaYaYa  
 ISBN-10: 177801075X  
 ISBN-13: 978-1778010750

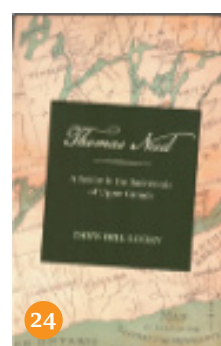
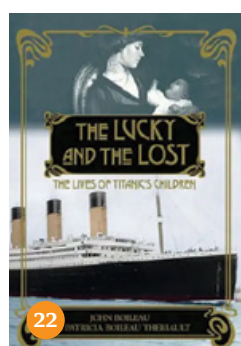
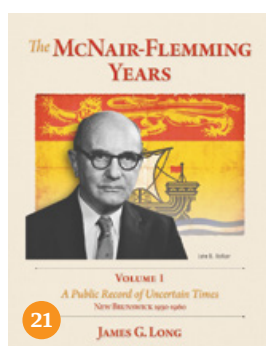
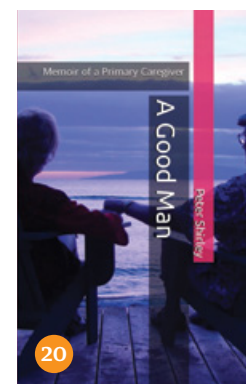
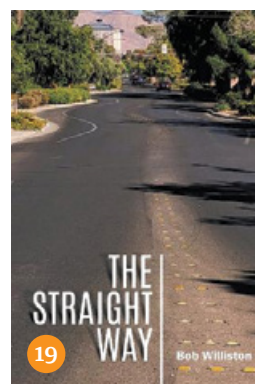
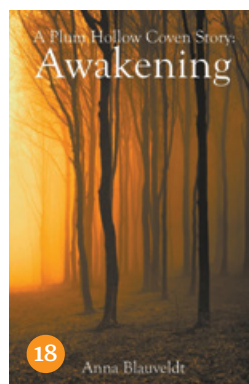
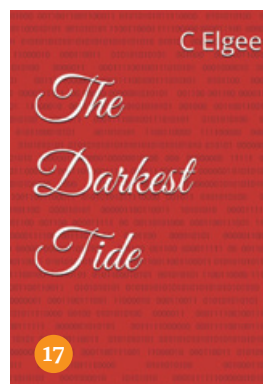
**14 Humanity's Beauty and Risk: Poetic and Philosophic Reflections**

By: Ahmed Fathi Shalabi (PhD'89)  
 Publisher: Friesen Press  
 ISBN: 9781039193680

**15 Unclaimed Baggage**

By: Mary E. O'Keefe (BN'76, MEd'94)  
 Publisher: Lorne Street Press, Fredericton  
 ISBN: 978-0-9917172-6-2





### 16 They Have No Idea: Love and Desperation in Mothering a Child With Severe Autism and Epilepsy

By: Barbara Morrissey (PhD'89)  
 Publisher: Friesen Press  
 ISBN: 9781039149564

### 17 The Darkest Tide

By: Charles Emerson Elgee (BA'82)  
 Publisher: Rotting Post  
 ISBN: 9798857176030

### 18 A Plum Hollow Coven Story: Awakening

By: Anna Blauveldt (BA'74)  
 Publisher: Broken Keys Publishing  
 ISBN-10: 1988253829  
 ISBN-13: 978-1988253824

### 19 The Straight Way

By: Bob Williston (BA'73 BEd'76)  
 Publisher: Go to Publish  
 ISBN: 978-1647499648

### 20 A Good Man: Memoir of a Primary Caregiver

By: Peter Shirley (C-BA'03)  
 Publisher: Self-published ISBN:  
 979-8877654112

### 21 The McNair-Flemming Years: Vol. 1

By: James G. Long (BA'71)  
 Publisher: Friesen Press  
 ISBN: 978-11039187382

### 22 The Lucky and the Lost: The Lives of Titanic's Children

By: John Boileau (BA'66) and Patricia Boileau Theriault (BA'72, BEd'73)  
 Publisher: Nimbus Publishing Ltd.  
 ISBN: 9781774712689

### 23 Seeking a Research-Ethics Covenant in the Social Sciences

By: Will C van den Hoonaard (BA'70)  
 Publisher: The University of Alberta Press  
 ISBN: 9781772126549 (paperback)  
 9781772126976 (PDF)  
 9781772126969 (epub)

### 24 Thomas Need: A Settler in the Backwoods of Upper Canada

By: Dawn Bell Logan (BBA'59)  
 Publisher: Self-published  
 ISBN: 9780995161412

### 25 MacDonalds Corner, NB, the Early Days: A Mosaic of Life

By: Dale Ashfield (BSc'70, BEd'71) and Margaret-Anne Ashfield  
 Publisher: Independently published  
 ISBN: 9781778049101 ■



# A GIFT THAT NURTURES AND GROWS

PHOTO: ROB SCHAER

**Their time at UNB was foundational for Elaine and Ken Carty, and they feel strongly about the importance of giving back, now and into the future.**

Both leaders in their respective fields, the Cartys have gone far from their early days together on UNB's Fredericton campus. Ken (BScF'66, DLitt'22), a New Brunswick Rhodes Scholar, is internationally renowned and consulted for his expertise in political parties and electoral systems. Elaine (BN'66, DLitt'22) was appointed to the Order of Canada, and inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, in recognition of her work increasing the safety and effectiveness of women's health care and her leadership in making midwifery an integral part of Canada's health-care system.

"UNB is foundational for individual lives, but it's also foundational for the province," said Ken. "It's the 'Mother Tree' of the province, and so it has to be supported and strengthened. It's the most important institution in New Brunswick. I think those of us who've had the privilege of being nurtured by it have an obligation to return that gift."

Elaine (née McEwan) credits her early years in UNB's nursing program with influencing her later work. "I have strong memories of the nursing faculty being innovators and quite

radical, which I think rubbed off on me because all through my career, I've been working to change things," she said.

Asked what they would say to others who are considering including UNB in their estate planning, the Cartys reflected on what they've told their children. "It's important that our children know that giving back is important; we want them to know that you have to think back over your life and give back to the people who gave to you," said Elaine.

"We strongly believe that's a powerful signal to our children," agreed Ken. "You want to think back about those kinds of institutions and experiences that made turning-point impacts on you. Whether it's building snow sculptures as a community at Winter Carnival in the residences, or intramural sports, or the student council – all those kinds of things are fundamental in giving you a sense of who you are, and what you can be."

The Cartys, partnering with Ken's brother Bill (BA'73) and niece Lisa (BA'03), have established the Carty Family Bursary for students in financial need. The couple has chosen to include UNB in their estate planning through a bequest, ensuring that students will continue to benefit for years to come. ■

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FROM AUG. 31, 2023,  
TO MARCH 31, 2024

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 JOHN M. ALSTON (BSc'49), Calgary, Alta.  
 CHARLES 'RUPERT' COLWELL (BScCE'50), Ottawa, Ont.  
 BERTON W. COSMAN (BScEE'50), Rothesay, N.B.  
 ARTHUR D. MOSHER (BScEE'50), Etobicoke, Ont.  
 LAURIE B.R. HUNTER (BScCE'50), Ottawa, Ont.  
 ARTHUR W. LUND (BScCE'50), Pembroke, Ont.  
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 AGNES PODOLSKY (Simcock, BA'51), Oakville, Ont.  
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 ANNE WILLIAMSON (BEd'58), Bonny River, N.B.  
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 CHARLES 'CHARLIE' J. DOHERTY (BA'65, BEd'70, PD-Ed'76, MEd'77),  
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 GERALDINE 'GERRY' A. HAMM (BEd'65), Brookside, N.S.  
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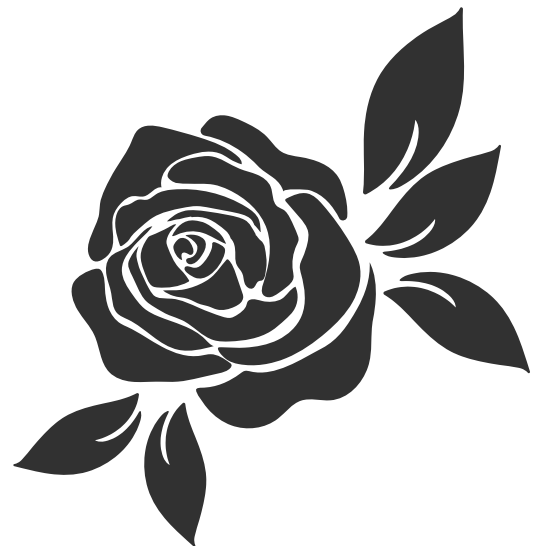


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