

Fall 2019  
Volume 2  
Issue 1



# BURMAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



**Playing for a  
future free  
of cancer!**



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1  
FALL 2019

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**ABOUT THE COVER**  
Jenelle (Trenchuk) and Brent Saik raised more than \$5 million to defeat cancer through the World's Longest Games. World records were set from 2003 through 2019 in hockey and baseball.

**TO MAKE A GIFT**  
Gifts in support of Burman University may be made at [www.burmanu.ca](http://www.burmanu.ca) or phone 403.782.3381 x 4161

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Letters to the editor are welcome and may be considered for publication. They may be edited. Email messages to Renate Krause, editor, may be sent to [alumni@burmanu.ca](mailto:alumni@burmanu.ca).



*The 2019 SCHOLARS tour visited both Greece and Italy, learning how early ideals of beauty and art developed, and how these ideals are continuing to be a powerful influence today.*

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Guinness World Record set with 85-hour game to raise funds for cancer research and patient support.

Brent Saik: “Our job is to cure cancer. Every time we do one of these events, that is our motto.”

# KENYA



*In May a small group of students received specialized on-site training in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of humanitarian projects in Kenya. Dr. Adam Kiš of the Burman University International Studies program led the team.*

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*Near Amman, Jordan, an archeological dig led by Dr. Larry Herr discovered important remains from the time of the biblical judges and the ancient nation of the Ammonites.*



Parkview alumnus wins an Oscar as lead animator on Sony's *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse!*  
(inside back cover)





## President's Message

Whenever I take time to sort through some of the memories I have of this campus, I experience a deep sense of gratitude. First as student, then as faculty member and now as president, I have observed the blossoming of a university. What a unique experience! I feel truly privileged.

Our Board of Trustees and administrators have grappled over the past few years with accommodating this growth. We decided that serving our students best would require transforming the library, helping more students financially and physically, supporting faculty and enhancing programs. So I unveiled the \$10 million campaign—the largest in Burman's history—at Homecoming 2019.

But even as we engage in these various enterprises, we realize that the true value of a university lies in producing lives that matter. Burman has stories of many such lives. You've read about them in past issues of this magazine and will find more again in this issue: Jenelle (Trenchuk) Saik and her husband, Brent, in their fight against cancer; Kim (Sankey) Senechal in her determination to "burn brightly"; the Chipeurs in honoring their parents; Professor Pekka Määttänen in his research; Professor Adam Kiš in teaching students to support community development with meaningful on-site monitoring and evaluation, and more. Burman University will never run out of these stories because, ever since its inception, it has taught and modeled service—not in addition to, but as an integral part of, one's life.

I think of generous donors that have seen the work of the university in the lives of their loved ones. They have given close to \$5 million already, taking us to almost half of our goal. I also think of the Committee of 100, Burman's first concerted effort to bring organization to fundraising for needed projects. Thanks to their work, we have a physical education centre and other facilities that serve the university as well as the wider central Alberta community.

I also think of the faculty and staff that donate monthly through voluntary payroll deductions to the needs they see on campus. Over the years, the Campus Family Circle contributed almost \$89,000. Among other things, we can thank them for the turning the smokestack into a bell tower at the new wheelchair-accessible entrance to the administration building and the carillon that rings out into the clear Alberta air. And then there are those of our faculty who sacrifice many hours of their evenings, weekends and even their vacations to do research and write funding proposals.

John C. Maxwell writes, "If you are successful, it becomes possible for you to leave an inheritance for others. But if you desire to create a legacy, then you need to leave something in others." The legacy from the founders of Burman University is alive and well in those who live lives that matter.



# Shaping the World

*“Changes are coming for students and faculty alike to step into a vibrant future of knowledge, student success and faculty excellence—a future that will help change the world.”*

**W**ith these electrifying words, President Loren Agrey invited the audience at the Alumni Homecoming banquet on Friday, June 7, 2019, to participate in Burman University’s \$10 million capital campaign, “Shaping the World: Lives of Service Begin Here.”

Agrey continued, “As you know, for more than 100 years, Burman has shaped the lives of thousands of students. We have a responsibility to students of the future who deserve the best learning environment, transformative education and experiences that will motivate and enable them to serve others.”

*continued overleaf—*



State-of-the-art library resources



Campus-wide accessibility



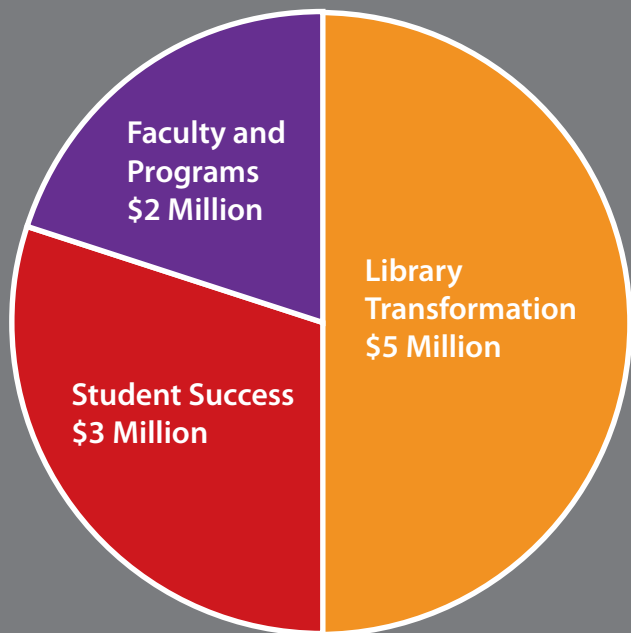
Expanded research opportunities



Faculty growth and development

# Shaping the World

the campaign for Burman University



The largest capital campaign in the university's history has three specific goals:

- to transform the library
- to fund student success initiatives
- to support faculty and programs

## Library Transformation

**Because a building project requires much advance planning and coordination, the library transformation is the current focus of fundraising.**

The goal is \$5 million. More than \$3.5 million have been raised so far, so the building committee can begin to address some of the very specific requirements for a university library.

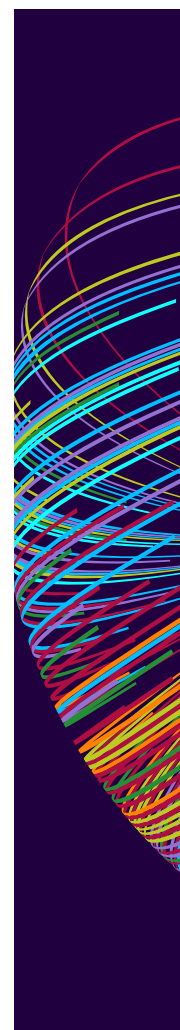
President Agrey explained, "In today's increasingly accessible and digital world, renovations are needed not to remodel but rather to transform the campus library into an even more relevant place to work, live and learn."

Burman's existing library was originally built in 1950 to serve as a cafeteria and college store. In 1964, the building was repurposed for a library.

Today, with a carefully selected print collection and electronic access to the resources of a multitude of academic libraries, students can access a wealth of information. But the building itself has never been ideally updated as a place for academic growth.

The modernized facility will offer students the best academic print and digital resources. It will also feature quiet places for study and reflection, and provide collaborative learning spaces and meeting rooms for student clubs, lectures and community events. It will be a place where students and the community meet to interact intellectually and socially.

John McDowell, Dean, Division of Arts, writes, "Today's 'fake' news—falsifications, fabrications and distortions—and misinformation require that students do more than absorb information. Learning to test and evaluate sources to determine their credibility and to turn information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom, is now, more than ever, a vital skill for all graduates to learn for the truth to succeed." In addition, a university library must provide augmented and virtual learning tools to encourage students to discover new ways to learn and present their findings. It needs to foster enhanced exploration and nurture advanced research.





In addition to accessing information, evaluating sources and collaborating for research, students should also be able to apply knowledge by creating multi-media projects from resources shared by all disciplines. A “makerspace” that is centrally located in a university library can provide the necessary tools and technology to foster a collaborative learning environment.

Head librarian Sheila Clark envisions the library as “an intellectual centre, a place where learning, scholarship and technology meet. It’s a place where people learn to find, evaluate and use real world information.”

**The opportunity to develop personal creativity and pursue new interests is important to human development. To achieve this, people need access to knowledge and works of the imagination. The library provides access, in a variety of different media, to a rich and varied store of knowledge and creative achievement that cannot be acquired independently.**

### Comparing the Current Library and Plans for the Transformed Library

	<b>Current Library</b>	<b>Transformed Library</b>
<b>Total Area*</b>	10,112	17,395
Commons	2,106	4,482 Lower Level (Individual Study) 1,600 Upper Level: 2,800 Fireplace Hearth: 82
Classroom/Makerspace	-nil-	945
Group Study Rooms	121	770 (5 rooms)
Virtual Reality/Audio Visual	-nil-	165
Reception/Circulation	315	215
Writing Centre	65	130
Special Collections	160	170
Print Material Stacks	2,640 Regular Stacks	5,700 Half Stacks: 2,000 Compact Shelving: 3,700
Librarians’ Offices	268	380 Reference: 245 Assistant: 135
Technical Services	820	500
Computer Services	-nil-	440

\*Based on preliminary drawings. In square feet.



Architect's rendering of exterior library expansion

## Student Success Initiatives

***Creating and increasing student success initiatives is the second goal of the “Shaping the World” campaign.***

Burman recognizes that scholarships are essential for many students to access higher education. The university currently makes \$1.4 million available in entrance scholarships, but it can do that only with the continued generosity of donors.

**One of Burman’s seniors, Spencer Page, states, “Professors challenge us intellectually and spiritually every day, but without scholarships, it would be impossible for many of us to study here in this environment—one that intentionally supports us in discovering and nurturing our own personal values.”**



*Student success begins with no student left behind.*

***Another aspect of the student success initiative is to make the campus physically accessible.***

With its multi-storied buildings located on a hilltop, the university is challenging for people with disabilities and mobility issues. Classrooms on the third floor of West Hall are currently inaccessible to those in wheelchairs. Also of concern are the elderly concert-goers who struggle up the stairs to the auditorium. Burman recognizes its responsibility in serving

everyone who comes to its campus—including those with physical handicaps.



*Led by President Agrey, students participate in the annual Serve Lacombe Day of volunteer service.*

***The final facet of the student success initiative is to offer students the opportunity to gain work experience even as they are studying.***

While some students participate in practica—student teaching, for example—others do not have the benefit of work experience. An active internship program, matching qualified students with local employers, will help them develop greater confidence, teach them professionalism and work ethics, and develop a professional network.

Finally, Burman encourages students to be keenly involved in service and mission, not only while they attend the university, but also throughout their careers. The majority of the student body is involved in volunteer projects, but the university intends to ensure that students are thoroughly prepared to live Burman’s mission: “To act with compassion and commitment.”

Donations to the Student Success Initiatives will help make it possible to hire a service and internship coordinator and provide a small subsidy for students involved in service programs.

**The fundraising goal of \$3 million will go toward removing financial and physical barriers and helping students acquire skills and attitudes of commitment, compassion and human dignity.**



## Focus on Faculty and Programs

*The third part of the “Shaping the World” campaign is to foster student learning by enhancing academic programs, strengthening faculty research and enriching teaching skills.*

This magazine recently covered two examples of program enhancements: the Plant Sciences Laboratory (see p. 21 of the Fall 2018 issue) and the new tables that encourage collaborative learning in the McKibbin Education Centre (see p. 8 of the Spring 2019 issue). Noble Donkor, Vice President for Academic Administration, points out that “program enhancements such as these are currently possible because professors are spending numerous hours of their ‘free’ time to write compelling funding proposals.”

Part of a university professor’s commitment to student success requires not only staying current in his or her own field, but also contributing to new knowledge. Publications, art exhibits, performances and conference presentations benefit their students, the community and the world. Release time from regular teaching schedules will make it possible for these activities to take place with planned, intentional regularity.

Furthermore, as programs expand or as faculty members retire, financial stability will enable the university to bring candidates to campus to interview, to meet students and to connect with potential colleagues. Incentives for exceptional candidates will attract additional qualified applicants.

### Burman Professors and Librarians: Scholarly Activity 2018-19

Professors and Librarians Participating	33
Art Exhibits	1
Books	3
Book Chapters	4
Conference Presentations	27
Musical Performances	9
Peer-Reviewed Articles	9

## Participation in the “Shaping the World” Campaign

Some supporters were so eager to participate in “Shaping the World” that when President Agrey officially launched the campaign during Homecoming 2019, the half-way goal had almost been reached.

Project	Goal	Amount Raised in Cash and Pledges
Library Transformation	\$5 Million	\$3.5 Million
Student Success Initiatives	\$3 Million	\$.9 Million
Focus on Faculty and Programs	\$2 Million	\$.4 Million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10 Million</b>	<b>\$4.8 Million</b>

Burman University is inviting further participation in the project. All gifts are valued, whether they be gifts or pledges of cash, stocks and securities, gifts-in-kind or gifts from an estate. Some donors may wish to name a portion of the library, a scholarship or an endowment after the special people who shaped their world.

President Emeritus J. D. Victor Fitch states, “Each of us is called to the deep responsibility of helping students shape their futures, of encouraging them to become the people they were created and called to be. We can make a significant difference by investing in the lives of young people as they search for knowledge, grow in belief and explore avenues of service. I personally urge you to join me to invest in the students of Burman University—and to invest generously.”

To discuss how you can support the “Shaping the World” campaign, please contact

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# BURMAN'S SCHOLARS TOUR

SCHOLARS students  
Danilyn Page,  
Kendrick Pruneau,  
Sarah Nichols,  
Nathalie Crowley,  
Brian Ferguson and  
Marina Tatarnikova  
at the Minoan city  
of Knossos, Crete.



Six students participated in the 2019 Summer SCHOLARS Tour under the direction of Drs. John McDowell and Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt. From May 7 to June 20, the group visited Greece and Italy to study art and cultural history as well as art appreciation.

One unique requirement of the class was for students to learn how to see by drawing. Commenting on that exercise, one student wrote, “An especially rewarding experience was sitting in front of the Acropolis and sketching it. As I did, several crowds walked by and commented on it. The highlight was when a group of tourists started taking pictures of me as well as of the Acropolis. It was fun to be recognized in such a way, and weird to be seen as an attraction rather than as just another tourist.”

SCHOLARS is a Burman University alternative core option that is open to students from all disciplines. It requires students to think about matters that pertain to how one chooses to live one’s life. Those enrolled in this program take one SCHOLARS course each semester and thereby fulfill all the core requirements for their degree.

The focus of the summer tour is to understand more clearly where our ideals of beauty and art originate. So the tour began with a visit to Crete and the Minoan city of Knossos. The Minoans influenced Greek art and culture, and Greek ideals are still deeply influencing ours—particularly through the art of the Renaissance.



Florence, Italy



The group then continued to Athens with visits to the acropolis and Mars Hill. They also visited Delphi, Mycene and Epidaurus, the celebrated medical centre that promoted the arts in healing and health.

In Italy, “home” was at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Florence, Villa Aurora, the group’s base for classes and trips to the many local museums to view works by Michelangelo and other great artists of the Renaissance period. Trips to the ruins of Pompeii gave a glimpse of Roman life, as did visits to the Coliseum. At the Vatican they were mesmerized by the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

One student summarized the value of the class when she said, “I learned to truly enjoy discussions, especially when they challenge me. I get so distracted by my own *a priori* ideas that I believe everyone thinks my way. But I was proven wrong on that countless times with the discussions and debates about art and beauty that we had over the course of this trip.”



Nathalie Crowley and Marina Tatarnikova listening to Danilyn Page making a dramatic argument in the theatre at the Minoan city of Phaestos, Crete.

*“Beauty is complicated, understanding beauty is impossible, creating beauty is difficult, but recognizing beauty is automatic.”*

A SCHOLARS student observation

## Meet Your Board

*Burman’s Board of Trustee members come from across Canada. Some of these are ex officio—they are members by virtue of the positions they hold in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Others are elected by local church constituencies.*

*Our new “Meet Your Board” column begins with introducing those board members that live the furthest east. Next time, you will meet some representing the Quebec and Ontario Conferences.*

*It is our hope that as you have questions, concerns or suggestions about the direction that Burman University is taking, you will dialogue with the Board members representing your district.*



**Paul Llewellyn**, president of the Maritime Conference of SDA, has served as an *ex-officio* member on the Board for two years. Llewellyn has a heart for the church and looks to Burman to “prepare our youth and young adults to be active participants in our church.”

Since many high school graduates are interested in vocational training, Llewellyn is exploring the idea of adding programs such as carpentry and plumbing to Burman’s curriculum.

One of the greatest challenges he encounters lies in helping parents understand the value of a Christian Seventh-day Adventist education for their children. He sees Burman’s role as “preparing young people to represent Christ in their long-term career goals.”



**Kevin McKay**, an elected member of the Board, is a carpenter from the Maritime Conference. Kevin is head elder of the Fox Point Church in Nova Scotia. With other Burman alumni, he and wife Janet visit churches in the Maritimes, mostly small ones, presenting musical programs.

As an alumnus of PAA and CUC (now Burman) and a born-and-raised Albertan, Kevin is still passionate about the place that he has been asked to help direct as a member of the Board of Trustees. He writes, “Burman holds so many good memories for so many people and is shaping the lives of many more by providing Adventist Christian Education for those who choose it in Canada. I am honoured to serve.”



School children clamour for attention from the visiting team

From May 9 – 22, 2019, Dr. Adam Kiš, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the International Studies program, led a small group of students for specialized on-site training in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) humanitarian projects in Kenya.

Dedicated to reducing poverty through community development, the humanitarian organization A Better World Canada (ABW) works in more than 15 countries and has invested \$34 million in providing clean water, essential healthcare, quality education, sustainable agriculture and income generation for more than a million people. Dr. Kiš accepted ABW’s invitation to provide professional M&E for projects in Kenya.



## Study Tour Takes Burman Students to KENYA

Dr. Kiš points out the importance of M&E when he asks, “How can we be sure of the difference we are making in the lives of the poor? Beyond just the occasional satisfied-customer testimonial, how can we be certain that those views represent the majority of beneficiaries? Only through professional M&E can we really get a sense of the impact of an international development project.”



The team, from left to right: Dr. Adam Kiš, Spencer Page, Mrs. Beatrice Limo, Samuelle Henry, Sean Dunbar, Eric Rajah

And that’s precisely what Adam Kiš and his small team of students did for A Better World Canada. Spencer Page and Samuelle Henry of Burman University, along with Sean Dunbar of La Sierra University, assisted Dr. Kiš with data collection in the field at ABW education project sites throughout Kenya in order to evaluate ABW’s work.

These were the first professional evaluations of their kind for ABW, which has been experiencing increasing demand for rigorous M&E from its donors. Each day, the students went out into the communities surrounding ABW-supported schools and interviewed parents of students while Dr. Kiš met with teachers, school administrators and school board members. Sampling was done in such a way as to ensure accurate representation of the “average” opinion, and not just the testimonials of satisfied customers.



Dr. Adam Kiš meets with teachers, parents and community representatives.

Mrs. Beatrice Limo, wife of the MP in one of the districts where ABW is working and a PhD student herself, was a major asset with logistical arrangements, including arrangements for local translators and field guides that enabled the data collection process to run smoothly. At the end of the two-week trip, the whole team went on a brief safari in the Maasai Mara National Reserve where they successfully spotted all of the “Big 5,” along with dozens of other amazing creatures.

Handwritten data were transcribed throughout summer 2019, with a final report due in August/September. Dr. Kiš hopes to lead additional groups of students on future study tours of a similar nature to make meaningful contributions to beneficiary communities, A Better World and student participants.





# Grant Supports Archeological Publications

**Professor Emeritus Larry Herr, PhD, recently was awarded a grant of US \$10,000 to advance archeological publications and to provide another Burman student with meaningful work experience.**

**H**err, an archeologist, is renowned for his work with the Madaba Plains Project, an SDA archaeological excavation (1984-2016) digging in Jordan at Tall al-Umayri near Amman, the capital city. He writes, “We began digging there after we finished at Heshbon (Tall Hisban) in 1978. The site contains important remains from the time of the biblical judges and the ancient biblical nation of the Ammonites.”

Editing and producing the publications related to the excavations from 1984-2008 with co-director, Douglas Clark of La Sierra University in California, Herr’s team has published nine technical volumes detailing their work for members of the archaeological community. All volumes are in a large, two-column format with hundreds of illustrations in each, including high-resolution photos, special reports on significant single finds and detailed drawings by artists and architects. Communicating these archeological findings is of vital importance. As Herr says, “Discoveries are of little value until they are reported.”

Because the Madaba Plains Project started well before the age of computers, all records from 1984 to 2008 are in hard copy format and include tens of thousands of pages. These are crowded into the drawers of two very large filing cabinets. Herr’s ongoing task is to create an online database and to archive all this documentation so that eventually everything will become available to scholars who need to use the excavation’s results in their own work. Herr’s team also plans to make all their publications available in searchable format in conjunction with the database.

This massive online database will be invaluable to a variety of scholars, including those writing general books on archaeology, working on MA and PhD dissertations or engaged in specific studies of the various finds, such as pottery, bones and other objects.

Many people have already begun to use the database even though it is only partially available ([umayri.opendig.org](http://umayri.opendig.org)). They use the information to find items of interest to them and then to discover the types of settings, or contexts, in which the finds were made. Were they part of a domestic household? A government storehouse? Were they discovered

in a kitchen use area or perhaps the storeroom of an individual family? Was the item part of the garbage thrown into the street? Do the finds represent a wealthy or poor group of people?

For the last seven years, students at Burman University have been scanning the thousands of hard copy documents in the files to upload to the electronic database and to archive them under Herr’s guidance. But recently funding for Herr’s student labour has run out with about 25 percent more of the work yet to be done.



*Dr. Larry Herr and his student Jacques Alexandre show off one of the fine artifacts in the collection.*

Herr’s most recent student research assistant, Jacques Alexandre,

has been working on this project for three years. In addition to learning the process of archiving these significant resources, he has also learned about archaeology itself and the discipline it takes to do responsible and competent research. The recently awarded \$10,000 grant enabled him to work for the summer of 2019 and through the following school year. Herr expects Jacques to complete, or come very close to completing, the database next spring.

But just as important, Jacques’ work will free up Herr to work more seriously on the publications for which five more volumes are anticipated.



## New Research on Prebiotics and Cardiovascular Disease



A two-year \$150,000 research grant from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation will fund prebiotic research at Burman University. Pekka Määttänen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, is the principal investigator on the synergy between haskap berries and flaxseeds.

**Animal studies have indicated that haskap berries promote an increase in HDL, and a decrease in triglycerides.**



Heart disease, a major health burden, is linked to diet and lifestyle. Scientists have long been searching for simple dietary interventions. They have found that flaxseeds lower total cholesterol and “bad” LDL (low-density lipoproteins), but they do not increase “good” HDL (high-density lipoproteins) or decrease triglycerides. Animal studies of haskap berries, on the other hand, have indicated that they promote an increase of HDL and a decrease of triglycerides. According to Professor Määttänen, “A detailed study of the mechanisms of action of flaxseeds and haskap berries separately and in combination in a relevant human population at risk for cardiovascular disease is greatly needed.”

Interestingly, both flaxseed and haskap berries are known to contain prebiotics. Prebiotics are food components that are not digested directly by humans, but instead serve as food for beneficial microbes that colonize the human gastrointestinal tract. A major focus of the study will be how haskaps and flaxseeds impact the gut microbiome, using genetic techniques to follow how the population changes in response to these foods.

*Lonicera caerulea* is a honeysuckle native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere in countries such as Canada, Japan, Russia and Poland. The plant has come to be called haskap, derived from its name in the language of the native Ainu people of Hokkaido, Japan.

The research team is comprised of Dr. Määttänen; Dr. Devin Holman, a research scientist at Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Lacombe Research Station; and Dr. Philip Sherman, a medical doctor and senior scientist at SickKids Research Institute in Toronto. Senior students at Burman will have the opportunity to help with the research as part of their learning (potentially in the form of a co-op course, research topics course or summer research project).

Weston reviewers of Määttänen’s research proposal comment that this proposed research “will significantly advance the career of an early stage career scientist in terms of project management.” It will also “significantly advance the research environment and capabilities” at Burman University. Professor Määttänen is grateful to the foundation for their support and excited about the opportunity to carry out this research, slated to begin January, 2020.



## School of Business News

### Summer 2019 Continuing Education Courses

For the first time, Burman University School of Business offered summer courses to improve skillsets and assist employees and volunteers with greater understanding of business principles and practices. Students studied bookkeeping, mutual funds, investments and budgeting.



*Wendy Elofson's certificate affirms the skills she learned in her summer investment class.*

Julie, one of the students from the investment class, comments, "I am excited to apply what I've learned to what I'm already doing. Very valuable! It opens a whole new field of opportunity."

Dr. Louicius Michel, chair of the School of Business, explains the

importance of these classes to the entire Alberta economy when he says, "Our continuing education classes will position the school on the solution side of the government-anticipated labour shortage in Alberta." According to the long-term labour market outlook published by the government of Alberta (*Alberta's Labour Market Highlights, 2017*, pp. 29-30), it is anticipated that "despite the current economic downturn, Alberta expects a 49,000 labour shortage in the next 10 years." At the same time, employers will expect applicants to have greater levels of training.

The classes the school offers will also support the sustainability of small and medium-sized local enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the cornerstone of both the Canadian and the Albertan economies. Together with the school's Small Business Centre, launched on September 3, the summer program initiative will participate in strengthening this vital source of wealth creation in the central Alberta region as skilled workers can better assist SMEs in streamlining operations, increasing growth potential and maximizing profitability. The school anticipates that business and financial literacy will also improve personal and family decision-making.

### Small Business Centre Launched September 3

Funding proposals of \$33,200 and strong Advisory Board support have made it possible for the School of Business to establish a Small Business Centre. Faculty, students and

participating small businesses are focused on the goal of streamlining operations, increasing growth potential and optimizing profitability.

Under the direct supervision of the business faculty, business students bring fresh new ideas to the Central Alberta business community while increasing their own knowledge of the business world. They will assist clients with strategic diagnoses, marketing, basic bookkeeping, industry research, financial management and customized training.

## New Endowed Scholarship Established for Alberta Students

On April 6, 2019, Servus Credit Union presented Burman University with \$50,000 for an endowed scholarship. The Servus Credit Union scholarship will produce its first \$1,000 award in 2021 (for a student's 2021-2022 academic year). The application date is January of each year.

The criterion for the award is that the recipient be a full-time student with Alberta residence status for three years prior to the application. Servus Credit Union is Alberta's largest credit union with 104 branches across the province.

## School of Business and Religious Studies Program Add New Faculty

Danae Brousson, MBA, ('16) is returning to her alma mater as a new faculty member in the School of Business. She earned a Master of Business Administration at Andrews University and is currently enrolled in a Master of Accounting degree at the University of Alberta. Ms. Brousson will be teaching accounting classes.

Lindsay Chineegadoo, PhD, earned a doctoral degree at Australian Catholic University, Australia. His dissertation title was *A Contextual Ecclesiology of Dialogue: the Self-Identity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Postmodern Context of Mission*. Dr. Chineegadoo was employed by the Ontario Conference of the SDA Church from 2012-19 as Ministerial Regional Coordinator. He also served as coach in church development, church planting and discipleship.

# Homecoming 2019

The stories they tell!



Those who return to the hilltop for the Homecoming weekend that takes place each June are often heard to comment on how connected they feel and how it was worth the effort to renew old friendships and to share stories. “It makes me feel that I’m part of something much bigger than myself,” one alumna exclaimed.

## The Chipeur Story

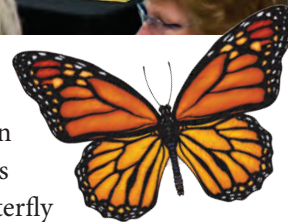
Barbara (Fowler) Chipeur (HS '78) told the story of why she and husband Gerald (HS '79) chose to present a legacy gift to Burman University in celebration of her mother's 80th



Science professors Delano Lewis, Laurence Wong, David Delafield, Bruce Buttler and Pekka Määttänen build the lab dome.

birthday and her parents' commitment to service. This gift will go toward establishing Phase Two of the Plant Sciences Laboratory the Chipeurs presented last year in honour of Gerald's parents, reported in the 2018 Fall issue of *Burman University Magazine* (p. 21).

The second phase will be a 42-foot dome flight laboratory. Professor Pekka Määttänen enthusiastically explains, “It will be fabulous to offer a developmental biology lab on butterfly metamorphosis during the winter semester.”



Määttänen's colleague, Professor Delano Lewis, adds, “We could have a program highlighting the monarch's migration and the need for maintenance of wild spaces and host plants, such as milkweed.” The new laboratory, according to Määttänen and Lewis, will “add so much more value to the work of the university and will be a big draw for visitors.”

As she presented her mother's gift, Barbara said, “The story of this gift begins with my mother's mother, Margaret McIvor. She attended Burman University in the early 1930s when it was known as Canadian Junior College. Her decision to go to school on the hilltop was the first chapter in a story that has now brought us back to the hilltop again almost a century later. During the last 90 years, four generations of my family have studied here. My mother, Airlie Edwards Fowler, was the second generation; the third generation included me and my sisters, Lorna and Vivian. My daughter, Stephanie, and Viv's daughter, Leanne, are the fourth generation. Leanne holds in her arms the fifth generation.

“All four generations know this about my mother: She is hooked on birds. But she wasn't always. This university inspired my mother's lifelong commitment to the study of birds. In 1967, when my mother was back on the hilltop, registering for college classes, she chose a natural history class, taught by Mr. John Irvine. He required his students to select



a project. Bird watching was one of his suggestions. Although my mum chose to watch birds to fulfill a requirement, she never stopped watching. She now has 50 years of bird sightings recorded in her birding diary. And that brings us to the subject of our celebration this afternoon.

“Our family has chosen to make a donation to Burman University in honour of my mother’s 80th birthday. My mum would not have wanted anything else for her birthday. She is not a collector of stuff. (She collects only lists of birds.) Instead of stuff, she believes in gifts of service. Her life has been a gift of service to her family and to her community. This school gave her the training she relied upon first as a teacher, and then as an office administrator.

“Our gift is also in honour of my parents’ commitment to the gospel commission. They were missionaries in Swift Current, Saskatchewan; in Sherwood Park, Alberta; and then overseas in Pakistan, Botswana and Zambia. In each of those places, they were involved in both the health and education programs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe that the example they have set should be memorialized so that others will also answer the call to serve. We trust that this investment in Burman University will inspire students and faculty alike by the science and the beauty of flight.”

## *The Waterman/Booth Story*

Another story shared at the Homecoming Banquet emphasized the 2019 theme: “Pioneers and Innovators: Giving Their Best.” J.D. Victor Fitch, President Emeritus, introduced Andrew Roy and Lorna Waterman. He told of how Andy, having limited schooling himself, owned his own fishing boat when he was just 20 years old. But, despite his dyslexia, he valued education—not only for his three children, but also for others. Fitch explained that, as far as he knows, their fishing business was the first to hire students in the summer to earn tuition dollars. “Others followed their leadership and many students, at Burman as well as other Adventist universities, were able to receive a Christian education.”

Bruce Booth (HS ’75, att. ’75-’78) was one of those students. His sister, Vera Hyde, read Bruce’s letter to the banquet audience. “Burman was still Canadian Union College and did not have degree-granting status when I needed to transfer to Walla Walla University to complete my undergraduate degree.



*President Agrey honours the Watermans for their many years of creating earning opportunities for Burman students.*

“Although I’m a born and bred flat-lander from Alberta, some friends suggested I get in touch with Andy Waterman to ask for a summer job packing herring.

“In March 1978, I was a scrawny, long-haired prairie kid who showed up at the starboard side of Andy’s boat out on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Note: I was not actually on the boat; I was at the starboard side of the boat, standing on the pontoon of a float plane. As I balanced precariously, Andy walked out of the galley, looked down at me, and said, “You need a haircut!” Then he turned and walked back to the galley. I was thankful that fellow Albertan Bruce Kay (HS ’77) was already on the boat. He helped me aboard.

“Man, Bruce Kay and I were greenhorns! Both prairie boys, we didn’t know the difference between the drum, deck winch and boom! I thought after the first few days, we’d be lucky if Andy waited until getting to shore before turfing us and getting some real help!

“But he kept us and gave us an incredible opportunity to be part of the Port Hardy fishing fleet. He extended the same opportunity to my brother Kevin and several other Alberta friends. We made very good money—most of my classmates graduated from podiatric medicine with a debt of about US \$200,000, but I had ZERO debt! But that’s not all . . . we also made lifelong friends and saw unbelievable ocean scenery. And, in my case, the best catch wasn’t a few thousand sockeye salmon, but the beautiful cook Alisa, who became my wife.

“So thank you, Andy and Lorna! Thank you again not only for the job, but for opening Port Hardy, you home and your hearts to us! ”



Photo by Myla Trenchuk

When Jenelle Trenchuk-Saik (HS '98, '04) played hockey in February 2011 on "Saiker's Acres" in Alberta's Strathcona County, the back of her jersey proudly announced, "PLUS ONE!" It referenced her status as mom-to-be. Jenelle and Brent's son would be born that August.



In 1996 Brent started the annual Terry Saik Memorial Golf Tournament and raised nearly \$35,000. But he didn't stop there. He wanted to do something more, something bigger.

*Burman alumna hits home run:*

## Living Lives That Matter

If it seems extreme that an expectant mom would be part of a game that has such a reputation for speed and rough play as hockey, all can be explained with, "Jenelle was on a mission!"

For the previous year or more, Jenelle helped organize The World's Longest Hockey Game (WLHG). Brent Saik, an optometrist and president of Alberta Sports Vision Institute, while not a hockey player himself, organized the first WLHG eight years before in response to the ravages of cancer in his family. First Brent's father died of the disease; then his first wife.

Not willing to accept that one in four Albertans are diagnosed with cancer and that one in two die after their diagnosis, he decided to fight back. He made good on his promise to his father, Terry, to carry on the Saik legacy of community support and raise funds for Edmonton's Cross Cancer Institute (CCI), where Terry spent his last days.

So, in 2003, Brent held the inaugural World's Longest Hockey Game (WLHG), that included 40 players playing 80 consecutive hours. This event raised \$150,000 in support of a gene-analyzer, now used in pediatric cancer research at the Cross Cancer Institute.



Photo: Mandy Kostiuk Photography

*So far, the Saiks' "project" has raised over \$5 million for cancer care and research.*

From 2003 to 2018, Brent and Jenelle (since 2010) focused their efforts on organizing the World's Longest Hockey Game, an event that was, and continues to be, a huge success.

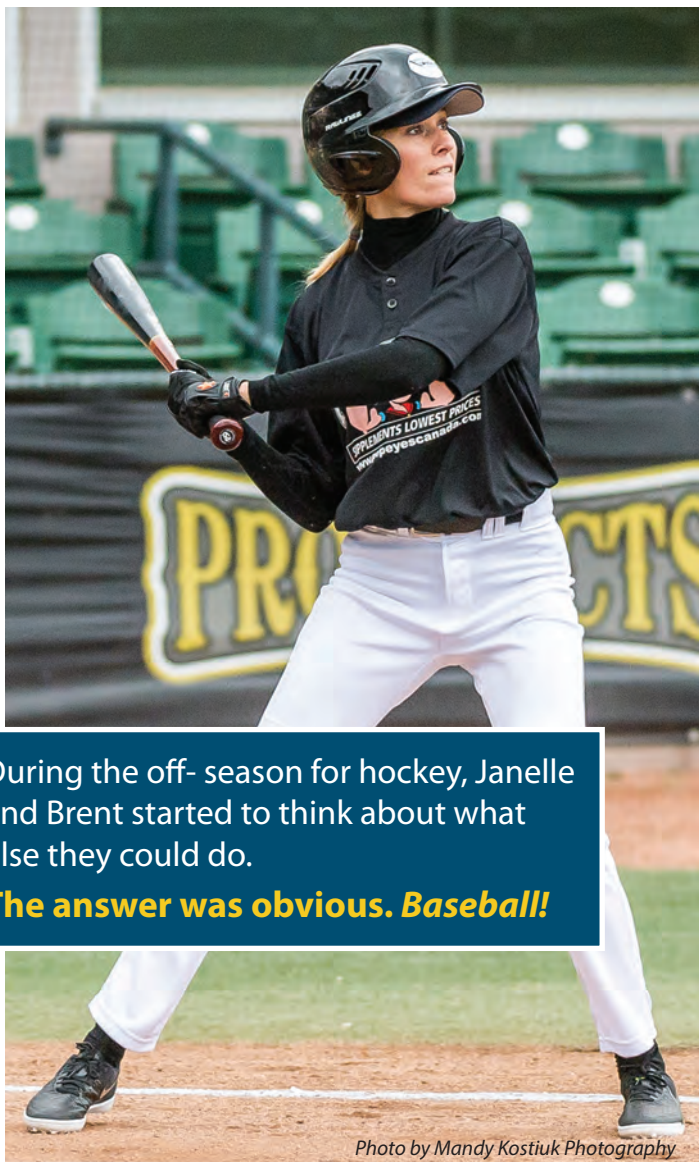
But they couldn't help but think, "Can we do more? What about doing something during the hockey off-season?"

Brent's love of baseball got them thinking, and before they knew it, the World's Longest Baseball Game (WLBG) was born and proved to be a great success in 2016. The second WLBG attracted a huge crowd to Sherwood Park's Centennial Park, Diamond #9, from August 22 to 25 of this year. Their goal of \$250,000 was exceeded by \$210,000. So \$460,000, will fund new drug and therapeutic development for blood cancer at the University of Alberta to support patients at the Cross Cancer Institute.



They now capture all of their events under one single and inclusive umbrella: The World's Longest Game (WLG). They have raised more than \$5 million for the Alberta Cancer Institute in support of leading edge equipment and life-saving research. (See the sidebar.)

Brent and Jenelle's website is <http://www.worldslongestgame.ca/> They invite all—individuals, schools, businesses, organizations—to get involved and help them in their fight against cancer.



During the off- season for hockey, Jenelle and Brent started to think about what else they could do.

**The answer was obvious. Baseball!**

Alumna Jenelle at bat. A mom and also an optometrist, Jenelle not only helps Brent organize the World's Longest Games, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Mandy Kostiuik Photography

With help from countless volunteers, donors, players and committee members, Brent and Jenelle have now organized six World's Longest Hockey Games and two World's Longest Baseball Games.

2003	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: Gene analyzer for pediatric cancer research at the Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) ■ 80 Hours of hockey raised \$150,000</p>
2005	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: Microarray Platform for pediatric cancer research at the CCI ■ 240 hours of hockey raised \$350,000</p>
2008	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: Confocal microscope to improve imaging techniques at CCI ■ 241 hours of hockey raised \$559,858</p>
2011	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: Linear accelerator to improve radiation therapy at CCI ■ 242 hours of hockey raised \$1,139,240</p>
2015	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: PET-MR used in cancer research at CCI ■ 250 hours of hockey raised \$1,262,691</p>
2016	<p><b>World's Longest Baseball Game</b> Project: Immunotherapy treatment development to enable the body's own immune system to fight cancer ■ 72 hours of baseball raised \$287,000</p>
2018	<p><b>World's Longest Hockey Game</b> Project: Terry Fox Research Institute PROFYLE project to provide better targeted treatments of pediatric cancer patients ■ 251 hours of hockey raised \$1,235,841</p>
2019	<p><b>World's Longest Baseball Game</b> Project: New drug and therapeutic development for blood cancer at the University of Alberta to support patients at CCI ■ 85 hours of baseball raised \$460,000</p>

## What's New at PAA

### Cross-Country Team Members Qualify for Provincials

Not everyone can excel at traditional sports, but, according to Parkview Adventist Academy's (PAA) cross-country/track and field team coach, Zack Loxdale, anyone can run.



Cross Country team with Coach Zack Loxdale (far left)



Bethany Kiers placed in the 800 meter run.



Paxton Huether "pours it on." He also placed in the high jump.

This is the second year since the PAA cross country/track and field team organized, and the first year that the academy had two students qualify for the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) meet. Both Bethany Kiers and Paxton Huether made the cut at the "Zones" held on May 23 in Red Deer, Alberta. Bethany qualified by placing 4th in both the 800m and the 4x100m, while Paxton finished 8th in the high jump in the provincial meet.

"The nice thing about cross country is that it works for anyone of any skill," adds Loxdale whose PAA team has competed in both local and regional events with some success. "It has been

awesome to watch the progress the kids have made and see some of our students on the podium and others qualifying for the provincials."

### Personal Finance Course Adds Value to Student Experience

Vice Principal Rod Jamieson points out that PAA is in the unique position of being one of the only Adventist schools in Alberta where teachers teach exclusively in their areas of expertise. "We want teachers to be excited about teaching; excited teachers make for excited students," he explains.

When students can choose an elective course taught by a teacher who is passionate about his subject and sees it as a life skill students will value, they more readily learn to appreciate its relevance.

For instance, Colton Greenlaw's expertise is in mathematics. He also has a special interest in personal finance and teaches it as an elective course. "The Personal Finance course is designed to prepare young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their finances when they become adults," he explains. "Students learn essential concepts such as how to track expenses, increase income, get out of debt, save money effectively and do taxes. They also learn insurance principles and investment strategies."

While this elective course is not an alternative to core math classes, Mr. Greenlaw believes it will help equip students with skills that will help them avoid debt as much as possible and live a fulfilling and profitable life.

### Anticipating Next Year

Parkview Adventist Academy is looking forward to another great year. Academy enrollment remains steady in the 80s. The Maple Hall dormitory opened on August 25 for students coming from as far away as China, Brazil and several countries in Africa.

PAA's teaching staff remains the same with the exception of Michelle Lintan who is on maternity leave to spend time with baby Everly. Principal Dallas Weis is confident of another "Christ-centered year where students will be challenged academically and grow spiritually within a fun-filled and happy environment."



## Looking Ahead to the Future of Parkview Adventist Academy



For some time, discussions regarding the feasibility of a merger between College Heights Christian School (CHCS)—an Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventist school—and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA)—a Burman University school—have raised many questions about the future of PAA.

Currently, PAA is under the administrative umbrella of Burman University. The Board of Trustees is pursuing a K-12 model, combining the operations of PAA and CHCS, which they believe is the most viable option for future operation of the two schools on the hilltop.

The following interview with Dallas Weis, principal of PAA, addresses some of the more common questions being asked.

### **Q. Many questions have been asked the past couple of years about what will happen with Parkview Adventist Academy in the future. From your point of view, what do you believe PAA will look like for future students and their families?**

*Weis: I see PAA continuing to offer the high quality Adventist education for which it has been known for many years. Although not all the details have been determined at this time, the goal is to continue to offer excellent Adventist education to those who wish to choose it.*

### **Q. Parents and alumni have wondered whether or not there will continue to be a boarding option for PAA students. What housing will be available to accommodate international and out-of-town students?**

*Weis: PAA still offers an excellent boarding option for those students who need it and is committed to continuing this option. The university and academy are working together to ensure that all student housing needs will be met even after the proposed separation takes place.*

### **Q. Has the Alberta Conference agreed to take over governance for the school? And, if so, when will this happen?**

*Weis: At this time, the Alberta Conference and Burman University are engaged in negotiations that would lead to PAA becoming an Alberta Conference school. Several meetings have taken place to date and, although board actions still need to happen, the goal is to see PAA under the leadership of the Alberta Conference Department of Education by the fall of 2020.*

### **Q. What will be the primary differences that students and their parents will see under the new “management?”**

*Weis: Our school program will continue to offer the same quality Adventist education that parents and students expect, and the academy will have its own operating board. One very positive and welcome impact is that families will benefit by lower tuition costs.*

### **Q. How will these changes affect the staff?**

*Weis: This question is still being worked on and answers are not yet determined since board actions have not yet taken place. Burman and the Alberta Conference do value the professionalism of the PAA staff. It should be noted that for the 2020 school year the high school dormitory deans' positions will no longer be utilized. The boarding option will fall under the auspices of the Burman University deans.*

### **Q. Will PAA stay in its current facility?**

*Weis: Burman University is committed to PAA using the present building for the near future. Discussion is also taking place between Burman and the Alberta Conference for future building needs for PAA. PAA will have adequate building space within which to run its school program.*

### **Q. What connection will PAA have with College Heights Christian School (CHCS)? For example, will these schools share a principal / teaching staff?**

*Weis: The Alberta Conference will need to define how the school configuration will look. One option would be a K-12 school where PAA and CHCS would merge, and another would be a stand-alone academy supervised by the Alberta Conference. This has yet to be defined. The staffing component still needs to be addressed. This will take place as the process moves forward.*

### **Q. How will the new governance affect the school's access to Burman Campus amenities and programs, such as choir, symphony, and Acronaires?**

*Weis: The memorandum of understanding being worked on between Burman University and the Alberta Conference allows for shared services in music (choir), gymnastics, and the gymnasium until such a time as PAA no longer needs these services.*

### **Q. How will the merger affect alumni and legacy funds?**

*Weis: PAA and Burman University are of the mind that alumni weekends will still be a shared experience. Donations are, and will continue to be, made to the school of choice—PAA or Burman University. The Heritage Funds are restricted monies and are to be used only as an endowment. The recommendation to the Burman Operating Board will be that a portion of these funds (still to be determined) be provided to PAA for their use as deemed necessary within the guidelines established.*



# Ask a Professor

*Feed the “Wildlife” Within to Stay Healthy*

**The big question is:  
What can we do to  
promote a healthy  
“wildlife” within?**

**The human body consists of approximately 30 trillion cells. However, within us (i.e. primarily in our large intestine) live another estimated 90 to 180 trillion “alien” cells. They are mostly bacteria.**

**W**hen bacteria were first discovered in the age of the microscope, researchers were horrified. They correctly believed that these microorganisms could make you sick. Today however, we are discovering that microorganisms play a vital role in our health! There seems to be a mutual beneficial, or symbiotic, relationship between these “guests” and us. Certain combinations of microorganisms actually enhance our health. They help regulate what goes into our blood stream and what does not. They produce substances benefiting cells that line the intestine. A healthy intestinal “flora” promotes good health while an unhealthy one (mostly defined by combination of the type of organisms) leads to disease.



**Dr. Klaus Irrgang**  
*Chair, Wellness Program*

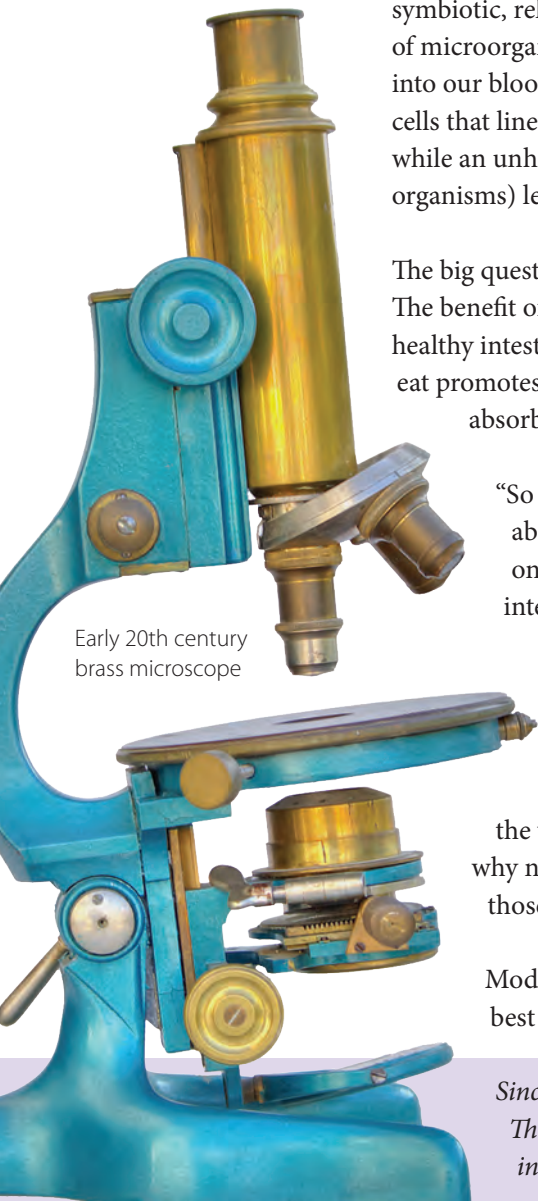
The big question is: What can we do to promote a healthy “wildlife” within? The benefit of the highly promoted probiotics is controversial. In some cases they may even hinder a healthy intestinal flora. What does help? Actually, it is best to feed our intestinal flora. And what we eat promotes a healthy or unhealthy one. Major nutrients—for example, starch, sugar, protein, fat—get absorbed before they reach this microflora.

“So how do we feed these guys then? Different kinds of fiber is the answer! Fibers are not absorbed, so they can make their way to the large intestine where the microorganisms feed on them,” says biology professor Dr. Pekka Määttänen, who specializes in research of the intestinal microflora.

I suggest not limiting fiber intake to a few sources, but including a great variety. Especially beneficial are seeds, like flax and chia seeds, and some berries. There is also an abundance of fibers in vegetables, fruits (especially berries), whole grains and legumes. Fibers may be part of the reason why these are so good for us—far beyond the vitamins, antioxidants and minerals they contain. That could explain, at least in part, why numerous studies of vitamin supplements have not found them to be beneficial (except to those who sell these products). So isolating some food ingredients is not the answer.

Modern-day research is confirming that the natural, whole food our Creator has given us is best to maintain our health.

*Since the 17th century the microscope has played a critical role in understanding human health. The 21st century electron microscope has opened an entirely new universe in the study of intestinal flora and its benefits.*



Early 20th century  
brass microscope



**K**imberly (Sankey) Senechal (HS '95, att. '95-97) recently completed the Tahoe Rim Trail Endurance Run 100-mile footrace. She says, "Being called crazy is a compliment."

Kim describes her experience nearing the 50 mile mark of the race:

As it cooled off, I found myself solidly in that elusive flow state where time stands still and everything seems effortless. Endorphins flowed strongly and nothing hurt. I was on a high and, as I breathed in the fragrance of the conifers, I praised God for creating this magnificent place. For creating the planet. For creating me. Overwhelmed with gratitude, I found myself praying the prayer that I pray nearly every morning before I start work as a physiotherapist. "Lord, please send me the people I need to connect with today. Please send me someone I can help." Amazingly God immediately sent me someone to help during the race, someone who needed a light to run in the dark. He then provided opportunities for me to connect with incredible people throughout rest of the race, often in darkest hours. The metaphors for life are strong in long-distance races that runners call an "ultra."

Early in life, Kim knew she wanted to help people, specifically by becoming a physiotherapist. After earning her degree at Andrews University, she established her own practice and eventually became the director of The Running & Gait Centre at the Pan Am Clinic in Winnipeg, MB.

While Kim admits that her life is at times decidedly out of balance,



**Share  
Your  
Light**



she also points out that great things can't be accomplished without total commitment. Her goal isn't balance; it's harmony. By blurring the lines between and integrating all aspects of her life—the professional, the personal, the spiritual, the physical and the mental—into one experience, she tries to set an example for her patients.

**Kim explains, "Simon Sinek says, 'Passion isn't something you find, it's something you experience. Find something you believe in and what you experience will be passion.'"**

"I am passionate about both healing and running. I also have a deeply personal relationship with my God who gives me strength through it all. I aim to help others realize the greatness that exists within themselves and the immense power and peace that comes from having a deeply personal faith."

Her experiences as an ultra runner have resulted in greater empathy and professional skills. Her knowledge as a physiotherapist has allowed her to become a better coach and a better athlete. Her faith has given her perspective, compassion and resiliency to sustain buoyancy through the highs and lows of life.

Through her connections with the people she meets and through social media, Kim says that she is "able to share the joy and the passion that come from surrendering completely to what God wants for me, often in my darkest hours. He has given me the sense of responsibility to share my light and endless opportunities to do so."

Kim's motto: "Experience your passion. Burn brightly. Share your light."

# Alumni Profiles

## 50s

### Malcolm Graham '54

earned his Master's degree in Educational Administration from Pacific Union College in 1962 and returned to British Columbia where he taught and was a school principal for the next three years. In 1965, he and his family moved to Rwanda, fulfilling Malcolm's life-long dream to serve in a mission field. He was director at Gitwe College for the next six years.



Malcolm and Betty Graham

When the Graham family returned to Canada in 1972, Malcolm accepted the responsibility of working with the youth of the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He organized Pathfinder camporees and week-long summer youth hikes in the Rockies. Especially rewarding was opening the doors to the Bowden camp in 1973. He also partnered with the Christian Record Braille Foundation to launch the first camp for the visually impaired.

For five years, 1982–1987, Malcolm filled the position of President of Canadian Union College (now Burman University). Always actively seeking new challenges throughout his career as educator, Malcolm found retirement gave him time and opportunity to get involved in more areas. For instance, he worked with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Rwanda and with the

ADRA and United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Guinea, West Africa during the Liberian refugee crisis. In 2003 he returned to Rwanda to serve as interim ADRA Rwanda director.

At Homecoming 2019, Burman University recognized Malcolm Graham's dedication to serve by awarding him the Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence.

**Mabel (Werner) Spenst HS '54, '55** was awarded the 2019 Burman Ambassador Award at the June Homecoming. After graduating from high school and taking pre-nursing at Burman University (then CUC), Mabel worked in hospitals and nursing facilities.

Through the years, Mabel practiced caring and hospitality. She's lived in the Lacombe area for 56 years, and for 21 of these, she was busy at the College Heights Church. She helped in the children's divisions, was the Sabbath School secretary and served as head deaconess. She remembered birthdays, attended showers, visited seniors and ministered to grieving families.



When she was chair of the Welcoming Committee, Mabel "kept her ears open." She'd "find out who is new in the area, stop by and visit, take a bag of groceries. Sometimes I'd hear that the family needed clothes or food, so I'd make sure that their needs were met. Sometimes there was money from a church fund, but other

times required finding extra money in hidden pockets."

Mabel shared this hospitality with Hilltop students as well. Often she'd invite them to dinner—especially those far from home—and tell them to bring their friends. She didn't know if she'd have four or 14 around the table, but there was always enough food. Mabel cherishes the friendships she has with the students. "I still hear from a number of them even though they've graduated. They'll send me cards or write a letter. From them, I've received unending blessings and joy."

**Ken Trefz HS '54** was awarded the Parkview Adventist Academy Alumnus of the Year award at Homecoming 2019. After graduating from Walla Walla College in 1963, Trefz taught biology and chemistry in Adventist schools for nine years.



Wanting to expand his horizons, Trefz continued his education at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. He graduated in 1976 and was in private practice, working on Native Reserves in Alberta for 11 years, before moving to the Northern Mariana Islands. Here he served as director at the Saipan Adventist Clinic for two years.

This was followed by short-term *locums* in Alberta and overseas. Ken travelled outside of North America 14 times to perform dentistry in Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal (twice), Palau, Nicaragua (twice), Malawi, Mexico, St.

Vincent, Guatemala, Brazil and Peru (twice). He also worked for the Canadian government north of the 60th parallel in 13 communities, from the northern tip of Baffin Island to Fort Laird in the Northwest Territories. With a passion for service, Ken has been involved with 26 Maranatha projects, six of which were located outside of North America. He has worked 19 times at summer camps at the Walla Walla Biology Station in the US and also once in Canada. Presently, Ken keeps his passion of service alive with his involvement in purchasing sewing machines for new immigrants to Kelowna.

## 80s

**Barry W. Bussey '87** earned a doctoral degree at Leiden University, Netherlands, one of Europe's leading international research universities. He is Director of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Notre Dame, Australia (Sydney). He also serves on Burman University's Board of Trustees.



Barry has advocated for religious freedom throughout his career in court and in his writing. He served as intervener counsel in several Canadian cases arguing in favour of religious freedom. Together with Iain T. Benson, he edited the Lexis Nexis publication *Religion, Liberty and the Jurisdictional Limits of Law* (2017).



# Alumni Profiles

In 2012 he was a recipient of the Diamond Jubilee Medal for religious freedom work in Canada and abroad. From 2009-2011 he represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Washington, D.C., International Religious Liberty Association at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, Switzerland.

As Director of Legal Affairs of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, Barry's responsibilities include interpreting legal and regulatory environments and representing the Christian charitable sector to the wider Canadian society.

Barry sees himself as an independent scholar who holds traditional moral views. He writes, "My role is to be a voice advocating a different view and reminding everyone that we may not agree with the religious practice of others on the fundamental issues of life (like marriage, abortion, end of life, etc.) but that we allow religious individuals and communities to live their lives in accordance with their faith. Unfortunately, that is not politically correct in the age of identity politics that demands that religious communities accept modern moral norms." He continues, "I may be Don Quixote going after windmills, but that is how I see it."

**Janet (Pierce) McKay '88** graduated with an Associate of Science certificate under Professor Alva Blabey. She worked briefly at an audiology clinic in Alberta, but it didn't take long for her to return home to the Maritimes where she worked in medical transcription at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, NS, for the past 29 years. Now, after retirement, she still works two days a week because, she says, "It's a little hard to let go of something you've been doing for so long and enjoy."

With the increased implementation of voice recognition software, retirements and attrition, Janet became the sole medical transcriptionist for 30 physicians in the Division of Cardiology. After attending a 5-day seminar to revise and improve reports for the division, she served on a committee to reevaluate the job descriptions for clerical positions and was involved in various working groups to facilitate the implementation of a new management system in the department.



Janet writes, "I thank God for the opportunity to study at CUC under such dedicated professors. I made some incredible memories, formed wonderful friendships and met my amazing husband, Kevin, to whom I've been married for 30 years. I was involved in campus ministries (both native and prison) and choir. As part of the singing group 'New Dawn,' I had the opportunity to tour across Canada to each of the camp meetings one summer." Music still plays a major role in Janet's life. She and Kevin are part of a small singing group, sharing the gospel message.

## 90s

**Scott HS '80, '99 and Teresa (Ginther) Tataryn '99** are both Burman graduates, Teresa with a degree in education and Scott with a degree in psychology. Their first year after graduation meant a long-distance relationship as Teresa taught at

Pine Valley Adventist Academy in Grand Prairie, while Scott remained in central Alberta and began working at the Michener Centre. Teresa then returned to Lacombe to teach at College Heights Adventist Junior Academy for three years.



It was during this time that Scott became involved in foster parenting for high-needs, high-risk children, beginning with the first child in 1997. When they married in 1998, the Tataryns continued their foster parenting experience, and since then have raised six children to adulthood, along with children of numerous other short-term foster placements. Their six long-term children have remained a part of their family, which also includes their own two sons, Kyin and Kage. Though they've taken a break from long-term fostering to raise their boys, Scott and Teresa continue to serve in support of respite needs as they can.

Both Teresa and Scott are active in their local church, in central Alberta and beyond. Scott serves on the board of directors for Foothills Livestock Co-Op, which provides financial support to farmers and ranchers throughout western Canada. Teresa's advocacy for inclusive education led her to Third Academy, where for several years she was teacher and principal of students across a spectrum of learning needs. Scott and Teresa are also strong supporters of Adventist education. Their children attend a local Adventist school,

and Teresa shares her passion for inclusive education with students at Burman University through practicum placements at Gateway Christian Academy, Red Deer, where she serves as principal. Scott and Teresa have been part of numerous Neighbours projects sponsored by A Better World Canada and have done overseas mission work with A Better World and Edu/Deo.

The Tataryns were honoured at the recent Homecoming when presented with Burman's Alumni of the Year award.

## 00s

**Garrick Herr HS '00, '00-03** studied physical therapy at Loma Linda University. He graduated with a DPT in 2006 and married Stephanie Barr (att. '99-'00). They moved to Alaska because they thought it "would be a fun place to try living for a couple of years right after we got married." Thirteen years later, they are still living in Wasilla where all three of their children were born.



(Left to right) Derion 8, Garrick, Stephanie (Barr), Cherise 1 and Avril 5

Garrick specializes in orthopedic physical therapy. He sees patients with sports injuries, post surgical complications, chronic pain as well as other musculoskeletal injuries. Most of his patients live locally, but some drive up to three hours to see him. Others, living in remote villages as far away as

# Alumni Profiles

Dillingham or Skagway, come to stay in Wasilla for treatments. Garrick keeps current by attending conferences on manual therapy; he has certifications in Dry Needling and Fascial Manipulation.

For “extra-curricular” activities, Garrick hosts runners’ clinics, and coaches youth hockey and soccer. Because he believes it important to model service to their children, he is his church’s webmaster and “head AV guy.” Recently, when their church was without a pastor, he even preached a sermon on one of his favorite topics: How our bodies are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

**Landon Saylor HS '01, '08** holds a master’s degree in education and taught high school science at Parkview Adventist Academy for seven years. He completed a medical degree at Loma Linda University (LLU) this year.

While he was a student at LLU School of Medicine, Landon applied for and was awarded the university’s inaugural Arthur Maxwell Scholarship for Excellence in the Study of Religion. This scholarship comes with a \$10,000 gift that enabled him to enroll in a dual degree program offered by the LLU School of Religion. The Master of Arts in Religion and Society is, according to the university, “ideal for individuals seeking deeper biblical, theological and philosophical insight . . . in the context of a range of vocational settings. Healthcare is one of those settings.”

**Robin George HS '03** is a professional animator who has worked in studios in the US and Canada—Sony Imageworks, Rhythm & Hues, Luma Pictures and Magnetic Dreams. His VFX and feature film credits include *Angry Birds 2*, *The Emoji Movie*, *Storks*, *Hotel Transylvania 2*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* and *Hop*.

Robin’s graduating project, *Tezcatlipoca*, was featured



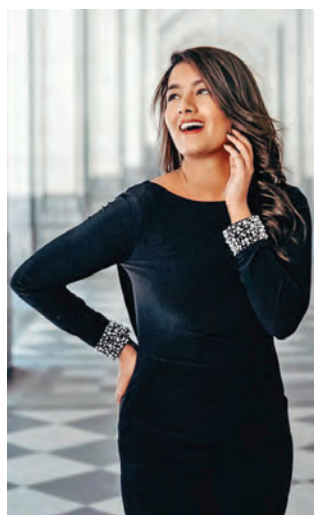
on PBS’s *Life on Fire* as well as at the 2009 SIGGRAPH Animation Festival. Most recently Robin was lead animator on *Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse*, for which the team received a number of awards, including the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

Upon completing schooling at Southern Adventist University, he entered the talent development program at Disney and completed freelance work. He currently resides in Vancouver working on the film *The Mitchells vs. The Machines* for Sony Imageworks.

## 10s

**Deepa Johnny '19** won the Alberta Provincial Voice Competition and qualified for the National Competition in 2018, while studying under Dr. Wendolin Pazitka-Munroe at Burman.

Recently Deepa was accepted into the two-year Master’s program in voice/opera studies at Jacob’s School of Music, Indiana University, one of the world’s most highly recognized institutions for music education. It is Dr. Munroe’s *alma mater* and also that of other great Adventist musicians such as the American conductor Herbert Blomstedt and operatic soprano Angela Brown. Leonard Bernstein and Robert Shaw were among its illustrious faculty.



Deepa will be studying with Carlos Montane, a renown tenor who has been teaching at the university for over 36 years. Deepa writes, “It’s going to be a big and expensive transition to move to the States, but I really feel God’s hand guiding me to be there and to continue my development as a professional artist. God is blessing in my life.” She adds, “I’m praying that I remain a witness to my faith no matter where I am or what I do, and to pay this blessing forward through my ministry in music.”

## Breaking News

**Joy Fehr, PhD**, became president of La Sierra University, Riverside, California, on July 1. At Burman University she was professor of English, dean of the arts division and vice president for academic administration from 1998-2015. She joined La Sierra University as associate provost in 2015.



Alumni,  
we’d like to hear  
from you!

Online  
[alumni@burmanu.ca](mailto:alumni@burmanu.ca)

By Mail  
Alumni Association  
Burman University  
6730 University Drive  
Lacombe, AB Canada T4L 2E5

- Send digital photos by email in the jpg, tif or eps file format. File sizes of one megabyte or more are best.
- Because space is limited, your message may be edited.
- Be sure to include your date of graduation or dates of attendance.





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## In Memoriam

Burman University notes with sorrow the passing of the following alumni (based on information received between June 2018 and June 2019)

### **Benjamin Agyei-Donkor HS'08**

February 10, 2018

### **Don Anderson (att)**

(Date unavailable)

### **Della (Schueler) Astleford (att)**

June 10, 2018

### **Dawna (Johnson) Beausoleil HS'70, C'71, staff**

April 4, 2019

### **Delvin James Berg (att)**

Nov. 9, 2018

### **Catherine (Sankey) Chinn C'47**

March 25, 2018

### **Gwendolyn Alice (Uniat) Cooper (att)**

July 19, 2018

### **T. Glynn Davies C'52**

Dec. 31, 2017

### **Robert Constantine Donesky C'64**

March 12, 2019

### **Karen Melenchuk Ferguson HS '71**

Jan. 29, 2019

### **Dorothy (Jacobson) Fisher HS'55**

Sept. 12, 2018

### **Jon Randall Gustaven HS'77**

Jan. 24, 2019

### **Bernice Hafner HS'54, C'55**

June 2, 2019

### **Evelynn (Thiessen) Hawes HS'49**

June 4, 2018

### **Harvey Lloyd Heinrichs HS'60**

March 23, 2019

### **Ralph Raymond Hill HS'84**

June 12, 2018

### **Jane (Murdoch) Iglar HS'54, C'56**

June 20, 2018

### **John Alfred Irvine, staff**

July 25, 2018

### **Richard Ernest Johanson (att)**

Nov. 2, 2018

### **Louis Chester Johnson HS'59, C'60**

Jan. 5, 2019

### **Sandra (Doering) Kelly (att)**

July 14, 2018

### **Victor Latoski HS'53**

Feb. 2, 2019

### **Osborne Lorne Lee C'54**

July 17, 2018

### **Robert Kenley McCarty HS'83**

March 4, 2019

### **Gladys (Dick) Miles CJC'41**

Jan. 9, 2019

### **Jill (Moore Semograde) Morrison (att)**

(Date unavailable)

### **Marvin O'Shea (att)**

August 25, 2018

### **Daniel Walter Pashniak HS'49**

April 28, 2019

### **Gladys (Prosser) Pelkey-Currie HS'52**

June 7, 2018

### **Peter Penner HS'58**

Oct. 31, 2018

### **Ernest La Vern Polishuk HS'53**

May 27, 2019

### **Kenneth Dean Proud (att)**

Aug. 14, 2018

### **Sylvia (Ganz) Reimche (att)**

Jan. 2, 2019

### **Ashley C. Robertson staff**

Sept. 7, 2018

### **Maj-Britt (Berggren) Rusk staff**

June 14, 2018

### **Colby Allen Sackett (HS'19)**

Feb. 14, 2019

### **Lyle Richard Schaber HS'55, C'57**

Dec. 22, 2018

### **Laura (Dyke) Smith (att)**

March 20, 2019

### **Betty (Heinrichs) Sorensen HS'54, C'56**

August 2, 2018

### **Helmut David Spenst (att)**

August 8, 2018

### **Ron Sullivan staff**

April 6, 2019

### **Everett Donald Tetz C'49, C'51**

May 16, 2018

### **Hazel (Thompson) Thomsen HS'47, C'48**

2017

### **William van Scheik HS'60, staff**

Jan. 28, 2019

### **Elodie (Tetz) Verboom (att), staff**

Nov. 2, 2018

### **Ellsworth Wareham CJC'36**

Dec. 15, 2018

### **William Richard Warman (att)**

Jan. 21, 2019

### **Pauline (Sankey) White C'47**

(Date unavailable)

Burman University  
6730 University Drive  
Lacombe, AB Canada T4L 2E5

Parkview Adventist Academy  
6940 University Drive  
Lacombe, AB Canada T4L 2E7



Parkview Adventist  
Academy

# Believe in Burman

## Annual Fund



November 30, 2019

Each year alumni and Seventh-day Adventist church members across Canada give an Annual Offering to help young people at Burman University as they journey to higher education and greater service. On November 30, 2019, you will again have the opportunity to enhance the learning environment at Burman. Your gift will help support projects that range from entrance scholarships to sidewalks, from bike racks to tutoring, from chapel lighting to microscopes. Each dollar makes a difference.

Thank you for your life-changing gift to Burman University!

"This campus has been so good to me and I owe much of my own personal growth to my time here at both PAA and Burman. I had amazing teachers and spiritual leaders who encouraged me to come out of my shell; they were instrumental in my development as a leader."

Busi Dzingirayi  
3rd-year Business Major

