



*Spring/Summer 2019*

# THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION

## Welcomes ten new Fellows on July 31st

On Wednesday July 31, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick and Honorary President of the O'Brien Foundation, the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, will host a reception at Government House in Fredericton to honour ten recipients of the 2019 O'Brien Foundation Fellowships. Now in its 48th year, the O'Brien Foundation was established in 1971 by the Leonard and Kathleen O'Brien Humanitarian Trust to advance postgraduate education for New Brunswick's most promising students, scholars, and artists. This year the Foundation awarded \$70,000 in fellowships, including a \$10,000 Alumni Fellowship made possible by the generosity of previous fellowship recipients.

In addition to celebrating our 2019 Fellows, the reception is a special occasion for Alumni to reminisce and renew acquaintances, and I would love to hear from any past Fellows who would like to attend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Watson, Executive Director, 1993 Fellow  
(506) 230-5646, [exec.director@obrienfoundation.ca](mailto:exec.director@obrienfoundation.ca)

## Appreciation

We are extremely grateful to the members of the Selection Committee for giving their time and expertise to the O'Brien Foundation by reviewing and assessing a great many applications in the course of this highly competitive selection process. Their dedication to education and the opportunities it can create for others is inspiring.

*Thank you!* Dr. Enrico di Tomasso (UNBSJ, committee chair), Dr. Mylène Lachance-Grzela (UdeM), Dr. Mary Lou Babineau (STU), Dr. Krista Wilkins (UNB), Dr. Andrea Morash (MtA), and Dr. Alan Sears (UNB).

## Meet the 2019 O'Brien Fellowship recipients



### Catherine Gallagher

University of New Brunswick;

O'Brien Alumni Fellowship

Originally from Fort McMurray, Alberta, Catherine moved to Nova Scotia to pursue an undergraduate degree in chemistry at St. Francis Xavier University, fell in love with the Maritimes, and discovered her passion for forensic psychology. She earned her BSc (First Class Honours, Psychology) in 2014.

Catherine is currently a PhD Candidate in the Clinical Psychology program at the University of New Brunswick, working under the supervision of Dr. Caroline Brunelle. Her doctoral dissertation examines emotional processes that may help explain the high co-occurrence (60-70%) of complex trauma experiences and substance misuse among women offenders in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In her work, Catherine aims to identify targets of intervention that can aid in the reduction of women's criminal justice involvement and prevention for at-risk women. Upon completing her PhD, Catherine hopes to continue her research examining the needs of forensic and clinical populations and to provide clinical services to disadvantaged individuals in the community.

Catherine's research in Clinical Psychology has been supported by SSHRC Joseph-Bombardier Master's and Doctoral scholarships, New Brunswick Innovation Foundation scholarships and grants, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Snodgrass Research awards. She is honoured to be the 2019 recipient of the O'Brien Alumni Fellowship.

## Jessica Arseneau

Université du Québec en Outaouais

Jessica Arseneau is a Master of Arts candidate in Museum Studies at the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO). She grew up in the small town of Saint-Laurent in the northeast of New Brunswick and left at age 17 to study at Pearson College UWC in British Columbia. She later enrolled in a transdisciplinary program at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbour, Maine (USA) and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology. In the course of her studies she developed a passion for museum education, which was crystallized during an internship at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

In recognition of her research, Jessica is a Sheila Mackay Advanced Studies scholar as well as an ArtsNB scholar. Professionally, she works part-time at two art galleries. At the Ottawa Art Gallery, she is a gallery educator facilitating guided tours and workshops, and at Galerie UQO she assists the director while planning and delivering public programming. She is delighted to be the recipient of an O'Brien Foundation Fellowship in 2019.



## Campbell Bryden

University of New Brunswick

Campbell is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of New Brunswick (UNB). He completed a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (UNB) in 2015, followed by a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (UNB) in 2017.

Campbell's professional background is a combination of academia and consulting. He was the stipend instructor for a fourth-year

Civil Engineering course at UNB in 2017/18 and has served as a teaching assistant throughout his academic career while being concurrently employed (part-time) in the geotechnical department of a local engineering firm.

Campbell has developed geotechnical design recommendations for numerous industrial, infrastructure, and commercial projects in New Brunswick and across the country. With support from the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, he designed and deployed a state-of-the-art field instrumentation system for a large twin-culvert project located on Route 11 near Bouctouche. The collected experimental data, coupled with advanced finite element modeling, is used to provide fundamental insights pertaining to the soil-structure interaction of culverts beneath high embankments. The general topography of New Brunswick is such that culverts are often required beneath high fills during highway construction, and it is Campbell's hope that the outcomes of his research program will lead to more economical, sustainable, and effectively designed structures.

Campbell's doctoral research in the geotechnical field is conducted under the supervision of Dr. A. Valsangkar and Dr. K. Arjomandi. In addition to his O'Brien Fellowship, he is the recipient of the Dr. Gilbert and Mrs. Agnes Turner Scholarship, the Dr. William S. Lewis Doctoral Fellowship, and an NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canadian Graduate Scholarship.

## Carole Balthazar

Université de Moncton

Now in the second year of her PhD in Biology at the Université de Moncton, Carole was born and raised in Belgium. She completed a Master's degree in biological engineering at the Université catholique de Louvain and came to New Brunswick in 2010, planning for a short experience abroad. She fell in love with Canada and became a citizen in 2015. The leadership and communication skills she developed through her various employments in New Brunswick prompted her decision to return to university in 2017



to pursue her doctorate.

Her current research focuses on severe diseases attacking hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) fields. She is hoping to identify beneficial bacteria that could be used as biological control agents to help reduce the need for harmful pesticides. Her project covers important microbiological and genomic factors in aiming to understand the dialog between plants and microorganisms at the molecular level. This work allows her to combine her passion for microbiology with practical interests in the agricultural sector.

Carole is a laureate of the NSERC 2018 Science Exposed contest and the recipient of a scholarship from the Canadian Phytopathological Society. In 2018 she presented her work at the International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) in Boston and won first prize for a poster presentation at the Colloque des jeunes chercheuses et chercheurs (CJCC) organised by the Université de Moncton. Carole maintains a full status as an accredited Professional Agrologist in New Brunswick and intends to become an expert in molecular biology, serving the agricultural sector by looking for innovative ways to protect our crops while respecting the environment.



## Judith Desjardins

Université de Moncton

Judith is a second-year student in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Moncton. Originally from Fredericton, she moved to Moncton to pursue her dream of playing volleyball at a higher level, which led her to her enrollment at the Université de Moncton in a Bachelor of Social Work program.

Throughout her studies, while managing the heavy workload associated with being a student athlete, Judith remained heavily involved with the school of social work and served on numerous committees

promoting social justice both on campus and in the community. In 2016, while still an undergraduate, she received the National Scholarship of Excellence CNFS (Consortium National de Formation en Santé) which is awarded to students of high academic standing who demonstrate leadership within a Francophone

minority community and contribute to the field of health in various capacities. That same year she was named Student of the Year for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and received the Prix de mérite Bleu et Or, an award of high distinction at the University of Moncton for graduates who demonstrate remarkable academic performance and community contributions. She graduated from the university in May of 2017.

Inspired by her own journey as a student athlete, Judith is researching mental health in student athletes at the post-secondary level, aiming to shed new light on the various dimensions of mental health vulnerability that student athletes live with daily, which will help health professionals to better understand and address the mental health needs of these athletes. In addition to completing her thesis under the supervision of Dr. H el ene Albert, Judith is employed part-time as a social worker with the Addictions and Mental Health Community Center in the City of Moncton. After graduation, she hopes to continue her career as a social worker in a community setting.

## J er mie Dupuis

Universit  de Moncton

As an Acadian raised in the Greater Moncton area, J er mie has always been fascinated by social group memberships and intergroup relations. While doing his bachelor's degree in psychology at the Universit  de Montr al, he furthered this interest by working as editor-in-chief for the Journal of Interpersonal Relations, Intergroup Relations and Identity (JIRIRI), an international peer-reviewed journal. After receiving his bachelor's degree, J er mie returned to his hometown to complete a master's in social psychology at the Universit  de Moncton, studying the effects of ethnic identity on mental health of Acadian youth in different regions of the province. He served as guest editor for a special issue of the Linguistic Minorities and Society (MLS/LMS) journal, which featured youth mental health in official language minority communities in Canada.



Jérémie is currently working on a PhD in Educational Sciences at the Université de Moncton under the joint supervision of Dr. Salah-Eddine El Adlouni (Department of Mathematics and Statistics, U de M) and Dr. Jimmy Bourque (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ottawa). While doing his master's, Jérémie discovered a passion for math and statistics, which inspired him to make statistics an integral part of his doctoral thesis. Motivated by the state of mental health and academic achievement in the province's youth population, Jérémie set out to create a mathematical equation that could identify youth at risk of mental health issues and poor academic achievement based on a social determinants of health. He aims to accomplish this goal by using Bayesian statistics and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. Aside from his studies, Jérémie is an avid road and mountain biker and enjoys playing hockey, volleyball and golf.



## Geneviève Gallant

Université de Moncton

Geneviève is from Dieppe, New Brunswick. In 2018, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the Université de Moncton. During her studies, she became involved in university life and worked as a research assistant in the cognitive sciences laboratory, a position that allowed her to conduct experiments funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). She has also obtained a position as a laboratory manager and has served as a

tutor, teaching assistant and note-taker in many courses. In addition, she presented her bachelor's thesis at the 40th annual conference of the Société québécoise pour la recherche en psychologie (SQRP).

Geneviève is currently a candidate for a professional doctorate in psychology (D. Psy) at the Université de Moncton. Her thesis aims to shed light on the differences, particularly in attention span, between single individuals and couples. She hopes that her work will lead to a better understanding of the factors responsible for the greater vulnerability of single individuals (as compared with couples) to developing a variety of

psychological and physical problems.

As Geneviève progresses in her studies in psychology, her interest in the field increases and she is convinced that she will realize her dream of becoming a clinical psychologist. She is extremely grateful for the support of the O'Brien Foundation in helping her achieve this.

## Emilie Gaudet

### Lakehead University

Emilie is a first-year Master's student who grew up in Dieppe, New Brunswick, and obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Honours, Psychology) at Mount Allison University in May 2018. Working at a Dieppe-based retirement home as an undergraduate, she developed a strong interest in promoting improvements in quality of life and wellbeing in the long-term care sector. Supervised by Dr. Odette Gould, she completed an undergraduate thesis on job satisfaction and performance of Personal Support Workers employed in New Brunswick's long-term care homes.



Following her BA, Emilie moved to Thunder Bay, Ontario, to pursue a Master of Health Sciences (Specialization in Gerontology) at Lakehead University, where she is supported by an Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Under the supervision of Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Emilie's research seeks to get a better understanding of what it means for older women to move into long-term care at different stages in the relocation process. Specifically, she hopes to focus on what "home" means to these women and to their sense of self.

Beyond her thesis research, Emilie works as a Graduate Assistant and Project Facilitator at the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health at Lakehead University, which involves her in ongoing research projects and facilitating community outreach initiatives. She hopes to focus her work on inclusion of, respect for, and dignity of older adults and people living with dementia, in an effort to improve their well being and quality of life. Being a proud Maritimer and hoping one day to return to New Brunswick for her career, Emilie is grateful for this recognition and support from the O'Brien Foundation.



## Keegan Manson-Curry

University of Toronto

Born in Southern Ontario, Keegan Manson-Curry moved to the Fredericton area at age two and has spent most of his life there. He is currently completing his Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on music in the everyday lives of North Koreans living in Canada and it is supported by a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship as well as an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Prior to attending the University of Toronto, Keegan studied bass performance at both Humber College (Toronto) and Berklee College of Music (Boston), and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Cultural Studies from the University of New Brunswick in 2018. Outside of formal education, Keegan is a fiddle player who has spent much of his life touring, performing, recording, and producing music in a wide range of styles including folk, jazz, rock, funk, Latin, and more.

Keegan's diverse musical tastes and insatiable interest in culture are central aspects of his life, and they are what originally motivated him to pursue studies in ethnomusicology. After completing his master's degree, Keegan plans to continue on to the PhD in Ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto. He then hopes to take what he has learned back to New Brunswick; back to the everyday sights and sounds that make this place home. He is grateful for the support provided by the O'Brien Foundation.





## Tenea Welsh

### Mount Allison University

Tenea is a first year Master's student conducting electrophysiology research at Mount Allison University. Her work focuses on understanding the biological link between stress and appetite regulation. Tenea attended Mount Allison as an undergraduate and in 2018 received a B.Sc. First Class Honours with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Biology. During the course of her undergraduate studies, Tenea's research in behavioural psychology garnered the E. George

Nichols Prize, the CPA Certificate of Academic Excellence, and the F.A. Surbey Prize in Psychology. She was also fortunate to have a paper published in the *Journal of Behavioural Processes*. Upon applying for her Master's, she was granted an NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship and a New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF) Graduate Scholarship to pursue research on maternal stress and appetite regulation.

Throughout her time at Mount Allison University, Tenea has been engaged with the community by volunteering for campus initiatives such as Shinerama and Orientation Week, volunteering as a Food and Housing liaison with the campus staff, working as a Residence Leader and Residence Assistant, and as a campus photographer. She is honoured to be an O'Brien Fellowship recipient in 2019.