

ASPER
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



YOUNG ASSOCIATES

SPEAKER BUREAU 2024-2025



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Jesse Boychuk

Development Manager

Longboat Development Corporation

Industry:

Real Estate Development / Private Equity

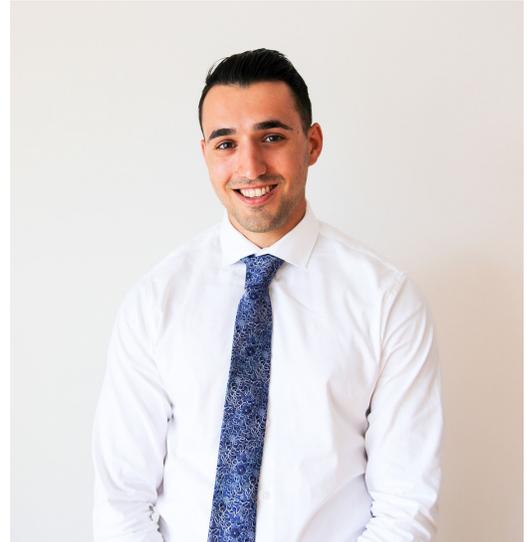
Topics of Interest:

Finance

Law

Construction

Leasing



Longboat

Jesse Boychuk is currently working for Longboat Development Corporation, a commercial real estate developer in Winnipeg. He is responsible for managing development projects from acquisition to disposition. He is also responsible for finding and evaluating new investment opportunities.

Jesse graduated from the Asper School of Business in 2018 with a major in Finance. During his time in Asper, he was involved in the Co-op program, various student groups, and completed a semester abroad in Munich, Germany. Since graduating from Asper, Jesse has obtained the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designation.

Jesse also sits on the Board of Directors at SAM Properties, who own and operate affordable housing in Winnipeg.

Bailey Catania

Recruitment Services Advisor

Birchwood

Industry:

HR in Automotive

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Human Resources

General



Birchwood

Bailey Catania is a dynamic professional and recent Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) graduate from the Asper School of Business with a double major in Human Resources Management and Marketing.

Currently working as a Recruitment Services Advisor at the Birchwood Automotive Group, Bailey brings a strategic blend of HR and marketing expertise to the forefront. With a passion for relationship-building and talent acquisition, Bailey actively shapes a talented workforce and fosters a successful, collaborative environment.

Beyond the office, Bailey thrives on maintaining an active lifestyle through regular fitness routines and spending time enjoying the outdoors with friends, showcasing a well-rounded personality that enhances both personal and professional spheres. With a keen eye for detail, a drive for excellence, and dedication to maintaining a balanced and active lifestyle, Bailey is poised for continued success in human resources and the business world.

Andrew Chudley

Vice President & Account Executive
AON

Industry:

Commercial Insurance & Risk Management

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

Cybersecurity



The AON logo, consisting of the letters 'AON' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Andrew Chudley provides advice and solutions that give his clients the clarity and confidence to make better decisions to protect and grow their business.

With over a decade in the insurance industry, Andrew manages complex insurance programs for large-scale organizations across industries such as retail, manufacturing, real estate, financial services, and aviation. He helps companies navigate our increasingly volatile world to find stability and build competitive advantage.

Accessing the global insurance market, Andrew aligns both traditional and alternative risk transfer methods with his clients' strategic goals and objectives. Andrew takes pride in being a dynamic advocate for his clients. For example, when a business is brought to a standstill following a ransomware attack, a water pipe bursts on the upper level of a high rise, or a lawsuit gets served, Andrew is there to engage insurers and oversee the response.

Andrew completed his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) at the I. H. Asper School of Business in 2017 with majors in Marketing and International Business. He went on to obtain designations including Chartered Insurance Professional (CIP), Canadian Accredited Insurance Broker (CAIB), and Canadian Risk Management (CRM). He is currently pursuing his MBA through the University of Warwick.

Damian Crowley

Business Development Officer
Economic Development Winnipeg

Industry:

Technology, Non-profit, Agriculture

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Accounting

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Non-profit Management



Damian Crowley has spent time in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors with a commitment to leadership, entrepreneurship, and community impact.

Damian has directed transformative learning programs for a small-scale charity, fostering leadership among Grade 5 to Grade 12 students. He was also responsible for managing partnerships, donor relations, and sponsorships, as well as facilitating multiple fundraising campaigns with greatest success of a \$100,000 fundraising campaign.

Damian has founded a premium merino wool e-commerce apparel company focused on product development and marketing. Simultaneously, he also designed an application streamlining corporate volunteering processes, emphasizing the intersection of business and community impact.

Damian is currently a key contributor at Economic Development Winnipeg by collaborating with entrepreneurs, large scale companies, and non-profit associations. He is focused on driving capital investments and job creation within the Agriculture, Life Science, and Transportation sectors for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Area.

Damian highly emphasizes impactful leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and community dedication, while being committed to shaping the economic landscape, while seamlessly navigating both for-profit and not-for-profit spheres.

Oluwagbotemi Dada

Business Development Manager

Elmwood Community Resource Centre

Industry:

Community Development

Topics of Interest:

Business Development

Community Involvement

Leadership

Sustainability and Circular Economy



Oluwagbotemi ('Temi') Dada is an experienced Business Development Professional based in Winnipeg, Manitoba with a robust track record of enhancing organizational growth and efficiency across diverse sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Law (LL. B) from Babcock University and a Barrister at Law qualification from the Nigerian Law School. Currently, she is pursuing an MBA at the University of Manitoba.

Temi's professional experience includes key roles in business banking development and legal services. At Access Bank PLC in Nigeria, she led initiatives that boosted the team's balance sheet by \$5,000,000 and achieved a 95% customer satisfaction rating through strategic risk analysis and effective communication. As Company Secretary at AB Offshore Marine Services Limited, she developed corporate governance procedures and ensured regulatory compliance.

In Canada, Temi has enhanced client data management and fostered community relationships at Elmwood Community Resource Centre and The Link: Youth and Family Supports. Her work reflects a strong commitment to social impact and supporting newcomers and families. Temi is actively involved in community and leadership activities, volunteering with the Canadian Red Cross and participating in sustainability and debate competitions at the Asper School of Business. Along with The Young Associates, she is a member of The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria and The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria.

Overall, Temi is a transformative leader with expertise in business development, organization, customer service, and strategic planning. She is dedicated to delivering innovative solutions and driving positive change in every role she undertakes.

Braeden Demchuk

Recruitment Consultant

Summit Search Group

Industry:

Recruitment

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Recruitment

Executive Search

Hiring

Employee Retention



Braeden Demchuk is a Recruitment Consultant with Summit Search Group. His focus lies on Manitoba and Saskatchewan placing professionals in roles that reveal their full potential, and empowering clients by creating high performance teams.

After almost a decade of experience in Healthcare Sales, Technology, and Sports Management, Braeden found his true passion in building relationships and connecting others. Prior to his career as a Recruitment Consultant, Braeden has collaborated with numerous Medical Professionals in the field of Optometry. He has also dedicated his time to industry-leading technology firms, such as Apple. Outside of his profession, Braeden takes pride in being a Managing Director of an Incorporated Not-For-Profit Sports Organization, which focuses on enabling a wide range of athletes, from Novice to World Cup levels.

During Braeden's time in Academia, he studied Business Administration at Red River College. Braeden considers himself a lifelong learner that brings an enthusiastic approach to each and every interaction. He values staying up to date following the latest industry trends and is always excited to absorb new information. These qualities have resulted in a natural ability to identify the needs of those around him, and to seamlessly implement modern solutions.

Braeden's active participation in a wide range of communities has created a network founded from action and trust. He believes that his career in recruitment will allow his partners to experience enhanced levels of performance, satisfaction, and fulfillment.

Fiona Dunn

HR Generalist

PTI Transformers LP

Industry:

Manufacturing

Topics of Interest:

Recruitment/Onboarding
Orientation/Employee Lifecycle
Offboarding/Unions
Resume/Interviewing
Manufacturing
Co-op
Workforce Diversity



Fiona Dunn is an HR Generalist at PTI Transformers, focused on recruitment and employee lifecycles, and labour relations. Some of Fiona's duties include managing PTI's Co-op program, attending career fairs, coordinating site visits and tours, and hiring students each semester for engineering, human resources, finances, R&D, and operations sectors. She also oversees employee engagement through PTI's engagement survey and recognition program. Fiona has taken courses through Predictive Index and Achieve Centre for Leadership on topics including talent analysis, dealing with difficult people, and hiring strategies.

Fiona is a CPHR Candidate, Asper MBA Candidate, and a member of the Young Associates. Fiona sits on the Rugby Manitoba Board of Directors, Nominations Committee for Rugby Canada, and on her three teams' boards. She also coaches high school rugby and volunteers as an advisor for the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at University of M. Outside of work and board commitments, Fiona plays roller derby and handball.

Kahla Evans

Founder

Hey Kahla Media

Industry:

Coaching/Consulting

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Effective Communication/Public Speaking

Presentation/Speech/Keynote Training



HEY KAHLA

+ *Public Speaking
Confidence Coaching*

Kahla Evans is the founder of Hey Kahla Media. Kahla is a Public Speaking and Confidence Coach, Personality, Emcee, Lecturer, Podcast Host of The Hey Kahla Podcast, and In-game Host for the Winnipeg Jets and Manitoba Moose.

With 20 years of experience speaking for a living, she has worked a wide variety of places including CBC, CTV, Global News, World Vision, the University of Winnipeg, and for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Winnipeg Jets and Manitoba Moose.

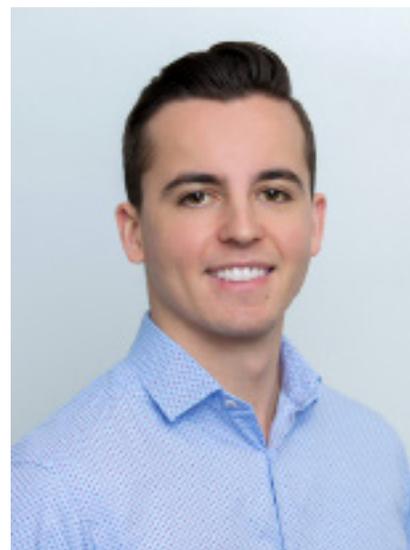
Kahla believes that everyone should have the opportunity to be the best they can be and live the lives they truly want to!

Her work at Hey Kahla Media focuses on helping people build their confidence, be themselves, and have an absolute blast!

Personal development is Kahla's passion and nothing makes her happier than guiding people to find their strengths, create unshakeable self-confidence, and feel good about themselves - knowing in their heart and soul – "Yea, I've got this"!

Andrew Ferris

Program Director, Children's Miracle Network
Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba



Industry:

Non-Profit / Healthcare

Topics of Interest:

Non-Profit/Charity/NGO Management
Fundraising/Business Development for Non-profits
Cause Marketing
Corporate Partnerships



The Children's
Hospital
Foundation
of Manitoba



Children's
Miracle Network

Andrew Ferris is a seasoned fundraising professional with a passion for driving impactful change in the nonprofit sector. He holds a postgraduate degree in Fundraising Management from Humber College School of Business, building upon his foundation from the University of Manitoba.

Andrew began his career at the Sick Kids Foundation in Toronto, where he played a pivotal role on the corporate partnerships team during their historic \$1.3 billion capital campaign, the largest in Canadian child healthcare history. His strategic acumen and dedication helped forged critical partnerships that significantly bolstered fundraising efforts.

Transitioning to Global Philanthropic, Andrew honed his expertise as a consultant, collaborating with numerous nonprofits across Manitoba to optimize their capital campaigns and operational strategies. His deep understanding of donor relations and campaign management proved instrumental in achieving fundraising goals and fostering sustainable growth.

Since 2019, Andrew has served as the Program Director for the Children's Miracle Network in Manitoba, where he oversees a robust annual fundraising portfolio exceeding \$2,000,000. He leads the organization's engagement with national corporate partners, leveraging their support to enhance healthcare outcomes for children across the province.

Andrew's career is characterized by a relentless commitment to bridging philanthropic goals with community impact, making him a respected leader in the nonprofit fundraising landscape. His strategic vision and ability to cultivate meaningful partnerships continue to drive transformative change in children's healthcare and beyond.

Corinne Gusnoski

Business Development Manager
New Media Manitoba

Industry:

Economic Development & Technology

Topics of Interest:

Tech & Interactive Digital Media

Leadership & Community

Professional & Career Development



NMM New Media
Manitoba

As a passionate Winnipegger, Corinne Gusnoski is committed to enhancing our community through economic development and volunteering. As New Media Manitoba's (NMM) Senior Manager of Business Development, Corinne leads strategic initiatives that help grow Manitoba's interactive digital media.

Supporting companies in video game development, extended reality, and more, she manages NMM's Business Development Programs that drive revenue generation, market expansion, and job creation. This includes GameBiz Lab, a program helping new and aspiring video game studio owners to gain industry-related business knowledge to facilitate their success. Prior to joining NMM, Corinne assisted in attracting, retaining, and expanding companies at Economic Development Winnipeg (EDW). While on EDW's Talent team, she coordinated international recruitment missions, including one to Argentina focused on finding experienced tech talent to relocate to Winnipeg.

Committed to community engagement, Corinne volunteers with the Young Associates including serving on the Board, JDC West, and the We Believe in Winnipeg Toastmasters Club. She also enjoys judging for entrepreneurship competitions through the Stu Clark Centre, having competed in several competitions herself as a student.

While studying in Asper, Corinne attended two exchange terms (in Singapore and Sweden), volunteered with AIMS and Business Banquet, and participated in the Asper Co-op Program. She majored in Human Resources and International Business.

As an ambassador for Winnipeg and all of the opportunities here, Corinne believes strongly in celebrating our city and working towards a more equitable future.

Daniel Heschuk

Program Development Specialist

University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science



Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Science and Technology

Interdisciplinary Communication



Dan is a perennial learner who is driven to support the STEM community and create real-world impacts in areas that they care about. Over the course of his university degrees (B.Sc. and M.Sc.), he has numerous research experiences ranging from working on a game reserve in South Africa, to working with DNA of the extinct American Mastodon. His passion for everything science and technology has led him to pursue a career where he may support scientists in applying their research and see their big ideas realized.

Working for the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Science, he helps entrepreneurial researchers access the necessary supports, while also acting as a point of contact for external organizations who look to access scientific talent and expertise. He additionally works to develop experiential learning opportunities for students to support their science communication, networking, idea generation, amongst other skills.

Cora Hildebrandt

Controller

Terracon Developments Ltd.



Industry:

Real Estate Construction, Development and Leasing

Topics of Interest:

Accounting/Finance

Construction and Leasing

Non-Profit



Cora Hildebrandt grew up in Oakville, Manitoba and moved to Winnipeg to attend the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba. During University, she was involved in the Commerce Students' Association as Events Ticketing Manager in 2018/2019 and became the Vice President Finance for the years 2019/2020. She majored in accounting and graduated receiving her Bachelor of Commerce in 2020. She started working at MNP for a Co-op term in Winter of 2019 and accepted a full-time offer with the firm post-graduation. While working at MNP, she began articling to obtain her CPA designation and wrote her final exam in September of 2022. Cora officially received her letters in January of 2023 where at graduation she received the Canada Life Leadership Award for excellence in academics, community and within her workplace.

In 2023, Cora moved on from MNP to become an Assistant Controller at EPLS and switched roles to Controller at The Hansch Group of Companies in 2024, better known under the name Terracon Developments Ltd. Here she spends her time evaluating leasing proposals for financial stability, working on business valuations for potential acquisitions and various other financial and non-financial issues and problems that the companies face. Cora spends some of her free time volunteering for a Board of Directors, Swimmably Inc. which she holds the position of treasurer. They are a non-profit, charitable organization that aims to improve the lives of youth with exceptional needs through affordable and accessible one on one swimming and water safety instruction. When she is not working or volunteering she enjoys spending time travelling, reading, outdoors at the lake or on the golf course.

Jenna Hnatishin

Chief Operating Officer

Manitoba Technology Accelerator

Industry:

Non-Profit

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Marketing

International Business



As a passionate, lifelong Winnipegger, Jenna Hnatishin works to grow communities and networks to help startups and scale-ups succeed. Jenna is Chief Operating Officer for the Manitoba Technology Accelerator, where she oversees all operational aspects of the company's strategy, helps set strategic goals, and oversees the flow of operations.

Through MTA InvestCo, Jenna works to make connections across Canada to facilitate investment into startups and scaleups in Manitoba. Through this model, MTA has been able to deploy over 3MM into its startups.

Jenna also works with a number of international companies through MTA Startup Visa Program, which is aimed at attracting international start-ups and scale-ups to Manitoba. Through this role, Jenna has expanded MTA's reach into international markets by building distribution channel relationships in countries such as UAE, India, Iran and China. Jenna continues to support MTA's vision of building scale-up companies and making Winnipeg the start-up capital of Western Canada.

Jenna graduated from the Asper School of Business with a focus Finance and Marketing. She is also a certified project management professional.

Jenna is a passionate leader dedicated to building a sustainable environment within Manitoba's growing tech community. A current passion project of hers is spearheading an initiative involving Winnipeg's emerging start-ups and existing technology leaders that will bring alignment to Winnipeg's Start-Up and Scale-Ups around a united position.

Selena Levandoski

Director of Operations
Robin Electric Co Ltd.

Industry:

Construction

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

International Business

Case Experience

Ethics

Neurodivergence in Business



Selena Levandoski is an Asper Alumnus, graduating in 2018 with majors in Finance and International Business. During her time at Asper, Selena participated in a variety of case competitions, such as JDC West Debate, CFA Societies Canadian Ethics Competition, Queens Ethics Competition, and the Alberta Not-For-Profit Case Competition.

In her previous role of Director of Product at Palliser Furniture Ltd, Selena was responsible for the creation and execution of Palliser's product strategy, market positioning, and value-orientation. Operating globally in Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and China, Selena's focus on understanding international markets has proved critical to her success. Selena now works as Director of Operations for Robin Electric Co Ltd.

Diagnosed with ADHD at 26, Selena has realized the importance of meeting people where they are at by finding individual solutions that drive collective results. She is fundamentally rooted in the importance of teamwork, community, and growth. This has led Selena to contribute to herself and others through active participation in Athena Leadership, head-coaching Asper's JDCW International Business team, and captaining two volleyball teams.

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being" – Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Suraj (Raj) Lakhi

Associate Lawyer

MLT Aikins LLP

Industry:

Law

Topics of Interest:

Tax Law with respect to Canadian
Controlled Private Corporations
Intergenerational transfer of businesses
General Corporate Law matters
Incorporation, the basics



MLT AIKINS

WESTERN CANADA'S LAW FIRM

Raj Lakhi is an associate lawyer with MLT Aikins LLP. He was called to the Manitoba Bar in May of 2022. Raj practices in the field of taxation, including personal and corporate tax planning, corporate reorganizations, corporate/commercial law, and the use of trusts and estate planning.

Prior to the completion of his Juris Doctor at Robson Hall, Raj completed his Bachelor's of Commerce degree through Asper School of Business with majors in accounting and human resource management/industrial relations. His undergraduate studies in taxation and policy ignited an interest in the law, particularly tax law. In law school, he pursued courses related to income tax law, corporate taxation, and taxation of trusts and estates.

Raj's wealth of extracurricular and volunteer endeavors have shaped him into an empathetic leader and advocate in the community. He has worn a number of hats, leading teams and committees, teaching and mentoring students, and organizing and executing charitable events. Raj served as an intern with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and volunteered with Pro Bono Students Canada, where he worked on a project for the Manitoba Law Reform Commission.

As a volunteer with Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, he helped refugees complete documentation for their refugee claims. While in law school, he also developed and oversaw charitable projects as part of the Community Outreach Committee and raised funds for prostate cancer research as team captain of the Robson Hall Movember Team.

Lyndsey Marshall Carlson

Manager, Financial Planning Winnipeg Central
RBC Financial Planning

Industry:

Financial

Topics of Interest:

Financial Planning
Employee Engagment
Employee Wellness
Problem Resolution
Social Responsibility
Thought Leadership



Lyndsey Marshall Carlson began working for RBC during her second year at the University of Manitoba. Over the past 17 years, she has held multiple roles in financial advice, problem resolution, branch leadership, enablement coaching, project initiatives and implementation. Lyndsey is currently the Manager of Financial Planning for Central Winnipeg, leading a team of 18 accredited Financial Planners.

In 2020, she was awarded the prestigious RBC Global Citizen Award in recognition of her contributions to the community. Lyndsey was also awarded the Community Builders Award by her local Member of Parliament for her work as President of Old St. Boniface Resident's Association. Lyndsey is a passionate advocate for social responsibility and diversity and inclusion and lives these values each day. Lyndsey and her husband, Jordan, enjoy their time travelling and spending time with their two golden retrievers, Miso and Panko.

Sai Sumanth Mellacheruvu

Business Analyst

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Industry:

Health Care

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Leadership

Health Care Operations

Business Analytics

Data Analytics



Winnipeg Regional
Health Authority

Sumanth Mellacheruvu is an accomplished Asper MBA graduate with a robust background in providing business solutions and analyzing complex data sets. Sumanth has extensive experience in leading change management, data analytics, and business intelligence projects across various industries, including health, energy, telecom, communications, and government services. Sumanth has also demonstrated a solid understanding of financial budgets and analysis, data modeling, and the use of business intelligence tools.

Currently serving as a Business Analyst at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Sumanth has played a pivotal role in enhancing operational efficiency through the development and implementation of core services and processes. His collaboration with business and finance consultants has led to significant improvements in budget accuracy and operational performance. By leveraging data analytics and business intelligence tools, he has developed sophisticated dashboards and reports that have streamlined manual efforts and provided actionable insights to drive continuous improvement initiatives.

Nick Noonan

Associate Lawyer

Fillmore Riley LLP

Industry:

Law

Topics of Interest:

Law

Finance

Ethics

AI



FillmoreRiley

Nick Noonan is a lawyer with a background in corporate law, finance, ethics, and taxation. His academic journey began at the Asper School of Business, where he received a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Finance. During his time at Asper, he was a member of the Varsity Bison Swim Team. Afterward, he pursued a law degree at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law, where he graduated with a Juris Doctor, ranking second in his class. During his time there, he received a number of academic honours. Beyond academics, he demonstrated leadership in several initiatives including his position as the Student Body President and co-founding the Darius Maharaj Hunter Memorial Scholarship.

Nick holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Harvard Law School. His thesis, supervised by Professor Noah R. Feldman, explored the intricate relationship between shareholder primacy and ethics in corporate governance.

Currently, he is an Associate Lawyer at Fillmore Riley LLP, focusing on transactional, tax, corporate, and commercial matters. His prior experiences include clerking at the Federal Court of Canada and the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

As a member of the Young Associates Speaker Bureau, Nick looks forward to engaging with Asper School of Business students, sharing his expertise in law, finance, and leadership, as well as contributing to the academic and professional development of future leaders.

James Pham

Digital Innovation Lead
The Show and Tell Agency



Industry:

Advertising/Marketing

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Emerging Tech

AI



James joined the advertising industry in 2021 as an intern and quickly rose to become one of Show and Tell Agency's full-stack marketers. Operating at the nexus of advertising, sales, and IT, he brings a deep understanding of social platforms, emerging technologies, and data-driven marketing.

For the past 18 months, James has been taking the lead in helping the Show and Tell Agency and its clients understand the impacts of Generative AI (GenAI) on how consumers search and how people work. His focus lies in understanding both the risks and rewards of GenAI while assessing the investments required to compete in this new digital landscape.

Outside of work, James serves as a weekly coach for the JDCWest Marketing team. And as an Asper School of Business alumnus, he regularly shares marketing insights, industry experience, and career journey with business students.

James is also a runner and can make a mean cup of Vietnamese coffee.

Riley Proulx

Director

Indigenous Business Education Partners

Industry:

Higher Education

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Indigenous Education

Community Building

Fundraising and Donor Relations



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**INDIGENOUS BUSINESS
EDUCATION PARTNERS**

Riley Proulx is a Métis man from Winnipeg, with family roots throughout the Red River Valley. He has held multiple roles relating to program development, relationship management, and stakeholder engagement throughout his life. He holds his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the Asper School of Business and the Leadership Intensive Program Certificate from Asper Executive Education.

Since graduation in 2019, Riley has been working for Indigenous Business Education Partners (IBEP), a department in the Asper School of Business. He progressed from Student Intern to Director. As Director of IBEP, he works to support Indigenous business students through program development, academic supports, and community building.

Riley co-chairs two committees within the Asper School of Business; the Committee on Indigenous Business Scholarship and the Visionary Indigenous Business Excellence (VIBE) Awards Committee. Community development and support have always been part of Riley's core tenets. Through his work on these committees, Riley has the opportunity to assist in both the fundraising and the disbursement of funds in order to promote Indigenous community building with the Asper School of Business.

In his free time, Riley enjoys sports, cycling, weightlifting, and weekly trivia nights with friends.

Andrew Saygnavong, P.Eng

Technical Sales Engineer
WD Industrial Group/Safety



Industry:

Manufacturing and Construction

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



Andrew Saygnavong, P.Eng, works as a technical sales engineer for both WD Industrial Group and Safety Base Ltd. WD Industrial Group is a manufacturing and rep agency for various industries including waterworks, water and sewage treatment plants, and building mechanical equipment. Safety Base Ltd is a manufacturing of frangible breakaway couplers for traffic lights, light poles, highway signage, and luminaires. Andrew's mission in his role is to supply products and create custom solutions to put into customer's projects.

Steve Setka

Sales Manager

InXpress Winnipeg

Industry:

Freight, Logistics, Trucking

Topics of Interest:

Supply Chain / Logistics

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Sales



Steve Setka is a freight broker and sales professional. As a co-owner of InXpress Winnipeg, he excels at setting targets, leading a sales and operations team, and achieving results that the organization is looking for. As a voracious reader and podcast listener, he spends a good amount of time learning, growing, and applying tactics and strategies to benefit the business and his personal life.

Outside of work, he enjoys travel, playing and watching sports, engaging in a natural and alternative healthy lifestyle, political volunteerism, and church worship ministry. Steven has recently gotten married in September of 2024 and looks forward to being a future father and family man. One piece of advice that Steve recommends to young aspiring business owners, leaders, managers, and contributors is to create an insatiable desire for personal and professional discipline.

Ashley Smith

Studio Manager

Ubisoft



Industry:

Video Games

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategy

Human Resources

Innovation

Diversity & Inclusion

Professional & Career Development



Ashley Smith is the studio leader for Ubisoft Winnipeg. Ashley helped open the AAA video game publisher's Winnipeg studio in 2018. She is passionate about her career bringing together local and global tech talent in Winnipeg's techno-creative district and supporting women in the tech & video game industry.

Ashley's career path has been non-linear. She went to 3 Universities (STFX, U of Winnipeg, U of Manitoba), changed majors twice (Science to Arts, Psychology to Sociology) in her four year degree, finally graduating in 2009 with her Bachelor of Arts, Sociology (honours). She also switched careers from social work (she was a community support worker and Immigrant Settlement worker) to HR where she has worked in several industries; transportation (CN Rail), manufacturing (Masterbrand), technology (Bold Commerce), and video games (Ubisoft). And now leading the Ubisoft Winnipeg studio as the managing director.

The competitive advantage/edge Ashley has brought in her career is embracing change when new interests and passions have been sparked. She wasn't afraid to change careers or roles. Her work in social work and HR has given her unique skills and perspective for her career now as a leader of a AA video game studio.

Brynn Todd, CPA

Senior Accountant

Doane Grant Thornton LLP



Industry:

Public Accounting

Topics of Interest:

Accounting
Leadership



Brynn Todd works at Doane Grant Thornton LLP (DGT) (formally Grant Thornton LLP) where she is a Senior Accountant. She started her career at DGT approximately four years ago after graduating from Asper in the spring of 2021. Brynn received her CPA designation earlier this year and has been enjoying helping mentor others through the CPA program while at DGT.

In her free time, Brynn enjoys hanging out with friends, walking her dog Norman, reading, cooking, and golfing. During University, Brynn played golf for the University of Manitoba Women's Golf Team and her family have been members at the same golf course for as long as she can remember.

During Brynn's time at Asper, she was very involved with the Commerce Students' Association, holding positions on both the General Council and the Executive Council. Brynn loved making connections with many different students, meeting business leaders, and giving back as much as she could. Brynn says, "I'm looking forward to continuing to give back through the Young Associates."

Charlotte Vis van Heemst

Career Consultant and Sessional Instructor
Asper School of Business

Industry:

Career Education

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Clean Technology & Renewable
Energy



Charlotte Vis van Heemst is a purpose driven career development & communications professional with 10 years of experience working in various key-industries in Europe and North-America. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a specialization in Management Support, in addition to a Career & Employment Coach Certificate from the University of Winnipeg. Charlotte is committed to using her global perspective and cross-cultural experience to lead and advance career education initiatives.

Charlotte currently works at the Asper School of Business as a Career Consultant and Sessional Instructor, where she continues to do work rooted in supporting business students on their career journeys. She is a Certified Leadership Coach (CLC) and serves as an active member on The Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers (CACEE) West advisory board. On the board, she contributes her communication talent and expertise of AI and technology to advance career planning and development services in collaboration with career professionals across Western Canada.

Charlotte is a recipient of the 2023 CACEE / ACSEE Regional Recognition Award - Canada West.

Hayley Yamamoto, CPHR Candidate

Human Resources Specialist, Talent Acquisition

Payworks



Industry:

Human Resources

Topics of Interest:

Recruitment/Talent Acquisition

Candidate Experience

Career Coaching (resume, cover letter, interview prep, etc.)

HR/Applicant Tracking Software

Other Human Resource Topics



Hayley Yamamoto graduated from the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business with a Bachelor of Commerce (BComm) (Honours) degree in 2021, majoring in Human Resources (HR) and Marketing. While studying at Asper, she was involved with a variety of programs including the Asper Exchange Program, Arni Thorsteinson Study Exchange Program, Commerce Students' Association, JDC West, and more.

After graduation, Hayley wanted to combine the skills and knowledge she gained throughout the program in both HR and Marketing and joined her third Co-op work term employer, Payworks, full-time. Payworks is a leading expert in the field of total workforce management solutions, providing cloud-based Payroll, Human Resources, Employee Time and Absence Management to businesses across Canada. At first, her role comprised of a broad array of facets in the HR sphere but she quickly found her niche as Human Resources Specialist in Talent Acquisition. Hayley manages full cycle recruitment across Canada for all areas of the business, including Sales, Customer Service, IT, and Product Management. She is highly involved in candidate experience, Payworks' employer branding, and the company's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives – all of which are areas of passion for her.

Hayley has also represented Canada at international folklore festivals around the world as a dancer with La troupe jeunesse de l'Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge, and is a lifelong volunteer at Folklorama's Japanese Pavilion.

Joshua Zaporzan

Owner & President
Audax Adventures

Industry:
Consulting, Technology

Topics of Interest:

Marketing
Entrepreneurship
Sustainability
Clean Technology & Renewable Energy



Joshua Zaporzan has built, invested in, and led several successful new ventures across multiple industries, including a successful exit from his company Longball Athletics in 2020.

In 2020, Joshua began working as the Co-Founder & CEO of H2MB Inc., a pioneering company in the clean technology and renewable energy industry that is working towards building Manitoba's first green hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facility. H2MB's mission is to write the next chapter of our energy industry by providing the lowest cost delivered green hydrogen in Canada as the world works towards a zero emissions future, fuelled by renewable energy.

In addition to his role as the CEO of H2MB, Joshua and his team at Audax Ventures, a Venture Studio and Software Development Company, works with, and invests in, early stage technology companies across a variety of industries, helping them to launch, grow and exit their innovative businesses.

Joshua's influence extends into leadership roles and community involvement. He is the Board Chair of the Young Associates and a member of the Manitoba Government Premier's Business & Jobs Advisory Council. As a speaker, Joshua frequently engages with community leaders and students, sharing his entrepreneurial insights and experiences. He also serves as a judge in numerous business plan and pitch competitions across Canada, continually seeking opportunities to mentor and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.