



PHOTO: DAVID JÓN FULLER

Back row, from left: Amanda Davidson, Sarah Isliefson, Shawna Sawich, Kayla Stevens, Brooke Fridfinnson, Anita Hegg, Thomas Johnson, Anjolene Hunt. Front row: Danielle Gadsdon, Holly Young, Alena Arnason, Melanie Hegg, Jennifer Signy Gerrard, Nicole Jona Christanson Smith. Missing: Laurie Anne Vermette, Avery Olafson-Ramsay, Lee-Ann Mohammed

IODE presents 3 new scholarships

David Jón Fuller

WINNIPEG, MB — The Jón Sigurdsson Chapter of the I.O.D.E. presented 16 scholarships this year to 17 recipients at a program held November 12 at the Betelstadur Housing Co-op in Winnipeg. Approximately 120 people attended.

Chapter President Erla Wankling was MC and Education Officer Deanna Isliefson presented most of the scholarships. Other speakers included Consul General of Iceland Atli Ásmundsson and Rob Bend, VP of Student Affairs and Chair University Collegiate at the University of Winnipeg.

Three of the scholarships were

new this year. The first was the Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship. Skip Skaptason travelled from Kansas to present the award created in honour of his late wife. The second was the Fisher Einarson Memorial Scholarship, and the third was the Dora Sigurdson Scholarship.

The Jón Sigurdson Chapter also made donations of a set of books to Lord Nelson School, which were accepted by Paula Cook, and a cheque for \$1,000 to the *Lögberg-Heimskringla* Future Fund Campaign, which was accepted by Dr. Ken Thorlakson, Campaign Chair.

**Johanna
Gudrun Skaptason
Memorial Scholarship
(2 awards)**

Shauna Sawich is the daughter of Ken and Shelley Sawich of Winnipeg.



Shauna's maternal great-grandparents, Balrun and Framar Eyford, immigrated here from Iceland and settled in the Hayland area. Her grandpar-

ents were Oscar and Ragnheidur Gis-lason.

Shauna is now attending the Uni-versity of Manitoba in University 1. She is planning a career in Commerce.

Shauna has an outstanding school record. She graduated from Oak Park High School achieving "Honours with Distinction." She had an overall average of over 95% in her grade 10 through grade 12. Her average in grade 12 was an amazing 97.3%, with a total of 39 credits. All of her marks were in the high 90s, and two of her math marks were 100%.

Shauna received the Governor General's Medal, a University of Manitoba Advanced Early Admission Scholarship, the University of Manitoba Student Council University 1 Scholarship, the Oak Park High School Major Citizenship Award, and the Cara Brown Ringette Scholarship.

Shauna's school activities include being a member of the grad, commu-nity, special events, and yearbook com-mittees. She was one of Oak Park's Blood Donor Ambassadors. She took part in the "Take Pride in Winnipeg" Mentorship Program, a 10-hour pro-gram in which two high school students visit an elementary school and teach the students about the importance of recy-cling. Shauna has been active in music and sports. She was in the school band programs, in the concert band for six years, where she played the flute, and the jazz band for four years, playing alto and tenor saxophone.

Shauna has played ringette for 13 years, fastball for 11 years, as well as badminton, basketball and rugby. She has been scorekeeper, a ringette refer-ee, and an assistant coach for two local ringette teams.

This past year, Shauna has volun-teered at the Health Science Centre once a week, taking the Book Cart around to the patients, as well as delivering flow-ers. She washed windows for the "Cor-ner Gas Diabetes" Fundraiser at Petro Canada, and helped at the "Take Pride Canada" office.

One of Shauna's teachers, Ted Bet-tess, states, "Shauna is an extremely hard worker. She is very diligent in her pursuit of her studies. She has the drive and determination to succeed in

any thing she tries. Her work ethic is superb."

Melanie Hegg is the daughter of Linda Hegg of Arborg. Melanie's great-grandmother, Petrun Pals-son, was the daughter of Pe-tur Palsson, a prominent and well-spoken figure in New Iceland. Petur was especially involved in church affairs in New Iceland. Mel-anie's ancestry has been traced back to Governor Jens Wium, through his daughter Elisabet.



Melanie is also in University 1 at the University of Manitoba. She is planning on taking a five-year program integrating Human Ecology with Edu-cation.

Melanie has an outstanding school record. She graduated from Arborg Collegiate, where she received the Governor General's Award for the best all-around student with the highest aca-demic average. In fact, from grades six to 12, Melanie received the Award of Excellence, which is the award given for the top marks in the grade, and also Honours with Distinction from grades five to 12. She was also awarded a Uni-versity of Manitoba Entrance Scholar-ship, the Chown Centennial Scholar-ship for Highest Academic Standing, and a 4-H Council Scholarship.

Melanie has participated in many different extracurricular activities, from sports to music, to 4-H. She has been in-volved in volleyball, track, swimming, skating and gymnastics. In the nine years that she participated in gymnas-tics, she won various regional awards. Melanie plays the piano and has ob-tained Grade Eight Honours from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has also achieved Grade Four Voice. She was in the Drama Club, and played the main female character in the play, *Vice as in Versa*.

Melanie spent a week in Ottawa attending "Encounters with Canada." She has been a peer tutor, a judge at a Middle School Science Fairs, helped at

Sports Days for Middle Year School, Remembrance Day Services, the Well-ness Fair for Preschoolers, Story Hour for Preschoolers at the Public Library, Manitoba Breast Screening Program, and Teens and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. She helped with the "Bridge the Gap" Program for physically chal-lenged persons, and was the main stu-dent organizer for the Tsunami Relief Fundraising. She has also volunteered at the Arborg Library, and her high school library.

Melanie has been very active in the Arborg 4-H Club for the past nine years, where she was a project leader for younger members.

She is an extremely talented pub-lic speaker and has competed in Pub-lic Speaking competitions, winning many district, regional and provincial awards.

Gregory Palsson, teacher at Arborg Collegiate, writes, "Melanie is a very versatile young lady with a multitude of talents and abilities. In school, she provides leadership for other students because she models appropriate behav-iour at all times. Her greatest strength is her commitment to everything she does. I have no doubt she will succeed in all future endeavours, academically and otherwise."

Jon Sigurdsson IODE Members Memorial Scholarship

Laurie Anne Vermette is the daughter of Dave and Marguerite Lip-chen of St. Andrews, MB.



Laurie Anne is a re-m a r k a b l e young woman. She is a single sole-support mother of two young daugh-ters, and a full

time university student with a GPA of 4.17. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg in 2002, with a major in Administrative Studies, and a focus in Conflict Resolu-tion and Psychology. Laurie Anne re-

turned to the University of Winnipeg in the winter of 2005, and then transferred to the Faculty of Fine Arts at St. Johns College, University of Manitoba. She plans to follow this with a Bachelor of Education. Her long term goal is to become a junior high school art teacher, and eventually a school counsellor, when she is able to obtain a Masters in Education in Guidance and Counselling. She now holds a Certificate in Conflict Resolution and a Specialization in Mediation Services, in Winnipeg.

In high school, Laurie Anne was involved in cheerleading, water polo, track and field, drama (having lead roles in several plays), art, and music. She plays the flute and piano, and has experience in choir, jazz band (the baritone saxophone), as well as guitar and bass clarinet.

Laurie Anne was a cheerleader for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for six years, and has been a dedicated cheerleading and gymnastics coach for 11 years. She has developed the "All Canadian Cheerleading Program," which teaches cheerleading skills to students as young as three years old and up to grade 12. She has NCCP certification in gymnastics as well as NCCP level two theory.

Laurie Anne has been developing a Conflict Resolution Program to be used in the classroom setting for grades four to six. She ran this program at Riverview Elementary School last year as a part of a Conflict Resolution practicum she was completing at the University of Winnipeg. This included topics such as: bullying, handling conflict, cooperation/competition, teamwork and team building, and intent/action/effect. She hopes to run an eight-week program in a few schools this year. She also ran a Grade Five Friendship Club in two classrooms at Riverview School.

Cal Botterill, PhD, one of Laurie Anne's professors at the University of Winnipeg says, "Laurie Anne is a highly motivated person with excellent interpersonal and management skills. She is an exceptional student, and an impressive young professional."

Dianne Scoles, BFA Hons, MA, Sessional Lecturer, School of Art, University of Manitoba, writes, "Laurie

Anne has been a student in two of my courses in the School of art. In both courses she received the highest grades of any of the students in the class. Intelligent, dedicated, and enthusiastic, Laurie Anne will continue to be an excellent student and a credit to her community."

Hildur Guttormson Memorial Scholarship

Holly Young is the daughter of Diane Young of Winnipeg, and Bruce



Young of
Lockport.

Holly's maternal grandparents were of First Nations heritage from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. Her grandmother

was Ojibway and Finnish, and her grandfather was Ojibway. Holly's father's background is of Irish, Scottish and English.

Holly is a parent of three beautiful children, ages 10, six, and two. Two of her children have required extensive medical attention for the past several years, sometimes requiring hospitalization. Although this has been quite stressful at times, this has led Holly in her pursuit of a degree in the nursing field.

After being out of school for eight years, Holly returned to finish her grade 12 as a mature student at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre. She graduated this past June. Holly is currently enrolled in University 1 at the University of Manitoba. Motivated by her children, she has begun the four-year nursing program. Holly has received an English Award from the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre, a 3rd Dan Black Belt in tae kwon do, a Food and Alcohol Services Certificate, and a CPR Infant/Basic Rescue Certificate.

While attending the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre, Holly was a volunteer member of the grad committee, as well as a peer tutor. She assisted with the Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank

for students and area residents of central Winnipeg. In the community, Holly assisted the Transcona Food Bank, and is also a volunteer foster parent for the Winnipeg Humane Society.

Holly has been actively involved in the sport of tae kwon do for 19 years, being an instructor for 13 years. She currently holds a 3rd degree Black Belt in tae kwon do. She has competed at the provincial, national, and world levels.

Richard Woodford, teacher, says, "Holly is very highly committed to her children and her education. I think Holly is a very good candidate for the nursing program."

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

Danielle Gadsdon is the daughter of Roger Gadsdon of Winnipeg.



Danielle is currently a Senior 4 student at College Jeanne-Sauve, a French immersion high school in Winnipeg. She has been an honour student

throughout her high school years. Danielle is looking forward to enrolling at the University of Manitoba next year. She is planning a career in Psychology/Music.

Danielle says one of her biggest passions is music, and upon reading her resume, this is surely evident. Danielle began taking piano lessons at the age of five, and now at the age of 17 is currently in Grade Nine Piano, through the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has achieved First Class Honours or Honours in all grades One through Eight Piano. She has also achieved similar results in the Theory Exams, Preliminary, Grade One, and Grade Two.

Danielle has also been involved in the music program at her school for six years. She has played a variety of instruments, ranging from French horn to percussion. At this time, she says her main instrument is the trumpet, which

she plays in the symphonic band, as well as the senior jazz program. She is a part of the vocal jazz ensemble's rhythm section. She has played a major role in her theatre class. Her marks for her band programs are all in the 90s. Danielle enjoys sharing her music by performing for senior citizens.

Danielle is on the yearbook and the 2006 grad committees at her school. She volunteers at the YMCA Day and Evening Program doing activities with children.

Danielle's piano teacher for the past five years, Betti Canning, B.Mus. Ed., writes, "Danielle is becoming a well-rounded conscientious musician, very disciplined with her practice time both with piano and, I'm sure, her school band duties as well. She is a self-motivated and intelligent individual who is more than capable of handling any repertoire at her level."

Simone Gendron, Music Educator at College Jeanne-Sauve, has known Danielle for three years. She says that from the beginning, it was obvious that Danielle had special abilities and talents in music. She was and continues to be a strong musician, excelling and continuing to improve in all areas of her music.

Snjolaug Gillis Memorial Scholarship

Avery Olafson-Ramsay is the daughter of Blair and Debra Olafson of Ste. Rose du Lac, MB. Avery's paternal grandfather is Icelandic. Her paternal great-grandmother was an Erlendson, who raised Avery's grandfather in Reykjavik, MB. Avery's maternal grandmother is also of Icelandic descent with ancestors going by the name of Olson.

Avery is enrolled in her second year of the accelerated Registered Nursing Program at Red River Community College, with a cumulative GPA of 3.63 in her first year. Avery has been able to achieve these exceptional grades while being a single parent of two small children.

Avery graduated from Ste. Rose du Lac Collegiate in 1998 with Honours, and received a University of Manitoba

Entrance Scholarship. She completed University 1 the following year. Avery began her studies at Red River in September 2004, where she excels in her studies. In her first term she achieved a 4.00 GPA.

Avery has volunteered with the local 4-H club, swim clubs and at the local daycare centre. From 1999 to 2003, Avery worked as a bookkeeper, convenience store manager, and bartender at Lake Manitoba Narrows Lodge, Oakview, MB.

Jacque Kummel RN, Clinical Facilitator, Skills Lab Instructor at the Faculty of Nursing, Red River College writes, "Avery was in my clinical nursing group from January to April 2005. During that time Avery showed herself to be an academically strong motivated student. She acted in a professional, compassionate manner to all patients, staff and fellow students."

Robin Finney, Community Health Nurse for Ebb and Flow Native Reservation has known Avery her entire life. She says that Avery has always excelled in school, and she believes that Avery has the ability and the will to complete this program successfully."

Gyda Naylor Memorial Scholarship

Lee-Ann Mohammed is the daughter of Michael Mohammed, and Jo-Ann



McLennan of Trinidad-Tobago.

Lee-Ann is presently in her fourth year, Faculty of Human Ecology, at the University of Manitoba, with a major in

Family Studies, and a minor in Child Development and Psychology. She expects to graduate in 2006. She plans on working with families and children.

Lee-Ann is a Communications Representative for the Human Ecology Students' Organization. She has a variety of responsibilities. These include advertising for the Faculty's functions, and graduation events. She is also a

member of the Public Relations/High School Liaison Committee, and a volunteer Note Taker, providing services to students with learning disabilities.

For several years, Lee-Ann has volunteered with Caripeg Organization, helping with promotions and fundraising. She has participated in their beauty pageant.

Carol D.H. Harvey, one of Lee-Ann's professors in the Department of Family Social Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, states, "Lee-Ann does outstanding work, she is a thoughtful and articulate person who can work well with children and youth. She is able to work independently, is reliable, and is motivated to achieve high standards."

E. I. Benjaminson Memorial Scholarship

Anita Hegg is the daughter of Linda Hegg of Arborg, MB. Like her sister



Melanie, Anita is very proud of her Icelandic heritage. In grade 11 she did a family history project that traced her Icelandic ancestry back to

Jens Wium, a Danish Governor of Mulasysla (East Iceland).

Anita graduated from Arborg Collegiate in 2004 with the highest overall average. At that time she received a number of scholarships and awards for her excellent performance throughout her school years. Anita is now in her second year, Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba. Her grade point average in her first year was an amazing 4.10. She is on the Honour List. This year she received a University of Manitoba Scholarship and the Arborg Auxiliary Bursary. Anita plans to become a medical doctor, so she will write the Medical College Admission Test next year, and apply to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Anita was very active during her

high school years. She played volleyball, and was the captain of her team in grade 12. She was on the student council and helped organize special school events. She was a peer tutor. In grade 12, she attended a leadership program, "Encounters," in Ottawa, with students from across Canada. While in grade 12, along with three of her friends, she ran a concession stand in her school.

Anita has been involved in the Arborg 4-H program for seven years, where she helped organize, set up and participated in special events. She was the Club President, Reporter, and Junior Leader. She received second place at the 4-H Provincial Public Speaking Competition. She has also been a volunteer judge for the 4-H public speaking events for younger members. This past summer, Anita was a volunteer coach for a grade three to five soccer team.

Somehow, Anita has found time in her busy schedule for music. She has Grade V Piano standing from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and has taught piano. She has also studied the violin for three years.

When Anita was 16, she began respite work with a young boy who has underdeveloped motor, social and educational skills. She initiated and led activities to help develop his life skills.

Gregory I. Palsson, Senior English teacher at Arborg Collegiate, states, "I have been a teacher for over 37 years and there is no question that Anita would rank with the top 5% students I have taught. She is a role model for other students because of her commitment to excellence. She assumes leadership roles both in and out of school. She is an exceptional young lady."

Kristin Stephenson Music Scholarship

Anjolene Hunt is the daughter of Susan Hunt of Winnipeg. Both sets of her great-grandparents on her mother's side were from Iceland. They were: Jonas Gudmunson, Rose Martinson, Anna Eyolfson, and Joseph Gislason.

Anjolene is presently in grade 12 at Dakota Collegiate. She plans to continue studying the piano when she is in



university.

Anjolene, who is a student of Thelma Wilson, has achieved Grade Eight Piano with Honours from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She

has also received 95% in her Grade Two Rudiments.

Anjolene has been an integral part of the Dakota Collegiate Performing Arts program for the past three years. Last year, she had a role in their production *Seussical*, where she was able to show her abilities as a singer, dancer and actor. This year she is a member of the Dakota Mass Choir and Jazz Choir, and will be performing in their production of *Annie*.

Anjolene participates in soccer and volleyball, while taking a full course of grade 12 subjects. She has volunteered as a performer at "Boo at the Zoo" and at the Fort Whyte Centre. She has also volunteered at the "Pasta Festival" and the next day at the Manitoba Marathon. Last March, Anjolene, along with fellow students, travelled through four countries in Europe. In 2004, when Thelma Wilson was Fjallkona for the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Anjolene was one of her Maids of Honour.

Thelma Wilson, piano teacher writes, "Anjolene is a young person who has proven to be of high moral character and integrity with a deep commitment to her studies and obligations. She is as much a delight to work with as she is diligent, musical and sensitive."

Bill Quinn, Musical Director/Choir Director at Dakota writes, "Anjolene is a fine singer — as a member of a large choir, in a small ensemble, or as a soloist. I highly recommend her for any musical endeavour she wishes to pursue."

Eugene Clyde Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Davidson is the daughter of Linden and Janet Davidson of



Ashern, MB. Amanda's Icelandic heritage traces back to her great-grandparents on her mother's side. Amanda says her amma lived with her family, so she

has been exposed to the Icelandic language and culture all of her life.

Amanda graduated from high school in Ashern in 1999 with Honours. She is now in her fourth year of her Bachelor of Education in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Winnipeg. Amanda plans on becoming an elementary teacher. She is a "Student of Distinction," her cumulative grade point average is 3.593.

While in high school, Amanda was a member of the Ashern Cobras volleyball team which won the AAA Provincials when she was in grade 11. She still plays volleyball in a Senior Women's volleyball league in Winnipeg. Amanda was a member of the yearbook and grad committees, and has volunteered at the "Farm Discovery Zone" at the Red River Ex. this past summer.

This past summer Amanda worked as the 4-H Provincial Event, Travel and Resource Coordinator, where her main projects were to organize a 4-H Inter-Provincial Exchange travel program, and a 4-H Provincial Horse Show.

David Fitzpatrick, PhD, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Winnipeg, writes, "I have known Ms. Davidson for two years, primarily as a student who assisted me and colleagues in the Department of Kinesiology and Applied Health with our web design. She is dependable in her work, well prepared, and committed to doing a task thoroughly. She is well suited to make a strong contribution as an educator."

Kenneth G. Howard Scholarship

Nicole Jona Christianson Smith is the daughter of Murray Smith and Linda Christianson of Cartier, MB. Nicole's great-great-grandfather, Bene-



dikt Arason, was among the first group that settled in New Iceland. Her great-grandfather, Gudni Christianson immigrated to Canada as a young man.

Nicole graduated with Honours from Silver Heights Collegiate in 2001, with a French Immersion International Baccalaureate Degree. Nicole is fluent in three languages. In 2001-2002, she was selected to participate in a year long Rotary Exchange in Oaxaca, Mexico. Nicole is now in her fourth year in the Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba, where she has been on the Dean's Honour List every year. Last year, her sessional GPA was an amazing 4.25. Her cumulative GPA is 3.92.

Nicole was on the track team and cross-country team while in high school, and participated in the annual school play. She began volunteering at the age of 14 at the Fort Whyte Children's Camp. She has taught English as a Second Language at the International Center of Winnipeg. Following her year in Mexico, Nicole has given promotional speeches for the St. James-Assiniboia Rotary Club. While in Mexico, she had a variety of volunteer experiences.

Nicole is an active member in the University of Manitoba Spanish Centre Executive, as a Volunteer Organizer, putting on activities and events, as well as providing free tutoring to promote the study of Spanish throughout the university. She continues to do this as a part time job as a Spanish puppeteer and manager of a puppet group that gives presentations to high schools and other organizations.

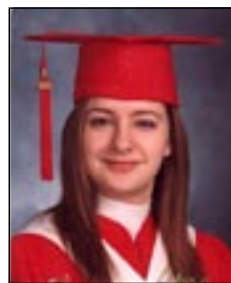
This past summer, Nicole participated in the inter-provincial exchange, which allowed her to work for the Quebec government in French, as well as to live there and learn about the Quebecois culture.

One of Nicole's professors, Enrique Fernandez, Associate Head, Department of French, Spanish, and Italian, University of Manitoba, writes, "Nicole is an outstanding student. She

is majoring in Spanish, a language of which she has no previous knowledge. She has managed to learn the language to a very high degree of proficiency. Because of this, I have recommended her for the Arthur Mauro Scholarship to complete a semester at a Mexican university, a scholarship she has won. I strongly recommend her for a Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Scholarship."

Anna Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Alena Arnason is the daughter of Tim and Del Arnason of Winnipeg. Alena is proud of her Icelandic



heritage. Her father's family is from Gimli. And she writes that she has attended the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba every year since her birth, and in 2002

and 2003 had the honour of riding in the parade alongside her father.

Alena graduated from Glenlawn Collegiate this past June. She has been on the Honour Roll throughout her high school years. She received the Hogg Centennial Entrance Scholarship, the St. Vital & St. Boniface Retired Teachers' Support Staff Bursary, and the Glenlawn Boosters' Scholarship. In grade 11, she was chosen to attend "Encounters with Canada" in Ottawa.

Alena is currently attending her first year at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Music. She plans to obtain a degree in Music Education, and eventually pursue a PhD in conducting. Her greatest dream is to someday teach and share her love of music with her students. Alena studies the saxophone, and voice.

At Glenlawn, Alena was a member of the Senior Jazz band, Wind Ensemble, and the Concert Band, where she achieved top marks. At the School of Music, U of M, Alena is a member of the Faculty of Music Concert Band, and a saxophone quartet. She has been chosen by the director of the concert

band to be section leader for the saxophones and low reeds.

Alena has been very busy with extra curricular and volunteer activities. She was on the student council, a member of the Executive Grad Committee, co-student coordinator, Optimist Jazz Festival 2004, and the head student coordinator in 2005. She made a "Welcome" video for the grade 10 students. Alena was a member of the Winnipeg Youth Symphonic Winds, and performed at the Winnipeg Optimist Band Festival.

Alena has volunteered for the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba as a parade assistant this past year, and she plans to organize the parade next year.

Alena is also a frequent blood donor.

Marilyn Bourbonnais, Band Director at Glenlawn, writes, "Alena is one of the very talented and dedicated people I have had the pleasure to teach. She is an outstanding musician. In addition to her high marks and excellent work ethic, Alena always looks for areas to help the band program. In her final year at Glenlawn, she was the coordinator of the Optimist Band Festival. She received compliments from the Optimist Club and St. John's Music for her excellent efforts."

Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Brooke Fridfinnson is the daughter of Eric and Debbie Fridfinnson of Arbor.



Brooke writes that she has always found a source of pride in her Icelandic ancestry.

Brooke is in her fourth and final year of the Agri-

business program in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Upon graduation, she plans a career in Agricultural Finance or Law. Brooke has excelled in all areas relating to Agribusiness. She is on the Dean's Honour Roll. This past year she earned the highest GPA

of all third-year agriculture students, an outstanding 4.23. In the 11 courses she took last year, she achieved five A-pluses, and six A's.

Brooke graduated from Arborg Collegiate in 2002 with Honours. She received several scholarships and awards at that time. This past year she received a Faculty of Agriculture Award, and the Agricore United Farm-guard Scholarship.

While maintaining her excellent academic record, Brooke has been very actively involved in student government and activities. She has been elected to the position of Vice-Stick External on the Faculty of Agriculture Student Organization for this year. She was instrumental in the planning of the Agriculture/Science/Engineering Career Fair that took place in October. She is also the Membership Chairperson, and an Executive Member for the Agribusiness Students' Association.

Brooke has been selected by the faculty to participate in a number of national and international events. In 2004, she represented the University of Manitoba at the World Association of Agricultural Councils Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado, and was also their representative at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

She has participated twice in the undergraduate academic "Quizbowl" held annually by the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA). This past year, Brooke was a member of a team that placed in the top six of more than 30 teams. At the 2004 "Quizbowl" in Denver, Colorado, she was elected to serve as Canadian Regional Vice-President of AAEA's Student Section. This year in Providence, Rhode Island, she was re-elected, and will be attending the Executive Planning Meeting in Boston in January.

Brooke is a student liaison for the Canadian Agricultural Marketing Association on both their Board of Directors, and their Best of CAMA Awards committee, for two years. This year she has also joined the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists as their student liaison.

Brian T. Oleson, Department Head, and Chair in Cooperatives and Marketing, Faculty of Agricultural and Food

Sciences, U of M writes, "Brooke has been an excellent student during her entire program. I had the pleasure of having her as a student in my "Introduction to Agricultural and Food Marketing" course in the winter semester of 2005. Out of 80 students, she was one of only three students to receive an A-plus grade in the course. I would rank Ms. Fridfinnson as one of the top students that I have encountered during my time as a Professor at the University of Manitoba."

Stefan Olafson Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Signy Gerrard is the daughter of Alex and Kirsten Gerrard of East St. Paul, MB. Jennifer's Ice-



landic ancestry is from her father's side of her family. Jennifer's amma is Helga Gerrard (Olafson) from Strathclair, MB. Her parents settled in Riverton. Nel-

son Gerrard is Jennifer's uncle.

Jennifer graduated from Miles MacDonnell Collegiate in 2001, from the International Baccalaureate Certificate program. She had been on the Honour Roll throughout her high school years and received several scholarships at that time.

Jennifer is currently in fourth year of a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Manitoba. She is in the Advanced Major Program with a major in English and a minor in Business. Jennifer has been doing exceptionally well during her years at university. She is planning a career in editing or publishing. Jennifer is currently a nominee to become a student representative to one of the University's Senate Committees.

In May of 2004, Jennifer travelled to the Yucatan Peninsula with a group of higher level students from Trent University in Ontario, for two weeks. On this trip, they worked as volunteers doing data collection in the jungle to contribute to local research on sustainable

farming practices and carbon levels.

Last year, Jennifer applied and was accepted to the Student Work Abroad Program, and decided to take the opportunity to live abroad for a year. She spent the 2004/2005 academic year working in Edinburgh, Scotland, and explored Europe in her spare time. Jennifer has recently become certified to teach English as a Second Language.

Pam Perkins, Department of English, U of M writes, "Jennifer is a good all-around student who finished near the top of my 'Introductory Survey of Eighteenth Century Literature' class in 2003. She placed sixth out of 47 students. Jennifer is a strong student who, I am confident is an excellent candidate for your scholarship."

Fisher Einarson Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Johnson is the son of Kerry and Laura Johnson of Warren, MB. Thomas's amma on his father's side is Winnie Vilborg Johnson, daughter of Vilyalmar and Kristin Olason. His afi was the late Lorne Johnson, son



of Einar Jon who was born in Iceland, and immigrated with his parents, Bjorn and Stefania Jonoson.

Thomas graduated from Warren Collegiate this year with Honours. He received many awards, including the Governor General's Academic Medal, a University of Manitoba Early Admission Award for Senior 4 Average over 92.5%, the Chown Centennial Scholarship, Warren United U.C.W. Bursary, Highest Achievement in Pre-Cal Math, French, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, English Comprehensive, and Highest academic average - 94.33%. Also the 2005 Manitoba High Schools Scholar Athlete Achievement Award, and South Interlake Credit Union Medal of Excellence.

Thomas is presently a first year student at the University of Manitoba. He

plans a career as a Stock Broker.

In high school, Thomas was the student council treasurer, a member of safe grad committee, and a referee/organizer for intramurals. Outside of school, he was a volleyball coach for a junior high boy's team, and is currently an assistant coach for a junior varsity boy's team. He is an assistant leader for the First Warren Scouts, and an assistant Sunday School teacher. Thomas has helped organize and deliver Christmas Cheer Board hampers. He has also helped organize and operate annual Bake Tables at his church's Fall Suppers.

In the past years Thomas has participated in volleyball, (he was the captain of the team), cross-country, basketball, badminton, and track and field. He played for the Interlake AAA Midget Baseball team that finished second in the province and also competed in the Canadian Western Championships in Winnipeg.

Mrs. L. Proctor, a former teacher of Thomas's writes, "I have known Thomas over the span of his lifetime and have had the opportunity to witness what an outstanding young man he is. He has always been a responsible and earnest student and individual. His leadership and dependability makes him a truly valued member of his community."

Dora Sigurdson Scholarship

Sarah Islietson is the daughter of Mitchell and Diane Islietson of Winnipeg Beach, MB, and the granddaughter of Cecil and Deanna Islietson of Winnipeg. Cecil is from the Glenboro area of Manitoba, both his parents, Thorstein and Osk (Sarah) came from Iceland as children. Deanna is from Winnipeg Beach. Her father, Eyjolfur Isfeld, was born north of Gimli. His parents, Pall and Anna immigrated here from Iceland.



Sarah graduated from Gimli High

School this past June with Honours. She received a number of awards, including a University of Winnipeg Entrance Scholarship, Senior 4 — High Academic Achievement at Gimli High, the Wallace Thompson Memorial Award, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #61 Scholarship, Lakeside Lion's Scholarship, the Burton Reimer Memorial Scholarship, and the Manitoba CanSkate Program Assistant Award, 2004 – 2005.

Sarah is currently in her first year in the Faculty of Science and Education at the University of Winnipeg. She plans on becoming an Early/Middle Years teacher.

Sarah was involved in Manitoba Youth parliament while in high school. She was a page at the age of 13, a backbencher two years later, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Alumni Affairs the next year. She was a member of a "Circle of Friends," a group which involved being a friend to a mentally challenged student, and she volunteered in the Gimli High Office. Sarah played volleyball, basketball and badminton.

Sarah has skated competitively since 1996. She successfully completed Senior Silver Skating Skills, all Senior Dance Tests, and both Elements and Program of Senior Bronze Free Skate Tests. She has earned 23 medals over the years. She has volunteered as a CanSkate Program Assistant, Figure Skating judge, soccer referee, and assisted with "Beavers." She has participated in a local Fashion Show in support of various local causes. Sarah has been actively involved in her church, reading lessons, acolyte, taping hymns, greeter, offering taker, and assisting Sunday School teachers. In 2002, she attended the ELCIC National Youth Gathering in Vancouver.

Leona Groot, Science Department Head at Gimli High, writes, "Sarah is in the top 15% of the class, but more importantly she has one of the best work ethics that I have seen. She works very diligently in class and also mastered concepts when she took them home. She has established a fantastic work ethic. She is also very involved in the community with her work in volunteering. She takes volunteering seri-

ously and seems to enjoy the work she does. She is always positive, cheery and ready to do anything."

Ross Forfar, her Math and History teacher says, "Sarah's strongest academic skills include problem solving, written communication, organization and taking notes during lectures. Her persistence and the combination of previously discussed skills helped her to tie for the highest mark in the Grade 12 Provincial math exam."

Flora Benson Memorial Scholarship

Kayla Stevens is the daughter of Glen and Susan Stevens of Winnipeg. Kayla is very proud of her Icelandic heritage. Her family has a cottage in Gimli, where her amma lived to be 109 (the oldest living person of Icelandic descent in the world), where her amma and afi grew up, and where her parents were raised.



Kayla graduated this year from Dakota Collegiate with Honours. She received an Advanced Early Entrance Scholarship from the University of Manitoba, and the Chown Centennial Scholarship for best all round student. Kayla is now taking University 1 courses (mainly sciences) at the University of Manitoba. She is in pursuit of a career in pharmacy or genetics research.

In grade 12 Kayla became a "Black and Gold Society" member, a group of students who volunteer within the school and community. She volunteered at a Seniors' Evening, a children's Christmas Party, an Open House, and collected donations for the Heart and Stroke Society. Kayla has coached a volleyball team. This past year, she helped her cousins with the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba parade.

Kayla has played softball since she was five, and volleyball since she was in grade seven. This year her softball team won their first provincial title,

and last year she was a part of the Dakota Girls Volleyball team that won the provincials. She has also participated in track events, badminton, curling and basketball.

Dominic Buccini, Physical Education Department, Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach, writes, “Kayla exemplified the true spirit of what it means to be a part of a team. She is willing to accept criticism and works hard toward improving her performances. She always puts the team ahead of herself. This work ethic has been responsible for many successes. Kayla has been a top student, a friend to all, a person with outstanding school spirit.”