Investing in achievement.

Your investment opens a world of possibilities

Thank you for your gifts in support of endowed student awards at the University of Victoria. It is both wonderful and inspiring to see your investments making a difference in the lives of our students. As you will read in the pages that follow, your generosity helps students make their potential and fuels their success. Most of all, your generosity to our students matters beyond the lives you touch directly, it helps build strong communities here and around the world.

We live in a time of rapid change and uncertainty. In these times, society looks to higher education to help shape the future, by contributing to innovation and by providing our students with a well-rounded education that cultivates thoughtful, enlightened citizens. As President of the University of Victoria, I have the honor and the privilege to work with you, our friends and supporters, who give so generously to create endowments that assist our students.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of UVic, I am deeply grateful for your commitment and support. Your investment makes it possible for the university to fulfill its mission, opening a world of possibilities for our students.

David S. Naylor, CB, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice Chancellor
Scholarships drive research and discovery

From breast cancer research to treating disease in Africa—for Brett Eyford, it’s all part of a remarkable journey of discovery. And for this 3rd year PhD student in microbiology, it’s a journey fuelled in part by the Donald Wagg Scholarship, awarded to outstanding graduate students for research excellence. Brett Eyford’s passion for the sciences led him to the UVic lab of Dr. Terry Pearson, one of Canada’s leading proteomics researchers. Proteomics is the study of the structure and function of proteins—the enzymes, antibodies and other molecules that make up our cells and tissues. Working with biomarkers (molecules in the blood that indicate the presence of disease), Brett assisted in the development of techniques that promise a radical improvement in early detection of breast cancer.

Graduating with an honours BSc in biochemistry in 2007, Brett went on to do graduate work with Dr. Pearson, shifting his focus from cancer research to parasitic diseases. In Kenya and Uganda, parasite-born sleeping sickness takes a deadly toll on both humans and domestic livestock. Brett traveled to Africa to assist in the development of new diagnostic tests for humans that can be utilized by doctors in the field where medical facilities are scarce.

“Scholarships encourage and reward achievement,” says Brett. “Receiving the Donald Wagg Scholarship allowed me to stay focused on my research without the worry of a financial shortfall. The Wagg family had a wonderful vision for what their gift could achieve—I’m very honoured to be a part of their hopes and aspirations.”

Phelanropic giving: supporting bright futures

As recent graduates of UVic’s school of music, Julie and Carli Kennedy’s adventures in music are just beginning. Both top music students, the identical twin sisters are pursuing a career in music as a performing duo—Carli on guitar and Julie, violin. And thanks to a scholarship given by Dr. Betty Kennedy (no relation), this dynamic duo got a boost in their studies too.

“The time commitment to study and practice is heavy, and the scholarships allowed us to focus on our musicianship without worrying about finances,” says Julie. “We’re so grateful for the support,” says Carli. “Scholarships provide the added inspiration that spurred us on.”

As a retired UVic professor of mathematics, Betty Kennedy wanted to make a difference in students’ lives. “I feel I’ve had a good life and now I want to enhance the lives of others.” Betty chose to create scholarships in areas that reflect her personal interests: music, law, engineering and mathematics. “Mathematics was my own discipline,” she says, “but my husband’s, engineering was my father’s and music because I love classical music.”