

2020-2021

The University of Winnipeg Foundation

Annual Report to Donors

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

FOUNDATION

Message from The President and CEO

I am pleased to present you with The University of Winnipeg Foundation's Annual Report for 2020/2021. In a year that has tested our institution like never before, the Foundation has remained focused on providing students, faculty and staff with support generated from your generous contributions. Despite this unique set of challenges the Foundation was able to secure over \$5.6 million to support deserving students financially, and sustain distribution levels at a time of great uncertainty. As you read through this year's report, take pride in the success that donors like yourself have helped create.

After stepping into the role of President and CEO in the midst of a pandemic last October, I have only had the pleasure to meet virtually with some of you. I hope to meet a great many more of you and formally introduce myself in person as we move closer to the lifting of most COVID-19 public health restrictions.

During my short time at the Foundation, I have witnessed what our community of donors, both internal and external, can achieve in support of our students and campus. I have also been impressed by the commitment and professionalism of Foundation staff members. Across our 17 years, the Foundation has stayed true to our mission in helping strengthen the University's legacy by enabling students, supporting academic programs and research, and funding the development of our campus.

Tackling the challenges brought about by this pandemic has not been easy. Migrating between limited classroom appearances and online lectures is tough for all those involved, be you a student, staff, faculty or parent. However, I am proud to say that our community's diligence has helped pave the way for a safe and steady return to normalcy—both on and off campus.

Those who value the work being done at both The University of Winnipeg and The Collegiate remain at the core of our efforts as an organization. Giving students the support they need to achieve their goals for the betterment of our community is a critical enterprise, and it is thanks to you that we have the means to invest in a brighter tomorrow.

Together, I hope we can work to make this coming year as successful as ever.

Sincerely,



Javier Schwersensky

President and Chief Executive Officer

Message from The Board Chair

On behalf of The University of Winnipeg Foundation's Board of Directors, I'd like to extend my appreciation to each and every donor who made our many achievements possible this past year. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their careful stewardship of our endowment fund and their own personal generosity towards the Foundation.

The tremendous impact of your philanthropy has allowed UWinnipeg and The Collegiate to address our campus' most urgent needs, while ensuring meaningful opportunities and supports exist for students, faculty, and staff throughout these extraordinary times.

Our strength as an institution is directly linked to the success of our students. Garnering support for student scholarships and bursaries remains a top priority for our Board. This year's SOS campaign and upstart "March Matchness" campaign have both been incredibly successful in their mission to bring much needed financial assistance to our student body—a feat that becomes all the more incredible when one considers the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The outpouring of support we received from you and our entire community of donors this year is remarkable. I hope you take pride in our accomplishments as you read this year's Annual Report to Donors.

Despite the unprecedented disruptions posed by the pandemic, one thing remains evident—UWinnipeg and Collegiate alumni and friends are steadfast in their commitment and generosity to our campus.

Sincerely,



H. Sanford Riley

Chair, The University of Winnipeg Foundation
Board of Directors



Endowment Fund Performance

The University of Winnipeg Foundation supports the strategic priorities and values of the University, contributing to our shared goal by building a strong and stable base of endowment funds. Our Strategic Intent is to substantially increase the value of charitable gifts in support of the University's Strategic Directions. Academic Excellence and Renewal; Student Experience and Success; Indigenization; Research Excellence, Knowledge Mobilization and Impact; and Financial and Institutional Resilience are all part of the process.

Donors may designate an endowment gift to create a new fund or contribute to an existing fund. These funds are held in perpetuity by the Foundation and are invested with other funds that comprise the Endowment Fund to promote growth over the long term and protect against inflation.

Investing in The University of Winnipeg Foundation Endowment Fund

The Foundation's investment policies call for a conservative, balanced approach utilizing cash, fixed income, and Canadian and foreign equities to prescribed limits. Equities are not to exceed 70% of the portfolio. The Foundation's investment policies are designed to provide consistent long-term growth while protecting the purchasing power of the Endowment Fund. The Foundation does not invest in speculative or high-risk investments.

Endowment Performance 2004-2021

The Endowment Fund generates revenues to support our Strategic Directions. Its resilience and growth is important in both the short and long term. From the time the Endowment Fund was transferred to the Foundation on April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2021 it has grown from \$18,073,579 to \$57,015,989 in Contributed Capital and from \$21,017,304 to \$77,597,370 in Market Value.

Endowment Performance for the Last Five Years

The University of Winnipeg Foundation stewards close to 620 individual endowment funds that are pooled for investment purposes to allow for diversification of the total portfolio in order to lower risk and improve performance.

Fiscal Year End	Contributed Capital	Market Value
March 31, 2017	\$51,147,310	\$64,618,112
March 31, 2018	\$51,343,774	\$64,700,140
March 31, 2019	\$52,985,365	\$69,124,421
March 31, 2020	\$54,114,522	\$64,695,492
March 31, 2021	\$57,015,989	\$77,597,370

Reserve Funds

The Foundation's Endowment Fund was established in order to ensure reliable regular funding to support these programs and awards irrespective of market volatility or external destabilizing event, such as a global pandemic.

The Foundation does this in two ways: through its asset mix, and by way of a Reserve Fund, which serves as a hedge against fluctuations in investment earnings that may occur.

Reserve Fund (Market Value): \$20,974,161

Supporting Students - 2020/2021 Contribution to the University

The University of Winnipeg Foundation Endowment Fund continues to track closely to benchmark, a custom blend of indices used by the funds within our asset mandate.

	Portfolio Performance	Benchmark	Difference vs Benchmark
3 Years	8.08	8.86	-0.78
5 Years	8.38	9.04	-0.66
10 Years	8.52	8.56	-0.04

The average annual return over the past five years is 8.38% as of March 31, 2021.

The 2020/21 income allocation totaled \$2.24 million. A loan from the Endowment Stability Reserve Fund of 1,061,000 was necessary to make the allocation. Thanks to a rebound in markets and fundraising efforts by the Foundation, the Endowment Stability Reserve Fund has been repaid. The agreed to percentage for 2021/22 was determined at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting and will remain at 4.25% resulting in a gift to the University totaling \$2.27 million for the 2021/22 award cycle.

Fiscal Year	Annual Contribution From Endowment Fund
2016 / 17	\$1,911,213
2017 / 18	\$2,050,198
2018 / 19	\$1,738,666
2019 / 20	\$2,134,533
2020 / 21	\$2,240,535

Fossil Fuel Free Green Fund

In June 2018 the Foundation launched a new investment option called the Green Fund. The University generously seeded the fund with a gift of \$100,000. The creation of the Green Fund was done in partnership with Jarislowsky Fraser Limited and represents a new option for donors to invest without sacrificing returns. Building on Jarislowsky Fraser's broad range of sustainable investment strategies, JF Fossil Fuel Free Funds are a family of privately pooled funds which include JF Fossil Fuel Free Canadian Equity Fund, JF Fossil Fuel Free Global Equity Fund and JF Fossil Fuel Free Bond Fund. **The Fossil Free Green Fund's Market Value at March 31, 2021 totals \$137,978 representing a 23.97% return.**

Fundraising Priorities

The Foundation continues to focus its development efforts on University priorities, all of which align with the Strategic Directions of the institution: Academic Excellence and Renewal; Student Experience and Success; Indigenization; Research Excellence, Knowledge Mobilization and Impact; and Financial and Institutional Resilience. Fundraising efforts are coordinated through the Foundation's Major Gift, Individual Giving, Planned Giving, and Donor Stewardship programs.

2020-2021 Fundraising Priorities



Student Awards

- › Opportunity Fund



Academic Enhancements

- › New and Existing Chairs and Research
- › Work-Integrated Learning



The Collegiate

- › Dean's Continuing Scholarship Fund
- › Millennium Entrance Scholarships
- › The Model School

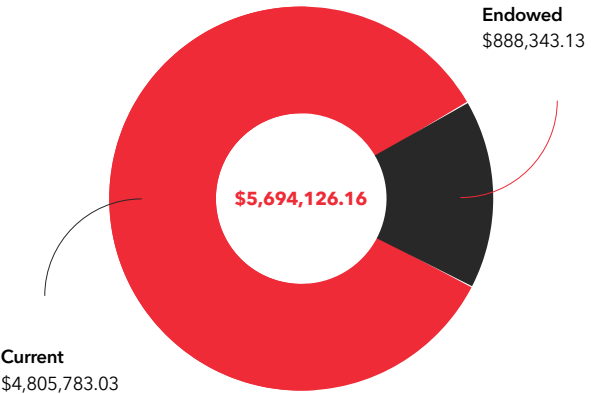


Indigenization

- › Wii Chiwaakanak
- › Duff Roblin Scholars Fund

Overview of 2020/2021 Fundraising Results

This past year, in addition to endowment revenues, more than \$5.6 million was raised. **Total Raised from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021: \$5,694,126.16**



	Endowed	Current	Total
Capital	\$0.00	\$28,791.03	\$28,791.03
Programs	\$167,323.23	\$674,915.67	\$842,239.90
Student Awards	\$721,019.90	\$902,067.33	\$1,623,096.23
MSBI*	\$0.00	\$3,200,000.00	\$3,200,000.00
	\$888,343.13	\$4,805,783.03	\$5,694,126.16

*MSBI stands for the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative, a matching program offered by the Province to encourage private donations to scholarships and bursaries.



2020 Campus Campaign

While COVID put a hold on many university activities, this year’s Campus Campaign was thankfully not among those affected. Over the course of 365 days, the Foundation received donations from over 270 generous members of our internal community. Every cheque, online gift, and pledge we receive from those who work close to the heart of our campus signals to the broader community that those who know us best support the fundraising priorities that matter most. These include student awards, programs and research, and campus upgrades.

With increased participation across the board, the Foundation was able to raise a total of \$370,000 in support of numerous fundraising initiatives. Donors from all walks of our community—faculty, staff, senior administrators, retirees and volunteers—helped make this campaign an incredible success.



The Duff Roblin Dinner

Mindful of the prevailing global situation and placing the health and safety of our University community first, the Duff Roblin Dinner Committee made an early decision to cancel the 2020-21 dinner and instead opted to hold the celebration online.

Our annual Duff Roblin Dinner is a much-anticipated event where we pay tribute to the Honourable Duff Roblin's legacy and recognize outstanding citizens and patrons of education. This year's online celebration proudly recognized UWinnipeg's 2020 cohort of students with the 2020 Duff Roblin Award for their resilience and perseverance in the face of the many challenges posed by COVID-19.

Since the first Duff Roblin Dinner, over \$820,000 has been raised towards community learning and pathways to education funds. In addition, donors have made significant contributions to the Duff Roblin Scholars Fund bringing the balance to over \$1.6 million.

The University of Winnipeg is pleased to announce our 2021-22 Duff Roblin Award Recipient, The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., O.C., O.M.

Dr. Axworthy retired as President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg following two full terms (ten years) in June 2014. He graduated in 1961 with a BA from United College (now The University of Winnipeg), and received an MA and PhD from Princeton in 1963 and 1972 respectively. While at The University of Winnipeg, Dr. Axworthy worked to renew the campus and its down-town community with the view to making post-secondary education more accessible to inner-city, Indigenous, new immigrant and refugee students. He also significantly expanded the University's outreach in the areas of Indigenous education, environmental studies, and human rights.

We look forward to celebrating the 2021-22 Duff Roblin Dinner in-person this spring.



Bryan Misener and the Kristopher Turner Award

As a theatre agent, Bryan Misener's eye for spotting and developing talent goes beyond the realm of the professional acting world. In the fall of 2020, Misener sought to create an award that could be used to support a promising student in the Theatre and Film Department at UWinnipeg. Established as a birthday gift in honour of his friend and client, Kristopher Turner, Misener's award has already found a recipient in Willow Harvey—a 3rd-year student in the Honours Acting Program. "She's an exemplary and highly committed student," said Theatre and Film Department Chair Christopher Brauer. "We're incredibly proud of her achievements and grateful for the support we've received from Misener."

Misener notes that Turner, who graduated from UWinnipeg's Theatre program in 2003, still feels a strong connection to his Alma mater. Unable to celebrate his close friend's birthday due to the pandemic, Misener felt that a gift to the program Turner spent his academic career enrolled in would be a fitting alternative. "I've been lucky enough to have had many clients graduate from various theatre schools, and gone on to find success in theatre, television and film," said Misener when asked about his interest in giving to the liberal arts. "I think providing support is vital in such a competitive field." Misener's decision to give as part of a longstanding agency tradition signals to our hardworking undergrads that our community of donors is eager to support them in their studies and recognize those who go the extra mile.

*"She's an exemplary and highly committed student," —
"We're incredibly proud of her achievements and grateful for the support we've received from Misener."*

Christopher Brauer,
Theatre and Film Department Chair



Dr. Murray and Mrs. Nancy Wiegand Support Undergraduate Research in Biology

A familiar face in the halls of the Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex, Dr. Murray Wiegand has been teaching biology to students at UWinnipeg for over 30 years. Having begun his tenure in 1984, Murray helped shape a generation of budding scientists throughout his years as a professor. As a dedicated member of his department and well-respected figure within the scientific community, Murray has offered his expertise to graduate students and academic committees alike.

With retirement steadily approaching, Murray sought to leave the University with a means to support honours student research in his absence. Spurred on by his wife Nancy, he worked with the Foundation to create the Wiegand Biology Undergraduate Research Fund. "I wanted to give recipients of the fund the opportunity to develop their ideas without having to worry about the financial cost associated with conducting field studies or purchasing lab equipment," said Murray. "Finding a way to help alleviate the financial burden research students and their supervisors so often face was the driving force behind my idea."

Murray's generosity has already begun to make an impact at UWinnipeg. Thanks to the Wiegands' support, the University is able to offer a wider range of diverse research opportunities to our most talented students.



Firma Foreign Exchange Bursary Supports UWinnipeg Students

In December of 2020, Firma Foreign Exchange Corporation, led by UWinnipeg Foundation Board Member David Dominy, gifted The University of Winnipeg \$10,000 in support of the newly created Firma Foreign Exchange Bursary in Business and Economics.

Working in conjunction with the Foundation, Dr. Hugh Grant, Dean of Business and Economics, and Dominy's Alberta-based company, the Firma Foreign Exchange Bursary has been established to provide financial support to deserving students in the Faculty of Business and Economics who also take on an active role in helping out their community.

"As an undergraduate alumni (BA Math, 1978) who benefited from bursary support to attend university, I know first hand how important financial support is to enable a first class education. At Firma, we believe that financial literacy and education are essential elements of everyone's knowledge base and are delighted to partner with the Foundation to fund this bursary."

UWinnipeg's Faculty of Business and Economics offers a dynamic range of courses in administration and management for students looking to succeed in any industry. Those enrolled in the program learn new business practices, innovative marketing and networking strategies, and a host of other skills related to problem solving and analytics. Support for awards related to the Faculty of Business and Economics ensures students receive the recognition and backing they deserve while pursuing their post-secondary goals.

"Firma's generous gift to our awards program says a great deal about the faith our board members have in our campus, our students, and the university's Strategic Directions," says Foundation CEO Javier Schwersensky. "On behalf of the Foundation and future bursary recipients, I am grateful for David's kind gift and the ongoing commitment he has made as a volunteer member of our Board. We greatly appreciate his support."

The first Firma Bursary will be awarded to a student in the Fall of 21'.



Life as a Student during the United College Years

When asked about her fondest memories at United College, Evelyn Fletcher (née Bond) pieces together a story that encapsulates her experience as an undergrad in the early 1960s—a story that channels not only the dedicated nature of students attending the College, but also their propensity to challenge established educational norms.

In the final year of her major, Evelyn found herself in a scarcely-filled 20th Century French Literature classroom with 7 of her female peers. At the head of the class sat Ms. Mariam Frame, a lecturer on loan from the United States who was only a few years older than the students she was tasked with teaching. As the term progressed Evelyn and the other students became very close with their professor, frequenting French-style cafés together and meeting up after hours to discuss the merit of various critical lenses when applied to the likes of Michel Foucault and Jean Giraudoux. Jokingly, Evelyn remarks that her continued study of high literature led her French skills to develop in a rather interesting way, stating that “I was able to comment on the philosophical works of Jean-Paul Satre, but simple conversational French was a struggle at times.”

When final exams arrived, Ms. Frame’s class felt their French skills were more than ready for the single French essay required of them by the curriculum (as opposed to the accompanying 4 essays which were to be written in English). After working so hard, Evelyn and the others thought it would only be fair if they were graded on their French writing abilities rather than their English. After being told the curriculum would not be bent to satisfy the wishes of the class, Evelyn and her small but passionate cohort went straight to the department chair’s office and protested, eventually managing to change the mind of their superior and score successful grades across the board.

While Evelyn’s story is certainly unique, she points out that many of her best experiences at United College came as a result of her close relationship with faculty members, the supportive nature of the community, and the ambitious pursuit of lifelong learning she felt was shared amongst the student body—traditions that are still present at UWinnipeg over 50 years later.

Evelyn is still involved at UWinnipeg as a donor. After making her first donation in 1980, Evelyn has given to numerous funds for 41 years. The most recent of which being the Sid Williamson Memorial Award in Education. Before she passed away, Evelyn worked with Sid as part of the Fort Gary United Church Social Action Group. She helped support a number of refugee families entering Canada, with a focus on ensuring the children of these families receive the best education available. “Everybody should have access to higher education,” says Evelyn. “As an inner-city school, UWinnipeg has an obligation to the surrounding community in helping more young adults succeed in obtaining a degree.”

Evelyn’s relationship with UWinnipeg is also tied to her marriage with fellow graduate Don Fletcher. After finishing their degrees a few years apart, the couple decided to get married in the chapel that resides on the first floor of Bryce Hall. After stretching the recommended occupancy from 36 to 50, and with many others waiting outside, Evelyn and her husband Don were married in the summer of 1969. Looking back, Evelyn reaffirms that it was a fitting choice for her, saying that, “when I was a student, the College was a home away from home...we lived in places like the library, Tony’s Canteen, and I enjoyed many of the extracurricular activities that were offered, especially volleyball.”

57 years later, Evelyn still makes an effort to stay close with her fellow class of ’64 graduates. In 2014, she had the chance to reunite with many of her former colleagues as part of her class’s 50th anniversary reunion—an event that was so successful that the group elected to host a similar event 5 years later in 2019, calling it “Freedom 55”. “I’m amazed at how large the University has grown,” says Evelyn, “One of the fascinating changes my friends and I were delighted to discover was that the Winnipeg Roller Rink we used to frequent has seen part of its wooden foundation reused as part of the Richardson College building.”

Having spent her 35-year career as both a social worker and educator, Evelyn is set on helping aspiring students realize their true potential by continuing to support UWinnipeg’s student awards program. Moving forward, Evelyn and her husband hope to create a future award as part of their combined planned giving goals that would assist underprivileged students receive their undergraduate degree at UWinnipeg—a decision she believes will help others to experience the many joys of learning and fellowship that she did during her time at United College.



Education as Equalizer: Support for UWinnipeg's Opportunity Fund

University of Winnipeg Chancellor, Barb Gamey, has pledged \$25,000 to establish the Barb Gamey Opportunity Fund Bursary. One of UWinnipeg's largest giving initiatives, the Opportunity Fund bridges the graduation gap and supports students from all backgrounds by alleviating the financial burdens of pursuing a post-secondary education. It plays an important role in enhancing accessibility for traditionally underrepresented groups such as Indigenous students, recent immigrants, students with refugee backgrounds, and those who are first in their family to attend university.

Since its creation in 2007, the Opportunity Fund has provided over \$3M in assistance to more than 3,500 students via fast-track bursaries, tuition waivers, and tuition credits. "I hope those who receive support from this bursary carry their inspiration and passion from their area of study into the job they choose to pursue."

"Staying focused throughout your undergraduate career requires a great deal of discipline and tenacity," said Gamey. "I hope those who receive support from this bursary carry their inspiration and passion from their area of study into the job they choose to pursue."

"Making post-secondary education more accessible by expanding our awards program is crucial to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed," said Dr. James Currie, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. "We are grateful for Chancellor Gamey's gift and her active role in supporting UWinnipeg students."

Each year dedicated members of UWinnipeg's senior administration, faculty, staff, and retirees demonstrate their belief in the institution's Strategic Directions by giving generously to student awards, academic enhancements, and capital initiatives through the University's annual Campus Campaign.

"Donations from those who know us best help set the precedent for donors in the broader community looking to contribute," said Dr. H. Sanford Riley, former Chancellor and UWinnipeg Foundation Board Chair. "As Chancellor and a board member, Barb is keenly aware of our students' needs. Her generosity will make a difference for many."

Gamey is the co-founder of Payworks, Inc. which employs more than 300 people across Canada. Since 2001 she has overseen the strategic direction and development of the company. She sits on the Business Council of Manitoba's education committee and helped develop the Horizon Manitoba report together with presidents of Manitoba's post-secondary education institutions.

"Donations from those who know us best help set the precedent for donors in the broader community looking to contribute," — "As Chancellor and a board member, Barb is keenly aware of our students' needs. Her generosity will make a difference for many."

Dr. H. Sanford Riley,
Former Chancellor and
UWinnipeg Foundation Board Chair



Pinnacle Staffing Solutions Renews Support for UWinnipeg and UW Collegiate Students

Pinnacle Staffing Solutions has affirmed their ongoing commitment to supporting UWinnipeg and UW Collegiate students with a new \$25,000 gift. The pledge will fund two awards: the Pinnacle Staffing Opportunity Fund Bursary and the Pinnacle Staffing Model School Bursary. This latest gift brings Pinnacle Staffing's total support of UWinnipeg and Collegiate students to more than \$58,000 over the past decade.

"Our office has been headquartered in downtown Winnipeg for almost 20 years now, and over that time I have witnessed firsthand the impact an accessible downtown campus has on our community," said Pinnacle president and co-founder Dale Driedger. "Pinnacle Staffing is committed to helping students from underrepresented populations find their place in a post-secondary setting and providing them with opportunities they otherwise would not have."

Sustained support for the Pinnacle Staffing Opportunity Fund Bursary allows it to be awarded for another five years and ensures the continued provision of financial assistance to Indigenous students, young people from war-affected areas and refugee populations, and students from inner-city neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

The Pinnacle Staffing Model School Bursary provides financial support to The Collegiate's Model School graduates who are attending The University of Winnipeg. Founded in 2008, the Model School enrolls 40-50 youth from grades 9 to 12 who come from backgrounds that are under-represented in post-secondary settings and still face barriers to success despite their potential.

"The University of Winnipeg and the Collegiate work together to create an inclusive environment where world-class educational programs meet accessibility. Support from our corporate donors guarantees that students looking to move forward in their academic career at our institution have the means to do so without having to worry about financial hardships," said Interim President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. James Currie.

"Pinnacle's longtime commitment to UWinnipeg and Collegiate students is a testament to their belief in the importance of access to higher education and giving back to their community," said Javier Schwersensky, Foundation President and CEO. "We are grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to strengthening the relationship we have built over the last decade."

Pinnacle was founded in 2002 by Dale Driedger and Wade Miller. They are Manitoba's largest recruitment firm, dedicated to providing Manitoba companies with top talent through five specialized divisions – Executive & Professional Search, Office & Admin Staffing, Industrial Staffing, Technology Recruitment, and Accountants Now. The foundation of their success is a team-based approach, leading edge technology, entrepreneurial spirit, and commitment to continuous improvement.

The University of Winnipeg and the Collegiate work together to create an inclusive environment where world class educational programs meet accessibility. Support from our corporate donors guarantees that students looking to move forward in their academic career at our institution have the means to do so without having to worry about financial hardships,

Dr. James Currie

Interim President and Vice-Chancellor



Tea for Wii Chiiwaakanak Celebrates 7th Year

Hosted in Toronto by close friend, alumnae and donor to the University, Jennifer Roblin, Tea for Wii Chii is one of UWinnipeg's unique social fundraisers designed to support the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre. Every year, those looking to donate have the opportunity to attend the luncheon hosted by Jennifer and learn about the programs and positive communal impact the Learning Centre has been instrumental in creating. Now in its 7th year, the fundraiser has earned an impressive \$241,000 to date, thanks entirely to our volunteers and generous community.

The Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre is designed to reflect our community's needs for an educational gathering place that is inclusive and accessible by focusing efforts on Indigenous, low-income, and new Canadians who benefit from additional avenues for gaining access to educational programming. All of the programs, including Spring Break Camp, Sacred Seven, Science Explorers/Homework Club, Women's Self Defense, Learning Anishinaabemowin and Pow Wow Club are free of charge and open to all families and individuals regardless of age, knowledge, or ability.

The transition to online programming – both with core programming and new program development – continues to take place and has been an important part of supporting families and youth to overcome these unprecedented times. It is thanks to generous donors that Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre is able to provide Winnipeg's inner-city community with free and open access to meeting spaces, after-school homework clubs, and numerous cultural programs.

Despite these ongoing challenges, this year's fundraiser was a great success, raising more than \$38,000 in support of the Centre's numerous programs and activities.



Recent Graduate Supports UWinnipeg's March Matchness Campaign

Tyler Roopchand is part of a unique group of donors within UWinnipeg's community of alumni. As a 2020 graduate, Tyler finished his 4-year Bachelor of Business and Administration degree during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic – a challenge that future graduates will be happy to leave out of their overall university experience. While finishing one's degree under such extraordinary circumstances would no doubt be enough of a distinction for most, Tyler notes that he still thinks of the students who will graduate after him. Inspired by the "new friendships and vast real-world experiences" he was introduced to over the course of his academic career, Tyler says that he wants to help enable other young students pursue their dreams and share in the same positive experiences that defined his time as an undergrad.

In March of this year, the Foundation reached out to donors with a limited-time opportunity to double the impact their gift would make should they choose to donate before the mid-spring dead-line. Tyler is one of over 700 donors who helped the Foundation secure the extra funding for immediate-use scholarships and bursaries that was being offered by the provincial government as part of their post-secondary support package at the time. "I chose the March Matchness campaign because I wanted to help ensure students at the University were able to receive the scholarships and bursaries they needed to be able to start or continue their education goals."

Tyler says that as part of his role as an alumni, he feels a sense of responsibility in helping recognize and support the hard working students who are set to graduate in later years. "Everyone deserves to benefit from attending a great University," said Tyler, "I believe we are very lucky to have the education that we have available to us in Winnipeg and I wanted to help improve on the future experiences of students."

Tyler is currently building on his interest in accounting and hopes to obtain his CPA designation in the near future.



Alumni Council Awards Recognize Outstanding Students

Thanks to the leadership of the Alumni Council, The University of Winnipeg is able to provide financial aid to students as part of the Council's collection of 5 awards. The Jo Lindal Memorial Scholarship, Alumni Entrance Scholarship, Alumni Family Entrance Scholarship, Alumni Family Achievement Scholarship, Alumni Association 2SLGBTQ* Student Award and Alumni Proficiency Scholarship are all funded by UWinnipeg's generous community of alumni.

The positive impact scholarships and bursaries have on students facing fewer summer and part-time job opportunities, as well as those coping with the added stress of remote learning during a global pandemic becomes evident after looking at the numerous thank you letters received this past year. Awards like those initiated by the Alumni Council made a significant difference in the lives of students. For example, the Jo Lindal Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Amanda Rivers. As of this year, Rivers is on track to finish her Double Honours B.A. in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies by 2022. "I chose The University of Winnipeg because I wanted to attend a school with small class sizes, a downtown location, and excellent instruction," says Rivers, "I hope to apply the skills I'm developing at the University for the benefit of my community, and I'd like to thank the Alumni Council for helping make that possible."

Many scholarship recipients note that support from awards and scholarships—like the Alumni Family Achievement Scholarship—help relieve a great deal of pressure when it comes to covering tuition. As recent award winner Liam Fergus notes, "receiving this award has helped reinforce my mental strength heading into a difficult finals period. Your kindness has made a huge impact". Fergus is currently majoring in Neuroscience as part of his Bachelor's of Science undergrad degree.



Collegiate Professor Leaves Lasting Legacy

Before passing away in 2008, longtime Collegiate Professor Wayne Christianson sought to help future students succeed in his absence. Christianson very generously included The Collegiate in his will, arranging for a bequest to be granted on behalf of his estate to help fund a new student award. Designed to support full time students and those from refugee backgrounds attending The Collegiate, the Wayne Christianson Collegiate Bursary is one of the school's newest awards and is set to be awarded to students beginning in 2022.

Prior to starting his teaching career, Christianson received his undergraduate degree in physics from The University of Winnipeg in 1972. After teaching at various districts in and around Winnipeg, he finally settled at The Collegiate in the early 80s. In his spare time, Christianson enjoyed travelling to South America and Europe, hosting international students, and helping out as a member of the Big Brother's Association. Planned gifts like Christianson's help the University move with confidence towards future goals and projects and are of critical importance when planning upgrades to our campus or programs. As an endowed fund, Christianson's gift will help support students in need for years to come at The Collegiate.



Awards Night of Excellence Pays Tribute to Mrs. Laureen Bulman (1926-2020)

In much the same fashion as last year's event, this year's 2020-2021 Awards Night of Excellence was held virtually. Those in attendance had the opportunity to tour our online gallery, which contained video messages from University President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. James Currie and Foundation President and CEO Javier Schwersensky, written messages from donors, and a brief biography from each student who received an award. In addition to recognizing the incredible achievements of our students, this year's Awards Night was also a celebration of the life and legacy of Laureen Bulman—a dedicated friend of the University who passed away in December of 2020.

For over 40 years, Laureen Bulman was one of The University of Winnipeg's closest community members. A keen supporter and longtime donor, Laureen was a familiar face at many campus events. Often accompanied by her husband, Dr. John Bulman, the two were an inseparable pair at any function they attended.

Together, Laureen and John have helped our institution celebrate numerous convocations, including Awards Nights, Duff Roblin Award Dinners and reunion events. John was appointed to the Board of Regents in 1967 and remained a member for nearly 30 years. In 1984 he was elected Chancellor and served in that role until 1996. Laureen served in many official and unofficial capacities over the same period. In 1996, the university unveiled the Bulman Student Centre, a resource space for students to enjoy that stands as a testament to the Bulmans' combined contributions to our institution. In 2003, John became a founding member of The University of Winnipeg Foundation Board of Directors.

Throughout her lifetime, Laureen remained focused on improving the lives of students at UWinnipeg. Over the course of her 27-year giving career, Laureen was a loyal supporter of the Marsha Hanen Global Dialogue and Ethics Fund, general scholarships and bursaries, and the Chancellor W. John A. Bulman Scholarship—the latter of which was established in honour of her husband John and awarded to deserving students across all undergraduate programs. In the weeks since her passing, the Foundation has continued to receive gifts in support of the Bulman Scholarship from generous donors in memory Laureen.

In addition to her commitment as a donor, Laureen was also a member of The University of Winnipeg Women's Auxiliary Committee, which oversees a collection of scholarships that support students across multiple disciplines.

As a longstanding friend to our institution, Laureen will be missed by all of those who had the pleasure to meet and get to know her. For those that did not have the opportunity to meet her in person, she will be remembered through her legacy of support and commitment to our campus and its students.

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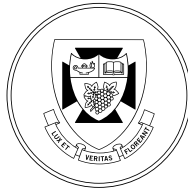
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