

**"I KNEW THAT  
ONLY EDUCATION  
COULD CHANGE  
MY LIFE."**

SIYAD JAMA, STUDENT

DONOR IMPACT REPORT 2016  
— GIVING UVIC ITS EDGE

**THANK  
YOU**

## LEARN, DISCOVER, TOGETHER

I regularly challenge myself to do something that puts me outside of my comfort zone. That's how I found myself picking my way up the 55-foot climbing tower at CARSA's opening ceremony last May. The experience mirrors what we do at the University of Victoria. We challenge ourselves and each other within our extraordinary academic environment. We offer students hands-on, dynamic learning and opportunities to make a vital impact on their world.

It also deepened my appreciation of your involvement in that process. Just as I needed the right tools and coaching to reach the top of the tower, your donations provide the infrastructure and mentors our students need for success. Your support is vital in creating environments that produce rich learning and discovery. It helps our university fulfill its core mission.

The outcomes of that mission translate into so many personal experiences. I constantly hear stories of how this university is improving life for others, leaving a positive footprint on the world. Those stories of people working together show what is possible when we think not only about individually reaching the top, but about bringing others to a position of strength, or at least to a place from which they can begin their ascent.

This report celebrates how you give people those extraordinary opportunities. Thank you for your continued and impactful support.



Jamie Cassels, QC  
President, University of Victoria



# LEARN

Your support for students enriches individual and collective learning experiences. Your gifts allow a journey to begin, or define how a journey will unfold. And when you spark dynamic learning for one student, what else will it ignite?

## DYLAN GEDIG

### Tectoria Video Game Industry Award for Developers

"I could feel the electricity in the room...see sparks shooting with every idea generated." Dylan Gedig and the UVic Game Dev Club helped create that energy. They put on the Victoria installation of the Global Game Jam, a worldwide event that brings together artists, designers, musicians, programmers and writers for 48 hours of collective creativity.

Alumnus and CEO of Codename Entertainment Eric Jordan knows working together like this is reflexive in Victoria's vibrant technology sector. He brought local companies VIATEC, DigiBC, OneBit, Kano, InLight, EA Canada and Codename on board to create a scholarship for computer science students who mirror that collaborative nature. As an active contributor to Victoria's game development community,

Dylan was the obvious first recipient. He shared this passion at UVic by volunteering with the course union and teaching coding to new students.

Dylan laid the groundwork for a career in video game development through UVic's Co-op program. This scholarship gave him confidence for the next step. Under Eric's mentorship, Dylan launched a video game publishing company and his first product will be released before his convocation ceremony.

"That recognition meant a lot to me," he says of the scholarship. "I wouldn't have started my own company if the local scene wasn't so supportive. As a new member of that community, I'm excited to do what I can to help develop new talent."



**Watch Dylan's video at:**  
[uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact](http://uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact)



"I wouldn't have started my own company  
if the local scene wasn't so supportive."





## FRANCESCA BELL PETERS

### **Tom Perry Award for Social Responsibility Allen P. James Scholarship**

Francesca squinted through the morning sun at the line outside, wondering how long it would take to triage all those patients. She checked on pharmacy supplies, then joined a group teaching kids the basics of hand-washing and dental hygiene. Despite her exhaustion, she was full of pride and energized by the children's excitement. After months of preparation, Francesca and 30 other UVic volunteers were finally in rural Honduras running a mobile health clinic.

Francesca spent her first year searching for a focus, then decided to put her passion for helping others into pursuing a career in medicine. When her parents split up, Francesca was left wondering how to pay for all her tuition and living costs. Undeterred, and already committed to several volunteer roles, she worked hard for scholarships. "Those gifts made me believe the more you give, the more you receive," she says.

The year Francesca earned the Tom Perry Award for Social Justice was the first she didn't have to work part-time. She threw herself into the role of president for Global Medical Brigades, leading the 2016 trip to Honduras. "Being there, you see how access to healthcare means so much to people," she says. "The smallest things, like vitamins, or having a wound cleaned, makes a direct difference to lives."

When she returned from Honduras, Francesca began writing applications for medical school and, true to her convictions, she made sure to take time off to help raise money for the brigade's 2017 trip.

**"Those gifts made me believe the more  
you give, the more you receive."**

## SIYAD JAMA

### **Bill Buckwold/Jennifer Richardson Award Lee Hayes Scholarship**

"Thank you," Siyad told his fellow students in the Bachelor of Commerce program. "For what?" they asked. "For changing my life," he replied. They didn't realize they'd contributed less than the price of a coffee through the student society to bring refugees like Siyad to Canada.

Siyad Jama spent his first 20 years in Kenya's vast Dadaab refugee camp. Each night he escaped the camp's perimeters in his dreams, and woke with a growing determination to leave forever. "I knew that only education could change my life," he says.

It took enormous ambition and patience, but eventually, Siyad was one of three Dadaab refugees to receive the World University Service Canada's (WUSC) annual scholarships at UVic.

From the day he arrived, Siyad felt just like any other student, but it wasn't ever easy for him. He took loans to fund his tuition, and worked part-time to send money to family in Dadaab.

Toward the end of his degree, when he was so close to seeing his dreams come to fruition, Siyad discovered he was one course short of graduating but had exhausted his student loans. Seeing his determination to overcome challenges, his professors nominated him for an award created for students who display such resilience. Through that gift, Siyad was able to complete his last requirement and move on to his next goal of becoming an accountant.

**"I knew that only education  
could change my life."**



## RUTENDO MUSHARU

### Nelson Family Bursary


When Rutendo Musharu boarded the plane to Canada, she had no idea what her new life would be like. "Someone told me the University of Victoria was on an island and I had visions of palm trees and coconuts," she laughs. All she knew was that it offered her a better future than Zimbabwe could.

Years of shopping in empty stores, waiting in long lines at the bank, and discovering his earnings were worthless by payday drove Rutendo's father to leave Zimbabwe with his family. He secured work in neighbouring Botswana and took out a loan to pay for Rutendo to study overseas, at UVic.

She made the most of her new life, until the Botswana government canceled her father's visa and he was forced to return to Zimbabwe. "There was no way Dad could make the tuition payments without a job," says Rutendo. "I thought I'd have to drop out."

Rutendo felt hopeless, but her father told her to have faith, that something would come up. And it did, through the Nelson Family Bursary. "If I didn't get that help," says Rutendo, "my future would have fallen on its face."

With renewed optimism, Rutendo completed her degree in business and began working for the province. As soon as she's able, Rutendo is determined to help future international students. "To invest in someone," she says, "the way someone invested in me."



"If I didn't get that help, my future  
would have fallen on its face."

# DISCOVER

You support research and learning in diverse ways.  
Creating rich mentorships and access to learning resources;  
opportunities to travel, experiment, design and reshape.  
Allowing new knowledge and personal insights to make  
positive changes vital to people, places and the planet.

## ALESSIA KOCKEL

### **Ajaib Singh Sangha and Family Memorial Scholarship Dr. David and Dorothy Lam Scholarship in Geography**

Poverty and the increasing scarcity of fish is leading small-scale fishers in the Philippines to desperate and destructive fishing methods. They understand the need for conservation efforts, but their immediate focus is feeding their families.

“Developing a network of marine protected areas can protect ecosystems and support fisheries,” says Alessia Kockel, a master’s student in geography who is conducting research among communities along Sogod Bay. “But local participation is crucial to success.”

The scholarships awarded to Alessia reinforced her belief in this research and enriched her participatory mapping sessions. The extra funds went a long way in providing snacks for participants, living costs for

volunteers, and gas for the boats and motorbikes they used to reach over a hundred isolated communities.

Having the opportunity to exchange knowledge with local people was a privilege felt by both Alessia and the local fishers. After analyzing the data, her team will return to as many communities as possible to share findings. Alessia believes that “if research is going to make a difference in the real world, we need input at this community level.” She hopes her research will show how future conservation practices can balance the costs and benefits for marine ecosystems with those who depend on them for survival.



**Watch Alessia's video at:**  
[uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact](http://uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact)





"If research is going to make a difference in the real world, we need input at this community level."

## DR. SCOTT HOFER

**Harald Mohr MD and Wilhelma Mohr MD  
Research Chair in Adult Development and Aging**

Being in an endowed chair position enables Dr. Scott Hofer to engage students in his world-class program of research on seniors' health. By helping students like Raquel Graham prepare for her master's defense, supporting PhD students' travel to international conferences, or investing in innovative research tools for his lab, Scott is fostering research-inspired learning. "I'm in this position because of the opportunities I had as a student," he says. "Now I can do the same for others."

The Mohr's endowed gift also allows Scott to step back from teaching and focus on innovations in measurement and design, work that could revolutionize early detection and prevention strategies for aging-related disorders. "We're entering the era of precision medicine and personalized healthcare," he says. "Aging is a life-long process, so we need better quality, and more frequent, information about individuals throughout that process." Scott and his team are working with health professionals to integrate research with clinical care, something that will benefit everyone at some point in their lives.

Reflecting on his position and the resources available to him, Scott says, "Thanks to the donors' vision of what the endowed chair could be, this is the most exciting period of my career so far."

**"I'm in this position because of the opportunities I had as a student."**



## DR. AARON DEVOR

### Chair in Transgender Studies and Academic Director of the Transgender Archives

Lined up cover to cover and box to box, the world's largest transgender archives would stretch an entire football field. The items encompass 17 countries, a century of research and 50 years of activism—from business records to audio histories, conference programs to pornography and medical textbooks to self-published newsletters. Brought together, they form a vibrant, living memory of trans heritage.

"We could not have found a better home for our history," says Dr. Aaron Devor, who sees more donors entrust material to the university each year. "The archives help the trans community gain a sense of itself."

The archive not only safeguards these materials—by gathering and digitizing them, UVic ensures they are accessible to academic and community-based scholars, graduate, undergraduate and even high school students. "We welcome anyone—even those who have never set foot on a campus before—to explore, be challenged and transformed by the collection," says Aaron.

One of the most significant outcomes of the archives to date is that it inspired donors to establish the world's only Research Chair in Transgender Studies at UVic. Building on each other, these two animating forces for teaching and research bring together scholars, community activists, and thought leaders to enhance the lives and futures of transgender people around the world.

**"The archives help the trans  
community gain a sense of itself."**



## PRANAY SHRESTHA

### Plint Scholarship

Pranay chose engineering to harness his creativity to solve real problems. At UVic, his creativity impacts real lives. He designed a 3D-printed prosthetic wrist that is helping people in poorer countries rediscover their independence.

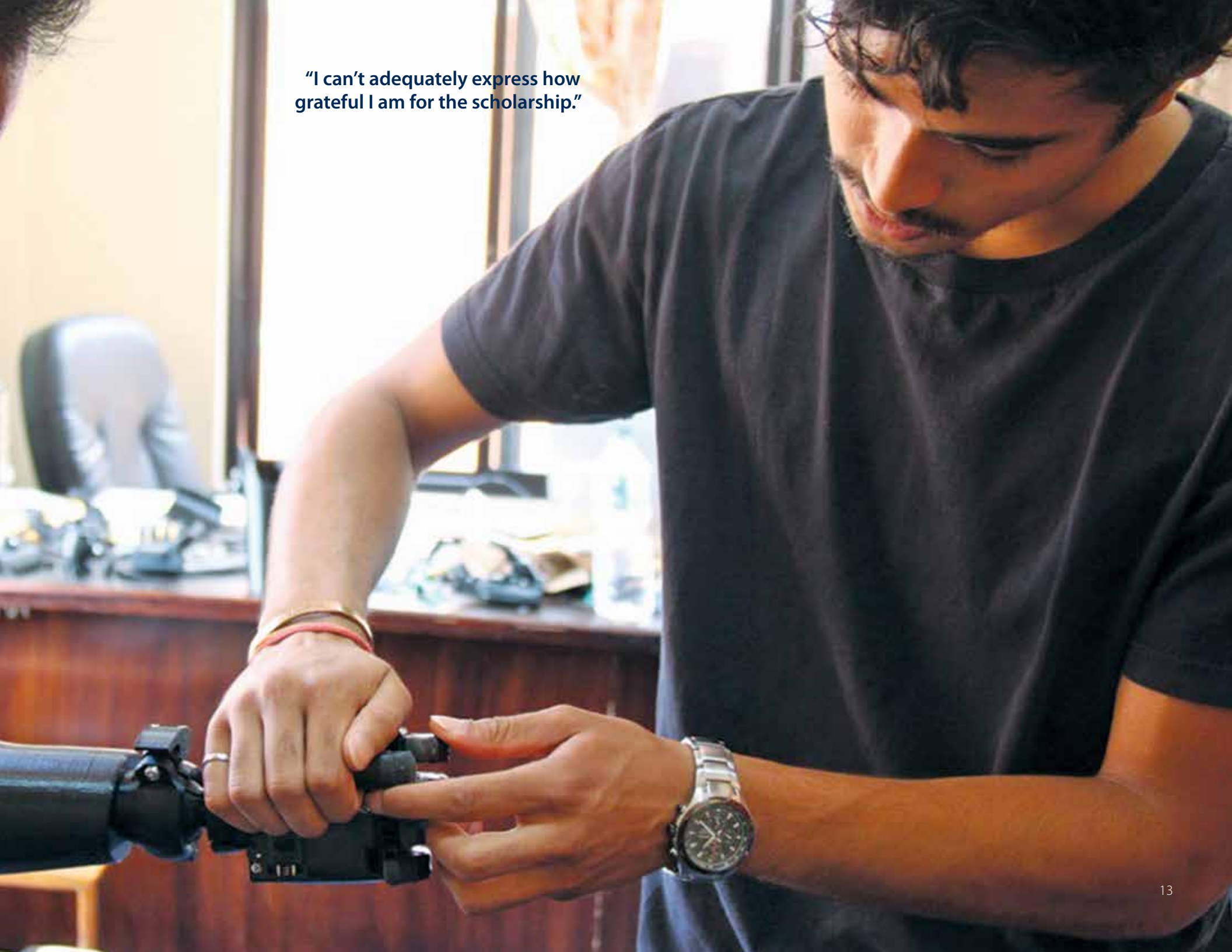
Pranay wouldn't have had this experience without the Plint Scholarship. He worked extra hard to maintain a high GPA for scholarships towards his international tuition. Those high grades opened up the honours program, and this hands-on project in UVic's biomedical design lab.

Pranay created a light and functional wrist joint that could be made cheaply on 3D printers. He then traveled to Nepal for clinical trials, and watched as amputees used the prosthetic to brush their teeth, or use a screwdriver. "I saw how this wrist," he says, "can change how someone interacts with the world. It was humbling, but satisfying, and exposed me to a different side of engineering."

Pranay acknowledges that support from donors, as well as his experience with the prosthetic project, will motivate him to seek similar meaningful challenges through his career. "I can't adequately express how grateful I am for the scholarship," he says. "I guess I try to do that through my actions." Meanwhile, Pranay's contribution to the project will live on, as more and more amputees' lives are changed by what the team has come to call the "Pranay wrist."



"I can't adequately express how grateful I am for the scholarship."



# TOGETHER

Your support reaffirms our belief that UVic can achieve more through partnerships than it can alone. It inspires us, and often enables us, to focus on reaching out to communities, to stand together, share resources, and learn from one another.

## EUGENE DOWLING


### **Eugene Dowling Scholarship for Tuba and Euphonium**

Two days before his death, Eugene Dowling took an ambulance to and from his last concert. The evening tied together Gene's musical career, friendships and years teaching at UVic. It was also a fundraiser for Gene's legacy project, a scholarship for tuba and euphonium players. "I thought this was a way of acknowledging what music has meant to me," he said.

When Gene was diagnosed with cancer it stirred him to examine the things that were most significant to his life: his love of teaching, the relationships he developed with students and colleagues, and the importance of sharing what he was given as a beneficiary of scholarships many years ago.

"My teachers gave me a deep, beautiful gift: a love of music, an instinct for musical line and the desire to keep growing as a musician and person," said Gene. "Through this scholarship, I wish to share the same things with future students."

Gene always made time to encourage young musicians in their journey, and the enormous sound he made on the tuba is matched only by the size of his generous heart. His friends and colleagues continue to fundraise to endow Gene's scholarship in his memory.

A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a black suit, sitting on a rocky outcrop and playing a large, shiny tuba. The background is a natural, rocky landscape. A diagonal stripe with blue, yellow, and red colors runs across the image from the bottom left towards the top right.

**"My teachers gave me a deep,  
beautiful gift: a love of music."**

## DAHTI TSETSO

### Thomas M. Hess Scholarship in Indigenous Language Revitalization

"I never had chance to talk with my grandparents in their language," says Dahti Tsetso, who recently set out to learn Dene Zhatie, "I want my children to have that opportunity."

UVic's Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization is mostly taught in local communities, but still involves time away from home, with associated travel and accommodation costs. The Thomas M. Hess Award makes the course more accessible for students like Dahti, who has a full-time job and young family.

Thomas Hess taught linguistics at UVic for over 30 years, and was deeply committed to working with Indigenous communities to save their languages. After he worked with the Tulalip Nation, they thanked him by saying, "You have given us our Lushootseed so that we can teach our children."

It is in this spirit that Dahti shares her new knowledge, starting with her children. She's also incorporating immersion activities in the cultural youth camps she runs through the Dehcho First Nations regional office.

"Elders tell me we're not revitalizing the language, because that suggests the language is dead. It's not, it's alive," says Dahti. "We're strengthening the language, in ourselves, and in our communities."

"But within me," she says, "it feels like an awakening process."



**Watch Dahti's video at:**  
[uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact](http://uvic.ca/givingtouvic/impact)

"We're strengthening the language,  
in ourselves, and in our communities."



## A DECADE OF PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

### University 101, 102 and 201

Uni 101 started as a point of access. A way to meaningfully extend the resources of the University of Victoria to the community. It was inspired by the principle that those marginalized in our communities—by poverty, mental-health issues, single parenthood and physical disabilities—should have access to educational opportunities and resources on campus.

The program relies on donations to pay for meals, bus tickets, childcare subsidies and course materials. “Without these supports,” says Becky Cory, Program Coordinator, “our students wouldn’t be able to come to class.” In this way, the program helps students overcome material barriers to a university education, while the instructors, volunteers and students themselves create the collaborative and welcoming conditions in which students can overcome other, less visible barriers.

From the initial class on the first evening ten years ago, “Uni” began to change lives. Not only for the students, but for all who were involved.

“Every one of [my classmates] had the courage to face their barriers and overcome them in the process of taking this course. I was surrounded by heroes.”

ROBERT, STUDENT



**"By taking these classes it gave me new meaning and purpose, something I needed so desperately in my life at this point in time."**

JODYLYNN, STUDENT

**"I've lived in Victoria all my life, but I was never on campus. I never felt worthy or included, until I started Uni 101."**

ANONYMOUS, STUDENT

**"Do you know what it's like to have a grade 8 education and then walk out of here with a bag of supplies, a binder full of reading, and even the bus fare home? It's magic."**

JAMES, FORMER PARTICIPANT  
AND VOLUNTEER

**"Value is something that I thought would never appear in the same sentence as 'I'. I have value. Thank you."**

PETER, STUDENT



## A FACILITY FOR EVERYONE

### Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA)

Donors and corporate partners helped UVic turn its dream of a major new athletics and recreation facility into reality. Envisioned as an inclusive centre for active and healthy living, CARSA has energized the campus community. Every corner of the 190,000 square foot facility is filled with activity, from varsity athletes training to compete at the highest levels, to clients and students working with CanAssist, to the UVic and community members for whom CARSA's become a central component of their active lifestyles.

#### Since CARSA opened in May 2015...



OVER **10,000** MEMBERSHIPS



**711** STUDENTS ENGAGED IN CANASSIST ACTIVITIES



A RECORD **2,384** ATTENDED THE VIKES VS T-BIRDS BASKETBALL GAME IN JANUARY 2016



**36** YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTED THROUGH TEENWORK



IF EACH OF THE **8,700** VISITORS TO THE CLIMBING WALL REACHED THE TOP ONCE, TOGETHER THEY SCALED MOUNT EVEREST 16½ TIMES!



**1,500** VISITS BY VARSITY ATHLETES TO THE SPORTS INJURY CLINIC IN THE FALL OF 2015



**544,000** CARD SWIPES TO ENTER THE FACILITY

"I can go to class, exercise, and then work my shift, just like other students."



## ALYSHIA JOINSON

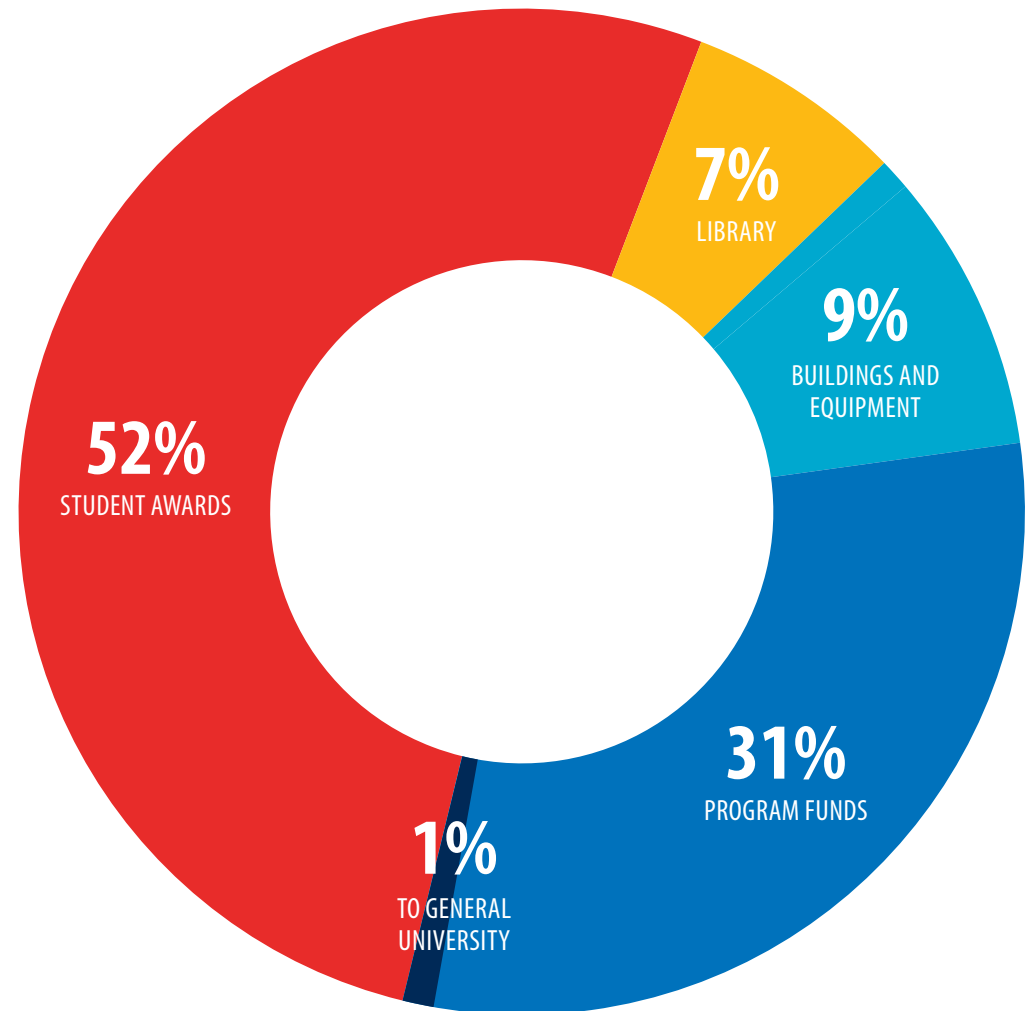
Alyshia Joinson first noticed the lowered counter at reception during a group accessibility consultation at CARSA. "That could be your desk!" said Brenda Wickware, Recreation Services Administrator, suddenly realizing how something designed for facility visitors could also enable a wheelchair user to join her team. Alyshia went straight to see her job coach from CanAssist's TeenWork program, and by the next day her application was in Brenda's hands.

Music student Alyshia loves her job on the member services team, but what's most significant to her life is having everything on campus. "I can go to class, exercise, and then work my shift, just like other students," she says. CARSA gives Alyshia an accessible place to work out. She uses the adaptive gym equipment and regularly plays wheelchair basketball in the field house.

Last December, Alyshia took her first ever spin class using the hand crank cycle in the studio. "I've never been able to take part in a fitness class before," she says. "It was a lot of fun, but my arms were definitely a little sore the next day! I'm excited to try yoga next."

# ILLUSTRATING YOUR SUPPORT

DONORS GAVE  
**\$13,656,206**  
IN FY 2015/16



# DONORS SUPPORTING STUDENTS



**1,649**

students received **\$3,840,360**  
in donor-funded scholarships in  
FY 2015/16—that's an average of  
**\$2,329** per student



Number of new awards  
set up in FY 2015/16



More than **1** in **10** students  
are helped through a donor  
funded award



**866**

students received **\$1,605,500**  
in donor-funded bursaries in FY  
2015/16—that's an average of  
**\$1,854** per student

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

**\$6.7**  
MILLION

added to endowments  
in 2015/16

Current value  
of the fund

**\$391**  
MILLION

Generating  
**\$13.7**  
MILLION

this year in distributions

The UVic Edge: dynamic learning and vital impact in Canada's  
most extraordinary environment for discovery and innovation.

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To find out more about philanthropy at UVic, visit **[uvic.ca/givingtouvic](https://uvic.ca/givingtouvic)** or contact  
the Development Office, University of Victoria, PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

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