

The O'Brien Foundation *News*

Spring / Summer 2014, Issue 3



O'Brien Foundation Awards and Reception to be held Tuesday, July 22, 2014, from 4-6pm

Each year, New Brunswick's Lieutenant Governor and Honorary President of the O'Brien Foundation hosts a reception at Government House (Fredericton) for O'Brien Fellowship recipients past and present. In addition to honoring new Fellows, the reception is an opportunity for O'Brien Alumni worldwide to meet, catch up, and share stories—in the spirit of good fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on July 22nd!

(Above) Alumni attending the 2013 reception included, from left to right: Thierry Arsenault (1994); Lynn Goliquier (1999); Hilary Randall (2006); Deborah Robichaud (1978); Barret Kurylyk (2012); Wayne Goodfellow (1975); David Ogilvie (1976); Phil Parker (1981); Barry Miller (1977); Van Burdon (1976); Len Lanteigne (1983); Peter Pacey (1979).

Above and beyond: 8 Fellowships awarded in 2014

It's almost a record—the largest number in two decades. Not since 1994 (when 9 students received an award) or, prior to that, the Foundation's early years in the 1970s, has the Leonard and Kathleen O'Brien Humanitarian Trust been privileged to help so many promising candidates. This year, 8 outstanding students have been selected to receive O'Brien Foundation Fellowships

"This reflects the Foundation's

determined efforts to recognize as many deserving candidates as possible from the increasing number of applicants seeking support," notes Dr. Barry Miller, the Foundation's Executive Director.

Key to this success are the Alumni—past recipients of the award, whose greater involvement in recent years is making a huge difference. Members of the Alumni who recognize the importance of "giving back" made possible

the addition of a new "Alumni Award" in 2011.

This year alone, the Alumni—including five new donors—have contributed \$6,800 to help sustain this additional award.

Thanks to these generous donors and friends of the Foundation, 2014 marks the third year in a row that the Alumni Award has been given to a deserving candidate.

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The Selection Committee, usually tasked with bestowing the honours, is honoured by the latest addition to its ranks.

The Honorable Herménégilde Chiasson is former Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick and a renowned poet, artist, scholar, and statesman. During his tenure as Lieutenant Governor (2003-2009), he also served as Honourary President of the O'Brien Foundation. It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome him now as a member of the Selection Committee. Currently Artist in Residence for both the Université de Moncton and Mount Allison University, Herménégilde received an Honorary Doctorate from St. Thomas University on October 19, 2013, and gave the Convocation Address.



Meet the O'Brien Foundation Fellowship recipients for 2014

Alexander D. Wright

"Sandy" spent his early years in Saint Andrews, NB, and completed high school in Ottawa. His passion for injury diagnosis and management, in the contexts of both patient care and health-related research, stems from his experiences with several athletic injuries. While completing a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University, Sandy worked as a research assistant and as a personal and athletic trainer.

Furthering his interest in the biomechanics of injury, he completed a Master's degree at the University of Waterloo's Injury Biomechanics and Aging Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Laing. His thesis evaluated the potential of new safety flooring systems to prevent fall-related head injuries in older adults.

Sandy currently lives in Kelowna, BC, with his wife and daughter. He is enrolled in the Southern Medical Program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan, where he is studying in a combined MD/PhD program. He was recently awarded a Vanier



Canada Graduate Scholarship to support the PhD component of his program, which will be completed under the supervision of Dr. Paul van Donkelaar in the Integrated Sports Concussion Research Laboratory.

Sandy's research focuses on understanding the cause of changes in brain function that we observe following sports-related concussion. He will use novel neuro-imaging techniques to explore potential links between head-impact biomechanics, control of the brain's blood flow, and subtle structural changes in the brain's nerve fibres. He is honoured to receive support for his research from the Leonard and Kathleen O'Brien Humanitarian Trust.

David Themens

David was raised in Charlo, NB, and received his Bachelor of Science with honours in Physics (minor in Mathematics) from the University of New Brunswick in 2011. His honours research focused on the remote sensing and modeling of the ionosphere, an ionized layer of the upper atmosphere, which is an important medium for High Frequency (HF) radio communications and a significant hurdle to the accuracy of positioning systems (GPS). David subsequently completed a Master of Science in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at McGill University, where his research focused on

developing new techniques for retrieving information from passive remote sensing instruments (specifically, microwave radiometers) and on assimilative modeling of the lower atmosphere. In 2013, David returned to UNB to begin his Ph.D, where he will apply tropospheric techniques to ionospheric modeling and remote sensing in order to develop a real-time model of the ionosphere for the High Arctic region, where the ionosphere is most dynamic and structurally complex. In addition to the award from the O'Brien Foundation, David's research is supported by an NSERC Postgraduate Doctoral Scholarship.



Daniel LeBouthillier

Daniel grew up in the small town of Lagacéville in northeast New Brunswick. He received his Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Psychology from the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) in 2011. He is currently completing his Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology at the University of Regina, under the supervision of Dr. Gordon Asmundson.

Daniel's current research focuses on anxiety sensitivity. His Master's thesis is a randomized controlled trial investigating the effect of a short bout of exercise on anxiety sensitivity. He will continue this line of research when he begins his doctoral studies in the fall of 2014. Daniel hopes to become a researcher and clinical psychologist after completing his studies.



In conjunction with his academics, David has been an avid fencer since 2000, when he began training at the Aux Quatre Vents fencing club in Dalhousie, NB. After high school, he joined the UNB fencing club, serving as its Vice President (2009-2011) and Acting President (2010-2011) while representing the club in

regional competition and New Brunswick nationally. While undertaking his Master's in Montreal, David trained at the Escrime Mont-Royal fencing club and competed in the Quebec and National circuits. Upon returning to UNB, he rejoined the UNB Fencing Club as an assistant and high-performance coach, and now also serves as President.

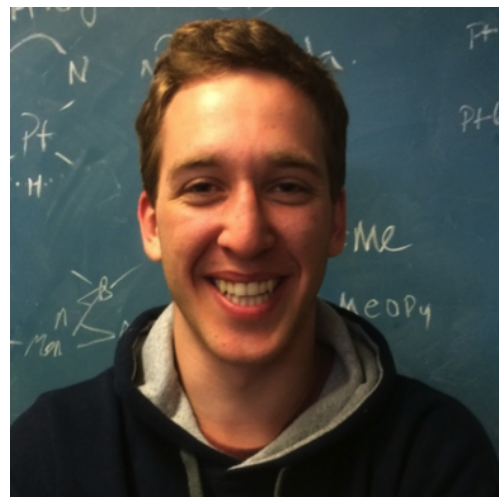


Heather Nichol

Heather grew up in Campbellton, NB, where her early interest in the brain was sparked by a psychology class she took at summer camp. With dreams of a career in medical research, she pursued a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at Queen's University, majoring in Life Sciences, with a focus on the human body and neuroscience. Heather's honours thesis, supervised by Dr. Ken Rose, garnered her the Queen's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research in Neuroscience. Volunteering with Queen's Learning Strategies and other teaching and mentoring organizations steered her interest specifically toward learning and memory. Heather is now working toward a Master of Science (Neuroscience) at McGill, focusing on spatial memory—our remarkable ability to remember places—which is particularly

Eric G. Bowes

After graduating in 2009 from James M. Hill Memorial High School in his hometown of Miramichi, NB, Eric began a Bachelor of Science program at Mount Allison University in Sackville, where he had the



good fortune to work on several chemistry projects over a three-year period as part of Dr. Steve Westcott's 'Wild Toads' research team. His experience in the Toads lab, investigating boron-containing molecules with antimicrobial properties and titanium compounds capable of catalyzing important chemical reactions, instilled in Eric a love for chemistry that has led him to pursue a doctorate in it. After graduating with an honours BSc in chemistry from Mount Allison in the spring of 2013, Eric had an opportunity to travel to Tarragona, Spain, to work with a research team at Rovira i Virgili University, looking at new ways to introduce the element boron into organic molecules.

In addition to chemistry, Eric has a passion for the outdoors and spends his free hours running, cycling, skiing, and climbing. He is currently pursuing a PhD in inorganic chemistry under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Love at the University of British Columbia, where he will be working on the development of platinum catalysts with the ability to convert methane gas into functionalized, value-added products.

affected in dementias such as Alzheimer's disease. By investigating brain regions and pathways particularly important for spatial memory, Heather hopes to better understand how these memories are formed and stored, as this is crucial to the development of strategies for preventing and treating dementia. A recent recipient of the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (NSERC), Heather is honoured to receive additional support from the O'Brien Foundation to help her pursue her studies.



Kelsey Knowles

grew up on the Bay of Chaleur in northeastern New Brunswick. She became involved in community projects and extracurricular activities at a young age, and demonstrated her passion for athletics by founding a sports and leadership camp for youth in Bathurst, NB, in 2011. After graduating from Bathurst High School with Honours, Kelsey completed an Honours degree in Criminology at St. Thomas University in Fredericton. Her undergraduate research, funded by both an Evelyn Sweezey Scholarship and a Canada Millennium Scholarship, drew on the seminal work of Travis Hirschi to explore relationships between school social bonds and self-reported delinquency. Kelsey furthered her passion for education and youth by completing a Bachelor of Education at St. Thomas University in 2012.

Kelsey is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Education program at the University of Ottawa. Her Master's research is a phenomenological inquiry into the cultivation of present-moment consciousness in teacher education, inspired by the work of Max van Manen and Ted T. Aoki, whose contributions to education and child-centered philosophies speak to the value of teacher pedagogy and tact. Kelsey's work is funded by the O'Brien Foundation and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Upon completing her Master's, Kelsey plans to pursue a PhD.

Currently a PhD candidate at Trent University, Melanie comes from Harvey, New Brunswick. Her academic career began at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science (Honours). After working at several jobs, including summer work on adult sturgeon in Manitoba and an internship on projects examining mudflat ecology in the Bay of Fundy, she followed her love of scientific research by completing a Master's degree in Biology at Mount Allison University. Having worked on a 17-month field project, supervised honours students, and published several

papers during her Master's, she continues to be passionate about her research-oriented career path.

Melanie's PhD research concerns the non-consumptive effects of predation in snowshoe hare populations. In the boreal forest, snowshoe hare populations fluctuate in regular cycles, with 8-10 years between peak densities. Predator populations follow this fluctuation with a lag of 1-2 years, and during hare population decline, predators can cause up to 100% of hare deaths.

Melanie Boudreau



(Continued on next page)

Melanie Boudreau, cont'd

Recent research suggests, however, that these declines also involve non-consumptive predation effects: hares during decline years experience chronic stress that may lead to increased vigilance, altered foraging, and lower productivity. To date, perceived predation risk in snowshoe hares has been assessed only in penned hares, leaving gaps in the understanding of how free-ranging hares respond to it: i.e., whether their risk responses transcend multiple (e.g. behavioral, physiological) axes) and translate demographically. Melanie's work involves measuring behavioral, physiological, and energetic responses of free-ranging hares in areas of increased predation risk and will quantify the extent to which risk can generate reduced hare fitness and, ultimately, population decline and cyclic attenuation.

Maryse Arseneault, winner of the Alumni Award

Based in Moncton, NB, Maryse Arseneault is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Studio Arts at Concordia University's Print Media division. Since receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and print-making from Université de Moncton in 2006, Maryse has shared a studio in the Centre culturel Aberdeen in Moncton, where she volunteers with Galerie Sans Nom and Imago Printshop. Twice a recipient of ArtsNB creation grants (2007 and 2011), Maryse has had her work exhibited in solo shows at artist-run centres including, most



recently, *Une coupe cheveux pour la fin du monde / Haircuts for the end of the world* (Galerie Sans Nom 2012) and *Sanguine, Terre Brulée et autres Angoisses / Sanguine, Burnt Umber and other Sorrows* (Eastern Edge Gallery 2013). Her practice in print, drawing, and interactive performance continues to evolve with her recent piece *L'art de s'envoler / Flyer for Flight*, a series of workshops in parks, with

instruction pamphlet, having been selected by Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario (Sudbury, ON) for exhibition in 2015.

Preparing to celebrate the 40th Anniversary

Planning is underway to recognize 2015 as the 40th year of the O'Brien Foundation's existence, 1975-2015. Discussions have taken place with officials and staff at Government House; members of the Alumni have been invited to provide suggestions on several occasions; and a planning committee is being formed to ensure that this milestone is duly commemorated. We invite all Alumni to get in touch this year! Tell us your story and participate in celebrating 40 years of educational excellence.

The Leonard & Kathleen O'Brien Humanitarian Trust

Established in 1971, The Leonard and Kathleen O'Brien Humanitarian Trust provides postgraduate fellowships for deserving students who wish to pursue advanced study or research in any academic, artistic, or professional field at any recognized university or research establishment. The fellowships are administered by a Committee known as The O'Brien Foundation.

The Honourable J. Leonard O'Brien was a life-long resident of Nelson-Miramichi who made distinguished contributions to the forest industry and the public service of New Brunswick. Mr.

O'Brien was a lumber merchant, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, 1925-1930, Member of Parliament 1940-45, and Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, 1958-65. Kathleen (O'Leary) O'Brien was born in Richibucto and attended Mount Saint Vincent's College in Halifax before graduating in Nursing from the Roosevelt Hospital School in New York. Her extensive charitable work was recognized by Pope Paul VI in 1963 when Mrs. O'Brien was made a Dame of Magistral Grace of the Order of Malta. She died in 1971 and Mr. O'Brien in 1973.

As a final memorial to himself and his wife, Mr. O'Brien made two bequests which reflected their deep concern for the natural resources of New Brunswick and for the education of its people. The first bequest was the grant of Beaubear's Island to the Crown as a national Historic Park to be preserved "in its primeval state where citizens of New Brunswick and others may relax and enjoy peace, quiet and solitude in the place where the first settlers sought the same." The second bequest provided for the establishment of the O'Brien Foundation to grant fellowships to students, scholars, and artists wishing to pursue postgraduate study and research. O'Brien Foundation fellowships are awarded through an annual competition. **In its first thirty-nine years of operation, from 1975 to 2014, the Foundation received 2,254 applications and granted 294 fellowships, including 59 renewals. In 2014, the third fellowship was presented by the O'Brien Foundation Alumni. The total value of the awards granted in these years was \$1,467,000.00.**



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We gratefully acknowledge the support of our Alumni & Friends

The O'Brien Foundation is a humanitarian trust operated exclusively for educational purposes. Donations are welcome from any persons or organizations wishing to assist promising students and artists to develop their knowledge and skills through advanced study.

Donations to the O'Brien Foundation qualify for tax-exempt receipts.

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