



University  
of Victoria

Victoria BC Canada  
2013

# Investing in achievement.



*Megan Adams sorting grizzly hair samples | Photo credit: Dr. Andrew Wright*

## The difference between 'project no' and 'project go'

Megan Adams loves grizzly bears. Thanks to funding from the Tula Foundation, she gets to study them as part of a collaborative project with the Wuikinuxv Nation in Rivers Inlet, BC. Megan is just one of the many students who benefit from the support the Tula Foundation gives to research at the University of Victoria. "Their gifts are truly transformational for students from across the university," says Barb Roberts, Development & External Relations Officer for the Faculty of Social Science.

Megan, an MSc candidate, is part of UVic's Applied Conservation Science Lab led by Dr. Chris Darimont. For the past two summers, she has been part of a research team collecting hair samples non-invasively from grizzlies living on BC's central coast in Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Territories. It's a part of a flagship Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program supported by Tula. Megan's research is focused on habitat and resource connectivity, specifically for coastal grizzly bears — research that will benefit future conservation work in BC and beyond.

"Tula got us off the ground, figuratively and literally," Adams acknowledges, "in addition to supporting much of the lab's research fund, Tula reached out to support our helicopter access to high elevation sites. Their support was the difference between 'project no' and 'project go'."

Founded and led by Dr. Eric Peterson and Christina Munck, the Tula Foundation has contributed close to \$10 million to UVic and is instrumental in driving and supporting the research that deepens our knowledge of BC's central coast and the cultures, animals, and flora that make it one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.

The passion Megan has for her work is immediately apparent. "We were in the helicopter, coming back from a long, rainy day of collecting grizzly hair samples," she relates, face beaming with the memory, "we were following a river down to the ocean when suddenly the skies lifted and the sun began to shine. As we passed over the river's estuary, covered in an ocean of white crabapple blossoms and blankets of edible plants and flowers, a mother grizzly and two cubs emerged from tall grass as if to greet us. It was so incredible!"





Ellie Parton | Photo credit: Roxane Kelly

## Dreams do come true

Roberta (Ellie) Parton is grateful. “I did not believe I would graduate from high school, so attending university seemed like an unreachable goal.” Originally from the Wei WaiKum band of the Kwakwaka’wakw First Nation in Campbell River, Parton admits, “Growing up, my school attendance and grades were abysmal.” As a teenager, she lacked self-esteem and motivation in the classroom. But everything changed when she was faced with an unexpected challenge — motherhood. “I was forced to grow up suddenly,” she says.

Striving to be a role model for both her five-year-old daughter and her community, during her biochemistry degree at UVic, Parton volunteered as a young mother mentor on the Tsawout reserve, a part of the Coast Salish territories. “I am passionate about increasing the representation of Aboriginal people in post-secondary education,” she says, and her hard work and dedication to her community and education has not gone unrecognized. She was awarded the Norah and Calvin Banks Aboriginal Leadership Award in the Sciences for 2012/13 school year.

With a busy academic and volunteering schedule, Parton says, “This award allows me to learn everything I can about my field of study while providing for my family so that I can still see my daughter grow up. For this support I am extremely grateful to Mitch Banks.” Alumnus Dr. Calvin Mitchell (Mitch) Banks (BSc ’67, PhD ’71 Chemistry) strongly believes in the empowerment that an education provides. After a successful career, Mitch and his wife Linda decided to endow a number of scholarships in appreciation of several UVic professors that had a major impact on Mitch’s life.

Ellie graduated this spring, completing her degree as the First Nations student with the highest grade point average. She has been accepted into UBC’s medical school and is very excited to take the next step toward her dream of becoming a family doctor serving Aboriginal communities. She believes that with everything she’s already been through, there is nothing to stop her from achieving her goals. “My experiences give me the strength, my culture gives me the wisdom and my daughter gives me the motivation.”



Caitlin Windsor in action at work  
Photo credit: Irene Fennema

## Annual Giving Call Centre – Story Behind the Voice

The University of Victoria’s Student Calling Program is where current students connect with all alumni — from Victoria College graduates to the Class of 2013. Caitlin Windsor, who joined the calling team in 2012, received a renewable scholarship for her studies of English literature and linguistics. After becoming a caller, Caitlin realized that she would be helping other students experience the same positive impact through student awards. “I am honoured to have the opportunity to give back while I am still a student through fundraising,” she says. It is her conversations that

convey the importance of student support and inspire alumni to give back. “I am not a telemarketer, I am a student. This is a cause I believe in and love talking about, which is what makes calling fun.”

Caitlin would not have been able to attend UVic without the financial support and encouragement of donors. She was born with a congenital condition where blood vessels in her brain do not form properly, causing intermittent loss of vision and even the ability to walk.



Shahin Mohammadi and Joan Hurn | Photo credit: UVic Photo Services

## Born to teach

"Let's do this for Dad!" Joan Hurn's children enthused when she first told them she was thinking of setting up a bursary at the University of Victoria in their father's name. Ken Hurn was an exemplary teacher, and his family all felt that the award would honour their dad for one of the things he took such great pride in — his teaching ability.

Ken Hurn taught elementary school for over 30 years in Victoria, and influenced generations of children in the community. Ken passed away in 2007, but his influence continues thanks to the award Joan set up in his memory. "Ken was so fond of teaching," Joan says, when asked why she wanted to honour him in this way, "I just felt his name should carry on." And so it has.

The award helps a student who is focused on becoming an elementary school teacher with the ever increasing costs of a university education. Ken knew of the struggles students face first hand. He took 9 years to finish his Bachelor of Education, patching together credits during weekends and the summers as he practiced the craft of teaching, coached swimming and raised a family. Through it all he remained focused on the end goal — helping kids to learn.

This is also what drives Shahin Mohammadi, the latest recipient of the Ken Hurn Bursary. Shahin was inspired by his grade six teacher who helped him through the torment of bullies. Joan shakes her head at this, and remembers Ken was always helping kids who struggled — a lot of his motivation was because he had a hard time in school himself. He was very patient with kids and Joan never heard him say an unkind word to anyone in the 56 years that they were married.

"Some of the finest men I know have been elementary school teachers," Joan tells Shahin as they chat in Joan's living room. "I've been teaching as long as I can remember," Shahin replies. And, after a pause, looks at Joan and declares "It is something I was born to do." Joan smiles and nods, "Ken would have liked that," she says, "he really believed that teachers were born, not made." "I think I would've liked Mr. Hurn," Shahin asserts, "I'm so honoured to receive this award. Thank you."

Caitlin says, "Doctors and my family were very supportive and told me there was no shame in quitting my degree, but I had been given such a precious gift in the form of my scholarship, and I did not want to let that go. Donors believed in me. . . how could I simply quit in light of that fact?"

Last year, generous donors gave well over \$1.6 million, through UVic's annual giving program, the majority of which supported student awards. Jennifer Sandmaier, Annual Giving Manager, knows just how crucial her

department is for the students at UVic. "I see the impact UVic alumni make in the world," she says, "I see our alumni doing things that are changing lives and making a difference in the community, and many of our graduates would not have the opportunity to achieve these successes without the support of our donors." Caitlin, who aspires to work as an American Sign Language interpreter, will certainly be an alumna who makes a difference. She says, "I will never forget the gift I have been given and I have every intention of passing it on."



Patil Vaibhav, another vital team member of the Student Calling Program Photo credit: Irene Fennema



## Award Types

### Bursaries

The University of Victoria awards over 4 million dollars in Entrance, Transfer and In-Course Bursaries. Bursaries are non-repayable awards based on financial need and reasonable academic standing. These awards are for students who are receiving the maximum student loans available for their period of study and are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

### Scholarships, Medals and Prizes

In recognition of outstanding students, UVic awards more than 6 million dollars in Entrance and In-Course Scholarships each year. Scholarships are non-repayable and are awarded to students on the basis of academic merit or excellence.

### Fellowships

Fellowships are merit-based awards granted to outstanding students enrolled in graduate studies. These awards enable students to concentrate on their specialty, pursue their research and maintain a high academic standing.

### New Awards April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

James A. & Laurette Agnew Memorial Award

James A. & Laurette Agnew Memorial Scholarships

Annual Giving Student Caller Scholarship

Art and Music Education Bursary

Best Graduate Report in Dispute Resolution Award

James S. Carfra, Q.C. Memorial Bursary

Chapter AJ PEO Sisterhood Scholarship

Dr. Gordon L. Diewert Community Service Entrance Award

Dobbie Family Athletic Award

Eve Egoyan Exploratory Music Scholarship

Dax Gibson Memorial Award in Gender Studies

Hildegard Anna Hayward Scholarships

Island Savings Growing Island Families Together (GIFT) Bursaries

Allan P. James Scholarship

Maurie Jorre de St. Jorre Prize

JTS Scholarship

Nancy Lee Graduate Scholarship

Louis F. Lindholm, Q.C. Entrance Scholarship

Gwen Lock Scholarship for Women

London Drugs Foundation Graduate Scholarship

London Drugs Foundation Scholarship

Albert Loucks Bursary

Marion MacLeod Memorial Scholarship

Malcolm Manson Memorial Award

Jessie H. Mantle Fellowship in Nursing

McCarthy Tetrault LLP Alumni Entrance Scholarship

Audrey May McCormick Scholarship

Edna and Bernard Nash Memorial Entrance Scholarship

Kaare Norgaard Scholarship

NutritionLink Services Society Bursary

Anthony Gerard "Bud" Peetz Scholarships

Pemberton Holmes Entrance Scholarship in honour of Davine Burton

Phil Petersen Scholarship in Social Work

Physics Student Scholarship

Sheridan Scott - Telecommunications Hall of Fame Entrance Scholarship

Spanish and Latin America Study Abroad Scholarship

Student Ambassador Scholarship

Ten Mile Fine Arts Student Assistance Fund

David H. Turpin Research Scholarship

Fred Whitehouse National Association of Federal Retirees Scholarship

Ramona Williams Memorial Scholarship in Child and Youth Care

Ramona Williams Memorial Scholarship in Social Work

Jamie Chien-Ming Wu Award for Achievement in Biomedical Engineering

## Contact us



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