

# SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

AN ANNUAL COMPENDIUM OF STORIES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF GIVING

FALL 2009



*Barry Meckler, President and CEO, and Amanda Sheehan, Community Investment Advisor, Interior Savings Credit Union*

## INTERIOR SAVINGS CREDIT UNION SUPPORTS LIFELONG LEARNERS AT UBC OKANAGAN

For many students, returning to school after a break is much harder than going to school in the first place. Resuming an academic career that is interrupted by other priorities – family needs; community service – can be particularly challenging.

“Everyone is on a different path in life, and we wanted to support people who are active in the community,” says Barry Meckler, President and CEO of Interior Savings Credit Union, explaining the organization’s motive for creating a bursary at UBC Okanagan for students who return to university after a pause of a year or more.

Interior Savings Credit Union is a financial institution with 80,000 members and 21 branches throughout the central and southern

interior of BC. In December 2008 Interior Savings and UBC announced the creation of the Lifelong Learner Bursary.

This bursary will be awarded annually, beginning in 2009, to a UBC Okanagan student with one or more dependents who is entering or returning to post-secondary education after a pause in studies of one year or more, and who has demonstrated active community involvement.

“Our organization is dedicated to the prosperity of our communities, and the people in them,” says Barry. “So we understand how important it is to support people who are active

*continued on back cover*

<b>2</b> A SUSTAINABLE SCHOLARSHIP HONOURING SUSTAINABILITY PIONEER	<b>3</b> SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWS STUDENT TO CONTRIBUTE MORE	<b>4</b> BURSARY SUPPORT KEEPS HYGIENIST IN THE CLINIC	<b>5</b> FRIENDS COME TOGETHER TO CREATE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	<b>6</b> NEW AWARDS
--	---	--	--	------------------------



Madelene de Castro

## BURSARY SUPPORT KEEPS HYGIENIST IN THE CLINIC

**Madelene de Castro** is a third-year student in the Dental Hygiene degree program, the only one of its kind in British Columbia. She was inspired as a child by her aunt, who is a dentist, and although her mother wanted her to study nursing, “I wasn’t interested in the whole body back then. But as I advance in the program I am realizing that oral health is an important part of overall health,” she says. “I’ve wanted to be a dental hygienist since I was in high school.” A bursary from UBC is helping Madelene fulfill her dream.

The Dental Hygiene program is highly competitive and growing in popularity each year. Madelene is part of the first graduating class in the new Entry to Practice program, in which students attend UBC for all four years. The other program, called Direct Entry, requires students to attend UBC in first and fourth years, and to study at Vancouver Community College, College of New Caledonia or Camosun College in second and third years.

Dental Hygiene students must pay an annual clinic fee of over \$8,000 on top of tuition, student fees and books. Madelene’s full course load, combined with clinic work two nights a week and Saturday morning, means a part-time job to help offset these costs is out of reach. “Tuesdays and Thursdays are 12-hour days,” she says, “but I really enjoy the clinical practice.”

“Last year I really struggled financially. When you’re trying to study, thinking about money all the time is really stressful.” Madelene consulted a financial advisor in Enrolment Services, and discovered that a student loan would only cover 25% of her clinic fee.

Madelene was able to remain in the Dental Hygiene program thanks to the Edwin H.K. Yen Bursary in Dentistry. Dr. Yen was Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry from 1994 to 2007, and the bursary was endowed by alumni and friends in his honour.

Although most people are still likely to encounter a hygienist in their dentist’s office, Madelene is quick to point out how the profession is changing. “Dental hygienists are working in public health, administration, and research as well as in private dental practices. So far I’ve been doing some workshops with kids in grades 2 and 3, as well as ESL students. I like teaching them about good dental care and answering their questions.”

Next semester Madelene will have a clinical placement at Douglas College in New Westminster. “I strive to work hard and do my best so that I can contribute to the community. The financial assistance I received really helped me do this,” she says. ♦





*Pavan Dhillon, Store Manager/Pharmacist, Shoppers Drug Mart*

## FRIENDS COME TOGETHER TO CREATE MEMORIAL AWARD

When Andreas Baur died unexpectedly in December 2008, within days his friends and former classmates had established a Facebook group in his memory and were discussing how to create a scholarship or bursary in his honour. At the same time, three senior executives of Shoppers Drug Mart were recommending that a gift be made to UBC in Andreas' name.

Thanks to Dan Worsley, former Associate Director for Awards Development, the two groups found out about each other and came together to create the Andreas Baur Shoppers Drug Mart Outreach Award.

Andreas graduated from the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008, and had returned to his home town of Quesnel to become the Associate (Pharmacist-owner) at the local Shoppers Drug Mart. His mother Annemarie says there was never a dull moment when Andreas was around. "He made a volleyball team with his staff. He was always in touch with friends. He loved the outdoors, he loved doing so many things."

Andreas was also a dedicated volunteer who spent his summer months throughout school volunteering at an orphanage in Ghana and starting up an HIV clinic in Kenya.

Pavan Dhillon is the Associate at Shoppers Drug Mart on Campus at UBC Vancouver. He graduated with Andreas, and was one of his

closest friends. "Andreas' experience of going to Africa was one of the key contributors to his character," Pavan says. "When we were thinking about creating a scholarship, we wanted it to give others that life-changing experience."

Lisa Gibbs is the Manager of Community Investment for Shoppers Drug Mart. "Our strength is in the Associate concept; the individual Pharmacist-owners in each store," she says. "While Andreas had been an Associate for a short time, in BC everyone knows everyone else. The news of his sudden passing shocked us all and motivated us to action."

The award inspired by Andreas is for students in Pharmaceutical Sciences who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to working in communities that are underserved by health care professions.

Annemarie says, "We want to inspire students with this scholarship. Maybe this will get them thinking a little bit, becoming more socially conscious, helping others who are not as fortunate."

Lisa adds, "Andreas was a special individual with so much ahead of him. Thankfully, it's rare to establish an award in honour of a life cut so drastically short. This award represents his spirit, in perpetuity."

Pavan reflects, "This award is a kind of consolation; it keeps some of Andreas' spirit with us. We can't change the event, just ourselves, for the better." ♦



INTERIOR SAVINGS *continued from cover story*

and volunteering in the community; people who have family or community obligations that so far have kept them from pursuing their education goals.”

“We know that these people have the potential to become strong leaders because they value both education and building community.”

The Lifelong Learner Bursary joins a bursary that Interior Savings previously established at UBC Okanagan, for which any student in financial need is eligible.

Interior Savings has also partnered with UBC Okanagan in a monthly luncheon series that brings together successful UBC alumni with third and fourth year students. The three or four alumni have a panel discussion about their education and careers, helping students understand that a successful career pathway is not necessarily linear. “We get excellent feedback on these events from the students and alumni,” says Amanda Sheehan, Community Investment Advisor for Interior Savings.

She adds, “The staff at UBC Okanagan were fantastic to work with in creating the Lifelong Learner Bursary. And it’s wonderful that this is an endowment that will endure over time.” ♦

## INTRODUCING RHONDA ROTH

Rhonda Roth is the new Associate Director for Awards Development as of August 2009. She takes over in this position from Dan Worsley, who has retired after 30 years of service to UBC.

Rhonda was born in Vancouver and raised in Calgary, and graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts in political science. While still a student, she began volunteering in a Faculty of Commerce fundraising campaign and quickly became interested in the field of fundraising. She took a position with a hospital foundation in Calgary and worked there until returning to Vancouver in 2001 to work at UBC.

Before joining the Gift and Estate Planning unit, Rhonda held positions of increasing responsibility in the Development Office in the Faculty of Medicine, culminating in her role as Associate Director of Development.

“I had begun to work with donors who were giving to student awards, and I found myself drawn to that special group,” she says. “Dan was a mentor to me, so it is very rewarding for me to continue in the position that he has left.”

Rhonda looks forward to working with existing donors and encouraging new ones to support awards for UBC students.

## CONTACT US



**RHONDA ROTH**  
Associate Director  
Awards Development  
Gift and Estate Planning  
Phone 604.822.3846  
rhonda.roth@ubc.ca  
Fax 604.822.8151



**LESLEY CAMPBELL**  
Manager  
Awards Development  
Gift and Estate Planning  
Phone 604.822.8920  
lesley.campbell@ubc.ca  
Fax 604.822.8151



**SHARON DE VRIES**  
Major Gifts Officer  
UBC Okanagan  
Phone 250.807.8433  
sharon.devries@ubc.ca  
Fax 250.807.9211

If you want to support UBC students, we can help. Our experience and expertise can help you turn your ideas into student awards.

**UBC Development Office**  
500 – 5950 University Blvd.  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z3

**UBC Okanagan Development Office**  
3333 University Way  
Kelowna, BC Canada V1V 1V7

[www.supporting.ubc.ca/givingoptions](http://www.supporting.ubc.ca/givingoptions)

Printing this newsletter on Chorus Art Silk paper saved:

- 1 trees preserved for the future
- 3 lbs waterborne waste not created
- 420 gallons wastewater flow saved
- 46 lbs solid waste not generated
- 91 lbs net greenhouse gases prevented
- 699,720 BTUs energy not consumed

DESIGNED BY ANN GONÇALVES | UBC PUBLIC AFFAIRS.  
ALL PHOTOGRAPHY BY EUGENE LIN, EXCEPT AMANDA SHEEHAN AND BARRY MECKLER, BY MICHAEL HEROUX.



**Mixed Sources**  
Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber  
Cert no. SW-COC-001659  
www.fsc.org  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council