

Canada-Iceland Foundation awards scholarships for 2004

The Canada-Iceland Foundation recently awarded its annual scholarships. There were 12 in all, going to 13 students. Below are short biographies provided by the scholarship winners, presented in the order in which the awards were presented.

A biography and photo of Kristin Sumner, winner of the Heiðmar Björnsson Memorial Scholarship, will be posted as soon as it is available.

Angela Thorgilsson

Winner of the Margaret Breckman Mack Scholarship Award



My name is Angela (Goodman) Thorgilsson, I am 25 years old currently in my third year of the Four Year Baccalaureate

of Nursing Program at the University of Manitoba.

I attended Lundar Collegiate from K-12 graduating in 1997 with a business high school diploma. After graduation, like many young adults, I struggled with the notion of choosing a career and after a few years of odd jobs here and there, I chose to enrol at the University of Manitoba with the hope of one day having a successful application into the nursing program. After two years of completing the entry requirements and anxiously awaiting the result of my nursing application I was more than pleased to receive a letter of acceptance into the Four Year Baccalaureate of Nursing Program.

Currently I am in third year restoration/surgery attending classes at the U of M three days a week and performing as a student nurse two days a week at GA5 Neuroscience at the

Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg.

My immediate family as well as my husband's family are all of Icelandic decent. Our family histories, both on the Goodman side and Thorgilsson side, can be traced back to Iceland with great aunts and uncles who were born there before moving to Canada.

My husband Wade and I live in the Lundar area where my husband farms with his father Welland and his brothers Steven and Stewart. My mother-in-law Sandra is the owner and proprietor of Sandra's Greenhouse of Lundar MB, located at the Thorgilsson Farm. Wade and I live just down the road from his parents on his grandmother's homestead, formerly known as the Benjaminson farm.

My parents Alan and Kathy Goodman of Oak Point fished commercially during the winter months on Lake Manitoba for the past 15 years. My father began fishing with his father at the young age of 14. My parents decided to take a break from the blustery winter months and my dad currently drives truck for Sigfusson's Northern of Lundar. During the spring both my parents work at the Swan Creek Fish Hatchery on Lake Manitoba.

My older sister Kristina is also a third year nursing student at the U of M currently training in Medicine at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. Kristina and her fiancé Mark Johnson also live in Lundar. Mark also farms along with his family J5 Enterprise of Lundar. My younger brother

Ryan attended the Trans X Academy Driving School in Winnipeg, MB and has been driving a semi truck for the past two years.

I would like to thank the Canada Iceland Foundation for awarding me the Margaret Breckman Mack Student Award. Your generosity is deeply respected. Thank you for supporting my journey in becoming a nurse.

Stephanie Appleby

Winner of the Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship



As a student at the University of Manitoba, and a Canadian of Icelandic decent, I'm so pleased to be recognized by the Canada Iceland Founda-

tion.

Konnie Johannesson, my langafi, was a member of the 1920 Winnipeg Falcons Hockey Team, and through various celebratory events my sense of heritage has been strengthened.

I'm proud to spend time volunteering as a basketball and soccer coach for the past four years, recently becoming involved with the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame, and participating in a wide variety of athletics at a competitive level myself.

Financing my own education, I have lately been employed by the Project Managers for the completion of the new hockey arena, the MTS Centre.

I feel a responsibility to make the most of the talents I've inherited. As a science and math tutor and a counsellor for teens and young adults at a clinic, I'm able to share my abilities. I hope to graduate next spring with a Bachelor of Science degree, and pursue a career in medicine.

Dana Danielson

Winner of the Einar Pall and Ingibjorg Jonsson Memorial Scholarship

Dana graduated from St. John's Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg, MB in June 2004 and is currently enrolled in the University of Winnipeg, studying science.

Dana's parents are Dianne Sigvaldason and Les Danielson both originally from Geysir, MB. Dana's grandparents are Kristine and Palmi Sigvaldason, and Inga Danielson and the late Baldur Danielson. Dana enjoys



visiting with all of her extended family in the Arborg area and is proud of her Icelandic Heritage. Eventually she plans on spending some time in Iceland and possibly studying there.

In high school, Dana was heavily involved in athletics (hockey and basketball), leadership activities (student council), and academics. She graduated on the Governor's Honour Role and was awarded the SJR Alumni Scholarship as well as an entrance scholarship to the University of Winnipeg.

Currently, Dana plays hockey with the Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League and works part-time at Crystal Bay Steakhouse while going to school. She is studying science and declaring her major in Biology. Dana is planning on pursuing a career in medicine.

Colleen Howard

Winner of the Emilia Palmason Student Aid Award



Colleen Howard of British Columbia is the 2004 winner of the Emilia Palmason Student Aid Award administered by the Canada

Iceland Foundation.

She is the daughter of Billie Ann and Brian Howard of Vernon, BC, granddaughter of Lucile and the late Asbjorn Oscar Pálsson (who was born in Arborg, MB in 1915). She is a great-granddaughter to Ásbjörn Pálsson (born at Hornbrekka, Ólafsfjörður, 1885) and Bergros Petursson (born Skagagardur, New Iceland, 1886). Colleen's ma-

ternal great-great grandparents were Sigfus Petursson and Thora Sveinsdóttir, and Paul Halldorsson and Jonanna Jonsdóttir.

Colleen grew up in Vernon and after completing secondary school in a French Immersion program, she worked for several months to finance another type of education — a year of exploration and travel in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji.

Eight more months of work preceded a move to Montreal, QC where Colleen immersed herself in the French-Canadian culture and graduated with distinction from McGill University, earning a double degree in Anthropology and English Literature.

She then moved back to British Columbia to train to become a teacher. She has recently completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Victoria and is teaching primary children in Victoria.

In choosing teaching as her profession, she carries on a family tradition, and joins her parents, brother, grandparents, and several uncles, aunts and cousins in passing on a love of learning to students.

Colleen's interest in her Icelandic heritage was piqued as a teenager when her family travelled to Arborg in 1993 to attend the Halldorsson family reunion.

A highlight of her life was June and July 2001 when she spent six weeks in Iceland as a participant in the Snorri Program. Working for her cousin, Valgeir Thorvaldsson, at the Emigration Center in Hofsfós enabled Colleen to learn more about her rich Icelandic heritage and to become fast friends with Linda Valgeirsdóttir, who later came to Vernon to live with Colleen's family and attend a Canadian school.

Colleen appreciates her Icelandic heritage and she is very grateful to the Canada Iceland Foundation for honouring her with the Emilia Palmason Student Aid Award.

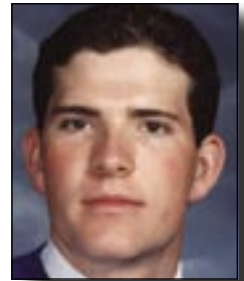
Michael Johnson

Winner of The Emilia Palmason Student Aid Award

I am extremely honoured to have received this award because I am very

proud of my Icelandic heritage.

My langafi and langamma on my afi's side of the family were Einar Johnson born in Norður-múlasýsla, Iceland and Sigurbjorg (Einarson) Johnson born in Sayreville,



New Jersey. Her parents emigrated from Iceland and eventually settled in Manitoba. Einar was an athlete of note, winning the Individual Championship at the Icelandic Celebration in Girnli in 1910. He repeated this honour in 1911 and 1913.

My langafi and langamma on my amma's side of the family were John Thorkell Amason born in Reykjavík, Iceland and Helga Jónasdóttir Arnason born at Akranes, Iceland. They settled in Oak Point, MB to work and raise their families.

My amma and afi on my dad's side of the family are Emil and Anna Johnson (nee Arnason) of Oak Point, Manitoba. My amma graduated in 1942 with a Bachelors Degree in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba and received her Masters in Home Economics from the University of Minnesota in 1944. Unfortunately my afi passed away in June, 2004. I am left with the many fond memories of him including his passion for farming and the outdoors, his sense of humour and his love of life.

My father, Kris Johnson, is a letter carrier for Canada Post. He enjoys curling, hunting and the outdoors. My mother, Amanda Johnson, works for the Deputy Agriculture Minister, Barry Todd. She enjoys music and the outdoors. My sister, Kelli Johnson, graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2004 with a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Design through the Faculty of Architecture. She plans on beginning her Master of Interior Design in 2006.

Currently, I am finishing my final year of the Master of Occupational Therapy program. I am currently conducting research on the needs of con-

sumers of mental health services who wish to become involved in research. The goal of this research project is to develop a resource package to be used by consumers of mental health services who wish to conduct their own research.

I am also working as a research assistant for an instructor in the Faculty of Medical Rehabilitation. I am looking forward graduating and beginning work as a clinician but I also have plans on completing my Master of Science through the Faculty of Medical Rehabilitation in the not too distant future.

Nadine Sigvaldason

Winner of the Gunnar Simundsson Memorial Scholarship



I grew up at Framnesi, in the Geysir district, East of Arborg. My parents are Marino and Colleen Sigvaldason and I'm the youngest

grandchild of the late Valdimar and Ingibjorg Sigvaldason, also of Geysir.

In May 2004, I graduated from the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba. I majored in Family Studies, and more specifically, Family Violence and Conflict Resolution.

Upon graduating, I received the Human Ecology Program Medal for achieving the highest standing in Family Studies. Now, I am enrolled in the Master's Program in Family Social Sciences at the U of M and am focusing on Developmental Health. I will be completing a research thesis titled "Children's Perceptions of Parent-Child Aggression." I plan to graduate in the summer of 2006.

Thank you for this generous award.

Corley Magnusson

Winner of the Thorvaldson Scholarship

My name is Corley Magnusson. I am completing my Master's Degree in Applied Behaviour Analysis at St.

Cloud State University. Before beginning my Master's, I graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

I currently work at St. Amant Centre as a senior tutor in the ABA program for children with autism.

I grew up in Gimli, MB. My parents are Gayle and Gary Magnusson. My amma is Barbara Magnusson (nee Eyjolfson) and my late afi was Robert Magnusson. My grandmother is Jackie Walker and my late grandfather was Red (Cameron) Walker.

Thank you for this generous award.

Patrick Smith

Winner of the John Jonas Gillis Memorial Scholarship



Patrick's mother Judy Eastman is of pure Icelandic origin. His grandmother, Alma Svandis Levy, was born in Iceland at Hvamstangi

and came to Canada in 1929 with her parents Guðman Levy and Margrét Hliðdal. His grandfather, Jon Arthur Eastman was born in Riverton, Manitoba, the son of Gunnsteinn Eastman and Maria Halldorson. All of his people came from Iceland around 1875.

Patrick has an outstanding record of achievement. During his public school years, and since graduation from Kelvin High School, he has received a number of scholarships and awards. He has further distinguished himself during his high school years and until the present time by his outstanding contribution in Junior Achievement — in 2003 was named "Achiever of the Year" and was delegated to an International Conference of Junior Achievement.



Patrick is one of the founders and current Project Coordinator of the Prairie Outdoor Weekend Adventure Race (POWAR) — an annual adventure race weekend fundraiser for fifty Winnipeg high school students. The event supports the Greener Futures Program for underprivileged youth at Fort Whyte Centre, Winnipeg's conservation and environmental education facility.

Patrick is currently enrolled at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Science, in preparation for a career in Medicine.

Samantha Taylor

Winner of the Arnold W. Holm Scholarship



Being of Icelandic heritage I was extremely proud to receive the Arnold W. Holm Scholarship from the Canada Iceland Foundation.

I graduated from Miles Macdonell Collegiate last year with honours and am now attending the University of Manitoba in hopes of pursuing a career in nutritional science.

I enjoy playing soccer during the summer months, spending time at my family cottage, and attending church with friends. I live with my parents, Ron and Dianne, and brother, Reed, who is currently in grade 11. My grandparents, Eyfi and Sigrun Walterson, will be especially proud that I have received this particular scholarship.

Once again, thank you for this generous award.

Jaeseok Patrick Lee

Winner of the Kristín Stefanson Memorial Scholarship

As a person who loves Iceland and deeply interested in Icelandic culture, it was an honour to be the winner of The Kristin Stefanson Memorial Scholarship.

I'm not a person who has a family member from Iceland or even Icelandic



background. I'm from Japan, where Iceland is as an unfamiliar country. However, I took an interest in Iceland as a child, when I found out its mysterious name and special location on the opposite side of the world from Japan. As a result, I used to say that I wanted to learn Icelandic, so that I can be more familiar with this mysterious country. However, there was no place to learn Icelandic in Japan, and there were even people who've never heard about the country.

When I became 16, I came to Canada as a student. When I graduated from high school in Canada, I found out that the University of Manitoba has a course in Icelandic which I had long wanted to learn. In other words, the Icelandic Department actually became a great reason to choose the U of M.

I'm currently studying Icelandic with my first year courses. Truly, Icelandic is the most interesting course among my courses, even though it's a bit hard to learn as a beginner.

The Kristin Stefanson Memorial Scholarship also became a great motivation to enjoy Icelandic even more. Nowadays, I'm planning to spread information about Iceland and its culture through my learning of its language. My parents also support me, and they also took an interest in Icelandic culture through me.

Again, thank you so much for this great opportunity, and I'll try my best to learn Icelandic, so that many more people can take an interest in Iceland.

Rachel Busby

Winner of the Lorna and Terry Tergeesen Scholarship

My name is Rachel Busby, and I was this year's recipient of the Lorna and Terry Tergeesen Scholarship. I am 21 years old and currently completing my second year at McGill University. I am doing my Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe performance. I have always

been very involved in music at school, church and in the community. Whether playing for weddings or accompanying choirs, it seems that music has always kept me very busy.

My Icelandic heritage comes through my paternal grandmother, Norma Ingimundson, daughter of Jakobina Breckman Ingimundson and Lawrence Ingimundson. I am truly honoured that the Canada Iceland Foundation has granted me this award. I wish to thank them for their generous support of my educational endeavours.



Anna Isbister

Winner of the Fred Olsen Special Scholarship



Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Fred Olsen Special Scholarship. This award will be a great help to me as I pursue my education.

My Icelandic relatives would be particularly proud of this scholarship. My great-grandparents on my mother's side immigrated to Canada from Iceland and settled on the prairies in the early twentieth century. They are Gisli and Runa (nee Ejolfson) Benedictson, and Sveinn and Marja (nee Laxdall) Bjornson.

My maternal grandparents are Benedict Verne and Marion (nee Bjornson) Benedictson of Wynyard, SK and Gimli, MB, respectively. I am very proud of my heritage and look forward to the day when I can travel to Iceland.

I will graduate from the University of Victoria in June, 2005, with an honours B.Sc. in Biochemistry. I participated in a co-operative education program at UVic, which allowed me to work for eight months, full-time, with one of

my professors. I received an NSERC undergraduate student research award to perform biochemical research in his lab.

I also travelled to London, England, and Auckland, New Zealand to conduct research on co-op terms. In London, I examined peptide aggregation in the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients. In Auckland I studied home support services for older people and people with disabilities. Both of these co-op terms were at medical schools and they allowed me to develop my interest in the issues facing older people in western societies.

I hope to begin medical school in the fall, either at UBC or at an Ontario university. I plan to pursue a career in geriatric medicine. My time working with older people on co-op terms and while volunteering confirmed my desire to work with people and continue my study of science in a medical context.

Thank you once again for your generosity.