Student awards by the numbers

Every year, your support of student scholarships and bursaries provides unparalleled opportunities for students to learn from each other and be inspired by leading faculty – preparing them to be leaders in today’s ever-changing world. Here are some notable numbers about Western’s student awards program in 2012/13.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donor-funded undergraduate student awards granted</td>
<td>3,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students at Western and affiliated colleges</td>
<td>37,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of donor-funded scholarships and bursaries awarded</td>
<td>$10.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view a complete list of student awards and recipients, please go to: extraordinary.westernu.ca/your-impact/student-awards
Thank you for preparing a generation of leaders

Your gift to support student awards at Western helps to transform promising students into exceptional leaders. Through collaborative learning opportunities, they are inspired to lead and equipped to address the world’s most pressing challenges.

Throughout the 2012/13 academic year, your support contributed to $10.5 million in donor-funded scholarships and bursaries, providing more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students with the assistance they needed to pursue their Western Experience.

Within this report, you will discover how your generosity is offering tremendous opportunities for students to be community and global leaders.

Through the Be Extraordinary campaign, we are committed to creating 5,000 new student awards, recruiting 10 per cent of our students from outside of Canada and 10 per cent from outside of Ontario, and sending 10 per cent of our students on an overseas learning opportunity. Achieving these goals will enrich The Western Experience for all of our students, cultivating their capacity to collaborate, lead and innovate in today’s world.

On behalf of our students, I sincerely thank you for supporting scholarships and bursaries at Western. Your gift means that more students, regardless of financial means, will have the encouragement, confidence and motivation to achieve the extraordinary.

Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor
Leading in residence
Fourth-year student shines in helping first-year students find their way

Christina Shan’s first year at Western left an indelible impression on her. The friends she made with upper year student volunteers (sophs) in Saugeen-Maitland Hall helped her feel at home.

“In my first year, the sophs were incredibly encouraging and supportive, giving me all sorts of help in adjusting to Western, and advice on how to balance academics and student activities,” says Christina. “Because of that experience, I wanted to do the same for incoming students.”

For two years, Christina served as a soph at Essex and Perth Halls – assisting first-year students with questions about university life, as well as creating positive community experiences for them.

“As a soph, I really enjoy seeing new students succeed and grow as they transition to Western,” says the dual degree student in computer science and business. “And working with many different people and personalities, I’ve gained confidence and leadership skills I wouldn’t have learned in the classroom.”

Christina’s experience makes her a fitting recipient of the **Sydenham Hall – Jean Dunlop Residence Bursary**. “I’m excited to be chosen for an award that honours a woman who was a key part of residence life at Western for many years,” says Christina (see lower right). “It motivates me to work hard and to give back to those in need.”

“I want to follow in the footsteps of the donors who contribute to student awards at Western. One day I hope to leave a legacy of my own.”

For Christina, giving back includes her volunteer work through the Community Service Learning Network (CSLN) at Western. With a group of students through CSLN, she’s creating proposals for a London-based charity to receive funds to install solar panels and thermo windows for low-income families living in subsidized housing.

“Hopefully, the funding will reduce energy costs for families and make life a little easier for them,” she says. “This project will also generate sustainable energy and lower consumption.”

On campus, Christina has put her energies toward student clubs. She started the Ivey Technology Club to connect business students to leaders and to teach them to be more tech-savvy.

In the near future, Christina plans to study in Paris. “I see this experience as inspiring me in a new way to learn about another culture and to understand business from a global perspective,” she adds.

**Award Facts**
The Sydenham Hall – Jean Dunlop Residence Bursary is given to undergraduate students who live in Western’s on-campus residences. The bursaries are made possible by generous gifts (held by Foundation Western) from alumni who wanted to recognize Jean Dunlop, a former secretary at Sydenham Hall who was a confidante to many students in residence.
Taped to the top edge of Michael Brown’s computer screen is a slip of paper. It reads: “How badly do you want it?”

That question – which is in Michael’s line of sight when he’s working on his laptop – keeps him motivated and focused on his biology studies at Western. He knows from experience what can happen when he takes his eyes off his goal.

“In my first year, I really didn’t study as much as I should have. I had too much fun, and my grades suffered,” says Michael, a third-year biology student. “I could see my goal of becoming a dentist slipping away from me.”

In second year, Michael buckled down. He studied hard and his grades improved, so much so that he received the Harrypersad-Tewari Scholarship in Science – an award that recognizes the student who achieves the greatest academic improvement from first to second year in the Faculty of Science.

“I wasn’t expecting this scholarship,” says the Dean’s List student, “but I’m honoured and grateful to receive it because it rewards hard work and sacrifice. And it motivates me to go on, knowing I can improve and achieve my academic goals.”

“I’m grateful to receive my scholarship. It motivates me to further myself in my studies and to pursue my goals.”

When not focused on his studies, Michael can be found on the lacrosse field. As a member of the men’s lacrosse team at Western, he attended late night practices in the fall to prepare for games.

“Being on the team is a huge commitment but it has taught me how to manage time between my studies and practices, and to do well at both,” he says. “The team spirit at Western is fantastic and the coaching staff are great. It’s like my second family.”

In 2012, the Western team played in the Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association championship game, competing against McGill. After a hard fought game, Michael and his teammates lost in overtime. Despite the loss, he knows they gave it their best.

Giving his best is what Michael plans to do as he finishes his undergraduate degree and then looks ahead to entering dentistry school.

“I know now that every effort and sacrifice is worth it,” he says, “because I’ve seen where it can lead.”

Learning success the hard way
After a bumpy start, biology student keeps his sights on the goal

Award Facts
Awarded to a student in biology, the Harrypersad-Tewari Scholarship in Science recognizes a student who is entering third year, has achieved a minimum 80 per cent average in year two and has made the greatest improvement in the overall academic average from first to second year (based on a full course load). Vidya and Narine Harrypersad have established the scholarship in honour of their father.
Thanks to innovative research conducted by Jeremy Cepek, BESc’08, MESc’10, improved treatment for prostate cancer may be coming. At the imaging centre in Robarts Research Institute at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, he’s exploring a potential therapy that could pose fewer side effects, but still control the cancer.

“I’m building and testing a device that will help doctors guide needles using an MRI to treat the prostate cancer tumour,” says Jeremy, a PhD student in biomedical engineering and recipient of the Richard Dillon Ontario Graduate Scholarship. “It allows doctors to place needles more accurately and in less time, allowing for less invasive treatment.”

Currently, Jeremy is working with doctors in Toronto in a phase one clinical trial of the device, and helping them deliver the therapy to see if it is a viable option.

“The donors of this scholarship have made my research possible. It wouldn’t have happened without their support.”

The scholarship has also motivated him to succeed. “There are a limited number of awards for graduate research, so to receive one shows that people think I’m worth the investment. I then want to give my best,” he says.

Beyond the lab, Jeremy has volunteered at Parkwood Hospital in London – helping veterans with spinal cord injuries relearn how to walk. And having earned his private pilot’s licence, he occasionally takes to the skies, flying a small aircraft over parts of southern Ontario.

Back on Earth, Jeremy has his sights set on medical school. “I’ve always been curious about how the body works,” he adds, “and I’m hoping my engineering training and medical education will be put to good use to benefit the lives of patients.”

Award Facts
Based on academic achievement, the Richard Dillon Ontario Graduate Scholarships are awarded to full-time master’s or doctoral students in Western Engineering. Matched 2:1 by the provincial government, these scholarships have been established at Foundation Western by a generous gift from the T.R. Meighen Family Foundation, and Michael and Kelly Meighen to honour Mrs. Meighen’s father, Richard Dillon, the first dean of Western Engineering.
Now that Margaret Sawatzky has studied for a year overseas, she can see herself working abroad. That’s quite a change, considering Margaret had never ventured far outside of Canada.

Having received the David J. Stenason Global Opportunities Award, she enrolled at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, U.K. for the 2012/13 academic year. Through her classes in ecology and biological sciences, she broadened her learning experiences.

“This year, I’ve been able to dig deeper into topics and ideas that interest me, such as biodiversity and conservation,” says the third-year biology student. “Studying these issues at UEA has confirmed my desire to pursue a career in conservation work.”

That work could take Margaret back overseas. “With my year in the U.K., I’m more confident to head into unknown territory and take on new adventures,” says the 21-year-old. “I would love to work in a developing country to explore the impact of ecological conservation on people.”

Being immersed in a university setting with students from around the world has also fed Margaret’s desire for global experiences. She now counts students from Bangladesh, Slovenia and Kazakhstan – whom she met at UEA – as her friends. “Meeting a lot of international students and learning about their cultures has been an amazing experience,” she adds.

“After studying for a year in the U.K., I’m more confident and independent. I can even see myself working abroad in the future.”

Studying at UEA has also exposed Margaret to different types of learning, with more focused group work and interactive lectures, and out-of-classroom experiences. For a British landscape course, her class toured Iron Age and Norman earthworks. For a history class, she visited the site in central England where the bones of Richard III were recently unearthed.

“When I stop and think about my time in the U.K., it’s quite staggering to consider what I’ve learned and seen. I’m overwhelmed and thankful to have this experience.”

She’s thankful too for her student award, which helped fund her yearlong program at UEA. “It’s gratifying to know donors are supporting awards that make international learning possible,” says Margaret.

“I know from experience that these overseas opportunities offer so much potential to broaden perspectives and explore different cultures – more than I could have expected.”

**Exploring world vistas**

A year of overseas learning brings incredible changes to student’s life

**Margaret Sawatzky (second from left), third-year biology student and recipient of the David J. Stenason Global Opportunities Award**

**Student Award Recipient**

**MARGARET SAWATZKY**

**BSc’14**

**Award Facts**

Grant to a student who has completed a minimum of one year of study, the David J. Stenason Global Opportunities Award supports those who want to participate in an exchange program, field course, international study, internship or other study abroad experience – and who will be an effective ambassador for Western. Established by David Stenason (BA’78), this award is matched by Western through the Global Opportunities Awards initiative.
As a young girl in small-town Ontario, Alana Vandervoort held an unusual aspiration. She dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Why unusual? No one from Alana’s family practised law and she knew no lawyers. In fact, she met a lawyer for the first time when she was 17 years old.

“I guess I’m fortunate that I’ve known where my career path would lead me,” says Alana, now a Western Law student and the inaugural recipient of the Norman Craig Brown QC Continuing Bursary. “That’s helped me remain focused on my goal of working in the legal profession.”

Her focus led her to make Western the number one choice for law school. “Western Law has a community feel with a great school spirit, which is perfect for me,” she says.

With her first year completed, Alana says the collaborative learning environment at Western Law is second to none. “Every professor challenges me and makes me want to learn,” she says. “And as students, we look out for each other, even though we have diverse interests. There’s such a collegial and encouraging atmosphere.”

Alana credits her father as a huge encouragement in pursuing her dream. He’s a hard-working blue-collar man, she says, who highly values education. He beamed with pride when she graduated with her bachelor’s degree.

“My Dad has instilled an incredible work ethic in me and has given me a sense of accomplishment,” adds Alana. “Living these values is what got me to where I am today.”

That hard work and dedication to becoming a lawyer makes her receipt of a student award a tremendous gift. “I’m so thankful for this award because I know the worth of it to my future,” she says. “Receiving it has allowed me to be fully involved in law school and seize every opportunity.”

“The money the donors have given for this student award goes beyond being just a donation. It’s an aid and tool to my success.”

Award Facts
Granted to a full-time student entering first year at Western Law, the Norman Craig Brown QC Continuing Bursary will continue for subsequent years as long as the student progresses and demonstrates financial need. Established by family and colleagues of Norman Craig Brown, QC, the award honours and recognizes his career in law and commitment to the legal profession.
For Alan Screaton, one game stands out from his last season on the men’s volleyball team at Western – a quarter-final win at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship tournament.

Competing against the defending national champions, Alan and his teammates lost the first two sets. But then something clicked. They found their game, notching a win in the third set and rallying for fourth- and fifth-set wins to score the upset.

“Of the thousands of spectators in the gym, we were probably the only ones who thought we had a chance at defeating Trinity Western, one of the best teams in the country,” says Alan, BMOS’13, recipient of the Vaughan Peckham Volleyball award. “We were definitely the underdogs, but that performance showed we belonged there with the top-ranked teams.”

After an outstanding win, Western lost the bronze medal game to place fourth in the CIS.

“It was bittersweet to get so far and to know this game was the last time I would wear the Western jersey,” says Alan, who calls Calgary home. “I didn’t want to end my career with a loss, but we accomplished a lot this year on the court.”

“Receiving [the scholarship] motivated me to focus my time and energy on what really needed to be done on and off the court.”

Success in volleyball depends on teamwork. “I love playing volleyball because it’s a true team sport,” he says. “You can’t depend on one player to carry the team. Everyone needs to be strong and play their part to be successful.”

That sentiment echoes Alan’s gratitude for receiving his athletic scholarship. “Many other players on the team could have been chosen, so I’m honoured to have been selected for this award and thankful for the donors who’ve made it happen,” he says. “Receiving it motivated me to focus my time and energy on what really needed to be done on and off the court.”

Alan now hopes to use the education gained through the DAN Management and Organizational Studies program at Western to pursue graduate work in consumer behaviour.

“I’ve always enjoyed the rationale of human behaviour – and the way psychology and marketing play together to affect our decision-making, which makes it a fascinating field to study,” says Alan.

**Award Facts**
Given to a student-athlete who is making a significant contribution to the men’s volleyball team, the award is based on academic achievement and the written recommendation from the head coach. Held by Foundation Western, the award, which recognizes excellent work ethic, knowledge of the game, reliability and a tremendous amount of heart, was established by Lee Alexander Pettigrew (HBA’89), and supported by Alan G. Sellery (HBA’87), John Findlay (BA’87) and Michael Killeen (LLB’90) to honour Vaughn Peckham, BA’69, a former Western volleyball coach.
Saying thanks
Western students share their gratitude for student awards

“As a mature student, returning to university posed many challenges. That’s why I owe much of my success to the generous donors who support student awards. Your kindness has allowed me to achieve my dream of becoming a nurse – and to show that anything is possible.”
Reem Gray, BScN’14
Recipient of the E. Jean Kunz Continuing Award

“I believe there’s great value in learning and performing music, and in the future, I hope to help children discover and harness their musical skills. Your support of this scholarship will help me in pursuit of this goal.”
Julie Rempel, BMus’16
Recipient of the Evanov Radio Group Music Entrance Scholarship

“Receiving an award provided me with a great deal of confidence as well as confirmation I was on the right track in my graduate studies in library and information science. To a considerable degree, the award spurred me on during the final months of my studies.”
Ben Robinson, MLIS’13
Recipient of the Christopher Mathew Dixon LIS Memorial Scholarship

“I have great appreciation for the skills gained, situations encountered and challenges overcome as part of my time at Western. These experiences have molded me into a well-rounded and critical-thinking person. Your gift has been a fantastic contribution to that journey.”
Jaimie Franks, BA’13
Recipient of the David H. Swankie Jr. Award in History

“Your support of students who study arts and humanities truly makes a difference in that it serves as a reminder that you see value in the work we do and the education we achieve.”
Marco Ciarlariello, BA’13
Recipient of the William Ferguson Tamblyn Scholarship
Definitions of Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

The term “awards” is often used to refer to a grouping of scholarships, awards and bursaries. University Policy 2.10 defines the use of these titles as follows:

**Award:** A monetary payment given on the basis of a combination of academic and non-academic criteria. Normally, a minimum “B” (70 per cent) average is required for undergraduate students.

**Bursary:** A monetary award/payment based primarily on demonstrated financial need.

**Scholarship:** A monetary award having a fixed minimum value, based on general academic excellence (normally a minimum “A” (80 per cent) average), or on excellence in a specific subject or group of subjects, and in some cases also on non-academic criteria.

Additional Information and Questions

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the online listing of student awards granted during the 2012/2013 academic year (September 2012 to mid-June 2013). Not all established awards are given out every year, based on the availability of qualified recipients who meet the terms of the award or other circumstances. Similarly, awards intended for multiple recipients may also not be given out in full number.

For the purposes of the listing, students have the option to maintain their privacy by requesting anonymity. Such requests have been honoured through the listing of “anonymous recipients.”

If you would like additional information or have questions about a student award you established, please contact Marcia Gibson in Alumni Relations & Development (t. 519.661.2111 ext. 88031, e. mjgibson@uwo.ca).

Student Appreciation

Western students are extremely grateful to benefit from donor support and all student award recipients are encouraged to prepare a thank you letter to the donor of their award. Alumni Relations & Development is pleased to forward all letters received to donors or award contacts.

Student Contact

If you would like to meet the recipient of the award you have established, please contact Marcia Gibson in Alumni Relations & Development (t. 519.661.2111 ext. 88031, e. mjgibson@uwo.ca). Most students welcome the opportunity to express their appreciation in person.

Award Listing

To view a complete list of student awards and recipients, go to: extraordinary.westernu.ca/your-impact/student-awards

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Support graduate student research

Investing in the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program allows you to create a full scholarship that funds innovative graduate student research and drives groundbreaking discovery. For every dollar you donate, the provincial government contributes two, tripling the impact of your gift.

To learn more about creating an OGS, visit giving.westernu.ca/where-to-give/ontario-graduate-scholarships/

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Global Opportunities Awards

Our goal is to establish a permanent series of Global Opportunities (GO) Awards to offer more Western students the experience of attending university outside Canada, participating in exchange programs, building communities around the world, and learning new languages and perspectives. In recognition of the importance of international programs for our students and their futures, the University is providing matching funds to our alumni and friends who choose to support the GO Awards at Western.

For more information about our plan to offer the world as a classroom to our students, please contact:

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