

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

FOUNDATION

2023-24

Annual Report to Donors
& the Community



Message from the President and CEO



On behalf of our entire University of Winnipeg Foundation (UWF) team, I'm proud to share our 2023–2024 Annual Report to Donors with you.

For more than 21 years, the UWF has held money from our donors in trust with the promise of prudent, diversified, and responsible investing. In partnership with the University of Winnipeg (UWinnipeg), we help support hard-working students who dream about pursuing a post-secondary education but don't have the financial means to enroll. We also celebrate academic achievement and help fund enhanced research capabilities and the capital needs of the institution.

The generosity of our donors has helped create an average of two new awards a month that help provide the support students need to pursue their academic aspirations.

While our mission of support has remained the same throughout the last two decades, the world that surrounds our campus has continued to change—

“In partnership with the University of Winnipeg, we help support hardworking students who dream about pursuing a post-secondary education but don't have the financial means to attend.”

bringing both new challenges and opportunities to our work.

During the past 12 months, our dedicated UWF Board of Directors underwent a transformation as long-time members made way for new faces. I'm also excited by our growing UWF team in our office on the 9th floor of the Rice Centre in downtown Winnipeg.

In line with our commitment to donors, we also want to celebrate the positive changes that have shaped the UWF and UWinnipeg this past year

with our entire community. We hope you enjoy reading about what drives us as an organization and the progress we have made.

Sincerely,
Javier Schwersensky
President and CEO, UWF

Message from the Board Chair



Fundraising on the UWinnipeg campus is a tradition that dates back more than 100 years. When Wesley College first started accepting students, it was the local parishes who came together to support the hopes and dreams of UWinnipeg's first generation of alumni. Their efforts helped the University

“In 2024, the UWF Endowment Fund has continued to grow to new heights, thanks to the donors, friends, and business partners who choose to support the campus each year”

carve out a space in Winnipeg's downtown as well as an identity, cementing the institution to the city's West End and inviting those eager to learn to be a part of the burgeoning community.

Today, financial support for our students, staff, faculty, and campus comes through a variety of channels, such as our Endowment Fund, top-up funds from UWinnipeg's operating

budget, and public funding from the Province of Manitoba. Working in concert each year to provide for UWinnipeg students, these sources of funding help both UWinnipeg and the Collegiate succeed in their combined mission to educate and inspire.

In 2024, the UWF Endowment Fund

has continued to grow to new heights, thanks to the donors, friends, and business partners who choose to support the campus each year. The \$18 million dollars the UWF was initially tasked with stewarding has grown to more than \$60 million in contributed capital, with an impressive market value of \$88,686,984. This past year, more than \$4 million was raised to help support students, the campus, and

the programs that have helped shape our community and the surrounding neighbourhood. When I met with our Board of Directors this past summer, I am proud to report that our current 4.25% income allocation percentage was approved, resulting in a gift of \$2.39 million to the University that will increase research opportunities, new programs and student awards.

Our community has played an instrumental role in shaping both UWinnipeg and the Collegiate into first-rate institutions capable of inspiring not only the young minds who study here, but the rest of the world as well. I know I speak on behalf of our Board and our UWF team when I say how proud we are to be a part of this campus.

Thank you once again for your continued generosity and heartfelt support.

Sincerely,
Sherri Walsh
Chair, UWF Board of Directors

Our 2023–24 Board of Directors

The strength of our UWF Board members has always been the metric through which the quality of our governance is measured. The individuals we invite to join often share a close connection to UWinnipeg, the Collegiate or both—a fact that matters a great deal to those tasked with safeguarding the financial future of the UWF.

Throughout the past year, our Board has seen some change with some senior members taking on new roles as well as welcoming three new members.

Board Leadership Appointments

Sherrí Walsh*
Tapper Cuddy LLP
 Mrs. Walsh became UWF Board Chair in June 2023. The Chair leads the Board and provides regular input, advice, and support to UWF leadership.

Dr. H. Sanford Riley*
President and Chief Executive Officer, RBM Capital Limited
 Dr. Riley has stepped down as the founding UWF Chair and has agreed to become our first Chair Emeritus.

Bruce W. J. Miller* (ex officio)
Partnerships Team Lead, Indigenous Peoples Resiliency Fund
 Mr. Miller is the Chair of UWinnipeg’s Board of Regents. He has also been appointed Chair of the UWF Board’s Fundraising Committee
**Appointed to the UWF Board in 2023*

Darren Baccus*
Executive Vice-President, Agri-Food, Alliances and FCC Capital
 Mr. Baccus is the new Chair of the UWF Board’s Governance Committee

New Board Directors

Danielle Dunbar
Vice President, University Advancement
**Appointed to the UWF Board in 2024*

Sangeet Bhatia, CPA
Senior Partner, Deloitte Inc.
**Appointed to the UWF Board in 2023*

Committee Chairs

Daniel A. Bubis*
Chair, Investment Committee and Co-Chair, Duff Roblin Award Committee

Charles N. Loewen*
Chair, Audit Committee and Chair, Finance Committee

Board Directors

Barb Gamey
Chancellor, UWinnipeg and Co-Founder of Payworks Inc.

Dr. Todd Mondor
President and Vice Chancellor, UWinnipeg

Bob Silver, C.M.
President, Western Glove Works and Chair, FP Newspapers INC.

A. Peter Simmie
Founder, Bristol Gate Capital Partners and Partner, Honeytree Investment Management

Gregory D. Tretiak
Retired Chief Financial Officer, Power Corporation of Canada

Departing Board Members

Edward A. Sellers
President and Managing Director, Black Swan Advisors Inc.
 Mr. Sellers completed his term in June 2024.

**denotes a member of the UWF’s Board of Directors Executive Committee*

How we Support UWinnipeg Students

The UWF's purpose is to support UWinnipeg students, faculty, and capital goals. The UWF also plays a role in helping UWinnipeg achieve their Strategic Directions which are:



Academic Excellence and Renewal



Student Experience and Success



Indigenization



Research Excellence, Knowledge Mobilization, and Impact



Financial and Institutional Resilience

Fundraising Priorities

The UWF continues to focus its development efforts on supporting UWinnipeg's Student Awards, Work-Integrated Learning, the Collegiate and Indigenization priorities in alignment with their Strategic Directions. All UWF fundraising efforts are coordinated through our Major Gifts, Individual Giving, Planned Giving, Collegiate Engagement and Donor Stewardship programs.

Student Awards

The Opportunity Fund

At UWinnipeg, 13 per cent of incoming students identify as Indigenous and almost one-third of the student body identifies as coming from a racialized community. The Opportunity Fund was established to assist students who are traditionally under-represented in higher education by removing barriers and making UWinnipeg as accessible and welcoming as possible.

Youth-In-Care Tuition Waiver Program

The Opportunity Fund Youth-In-Care Tuition Waiver Program provides opportunities for youth in foster care who are predominately First Nations and Métis to pursue post-secondary education. Students in this program



will have their tuition fees waived by UWinnipeg, and the Manitoba child welfare authorities helps cover living expenses including housing, textbooks and meal plans, for current or former wards.

Work-Integrated Learning

UWinnipeg knows that work-integrated learning builds workforce capabilities, as well as the skills and individual prospects of students as members of the community and Canada's labour force.



Many UWinnipeg students take part in co-op programs, internships, field placements, or some other form of experiential learning or "work-integrated learning." The UWF's fundraising supports UWinnipeg's goal of expanding students' access to experiential opportunities by offering new programs within a variety of departments.

The Collegiate

The Collegiate is committed to offering Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students the opportunity to enroll in high school programs that aids their transition to post-secondary education. It also supports students in their pursuit of academic excellence and accessibility, in an environment of critical thinking and community spirit.

Dean's Continuing Scholarship Fund

Many students begin their journey at the Collegiate supported by its strong entrance scholarship program and the Dean's Bursary Fund. With many

students' first-year expenses covered, the Collegiate has established the Dean's Continuing Scholarship Fund to better aid students in their second, third, and fourth years of study.

The Collegiate 150 Scholarships

These are awarded to students who have achieved 90 per cent or higher academic averages. This scholarship ensures the best and brightest are not only able to attend the Collegiate but can enter with pride knowing their hard work has been recognized.

The Model School

The Model School at the Collegiate provides students with the opportunity and the support needed to graduate



from high school and prepare for post-secondary education. The students enrolled in the program are from backgrounds that have traditionally been under-represented in both high school and post-secondary graduation rates.

Indigenization

Wii Chiwaakanak Learning Centre

The Wii Chiwaakanak Learning Centre provides culturally relevant and integral programming to support and nurture the surrounding community. The Centre was built to provide an educational gathering place that is

inclusive and accessible.

All the Centre's programs are free of charge and open to all families and individuals regardless of age, knowledge, or ability. This includes an



open curriculum Indigenous STEAM Camp, STEM Explorers and Indigenous Craft Group for children as well as family programming such as the Powwow Club and Women's self-defense.

Duff Roblin Scholars Fund

In 2007, the UWinnipeg honoured Duff Roblin with the creation of The Duff Roblin Scholars Fund. It was designed to anchor and enhance the governance potential of the next generation of Manitobans. It also contributes to a future of hope for all people of Manitoba by providing Graduate Student Fellowships in Indigenous Governance.

Throughout the past 16 years, the fund has expanded to support students in UWinnipeg's innovative Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development program. Those who graduate from this program enter the world equipped with the skills to create positive change in both their communities and around the globe.

Endowment Fund Performance

Investing in the UWF Endowment Fund

At arms-length from UWinnipeg and with an independent Board of Directors, the UWF holds money from our donors in trust with the promise of prudent, diversified, and responsible investing.

In 2021, the main portfolio manager stewarding the UWF's investments became a signatory of the Net Zero Asset Manager Initiative (NZAM), which is an international group of asset managers committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner.

Additionally, the UWF's portfolio managers are also signatories of the United Nations' Principles of Responsible Investment.

Endowment Performance 2004–2024

The UWF Endowment Fund generates revenues to support the University's Strategic Directions. Its resilience and growth are important in both the short- and long-term. When the Endowment Fund was transferred to the UWF on April 1, 2004, it grew from \$18,073,579 to \$61,586,730 in Contributed Capital and from \$21,017,304 to \$88,686,984 in Market Value by the end of March 31, 2024.

Endowment Performance since March 31, 2020

Fiscal Year End	Contributed Capital	Market Value
March 31, 2020	\$54,114,522	\$64,695,492
March 31, 2021	\$57,015,989	\$77,597,370
March 31, 2022	\$58,634,115	\$82,851,809
March 31, 2023	\$60,643,541	\$82,282,769
March 31, 2024	\$61,586,730	\$88,686,984

The UWF is responsible for 664 individual endowment funds. Each endowment fund owns individual units (shares) in the UWF unitized investment pool. When new endowment funds are created, or existing funds receive gifts, our investment managers purchase units in the pool based on the current unit value. This system allows for efficient management of pooled assets and a fair allocation of investment earnings, as each fund's share of the pool's returns is proportional to the number of units it holds.

Stability Reserve Fund

The UWF can ensure reliable and consistent funding of UWinnipeg programs and awards by focusing on a carefully selected asset mix and the Reserve Fund. When investments are performing better than expected, the UWF Board will typically direct a portion of the surplus to the Stability Reserve Fund. This helps ensure a steady and predictable distribution of funds every year, even when markets are down, or investments are not meeting expectations.

Supporting Students: 2023/2024 Contribution to UWinnipeg

	Benchmark	Total Portfolio	% Above and Below Benchmark
3 Years	6.15	7.28	+ 1.13
5 Years	7.66	7.15	- 0.28
10 Years	7.61	7.78	+ 0.17

The annual return at March 31, 2024 is 11.91%.

The income allocation for 2023/24 totaled \$2.39 million. This represents 4.25 per cent of the prorated contributed capital held in the Endowment Fund or agreed to percentage. The agreed to percentage for 2024/25 was determined at the UWF's Annual General Meeting and will remain at 4.25 per cent resulting in a gift to the University totaling \$2.6 million for the 2024/25 award cycle.

Fiscal Year	Annual Contribution from Endowment Fund
2017/18	\$2,050,198
2018/19	\$1,738,666
2019/20	\$2,134,533
2020/21	\$2,240,535
2021/22	\$2,223,223
2022/23	\$2,121,447
2023/24	\$2,391,251

Overview of 2023/2024 Fundraising Results

This past year, in addition to endowment revenues, we raised more than

\$4 million

PURPOSE	ENDOWED 2023/24	CURRENT** 2023/24	TOTAL 2023/24
Capital	\$0.00	\$10,782.79	\$10,782.79
Programs	\$256,207.48	\$1,139,443.43	\$1,395,650.91
Student Awards	\$718,589.80	\$606,502.03	\$1,325,091.83
MSBI*	\$0.00	\$1,350,000.00	\$1,350,000.00
TOTAL	\$974,797.28	\$3,106,728.25	\$4,081,525.53

* MSBI stands for the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative. These are matching funds from a Province of Manitoba program to encourage private donations to scholarships and bursaries.

** These funds are immediately available to spend for their specific purpose.

Duff Roblin Dinner

On November 9, 2023, the UWF hosted its 15th Annual Duff Roblin Award Dinner. More than 300 guests gathered at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre in downtown Winnipeg to celebrate the incredible career of **Mrs. Ruth Hastings**, President and CEO of Qualico and Rancho, as the 2023 Duff Roblin Award

recipient. Thanks to our sponsors and attendees, the UWF raised \$150,000 in support of the Duff Roblin Scholars Fund, the Opportunity Fund, and the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre.

The UWF is looking forward to celebrating the **Honourable Gary Doer, OM**, the former Manitoba Premier

(1999–2009), and former Canadian ambassador to the United States (2009–2016), as our 2024 Duff Roblin Award recipient on November 7, 2024.

For tickets or more information on the 2024 Duff Roblin Award Dinner and our 2024 Duff Roblin Award recipient, please visit uwinnipeg.ca/duff-roblin-award



The head table from the 2023 Duff Roblin Award Dinner. Standing left to right: Scott Oake, Premier Wab Kinew, Danielle Dunbar, Javier Schwersensky, Elizabeth Schwersensky. Seated left to right: Sheldon Parks, Jennifer Roblin, Ruth Hastings, Brian Hastings

Tea for Wii Chiiwaakanak Fundraiser

The 10th Annual Tea for Wii Chiiwaakanak Fundraiser was held in Toronto on May 15, 2024, at the home of **Jennifer Roblin**, a longtime volunteer, donor, and alumna.

A total of \$23,722 was raised over the course of the day from 35 individual donors in support of the programming and community outreach taking place at the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre.

Attending the event was Angeline Nelson, Director of Community Learning & Engagement at the Centre, which was the first time the luncheon had been held in person since 2019.



Angeline Nelson, Director of Learning and Engagement at the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre attended the Toronto luncheon to thank donors and outline new priorities for the coming year.

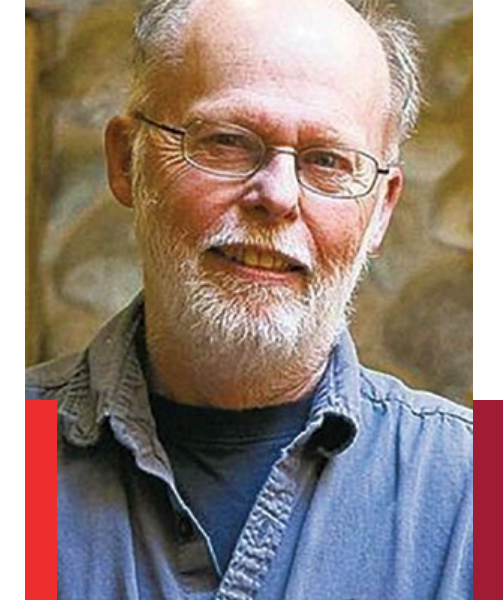
2023 Campus Campaign

Thank you to everyone who donated to the 2023 Campus Campaign. A total of 326 faculty, staff, retirees and other UWinnipeg and Collegiate members participated in the Campaign, contributing more than \$485,000 to 75 different funds.



UWinnipeg's Role in the Downtown Community

Dr. Jim Silver

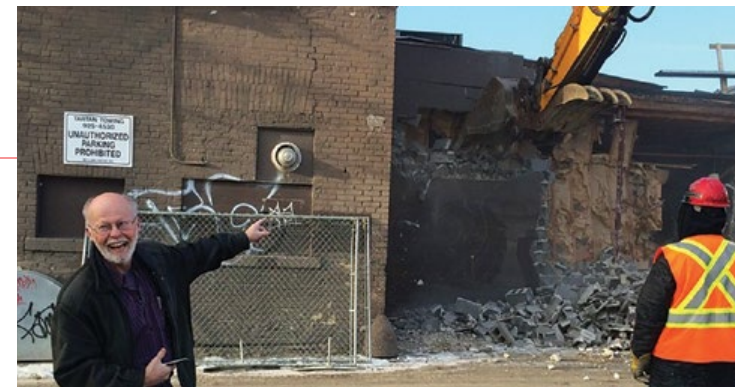


The UWinnipeg is an institution defined by its location. Born in the downtown area, UWinnipeg has continued to grow throughout the last 150 years, spreading its roots from the Portage Avenue main campus across the Logan-CPR railyard and into Winnipeg's North End.

On Selkirk Avenue, one of the main roadways that spans multiple North End neighborhoods, sits Merchants Corner. Originally named the Merchants hotel, the building had developed a reputation in its later years as a hub for criminal activity. Keen to repurpose the crumbling building, the provincial government purchased the space and turned it over to UWinnipeg—thanks in large part to **Dr. Jim Silver**.

of years as part of the Canadian University Service Overseas program, and I fell in love with it."

After starting as a professor at UWinnipeg in 1982, Jim taught political science for the first 25 years of his career. Focused on helping his students learn about the political landscape of urban environments and the conditions affecting the lives of those living in them, his passion for the inner-city helped define the course



Dr. Silver during the reconstruction of Merchants Corner

structure in the newly created Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies. "Before 2007, there was no Urban Studies Program that offered courses to students at UWinnipeg. The Institute of Urban Studies that had been established was for professional research, not undergraduates." says Jim. "With the creation of the Department, we wanted to incorporate inner-city teachings and viewpoints that our students would be interested in and that would lead to further learning and hands-on research opportunities. Our courses on poverty, law, and more specific topics like low-income housing came to define the program."

Jim is a political science graduate from 1975 who found himself working for his alma mater in the early '80s after receiving his Master's degree from Carleton and PhD from the University of Sussex in England. His career at UWinnipeg is closely tied to the development of Merchants Corner and the UWinnipeg Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies.

Jim was one of the key figures who lobbied the provincial government to turn ownership of Merchants Hotel over to UWinnipeg, "I wanted the Department to be in a

prominent and easily accessible part of the North End ... for the inner-city students who might not be able to make it to the Portage campus on a consistent basis," says Jim. "Being able to teach in the area allows UWinnipeg to remain connected to the most vulnerable parts of our city and gives by sharing our space with high schools and other groups. The unique pairing we have developed with community partners in the area means we can help young individuals realize that post-secondary education is something they can attain."

A consistent donor since 1991, Jim has helped support a number of funds over the course of his 37-year tenure. The most recent being the Jim Silver Award, an endowment that provides financial support to a student in the Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies who is involved with their community and in need of extra funding to graduate.

"Lots of people who want to succeed at university can't for want of money, and bursaries play a big part in helping enable young people," says Jim.

The endowment was created and funded primarily by Mr. Michael Nesbitt, a businessman and colleague who was an important contributor to the development of Merchants Corner. "I believe in what universities do, and I believe UWinnipeg is an outstanding institution with the ability to transform lives," says Jim.

Despite formally retiring, Jim continues to teach part time at Merchants Corner, helping first year students make a successful start in their university career.

Beloved Biology Instructor Remembered in New Bursary

On February 10, 2021, **Nancy Loadman**, former instructor, experiential scientist, and beloved member of UWinnipeg's Biology department, passed away. Having served the scientific community at UWinnipeg for 35 years, Nancy was well known by students and faculty alike.

During her tenure, Nancy spent a sabbatical with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Freshwater Institute, working at the Rockwood Fish Hatchery near Teulon, Manitoba.

She also attended the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography Conferences, where she presented research alongside her colleagues throughout the United States. She later served as a scientific advisor for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation—spending many summers sampling parts of Lake Winnipeg for UWinnipeg aboard the Namao research vessel.

A hands-on teacher who loved sharing her passion for the natural world with her peers and those enrolled in her biology classes, Nancy helped introduce a generation of students to the joys of field research and laboratory work.

When a loved one is lost, families often look for a way to keep their memory alive in the spaces where they once lived and worked. In keeping with her legacy as a dedicated educator, Nancy's family worked with the UWF to create the Nancy Loadman Memorial Bursary. Designed to provide for the students she cared so much about during her lifetime, the bursary that bears her name will be awarded to biology students who "demonstrate an interest

in sustainability and biodiversity," two areas of study that Nancy and many of her colleagues in the department spent their careers trying to better understand and support.

“A hands-on teacher who loved sharing her passion for the natural world with her peers”

The bursary will begin supporting students in the Fall of 2024, helping subsidize the cost of enrollment for two undergraduate students.

Indigenous Language Fund Begins Life at UWinnipeg

When **Dr. Glenn Moulaison** began his second term as Dean of Arts in 2017, one of the goals he set out to achieve during his tenure involved revitalizing and strengthening the presence of Indigenous languages on campus.

Dr. Moulaison realized early on that developing supports for Indigenous languages was not only important to UWinnipeg's overall curriculum and strategic direction, but to the many Indigenous students and faculty members who believe language is

at the heart of identity. Dr. Moulaison. “For such a significant amount to be donated, it was important from the start that we find a worthwhile cause to invest in.”

As one of his last efforts as Dean, Dr. Moulaison set about working with faculty members, the History

“This initiative will help defray the costs related to land-based language-learning”

and Geography department Chairs, and Indigenous professors to

develop an award that would see the \$50,000 put towards providing a “uniquely UWinnipeg experience” for recipients. After much discussion and collaboration, the Indigenous Land-Based Language Learning Fund was created in March of 2023 with the first round of recipients receiving funding in the spring of 2024.

“Undesignated funds from donors in this amount are a rarity, especially ones gifted to the Faculty of Arts,” said

Falling in line with Dr. Moulaison's

priorities as Dean, the fund is available to Indigenous faculty and students to provide monetary support for individuals looking to travel to Indigenous language camps across North America. Camps of this nature are often hosted by universities or private organizations and offer immersive language training for participants. Additionally, Elders and other skilled speakers work with those involved to develop their skills and understanding of Indigenous culture.

“This initiative will help defray the costs—registration, travel, etc.—related to land-based language-learning”, says Dr. Moulaison. “I hope the fund will grow to have more take advantage of the opportunity. But even if it allows just a few to participate every year, I hope it is considered to be worthwhile. Anything that we can do in this area—revitalization, preservation, promotion of Indigenous languages—we should do.”

Dr. Moulaison (front row-left) at the 2023 Arts Council



Professor Nancy Loadman



Your Impact

Sir William Stephenson Scholarship and the Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship Recipients

The Sir William Stephenson Scholarship and The Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship are two impactful and significant awards that support UWinnipeg students whose achievements echo across our campus, our city, and have the potential to positively impact the world.

These prestigious awards honour Sir William Stephenson's commitment to his country as an intelligence officer during the Second World War, and the dedication Dr. Hunter showed in supporting and guiding our campus during his lifetime.

Each year, UWinnipeg Provost **Dr. Pavlina Radia**, along with **Ian Restall**, **James G. Osborne**, **Leigh Taylor**, and **Janet Walker**, the Trustees who

select the winners of the Sir William Stephenson and Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarships meet at the UWinnipeg campus to learn more about the promising students who have applied for these scholarships.

The Trustees spend the day reviewing the eight finalist applications and interviewing the candidates in person who must demonstrate their skills as leaders, volunteers, and as outstanding academics.

This year, the Sir William Stephenson Scholarship was awarded to **Taylor Cangemi** and **Gracie Grift**, who are both fourth-year Honours Biology students.

The Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship was awarded to Grace Harding, third-year neuroscience student, and Meagan Dutka, a fifth-year Conflict Resolution major.

You can read more about two of the recipients on the next page.

Taylor Cangemi Sir William Stephenson Scholarship Recipient

Taylor Cangemi is easy to spot on a volleyball court. Wearing her distinctive red libero jersey, she plays a key defensive role on her squad helped in part by her dedication to her fitness routine. Off the court, that dedication also carries over to her academics. The Calgary native is currently in her third season as a Wesmen and working through her 4th year as an Honours Biology student.

Taylor is proud of the bonds she's made with both her peers and professors in the science department and her teammates since moving to town.

"When I graduated from high school, UWinnipeg was not one of the universities on my radar. Initially, I didn't know what to expect," says Taylor. "After moving on my own in 2020 and starting classes during

the pandemic, I'm happy to say my teammates became my immediate family. Since then, I have come to love the campus and the relationships I have made within the faculty."

Between volleyball seasons, she's hard at work as a research assistant, helping Dr. Craig Willis as part of the UWinnipeg Bat Lab, a group of researchers and students who study the behavior of and diseases that affect bat populations in Manitoba and Ontario. Drawing on her experiences with bats in the field. In addition to her time in the Bat Lab, Taylor also worked as a research assistant in Dr. Caleb Hasler's Fish Lab, helping Master's students with their projects.

After a family trip to Australia in 2007 that left her eager to return, Taylor plans to move to the land down under after graduating to begin her master's degree in either Field Zoology or Marine Biology at the University of Melbourne.

"Ever since I was little, I've wanted to be a nature scientist," says Taylor.



Taylor Cangemi, one of the Sir William Stephenson Scholarship recipients.

"Now that I'm older, I'm realizing my efforts in the classroom, the life lessons I've learned as part of the volleyball team, and receiving this scholarship all have a role to play in reaffirming my ambition as I strive towards this goal."

When her academic term ends in April, Taylor will begin her first internship abroad working with marine biologists and conservation officers in Costa Rica to protect local sea turtle colonies.

Grace Harding Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship recipient

Third-year neuroscience student, **Grace Harding** is often awake far earlier than her university peers. A passionate rower during the warmer months, she wakes up at 5 am ready to head out onto the Red River with her teammates for practice before heading to class later in the day.

"UWinnipeg has been great to me these past three years," says Grace.

"My professors are invested in my education, and I've been able to meet so many amazing people as part of my role as Social Media Manager for the Students of Science Association (SOSA)."

Much of the support and academic guidance that Grace received from staff members and her classmates in the science community was instrumental in helping her secure

scholarships and build connections outside of the classroom.

"I've spent much of my senior year trying to give back to a community that has helped me find my own success," says Grace. "Organizing seminars, coordinating student events, and making sure that new students have the opportunity to network with professionals across our campus is truly rewarding."

Being chosen as one of only two recipients of the annual Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship has meant a lot to Grace.

"I believe Dr. Hunter and his wife Doris truly valued contributing to and giving back to the communities you find yourself a part of," says Grace. "This is something I've taken to heart over the years and tried to incorporate in my own life both on and off campus. I feel truly honoured to be recognized for my leadership and academic performance."

After graduating in June, Grace



Grace Harding, one of The Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Hunter Scholarship recipients.

hopes to take her talents to either the University of Manitoba or University of British Columbia to continue her education in medical school.

"The beauty of medicine is that there is something for everyone, so I hope to use medical school to explore my options," says Grace. "I don't like things that are too easy, so my ideal job would let me problem solve and challenge my skills!"

BMO Opportunity Fund Meet Ann-Grace Ramos

Created in 2021, the BMO Opportunity Fund Bursary helps support dozens of students each year on their path to academic success. This is one of many awards aligned under the UWF Opportunity Fund, which provides financial assistance to Indigenous students, new Canadians, refugees, and students from inner-city neighbourhoods to bridge the graduation gap and support post-secondary opportunities for everyone.



For **Ann-Grace Ramos**, studying Kinesiology at UWinnipeg has helped nurture her interest in physiotherapy and physical wellness. She is one of the 50 students who received support from the BMO Opportunity Fund Bursary this past year.

"Rewards and opportunities like this remind me that education and knowledge are worthwhile paths to pursue," says Ann-Grace. "And that there are people out there who want to support my goals."

Her educational journey as a student at the UWinnipeg has also been positive.

"Despite the smaller size, UWinnipeg has continually offered a rich array of academic programs for those enrolled to choose from," says Ann-Grace. "This has allowed students like myself to explore our interests while engaging with a broad range of subjects."

As a recipient of the 2024 Dean's Scholarship for the Gupta Faculty of Kinesiology and Applied Health, too, Ann-Grace says that her passion for physiotherapy stems from both her personal values and her interest in helping others.

"When I was growing up, finding time for proper physical activity was one of my core values, which naturally inspired me to explore a deeper understanding of the human body when I came to UWinnipeg," says

Ann-Grace. "This journey led me to pursue physiotherapy, with a new goal of educating and empowering both

"UWinnipeg has continually offered a rich array of academic programs for those enrolled to choose from"

myself and others to achieve a healthier and more fulfilling life. Physiotherapy is not just about providing a service—it is a collaborative effort that emphasizes a mindset of gratitude, solution orientation, and opportunistic thinking. As a physiotherapist, I want to help equip clients with the tools and techniques needed to enhance the quality of their active lives."

Ann-Grace hopes to graduate in the Fall of 2024 and continue her education at the University of Manitoba as part of the Master's of Physical Therapy program.

Ann-Grace Ramos,
BMO Opportunity Fund
Bursary Recipient

BMO Opportunity Fund Meet Harleen Gill

The BMO Opportunity Fund Bursary has helped support **Harleen Gill**, a second-year neuroscience major who is using her time at UWinnipeg to prepare for medical school.

"As a student at UWinnipeg, I've always found the campus to be a vibrant and welcoming place," says Harleen. "The diverse and inclusive

something that has always excited me," says Harleen. "I've always had a fascination with medical science, and working as a pediatrician after

"The diverse and inclusive community has provided me with numerous opportunities for both personal and academic growth"

community has provided me with numerous opportunities for both personal and academic growth—and the small class sizes have allowed me to be part of a close-knit learning environment where professors are approachable and keen to provide individualized support."

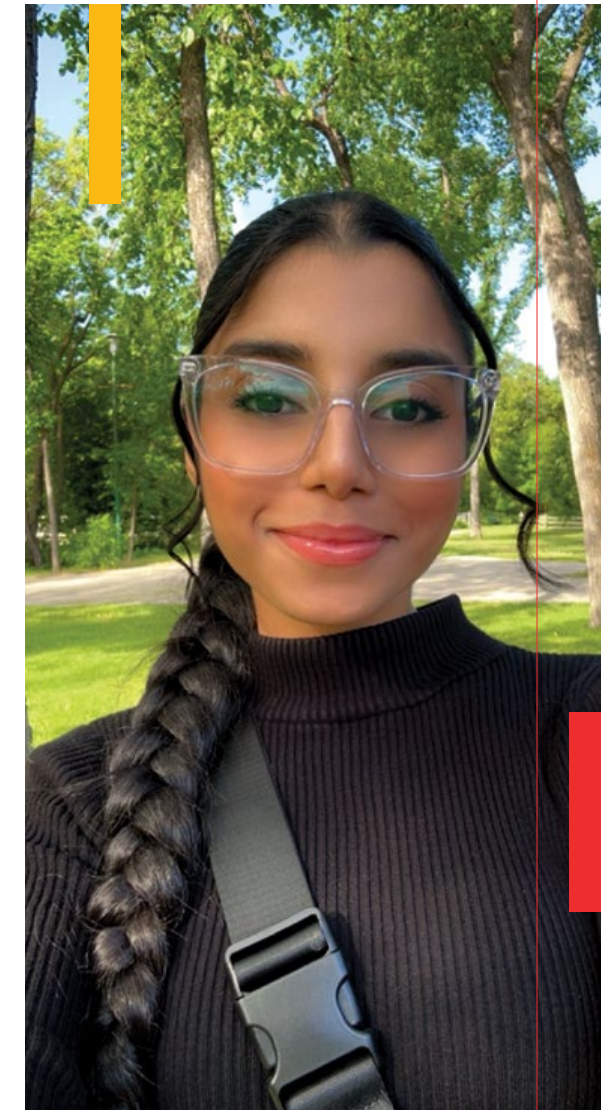
As an aspiring doctor, Harleen has her sights set on becoming a pediatrician one day.

"The opportunity to support families and contribute to the healthy development of their children is

university would combine this interest with my commitment to lifelong learning."

After finishing her undergraduate program, Harleen plans to attend the Max Rady College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

"I want to complete my residency in pediatrics here in Winnipeg, where I can gain practical experience and further hone my skills," says Harleen. "I aim to work in a community clinic or hospital, providing comprehensive care to children from diverse backgrounds from across Manitoba and beyond."



Harleen Gill,
BMO Opportunity Fund
Bursary Recipient

News from the Collegiate

Supporters of the Collegiate have long held that part of its success as a secondary school stems from the willingness of its faculty and staff to treat those enrolled as young adults—affording them the same level of respect and holding them to the same heightened expectations called for by their older peers attending UWinnipeg. This spirit, coupled with the school’s unique curriculum is exactly what drew both **Ken Rosenberg** and his younger sister **Roberta** to Wesley Hall in the early '70s and '80s.

Despite being separated by a decade in age, Ken and Roberta’s experience at the Collegiate shared a great deal in common. Moving from Shaftesbury High School in 1973, Ken wanted his senior year to

“My friends and I felt like we were part of a community, the atmosphere was different from most schools at the time”

be different. “The freedom you were given as a Collegiate student shaped my experience as a student.” says Ken. “My friends and I felt like we were part of a community, the atmosphere was different from most schools at the time.”

For Roberta, before she passed away, the Collegiate was one of the last places that she was able to fully experience as a healthy young adult.

“I’ve always felt the school was a special place for her,” says Ken. “She was an artistically minded, and civically engaged person who loved the people she learned from and learned with at the Collegiate.”

After Roberta’s passing in 1989, Ken and his brother Lewis sought to keep her memory alive through their

charitable initiatives at Assiniboine Park, a place she loved.

“Growing up in Tuxedo, she regularly went to the Park and enjoyed its many gifts such as the Zoo, it’s playgrounds and Art-in-the-Park. Giving to the Zoo’s capital campaign in her honour was one way of preserving her memory and legacy,” says Ken. “The Roberta Rosenberg Dean’s Continuing Scholarship is another heartfelt way of remembering her as an adult — someone who was passionate about sharing her creativity and sense of community with her friends, family, and peers during and immediately after her time at the Collegiate.”

Established by Ken in the summer of 2020, the scholarship that bears Roberta’s name is part of a larger collection of scholarships designed to recognize the academic skill of Collegiate students entering their second, third or fourth year of study. Under the umbrella of the Dean’s Continuing Scholarship fund, memorial awards help the community honour past students, loved ones, and family members while also providing support for the promising academic

careers of students attending the Collegiate today.

“As alumni, many of us come to a point later in life where we want to help better the institution that was there for us during our formative years,” says Ken. “Roberta’s memorial scholarship is my way of helping make the Collegiate a stronger institution, to support these students now in the same way that many of our school’s previous donors helped me. The Collegiate has been built in part by Alumni and I’m happy that Roberta’s memory as a student here will benefit the school for years to come.”



Ken Rosenberg, the Collegiate donor and alumnus

New Awards, New Opportunities

After working as an emergency doctor for nearly 25 years, Dr. Ken Atwal divides his retirement time between his family, the hockey rink, and working part-time at his medical clinic.

The Collegiate graduate ('87) and UWinnipeg alumnus ('91) has lived in the Greater Toronto Area for much of his career, working for the University Health Network and Brampton Civic Hospital after finishing medical school.

“When my family immigrated to Canada from England, the Maples neighbourhood became my new home from the age of five till the moment I graduated from the Medical College at the University of Manitoba in 1995.” says Ken. “During my high school years, the Collegiate only offered grades 11 and 12—we had maybe 100 students enrolled during that time—and I was lucky enough to know just about everybody who went there. It gave the school a familial atmosphere, which helped compliment the diverse and supportive cast of people I met while studying there. I loved being

“I want the students who receive this award to use the funding to develop their own interests and support their passions as they begin their own adventure after graduating”

treated like a university student as a young person at the time. Being able to explore and make use of the resources provided by the university made the experience truly enjoyable.”

In the fall of 2023, Ken worked with the UWF to establish a new endowment fund that would help support student experience and success at the Collegiate. The Dr. Ken Atwal Collegiate Award is the sum of those efforts. Designed to recognize high academic achievement while also helping students in grade 11 cover their senior year tuition costs, Ken wanted the award to contribute to the academic journey of each recipient.

“When I look back on my own career and the opportunities I’ve had to grow and travel over the years, I often think that journey started back at the Collegiate during those special two years,” says Ken. “I want the students who receive this award to use the funding to develop their own interests and support their passions as they begin their own adventure after graduating.”



Dr. Ken Atwal, the Collegiate donor and alumnus

As an alumnus and donor, Ken notes how important it is for members of the community to find something they feel passionate about at the Collegiate and do their best to support the institution through volunteering or giving back.

“The mission at the Collegiate has always hinged on the school’s ability to remain accessible and open to newcomers. Support from donors and alumni help preserve this legacy which is 150 years in the making. The role our space plays in the downtown neighbourhood and the quality of the education that was provided to me and every Collegiate student who has enrolled since then speaks volumes about the work that goes on at Wesley Hall.”

While most of his family have since moved to Southern Ontario, Ken continues to visit his hometown on occasion and recently toured the campus with his brother and fellow Collegiate alumnus, Jas, in 2023.

Thank you!

Thank you for being a part of a distinguished group of philanthropists who believe in investing in the future of our community.

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Thank you!

901-491 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3B 2E4
T (204) 786-9995
TF 1 (866) 394-6050

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