

Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE awards 18 scholarships

Deanna Isliefsen

WINNIPEG, MB — The Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE presented 18 scholarships this year to 19 recipients at its annual scholarship presentation program held November 4 at Betelstadur Housing Co-op in Winnipeg. About 100 people attended.

Chapter President Erla Wankling was MC. Education Officer Deanna Isliefsen presented most of the scholarships. Other speakers included Her Honour Lenore Berschied; Consul General of Iceland Atli Ásmundsson; and Dr. Emöke Szathmáry, President of the University of Manitoba.

Six of the scholarships were new this year. The first was the Gloria Meadows Memorial Music Scholarship, presented by the chapter. Gloria Meadows was a long-time member of the chapter. She passed away late last year. The J. Kerr Wilson Memorial Scholarship was presented in memory of the late husband of the chapter's Honorary President, Thelma Wilson. Two music scholarships were presented in honour of former Jon Sigurdsson Chapter Music Scholarship recipients, Valdine Anderson and Kerri Wilson. A special scholarship was presented to commemorate the chapter's 90th anniversary.

In our December 1 issue, the following paragraph was omitted from the article "Jon Sigurdson Chapter awards 18 scholarships":

"The sixth new scholarship that was presented this year at the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Scholarship Presentations on November 4 was the "Halli and Gudrun Bjornson Memorial Scholarship" established by Trudy Sears in memory of her grandparents. This scholarship was presented by Trudy to an engineering student, Mark Lindal."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEANNA ISLIEFSON

Back row, from left: Thor Eyolfsson, Laura Dowbenko, Matthew Packer, Ashley Klassen, Kristjanna Oleson, Steve Swan, Mark Lindal. Front row: Lisa Filiatraut, Alison Kirk, Beverley Sawchuk, Alena Arnason, Kerri Ann Jefferson. Missing: Karissa Cook, Jennifer Steeves, Carrie Simmons, Viktoria Shafer, Laurie Anne Vermette, Monica Schott, Heiða Arnason.

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship (two awards)

Lisa Filiatraut is the daughter of Robert and Susan Filiatraut of Winnipeg. She is the granddaughter of Roy and the late Hazel Troumper. Hazel was the daughter of Paul Reykdal and Kristín Eggertsdóttir, who emigrated from Iceland and settled in Lundar. Hazel was a past member of our chapter. Roy resides here in Betelstadur.



Lisa is in her first year at the University of Winnipeg. She is planning a career in pharmacy.

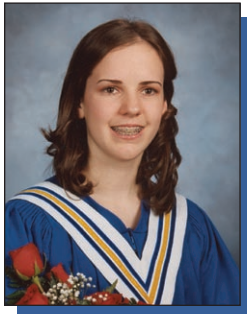
Lisa is an outstanding student. She graduated from Silver Heights Collegiate from the International Baccalaureate Program, with 30.5 credits, and an average of almost 90%. She was in this program all four years and achieved Honours throughout the four years. Lisa received a University of Winnipeg Entrance Scholarship, and the Champs' War Amps Bursary.

Lisa was in her school's concert band where she played the trumpet. She took part in the school band concerts and performances, and also travelled with the band to Alberta.

Lisa has volunteered generously in the community. She has volunteered approximately five hours a week for many years at a riding stable, working with horses, and doing many of the daily tasks required at a riding stable. She has volunteered as a side-walker for "Manitoba Riding for the Disabled," where she worked with children with disabilities such as autism and Down's Syndrome. She has fundraised for and participated in the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's "Cruising Down the Crescent," an annual 10 km bike ride down Wellington Crescent.

Lisa's former teachers speak very highly of her. Gayle Peters, her IB Chemistry Teacher, states, "Lisa is mature beyond her years and displays herself in a positive manner. She has a wonderful personality and is a very kind and giving person. In the matter of academic performance, Lisa distinguished herself as a student consistently working at superior levels and rarely receiving less than an 'A' on any piece of work. I would rank her in the top 10% of all students I have taught."

Alison Kirk is the daughter of Alan and Barb Kirk of Sanford, MB. Alison's



great-grandfather on her mother's side was Paul Westdal. He came to Canada in 1904 with his parents and siblings. They settled in Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

Alison's grandfather was Bjorgvin Westdal.

Alison is in her first year at the University of Manitoba. She is focusing on the science and mathematics areas. She plans on a career in medicine.

Alison is also an outstanding student. She graduated from Sanford Collegiate, where she was an Honour student all through high school. She obtained 37.50 credits and an average of 95.1% in grade 12. Alison received the Sanford Collegiate General Proficiency Award, the Sanford Legion Scholarship, the Sanford Legion Auxiliary Award, and the Coaches' Choice Award.

Alison participated in many school activities. She played the trumpet in the school band and the jazz band. She was a member of the hockey, volleyball, basketball and beach volleyball teams. She was also a member of the Drama Club, and a member of the Youth for Rights Committee. She tutored in the grade 10 pre-calculus class.

Alison has volunteered for the Christmas Cheer Board, delivering Christmas hampers, and has played the trumpet at Remembrance Day services.

Alison has also studied and excels on the piano.

Dave Suffield, Mathematics Department at Sanford Collegiate, writes, "Alison is an extremely dedicated, conscientious and gifted student. She is a self-starter who never needs external motivation to work hard. She has set lofty goals of a career in medicine. I could not think of a better choice for her. Her character, work ethic, personality and intellect will enable her to attain her goal. I would place Alison in the top 5% in regards to these areas."

Jon Sigurdsson IODE Members Memorial Scholarship

Karissa Cook is the daughter of Ralph and Dorothy Cook of Niverville, MB. Karissa's mother is of Icelandic descent.

Karissa graduated from Niverville Collegiate in 2005 with Honours. At that time she received several scholarships, including an Advanced Early Admission Scholarship and the Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship, and was the recipient of the Governor General's Bronze Medal.

Karissa is presently in her second year at the University of Manitoba, in the Faculty of Pharmacy. She excelled in her first year, earning a grade point average of 4.25. She took a maximum course load, mostly science and mathematics, so she would meet the requirements for the U of M's Faculty of Pharmacy. Karissa is on the Dean's Honour List, and has received the UMSU Scholarship for Excellence in Academic Achievement at the U of M.

While in high school, Karissa was on the Yearbook Committee, and the Grad Committee where she was in charge of organizing the grad photo sessions. She was also on the decorating and treasury subcommittees. Karissa played the flute in her school's senior band. She was a tutor and a student teacher's assistant. During her first year at the U of M, she has tutored twice a week.

Karissa volunteers at the Winnipeg Humane Society and at her local MCC thrift store. Angele Vermette-Simpson, Educational Consultant, states, "Karissa is one of the most studious and responsible students I have come to know. She is a very humble, reliable and kind young woman. She is a dedicated student who spends countless hours on her studies. She recognizes the importance of a strong work ethic, persistence, and intellectual integrity. She has great potential in the field of science, and will excel in everything she does."



Hildur Guttormson Memorial Scholarship

Beverley Sawchuk is the daughter of John and Jean Sawchuk of Dauphin, MB.

Beverley graduated from Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in 1982 where she had been an Honour student throughout high school. At that time she received a High Achievement Award and a Proficiency Award in Secretarial Skills.

Beverley then attended Red River Community College, and received a Diploma in Secretarial Science in June of 1983. She excelled while in Red River, graduating with a GPA of 3.83. Since that time, Beverley has also passed the exams for Certified General Accountant of Manitoba.



After graduating from Red River, Beverley joined the "work force." For the past 15 years she has been employed by James Richardson & Sons, Limited. She has been Executive Assistant for Mr. Hartley Richardson, President and CEO, an extremely interesting and challenging job.

Beverley has decided to make a change in her life and train for a fulfilling new career. She has been accepted at the University of Winnipeg, where she will be working towards a Degree in Environmental Studies, pursuing her passion for the natural world.

Over the years, Beverley has generously volunteered in the community. She has been very active for the "Save Our Seine" organization, where she held the positions of Fundraising Chair, and President. Beverley has also volunteered for the Winnipeg Humane Society. She was their "Top Fundraiser" for their Walkathons in 2001 and 2002, and was on the Organizing Committee, and also served as Chairman of the Event in 2003.

In 2004, Beverley was nominated for the YWCA Woman of the Year Award. Mr. Hartley Richardson writes, "I have worked very closely with Beverley and rely upon her skills as a professional Executive Assistant. She possesses the

skills and personal attributes that qualify her for this scholarship. She is bright and hardworking, and very determined to achieve her goals.”

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

Alena Arnason is the daughter of Tim and Del Arnason of Winnipeg. Alena says she is a Canadian of proud



Icelandic Heritage. Her father is from Gimli, MB.

Alena graduated from Glenlawn Collegiate Institute with Honours in 2005. At that time she was awarded

several scholarships and awards.

Alena is presently in her second year at the University of Manitoba, School of Music, where she is working towards a Degree in Music/Education. She eventually plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in conducting. Alena has done extremely well in her first year, obtaining a grade point average of 3.5. She is on the Dean's Honour List.

Alena's main instrument is the saxophone, but she also has attained Grade Seven Piano and Grade Five Voice.

Alena is a member of the Faculty of Music Wind Ensemble. Last year she was chosen by the Director of the Concert Band to be Leader of the saxophones and low reeds. This year she is an elected member of the University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble Executive Committee.

Alena was a very active student while in high school. She was on the student council for seven years, volunteered at all events put on by the student council, a member of "Vision Action Research Team," a member of the Grad committee, co-student coordinator for the Optimist Jazz Festival 2004, and head coordinator in 2005. She was a member of the Winnipeg Youth Symphonic Winds. In 2005, Alena volunteered at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba as a parade assistant.

Alena is currently employed on a casual basis, at Intervention Manitoba as an Intervener for an individual who is

congenitally blind.

Dr. Fraser Linklater, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Music, writes, "Alena's skills as a saxophone performer are evident to all to hear. She is a talented young Manitoba musician, with drive and commitment to succeed. Not only is Alena a very strong young musician, she is extremely reliable, responsible, and focused. In short, Alena is a person 'you can count on.'"

Snjolaug Gillis Memorial Scholarship

Kerri Ann Jefferson is the daughter of William and Shirley Jefferson of Selkirk, MB. Kerri is of Icelandic descent on her father's side.

Kerri is presently attending the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science. She has been accepted in the Bachelor of Nursing Program.



Kerri graduated from the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in Selkirk in June 1997. She then attended Red River College as a full time student, graduating with Honours in June 2001, with a diploma in Developmental Services Worker. Her grade point average was 3.59.

Kerri has worked for the Association for Community Living Selkirk and District Branch, with children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Also, Kerri has worked for the past five years as an Educational Assistant in the Lord Selkirk School Division. She worked in the Special Needs Program.

Kerri is on a support network known as "In Company of Friends," where they meet every couple of months to discuss how an individual is doing and what they can do as a team to assist the individual with her daily life.

Kerri is also involved with the Triumph Muay Thai Kickboxing Club in Selkirk, and plays soccer for Tri S both indoor and outdoor. She is a Heart and Stroke Foundation CPR Instructor in Training.

Cheryl Wall, Special Education Co-

ordinator, states, "Kerri was not only an excellent Educational assistant, she also demonstrated a genuine interest in the welfare of the students. Kerri generously gave her time to children who needed her most — children with special needs at home, children with special needs in group homes, and children in the foster care system. She has been an invaluable asset to the children in the City of Selkirk and surrounding areas. We are extremely proud that Kerri will one day be a nurse, but for the present time, she is sadly missed."

Gyda Naylor Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Steeves is the daughter of Ernie Steeves of Rosser MB, and Crystelle Steeves of Stonewall, MB. Jennifer is of Icelandic descent on her mother's side.

Jennifer graduated from the University of Winnipeg Collegiate in 1996. Four years ago, at the age of 24 and the mother



of one child, she entered the University of Manitoba as a mature student. She is now in her fourth year in the Faculty of Human Ecology where she is doing very well. Jennifer plans on becoming a Registered Dietician.

Jennifer has been a very active volunteer in the community. She has volunteered at an outreach program, "Healthy Start for Mom and Me," and at Maples Personal Care Home and Kildonan Personal Care Home, where she assisted the dietician who was teaching the first part of the food handlers course. This past summer she began volunteering at Youville Centre as a group facilitator on nutrition and lifestyle practices for a senior's group. Jennifer is continuing her volunteer work at Youville Centre, with three more programs.

Kathleen Chambers, M. Sc., Department of Human Nutritional Sciences, U of M, writes, "Jennifer is an extremely personable woman who is dedicated to her family, school responsibilities, and community. She always gives her best effort. She is dedicated, hard-working,

and gives freely of herself in many volunteer roles without asking for anything in return. She truly enjoys what she is doing and will be an asset to the profession of Dietetics.”

**E.I. Benjaminson
Memorial Scholarship**

Carrie Simmons is the daughter of Karen Simmons of Brandon, MB. Carrie’s great-grandmother, Valgerður Jónatansson was born in Iceland. She and her family settled in Gimli. Valgerður’s father was Jón Jónatansson, and her mother was Anna Steindóra Jónasdóttir.

Carrie graduated from Crocus Plains High School in Brandon in 2003, where she received the Crocus Plains Safe Grad Scholarship. She was an excellent student and took part in many extracurricular activities including Teens Against Drunk Driving and musical productions.

Carrie is presently attending Brandon University where she is in the fourth year of her Bachelor of Science Honours Degree. Her major is in Psychology and minors in Zoology and Sociology. She is planning on entering medicine. Carrie is doing extremely well, her GPA is 3.8, and she is on the Dean’s Honour List. She was awarded a Brandon University Students’ Union Bursary, and the G.F. MacDowell Scholarship in Psychology.

Carrie had been an active volunteer during her school years. She continues to be very active at Brandon University where she is the Editor in Chief and Manager of the Students’ Newspaper, *The Quill*. She also volunteers for a private practice psychiatrist, and was Brandon University Equality Resource Centre Coordinator last year. She volunteered for the Red Cross/Communities Without Borders Tsunami Relief Rummage Sale. Carrie received Brandon University Exceptional Senior Student Award (2005, 2006), and the YWCA’s Young Woman of Distinction Award in 2005.

Tammy McKenzie, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Brandon University, writes, “As Carrie’s advisor on her Honours Project, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with her in carrying out research. I have found her to be very conscientious, hard-working, creative, and reliable. I wish that I had the opportunity to work with more students like her.”

**Kristin Stephenson
Music Scholarship**

Viktoria Schafer is the daughter of Johann and Ella Schafer of Winkler, MB. Viktoria grew up in a musical family in Villingen, Germany. Viktoria and her family came to Canada when she was in grade six at school. They made their home in Winkler.

Viktoria graduated from Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler, in 2004.



She completed high school in three years, receiving 10 Merit Awards, eight Top Mark Awards, and Honour Roll With Distinction all three years.

Viktoria has completed two years at the University of Manitoba, School of Music. Her main instrument is the violin, but she also sings. Viktoria was accepted into the Integrated Music/Education program in February, 2006. She plans to teach music in an elementary school. Viktoria has done extremely well in her first two years at the School of Music. Her GPA is 3.86. She is on the Dean’s Honour List, and has been awarded a University of Manitoba Queen Elizabeth II Entrance Scholarship and a Faculty of Music Award.

Viktoria is an extremely talented and a very busy young woman. She is very involved in music. While in high school she sang in the choir and played in several orchestras. She has played in string groups, master classes at the university, sung in church choirs, and sung and played at nursing homes, played at a Violin Recital, and participated at numerous Music Festivals over the years. In university, Viktoria is very actively involved in different university activities. She is a member of the Women’s Choir, the university orchestra, chamber music ensemble, and also performs solo.

In high school, Viktoria volunteered in the special needs department, sewed costumes for the drama club, sewed toys for the special needs students, and sewed a black backdrop for concerts.

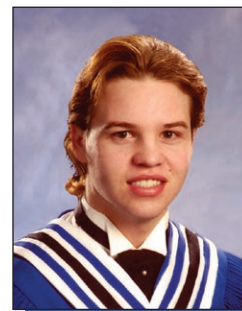
This year Viktoria teaches 14 violin students, but still continues to perform

at nursing homes and hospitals, and carolling during Christmas season. She is also now teaching Sunday School.

Dr. Oleg Pokhanovski, Professor of Violin, Concert Violinist, Faculty of Music, University of Manitoba, writes, “Viktoria has been my violin student for the past three years. During these years I can attest to a significant improvement in her violin skills as well as her tremendous growth as a musician. She is an excellent student. She has a great personality, she is kind and generous, and has a great patience and understanding when working with other people. I can see her being an excellent teacher.”

**Eugene Clyde
Memorial Scholarship**

Thor Eyjolfsson is the son of Thor and Moira Eyjolfsson of Riverton, MB. Thor’s great-great-grandfather, Eyjólfur Magnússon, emigrated from Iceland in 1876, and settled in Unaland. In 1880, Thor’s great-grandfather, Thorstein Eyjolfsson, obtained the homestead, Holl. The homestead has remained in the family, and Thor has grown up there and still lives there with his family.



Thor is in his first year at the University of Manitoba. He plans to pursue a Science Degree with particular emphasis on calculus and physics. After obtaining this

degree, he will apply to the Faculty of Education, as he is planning a career teaching mathematics and science at the senior high school level. He also intends to continue to pursue cultural studies in Icelandic — Language and Literature. He has been accepted into the second year language studies at the University of Manitoba.

Thor graduated from Riverton Collegiate this past June. He was an Honour student throughout high school. His average in grade 12 was 91.3%. He received many scholarships and awards, a University of Manitoba Entrance, the Chown, Royal Canadian Legion, Erosion, the Margaret Wishnowsky, the

Governor General's Bronze Medal, and Evergreen School Division Highest Marks Award.

Thor has participated in many different extra curricular activities. He co-coached his school's Junior Varsity Boys' Volleyball team, was involved in volleyball, badminton, track and field, wrestling and hockey. He served as Treasurer, and Junior and Senior Sports Representative on Student Council. He was the school's liaison on the Riverton Recreational Commission for two years, and represented Riverton Collegiate at the Divisional Planning Session. Thor assisted at Remembrance Day Services and also tutored Math.

Thor has been a very active volunteer. He assisted coaching the Riverton Minor Hockey "Squirts" team, and officiated volleyball games at a middle years school, and other local tournaments. He assisted at a fundraiser for the Seniors' Resource Centre, and a project for the Village Cemetery Commission.

Thor has studied the Icelandic language for five years, and in 2004 and 2005, he recited Icelandic poetry at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli, and participated in an Icelandic theatrical performance at Thorrablot in Arborg. Thor has been a member of the Icelandic Youth Choir, and the men's choir, Soley Songmenn. He has studied music for 12 years, he plays piano, and has also attained Royal Conservatory Level Eight on the classical guitar. He has performed at the Evergreen Festival of the Arts.

C. Kirkpatrick, Senior Science/Mathematics teacher writes, "Thor has demonstrated exceptional ability with respect to understanding and applying scientific and mathematical principles. He displays a positive, responsible attitude towards work that is reflected by his self-discipline to task and determination to complete tasks to the best of his ability."

Kenneth G. Howard Scholarship

Laurie Anne Vermette is the daughter of Dave and Marguerite Lipchen of St. Andrews, MB.

Laurie Anne is an outstanding student. She is a single sole-support mother of two young daughters, and a full time university student with a GPA of

4.13. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg in 2002. She is currently enrolled in the second year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba, St. Johns College, where this year she is Assembly Representative in the Student Council.



Laurie Anne plans to follow her B.F.A. with a Bachelor of Education. She plans to be a junior high school art and history teacher, and eventually a school counsellor. She has begun her pre-masters courses in Education. Laurie Anne has a Certificate in Conflict Resolution and a Specialization in Mediation. Aside from her career goals, she seeks to be a Canadian historical artist (painter, quilt-maker and sculptor). Laurie Anne has received the Percy Lanham Award, the Henry Irvine Graham Scholarship, and All Saints James Brown Bursary. Last year she received our Members Memorial Scholarship.

Laurie Anne has a background in dance, gymnastics, cheerleading and figure skating, and is currently taking Ballet, Pointe, Jazz/Lyrical, Hip Hop, Tap and Musical Theatre classes. She is a cheerleading and gymnastics coach. She developed the All Canadian Cheerleading Program. She has coached up to 150 students in a single season. While in high school, Laurie Anne was involved in cheerleading, water polo, track and field, drama, art, and music. She plays flute and piano.

Laurie Anne has developed a Conflict Resolution Program to be used in grade four to six classrooms. She ran this program at Riverview Elementary School as a part of a conflict resolution practicum while she was attending the University of Winnipeg. She is hoping to run this program in a few elementary schools this year. In 2005, she volunteered and held a Conflict Resolution Workshop for the managers of West-Jet.

Laurie Anne has been an active volunteer in the Junior High Art Room at George McDowell School, as well as a parent volunteer for field trips and other school functions. She is a volunteer

note-taker with Disability Services at U of M. Last January she developed an Art History Study Group. She is also currently the assistant to the coordinator for Advanced Trauma Life Support courses that are run to develop skills in new and practicing doctors.

Glen Bergeron, Associate Professor, Chair, Kinesiology and Applied Health, University of Winnipeg, writes, "Laurie Anne is a dedicated mom, a hard-working student, a committed coach, and a gifted artist/musician. She has tremendous leadership potential and will be an outstanding teacher."

Anna Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Laura Dowbenko is the daughter of Larry and Leslie Dowbenko of Winnipeg.

Laura is in her fifth and final year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education, in the Integrated Music/Education Program. She has a major in music and a minor in mathematics. Laura plans to teach band at the junior and/or senior high level.



Laura is an exceptional student. Her GPA is an outstanding 4.30. She has been on the Dean's Honour List all of her four years at university. Over the years she has

been the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including many University of Manitoba Music scholarships.

Laura's main instrument is the piano. She started taking lessons when she was six years old. She received her ARCT Diploma in Piano Performance in June 2005. She also has Grade Eight Clarinet and Grade Five Theory. At the University of Manitoba, she is a member of Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and the Women's Choir. She has been a member of the Manitoba Provincial Honour Bands and Honour Choir, and also performed at the Winnipeg Music Festival.

This past year, Laura began teaching piano to six young students. She

has completed her first two sessions of student teaching, at Mennonite Brethern Collegiate and Sisler High School. She primarily taught band, but also was able to teach choir, drama, mathematics, and a life skills music class for students with special needs. Last year she began an instrumental music ensemble at her church. She was responsible for recruiting members, purchasing music and music stands, and organizing and leading rehearsals in preparation for performances. The band consisted of over twenty musicians that ranged in age from 12 to 70 years old. This fall she is continuing to lead the band. This past summer Laura worked at the St. Vital Band Camp at Dakota Collegiate as clarinet clinician, responsible for working with a group of young clarinet players.

Connie Turner, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education, writes, "Laura is very talented in piano, choral and instrumental music. I conducted Laura for three years in the U of M Concert Band where she served as clarinet section leader. She was the top student. I sincerely salute this young woman for her musical achievements and for her potential as a future educator."

The Reverend Carol Fletcher writes, "I have known Laura for almost 18 years, and have found her to be a person with tremendous integrity and leadership skills. She has volunteered her time and her talent for several years as a regular accompanist for our congregation's Church School. She has expanded our musical repertoire. In June 2005, Laura worked with our proposal committee to develop a plan for an Advent Band program for our community and beyond. Her leadership skills, organizational skills and her empowerment skills are tremendous."

Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Monica Schott is the daughter of Eric and Maryls Schott of Warren, MB. Monica's grandmother, Jona Schott is the daughter of Bergsverm (Beggi) and Alla Erickson. Bergsverm was born in Lundar, MB, and Alla was born in Gimli, MB. Both of their parents were originally from Iceland.

Monica is presently in her 1st year

at the University of Manitoba. She is focusing on an Agriculture and Food Sciences Degree, eventually specializing in Animal Science. Her ambition is to



become an Animal Nutritionist or Veterinarian's Assistant. She also plans to study the Animal Health Technicians Course at Red River Community College.

Monica graduated from Warren Collegiate where she was an honour student throughout high school. Her average in grade 12 was an outstanding 94.25%, with 32 credits. She received a Manitoba 4-H Council Scholarship, a 4-H TD Agricultural Scholarship, and the John Nevin Scholarship.

In high school, Monica took part in the "Student Voice," Teens Against Drunk Driving, the Book Club, and MTC. She was also involved in High School Curling.

Monica has been a very active member of 4-H for the past 10 years, three years of which she was a Junior Leader in her equine club. She held the position of President and Secretary for one year each. She has attended many 4-H events such as the Senior Members Conference and Interlake Senior Members Association meetings. For the past four years Monica has had the distinction of earning her spot on the 4-H Regional Horse Team to compete at the Provincial level. She has also competed in the Woodlands Rodeo, the Silver Belt Barrel Racing Program, and numerous trail rides. She was the Gold Watch Recipient for the Stonewall District Council two years ago.

Monica has volunteered as a chaperone for the 4-H TUFF Conference (12- to 14-year-old campers) and at Midnight Madness. Her interest in horses led her to volunteer extensively at the Stonewall Veterinary Clinic this past year. She has also helped at the Warren Junior Curling Club and the South Interlake Curling League. For the past 10 years, she has sung at the Oak Park Lodge and participated in organizing the annual 4-H Turkey Bingo in Woodlands.

Laurie Slater writes, "Monica is a mature young woman who excels in

school and in extracurricular programs. In the years that Monica has been involved in 4-H, she has become a competent speaker and become very involved in many different levels of 4-H. She displays qualities of honesty, integrity and trustworthiness. She is a hardworking individual giving her best foot forward in all she does. I feel Monica will strive for and accomplish all her goals in life."

Gloria Meadows Memorial Scholarship

Heiða Arnason is the daughter of Cameron and Janice Arnason of Gimli, MB. Heiða's grandparents on both sides of her family are Icelandic.



Heiða is presently attending the University of Manitoba, School of Music. She is studying Music Composition.

Heiða graduated with Honours from Gimli High School in 1999. While in high school, Heiða participated in many extra-curricular activities, including sports, music, drama, and directed school singing groups. Over the years she studied piano, guitar, and voice.

From 2001 to 2003, Heiða attended Grant McEwen College in Edmonton, where she graduated with a Diploma in Music, majoring in writing. She received First Class Honours, and was on the Dean's List. After graduating, Heiða worked as a piano and voice teacher, an accompanist for a musical company, and, in her words, as most musicians do — she waited on tables.

Heiða has been involved in promoting the Icelandic culture from a very young age. She was part of an Icelandic singing group, "The Valkyries" from age seven to 17, and performed with them at Íslendingadagurinn in Gimli, at Folklorama, and at many other special events. She has served on the Icelandic Festival's Music Committee, and has organized and performed at "Music on the Rooftop." Heiða recently was commissioned by the Prairie Ocean Centre for the Arts to write a ballad for Lake

Winnipeg, in which she included Icelandic lyrics. This was performed at Westminster United Church as well as at the Icelandic Festival this past summer. In early September, she was asked to perform this piece, entitled "Bless, Bless," at a reception for the Bishop of Iceland.

Dennis Anderson, Ph.D., former President of Brandon University, writes, "I have known Heiða since she was a child, and have witnessed her evolution as an adult, a student, and a musician. She possesses grace and composure well beyond her years, and is a budding professional musician who brings pride to her family and her community."

Solange Liang, Piano Teacher, writes, "Heiða is a very gifted artist. I have known her since she was born. Her musical talent has always been so evidently shown. I highly recommend her for your scholarship."

J. Kerr Wilson Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Packer is the son of Cliff and Elaine Packer of Winnipeg.

Matthew attends Vincent Massey Collegiate where he is a high achiever.



He is currently in grade 10. He has played volleyball at school, and has also taken swimming lessons.

Matthew plays the piano, the organ, and the alto saxophone. He previously sang, and also played the clarinet and the recorder. Matthew has achieved an amazing 92%, First Class Honours with Distinction, in Grade 9 Piano, Royal Conservatory of Music. He was the highest achiever in Manitoba. He has also received First Class Honours in Theory: Grade Two Rudiments — 90%, Grade Three Harmony — 90%, and Grade Three History — 95%.

Music has always been a big part of Matthew's life. While taking private music lessons, he has also been very active in music in the schools he has attended. He participated in both concert and jazz bands at Henry G. Izatt Middle School, and now plays in the concert and

jazz bands, as well as the wind ensemble at Vincent Massey Collegiate. He auditioned for and was accepted to be one of two alto saxophonists from grades 10 to 12. In 2005 he was selected to be one of four alto saxophonists from across Manitoba to take part in the Manitoba Provincial Junior Honour Band.

Matthew has been a member of the Winnipeg Boys Choir, and participated in Canada 2000 in Ottawa. He has sung with the Manitoba Opera in their production of *The Magic Flute* in 2001.

Matthew's piano teacher, Kerrine Wilson, writes, "Matthew has been a diligent student in both piano and theoretical studies. As well as being a high achiever academically, he has shown an admirable maturity in his approach to his musical commitments. There is no doubt that he will continue to enjoy his music and to maintain a very high level of achievement."

Valdine Anderson Music Scholarship

Ashley Klassen is the daughter of Denise Klassen, Winnipeg.

Ashley is presently attending her first year at the University of Manitoba, School of Music. She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance. She is particularly interested in opera. Her ultimate goal is to be a professional performer.



Ashley has achieved First Class Honours in Grade Nine Voice, Royal Conservatory of Music, and First Class Honours in Grade Eight Piano, Royal Conservatory of Music. In Theory she has First Class Honours in Grade Two Rudiments, Grade Three Harmony, and Grade Three History.

Ashley graduated this past June, from Landmark Collegiate where she had been an Honour student all four years. Her grade 12 average was 93.4% with 36 credits. She received the Landmark Collegiate Top Student Award, Laureate Award, and Merit Award. She also re-

ceived the Niverville Credit Union Academic Achievement Award, and the Keating Mechanical Performance Award.

Ashley has been very heavily involved in music both in school and outside of school. She was a member of the school Jazz and Concert bands, the school choir, and the Drama club. She had the lead role in two different school musicals. She was a member of several choirs in her community, and was elected by the Eastman Youth Choir in 2003 to sing for the National Conference of Canadian Choral Conductors. She had a role in Rainbow Stage's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Ashley has performed numerous vocal solo concerts in her community. She has also sung at her church, and at hockey games and a Provincial Baseball Tournament.

Over the years, Ashley has competed in many musical festivals. For her excellent performances, she has received countless awards. This past spring she won the AM 1250 Radio Trophy for Intermediate Voice at the Southeastern Manitoba Festival. She has been recommended numerous times for Provincial Finals.

Kim Bestvater Sidorchuk writes, "I have accompanied Ashley for the past three years in both vocal festivals and voice exams in Steinbach and Winnipeg, and she has always excelled. She always selects challenging repertoire and is very capable of outstanding performances. She is a solid performer with a great amount of stage presence and always handles herself well on stage. She is extremely bright, hard-working and very disciplined"

Kerrine Wilson Music Scholarship

Kristjanna Oleson is the daughter of Brian Oleson and Marjorie Oleson both of Winnipeg. Her grandparents, Kari and Emily Oleson from Riverton, MB, were both of Icelandic descent. Kristjanna says she has been playing the violin since she was three years old. She began with the Suzuki Music Program, but she recalls fondly being encouraged by her father to play folk music with him when she was quite young. Her Amma resided at the Betel Care Home during

her last 10 years, and Kristjanna would go along with him to their Friday night “sing-a-longs” whenever she could.

Kristjanna graduated from Menonite Brethren Collegiate in 1995. During her high school years, she was very active. In 1995 she was the school president. She performed often for the school, and also participated in a vocal quartet that sang at various churches during the Christmas season. Kristjanna was a member of the Youth Orchestras from grades five to 12. She was Concert Mistress of the Junior Strings and Intermediate Orchestras, and Assistant Concert Mistress of the Youth Orchestra.

Kristjanna is now attending the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education, in her first year of a two year After-Degree Program. She is planning on becoming a certified teacher and later obtaining a Masters Degree in Education. Kristjanna graduated from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music, in 2001, with a Bachelor Degree in Music Performance. She did very well while in the School of Music, her grade point average was 3.31. She was the String Representative on many committees. She was nominated by her classmates to be Valedictorian for their graduating class. Kristjanna has also completed training as a Suzuki Teacher and in the Orff Music Teachers Training Program.

After graduating in 2001, Kristjanna has worked primarily as a music teacher and performer. She has taught through St. John’s Raven’s Court, Grosvener Elementary School, and is currently teaching through MCMA, Suzuki Music Program and Preparatory Studies at the University of Manitoba. She has also worked as a Teacher’s Assistant with children who have special needs.

Kristjanna has and continues to perform with various artists and organizations in Winnipeg. Last year she collaborated with Freya Olafsson to create *The Search for Sessilija*, a story based on Freya’s family in the Interlake. Kristjanna co-founded the “Animata String Quartet” which is widely known in the Winnipeg music community. She has



been nominated in the category of Musician of the Year for the Western Canadian Music Awards this fall.

Laurel Howard, B.Mus., MA, Coordinator, U of M Suzuki Program, writes, “Kristjanna is an excellent musician and teacher. She has taught many violin and viola students over the past several years, establishing a reputation as one of the city’s finest young teachers. She has also shown the ability to manage a busy professional life, combining work as a private teacher, a teacher in schools, and a notable career as a performing musician.”

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter 90th Anniversary Scholarship

Steve Swan is the son of Charles and Judith Swan of Winnipeg. Steve has some Icelandic ancestry that he is quite proud of. His maternal great-grandmother was from Iceland.



Steve graduated from River East Collegiate in 1996. During his high school years he was very active with the YM-YWCA where he taught swimming lessons, helped run pre-school programs and organize fundraising projects. In 1996, he was awarded the Josten’s Leader of the Year Award for community service.

Steve is in the second year of a three-year post-graduate degree. He attends Providence Theological Seminar in Otterbourne, MB. He is working towards a Masters Degree in Divinity. Steve graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2001 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honours Degree. He was on the Dean’s Honour List, his GPA was 3.64. He continues to do very well at Providence. His GPA after his first year was 3.83. He has been awarded a Providence Entrance Bursary.

Following his graduation from the University of Manitoba, in January of 2002, Steve became a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Regular Forces. He served our country for three years in the Canadian Navy as an enlisted Na-

val Weapons Technician. While posted in Halifax, he helped to organize and operate a free coffee house for those who live on the street and struggle with addictions and mental illness.

Steve is an active volunteer in his church, helping with its programs. He assists the pastor in the daily work of the church. Steve says his goal is to continue to serve his community through the ministry.

Rev. Edmund K. Neufeld, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Studies, Providence Theological Seminary, writes, “Steve has showed unusual academic ability in the courses I have taught him, and was overall the best student. He received a grade of A+ in both classes, which no other student accomplished. He grasps material quickly, he works hard, and he participates helpfully in the informal class environment. My colleagues and I appreciate and value him.”

Al Gordon, Pastor, The King’s Fellowship, writes, “Steve is a young man of the highest character. I trust him completely. If character is a qualification necessary for a scholarship from your foundation, then he is your man.”

Halli and Gudrun Bjornson Memorial Scholarship

Mark Lindal is the son of Don and Jennifer Lindal of Winnipeg. Mark’s grandparents are Joseph and Emily Lindal from Viddir, MB. Emily’s maiden name is Magnusson.

Mark is presently in his first year at the University of Manitoba. He plans on working towards a degree in Civil Engineering.

Mark graduated from Dakota Collegiate where he was an Honour student. Mark participated in many extra-curricular activities while in high school. He was involved in many sports: basketball, volleyball, cross-country, track and field, handball, badminton, and in grade 12, he was on the Rowing Team. He represented his school at Provincials in track and field when he was in grades 10, 11 and 12, and also in handball when



in grade 12.

Outside of school, Mark has played hockey since the age of eight. He was the captain of his team for the past four seasons. He still plays hockey, and recently he has just finished playing his second season of lacrosse.

Mark was a member of the “Black and Gold Society” while in grade 12. The Society is designed to encourage students to volunteer in the community and at school. Mark was involved in the annual Christmas party for underprivileged children in the area, he volunteered as a gift wrapper at St. Vital Mall, he worked at a Christmas tree lot, selling Christmas trees, and he helped at Riverside Lionelles Annual Spring Luncheon. Mark has also volunteered for “Take Pride Winnipeg” where he went with a friend to a grade four classroom to teach the students about litter, graffiti, pollution and vandalism. Mark has received letters and Certificates of Appreciation for his volunteer work.

Dave Fache, Biology Teacher, Dakota Collegiate, writes, “As well as being a strong academic, Mark has been very involved in a number of school activities over his four years at Dakota Collegiate. He was well liked by his peers and was an easy-going member in class who always participated in class activities. He was a quiet leader who spoke and handled himself well. Mark has the confidence, energy and enthusiasm that add up to success.”