

# Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE awards 13 Scholarships

Karen Botting

“Every year the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE, on this day fulfills the dreams of the (Icelandic) pioneers who came with nothing but hope, to build a future for their children in a new land,” said Þrúður Helgadóttir, Patron of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE, guest speaker at the IODE Scholarship Awards Presentation.

Thirteen young people, representing a diverse number of talents and interests, received scholarships. These students demonstrated not only academic excellence, but a strong commitment to their communities and to volunteerism. Our future is indeed going to be in good hands.

The annual award presentation was held October 23, at Betelstaður Housing Co-op, in Winnipeg. About 80 people attended. Chapter President, Ingrid Slobodian presided over the ceremony and Karen Botting, Education Chair, presented the awards with support from long time members, Johanna Wilson and Dee Westdal, as well as from family members representing the Neil Bardal Scholarship, Annette and Eirik Bardal.

The attendees at the award ceremony were delighted to hear two of the scholarship recipients perform. Elizabeth Humphries sang an operatic version of *Jack and Jill*, and Krista Koldyk played *Clair de Lune* on the piano. The formal part of the program was followed by an informal reception with refreshments provided by the IODE membership.

Þrúður ended her presentation with the following message, “To the young people here today, I would like to say: We wish you well and may you have a bright future. You will inherit the land, and I have no doubt that you will prosper and be a credit to your families and friends and to us all.”

## Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarships (Two Awarded)

*For a student who has successfully completed Grade 12 and who is reg-*



PHOTO: KENDRA JÓNASSON

**From left: Krista Koldyk, Conor MacGillivray, Mark Lipson, Ryan Pierce, Kirby Penner, Alison Kirk, Avery Simundsson, Elizabeth Humphries, and Carly Phelps. Missing winners from the photo are Sean McGillivray, Amanda Gaultois-Poole, Heather Sparkes, and Amanda Stefanson.**

*istered in a first year programme at a Manitoba University.*

**Conor MacGillivray** is an exceptional student who graduated from Warren Collegiate Institute receiving academic awards which included, WCI Highest Academic Achievement, Governor General's Academic Medal, ISD Medal of Academic Excellence, and receiving Scholarships such as The Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship, The Chown Centennial Scholarship, as well as three others. His ambition is to become an Engineer and he is currently attending the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Engineering.



As well as achieving academically, Conor has managed to participate in many extra-curricular activities and volunteer as well. He was a member of his high school's track team for four years,

winning the AA Provincial Banner all four years as well as placing third individually in the triple jump during Grade 11. In his senior year he was Student Council Vice-President in which role he helped raise funds to aid victims of the Haitian earthquake. He also was a member of Student Voice, Yearbook Committee, Book Club, and Teens Against Drunk Driving. When the Student Council secretary was diagnosed with leukemia, Conor helped organize a community breakfast which raised almost \$10,000 for CancerCare Manitoba.

In the community, Conor has helped fill sandbags for the flood, raised money for Canadian Cancer Society, has donated hundreds of books to the Warren Elementary School and coached a minor league soccer team of five and six year olds. He has also worked on Construction and as a farm equipment operator on his father's farm.

On a personal level, Conor demonstrated unwavering support to his friend who was suffering from leukemia, by visiting regularly, sharing homework and tutoring him in Physics and Chemistry thus lifting his spirits

during his illness.

Conor's parents are Shelley and Bill MacGillivray of Warren, Manitoba and his great grandparents were Arnljotur Vilberg (Bill) Olson and Violet May Thorsteinsson both born in Gimli of Icelandic parents.

**Ryan Pierce** has distinguished himself at Sturgeon Heights School with an exceptionally high average in the International Baccalaureate Program. Currently, he is attending the University of Manitoba with plans to become a doctor. His awards and scholarships have included The University of Manitoba QEII Entrance Scholarship, Chown Centennial Scholarship, St. James Assiniboia Award of Excellence, St. James-Assiniboia School Board Cash Award and the International Baccalaureate Scholarship Enhancement.



Ryan was an exceptional ambassador for his high school when he participated on the volleyball and basketball teams. He has spent many hours volunteering in the school's Just Cause Organization at such places as the Siloam Mission, Winnipeg Harvest and Koats for Kids. Ryan also helped in fundraising activities to pay for the building of a roof in Africa, to support the victims of the Haitian hurricane and to support research in the treatment of leukemia.

In the community Ryan volunteers at Westwood Presbyterian Church in the children's nursery school program where he helps to supervise and feed young children. At the same time he has worked at the Real Canadian Superstore part time. Ryan enjoys sports, especially golf during the summer and snowboarding during the winter. His principal states that Ryan "possesses the academic ability, leadership skills and citizenship characteristics required for this prestigious award."

Ryan's parents are Darren and Lori Pierce of Winnipeg. His Icelandic heritage comes from his maternal grandfather, Barry Magnusson.

### Jon Sigurdsson IODE Member's Memorial Scholarship

*For a student beyond first year and registered in a Degree programme or enrolled in Post-Graduate Work.*

**Avery Simundson** achieved the Award of Excellence for top class average and The Governor-General's Medal in high school. Over the past three years at the University of Manitoba in Science and the Faculty of Engineering, she has been able to maintain a very high academic standing. Her goal is to become a Mechanical Engineer. Her awards have included the Canadian Millennium Scholarship, Miller Thomson Award, ICS Exchange Award (student exchange program) and the H.V. Larusson Prize, 2008, for highest standing in her first year Icelandic course.



At high school, Avery was very involved in volunteering and extra-curricular activities. This has carried over into her university years. She has participated in volleyball intramurals, Thai Boxing, Western Engineering Competition and the UM Swing Dance club. She has been very active in leadership positions as her high school president and in her local 4-H group. During university, she became a Manitoba 4-H Ambassador and is currently assuming the presidency. She has also volunteered at the University of Manitoba Food Bank, University of Manitoba Disability Services, is a Swing Dance Instructor Assistant and serves on the editorial committee of Icelandic Connections.

Avery has trained and worked as a Scuba Divemaster in Thailand and works part time at CanadInns as a banquet staff person. Her passions are athletics, photography, writing prose fiction, gourmet cooking, public speaking, travel, dance, and scuba diving. Her former teacher describes Avery as "very talented athletically. She works as an enthusiastic team player and positive role model. She is also an excellent musician and has volunteered her time playing the piano and violin at local events."

Avery is the daughter of Heather McBay and Bragi Simundsson of Ar-

borg. Her grandparents are Gunnar Simundsson and Margaret Halldorson Simundsson.

### Hildur Guttormson Memorial Scholarship

*For a female adult, resuming studies, with the objective of obtaining post secondary certification or a degree.*

**Carly Phelps** is entering her fourth year of the Integrated B.Ed. Program at the University of Winnipeg where she has achieved an excellent grade point average. As a single mother of a four year old boy, Carly indicates that although it is challenging to juggle university and raise a young child, she feels it is spurring her on in order to create a better life for her son and herself.



During her high school years, Carly was a member of the schools' basketball and volleyball teams. She participated in Ukrainian dancing for six years and took five years of piano. She was also a member of the Arborg and District Multicultural Heritage Village. While studying at the university, Carly has volunteered at the Beaver Creek Bible Camp in the summer and at the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs. This past summer was spent with family in Arborg caring for her nieces and nephew.

Two of Carly's professors at the University have highly recommended her. "Carly has shown the true characteristics of an adult learner: she is self-motivated, organized and as a young mother she demonstrates her knowledge of self and caring for others. It has been a pleasure to teach her this past year, and she has earned both my admiration and a top mark in my class." "Carly was one of the best students in my class."

Carly's parents are Charisse Phelps of Arborg and Gary Phelps of Winnipeg Beach. Both her grandmothers, Elma Kozub and Gwen Phelps are of Icelandic descent.

### Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

*For a student who has obtained a high standing, vocal or instrument in Canada Conservatory, RCM examinations, or School of Music at a Manitoba University.*

**Elizabeth Humphries** is completing her degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music where she is on the Dean's Honour List. She recently received the Reg and Anne Hugo Memorial Fund Scholarship. Her dream is to become an Opera Singer.



Elizabeth has used her musical talent to volunteer in a variety of ways, including volunteering with the Multiple Sclerosis Society by performing during their Super Cities Walk. This past May she toured elementary schools with an Opera written for young people by Dean Burry and Katherine Twaddle. The tour exposed young people in rural communities to the world of opera. Elizabeth also works part time as a voice teacher to young people.

She comes highly recommended by her professors in the Faculty of Music. "Elizabeth is a talented singer with a warm musical voice ... She is an excellent actress and a generous performer who naturally draws in her audience." She "displays attributes of good citizenship in the way she takes responsibility for her learning and for her contribution to group activities and tasks."

Elizabeth's parents are Hal Humphries of New Brunswick and Eileen Munro of Nova Scotia.

### Snjolaug Gillis Memorial Scholarship

*For a student registered in a Nursing Programme.*

After two years in the Faculty of Science, **Alison Kirk** realized her calling was to become a Nurse. She just entered her 3rd year Nursing and her desire to become a nurse is reflected by her high grade point average. This year she received the UMSU Scholarship for

Excellence in Academic Achievement at the University of Manitoba, and in the past has received the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg Scholarship and the Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship.

Alison has also been volunteering at the Victoria General Hospital on a weekly basis, participating in organized sports and working part time at the YMCA YWCA of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba as a teaching assistant.

This past July, Alison was able to pursue her interest in community health through participation in the Pesticide Management Project in Central American Agriculture. She travelled to Honduras for three weeks and lived in a rural farming community. Here she visited the local hospital and public health clinic and administered a health survey looking at the health effects of pesticide use.

Alison "is a fantastic team member, working well with all the members of our diverse team. She works well independently, and can also step up as a confident leader." as quoted from her colleague in the Plant Sciences Department.

Alison's parents are Barb and Alan Kirk. Her grandfather was John Bjorgvin Einar Westdal from Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

### Gyda Naylor Memorial Scholarship

*For a student who is enrolled in the Faculty of Education, preferably in Early Years.*

**Sean McGillivray** is in his final year of a Bachelor of Education in the Early Years Stream at the University of Manitoba. His first degree is in Physical Anthropology and Native Studies. He has maintained an excellent grade point average. In the past he has received several scholarships and bursaries including Biblical Archaeology Society Dig Scholarship, Faculty of Arts Bursary for Academic Excellence, Richardson Arts Bursary for Academic Excellence, University of Manitoba Student Union



Scholarship, Michael D. and Katherine Serson Bursary and the Winnipeg Women's Air Force Bursary.

While at University Sean has volunteered with Disability Services on campus. In his third year, he also volunteered in a program called Campus Life, helping adults living with intellectual disabilities. Other voluntarism includes the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, Community Living Winnipeg, The Manitoban Student Newspaper, as Winnipeg Folk Festival's Photography Coordinator and in a classroom at Inkster School.

Sean loves to travel and has visited destinations such as India, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Europe. He is a photographer and musician playing guitar and world percussion instruments.

This past summer Sean took on a leadership role in CSI: Summer Learning Enrichment Program working with elementary children in the inner city. He has indicated his plans are to "continue to work at helping those at risk because of circumstance." His professor in Early Years says, "Sean is an excellent student, demonstrating academic excellence in all areas of his study. He does not simply study to complete assignments but rather investigates his beliefs and evaluates his practice asking questions and researching further."

Sean is married to Shawn Lund-McGillivray of Winnipeg.

### E.I. Benjaminson Memorial Scholarship

*For a worthy Medical student, preferably specializing in Geriatrics.*

**Mark Lipson** is in his third year of Medical School at the University of Manitoba. He has not only achieved a high academic standard, but has also participated as a volunteer and acted in various leadership capacities during his university years. This year he has the honour of serving as the Vice Stick Internal/Academic of the Manitoba Medical Students' Association, as well as the Student Accreditation Committee Chair,



in preparation for the Faculty of Medicine Accreditation in April.

Mark's awards have included the Molly and Charles Chapman Educational Scholarship, Dr. Norman and Margarate Corne Memorial Award for showing outstanding promise in research, Manitoba Medical Students' Association Citizenship Award presented for a remarkable contribution to the social and academic well being of medical students and the Ethel Louise Armstrong and John Esterbrook Botterell Scholarship in Medicine awarded to the top two ranked Manitoba students admitted to the first year of the undergraduate Medical Degree Program.



This past April, Mark created the HOPE Project in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine Art Show to raise funds for two Manitoba Initiatives, Giving Back and Little Travellers. He has also volunteered his gift as a photographer to record events and class activities. Another talent is that of playing the drums, volunteering with other classmates to create live music for extracurricular events at school. Prior to medical school he was an active swimming instructor and lifeguard, and lead wilderness canoe trips at the B'Nai Brith Camp.

Mark has been enrolled in the Summer Medical Student Research Program of which the focus has been on clinical outcomes in adult malignant gliomas, a disease of older persons. His medical supervisor in this project states that "Mark is one of the 'stars' of our medical student cohort and we expect great things from him as a future leader."

Mark is the son of Avis Raber of Winnipeg, and the late Dr. Alan Lipson.

**Kristin and Albert Stephenson  
Music Scholarship**

*For a student studying music, vocal or instrumental, through the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, or School of Music at a Manitoba University.*

**Amanda Gaultois-Poole** has wanted to be a performer from a very young age.

After competing in dance for six years, she decided to take voice lessons out of her love for musical theatre. Her goal is to become a vocal performer.

She completed her Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Grade 6 Piano, RCM Grade 3 History and Harmony and her RCM Grade 9 Voice examinations. Amanda has been studying at the University of Manitoba music program since the fall of 2007 with an emphasis on vocal performance. To this end, she has studied extensively in her chosen path, taking vocal studies at Mount Royal College, a summer program for voice at the University of British Columbia, and this past summer, a Contemporary Opera Lab at the University of Manitoba.



To help support herself, Amanda has also worked part time as a manager at McDonald's and at Zellers. She has also received a bursary from the University of Manitoba.

One of her professors who worked with Amanda over the past few years states that "Amanda is a very gifted young soprano with a beautiful voice and lovely natural stage presence. Her stunning vocal colour and musicality point the way to a bright professional future as a singer."

Amanda is the daughter of Jennifer Poole.

**Eugene and Rose Clyde  
Memorial Scholarship**

*For a student enrolled in a University course of study leading to a Bachelor of Education.*

**Kirby Penner** is going into her final year of the Integrated Education Program at the University of Winnipeg, with plans of becoming a teacher. She is a young woman from Morden who maintained a very high average in high school while being Student Council President and volunteering. Because of these achievements, Kirby received several awards and scholarships including an Academic Proficiency Scholarship, University of Winnipeg Alumni

Entrance Scholarship, Western School Division Academic Achievement Scholarship and Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship for Prospective Teachers.

At the university she has also achieved a high academic standing while volunteering at Sister MacNamara School, Maples Collegiate and Laura Secord School. As well, Kirby volunteers at The Meeting Place Toddler Room on a regular basis. While at Sister MacNamara, she worked with two families on their literacy skills while recording stories that were important for the parents to pass onto their children. She also helped in the Special Education Resource Department documenting undiagnosed students' behaviour to aid in the funding application process. At Maples the focus of her volunteerism was on social justice. She also took time to participate on the Education Students' Association at the University of Winnipeg.



In addition to this, she has talents as a photographer and loves reading. She also received excellent references from her professors. "Kirby will be an exemplary teacher and educational leader". "We need people like her to take the lead in the field of education".

Kirby is the daughter of Judy and Herman Penner of Morden.

**Anna Skaptason Memorial  
Scholarship**

*For a University of Manitoba student enrolled in the integrated Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education, or Bachelor of Music Program.*

**Krista Koldyk** is currently a third year student at the University of Manitoba enrolled in the Integrated Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education Program. She will be specializing in Early Years music education with a teachable minor



in French.

Krista began piano lessons at age six and has pursued a piano major at the University of Manitoba. Throughout high school she participated in many activities, including co-editor of the school newspaper and head photographer of the yearbook. Currently, she does independent musical performances for benefits and personal enjoyment singing as a soloist and in small and large choral ensembles at Grant Memorial Baptist. Besides her love for music, she has a strong calling to work with children and youth taking on roles such as the Activity and Event Coordinator for the Senior High youth groups at Grant Memorial Baptist.

Krista has completed her Grade 8 Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) examination for piano and recently attended the Carl Orff Canada Conference in Winnipeg for Music Educators. Her piano professor at the university highly recommends Krista, as does the Director of Spiritual Formation at the Grant Memorial Baptist Church for her community work. "I know (Krista) to have been highly involved with working at summer camps in the past, and this commitment to extra-curricular activities contributes an overall sense of balance and well-roundedness in Krista that is reflected in her musicianship" (Joe Welty).

Krista has been the recipient of the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Sr. 1 Music Award, the Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship and was a First Class Honour Roll student in all four years of high school. Her high marks have continued into University and she was awarded the Reg and Anne Hugo Memorial Fund Scholarship in Music for high academic standing this past year. Krista is the daughter of Brian and Diana Koldyk of Winnipeg. Her Icelandic ancestry comes from her paternal grandmother, Lilja Sigrun Koldyk (nee Breidal).

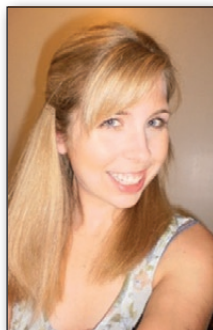
### **Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship**

*For a student enrolled in the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Manitoba.*

**Heather Sparkes** has completed her second year in the Faculty of Agriculture where she has been on the Dean's Honour list both years. Her plans are

to become a veterinarian. She has also completed Grade 8 piano and Grade 8 voice with the Royal Conservatory of Music and has recently been selected to perform in the University of Manitoba's Musical Theatre.

In the past two years, Heather has received the Roderick McKenzie Scholarship, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences Endowment Bursary, University of Manitoba Student Union Bursary and the Bruce D. Campbell Bursary.



Throughout high school Heather was involved in sports, both as a participant and coach and was Vice President of the Student Council at Arborg Collegiate Institute. She has volunteered with the Winnipeg Humane Society and is a member of the University of Manitoba Pre-Vet Club. This past year, Heather also worked for the Prairies East Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Inc. from whom she got a wonderful recommendation. Her other reference indicates that "Heather has shown great social conscience in her selection of employment choices and volunteer placements... allow(ing) her to give back to the community."

Heather is the daughter of Wanda and Robin Sparkes of Arborg. Her maternal grandparents are Kjartan and Lilian Fridfinnson.

### **Neil Bardal Scholarship**

*For a post-secondary student who has demonstrated high academic achievement and has been involved in citizenship, in school and/or the community.*

**Amanda Stefanson** is a student in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. Prior to this she had studied Food and Nutrition at Ryerson University part time in Toronto. Her plans are to become a microbiologist (biocontrol) researcher.

During her time in Toronto, Mandy co-founded the Toronto International Circus Festival. The purpose of the festival was to have a public showcase for artists in the industry. A key concept

was to ensure that the festival would be free and open to all. In 2006, she was part of a team that established Circus Without Borders, a not-for-profit fundraising organization in support of circus artists and circus projects that travel to parts of the globe to provide workshops and entertainment to underprivileged children to relieve them of their hardships of daily life – Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Sierra Leone, etc. Circus without Borders was an entirely volunteer run organization. Through her volunteer work, Amanda met many refugees and has helped them navigate the political and legal system in Canada through research, facilitation and support.

As well, Mandy has maintained high academic standards. She has received the Stewart Pugh Scholarship for External Study, University of Manitoba Student Union Scholarship for Academic Excellence and her professor sponsored her for a Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC-USRA) Grant which she received and has subsequently been doing research in her professor's laboratory since this past May. He states, "in addition to her excellence in academic study, her sense of dedication goes beyond that of her specific studies as she also has been involved in community issues."

Mandy's parents are Jon and Diane Stefanson of East St. Paul.

