

ABEP STUDENTS SHINE

2010 MAYAA Awards

What does U1 student Lenny McKay have in common with Asper students Josée Lepine, Matthew Cook-Contois, Desiree Pachkowski? Aside from being enrolled in ABEP (Aboriginal Business Education Partners) at the Asper School of Business, all four were recent award recipients at the 2010 Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards. Held on November 19 at the Victoria Inn, the MAYAA awards ceremony brings together Manitoba's most promising Aboriginal youth leaders for an evening to celebrate their many accomplishments.

"In light of the fact that only sixteen nominees from across the province were selected to receive the awards, it is a major coup to have four ABEP students numbered amongst such leaders," explained Dr. Wuttunee, Director of ABEP. "While we celebrate



the accomplishments of our award recipients, we are mindful that their impressive accomplishments are but only a fraction of the many incredible activities in which all ABEP students are involved."

ABEP's stage presence was further enhanced by Hanwakan Whitecloud, who served as one of two MC's for the evening. Whitecloud received the 2009 Business/Entrepreneurship award. Congratulations to ABEP's deserving award recipients.

ABEP students (L – R) Desiree, Josée, Hanwakan, Lenny, and Matt celebrate their achievements at the 2010 MAYAA awards dinner. To learn more about their achievements, check out their profiles on page 2.



Graduating students Vanessa and Nina share a moment at ABEP's 2010 Holiday Potluck

ADVENTURES DOWN UNDER:

Mya to travel to Adelaide



Mya Horley is travelling to Adelaide South Australia in February for an International Exchange at Flinders University. Eligibility for an exchange includes a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater. Congratulations, Mya, on all your hard work.

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AWARD-WINNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Spotlight on Student Success



LENNY MCKAY

Business/Entrepreneurship Award

Lenny McKay was motivated by the challenges he faced growing up in the North End. In addition to his Aboriginal heritage, Lenny defines himself through volunteerism. Lenny became interested in business at Children of the Earth High School through their involvement in BDC's E-Spirit competition, which is a nation-wide business plan competition for Aboriginal youth. Upon graduation, Lenny wants to become a leader to bring about change in Winnipeg's North End.



DESIREE PACHKOWSKI

Community/Volunteerism (Senior) Award

Desiree Pachkowski is a proud role model for Aboriginal youth. She enjoys sharing her knowledge through volunteering, to help youth in need. She has a vision towards the creation of a better community by ensuring Aboriginal youth have as many opportunities available to them as possible. In addition to her school and volunteer responsibilities, Desiree serves as a Youth Representative on the Community Governance Committee.



MATTHEW COOK-CONTOIS

Artistic (Performance) Award

Matthew Cook-Contois is an exceptionally talented musician who began to play the fiddle at the age of 12. His musical accomplishments include a performance for Queen Elizabeth II during her recent Canadian tour and competing at the 2006 Canadian Grand Master's Fiddling Championship. Matthew's natural talent has not gone unnoticed: He is a highly sought after teacher and is consistently invited to various communities and summer camps.



JOSEE LEPINE

Academic (Senior) Award

Josée Lépine embodies dedication to academic excellence. She has recently been inducted into the University of Manitoba's Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) Chapter. Membership to BGS is limited to students in the upper 10 per cent of their class. Upon graduation, Josée intends to pursue a career in marketing and plans to leverage her position to give voice to Aboriginal people by showcasing Aboriginal issues and achievements that deserve attention.

ABEP Students Mya Horley and Matthew Cook-Contois Share the Story of their Educational Journey at the Asper School of Business



My name is Mya Margaret Horley and I'm 21 years old. I was born in Kenora ON where my family and I are part of Treaty 3. I have been a Manitoba resident since 2004 and am a Manitoba Métis Federation member for St. Norbert. I started my post-secondary education when I was 17 and am now in my third year. I have been accepted into the Asper School of Business, where I am studying to get my Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) with a double major in Marketing and Human Resources.

I have been a member of Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) since I first started in 2008. I served as secretary for the Association of Aboriginal Commerce Students (AACs) for the 2009-2010 year.

When I first enrolled at the University of Manitoba I knew that I wanted to be in the business faculty. My grandparents on both sides have always run their own business, as well as my great-grandparents. My parents also owned and operated businesses in Kenora and Winnipeg. Entrepreneurship has become a large part of who I am.

Whether you are on the nature or nurture side of the debate it is undeniable that entrepreneurship is something that courses through every inch of my being. Not a day goes by when I am not thinking of business names, creating logos, and finding

cunning double meanings in business slogans.

Without ABEP's guidance and support, I would not have had as much success or enjoyment as I have. ABEP offered a place where I can relax and freely ask questions. Some students in the faculty feel that assisting their peers may hinder their future success and look at other students as their competition.

To have a place at the Asper School of Business that offers the guidance of experienced staff is

tremendously helpful. ABEP has brought students together as though they are family, where everyone is willing to help each other, offer advice, and tell stories of their experiences so that other students can learn and benefit from their journeys.

ABEP allowed me to learn about and experience my culture. It helped me achieve a balance between my educational pursuits and my social life. The staff is welcoming and always have their doors open – literally.

I am proud of overcoming my struggles. I am proud of my success. I am proud of my family. I am proud to be an ABEP student.

~ Mya Horley ~

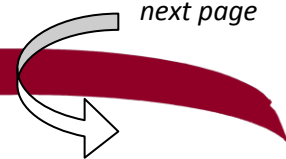
When I first began to attend university I really did not know what I wanted to do, or where I wanted to focus my attention. I was quick to realize that I didn't want to focus on sciences but desired a career in something where I felt in charge and empowered. A first-year economics course spurred my interest in management: understanding various components of how a system of management works was extremely interesting to me.

However, by the end of my first year in university, I was still up in the air about what I wanted to do with my life. Summer came and went and it finally clicked that I wanted to get a degree in business. I made this choice because I figured a management degree could not only prepare me for the world of business and organizations, but would also be extremely useful in anything I could do in my life.

Being unsure of what to do to get into business, the logical next step seemed to look into Asper website and see what the faculty of management could offer me. It was there that I discovered Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP).

ABEP could offer me a lot and would be a system of support

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Career Development Centre Listing of Events

February 2011

- 8 Interview Workshop, 4:30-5:30pm, 421 Drake Centre†
- 10 Professional Conduct in the Workplace, 4:30-5:30pm, 537 Drake Centre†
- 14 Resume and Cover Letter Workshop, 2:30-3:30pm, 539 Drake Centre†

March 2011

- 9 Interview Workshop, 4:30-5:30, 105 Drake Centre†
- 10 Resume and Cover Letter Workshop, 2:30-3:30pm, 530 Drake Centre†
- 10 Resumania, 5:30-8:00pm, 537 Drake Centre†
LIMITED Registration, business attire

† Please visit our friends at the CDC (254 Drake Centre) to register



LISA MEECHES: A WOMAN WITH SPIRIT

ABEP is pleased to host award-winning entrepreneur and media personality Lisa Meeches as part of our Courageous Leadership Speaker Series.

Tuesday February 15 | 11:30-12:45 | Fishbowl @ Drake Centre

throughout my education. Convinced this is what I wanted to do, I then decided to go and visit the ABEP office to find out how I could join.

Curiously walking into the office for the first time, I met Karen, who welcomed me and was happy to explain about ABEP.

From that point on, I was sold, and was grateful to be accepted into ABEP. It wasn't long before Roxanne and Karen became my friends and they both helped me to attain a focus in school that I had never thought I could achieve.

As a result of ABEP's continuing efforts, my second year of university was extremely successful and I reached goals they helped me set. Being part of ABEP is every bit as important to me as being a part of the Asper School of Business. I am always proud to say I am part of an elite program in an elite school.

"I am always proud to say I am part of an elite program in an elite school"

It has been two years now since I first walked into those offices and I have never regretted my decision to join the Asper School of Business and ABEP.

educational goals, I most likely would

Without their constant vigilance towards ensuring I reach my

not have remained in school. I personally recommend joining ABEP to other university students in other faculties as well as to any young high school graduates to consider a career in business and a place in the Asper School of Business' ABEP community.

~ Matthew Cook-Contois ~

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES



ABEP student and expert networker, Ryan Daneault, rubbed shoulders with Prime Minister Stephen Harper at a recent Winnipeg event (Fall 2010).

