

Photo by Lily Hodgson

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WELCOME TO BU!

By Charles Adamu, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On behalf of the staff and students of Brandon University, I would like to welcome you all into a new year. 2024! To be honest, it feels like just yesterday that it was 2023, and the day before that, it was 2022 (I guess what I am trying to say is that time is running, and not the kind of running you partake in when you're on the treadmill, more like the "the dog is chasing me" kind of running).

Before I go on, let me introduce myself. My name is Charles Adamu, and I am the assistant Editor-in-Chief of Brandon University's newspaper The Quill. On behalf of all the members of The Quill, I say welcome! As always, as the semester goes by, I'll be updating you all on what is happening on campus, what has happened and what is yet to happen. Brandon University might seem like a small campus, but I tell you what, when it comes to activities and events, we are no slackers.

I would love to welcome especially all those that have joined us in this winter semester. Welcome to Brandon University! (So you know... I am taking a slight bow right now). I can't help but imagine the different scenarios that must have played in your heads as to what studying here would be like. I can't help but ponder if you thought you would stumble upon a big gate labeled "Brandon University" on your first day here, as I did. Also, considering the weather and the various geographical locations that you all arrived from, I am sure the adjustment has not been easy. To be honest, I would certainly not appreciate leaving my country at 20 degrees celsius and touching down in a place with negative degrees. I tell you what, my body is going to be asking me

questions like, "Bro, what are you doing in a freezer?", or like, "Bro, did you go visit Santa Claus?" or maybe even like, "Bro, what are you doing visiting Elsa?" In the spirit of welcoming our newbies, I'm going to take the next few lines to give you some advice.

To start with, do not panic; It can be exciting but simultaneously overwhelming - coming from home to an entirely different place. A place with negative temperature readings, different lifestyles, different cultures, and my most annoying difference: different food. But hey, "poco a poco," take it one step at a time. Do not rush. Do not compare your degree of settledness with someone else's because it varies for all of us. Secondly, please ask questions. It might not be the largest of campuses but Brandon University has it all, so if you need something or you're in doubt about something, ask. Lastly, put yourself out there. I know you're an introvert, I know you don't like to talk to people, and I know you're a loner, but it is a big transition, and you might find yourself feeling alone or out of place and so it is best to put yourself out there. Say hi to the person beside you in class, go to the gym, go to get-togethers and events. Be it the ones in residence, the ones organized by BUSU, or the ones organized by fellow students on campus, events are a great way to meet people.

I have enjoyed my time so far at Brandon University; I have made the best of friends, been taught by the best of lecturers, and have met the best of people. I hope you all enjoy your time here at Brandon University even more than I have. This is 2024, and this year, it's for you!

THE QUILL IS NOW ON TIKTOK!

The Brandon University Quill has joined TikTok! You can follow us at @buthequill, and watch our first video, a compilation of interviews about Christmas in Brandon compared to Christmas in students' home countries. This video was created by the unstoppable team of Assistant EIC Charles Adamu, Blessing Akonke, Favour, and Lydia. Thank you to everyone who agreed to be interviewed, and thank you to everyone who has checked out the TikTok so far! We look forward to making more video content for the exciting new social media platform.

THE QUILL'S WRITING CONTEST CONTINUES!

The Quill is currently holding a Short Story Contest. Entries should be between 500-1300 words, and can be from any genre. Submissions will be due January 15th, and the winner will be announced January 24th. The winner will receive a gift card!

Writers can choose from one of these three prompts:

- 1) Write the story of a family holiday dinner gone wrong.
- 2) Write a story about "the perfect gift".
- 3) Write a story from the perspective of a snowflake.

Questions and submissions can be sent by email to eic.thequill@gmail.com!

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PAIN IN BLACK

A poem by Zen

Yet again, a soul taken away Why ?
 Because of the colour of his skin?
 Because of the chances he was never given ? A young man lost his life
 For being an immigrant?
 For struggling with his mental?
 For being young?
 A young man's fate, in injustice, lies. No questions asked, 3 shots to dead
 "We serve to protect" they solemnly claim
 But you took a man too soon from the bosom of the arms he fled for for a better life
 "We are one"
 Lies unfold , as a black man's life goes cold.

REST IN PEACE, ZIGI

The above poem, published under the pen-name Zen, refers to a recent event that took place in Manitoba's capital city, Winnipeg. Afolabi Stephen Opasso (Zigi) was a 19-year-old international student from Nigeria. In the afternoon on December 31st, 911 was called, requesting assistance for a mental health crisis. According to a lawyer in charge of the case, "They made sure they said this was a mental health situation, that the person is their friend, you know, is not a danger to anyone. It was just they needed assistance," (Statement to CTV News). Police showed up at the apartment and quickly discharged three shots, then took Zigi to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. There is no evidence that Zigi threatened or attacked the police officers, and according to some reports they may not have given him time to do anything at all before shooting.

Why did a mental health call lead to the death of a 19-year old Black man? Why have the Winnipeg police murdered at least six Black, Indigenous, or otherwise racialized individuals in the past five months (several of which were in response to mental health calls)?

In 2021, the Winnipeg Police Service announced the Alternative Response to Citizens in Crisis (ARCC) project,

which would involve mental health clinicians and plainclothes police officers responding to mental health crises, rather than uniformed officers. Why wasn't ARCC employed in this case? Winnipeg Police claim it would not have been suitable, as the officers couldn't ensure the

safety of the situation. Whatever excuse they make, there is NO reason to fatally shoot a man in the midst of a mental health crisis. The officers responsible need to be fired at the very least, and the ARCC program clearly needs to be improved and universalized. In what world do mental health crises call for uniformed, armed police officers and not doctors? Mentally unwell people need psychiatrists and treatment, not bullets in their chest. Zigi should have gotten the mental healthcare that he needed, and gone on to finish his degree and follow his dreams like any other young person.



Photo courtesy of CBC News

Zigi is remembered as a passionate, caring friend with a deep love for music and especially dance. Prior to this event, he had experienced one episode of psychosis last July, but was otherwise described as an overall happy person. He is deeply missed by friends and family, both in Canada and in his home country of Nigeria. I hope there will be justice for this devastating loss.

DECEMBER BOBCATS UPDATE

By Trinity Nysten, Junior Reporter

Men's Soccer

In November, the Bobcats men's soccer team travelled to Windsor, ON, to compete in the CCAA Men's Soccer National Championship. They played against the Douglas College Royals, Keyano College Huskies, and the University of Kings College Blue Devils during the tournament. The Bobcats had three hard-fought matches and ultimately secured a win in their final game against the Blue Devils. In league history, the Bobcats became the first Manitoba team to win a game at the Soccer National Championship.

The Men's Soccer team was also recently named The Brandon Sun's Team of the Year for their accomplishments in the 2023 season.

Women's Soccer

BU's women's soccer team also had the opportunity to travel to their first-ever national championship in the program's history. The Women's Soccer CCAA National Championship was held in Summerside, PEI. The women faced Champlain College Cavaliers, University of Kings College Blue Devils, and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Trojans. After a disappointing loss in their first game, the Bobcats dropped by one point in their following two matches. Striker Keeshae Masters scored the first-ever goal by a Manitoba team on the national stage in the team's second game against the Blue Devils.

Men's and Women's teams will begin their indoor futsal season in mid-January.

Men's Volleyball

The Bobcats Men's Volleyball team is currently in a four-way tie for the third-place ranking in the Canada West division on U-Sports. Their final weekend before the winter break ended on a high note after two back-to-back wins against the UFV Cascades. However, the Bobcats split in the Wesmen Classic Tournament with two wins and two losses. Entering the second half of the regular season, Bobcat players Paycen Warkentin (1.34) and Phillip Lauter (1.32) lead the conference in blocks per set.

Women's Volleyball

The first half of the Bobcats Women's Volleyball team's regular season has been a rocky start with a record of 0-12. In the new year, the games to watch will be against the University of Regina on January 12th and 13th as each team battles to get a win on their sheet.

Men's Basketball

The Brandon Men's Basketball team is tied with the University of Manitoba for third place in Canada West. This team is showing up on the leaderboards, with Elisha Ampofo leading the conference with a 62.5 three-point percentage and Sultan Haider Bhatti's 11.4 rebound average. The team is looking to secure some crucial wins going into the second half of the season.

Women's Basketball

The Bobcats Women's Basketball team's regular season has not started as they would hope, with a record of 0-10; they are excited for what's to come in the second half of the regular season. Bobcats Reetta Tulkki was named Brandon University's Women's Athlete of the Month in November.

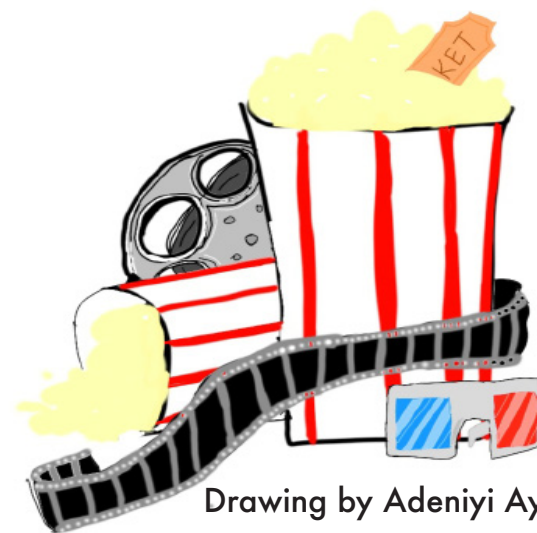
Photo by Aidan Froese



THIS WEEKEND AT THE EVANS THEATRE: MR. DRESSUP: THE MAGIC OF MAKE-BELIEVE (2023)

Kindness, creativity, inclusivity, and a touch of magic makes the world a brighter place. Explore the story and impact of Canadian entertainer Ernie Coombs and his iconic series, Mr. Dressup, which enriched the lives of five generations.

Showings on January 12, 13, and 14 at 7:30 PM.



Drawing by Adeniyi Ayodele

Pet Corner



“This puppy’s name is Summer. My parents got her for my little sister as a Christmas present. Summer is going to grow up to be such a helpful farm dog! She is a 12-week-old red heeler and loves cuddling with her new family and also eating anything and everything that she can find. She has the most beautiful white/blue eyes, and is slowly thawing the heart of our cranky old blue heeler.”

Submit your own pet photo or favourite recipe at eic.thequill@gmail.com to be featured in the next issue of The Quill!

HLC Word Search

Puzzle by Lily Hodgson

M	E	N	V	O	L	L	E	Y	B	A	L	L	T
O	R	B	C	L	L	L	A	B	O	A	U	B	G
Y	T	L	V	W	R	I	R	U	B	G	Y	L	F
L	U	Z	F	U	T	S	A	L	C	O	T	R	B
L	O	A	R	U	C	P	C	H	A	Y	R	U	A
A	K	M	N	S	U	I	S	B	T	B	A	G	D
B	R	I	B	B	R	L	R	O	S	L	C	B	M
E	O	N	O	A	L	A	E	S	C	A	K	Y	I
L	W	I	B	B	I	T	K	P	G	C	E	A	N
K	E	U	T	M	N	E	P	I	I	R	E	P	T
C	O	L	R	U	G	S	M	N	R	B	S	R	O
I	R	L	T	Z	L	B	R	A	I	I	C	E	N
P	Y	A	U	Y	A	U	B	T	H	L	C	R	Z
I	L	A	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L	S

- MINI U
- FUTSAL
- HLC
- WORKOUT
- SPIN
- BOBCATS
- BASKETBALL
- VOLLEYBALL
- BADMINTON
- SOCCER
- ZUMBA
- PICKLEBALL
- CURLING
- RUGBY
- PILATES
- BARRE
- TRACK
- YOGA

RECIPE OF THE WEEK - CHICKEN AVOCADO SALAD

Ingredients:

- 2 cooked chicken breasts, shredded (Can use rotisserie chicken or leftovers)
- 2 large avocados, sliced into bite-size pieces
- 1 cup of cooked corn
- 6 oz cooked bacon, chopped
- 1/4 cup chives or green onion, chopped
- 3 tbsp lemon juice
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- Salt, pepper, and dill to taste
- Optional: Hard-boiled egg

Instructions:

- 1) In a large bowl, combine shredded chicken, sliced avocado, corn, bacon, chives, and some dill
 - 2) In a separate bowl, make your dressing: combine lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper
 - 3) Drizzle dressing over salad and toss to combine.
- Can serve with slices of hard-boiled egg if desired.

(This recipe was originally sourced from natashaskitchen.com)

WESTERN INTER-UNIVERSITY GEOSCIENCES CONFERENCE

By Alicia Maki, Junior Reporter and Mary Elizabeth Zacharias

The 57th Western Inter-University Geoscience Conference (WIUGC) took place on January 4th to 7th 2024 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. WIUGC was hosted this year by the University of Manitoba's Geology Club. For a year and a half, they worked hard to put together an amazing event, bringing together students and professionals from across Canada to this event to network with other emerging geologists and find summer jobs. This conference was a great way to make connections to other students within Canada who are also going into geology or the earth sciences field. Students from Calgary University, Mount Royal University, Brandon University, and University of Manitoba were all in attendance.

During this three-day event, the students put together some amazing social activities:

On the first day of the event, a "rockbreaker" bingo and mini games were played throughout the night. The event was held at the Pyramid Cabaret in downtown Winnipeg. This event helped us mingle and get to know each other in a non-formal manner.

The conference included two field trips on January 5th. Students attending could choose between touring the University of Manitoba's geology labs, or travelling to Morden, Manitoba to get a tour of the Discovery Centre labs and seeing Bruce, the well-known mosasaur. A career fair was held with both junior and major companies. The career fair was a great experience to meet possible summer employers and make connections with people in companies spread across Canada.

The third day included short talks where people shared the work and exploration that they have done and plan on doing throughout 2024 and years to come. In one noteworthy talk, Alyson Stauffer, an undergraduate student from Mount Royal University which is located in Calgary, presented her research on cyclic lacustrine cycles of the Chemeron Formation in Baringo Basin in Kenya.

After these short talks, students participated as teams of two in a challenge bowl, where students compete in a trivia contest to win a cash prize and a chance to compete further in Calgary. Ten teams participated in the challenge bowl, including two Brandon University students.

The WIUGC was formally concluded with a banquet and award ceremony on January 6th.

Networking events are important in this field of study, as geology is a close and intertwined community that is very critical to be a part of as a student. The relationships built between the students are bonds that will continue to grow as we enter the workforce together.



Left: Mary Beth Z. (left) and Alicia M. (right) at the WIUGC photo booth

Above: Bruce the Mosasaur, photo by Alicia Maki

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, January 12th - 7pm
Bobcats Women's Volleyball vs U. of Regina

Saturday, January 13th - 5-10pm
3rd Annual Wheat City Nuit Blanche
A performance and art event featuring BU music students, taking place at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba

Saturday January 13th - 7pm
Bobcats Women's Volleyball vs U. of Regina

January 16-18th
Ag Days 2024 at the Keystone Centre

Wednesday January 17th - 12:30-4:30pm
Building a Culture of Consent at Work
This workshop, open to BU staff and students, will take place in Room 143 of the Health Studies building. It will focus on workplace sexual harassment and how to create workplace that encourages respect, support, and understanding. Register online now as space is limited.

Friday January 19th - 6pm
Bobcats Basketball vs Saskatchewan
Women's game starts at 6pm, men's game starts at 8pm.

Saturday January 20th - 8am-4pm
Da Capo Music Education Conference
The 17th annual Da Capo Conference will be held in the Music building. It provides music educators at all levels the opportunity to participate in workshops, seminars, and networking. Email busmea@brandonu.ca for more information.

Saturday January 20th - 12-10pm
PrairieCon Winter GamesDay
Head down to the Mingling Area to play some board games or D&D. Feel free to bring your own games!

Saturday January 20th
Bobcats Soccer
Women's and men's games vs ACC start at 11am
Men's game vs Providence starts at 12:15pm
Women's game vs Providence starts at 2:30pm

Saturday January 20th
Bobcats Basketball vs Saskatchewan
Women's game starts at 5pm, men's game starts at 7pm.

Every Wednesday @ 1pm - Scrabble Club at the Public Library

Every Wednesday @ 7pm - Jam Nights at Section 6 Brewery

Every Saturday @ 11am - Chess Club at the Public Library (all ages + abilities welcome)

Email eic.thequill@gmail.com to have your events listed in the paper!



Ag Days - Photo courtesy of Brandon Tourism

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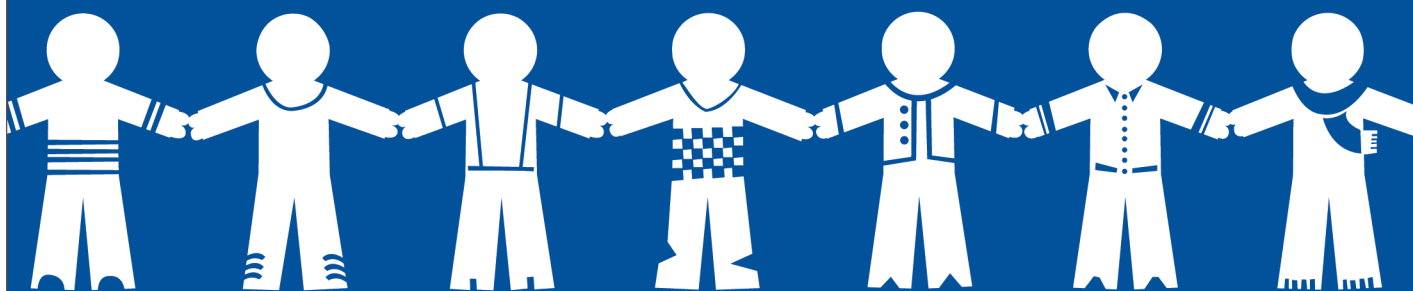
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