

Photo Credit: Ronnie Neiman

**“Your mind is for having ideas, not holding them.”**

**-David Allen, in “Getting Things Done”**

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# IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION!

By Ronnie Neiman, Editor-in-Chief

The event starts on March 15th at 7 pm at the John E. Robbins Library and continues into the early hours of March 16th, finishing at 2 am.

It is a free, after and extended-hours event that aims to provide a safe place for students to finish their assignments and to study at a crucial point in the semester. The event takes place in the Brandon University Library (Main), the Indigenous Peoples' Centre (IPC), and the George T. Richardson Centre foyer (area just outside the library and IPC doors). The main floor of the library will

be the focus of the activities taking place during the event. The second floor will be a designated quiet-zone, but be warned, noise does travel up, so it won't be completely quiet.

Reference librarians and assistants, writing coaches, math skills coaches, computer help and circulation service will be available throughout the event to work with you to help you make progress with your papers and assignments.

Brandon University's Long Night Against Procrastination is organized by Library and

IT Services, in partnership with Student Services and BUSU – and with support from HLC, IPC, the President's Office, the Vice President Academic, the Vice President Admin and Finance, and the Alumni Association.

Stay for the entire event or come for just a few hours. We do recommend that you plan your ride home in advance (last bus pick-up is at 11:30pm). There is also a Safe Walk Program, sponsored by the President's Office.



Photo Credit: Ronnie Neiman

# GETTING READY TO VOTE FOR BUSU!

by Ronnie NEIMAN, Editor-in-Chief

After a somewhat short nomination period, it is almost time to head to the polls to vote for BUSU, after the campaigning of course. Voting takes place March 9-10th. The results will be announced later on March 10th.

By voting, students are participating in the democratic process. The vote for leaders to represent them and their ideas, and the

leaders support the citizens' interests.

It is important for students to vote, so that their voices are heard for student matters. Electing someone to become the students voice in certain matters helps voices be heard in a more concentrated manner.

## VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

You will receive an email to your Brandon University

Student email address on March 9th and 10th with a link to vote. Once you are ready to vote, click the link and it will take you to a ballot survey. Each question will be for a particular Council position with the candidate's name, followed by Yes/No options. Community group positions (e.g. Accessibility & International Students Director) will have an ad-

ditional "Not Applicable" option. The survey should take approximately 2 minutes to complete. Your individual responses will be confidential and you will not be identified in any way. You can only vote only once anytime from 9 AM on Monday, March 9th to 4.30 PM on Tuesday, March 10th wherever you are, as long as you have access to your BU student email!

# BRANDON COLLEGE ALUMNUS TOPS UP DONATIONS TO MORE THAN \$650,000

BU News - Feb 13, 2023

Three major gifts over the past three fiscal years will support science students at Brandon University for generations to come, thanks to Brandon College science grad Barrie Burch.

Burch's most recent donation, this past month, was worth more than \$245,000. Combined with about \$363,000 given the past two years, as well as consistent giving for more than two decades, this brings Burch's lifetime total donations to \$652,533.23.

The recent major gifts came in the form of mutual funds, which means the donations netted significant tax savings for Burch while delivering the full value to the BU Foundation.

"Tuition is fairly expensive, and I know the students appreciate any help they can receive from a scholarship towards their tuition," Burch said. "I have a substantial portfolio that CIBC Wood Gundy & RBC Dominion Securities have helped me build and manage. Matthew Mantle at Glenn Private Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities has been

instrumental in structuring my portfolio and helping me eliminate huge tax liabilities."

Burch was born and raised on a farm near Wellwood, Man. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Brandon College in 1957, he began his career in the oil and gas industry as an exploration geologist and held several managerial positions. He went on to acquire a Bachelor of Education at the University of Calgary in the mid-'60s and taught high school for a few years before returning to his roots in the oil and gas industry. He spent 30 years working as an exploration geologist and 20 years as a consultant recruiting oil and gas employees for international companies.

"I recently had a wonderful lunch with Barrie and his daughter Cheryl at his favourite restaurant in Calgary. He regaled me with stories of lessons he learned from classmates about how to be a successful student — as well as a few less-successful strategies," said BU President Dr. David Docherty. "It is a wonderfully generous gesture for him to now share his own lifelong success with many future generations of stu-

dents."

The donations are directed to the Barrie and May Burch Scholarship-Bursary in Science, which was first established by Barrie and his late wife, May, in 2007. May (née Jones), was born and raised on a farm in the Killarney area, and was also a Brandon College graduate. She received a Teacher Training Certificate from Brandon College in 1956 and then taught near Killarney before marrying Barrie in 1958.

When they first established their award 15 years ago, the couple noted that they believed that their Brandon College education had opened up many career choices for them, and they felt it was important to give back and support other students, as they embark on the first steps in their own careers.

The recent gifts to their scholarship endowment will increase the annual award value from about \$1,500 to more than \$26,000 — with a minimum value of \$5,000 per award. This will provide numerous full-tuition awards for science students every year.



Photo Credit: Ronnie Neiman

# FIVE REASONS WHY TIKTOK IS A PRIVACY NIGHTMARE

*NORD VPN*

The app is known for collecting notorious amounts of user data and its inability to keep that data private

In December 2022, multiple US government agencies started banning TikTok from their employees' devices. The app, created by the Chinese company ByteDance, has been on the radar of American authorities for a long time because of its numerous privacy problems.

"Currently, around 95 million Americans use TikTok, and its popularity is growing daily. These numbers show that very few understand the risks this social media network brings to its users' data, including intrusive tracking and a possible connection to the Chinese government," says Adrianus Warmenhoven, a cybersecurity advisor at NordVPN.

Below, the expert explains how TikTok compromises its users' privacy.

## Data-driven algorithm and intrusive tracking

One reason for the app's success is that it can provide users with highly individualized content. Every user has their own unique feed based on their interests and preferences. But behind that individual approach is the practice of gathering vast amounts of user data within and outside of the app.

As soon as a user starts using TikTok, the company begins building a profile about them, including their interests, political leanings, sexuality, and every other variable that could impact the selection of videos they see. TikTok also collects information about users' keystroke patterns, location information, browser history, and even biometric information (face and voice print).

The problem with this is not only the fact that a huge corporation has such vulnerable information about its users and can later use it for marketing purposes. It also takes one data breach for that information to fall into the wrong hands. Hackers are eager to steal valuable data from online businesses and use it for their own malicious purposes later.

## Disregard to privacy rights of journalists

In the end of December 2022, Reuters reported that four employees were fired from TikTok's parent company ByteDance for obtaining user data of two US journalists. This happened during TikTok's unsuccessful

investigation of data leaks that had happened to the company last year.

Even though TikTok fired the employees, the fact that they were able to obtain such information shows the lack of data security in the company. Furthermore, it showed that the company does not anonymize users' IP addresses, locations, and browsing history. This means that everything a person does on the app is directly linked to a user's IP address. Keeping browsing information private is important for every user, especially for vulnerable groups such as activists, journalists, or politicians.

## TikTok's in-app browser

TikTok uses an in-app browser built into the app itself. This means that when users try to navigate off of TikTok through an ad or a bio link, they actually stay on the app. Instead of switching to Chrome or Safari, users view pages through TikTok's own browser.

The internal browser allows the company to monitor behavior on websites and pages that a user might assume are not within TikTok's purview. This type of monitoring is another area where users might end up exposing more personal information than they intend to.

## ByteDance and the Chinese Communist Party

TikTok is owned by ByteDance, a company based in China. Under Chinese law, it is required to share user data with the authorities if requested.

It is also understandably incentivised to stay in line with the Chinese Communist Party's policy, which some argue has led the company to suppress videos discussing human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims in the Chinese province of Xinjiang.

While it's hard to verify TikTok's stance on these issues, the fact that ByteDance operates under the authority of the CCP should raise concerns about user privacy.

## Privacy settings

By creating a TikTok account, users agree to their data being collected and used for targeted advertising. If a user does not want personalized ads, they can turn them off in the settings. This is one of the two privacy settings that TikTok allows. The second one enables users to make their accounts private.

Other than that, TikTok's privacy policy allows the app to collect all kinds of information about its user without the possibility of opting out.

## Any chances of staying private on TikTok?

"Unfortunately, the only way to prevent TikTok from collecting your data is to stop using the app. However, there are ways to keep your account a little bit more private," says Adrianus Warmenhoven, a cybersecurity advisor at NordVPN.

1. Set your profile to private. You can still enjoy all the content TikTok has to offer without making your own profile public. Have a look through your privacy settings and make sure that only people you know and trust can view your content. Doing so lowers the likelihood of identity theft and makes it harder for scammers to contact you.

2. Don't post personally identifiable content. When uploading videos, make sure not to include images of your home and neighborhood, views from your windows, or other content that could be used to triangulate your location. Try to limit how much you post about your work, family, and other personal contacts. The more information you make public, the easier it is for hackers to steal your identity and use it to launch phishing attacks against others.

3. Use Threat Protection. NordVPN's Threat Protection feature blocks ads, trackers, and malicious websites you can stumble upon while browsing online. This tool will stop the TikTok trackers from following you on your browser. Even though your activity on the app and its in-app browser will still be tracked, everything you do outside of it will be kept private.

## ABOUT NORDVPN

NordVPN is the world's most advanced VPN service provider, used by millions of internet users worldwide. NordVPN provides double VPN encryption and Onion Over VPN and guarantees privacy with zero tracking. One of the key features of the product is Threat Protection, which blocks malicious websites, malware, trackers, and ads. NordVPN is very user friendly, offers one of the best prices on the market, and has over 5,000 servers in 60 countries worldwide. For more information: <http://nordvpn.com>.

# KNOCK AT THE CABIN: A TWISTY MOVIE REVIEW

by Mallory Johnson, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Photo Credit: IMDB

The acclaimed director M. Night Shyamalan's newest movie, *Knock at the Cabin*, came out recently. I saw it on Valentine's Day with friends and enjoyed it. The film stars Jonathan Groff (*Glee*, *Hamilton*), Ben Aldridge (*Spoiler Alert*, *Fleabag*), Dave Bautista (*The Guardians of the Galaxy* franchise, *Blade Runner 2049*), Rupert Grint (the *Harry Potter* franchise, *Servant*), Nikki Amuka-Bird (*The Outfit*, *Jupiter Ascending*), Abby Quinn (*Landline*, *Radium Girls*), and Kristin Cui in her first movie role. The story follows a family who are on vacation, staying in an isolated cabin, who get a mysterious knock at their door. They are told by four strangers with weapons that they must make an impossible choice: they must sacrifice one member of their family, or the world will brutally end. Before I go any further, SPOILER ALERT. Also, trigger warnings for: murder (the gore happens off screen, but it still happens), blood, the apocalypse, fire, plane crashes, illness, family death, homophobia, homophobic violence, bugs, home invasion, violence, gun violence, restraint, kidnapping, audio gore, jump scares, suicide, PTSD, and natural disasters. The film is based on the book called *The Cabin at the End of the World* by Paul Tremblay.

The acting from Jonathan Groff, Ben Aldridge, and Kristin Cui was amazing and some of the best performances in the movie. However, Dave Bautista stole the show more than

once and I cannot wait to see him in more serious roles once he is no longer committed to Marvel. Throughout the film I had no idea who to believe, whether the fictional world was ending or if they were just pretending to force the family to make an awful choice. Ben Aldridge's character was reasonable in his anger, fear, confusion, and ultimate sadness at the end.

Now, I am going to put in place another MAJOR SPOILER ALERT here because I will be discussing exactly how the movie ends, so please do not read on if you don't want spoilers.

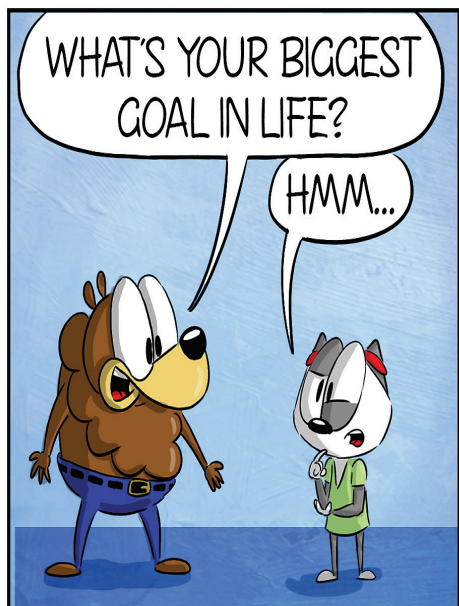
I enjoyed the movie, but I was a little disappointed about the ending. Considering M. Night Shyamalan is the mind behind iconic twisty movies like *The Sixth Sense*. I was shocked that there was no big twist at the end. Right as the credits rolled, I said to my friends, "Well, I guess the real twist is that there was no twist..." I expected the twist to be that the world was not actually ending, but the family would only find out after they made the horrible decision to do the sacrifice. I was sad when the sacrifice was made, and then when the surviving husband went to the diner with his daughter and watched the news, learning that the sacrifice worked. It was such a heartbreaking yet happy ending. I was so positive that I was catching the strangers in the act when I noticed that the newscasts were pre-recorded, but I was wrong. I felt

like I could see the exact moment Jonathan Groff's character started believing the strangers, "falling under their trap." It was nice to see Jonathan in a more serious role, as I know him from the early season of *Glee* and as the King in *Hamilton*. I loved how he sang (for a very short scene) in the car with his family, and how that song was brought back in the ending. In one of the flashback scenes, when the two husbands pointed at each other and said "always together" I could tell where the movie was going. It was a tad predictable with the lack of a big twist, but I sometimes don't mind a predictable movie. I am a huge fan of the *Scream* movie franchise, after all.

I loved how the story jumped into the plot right at the start and didn't waste any time establishing what is going on. Dave Bautista's character, Leonard, wasted no time being creepy when he sat down to catch grasshoppers with the young girl, named Wen, played by Kristin Cui. It creeped me out because I was thinking "what does an adult like him want with a girl as young as her." Turns out it was harmless, but still. I also incorrectly thought there was a homophobic motive based on Leonard's reaction to Wen's two dads.



Overall, I enjoyed the movie and am glad that I saw it in theatres. I loved the tender family moments/their backstory scenes that were placed in between the present tense at the cabin. I loved how casual the queer representation was in the movie and the marketing. It's not a "queer horror/thriller movie" it's simply a horror/thriller movie that happens to have two gay men at the forefront. I give *Knock at the Cabin* a strong 8/10 and am excited to watch more spooky movies that are similar.



@FilbertCartoons



Photo Credit: BU NEWS

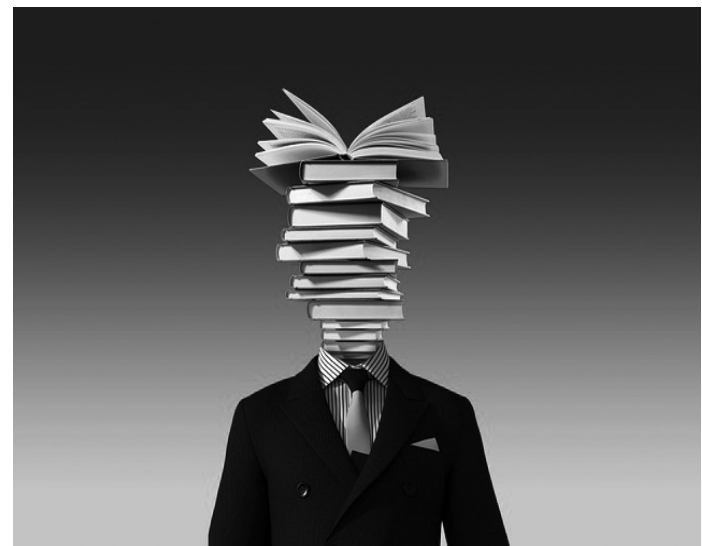


Photo Credit: Pixabay

## BRANDON UNIVERSITY NAMES NEW LEAD OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

*Bu News*

A familiar face is returning to lead the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University. Dr. Wayne Kelly has been named Interim Director of the research centre, which is a leading source of information on issues affecting rural communities in Western Canada and beyond.

“We are beyond pleased to welcome Dr. Kelly back to RDI, where his experience and connections are a perfect fit,” said Dr. Balfour Spence, Acting Dean of Arts at BU, which oversees RDI. “The Rural Development Institute is a major interface between Brandon University and the rural communities we serve, and Dr. Kelly brings the right mix of insight and vision to keep RDI at the forefront of rural issues here in Westman and around the world.”

Dr. Kelly has worked in innovative rural development research roles as Research Manager in private sector R&D and for 11 years as a Project Coordinator and Researcher at RDI itself. In those roles, Dr. Kelly has extensive experience developing, leading, and coordinating rural and community development projects with teams of highly qualified personnel, community advisors and partners.

“I’m very excited to lead RDI in the institute’s next phase at Brandon University; this is a critical time for rural

areas, and we can continue to collect and share essential knowledge,” Dr. Kelly said. “I am keen to contribute to our understanding and support to rural communities, regions and people as they navigate the impacts and new realities of COVID-19, population change, digitalization and more.”

Dr. Kelly’s research focuses on participatory-based applied and action research, rural development theory, and community engagement in Manitoba and across Canada. The specific research topics and issues for the participatory projects span rural development areas, including rural policy and research methods, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), economic development and well-being, capacity building, and community data collection. Dr. Kelly has published numerous research reports and findings in peer reviewed publications and reports. He also has an extensive record of mobilizing those research outcomes through local, national, and international presentations, through webinars, podcasts and media interviews.

Previously at RDI, Dr. Kelly’s responsibilities included overseeing and managing a \$2.5 million SSHRC partnership project that focused on establishing a Rural Policy Learning Commons. During his recent Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the

University of Winnipeg in partnership with Function Four Ltd. (F4), Dr. Kelly co-lead the design and implementation of a community assessment research team with the Indigenous partner, F4, to support their circular farm development initiative for Indigenous communities. The leadership role in the

community assessment team has accompanied Dr. Kelly in his return to RDI and he continues to support and work with community engagement and education teams on this project, coordinating funding, implementation and outcomes with the teams, the funder, and the industry partner.

Dr. Kelly began the role starting January 9, 2023.



### Mapping Un/Safer Spaces on University Campuses

**Do you identify as a student at Brandon University?**

**Do you identify as two or more of the following:**

*Indigenous, LGBTQ2Q, female, a person of colour, or a person with a disability?*

We would like to invite you to be a part of a ground-breaking research study that we are conducting to better understand the different struggles and barriers facing multiply-marginalized students on university campuses. Your experiences and responses could identify professional, personal, and social strategies that may be useful to successfully navigate these struggles and barriers, and develop a series of evidence-based recommendations that could help other marginalized students on campus. Undergraduate or graduate students are welcome to participate in the study.

This research project employs a **1 hr interview** that consists of questions and an analysis of the campus map at your university, an opportunity to re-imagine a campus that meets your needs, and a **1 hr reflection session** that will debrief your revised campus map. A [\\$40 grocery gift card](#) will be given for participating in this study.

Confidentiality will be strictly maintained in this research study. This research has been approved by the Education/Nursing Research Ethics Board (ENREB) at the University of Manitoba. If you have any concerns or complaints about this project you may contact any of the researchers or the ENREB Secretariat at 204-474-7122, or e-mail [humanethics@umanitoba.ca](mailto:humanethics@umanitoba.ca).

Please contact us directly by email at [mapping.project@umanitoba.ca](mailto:mapping.project@umanitoba.ca) to learn of additional details and ask questions. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

**Robert Mizzi, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair  
University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education

# BRANDON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES RETURN OF JAZZ CELEBRATIONS!

*BU News*

The return of Brandon's biggest jazz celebration is less than a month away.

The Brandon University (BU) Jazz Festival will take place from March 16 to 18, 2023 at the BU School of Music and the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium (WMCA), with tickets to the showcase concerts now available at [WMCA.ca/Bjazz2023](http://WMCA.ca/Bjazz2023).

The event marks the first jazz festival in the city since 2019 and the first to be hosted by the BU School of Music. It succeeds the Brandon Jazz Festival, which has been a highlight for aspiring musicians across Manitoba and beyond since 1983.

"Our faculty have put a tremendous amount of work

into preparing for this event. Music educators who brought their students to BU year after year tell us how much they've missed the jazz festival, and we've missed their presence on our stages and in our rehearsal rooms," said Greg Gatien, Dean of Music at BU. "The jazz festival is a great opportunity for our BU students to share the stage with professional performers and to share their love of jazz with a new generation of musicians."

The Brandon Jazz Festival was a non-competitive event, first held in 1983, bringing together thousands of participants from across Manitoba as well as other provinces and the United States. They would perform and receive instruction and adjudica-

tion from educators and professional musicians from across Canada and the United States, as well as take in concerts featuring visiting musicians and students from BU's School of Music.

"I grew up with the Brandon Jazz Festival, first as a school-age student, and later as a university student," said Anna Penno, who is a member of the organizing community and will serve as an adjudicator at this year's festival.

"The festival has always been one of my favourite events of the year and played a huge role in inspiring my love for music. I'm so happy to have it back and to be a part of it as we welcome students, new and old, back to BU."

The rekindled festival will follow a similar format to the previous event, highlighted by evening concerts featuring the Brandon University Big Band, under the direction of Diogo Peixoto and Gatien, performing alongside internationally acclaimed guest artists at the WMCA. This year's star-studded concerts will feature Grammy-nominated vocalist Sara Gazarek and Canadian jazz luminaries Karly Epp (voice) Erin Propp (voice), Luis Deniz (saxophone), Rachel Therrien (trumpet), Kelsley Grant (trombone), and Claire Devlin (saxophone). The concerts will take place on Thursday, March 16 and Friday,

March 17, with shows at 6:30 and 9:00 each evening.

"The Brandon Jazz Festival occupied a special place in the School of Music calendar for nearly 40 years, and we're excited to be bringing it back," said Gatien. "Hosting the festival is a boon to Brandon businesses, a chance to welcome the public for spectacular performances, and a great way to introduce students to Brandon University and our Music programs. We're going to show everyone a great time next month."



Photo Credit: BU NEWS

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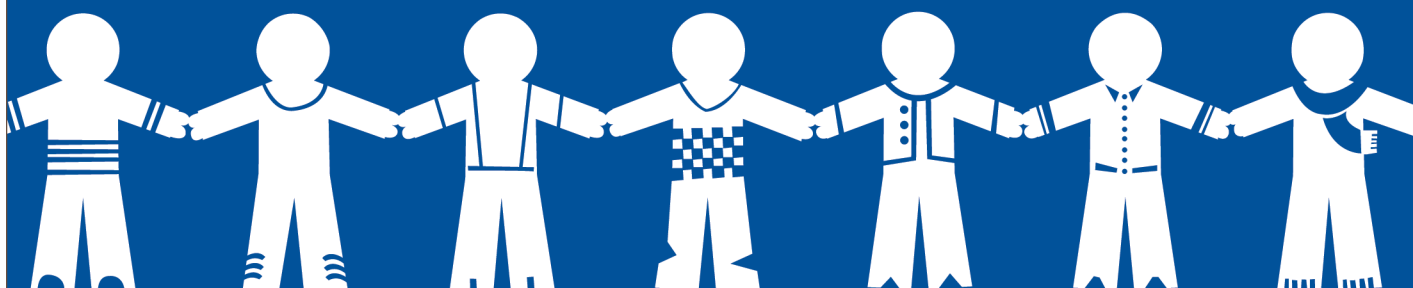
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