



# The Associates of the I.H. Asper School of Business 2022-2023 Impact Report



University  
of Manitoba



# Table of Contents

<b>Message from the Dean .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Student Awards and Groups .....</b>	<b>5-8</b>
<b>Experiential Learning .....</b>	<b>9-12</b>
International Case Competition .....	9
JDC West Competition .....	10
MBA Games .....	10
Asper Leadership Case Competition.....	11
Stu Clark New Venture Championships .....	11
Career Development Centre (Co-op Program).....	12
<b>Faculty Attraction and Retention .....</b>	<b>13-16</b>
<b>Events .....</b>	<b>17-20</b>
CSA Business Banquet .....	17
IDEA Awards.....	18
IGNITE Awards .....	19
CSA Golf Tournament .....	19
Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship Webinar Series.....	19
VIBE Awards.....	20
<b>Dean's Special Initiatives Fund .....</b>	<b>21-22</b>



## Message from the Dean

I am honoured to present this report on the impact of your investment across the I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba as you gather to celebrate 41 years of The Associates with a record number of memberships.

Since 1982, The Associates have been a driving force advancing business education and research in Manitoba. You have created a powerful legacy that has inspired change and transformed lives.

Giving back to your alma mater and fueling Manitoba's economy are hallmark tributes of The Associates and Young Associates. With a thriving network of over 350 members, your dedication, expertise, mentorship and philanthropy have enriched our community in many ways.

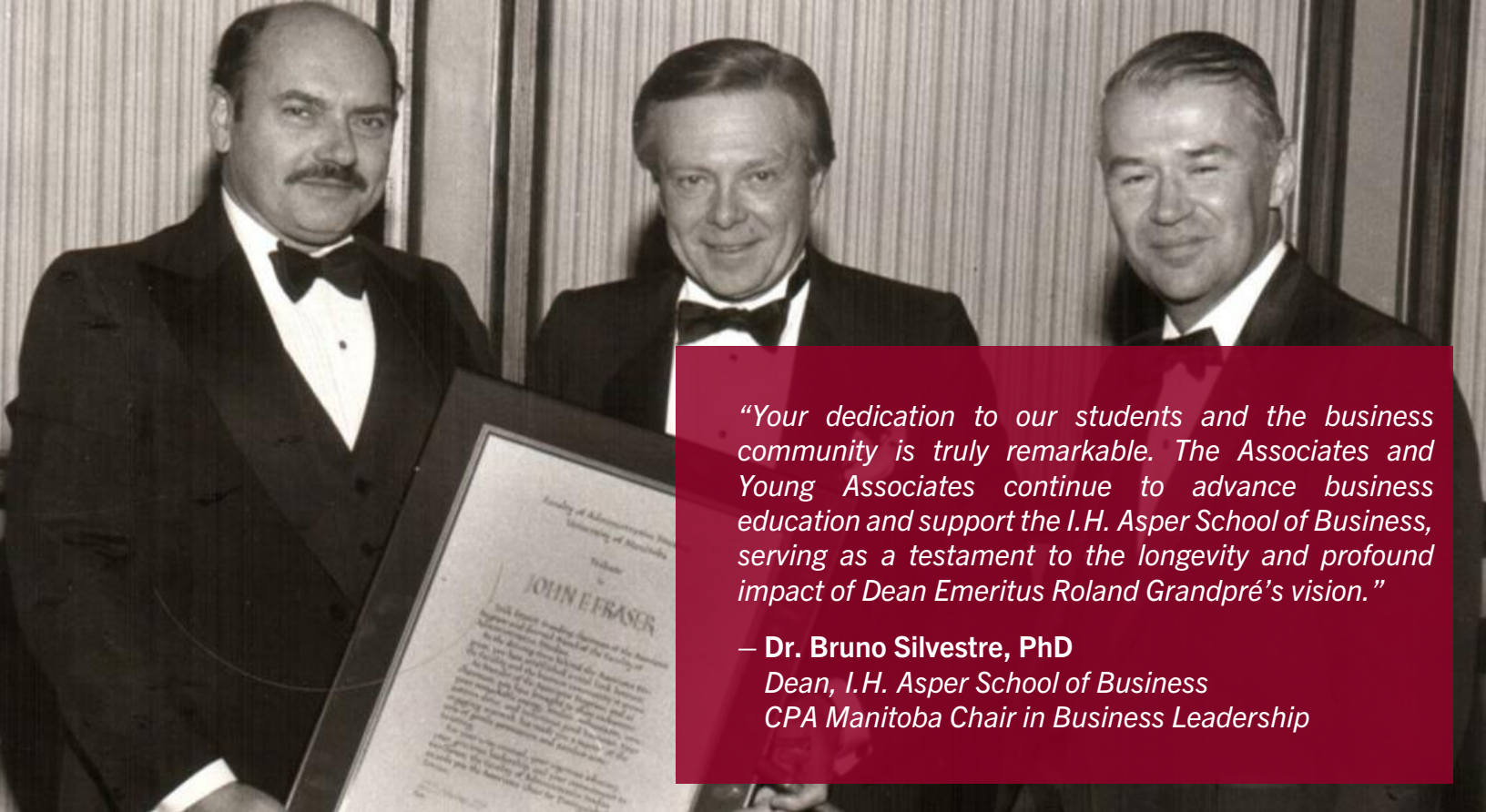
Thanks to your dedicated members and transformative leadership, the future is bright.

Thank you for your decades-long, visionary partnership.

With gratitude,

**Bruno Silvestre, PhD**  
*Dean, I.H. Asper School of Business*  
*CPA Manitoba Chair in Business Leadership*  
*University of Manitoba*





*“Your dedication to our students and the business community is truly remarkable. The Associates and Young Associates continue to advance business education and support the I.H. Asper School of Business, serving as a testament to the longevity and profound impact of Dean Emeritus Roland Grandpré’s vision.”*

– **Dr. Bruno Silvestre, PhD**  
*Dean, I.H. Asper School of Business  
CPA Manitoba Chair in Business Leadership*

## Overview

The Associates and Young Associates are pivotal to the success of the I.H. Asper School of Business – internationally recognized for its excellence in business education and research. Not only are students receiving a world-class education, but they also join a global community of ethical business leaders who embrace diversity and advance innovation.

Fundraising efforts of The Associates through the University of Manitoba Business School Foundation have brought more than \$60 million to the I.H. Asper School of Business. In 2022-23, you **invested \$312,719** back into our community.

In addition, for the first time in IDEA’s 39-year history, The Associates organized a successful auction, with an outstanding **final bid of \$110,000**, all of which directly support experiential learning opportunities for Asper students. You can read more about 2023 IDEA on page 18.

**Thank you** for playing a key role in so many success stories and for being a catalyst for opportunity and optimism.



*“Receiving The Associates’ Student Enterprise Award meant a lot to me. It is a testament to the incredible amount of support that The Associates provides students. Students benefit so much, both directly and indirectly, from the support The Associates provides.”*

**– Connor Egan**  
*Associates’ Student Enterprise Award recipient*

## Student Awards

In 2022-23, The Associates provided \$96,500 in support of student awards and student-led organizations.

### **Associates’ Student Enterprise Award (22/23)**

Connor Egan, Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)

### **Associates Award for Study in the Asper MBA Program (22/23)**

Eden Sorrell [MBA/23]

### **Associates Master of Finance Convocation Prize (22/23)**

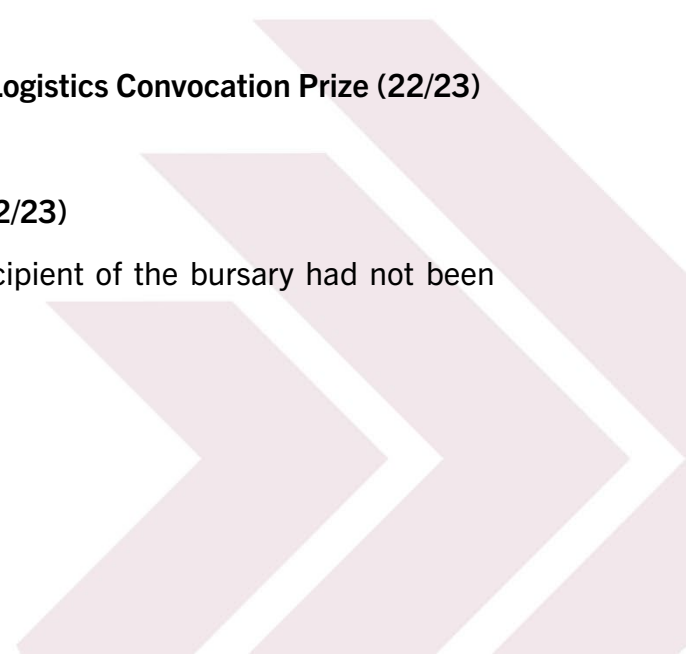
Yi Song [MFin/23]

### **Associates Master of Supply Chain Management and Logistics Convocation Prize (22/23)**

Yikun Wang [MSCM/23]

### **The Associates Roland Grandpré Memorial Bursary (22/23)**

At the time this report was created, the inaugural recipient of the bursary had not been selected. This will be reflected in next year’s report.





*“As a new immigrant, this is significant encouragement for all the hard work I've put in this past year. The countless hours of diligent studying finally feel like they've paid off. I will continue to strive and use this reward as motivation to keep moving forward. Thank you for supporting my journey.”*

**- Yi Song [MFin/23]**

**Associates Master of Finance Convocation Prize**

*“Receiving this award is a heart-warming reminder of the hard work that helped shape me over the past few years, and the opportunities I've been given to assist others in their journeys. It is an honour to be part of the Young Associates.”*

**- Eden Sorrell [MBA/23]**

**Associates Award for Study in the Asper MBA Program**



### **Graduate Student Fellowships (22/23)**

The Associates Graduate Student Fellowships recognize exceptional students and support academic excellence. In 2022-23, the fellowships supported three doctoral students: Sara Shoarinjad (SCM, \$15,000), Xin Liu (FIN, \$30,000), and Linlin Jin (FIN, \$30,000).

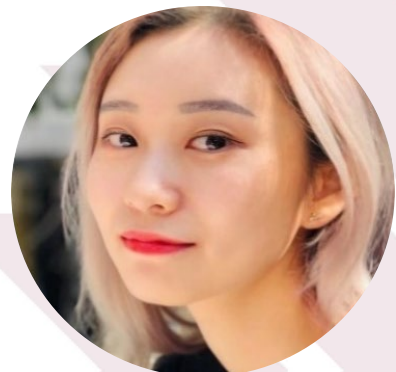


*“This award is so meaningful to me because it saves my family from financial distress. It covers our living expenses so that I can fully concentrate on my studies and research.”*

**- Xin Liu, Ph.D. student (Finance)**

*“Your support has had a transformative impact in my studies and academic research. By alleviating the financial constraints, you have enabled me to access essential resources for conducting high-quality research. You have played a critical role in advancing my research goals and contribute to the broader community.”*

**- Linlin Jin, Ph.D. student (Finance)**



## University of Manitoba Business School Foundation International Study Awards (23/24)

Established in 2000, the endowed University of Manitoba Business School Foundation International Study Awards provides full-time students the opportunity to travel and learn about new cultures and programs that will support their educational and professional journeys.

There were no recipients in 2022/23 due to COVID-19 related disruptions. 20 students received the award in the 2023/24 academic year:

- Marianne Bahalla
- Quinton Bailey
- Nicole Blatta
- Clarisabel Catipon
- Trevor Donald
- Aidan Fanshaw
- Cole Hutchison
- Syeda Irshad
- Alexie Lepage
- Xiyue Liu
- Magdalene Lysack
- Spencer Mara
- Kate Neves
- Maximillian Olson
- Lukas Oravec
- Dharmil Patel
- Pascal Ruest
- Kole Toews
- Jaspreet Toor
- Mira Toupin Ramlal



*"I am very appreciative of this award as it has impacted my educational journey in many positive ways. You have boosted my confidence, reassuring me that I am on the right path. I am currently studying marketing and look forward to immersing myself in Spain next semester."*

**- Clarisabel Catipon, fourth-year student (Marketing)**

*"Receiving this award has an immense impact on my planning for my exchange. I am grateful for the support you have provided me on my educational journey and am excited to go on my exchange trip to Turkey!"*

**- Syeda Irshad, second-year student (BComm, Generalist)**





The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Graduation Pow Wow held on May 6, 2023 - members of the University of Manitoba Indigenous Commerce Students (UMICS)

## Student Organizations

In 2022-23, The Associates supported the following student organizations to provide peer mentorship, networking, and other support to members:

- Asper Professional Graduate Student Association (APGSA)
- Asper Network of Empowered Women (ANEW)
- Asper School of Business Accounting Association (ASBAA)
- Asper Students' Co-operative Association (ASCA)
- Association of International Management Students (AIMS)
- International Association for Commerce, Science & Economics Students (AIESEC)
- Management Information Students' Association (MISA)
- The Entrepreneurial Mindset (TEM)
- University of Manitoba Actuary Club (UMAC)
- University of Manitoba Finance Organization (UMFO)
- University of Manitoba Human Resource Association (UMHRA)
- University of Manitoba Marketing Association (UMMA)
- University of Manitoba Supply Chain Organization (UMSCO)
- University of Manitoba Indigenous Commerce Students (UMICS)
- MSc & PhD Student Association





*“The strength and support of the Asper community ensures that we can develop as successful leaders that can pay it forward to build a tradition of excellence together.”*

— **Elliot Codispodi**  
MBA graduate student

*Left to right: Daniel Kokan, Lianne Huberdeau, Elliot Codispodi and Kaushal Patel, Stu Clark Graduate School team win big in Vermont*

## Experiential Learning

In 2022-23, The Associates provided \$94,719 in support of experiential learning opportunities for students, an intrinsic part of Asper’s value proposition. Case competitions allow students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world business scenarios as they prepare to enter the rapidly changing business landscape as innovators and leaders.

Over the past year, the I.H. Asper School of Business participated in **40 competitions** with **69 teams**. We are thrilled to share our continued national and international success in case competitions with an impressive record of **34 podium placements** including **12 first-place wins** and **22 international placements**.

We also celebrated an exciting milestone with our **first international graduate case competition victory** in January 2023. Hosted by the Grossman School of Business in Vermont, the annual Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition is the world’s largest case competition dedicated entirely to family enterprise.

Daniel Kokan, Lianne Huberdeau, Elliot Codispodi, and Kaushal Patel (*Vanguard Consulting*) brought home the **first international graduate case competition win**. Lianne was also awarded **best graduate student presenter** during the final round of the competition.

Behind every milestone victory is a journey of learning opportunities that take place both on and off the podium.



*“The Asper experience truly lives in the connections you build with other students and networks while challenging yourself to reach new feats through participating in competitions.”*

– Marissa Troia  
First-time JDC West participant

## Jeux du Commerce West Competition (JDC West)

Undergraduate success continued with Team Toba (pictured above) at the JDC West Competition hosted by the Edwards School of Business in Saskatoon from January 13-15, 2023. JDC West is the largest student-run business competition in Western Canada, hosting over 1,300 attendees and uniting over 650 delegates from 12 premier post-secondary institutions each year. Over the course of three days, students showcase their skills in academic, athletic and debate competitions.

Led by Team Captains Anna Kowalchuk and Tanner Chwartacki, Asper students put forth a strong showing in a number of categories. Dalton Reidke, Braden Hargreaves and Joshua Carpenter won **first place in Operations Management**; Graeme Taylor, Riley Kotzer and Gustavo Quadros won **first place in Accounting**; Marissa Troia, MacKenzie F., Peter Hanna and Eric Bao took home **second in Debate**; and Evan Adair, Pablo Mejia, Madeline Boonstra and Maisey Do took home **second in Challenge**.

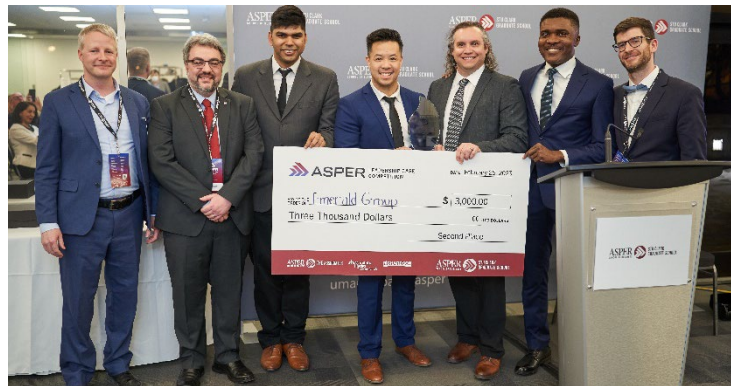
## MBA Games

The MBA Games provides a unique opportunity for MBA students to network and engage with their colleagues from across the country. From January 6-8, 2023, institutions from across Canada participated in academic, athletics and spirit events in Toronto at the Schulich School of Business.

Team Asper, led by Team Captain Mbetini Ekpo and Team Leads Anna Gilfillan and Sheena Gee, showed that business education extends beyond the academic. The team showed their prowess in athletics, **placing second** in the category and securing a **first-place** finish in Futsal. Their footwork in the finals against the Telfer School of Management led them to a 1-0 victory in the football-based game.

## Asper Leadership Case Competition

The I.H. Asper School of Business and the Stu Clark Graduate School celebrated the success of the inaugural **Asper Leadership Case Competition** held February 23-25, 2023. As our Diamond Sponsor, the support from The Associates allowed us to host our first national competition with eight teams competing from across Canada.



The competition challenged students and their case competition skills at Manitoba Hydro, The Forks, Festival du Voyageur and the I.H. Asper School of Business. 25 industry judges ranked the top three teams for the final round. **The Asper Graduate team, *Emerald Consulting*** (pictured above), took **second place**. First place was awarded to the team from Simon Fraser University with the Haskayne School of Business taking third.

## Stu Clark New Venture Championships



The Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship (SCCE) hosted the 2023 Stu Clark New Venture Championships from March 9-11, 2023 at the Fort Garry Hotel.

This year saw **more than 80 applications**, and we hosted 16 undergraduate and 16 graduate student teams from across North America, competing for over \$60,000 in cash prizes to kickstart their ventures. Teams were welcomed at an opening reception sponsored by The Associates (left).

Students presented and were judged live, testing their communication skills and inspiring their audience. Over 60 industry experts, local executives and professionals from the public and private sector served as judges and audience members, offering valuable feedback to students. Stu Clark himself, as well as members of The Associates and Young Associates contributed both their time and expertise.

To set the tone for the competition, on March 8 the SCCE hosted a virtual fireside chat with **Marnie McBean**, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and Canadian Olympic Committee's Chef de Mission, 2020 Tokyo Olympics. You can read more about the event on page 19.



Left to right: 2022 Co-op Employer of the Year, EY and Kyle Casalla [BComm(Hons)/18] of Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company with 2022 Co-op Student of the Year, Jacinda Flores

## Asper Career Development Centre (Co-op Program)

The Asper Career Development Centre (CDC) offers students a range of professional development opportunities and resources to support their educational journeys. Accredited by the Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL), the I.H. Asper School of Business Co-op Program is one of the largest co-op programs at the University of Manitoba. The program connects talented Asper co-op students and employers, providing students with skills and knowledge that set them apart in the workforce.

### 2022 Celebrating Co-op Awards

On February 2, 2023, the Asper Career Development Centre hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating Co-op Awards, welcoming **over 300** co-op students and employers to mark another successful year of co-op education.

**Jacinda Flores**, an actuarial mathematics major nominated by her co-op employer, Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company, was named the **2022 Student of the Year**.

**EY**, one of the top accounting firms in the world, received the **2022 Employer of the Year** award. EY hosted 13 student placements this year as part of the Asper Co-op Program.



*Left to right: Chi Liao, Sean Buchanan and Kelsey Taylor at The Associates Achievement Awards event September 23, 2022*

## Faculty Attraction and Retention

In 2022-23, The Associates provided \$44,000 to support enhanced connections to the business community, attraction of world-class faculty, research excellence and meaningful collaboration between faculty and the business community.

### The Associates Fellowships

The Associates Fellowships contribute to the growing list of support students and faculty receive from The Associates. The Associates Fellowships are awarded to the top faculty members in the I.H. Asper School of Business for their significant contributions to business education, research and engagement with the business community. Each fellowship recipient receives \$10,000 per year, for three years, to support their research, teaching and professional service.

The goal is to create enhanced engagement between faculty members and the business community and bring awareness to the world-class research that is done in the I.H. Asper School of Business.

The inaugural fellowships were awarded in September 2022 to Dr. Sean Buchanan, The Associates Fellow in Business Administration, Dr. Chi Liao, The Associates Fellow in Finance and Dr. Kelsey Taylor, The Associates Fellow in Supply Chain Management.

## Dr. Sean Buchanan - The Associates Fellow in Business Administration

Dr. Buchanan's research focuses on the relationships among actors, institutions and social and environmental issues. His research seeks to understand the dynamics of change and stability in organizational fields, industries and occupations struggling with environmental sustainability, economic inequality or stigmatization.

Highlights from 2022-23 include:

- Presented at The Associates [Emerging Topics Speaker Series](#) in October 2023 titled: *The new corporate activism: The promise and pitfalls of business speaking out on social issues.*
- Three publications in the Financial Times top 50 most reputable journals: [Academy of Management Review](#), [Organization Science](#) (March 2023), [Organization Science](#) (November 2022).
- Dr. Buchanan and co-author's paper [Commercializing the Practice of Voyeurism](#) received the [Best Article Award](#) from the *Academy of Management* – the world's top professional association for scholars of management founded in 1936 that today represents a global community of more than 18,000 professionals, spanning more than 110 countries.
- Received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant (\$113,929).
- Three manuscripts under review (*Journal of Management Studies*, *Journal of Management Studies*, *Academy of Management Discoveries*).
- Developing a new series of research projects on corporate sociopolitical activism and political polarization.



*“The Associates Fellowship has provided me with the unique opportunity to formally engage and collaborate with the local business community through interactive sessions and by facilitating opportunities for mutually beneficial research collaborations. It has also helped me continue producing impactful research that is relevant for the business community.”*

**Sean Buchanan, PhD**

*The Associates Fellow in Business Administration  
Associate Professor, Business Administration  
I.H. Asper School of Business*

## Dr. Chi Liao - The Associates Fellow in Finance

Dr. Liao's research in household finance and behavioural finance focuses on the determinants of financial decision making, both individual and corporate, with the goal of developing a better understanding of observed behaviour.

Highlights from 2022-23 include:

- Published a paper with colleagues on the effect of fraud experience on investment behavior in the [Emerging Markets Review](#).
- Published a paper in the [Financial Review](#) providing evidence that casino openings can have a spillover effect on an individual's portfolio risk-taking.
- Scheduled to present in January 2024 two papers on race and finance at the American Economic Association and the American Finance Association annual meetings and premier conferences in economics and finance.
- On January 24, 2024, Dr. Liao will present at The Associates [Emerging Topics Speaker Series](#) on *ADHD in Finance and Entrepreneurship*.

In this talk, Dr. Liao will draw on her publications to provide an overview of the emerging research on how and why ADHD affects individual-level financial and entrepreneurial outcomes. She will also share what we currently know about the efficacy of various treatments and interventions for mitigating the negative outcomes associated with ADHD.



*"I am grateful for The Associates Fellowship as it provides me with many opportunities to engage and collaborate with the business community. I value the relationships with members of The Associates I have built over the years, and look forward to cultivating more by attending more events and sharing my research."*

**Chi Liao, PhD**

*The Associates Fellow in Finance  
Assistant Professor, Accounting & Finance  
I.H. Asper School of Business*

## Dr. Kelsey Taylor – The Associates Fellow in Supply Chain Management

Dr. Taylor’s research examines multiple dimensions of environmental and social responsibility in supply chains using quantitative and qualitative research methods, such as a case studies, behavioural experiments, and econometric analysis.

Highlights from 2022-23 include:

- Published papers in leading journals: [Journal of Supply Chain Management](#) and the [International Journal of Operations & Production Management](#).
- Out of 240 papers received, [Delivering societal impact through supply chain design: Insights from B Corps](#) was selected as a runner-up for the 2023 Chris Voss Best Paper Award at the annual conference of the European Operations Management Association.
- Received the 2023 International Purchasing and Supply Education & Research Association (IPSERA) Best Paper Award for a [conference paper](#) prepared with fellow collaborators.
- Invited to submit to a special issue of the *Journal of Purchasing & Supply Management*, highlighting select papers from the conference.
- Collaborated with [Asper Ph.D. student, Mojtaba Shourkaei, and professor, Dr. Bruno Dyck](#) on a paper that was accepted for publication in the [Business Strategy & the Environment](#), a leading journal in the field of business sustainability. Their research explores how businesses can advance sustainability and examined the diverse practices employed by Patagonia to help achieve its goal of creating positive sustainability impact.



*“The Associates Fellowship has been incredibly motivating for me. Your support has pushed me to increase the reach and impact of my research projects and increase connections in the local business community. This fellowship also highlights Asper’s commitment to research excellence, which has cemented in my mind that Asper is somewhere I can develop and flourish as a researcher as I progress in my career.”*

**Kelsey Taylor, PhD**

*The Associates Fellow in Supply Chain Management  
Assistant Professor, Supply Chain Management  
I.H. Asper School of Business*





## Events

In 2022-23, The Associates provided \$69,500 in support of events, providing students opportunities to network, learn and connect with fellow students, members and executives in Manitoba's business community.

### 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Commerce Business Banquet

This annual banquet holds the proud tradition of fostering unique connections between students and business leaders and has become the largest student-led networking event of its kind in Canada.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the Commerce Students' Association (CSA) Business Banquet (pictured above) featured keynote speaker **Ashley Smith, HR Manager of Ubisoft Winnipeg**, whose address celebrated this year's conference theme, EVOLVE. The event welcomed more than 500 attendees, including students, faculty, corporate representatives and special guests. In 2021-22, CSA was named the **Most Outstanding Business Student Association** by the Canadian Association of Business Students (CABS).



*Left to right: Bruno Silvestre, Susan Glass, Arni Thorsteinson, Anthony von Mandl, Denise Zaporzan and Michael Benarroch*

## **International Distinguished Entrepreneurship Awards (IDEA)**

IDEA is one of the premier events in Canada's business world, a vision initiated during Dean Emeritus Roland Grandpré's tenure to celebrate outstanding entrepreneurs.

On May 4, 2023, more than 1,000 members of Manitoba's business, academic and governmental communities gathered at the RBC Convention Centre to honour wine and beverage pioneer **Anthony von Mandl**, Founder, Owner and CEO of The Mark Anthony Group of Companies.

Earlier in the day, a student-focused Q&A was facilitated by the 2023/24 Commerce Students' Association President Betty Mae Ferrer, where Mr. von Mandl shared stories about entrepreneurship and resilience before reflecting on his career during his final presentation at the IDEA dinner. Mr. von Mandl also made an unprecedented donation of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to experience the very best of the Okanagan Valley, which led to the introduction of a charity auction as part of IDEA celebrations.

The auction raised funds in support of experiential learning in the I.H. Asper School of Business. The lively auction ran during the gala dinner and continued until May 5, closing with a **final bid of \$110,000**. Funds will support the new **Student-Managed Investment Fund (SMIF)**, which allows undergraduate students to manage a real portfolio of equity and fixed income securities, and experiential learning opportunities including case competitions, co-op education and international exchanges.

## 2023 IGNITE Awards

On September 7, 2023, members of the Manitoba business community and the I.H. Asper School of Business, including many new Bachelor of Commerce students, gathered at the RBC Convention Centre for the IGNITE 2023 award ceremony and gala dinner.

Hosted by the Young Associates, IGNITE returned for a second year with 585 guests in attendance to celebrate **IGNITE 2023 recipient, Dayna Spiring** and her inspiring legacy as a business leader and passion for the local business community. Dayna is the former President & CEO of Economic Development Winnipeg.



## CSA Corporate Golf Tournament

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Commerce Students' Association (CSA) Golf Tournament on August 28, 2023, saw over 60 attendees. The event provides students with an opportunity to spend the day networking with corporate representatives from multiple fields in a fun and relaxing environment.

## Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship Webinar Series

On March 8, 2023, as part of the SCCE's International Women's Day Celebration and The Stu Clark New Venture Championships kick-off, The Associates sponsored a fireside chat with **Marnie McBean, O.C.** titled: *What It Takes to Be a Champion: Tales From a Three-Time Olympic Gold Medalist Marnie McBean, O.C.*



Marnie is one of Canada's most decorated Olympians and an expert in turning potential into performance. As Canada's Chef de Mission at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a former Specialist in Olympic Athlete Preparation and Mentoring for the Canadian Olympic Committee, McBean prepared athletes to ensure that they performed at their highest level. Drawing on her years of experience as a performance coach and a top competitor herself, she left audiences with a recipe for success that can be applied to all endeavors.



Left to right: Local entrepreneurs Michelle Cameron and Matthew Sabourin, 17<sup>th</sup> annual VIBE Award recipients

## Visionary Indigenous Business Excellence (VIBE) Awards

Since 2005, Indigenous Business Education Partners (IBEP) has celebrated the achievements of Indigenous businesses and business leaders at the Visionary Indigenous Business Excellence (VIBE) Awards.

Local entrepreneurs **Michelle Cameron** and **Matthew Sabourin** will be honoured at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual VIBE Awards on November 16, 2023, at the RBC Convention Centre. One hundred percent of event proceeds will directly benefit IBEP students through scholarships, bursaries and academic support.

CEO/Owner Michelle Cameron started **Dreamcatcher Promotions** as a home-based business in 2012 from their home in Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve. They offer organizations, First Nation communities and artists opportunities to create custom apparel and promotional items that suit their unique needs and voice. Dreamcatcher Promotions is now Canada’s largest Indigenous owned promotional company. Today, the company operates out of Swan Lake First Nation Urban Reserve and fulfills contracts across Canada, employing more than 50 people, with a large percent being of Indigenous descent.

**La Brasserie Nonsuch Brewing Co.** is a Métis-Francophone majority owned business led by President Matthew Sabourin. The craft brewery has won more national beer and brewery awards than any other Manitoba brewery, and they earned a second place spot on the Globe and Mail’s 2019 list of best new restaurants on the prairies. Beyond award-winning beverages and food, Nonsuch aims to inspire pride in their province, city and neighbourhood. They are actively involved in their community: fundraising for Main Street Project, working with the Exchange District Biz and partnering with The Winnipeg Foundation as well as joining Circles for Reconciliation, the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and working with Métis Employment and Training (MET).



## Dean's Special Initiatives Fund

In 2022-23, The Associates provided \$8,000 in support towards the Dean's Special Initiatives Fund. The I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba fosters an inclusive environment where all students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members feel welcome, and where we prioritize building and maintaining strong internal and external relationships.

## Annual Asper Retreat

Dean Silvestre hosted the Annual Asper Retreat (pictured above) on March 17, 2023, at the Centro Caboto Centre to determine strategic initiatives for the coming year. Discussions identified two primary areas of focus – Indigenous Reconciliation & Sustainability. Support staff awards were given out and the four winners were recognized at the event. The day ended with a reception to build connections among Asper employees.

## Support Staff Professional Development

### Indigenous Business Education Partners (IBEP)

- IBEP program director, Zach Unrau conducted a workshop at the *Reclaiming Our Future through Economic Development Youth Conference*, hosted by Norway House Cree Nation highlighting IBEP and how a business degree can contribute to the future success in community and personally.
- Zach also received funding toward two courses PME 822 – *Indigenous Languages and Language Teaching* and PME 832 – *Connected Classroom* (completed in June 2023) which supports his day-to-day work and allows him to work toward his Professional Master of Education Degree.

## Asper Career Development Centre (CDC)

- Career Development Centre Consultant, Charlotte Vis van Heemst presented at the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers (CACEE) West Professional Development Day in Vancouver on *Leveraging Instagram Livestream to Engage Students, New Grads and Early Career Talent*.
- Charlotte is also presently enrolled in a comprehensive leadership certification program equipping her with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate complex challenges and drive meaningful change in the I.H. Asper School of Business.
- Seven members of the CDC/Co-op team attended the Co-operative Education and Work-integrated Learning (CEWIL) 2023 Conference in Halifax. Taiwo Luro, Graduate Programs Career Consultant, represented Asper on a panel discussing work-integrated learning at the graduate program level. Three team members were sponsored by The Associates.



*"I am deeply grateful for the funding provided by The Associates which has empowered me to become a more effective leader. I look forward to further contributing to the success of our community."*

**- Charlotte Vis van Heemst**

## Asper Green Office Team

The I.H. Asper School of Business is proud to champion sustainability initiatives for staff, faculty, students and alumni. In November 2022, The Asper Green Office Team ran a fundraiser in support of the Million Mangrove Challenge helping plant over 1,500 mangrove trees in Kenya through Giving Tuesday donations. Check out their [new website](#) for the latest news articles, classroom and staff engagement activities, and to see the awards and honours received by faculty, staff and students.

## Thank you

*Every day we are reminded of the incredible impact The Associates and Young Associates continue to have throughout our University community. You have set an inspiring and generous example others will follow. Thank you for supporting our future leaders from admission to graduation and beyond.*