

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE awards 19 scholarships

Deanna Isliefson

WINNIPEG, MB — The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE presented 16 scholarships this year to 19 recipients at its annual scholarship presentation program held November 3 at Betelstadur Housing Co-op in Winnipeg. About 100 people attended.

Chapter President Erla Wankling was MC. Education Officer Deanna Isliefson presented most of the scholarships. Guest speakers were Her Honour Lenore Berscheid; and Consul General of Iceland Atli Ásmundsson.

Those who arrived early were entertained by the beautiful music of Theresa Thordarson on piano. Theresa was the recipient of the Evelyn Thorvaldson Memorial Scholarship.

Two of the scholarships were new this year. The Norma McEwen Memorial Scholarship was presented in memory of Norma McEwen, who passed away in August. She had been a long-time member of the chapter and had served as treasurer for many years. The Evelyn Thorvaldson Memorial Scholarship was presented in memory of Evelyn Thorvaldson, who passed away in July. Evelyn had joined the chapter earlier this year.

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Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Kelsey Hargreaves is the daughter of Shirley Hargreaves of Winnipeg. Kelsey's great-grandfather, Gudjon Bjornson, came to Canada in 1903. Kelsey is an exceptional student. She graduated with honours from



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEANNA ISLIEFSON

Back row, from left: Drew Anderson, Kai Stefen Olson, Ben Lobb, Stacey Abramson, Miria Olson, Michael Olson. Second row: Jessie Bilbey, Nancy Schroeder, Theresa Thordarson, Kelsey Hargreaves, Marielle Gawryluk, Avery Simundsson. Front row: Amber Epp, Jessica Strong (photograph), Diane Kim, Kim Le, Christin Burgess, Stephanie Yakiwchuk. Missing: Keegan Porter.

the International Baccalaureate Program at Kelvin High School in the top two percent of the I.B. Program.

Kelsey was very involved in the extra-curricular activities of the school, taking part in the music and sports programs. She has also been a dedicated volunteer throughout her school years, not only at school, but also in the community for the Red Cross and the Children's Hospital Foundation. In recognition of her outstanding scholastic achievements, Kelsey was awarded many awards and scholarships.

Kelsey is now in her first year at the University of Manitoba. She is planning on completing an undergraduate degree in science, and then applying to the Faculty of Medicine.

Avery Simundsson is the daughter of Heather McBey and Bragi Simundsson of Arborg, MB. Avery's Icelandic heritage comes from her father. Her great-grandparents include Johann and Thora Simundsson, and Halldor and Stefania Halldorson. Her great-great-grandfather, Haldor Jonson, was an acquaintance of John Ramsey. Her family can be traced back to Sigurdur "Ring" Raudversson who ruled Sweden at one time.

Avery is also an outstanding student.

She graduated from Arborg Collegiate, achieving honours all four years. Avery was extremely active throughout her school years in all areas, from student council, yearbook, sports, and music. She has also been a very active participant in 4-H, where she has held the position of president for the past two years, and was chosen to attend the annual USDA 4-H Conference in Washington last year. She has studied the piano, and was a member of the New Iceland Youth Choir for five years.

Avery has been recognized for her accomplishments with many awards, not only for academics, but also her music and her writing and poetry. Avery is now attending the University of Manitoba, first year. She is planning on receiving a science degree.

Jon Sigurdsson IODE Members Memorial Scholarship

Miria Olson is the daughter of Louise Olson of Winnipeg. She is the granddaughter of Carl and Gene Olson, and the great-granddaughter of Reverend Carl J. Olson and Olof Sveinfridur Olson. Her great-great-grandparents were Gisli and Margaret Sveinsson, who immigrated to

Canada from Iceland in 1888, settling north of Gimli in Loni Beach.

Miria is currently in her third year at the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Arts, Honours, majoring in French. She is a Student of Highest Distinction; her grade point average after her second year was 4.181. She has received many awards and



scholarships, both in high school and at university.

Miria has been involved in several student conferences and exchange programs since 2004. Included in these were the Snorri Program this past summer, Withinsight Youth Leadership Conference at Queen's University in Ottawa, 2006 and 2007, Explore Program at Laval University, 2006, and SWAP New Zealand, 2004 – 2005. She has been a very active volunteer in the community and at university. Miria plans on a career in the Foreign Service.

Hildur Guttormson Memorial Scholarship

Nancy Schroeder is the granddaughter of Kristian Helgason and Sigurveig Christopherson of Baldur, MB.



Nancy completed her Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba in 1993, where she had been on the Dean's Honour List. She has

been a teacher in the River East Transcona School Division for 15 years, as a French teacher, a grade four and five classroom teacher, a Reading Recovery teacher and a teacher-librarian.

Nancy has recently returned to university to pursue a Masters of Education in Teacher Librarianship at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Elementary Education through their Distance Learning Program.

As a teacher, Nancy has volunteered many hours before and after school to

run activities and clubs for the students. She has also actively volunteered at her children's school on a regular basis, and in the community. She has taught Sunday School and worked at the annual Garage Sale.

Nancy is currently the Secretary of the River East Transcona Teacher-Librarians' Association, and her school's representative on the River East Transcona Divisional Literacy Committee. It is quite challenging to return to university as a full-time working mother, but as difficult as it can be at times, her goal is to become a qualified teacher librarian in the public school system.

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

Jessica Strong is the daughter of William and Barbara Strong of Winnipeg.



Jessica is attending the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music. She is currently in her fourth year as a vocal performance major, where she has been on the

Dean's Honour List each year. She has completed her Grade 10 and A.R.C.T. Voice exams with the Royal Conservatory of Music, obtaining 93% and 95% respectively, receiving the Silver Medal for Grade 10 Voice. She also has Grade 10 Piano, and has been teaching piano for four years.

Jessica is a member of two choirs, the University of Manitoba Cantata Singers and Canzona, and has also performed as a soloist with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Jessica is a very talented musician who performs at the highest level. She has received numerous accolades and awards, placing first in festivals and competitions. In 2006 she won the Tudor Bowl at the Winnipeg Music Festival.

Jessica has volunteered with the Winnipeg Honour Choir Association, is an accompanist at church, provided vocal solos for special occasions in the church year, accompanied fellow students for their auditions into the School

of Music, and has participated in the musical therapy program at St. Amant Centre. Jessica is planning a career in singing.

Snjolaug Gillis Memorial Scholarship

Kim Le came to Canada from Vietnam in 2004.



Her parents still live in Vietnam. She lives here in Winnipeg with her aunt, Thi Trinh and her uncle, Loi Nguyen.

Kim is currently a first-year student at the University of Manitoba, and is planning a career as a nurse or obstetrician. She graduated from Nelson McIntyre Collegiate this past June with honours. Although English is her second language, she placed in the top five of the graduating class. Not only did she maintain a 90%+ average, she took 34 credits between grade 10 and grade 12.

During her three years at Nelson McIntyre Collegiate, Kim was very involved in extracurricular activities. She was on the Student Council as secretary, a member of the grad and yearbook committees, a peer tutor, participated in the school's musical, and volunteered in the canteen. She has also volunteered in the soup kitchen at Siloam Mission, at the Health Sciences Centre, at the University of Manitoba Disability Service, at the YMCA-YWCA Day Camp, been involved in Winnipeg International Children Festival, and fundraised for several groups.

Gyda Naylor Memorial Scholarship

Jessie Bilbey is the daughter of Robert and Lauren Bilbey of Mitchell, MB.

She recently completed her third year at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Human Ecology, majoring in Family Social Sciences. Jessie has done extremely well in university, even though she has been working 40 hours a week throughout her years at university. Her grade point average after her third

year is 3.75. She is on the Dean's Honour List. Jessie's career goal is to be able to assist children at a legal level.



After she completes her bachelor's degree in family social sciences, she hopes to pursue a law degree. She believes as a lawyer she can

make an impact on the welfare of children who may be experiencing crisis in their lives.

Jessie has a strong community spirit. She uses strong interpersonal skills, team building, and organizational skills, and her experience to mentor others. Jessie has volunteered for election campaigns in her hometown, at early childhood education centres, with Canada Post, answering children's letters to Santa, at Klinik Community Health Centre, and for Mitchell's Minor Hockey.

E.I. Benjaminson Memorial Scholarship

Marielle Gawryluk is the daughter of Jocelyn and Bryan Gawryluk of Winnipeg. Her amma is of Icelandic descent.



This past June, Marielle graduated from the Collège universitaire de St. Boniface

(CUSB) with her Bachelor of Science, Dean's Honour List. Her grade point average was 3.75. She has received several awards and scholarships while in high school and university. Marielle is now completing a Bachelor of Arts at CUSB, where she is a member of the Students' Association.

Marielle has been a very active student in extracurricular activities throughout her school and university years, being a member and leader of many committees. She was selected to be on the Youth Philanthropy Committee in 2003, and in 2005 and 2006 she participated in the Canada World Youth program and represented Manitoba in a

group that travelled to Quebec and Senegal, Africa.

She has volunteered for four years at the Grace General Hospital and served as a team leader for two and a half of those years. She has also volunteered on a weekly basis at the Children's Hospital, and is an active participant at her church. Marielle is pursuing a career in the health sciences in French. She hopes to travel to help those in need around the world.

Kristin Stephensen Music Scholarship

Amber Epp is the daughter of Gord and Lois Epp of Steinbach, MB.



She is currently in her third year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Music where she has established herself as both a strong jazz vocalist and an accomplished student. She is a top student, achieving the Dean's Honour List both years. Her grade point average is 4.14. She has received several scholarships while in university.

Amber has studied voice and piano for nearly 15 years. She now studies with Steve and Anna-Lisa Kirby, along with many of the top jazz musicians in Winnipeg. She performs every week at the Cool Monday Night Hang, a well-established jam session in Winnipeg. She also performs in as many other contexts as she can find, and attends all workshops and performances of visiting musicians.

She recorded an excellent CD on 7 April 2007, *The Opening* for the Izzy Asper Concert. Amber has volunteered as an assistant at the University of Manitoba Jazz Camp and the Izzy Asper Concert Series, and been a contributor to *dig! Magazine*.

Upon receiving her Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies), Amber plans a career in performing and teaching jazz.

Eugene & Rose Clyde Memorial Scholarship

Kai Stefan Olson is the son of



Elaine Dilworth of Gimli, MB. Both of his paternal grandfather's parents were Icelandic.

Kai is currently in his second year of studies in the Faculty of Education at

the University of Winnipeg. He plans on becoming a history teacher.

Kai is an excellent student; his grade point average in his first year was 3.833. He received many awards in high school for his academic excellence. During his high school years, he was a very active member of many student groups including sports, drama, social committee, peer tutoring, and concert and jazz bands, he plays trombone. He was valedictorian at his grad.

Kai took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Program, where he achieved the bronze, silver and gold award. The Gold Award will be presented to him by a member of the Royal Family in the near future.

From 1999 to 2006, Kai was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Gimli. He retired with the rank of Warrant Officer 2nd Class, and was awarded the Lord Strathcona Medal of Excellence. In 2005, he earned his glider pilot license, and his private pilot license in 2006. Kai played in the Royal Canadian Air Cadet's Prairie Honour Band, and continues to play trombone in the University of Winnipeg Downtown Jazz Band. Kai was also a very active volunteer in his community.

Kenneth G. Howard Scholarship

Michael Olson is the son of Louise Olson of Winnipeg. He is the great-grandson of Reverend Carl J. Olson and Olaf Sveinfridur, and the great-great-grandson of Gisli and Margaret Sveinsson.

Michael is in his second year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Arts.

He plans on graduating with a History Honours Degree, and then continue on in pursuit of graduate studies in history. In the future he hopes to become a professor/writer of history.



Michael is an outstanding student, achieving University 1 Honour List, with a grade point average of 3.65. He was an honours student throughout his high school years. He was a member of the yearbook committee, and in his senior year he was named editor-in-chief. He received the Yearbook Excellence Award from Friesens for his dedication to the producing of the yearbook.

This past year he has had weekly articles published in *The Manitoban*, quite an accomplishment for a first-year student. Throughout the past several years he has been an active volunteer at Poseidon Care Centre, with mentally handicapped All-Stars Bowling, peer tutoring at St. Ignatius School, at the Spanish Pavilion at Folklorama, at both MTC's Mainstage and Warehouse Theatres, and assisted in special events for Aboriginal students at the U of M.

Anna Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Stephanie Yakiwchuk is the daughter of Justin and Willow Yakiwchuk of Winnipeg.



She is an outstanding student, graduating this past June from Garden City Collegiate with 41 credits. She achieved Honour Roll status all four years of high school, and was the recipient of several scholarships.

Stephanie is now in her first year at the University of Manitoba. Because of her genuine love for music and children, she is planning on becoming a music teacher after she completes a bachelor's degree in both education and music.

Stephanie is a talented musician who played trombone, euphonium and tuba in her school's concert and jazz bands, and also sang in the Chamber Choir. She was a member of the Provincial Honour Band every year since grade seven. Stephanie also has grade nine piano and grade two theory, and has studied voice for two years. She has entered festivals around the country performing with various ensembles and as a soloist.

Stephanie volunteers at her church every Sunday, teaching a catechism class, as well as leading responses and singing for mass.

Margaret Skaptason Memorial Scholarship

Ben Lobb is the son of Garnett and Lori Anne Lobb of Woodlands, MB.



Ben says his Icelandic ancestry comes from his mother's side of the family. His amma and afa had a dairy and grain farm in the Riverton area of Manitoba.

Ben is currently in his second year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, majoring in animal systems. He did very well in his first year, achieving a grade point average of 3.31.

Throughout his high school years at Warren Collegiate he was a talented and very competitive athlete, and an honours student. He was a role model for other students in athletics, academics and all areas of school service. Upon graduation, he received several scholarships.

Ben played baseball and hockey where he was always a leader. He is an all-star goalie for the Stonewall Jets of the MMJHL.

This past summer he volunteered at Gimli Veterinary Services on the weekends. Ben is planning on attending a Veterinary College next year as he is pursuing a career as a veterinarian.

Halli & Gudrun Bjornson Memorial Scholarship

Drew Anderson is the son of Tim and Wanda Anderson of Riverton, MB.



His grandparents are Walter and Margaret Josephson of Gimli, and Magnus and Marjory Anderson of Riverton.

Drew graduated with distinction this past June from Riverton Collegiate where he had been an Honour student throughout his high school years. He received a total of 11 awards and scholarships, including the Governor General's Academic Medal.

Drew is presently attending his first year at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Engineering. His long term plans are in the field of Mechanical Engineering or Business relating to Agriculture.

He was a member of student council and the grad committee, produced the 2007 graduation video, took part in the High School Student Voice Conference and attended an Enrichment Mini Course Program at the University of Winnipeg. He participated in all high school sports, was the captain of the volleyball team and skip of the curling team, and was captain of the league winning hockey team.

Drew has attained grade eight piano and has participated in the Evergreen Festival of the Arts where he played the piano and also sang with the school choir. He was a member of the New Iceland Youth Choir that travelled to Iceland in 2003.

Drew has been a volunteer at the Riverton Memorial Arena, and has refereed soccer and hockey.

Norma McEwen Memorial Scholarship

Stacey Abramson is the daughter of Joan McEachern and Ralph Abramson of Winnipeg. She is the granddaughter of the late Sigurveig Bjornheidur. Her family's original homestead is in Nes, MB.

Stacey received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2004 from the University of Man-

itoba, graduating on the Dean's Honour List. She is currently attending the Faculty of Education at the U of M. She plans on becoming a high school Art and History teacher.



Since graduating from high school in 1998, Stacey has been actively involved with both the local arts and university community. She became involved with *The Manitoban*, and eventually became the Culture Editor and then the Managing Editor. She is a successful freelance journalist, writing for a variety of arts and cultural publications across the country.

While in university, she became very interested in student politics and volunteered with UMSU. Since graduating in 2004, Stacey has been quite involved with Video Pool Media Arts Centre as an active member, formerly on the Board of Directors, and former co-host of the AV Club. She has volunteered at Argyle Alternative High School in the video department.

Recently, she has been involved with the local Icelandic arts community, taking part in the NÚNA(now) festival, and had the pleasure of meeting the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.

Christin Burgess is the daughter of Stephen and Larissa Burgess of Winnipeg, and is a descendant of grandparents Inga and George Burgess as well as Haldur and Olaf Hallson of Lundar.



Christin graduated with Honours from St. Mary's Academy this past June, receiving a University of Manitoba Entrance Scholarship. She was chosen to be the Class of 2007 Salutatorian.

She is currently attending the University of Manitoba, Year 1, concentrating on sciences with an engineering focus, as well as branching into the Faculty of Arts with psychology and Icelandic studies. She is planning on attending the

Snorri Program in the spring of 2008.

Throughout high school, Christin was very involved in extracurricular activities. Some of these activities included being a member of: the student council, peer counselor, math and science tutor, school drama, active in leadership and personal development seminars, Amnesty Club, grad committee, selected to participate in the "Encounters with Canada" youth program at the Terry Fox Center in Ottawa.

Christin was selected to participate in the Rotary International Youth Leadership Awards Program where she became the program's summer counselor for three years, and was selected as RYLA youth spokesperson at Rotary's Regional Conference for three years.

Christin is a Past President of CYMK Youth Philanthropy Organization that focuses on community outreach and leadership development. This summer she was elected for the position of Leadership Development Chairperson on the National Executive for a two-year term, and was awarded the Dr. Steven Klimasko CYMK Scholarship Award.

Christin is also a member of senior Rozmai Ukrainian Dance Company, and studied dance at the Conservatory of Contemporary Dancers and drama at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People. All through high school Christin has been a very active volunteer in the community.

Evelyn Thorvaldson Memorial Scholarship

Theresa Thordarson is the daughter of Philip and Phyllis Thordarson of Langruth, MB, where their ancestors settled when they came to Canada from Iceland.



Theresa is currently an honours student, completing grade 12 at William Norton Collegiate in Gladstone, MB. Theresa is a gifted musician. She has played piano since she was four years old, and started singing in the Gladstone Festival around the same time.

Theresa has accumulated many awards over the years both in piano and

vocal. Last June she completed grade 10 piano, and is now working on her ARCT diploma as well as studying history and harmony. She participated in the provincial competitions last year for singing and piano and placed first in the senior piano class. Theresa is a member of her school's Senior Band (playing trombone), Central Manitoba Youth Choir and Provincial Choir.

In the community and at school, she has accompanied soloists and choral groups, or has provided solo musical entertainment. She has participated in Remembrance Day services. Two years ago at Íslendingadagurinn, Theresa and her sister performed the song, "*Stóð ég úti í tungsljósi,*" with her uncle's band, StringFever. She also performed the same song when the Icelandic Consul presented Langruth with a copy of the sagas.

Theresa has been on the student council for four years, and is president this year. Last year she assisted in the teaching of the grade six band. Theresa is planning on attending the School of Music at Brandon University next year.

Gloria Meadows Memorial Scholarship

Keegan Porter is the son of Sharon Hallgrimson and Glen Porter of Glenora, MB. His maternal grandparents are Albert and Evelyn Hallgrimson of Glenboro, MB.



Keegan graduated with honours from Baldur High School this past June, and received several scholarships for his academic excellence. He is currently in his first year at Brandon University, pursuing a major degree in science and a minor in English, and is planning a career in either or both zoology and novel writing.

Keegan says playing guitar is his most significant extracurricular activity. His repertoire ranges from classical to heavy metal with every style of rock and roll in between. He has performed on many different occasions including Baldur's annual Music in the Park, the

Tiger Hills Arts Association Showcase, as well as a few guest performances with local bands. In the last year and a half he has branched off into singing as well.

His musical talent has made him a role model, and he has taken the next step by providing guitar lessons to younger students. Because he lives on a secluded farm, Keegan hasn't had the opportunity to do a lot of volunteer work, but he is a very proud and dedicated blood donor, having donated blood five times since he turned 17.

Diane Kim is the daughter of Surg-Myc and Ki-sik Kim of Winnipeg.

Diane is currently in her 4th year at the University of Manitoba, School of Music where she is pursuing a piano

performance degree. She is an outstanding student, being on the Dean's Honour



List each year. Her GPA after her 3rd year is 3.97. She was an honours student throughout high school, and received several scholarships upon her graduation. Diane has grade 10 piano and completed all the required theory. She also has grade eight voice, plays the flute, and studied the violin for two years. In recognition of her outstanding talent on the piano, Diane has been awarded

many honours over the years, including the Beryl Ferguson Trophy in the Winnipeg Music Festival, the Senior trophy in the Junior Musical Club, Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1st Place Scholarship, RCM medal (grade nine highest in province), and acceptance into the Enrichment Program, Preparatory Studies, U of M, Radio Southern Manitoba Music Trophy, and the Margaret H. Tyler Award.

Diane is currently teaching piano while being a full time student. She volunteered while in high school, and continues to volunteer regularly at her church, and has volunteered at the Uof M, and at Lindenwood Manor.
