

IODE Scholarship Presentations

Betelstaður was the site for the annual presentation of scholarships awarded by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE on Saturday, November 14, 2009. The emcee for this annual event was Gunnur Isfeld, President of the Chapter. Speakers for the occasion were Atli Ásmundsson, Consul General of Iceland and Birna Bjarnadóttir Chair of Icelandic Studies University of Manitoba.

Deanna Isleifson, Education Officer made the scholarship presentations.

Following these presentations Gunnur Isfeld made a special presentation of a floral bouquet and a cake to honour Johanna Wilson on the occasion of her 90th birthday on November 15. Johanna, a long time member, is the daughter of the founder of the IODE Jon Sigurdson Chapter, Johanna Gudrun Skaptason.

The scholarship recipients, their families and guests were treated to coffee with birthday cake and other refreshments that included several Icelandic delicacies.

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship (2 Awards)

Kena Olson is the daughter of Elaine Dilworth and Kris Olson of Gimli, MB. Her great-great paternal grandparents, Gottskalk Sigfusson and Holmfriður Jonatansdóttir, emigrated from Iceland to Gimli in 1876. They traveled further south to North Dakota, and then returned to Gimli in 1882. Kena's grandparents are Paul and Margaret Olson of Gimli.



Kena is an exceptional student and musician. She graduated with Honours from Gimli High School with an amazing record. She had been on the Honour Roll all four years, maintaining an average in the high 90's throughout those years, with a total of 45 credits. She received "Top Academic" awards each



PHOTOS: KENDRA JÓNASSON

From right to left: Kena Olson, Seth Ruff, Sarah Carson, Chantille Papko, Bronwen Garand-Sheridan, Elizabeth Craig, Chelsea Bailey, Heather Wilton, Quinn Senkow and Karen Oswald. Missing are Aislynn Torfason, Sarah Isleifson, Heather Sigvaldason, Justine Gould and Theresa Thordarson.

year. Kena was very involved in the extra-curricular activities of her school, being a member on the Youth in Philanthropy program, and was also extremely involved in the school's music program. She played lead trombone in both the concert and jazz bands, and taught trombone sectionals, as well as, one on one for younger students. She has been a member of the Manitoba Provincial Honour Bands, Intermediate and Senior, and also the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Provincial Honour Jazz Bands. This year, she was lead trombone player with the National Youth Band of Canada. Kena also has studied the piano, obtaining Grade 8 Piano, and Grade 2 Theory from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Kena has been active in her community, volunteering with "Meals on Wheels", and twice a week at Betel Senior Citizen Home, visiting the residents and helping with their recreation program.

Upon graduation, Kena was awarded a Brandon University Board of Governor's Entrance Scholarship, Brandon University E. Jay Watson Memorial En-

trance Scholarship, and the Governor General's Award

Kena is now in her 1st year at the University of Brandon, School of Music. She plans on becoming a professional musician/music teacher.

Seth Ruf is the son of David and Heida Ruf of Killarney, MB. His mother emigrated from Iceland with her family when she was eight years old. He is the grandson of Ingthor and Gunnur Isfeld of Winnipeg.

Seth has been an outstanding student throughout his high school years. He has been an Honour Student, having an average in the 90's all four years and earned 34 credits. His favourite subjects were math and computer skills, which he excelled at. He received 98% in Advanced Math, and 99% in Computer Science.

Seth sat on the Killarney District



Justice Committee as a Youth Representative for two years. At his high school, he was Chairman of his Grade 12 Graduating Committee, an active member of the Chess Club, and a math tutor. In his classes, he was a leader of different groups helping other students learn the skills demonstrated by the course. While attending school in Whitewood, Saskatchewan, prior to living in Killarney, Seth set up the school web site. He managed and maintained the site.

Upon his graduation, Seth received the Killarney District Justice Committee Bursary. Seth is now in his first year in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Manitoba. He plans a career in Computer Engineering.

Jon Sigurdsson IODE Members Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Carson is the daughter of Helga Perrit (Hanneson) and Doug Carson of Neepawa, MB. Sarah's grandfather, George Hanneson, was born in Langruth, MB. There is Icelandic lineage on her father's side of the family, also. Sarah is currently in her 4th year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Arts, completing her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Global Political Economy. She has excelled academically while in university, being on the Dean's Honour List, in the top 2% of her class. She received the William Briskie Memorial Scholarship in English and Economics in 2008/2009.



After graduating from high school, Sarah spent a year in Douai, France, as a Rotary Exchange Student, where she lived with a French family and was able to learn about French culture and master the French language. This was when she first recognized her interest in international and community development.

While in high school, Sarah was an active member of student council, and also an active volunteer in her community. In her first three years of university, she has been extremely involved in many university groups and international programs, AIESEC Manitoba, Model

United Nations, U of M Chapter NGO, World University Service of Canada, and the Refugee Sponsorship Program. She has been a volunteer for the Volunteer English Practice Program at the International Centre for Students at the U of M, and this fall will be taking part in the Crime Prevention Program at the Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services Inc, (NEEDS). She is also a member of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network. Sarah has spearheaded the development of World Opportunities Week. She has developed a series of "How-To" guides, created an e-newsletter, a YouTube channel and a World W.I.S.E. volunteer program.

Sarah hopes to one day work in newcomer and refugee settlement, immigration policy, or work for an internationally-focused non-governmental organization.

Hildur Guttormson Memorial Scholarship

Chantille Papko is the daughter of Robert Papko of Winnipeg.

She graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in 2005. She also attended Universite Laval for the Summer Language Bursary Program in 2002. She is currently attending the University of Manitoba in her first year of a Bachelor of Education degree in the Senior Years stream. Chantille has decided to leave her employment in the insurance industry in order to change her career direction and pursue something more challenging and meaningful.

Chantille has been very interested in art and printmaking. She has been active with Martha Street Studio for several years, where she has taken a Youth Outreach course on the basics of printmaking. After completing the program, she was chosen to participate in a Youth Mentorship with renowned Canadian-Icelandic printmaker, Inga Torfadottir. Other arts-related community projects that she has been a part of include the



publication of "Juice", a Winnipeg literary journal, photography and poetry. She volunteered at the Scottish Poetry Library when she lived and worked in Edinburgh from 2006 to 2007.

Chantille has worked with Coleen Rajotte for over two years on her television series, "Vitality Gardening", and also with this year's Aboriginal Film Festival. She has helped make arrangements for hundreds of students from all over Manitoba and the far north to come to Winnipeg for the festival. She has raised funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation in their "Run for the Cure".

Chantille is excited about entering the teaching profession, a desire she has had for several years. She is looking forward to the challenges of being a teacher.

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

Bronwen Garand-Sheridan is the daughter of Brian Sheridan and Eveline Garand of Winnipeg. She graduated from College Louis Reil in 2003 with Honours, and is presently in her third year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music, pursuing a career in Classical Oboe Performance. She is an amazing student and musician, her grade point average after her second year was 4.00. In 2003 and 2004, she was awarded the U of M, Faculty of Music, Endowment Scholarship.



Bronwen studied piano with Thelma Wilson for ten years, obtaining Grade 10, RCM, with Honours, in 2001. She has been teaching piano since 1999. While in her teens, she also played the harpsichord, and to be able to join the Winnipeg Youth Orchestra, she took up the oboe. After attending Chamber Music Camps at the U of M, she decided to take up the oboe and focus her studies on orchestral and chamber music performance. While in high school, she participated as principal oboe in the Intermediate and Senior Manitoba Honor Bands and the Intermediate and

Senior Winnipeg Youth Orchestras. She performed as principal oboe with the Long and McQuade All-Star Band, and joined l'Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de l'Ontario francais on their cross-Canada tour.

In 2002, Bronwen joined the Naval Reserve of Canada, and in 2003, she was accepted into the National Band of the Naval Reserve. The following year she became oboe instructor at the Canadian Forces School of Music. She has performed with a number of professional and semi-professional ensembles, and has performed as an extra oboe player with the Winnipeg Symphony on numerous occasions.

In early 2007, Bronwen's musical career and studies was "put on hold" when she was diagnosed with a very serious illness. After more than a year of major complications and extensive treatments, she has battled back, and is now continuing on the path to fulfill her dream of becoming a professional classical musician. A few months after recovery, she participated in "The Challenge for Life", fundraising for cancer research through organizing and completing a 20 K walk that raised \$3900 in personal contributions, and a total of \$6000 as a team member. She shared her story on Breakfast Television and CJOB Radio, as well as in the event's posters and the Winnipeg Free Press. In the past, she has volunteered at Foyer Valade, at the Canada Summer Games, for the Winnipeg's Children's Day Camps, at the Manitoba Children's Museum, and at St. Amant Center, playing the organ during their Sunday Services.

Bronwen is not only an outstanding musical scholar and performer, she is truly a gifted and unique person, and is very worthy of this scholarship.

Snjolaug Gillis Memorial Scholarship

Aislynn Torfason is the daughter of Todd and Debbie Torfason of Winnipeg. Aislynn is very proud of her Icelandic heritage. Her great-grandparents were Keli and Osk Torfason of the Winnipeg Beach - Gimli area, and her grandparents were Victor and Dorothy Torfason. Folklore in her family has her great grandfather as being one of the first generation Icelandic - Canadians born in the Winnipeg Beach - Gimli area, and sup-

posedly he had the ability to lift cars.

Aislynn graduated from Fort Richmond Collegiate in 2007, where she had been an Honour student all four years. She is currently in her second year of Nursing at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is doing extremely well – she has received a Lakehead University Academic Scholarship and the Lakehead University Varsity Athlete Scholarship. Aislynn is a nationally and internationally ranked Olympic Style Wrestler on the Thunderwolves Varsity Team.

While in high school, Aislynn played flute in the band, was on the track team, coordinated a free exam week breakfast, served breakfast for students at an elementary school, fund raised for choir and drama groups and for graduation, and taught Sunday School. She also danced with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet until she was in grade 11, and she competed in wrestling (she started wrestling in grade 8).

Aislynn has earned a spot on the Ontario University Athletics Team by winning Bronze at the regional qualifiers. She placed second at the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association Junior Nationals finals, one point away from gold, and a chance to compete at Junior Worlds. She did all this while rehabbing a broken ankle. Her goal is to make it to the 2016 Olympics. Aislynn has an extremely busy schedule. She not only continues to excel in the nursing program, she trains daily, and also mentors young athletes by volunteering as the Junior Wolves coach (elementary aged group).

Aislynn ultimate goal is to become a nurse.

Gyda Naylor Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Islefson is the daughter of Mitchell and Diane Isliefson of Winnipeg Beach, and the granddaughter of Cecil and Deanna Isliefson of Winnipeg. Her paternal great-grandparents were Thorstein and Osk Isleifson of Glenboro (and later Winnipeg), and her maternal great-grandparents were Eyjolfur and

Margaret Isfeld of Winnipeg Beach.

Sarah graduated from Gimli High School in 2005, where she had been an Honour Student all four years. At that time, she received many scholarships and awards. Throughout her high school and university years, Sarah has been very involved in her school and community. She was a member of Manitoba Youth Parliament for three years, a member of "Circle of Friends", a volunteer in the office at high school, active fundraiser, and a member of volleyball, basketball and badminton teams. Sarah figure skated competitively for many years, earning many medals and trophies. She used her knowledge of skating to help other young skaters as an assistant coach and as a figure skating judge. She also volunteered as a soccer referee and assisted with the "Beavers" program, and was very active in her church.

Sarah is now in her fifth and last year of Education at the University of Winnipeg. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Winnipeg, June 2009. She has excelled during her first four years – she is a Student of Distinction. As a 5th year Education student, Sarah is now in Bangkok, Thailand, participating in a Manitoba Certified English Program School, through the University of Winnipeg, teaching in an "English as a Second Language" environment. She is teaching Grade 5 and 6 students, two levels of Math classes, which have three classes of students at each level, and also a 2nd grade homework class. She is responsible for all aspects of teaching - planning lessons, classroom management, assessment and evaluation, all administrative paperwork concerning her classes, and works as a team member of the foreign department. She also volunteers regularly at an orphanage in Bangkok. Sarah has connected very well with her students and her Thai colleagues despite the language and cultural barriers. She has received an extremely impressive evaluation from the coordinator of the program.

Sarah writes that she is very thankful for having the opportunity to spend her



last year of her Bachelor of Education training in Thailand. She feels the experience is increasing her repertoire of strategies and activities that will in the future help her become a more productive teacher when she is back home in Manitoba.

E.I. Benjaminson Memorial Scholarship

Heather Sigvaldason is the daughter of Marino and Coleen Sigvaldason, and the granddaughter of Valdimar and Ingibjorg Sigvaldason of Arborg, MB. Heather was raised on the family's original homestead, Framnesi.

Heather graduated from Arborg Collegiate with Honours in 1991. She attended the



University of Manitoba Faculty of Science, for two years where she was on the Science Honour Roll. In 1994, she entered the 1st year of Medical Rehabilitation - Physical Therapy Faculty, and graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation - Physical Therapy in 1997, Dean's Honour List. She received several scholarships while in this faculty.

Heather practiced as a Physiotherapist for 11 years. During that time she volunteered her services at various events, such as the 1999 Pan Am Games, the annual Boeing Classic Track and Field Meet, and the Physio Fit Run. As well, she was a volunteer trainer for St. Paul's Crusaders high school football team. She also volunteered as a member of an ad-hoc committee for the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba, developing practice standards.

Heather is planning on becoming a Physician Assistant. She is now in the 2nd year of a Master's of Physician Assistant Education Program at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Canada's first graduate level program for training of Physician assistants. This is a highly intensive 26-month program, full time. Heather was chosen for the Program from a group of highly qualified applicants, all of whom met rigorous standards of academic preparation and clinical experience. Because they will be

the first Canadian-trained civilian PAs in Canada, the committee was particularly careful to choose applicants who demonstrated high levels of professionalism and integrity. Heather has more than fulfilled these expectations on all counts. During the first year of the Program, she emerged not only as one of the top students academically (she consistently performed in the top quartile in the class on examinations and presentations) but as a model of professionalism, maturity, and accountability. Heather also serves as student representative on the Awards Committee.

Kristin Stephensen Music Scholarship

Elizabeth Craig is the daughter of John and Betty Craig of Winnipeg. She graduated "Magnum cum Laude, from Fort Richmond Collegiate this past June. Her grade 12 average was in the 90's. She was the recipient of the Lifetouch Humanities Scholarship, and the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music Entrance Scholarship (highest level).



Elizabeth, an outstanding young musician, is in her 1st year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music, where she is currently studying the piano. She has achieved Grade 10 Piano with Honours, Grade 4 Theory: Counterpoint and History, First Class Honours, Intermediate Piano PED written, Honours, and Intermediate Viva Voce, Honours through the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has also studied voice.

Elizabeth had been very involved in the music program at her school. She was a member and leader in the Concert Choir and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and represented her school in the Manitoba Honour Choir in 2009. She worked on some arrangements for her school's Vocal Jazz Ensemble over the past two years. She has also been an accompanist for the high school and junior high school choirs for the last three years. Elizabeth is bilingual, having completed a Bilingual French program "Explore" at Cagay de Trois Rivieres, Quebec in

2008. This past year, she represented Manitoba in "Forum for Young Canadians" in Ottawa.

Elizabeth has volunteered for the Winnipeg Jazz Festival at the Winnipeg Office and with the stage crew, and has volunteered and done fundraising for the Victoria General Hospital. She has volunteered at the U of M in the Explore Program, as English Language Helper. She is also active musically in her church community. As busy as she has been, she has been also teaching piano for several years.

Elizabeth is truly an outstanding young musician.

Eugene and Rose Clyde Memorial Scholarship

Chelsea Bailey is the daughter of Darren and Carla Bailey of Winnipeg. Chelsea's maternal great-grandparents came to Canada from Iceland in 1915. Her Amma and Afi, Harold and Connie Johnson were involved with the Icelandic National League of North America, in Selkirk, MB, for many years.



Chelsea graduated with Honours from College Jeanne Sauve in 2007. She received a number of scholarships at that time in recognition of her academic achievements and her citizenship involvement. Chelsea is now a 3rd year student majoring in French, at the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Education. Chelsea is an outstanding student. She has done extremely well in her first two years of university. She is a Student of Distinction. She is fluent in English and French.

Chelsea is a member of "Reaching Across Borders" (Students without Borders). Over the past five years they have supported a community called M'Bour in Senegal, Africa, by raising funds to help students to attend school, and also help with medical care for patients at a medical and eye care clinic. In 2007, they travelled there and helped at an orphanage and worked at the medical clinic and eye clinic. Chelsea has made presentations to large groups regarding

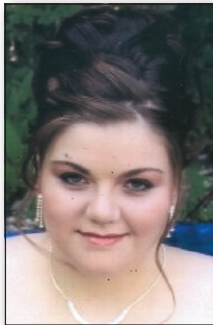
humanitarian efforts in Senegal, Africa, in an effort to raise awareness to the plight of Africa. She has collected large amounts of clothing, grooming items, school supplies and children's books, and personally delivered them to a small village, Leona Vicario in Mexico in 2006, and to the "Children of the Dump" in Puerto Vallarta in 2008. She has also volunteered at Siloam Mission. For the past year, Chelsea has been volunteering as a tutor with Frontier college, and as a tutor at the Winnipeg International Children's Festival held at The Forks in June 2009.

Chelsea has been working as a Child Care Assistant at a Children's Centre since May 2009, where she has been responsible for the care of children ranging in age from 3 months to 12 years. She has done an excellent job, she has a warm, nurturing disposition.

Chelsea writes that she has known since she was very young that she would one day become a teacher. She clearly is committed to teaching children and making a difference in their lives.

Anna Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Justine Gould is the daughter of Janice Gould of Virden, MB. Justine is an outstanding student and musician. She is currently in her 1st year at Brandon University, School of Music. She is planning on entering Music Education next year, her goal is to become a high school Band Director.



Justine graduated from Virden Collegiate this past June where she has been an Honour student all four years. She attained 43 credits, which qualified her for the Provincial Gold Level Diploma. She took all three sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) in both grade 11 and 12, as well as both Applied and Pre-Calculus maths. In grade 12, she took the Advanced Placement Calculus class, and did very well on the AP exam. At graduation, she received the Brandon University Board of Governor's Advanced Early Admission Scholarship, the Brandon U.

Board of Governor's Entrance Scholarship, the Hatfield Insurance Scholarship, and the Virden Collegiate Institute Band Association Scholarship.

Justine not only excelled in her academics, but also in her dedication to her studies in the area of music. She was a member of the school's Concert band, where she played clarinet, and the Jazz band, where she played tenor saxophone. She has been playing piano since she was seven. She currently is studying Royal Conservatory grade 10 Piano, and also has completed all of the music theory rudiment exams, Introduction to Harmony and grade three Harmony exams and the grade three History exam. This year she completed both the written and practical "Viva Voce" portions of the elementary Piano Pedagogy exam. She has been teaching piano for three years.

Justine has been active in other extra curricular school activities. She was a member of T.A.D.D. (Teenagers Against Drunk Driving), serving as Vice-President and President. She helped organize and run various events and fundraisers.

Outside of school, she volunteered for: Virden Pioneer Home Museum, Sonic Sladen Music Productions, Virden's local play company, her church - teas, lunches, and rummage sales, played piano when the regular pianist was away, accompanist for the Candlelight Choir and church service at Christmas time, and for other musicians. She also helped at the Sunday School.

Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Heather Wilton is the daughter of Doug and Linda Wilton of Carmen, MB. Heather is presently in her 3rd year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Heather is an outstanding student, she is ranked in the top 10% of the 65 students in her class. After her 2nd year her GPA was 3.47. She is majoring in Animal Sciences, she plans on becoming a Veterinarian. Heather has been awarded the H.I. Graham Scholar-



ship, the Bruce D. Campbell Bursary, the W. Siverright Cuthbertson Scholarship, and the Marion Abra Bursary, along with several others in the past, in recognition of her excellent achievements in her studies. Heather is "Don" at the St. John's Residence, this fall and winter term. She has participated in the "Hall Event". For the second time, the Introduction to Agriculture class from the U of M, will be coming out to her farm to have a tour of her sheep operation.

Heather was home-schooled, both elementary and high school. She grew up on a farm, and being the oldest of six children, she took part in all the farm chores and activities. She has trained and shown horses since a young age, and has, and continues to raise her own flock of Dorper and Dorper cross ewes. Over the years she has shown her sheep at fairs across Canada. She is the Director for the Manitoba Dorper Society. This past summer, she has become more active in the Manitoba Sheep Association. She also works at a dairy, where she is responsible for milking 150 cows. Heather is also very involved in her community. She plays piano for her church occasionally and leads children in Sunday Directives. She was a very active 4-H member, held all officer positions, was a Leader for two years, participated in fundraising events, taught new members how to ride horses, organized and led the Graysville Musical Ride, and took part in the 4-H public speaking program where she advanced to the regionals.

Heather is truly a worthy student for this scholarship.

Halli and Gudrun Bjornson Memorial Scholarship

Quinn Senkow is the daughter of Sharlene Fridfinnson of Gimli and Rodnet Senkow of Arborg, MB. Her Icelandic ancestry comes from her mother's side of the family. Quinn's grandparents, Skapti and Norma (Thorsteinson) Fridfinnson, farmed in the Gey-sir area until the mid 1990's. Her great-grandparents, Kristmunder



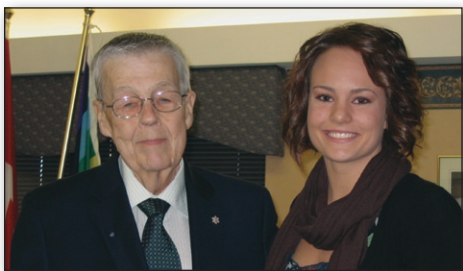
and Jakobina Fridfinnson, homesteaded Artun near Arborg.

Quinn graduated with 1st Class Honours from Arborg Collegiate in 2001. She was awarded a Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship to the Uof M. While pursuing her undergraduate training, she was on the University 1 Honour List and the Faculty Of Science Dean's Honour List, and received two UMSU scholarships. Quinn completed her Bachelor of Science, Psychology Honours degree in 2006, graduating with 1st Class Honours, with a cumulative GPA of 4.24.

While in high school, Quinn was an active member of school and community. She played baseball for 9 years, played on the school volleyball teams, the track and field team, and was a member of the student council, graduation planning committees, and the Drama Club. She volunteered for the Senior Meal Program, the Arborg Summerfest and Children's Carnival. While attending university, she served as a U of M Student Orienteer for incoming University 1 students, and volunteered at the Victoria Hospital Medical Rehabilitation Unit, and at St. Amant School and the St. Amant Research Centre. Since 2006, Quinn has been employed as a Research/Administrative Assistant at St. Amant Research Centre. She has been actively involved in conducting research with individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Autism, and their families.

Quinn is now attending the U of M Faculty of Graduate Studies. She is in the Master's level School Psychology program. Upon graduating, she plans to pursue a career as a school psychologist in a rural Manitoba school division.

Neil Bardal Scholarship



Karen Oswald is the daughter of Jim and Lizann Oswald of Winnipeg. Karen's Icelandic descent comes from her mother's side of the family. Her

great-grandparents were Guttormur and Olavia (Bardal) Finnbogasson, and her grandfather is Christian Finnbogasson of Winnipeg. Olavia was Fjalkonan at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli in 1958.

Karen graduated in 2008, with Honours, from Oak Park High School with an outstanding record, not only in academics, but also in sports and other extra curricular activities at her school. Her marks were all in the high 90's. At that time she received a number of scholarships and awards in recognition of her outstanding achievements. Karen is now in her 2nd year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science, where she continues to excel in all her courses. She was on the University 1 Honour List. She is in the process of acquiring a major degree in Biological Sciences and also a minor in Psychology. She then plans on continuing her education in either medicine or medical rehabilitation.

While in high school, Karen was a member of the varsity basketball team, the soccer team, the cross-country team, the indoor and outdoor track and field teams, and the women's hockey team. She was captain of the basketball team, and assistant captain of the hockey team. In university, she continues to play basketball for the "Swoosh", competing in both the Manitoba Senior Women's League and the MCAC league.

Karen has been a great citizen at her high school and also in her community. She has been coaching basketball for the Roblin Park Community Club team about three years. Last year she coached the River West Park Grade 9 Girls team, and the Junior Bisons Grade 7/8 team. She will continue to coach these teams this coming basketball season. She was a member of Oak Park's Youth in Philanthropy group, which investigates and then donates funds to a number of charitable organizations in Winnipeg. One of their activities was fund raising for Cancer Care where they cut off 10 inches of their hair for wigs. She was a member of the Oak Park Athletic Committee that helped organize the 2007 Spirit of Christmas Classic Basketball Tourna-



ment. The tournament raised \$2100 and 700 food items in support of the Christmas Cheer Board. Karen was a member of the school's anti-hazing committee. This committee visited local junior high schools to deliver a positive message to incoming students. She was also Co-Chair on Student Council for the Special Events committee. One of these events was the school's first ever grade 12 three-day retreat. This year she was a student leader at the University 1 Student Orientation days.

Karen is truly an exceptional student, and very worthy of the Neil Bardal Scholarship.

Shirley McCree Memorial Scholarship

Theresa Thordarson is the daughter of Philip and Phyllis Thordarson of Langruth, MB. Her great grandparents settled in the Langruth area when they came to Canada from Iceland.

Theresa is an outstanding student and musician. She graduated with honours from William Norton Collegiate, Gladstone, MB, in 2008. She is currently in her 2nd year at the University of Brandon, School of Music, Piano Performance Program. She continues to excel, all of her marks during her 1st year where A's and A+'s, with a GPA of 4.30. In recognition of her achievements, she was inducted into the President's Honour Society, and she has been awarded the Brandon University Board of Governors Entrance Scholarship and the President's Brandon Festival of Arts Scholarship.

During her school years, Theresa was extremely active in extra curricular activities and also volunteering in her community. She was a member of the student council, serving as President and Social Convener. In these positions she designated, planned and followed through with activities and events. She attended a Student Leadership Conference in Killarney. In Grade 12, she, along with a group of friends, founded, "Warriors for Change", a social justice



group. They helped organize a 30 hour Famine in the school to raise awareness of hunger in other parts of the world. They also raised money for “World Vision Catalogue”.

Theresa was also very active in the school music program. She was a member the band (trumpet), participated in the school production, “Grease”, both as an accompanist and a soloist, and was a member of the choir. She was a member of both the Provincial Honour Choir and the Central Manitoba Youth Choir.

Theresa started playing piano and singing when she was 5 years old. Over the years, she has participated in many festivals and competitions both in piano and vocal, where she has accumulated

many awards. In the community and at school, she has accompanied soloists and choral groups, and also has provided solo musical entertainment. She has worked with Remi Bouchard, a Manitoba composer, and completed an album of intermediate piano solos that was released this past June. The recording includes arrangements of two Icelandic folk songs. In 2006, Theresa and her sister Heather, sang on stage at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli, accompanied by their uncle, Doug Thordarson’s band, “String Fever”. June 17, 2008, Theresa took part in the annual Iceland’s Independence Day Wreath Laying Ceremony on the Manitoba Legislative Grounds, by reciting a poem.

As busy as she has been with her music, Theresa has also been a very active volunteer in her community. She has volunteered at the canteen in the local skating rink, at the community Sports Day, at the local newspaper, tutored a “special needs” student, taught Vacation Bible School (5 years), and plays piano for church choir and some church services. She also accompanies singers and instrumentalists at Brandon University.

In the future, Theresa plans on becoming a professional pianist/accompanist. I would say she is well on her way to achieve her goal. Theresa is certainly an exceptional young student, a very worthy recipient of the Shirley McCreey Scholarship.
