are merit-based awards recognize and are non-repayable awards granted to outstanding students enrolled in courses of study, grants to students on the basis of academic merit and excellence. These awards are with the University of Victoria this year. The following awards were ratified by the UVic Development Office, PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

"I'm interested in using theatre as a way to hear people's voices, understand diverse perspectives, build empathy and connect people," says Taiwo.

Taiwo Afolabi's play Journeys of the world before moving to Victoria to develop his passion for arts for social transformation through a graduate degree at UVic. It was a difficult and expensive choice. Taiwo was invited to study in the unique applied theatre program under renowned professor Dr. Warwick Dobson. After the performance, Taiwo connected with the audience, challenging their past assumptions and new insights. It's typical of work Taiwo does to not only entertain, but also to educate audiences. "My responsibility is to use theatre to make conversation happen, to provide a platform for voices to be heard. When we are distanced from a complex issue, theatre can bring us closer to it," he says. "It gives you something you won't forget."

Dr. Megan Swift's class at the University of Victoria. It was a formative experience for Taiwo, who lives as simply as possible in order to afford his international student fees. Taiwo ran a campaign to fund his scholarships.

Taiwo Afolabi on campus.

Field research also is a vital component of the program, but without the scholarship, Taiwo's trips to Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria to explore the narrative of several community groups including refugees, new immigrants, indigenous communities, the police department and veterinarians.

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A surprise estate gift

The Summerhayes story

PHYLIS Nortina Summer
hayes was born on January 31, 1908 in San Jose, California. Her
father, Maurice, immigrated to Califor
nia from England and became a fruit
 grower. He met and married his wife,
 Hilda, and they had their first child,
 Dot. Maurice took his family back to
 England to retrain as a mining engin
 eer. He met and married his wife,
 Hilda, and they had their first child,
 Phyllis. Maurice took his family back to
 California. He took them on many
 adventures and tried to make up
 for the missing years. Phyllis and
 her father became so close that she
 knew she would be a fruit grower.
 Phyllis grew up thinking she had no
 father. But when Phyllis was in her
 teens, her father appeared in Califor
nia. He told them about many
 adventures and tried to make up for
 the missing years. Phyllis and her
 father became so close that she
 moved to Vancouver Island to live
 with him until his death in 1953.

Phyllis spent the rest of her life in
 Victoria. Aside from playing Bridge,
 reading and travelling, she was a
 meticulous bookkeeper and a very
 successful investor and financial
 planner. When she passed away at
 the age of 91, she had amassed a
 fortune, which she wanted distributed
 between thirteen family beneficiaries
 and the university.

Phyllis’ gift created renewable schol
 arships and bursaries for undergraduate
 students. This award is named after
 Phyllis Summerhayes in recognition of
 how much she meant to her.

The story of Phyllis Summerhayes is an
 integral part of the history and future
 of the University of Victoria, and the
 hundreds of past, present and future
 students who have been touched by
 her generosity.

“It’s not often that an unexpected phone call delivers
 news that will change your life. That’s what happened
 one morning for Norma Cameron, Planned Giving
 Officer. The call informed her of an estate gift of
 over $1.5 million to support students in UVic’s Faculty of
 Engineering. This was the largest gift UVic had ever
 received for student awards at the time. Stranger still,
 the donor had no prior
 relationship with the university. Norma began her
 research to find out behind this remarkable gift and
 unearthed the story of a gold-mining engineer and his
 loyal and loving daughter.

In 2006, Jason Jubinville started his engineering
 undergraduate degree at UVic with financial
 support from the Summerhayes scholarship.
 The renewable scholarship motivated him to study
 hard and allow him to spend time on the outside of
 class boosting his résumé and making professional
 connections. During his degree Jason was
 president of the Engineering Students Society and
 an instructor with Science Venture. These experiences
 gave him a head start in applying for subsequent co-op
 positions, and later, 10-founded a successful business.

Between scholarships and co-ops, Jason was able to graduate with no
 student debt, which made a significant impact on his decision to launch a
 software startup along with three other UVic engineering grads. Echosec —
 an instructor with Science Venture. These experiences
 gave him a head start in applying for subsequent co-op
 positions, and later, 10-founded a successful business.

A scholarship is an incredible thing. Someone, some person who the recipient
 will likely never meet, decides that they want to help another. A scholarship
 does not just provide money; it provides opportunity. ”

— Charndeep Bhangoo, 2016 bursary
 recipient; 3rd year student, computer
 science.

“At a certain point in life, you have to
 return to Kashmir to advocate for
 and work on gender equality and
 secondary education. To me, there’s no
 greater gift than education, and I intend to
 pass it on. I can ensure just a handful
 of women who are thirsty with the
desire to learn, it will be worth it!”

— Andy Bornstein, 2007 scholarship
 recipient; Parkside Construction
 Engineer, Port Alberni, BC

“The costs at the beginning
 of each semester, tuition and textbooks
 in particular, was always a heavy
 financial burden, so this bursary really
 helped. It was great knowing there was
 community support for students.”

— Joanne North, 2017
 bursary recipient, Principal
 of DeVille Engineering,
 Victoria

“Upon receiving this incredible
 gift, a colossal weight lifted from
 my chest and I was overwhelmed
 with joy. This outstanding donation
 made my university career in
 engineering possible.”

— Andrew Bornstein, 2007 scholarship
 recipient; Parkside Construction
 Engineer, Port Alberni, BC

“The market value of the fund had increased to more
 than $17 million. That year, $149,000 was awarded in
 scholarships and $80,000 in bursaries.

“The total amount awarded to students in scholarships
 and bursaries to date is $3,646,000 in 44 scholarships
 and 1,898 in 44 bursaries. That’s also a life touched by
 one gift!”

— Andrew Bornstein, 2007 scholarship
 recipient; Parkside Construction
 Engineer, Port Alberni, BC

We want you to know we are
 grateful for being selected for
 this award. I am truly
 surprised and grateful. This award
 will allow me to pay for not only
 my student fees, but also my
 housing costs. Post-secondary
 education and housing is
 getting more and more expensive
 each year. But with help like this,
 I know I will be able to overcome
 these hurdles and fulfill my
 educational endeavors.

— Charndeep Bhangoo, civil bursary
 recipient; 4th year student, computer
 science.

Nortina Summerhayes was
 born on January 31, 1908 in
 San Jose, California. Her
 father, Maurice, immigrated to
 California from England and became a
 fruit grower. He met and married his wife,
 Hilda, and they had their first child,
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