The Jarislowsky Foundation gift fuels Western's influence on central banking
Shaping the Western experience

The Western’s Be Extraordinary Campaign aims to raise $750 million by 2018 to help educate the next generation of leaders and enhance the impact of our research.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, we have so far raised more than $645 million – 86 per cent of that goal. While we still have work to do, we are incredibly proud of what you’ve helped us accomplish and we are grateful for your contributions to the Western Experience.

In this issue of Impact Western, you will read about two of our newly created Chairs: the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity and the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking. Both of these prestigious academic positions were made possible through donor support and will help Western attract leaders in their fields.

You will also meet Kevin Vuong, BMOS’11, who shares how his experiences as a second-generation immigrant and the first person in his family to attend university inspired him to make a gift in his will to support future generations of community-minded Western business students.

Also included in this issue are stories about a few of the many students benefiting from awards and scholarships made possible by donor support. Justin Alexander overcame numerous challenges, including abuse, drugs and being homeless, before coming to Western. He just completed his first year in Engineering and plans to pursue a career in environmental engineering.

Craig Logan, another recipient, was a competitive cyclist sidelined by a concussion. He made the decision to pursue a different passion and is currently completing his Master of Financial Economics degree and an internship at the Bank of Canada.

I hope you are as impressed as I am by the opportunities being created as a result of the support we receive from extraordinary alumni and friends like you. On behalf of the Western community, thank you for your continued and inspiring support of Western and our students.

Amit Chakma
President &
Vice-Chancellor
Western University
In order to address the rapid change within its industry, a Canadian banking giant has invested in Western students with an eye toward “home-grown Canadian innovation.” It’s an investment, Ivey Business School officials say, will provide exciting learning experiences for Ivey students.

Earlier this year, Brian Porter, Scotiabank President and CEO, announced $3 million in funding to create the Scotiabank Digital Banking Lab at the Ivey Business School.

“We have a long history and strong relationship with Western and Ivey. In this digital age, we saw an opportunity to strengthen our relationship and deliver even greater value. To successfully grow the bank’s digital capabilities, we must foster innovative thinking and research, attract the right talent and create opportunities to showcase our digital commitment,” Porter said.

“This partnership involves a $3-million investment by Scotiabank, and is aimed at driving significant value. This new lab includes many exciting opportunities.”

The partnership will include research projects and case studies addressing the impact of digitization and disruption in the financial sector; internships and field study for Ivey students at Scotiabank and the Scotiabank Digital Factory; and co-sponsorship of digital events that showcase Scotiabank’s and Ivey’s leadership in adapting to and embracing digital change.

Most of the programs will start in fall 2016.

Ivey Dean Robert Kennedy looks forward to the linkage between Western’s business school and a “global leader in emerging digital business issues.”

“Our partnership will help to shape the future of finance and banking, advance academic and practitioner research and provide exciting learning experiences for Ivey students,” Kennedy said. “I would like to thank Scotiabank for their leadership and support and together I’m confident we can drive home-grown Canadian innovation to address the challenges facing the finance sector.”

Headed by Ivey professors Jean-Philippe Vergne and Michael King, the lab will build on the work of these digital disruption scholars through access to “really, really relevant data,” Kennedy said.

“Scotiabank is going to be sharing a lot of their data that will inform our research. And they are going to participate in how we share some of that research,” he continued. “That will be a really fruitful relationship.

“Five years out, we’re going to be getting both academic and practitioner research out that sheds light on this digital disruption in finance. And Scotiabank will have a real presence with us – sharing their cutting-edged insights with students in our various programs. That is what success is going to look like.”

Porter made the announcement during his keynote address, as part of the J.C. Taylor Distinguished Lecture in Finance. The funding is part of a collaborative partnership between Scotiabank and Ivey, focused on digital banking, which will help generate thought leadership and develop future talent in the digital space.

For more information about supporting Ivey Business School, contact Abbey Baran, Associate Director, Corporate Relations (519.661.2179 or abaran@ivey.uwo.ca)
Thanks to a multi-million dollar gift from The Jarislowsky Foundation, Western will continue to build its influence in central banking upon an already storied past in the discipline.

Announced earlier this year, the $2-million endowed gift, matched by Western, will establish the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking in the Department of Economics, with the aim to encourage excellence in teaching, mentorship and research in the field of central banking.

The Jarislowsky Foundation, based in Montreal, was founded by Canadian businessman and philanthropist Stephen A. Jarislowsky in 1991.

“Our main aim and focus is excellence. We try to do things in areas which make people in our age think,” Jarislowsky said. “When I look at your chair, it was designed to make you think about central banking. Central bankers have achieved an enormous influence on the lives of all kind of countries.

“I hope this chair will lead to better central bankers, better government and better handling of finance around the world. That is a big objective.”

The Jarislowsky Chair will focus on researching issues related to central banking within macroeconomics, monetary economics, international finance, financial markets and institutions, or a less traditional field, such as labour economics, international economics, development economics, public economics or applied microeconomics. The chair will play an important role in research centres housed in Economics and the Ivey Business School, such as the Centre for Financial Innovation and Risk Management, the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management and the Centre for Human Capital and Productivity.

“The timing is right for a chair in central banking because of everything that has happened since the 2008 financial crisis,” said Audra Bowlus, Economics professor and department chair. “Central bankers have been extremely busy trying to figure out if the policies they were using before the crisis should still be the policies they are using after the crisis. In order to answer this question, they look to researchers and their own research divisions. They have expanded the types of research they look at into all aspects of the economy and how their policies interact and better promote prosperity.”

For almost 40 years, Western has been a powerhouse for this type of economic thought. Feeding off what The Globe and Mail once described as a “fortuitous combination of a young, energetic and talented faculty, an influx of exceptional graduate students and the burning real-world economic questions of the period,” Western housed a collection of top, cutting-edged economic minds who launched a generation of Canadian economic leaders.

Today, Western-trained economists hold high positions within American central banks, the top spot at the Reserve Bank of Australia, as well as several top positions at the Bank of Canada.
“Western has a long-standing history of having strength in this area. Back in the 1980s and 1990s, there were a large number of people here who were researching ideas and issues of importance to central bankers and the policies they were making,” Bowlus said. “Western has always maintained strength in the areas of macro-economics, international economics and monetary policy. This chair is going to allow us to grow even more and build even more in that area.

“We are building upon that history. That is what is so important to us in our ability to make us unique.”

With that history behind it, Jarislowsky and Bowlus said expectations are high for the holder of the position. The chair will be an internationally known expert in his/her field of research, and be involved in an original and innovative research program that has policy implications of relevance to central bank decision-making.

Born in Berlin, Germany, in September 1925, Jarislowsky studied mechanical engineering at Cornell University and then served in U.S. Army counter-intelligence in Japan after the war. Upon his return to the United States in 1946, he attended the University of Chicago, then earned an MBA at Harvard Business School in 1949.

He founded Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited in June 1955 in Montreal. Now Chairman and Former President of the firm, he has directed the growth of the company to become one of the largest and most successful investment management firms in Canada.

His study of history has led him to believe in the power of central banking, while still questioning some of the decisions made by central bankers over the years.

“We looked to what central bankers have accomplished ever since central banks were created about 100 years ago and we came to the conclusion that most of the decisions of these central banks were poor decisions,” Jarislowsky said. “Since central banks today are one of the main elements to creating and maintaining stability in a democracy, where the use of money is far too often used to buy votes rather than to do the things with that money that need to be done, we felt central banks, which are basically independent of the government, should learn how to be independent and learn how to make the right decisions. There are so many instances of where the wrong decisions were made, it is almost believable the art of central banking did not get to a point where people learned from their mistakes.”

Since 1990, The Jarislowsky Foundation has endowed 29 university chairs exploring subjects ranging from corporate governance and biotechnology to art history and religion. He contributes frequently to television, radio, magazines and newspapers. He is the author of *The Investment Zoo*, published in 2005.

“Universities have always been the place where, if you wanted to, you have the time and luxury to be able to think things through and gather the information and make major, major contributions to the world,” Jarislowsky said.

Western – the undergraduates, master’s and PhD students – are going to work with some of the best and brightest in this area. They really will be the future of central banking. They will be the people who go to work at the Bank of Canada, they will go to work at the Reserve Bank of Australia or the Board of Governors in the U.S. They will be the future decision-makers and they will have their foundation come from this chair and Western Economics.”

For more information about supporting the Faculty of Social Science, contact Rob Rombouts, Social Science Communications Officer (519.661.2111, ext. 84739 or rombout@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
Once driven by the desire to make money, Kevin Vuong, BMOS’11, had an “epiphany moment” while on a trade mission to the Asian Pacific region in 2010. And now today, he makes money with plans to give it away.

“Growing up, we didn’t have very much money. When that happens you just want to make as much money as possible, which is partly why I went into finance,” said Vuong, a second generation immigrant whose parents were refugees from the Vietnam War. “I traveled abroad to Asia and realized how lucky I was to have been born in Canada and to have been able to pursue my education at such a great institution as Western.

“It’s one thing to read about challenges abroad; it’s another thing to truly see them first-hand. When I came back my way of thinking changed and I didn’t want to just make as much money as possible – I wanted to do more than that.”

That experience prompted Vuong to look at ways to use his skills and experience to make a difference.

Vuong works for a number of organizations in Toronto, where he lives, including serving as Co-Chair of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy and as President of the Southcore Community Association. He also volunteers his time with Western’s DAN Management Alumni Council, where he serves as Chairman, and with Toronto’s alumni chapter.

Despite all his volunteer work, he felt like he could do more. Recently, Vuong decided to become a planned giving donor, making a gift to Western in his will that, when realized, will establish the Vuong Canadian Leadership Award to support a student in the DAN program who demonstrates a drive to give back to the community and support those less fortunate.

“Western is the No. 1 reason I’m where I am now. It’s important to me to help and have an impact. If anything I do helps even one student have an easier time, then I’ve done that. I always knew I wanted to give back to the school. Initially that began by offering my time and expertise and my relationships and my network,” he said.

The decision to make a planned gift came to him while completing his officer’s training with the Navy, where he currently serves as an Intelligence Officer at Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship YORK.

“It was the dead of night and I was exhausted wondering why in the world I had voluntarily signed up to do this,” he explained. “We had just finished a simulated gas attack training exercise and it was quiet and there was no one around. I started to think about some of the challenges I’ve faced. That set me on the path to creating a planned gift.

“As much as I was already doing for Western, I felt like I wanted to do more. I asked myself, “What were the challenges that I had?”

Growing up in Brampton, Ont., Vuong was mentored by students from the Ivey Business School when he was in high school. Their influence prompted him to follow in their footsteps and study finance. He enrolled in Western’s DAN Management and Organizational Studies program with the intention of transitioning to Ivey, but after working in a bank during his first year and a summer at TD Securities in second year, decided to stay in the DAN program.

“I already had my foot in the door at the bank and the DAN program gave me the flexibility to pursue my other interests in politics...
and public policy so I’m glad I chose that route,” he said.

During his first year at Western, Vuong held a full-time job at a call centre for TD Canada Trust, attending classes from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and then working from 3 - 11 p.m. every day.

“My mother has Scleroderma, a rare autoimmune disease with no cure and can’t work, and my father was laid off in my first year at Western. As the oldest child, I felt a responsibility to help my family. You’re not able to do quite so well in school because by the time you get home you can only do so much before going to sleep and repeating it all the next day,” he said.

After his first year, Vuong cut down his workload to part-time after securing a line of credit, making it “more manageable” and also making it possible for him to get involved in campus and community organizations. Since then, he has amassed an extensive list of accomplishments, including being named Canada’s Top Under 30 Pan-Asian leader in 2014; an RBC Emerging Scholar in 2015; a Geneva Challenge global finalist; and a Public Fellow as a leading Canadian thinker under 35 for the 2016 Spur Festival. He has also represented Canada at international forums including the 2010 G8 and G20 Summits, the 2013 G20 Summit, and was a Western News Newsmakers in 2014.

Following graduation, Vuong spent a few years in banking and capital markets, and then returned to Western to complete a master’s degree in Geography. Halfway through the program, however, his family faced financial challenges that led him to withdraw and return to work full-time.

Instead of returning to banking, Vuong switched gears and now, in addition to his continued work with the Navy, he is Head of Municipal Partnerships at Ryerson University’s Magnet Project, where he builds cross-sectoral partnerships across Canada, seeking to combat unemployment and underemployment among individuals who face barriers.

Although he jokingly admits “inner turmoil” working for an institution other than Western, his career is more in line with his commitment to the notion of “service before self” – a trait he hopes that future recipients of the Vuong Canadian Leadership Award award will have.

Perhaps more important to him, however, is this award will honour his family and the fact he was able to complete his education, he said.

“I’m in a place where I can afford to make that gift – but just two years ago I had to withdraw from my master’s program as a result of financial challenges. Part of the motivation of my gift is so that no student has to face a similar decision to what I did, where they have to choose between helping to support their family and pursuing his or her education.”

Kevin Vuong, BMOS’11

For more information about making a gift in your will, please contact a member of the Bequest Team or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca/ways-to-give/planned. Jane Edwards (519.661.2111, ext. 88829 or jane.edwards@uwo.ca) or Mike O’Hagan (519.661.2111, ext. 85585 or mike.ohagan@uwo.ca)
A matter of Character

Godmother’s gift opens libraries to the world

by Crystal Lamb photos by Rayanne Tipert

Artist Gao Dan wanted to create something special to celebrate her godson Kevin Shen’s graduation from the Ivey Business School. And so, after hundreds of hours of work, Dan presented that creation – The Thousand Character Classic – to Western Archives at an event held the day before Shen’s Convocation on June 21.

“I feel proud and honoured about my godmother’s decision,” said Shen, HBA’16. “My godmother was very serious about this donation and, as her godson, all I knew was I had to make sure this gift would be handed to the right people at the right time.”

The Thousand Character Classic is a Chinese poem that has been used for centuries to teach Chinese characters to children. It contains exactly 1,000 characters that are only used once and arranged into 250 lines of four characters each. Adorning a long scroll measuring approximately 9 metres by 20 centimetres, the characters are presented in script calligraphy and contain knowledge from numerous subjects condensed together similar to an encyclopedia, Shen explained.

Creating the piece is the result of meticulous work, Shen said, adding if a mistake was made, Dan would have to begin from scratch. “It’s hard to say how long it takes. You have to have the right rhythm and the right attitude. It’s difficult to give a number but it’s approximately 200 hours. She would meditate before starting to write to find peace in herself and practice every day for five to seven hours,” he said.

Dan hopes the donation, which will be on display in a custom-designed case in the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library once current renovations there are complete, will teach people who see it in the library about the “beauty of Chinese characters and Chinese history to enhance the culture exchange between China and Canada,” she said, with Shen translating on her behalf. “She wanted to create an artwork that could be
representative of Chinese culture and felt The Thousand Character Classic is not only an interesting piece that represents the wisdom and philosophy of Chinese culture, but also the theme is aligned with the educational aspect that libraries have," said Shen, who has been accepted to the London Business School and will begin there in the fall. "Western and Ivey provided me a world-class education in the last four years and, in return, the artwork should also be a world-class one."

University Archivist Robin Keirstead called this work of original calligraphy an important addition to Western Libraries’ Special Collections that he and his colleagues were honoured to receive.

"The nature of this gift and its timing are particularly significant for us, as they come at a time when Western Libraries is nearing the end of the first phase of our Global Library Space initiative," he said. "Our goal is to create a series of culturally themed learning spaces – for community gathering and for collaborative and independent study – that feature cultural displays that will give Western’s diverse student body a place to learn about and celebrate our multifaceted heritage. We look forward to displaying The Thousand Character Classic proudly in the Asian-themed space we’re creating in our Allyn & Betty Taylor Library."

To learn more about Western Libraries or to make a donation, contact Julie Ryan, Development Officer, Western Libraries (519.661.2111, ext. 88078 or jryan63@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
Earth Sciences students are getting hands-on experience in reconstructing what’s happening far beneath the Earth’s surface, thanks to a generous gift of software from IHS Markit.

The software package, valued at more than $1 million, is the largest donation to date from IHS Markit, a global source of information and analytics for companies in a number of industries, including manufacturing, technology, energy and automotive, and longtime supporter of Western’s Earth Sciences program.

With these tools, students have the opportunity to take real data from oil and gas wells in western Canada and learn to use it in a number of ways that will allow them to recreate lost worlds now buried by kilometres of rock, said Earth Science professor Burns Cheadle, PhD’86, Director of Corporate Relations & Student Development in the Faculty of Science.

“This very generous gift allows our students to learn by getting access to real-world data and real-world tools,” said Cheadle, who worked in the oil and gas industry in Calgary for 25 years before retiring and returning to teach at Western, his alma mater.

“As we emphasize experiential learning and professional development in students in Science, it’s through support like this that those experiences are possible. Without this gift students would have a much less authentic learning environment.”

Providing students access to this software aligns with the commitment to corporate sustainability at IHS Markit and giving back in support of initiatives around the world related to “living well, living wise and living green,” said Marilyn Johnson, Head of Sustainability at IHS Markit.

“We look at the value of giving back to the community in a number of ways. Every year, our staff gives back thousands and thousands of hours volunteering, in addition to our charitable giving. Last year, our giving of in-kind donations in support of education was the equivalent of more than $184 million (U.S.) of software given in more than 50 countries and at more than 350 institutions around the world.”

Two of the primary areas in which IHS Markit has technology it gifts to universities are geoscience applications and petroleum engineering applications, both of which are very technical areas, explained Russell Roundtree, Vice-President of Geoscience and Engineering at IHS Markit.

“Often professors are tasked with attempting to create a curriculum that addresses technical problems that are quite difficult to resolve in other programs, such as Excel. We provide a relatively easy-to-use and simple application to help guide professors through a lot of problems that students will encounter in the working world,” Roundtree said.

“Any time you gift technology to a university it’s a two-phased approach: one is to make the software available to them; the other is to liaise with the professor, and perhaps the students directly, on what problems this software solves and how best to apply its use in the established curriculum.”

Having students trained to use their software is beneficial to IHS Markit, students and the oil and gas industry, in general, Johnson said.

“We want graduates coming into the workforce to be familiar with IHS Markit software and insights and how they can use our tools when they get out into the real world,” she continued. “A segment of our customers hire graduates in the oil and gas sector and they are always emphasizing how important it is for students to be familiar with the technologies and the workflows associated with them. For these companies, applying real-world technology in the classroom is an important step to lead students into the workforce.”
Faculty of Music students will soon have the opportunity to benefit from a scholarship program created in memory of an Ivey Business School alumnus who shared in their passion for music.

In honour of this alumnus, Shaw Communications recently donated $100,000 to establish the Paul W. Robertson Music Scholarship, named for the company’s former Executive Vice-President and President of Shaw Media. Robertson, HBA’77, passed away in 2014. As part of this donation, students have the opportunity to apply for two $5,000 scholarships each year.

“Paul was an extraordinary leader and friend,” said Brad Shaw, Chief Executive Officer, Shaw Communications Inc. “He made a significant difference in this world, and we hope that each scholarship will foster a love for learning in all the recipients.”

The first two $5,000 Paul W. Robertson Music Scholarships will be awarded this fall to two full-time, undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Musical Arts Degree in the Don Wright Faculty of Music who demonstrate academic achievement and strong musical ability.

Voice professor Theodore Baerg, Co-ordinator of Operatic Studies, said support like Shaw’s helps to attract talented students and encourages them to pursue their passions in arts-related fields.

“People who graduate with music degrees often end up in music or music-related careers that make a big contribution to our society as teachers or performers. Seeing scholarships like this gives people the courage and a kind of sense of direction to believe that this part of our society has real value and is going somewhere,” he said.

“There is opportunity and availability of careers in this area. A vital part of the fabric of a really vibrant society is a strong commitment and understanding of the arts. Even Mozart developed his skills, was given opportunity and chances that changed his world and that of music for all time.”

Having a well-respected organization like Shaw recognize the value of the music program and the arts in general is also inspiring, said Baerg, who has performed in opera and concert on virtually every major stage in Canada and many in the United States, Europe and Asia, over the course of his long and critically acclaimed career.

“Someone in the corporate world who has the foresight to make this kind of commitment to scholarships for musicians really sees the possibilities of Canada’s young people and for that the recipients will always be grateful and for that the arts community is also grateful.”

For more information about supporting student awards, contact Carole Stinson, Executive Director, Development Programs (519.661.2111, ext. 85696 or cstinson@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
When Justin Alexander looks to the future, it’s filled with possibilities of what he can become: a fighter jet pilot in the Air Force, the creator of a new fuel or energy source, a loving and supportive father. It’s hard to believe that just a few years ago he was involved in drugs, living on the streets and failing high school.

“I wasn’t going very far in life,” said Alexander, 19, who just completed his first year in Engineering at Western. “One time in high school I actually had 3 per cent in a class. It wasn’t that I was stupid; I just never tried in school. I never saw myself at Western or in Engineering.”

An only child, Alexander was born in Winnipeg, Man., but was immediately abandoned by his mother at birth and moved with his father to London at three days old. After years surrounded by drugs and dealing with worsening abuse by his father, Alexander left home at 16 years old and spent months sleeping on friends’ couches when he could and in parks when he couldn’t.
“My father can’t work because of a car accident and wouldn’t be getting money for me once I became an adult. He told me when I turned 18 I wouldn’t be allowed to live in the house. I didn’t want to be homeless in the winter, so I decided to leave early. I grabbed my stuff and left. When I went back a few months later, he was gone and the house was for sale. I don’t know where he is,” Alexander continued.

Those months of being homeless before he found his own place to live were “horrible and hard.” He has supported himself since the age of 15 by working in restaurants. But those experiences also helped him realize that he wanted more out of his life.

“My mother and father didn’t graduate from high school. I believe your educational and professional choices affect your children. What you choose to do professionally will affect your income, too. I want to be a pilot, but I also want to do something that would be safer, financially. My biggest hope is that I can have a successful career so I can be there for my children in the future and they’ll never have to go through what I went through,” he said.

His involvement in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets was another catalyst for him, helping him to hone leadership skills and giving him the opportunity to earn his pilot’s license through the organization’s scholarship program.

“Air Cadets really saved me. I was successful in the pilot program and I thought, ‘Why am I not doing that in school?’ In Grade 11, I started trying harder and putting in the effort. The usual 50s and 60s turned into 80s and 90s.”

Once his grades improved, Alexander set his sights on university and applied to six schools, with Western being his first choice – and the last one he was accepted to, he said, adding he was so excited when he was notified that he “clicked yes right away.”

In an effort to raise money toward tuition, Alexander sought assistance through the crowdfunding site GoFundMe, sold the “piece of junk” car he had recently purchased and applied for financial assistance.

“Since I didn’t have parental income, it was a long process for me to get a student loan because I had to prove that. I ended up having to sell my car to pay for text books, rent and everything and then three days after I did that I found out I received the Winnifred and Ross Harrison Bursary,” he said.

The Winnifred and Ross Harrison Bursary was established by a generous gift from Winnifred Harrison and her late husband, Ross. It is awarded to a first-year student with financial need. Although the Harrisons are not graduates of Western, they always believed in the transformative power of education.

Looking forward to beginning his second year in the fall, Alexander is happily living with roommates, continuing to work part-time and plans to resume his involvement with the cadets and volunteering with other campus organizations. He thinks he’ll one day have a career related to green processing or environmental engineering, but says he isn’t certain yet what the future holds for him.

“I’d like to be the guy who makes the new fuel or the new energy source because that’s the way the world is going now. We need it now more than ever. We’re paying a lot of money to get an education so you might as well have big plans for after,” he said.

Alexander also isn’t ruling out a career in the Royal Canadian Air Force. “Deep down I also still want to be a pilot. I’ve wanted to be a fighter jet pilot and join the Air Force since I was 6, but with all of the other things I had going on, I couldn’t put in the time commitment and I also thought maybe I should have a more practical career.

“I was so happy the first time I flew a plane solo. There’s a tradition that you’re supposed to sing as loud and as horribly as you want. I can’t remember what song it was now and it would have been embarrassing if anyone heard it, but it was amazing. Who knows? We’ll see what comes up. There’s no ‘for sure’ path yet.”

What he does know for sure is he wouldn’t be where he is now if it weren’t for help from others along the way. He hopes sharing his story will inspire others to give what they can.

“Getting the bursary helped me to only have to work on weekends and not miss any classes. It’s frustrating to me that education isn’t free, but that getting an education is also sometimes the only way to break the cycle,” Alexander said. “If you don’t have the money or your parents don’t have it, it’s hard. I didn’t ask to have parents like mine and I want to go to school. I would work more hours if I could and still go to school but it’s not possible. I need financial support or I wouldn’t be here. Everyone’s story is different.”

For more information about supporting student awards, contact Carole Stinson, Executive Director, Development Programs (519.661.2111, ext. 85696 or cstinson@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
MFE student riding donor awards to finish line

by Crystal Lamb illustration by Scott Woods
Craig Logan has always pushed himself to succeed. As a competitive road cyclist, he traveled across Canada and around the globe – he dreamed of one day competing at the Olympics. Then, an accident and subsequent concussion changed his life.

“I come from a background of athletics. My first two years of university I was committed to training and competing in cycling. That was the focus of my life,” said Logan, 24, who was pursuing an undergraduate degree in Economics at the University of Victoria at the time of his accident.

“My goal was to become a professional athlete. When I hit my head I realized maybe that wasn’t the safest route. I don’t want to hit my head again. After that, I focused all my energy on school and wanted to be the best at that instead.”

Following the accident, Logan concentrated on completing his degree and started researching graduate schools. Certain he wanted to do something finance-related, he ultimately chose Western’s Master of Financial Economics (MFE) program, a collaboration between Economics, Law, Ivey Business School and Statistical & Actuarial Sciences.

“Through my cycling team, we had a number of events with sponsors and many of them had backgrounds in finance. Talking to them, and looking up to them and learning what they did, inspired me to pursue finance. Western’s MFE program also brought me closer to the financial hub of Canada than Victoria,” he explained.

Now nearing the end of his program, Logan will graduate in December following the completion of his internship at the Bank of Canada in Ottawa, where he’s been working in the Market Structure and Regulation division performing research and assisting with policy work.

In addition to completing his master’s degree, Logan is also studying for his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. With his busy schedule and heavy workload making it difficult to work to support himself, he’s grateful to have received donor assistance along the way. Last year, Logan was the recipient of both the Brisson-Toal Master of Financial Economics – Econometrics Award and the Brisson-Toal Master of Financial Economics – Quantitative Finance Award, two of the coursework-related awards established by Anne Toal, BSc’78 (Honors Mathematics), and her husband, Paul Brisson, to support MFE students.

“I’m funding my education primarily through student loans, so it’s a huge help to receive this financial support. Student loans are a huge stress in my life. Getting financial aid helps me to focus more on studies and not worry as much. It’s really a big thing for me,” Logan said.

Toal and Brisson, who both had careers in the financial services sector in insurance and investments, said their decision to fund students was influenced, in part, by their experience in the field.

“We could see the economic and business needs for the talents and skills that the MFE program provides to students and felt that our support would help to give students unique skills that match job demands, and provide benefit to both businesses and certain government and regulatory organizations,” Toal said.

“We hope our awards will go to hard-working, creative students who are seeking challenges and who are developing global viewpoints on the financial and investment sectors.”

Currently, Logan is considering a number of career paths after graduation, including returning to the Bank of Canada, working for one of the big six banks in the private sector or joining a proprietary trading firm or pension fund.

“I’m not worried about finding a job; I’m more worried about finding the right job,” he continued. “There are a lot of prospects but a lot involve 100-hour workweeks. It’s a matter of really targeting what you want and going after that.”

Wherever he lands, he plans to support future generations, just as donors like Toal and Brisson have supported him. “Giving back has always been the goal. Throughout my experiences in athletics and throughout my education I’ve received a lot of financial support. I want to better myself so I’m in a position to give back myself.”

With all of the deserving causes looking for support, it can be a challenge to choose. Therefore, it’s important to support something meaningful, Toal said. “A university education was a stepping stone to very rewarding careers for both my husband and myself. We know that many students go on from university to do incredible things in a wide range of fields. It is important for every graduate of Western to reflect on how their education contributed to their success and to give back if they can.”

For more information about supporting student awards, contact Carole Stinson, Executive Director, Development Programs (519.661.2111, ext. 85696 or cstinson@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
Creativity on Western’s campus and beyond will soon get a boost now that the fundraising campaign for the new Alice Munro Chair in Creativity is complete.

Since launching the campaign in 2013 to commemorate Munro’s Nobel Prize in Literature, the Faculty of Arts & Humanities has raised $1 million, which will be combined with a $2-million commitment from Western to create the endowed chair.

“We are thrilled to be moving forward with the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity and grateful to the many supporters who made it possible,” said Michael Milde, Dean of Western’s Faculty of Arts & Humanities. “Not only does this prestigious chair recognize and honour Ms. Munro’s creative accomplishments as a Nobel Prize-winning writer and storyteller, it will be unique in Canada’s academic landscape and will promote creativity across campus and in the broader community.”

Highly acclaimed as a literary icon, Munro has received numerous awards and accolades for her short-story writing in addition to her Nobel Prize, including multiple Governor General’s Awards, the Man Booker International Prize and the Giller Prize.

Naming the chair for Munro was also an opportunity to honour the relationship between Western and Munro. The author was an undergraduate student and published three short stories in Western’s undergraduate English magazine, Folio, from 1949-51, in addition to serving as Writer-In-Residence from 1974-75. In 1976, she received an honorary degree from Western – the only such honorary degree she has ever accepted.

The holder of the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity will serve as a mentor and model to scholars, students and creative talents. The chair’s work will focus on the production of creative work and analyses of creativity in today’s society and

Highly acclaimed as a literary icon, Alice Munro has received numerous awards and accolades for her short-story writing in addition to her Nobel Prize, including multiple Governor General’s Awards, the Man Booker International Prize and the Giller Prize.
Michael Milde, left, Arts & Humanities Dean, and Bryce Traister, English and Writing Studies Chair, are celebrating the fact the faculty has raised $1 million which, when combined with a $2-million commitment from Western, will create the new Alice Munro Chair in Creativity.

serve as a bridge between Western and the broader creative community. Recruitment for the position will soon begin, with the aim to fill the chair next spring.

“The Department of English and Writing Studies is honoured and delighted to participate in the search for the first Alice Munro Chair in Creativity,” said Bryce Traister, English and Writing Studies Chair. “As one of the world’s top English departments, Western English will attract interest from many talented and accomplished thinkers from across the world, one of whom will lead the department, the campus, the London community and, indeed, the world in a vibrant inquiry into the nature, role and practice of human creativity both within and beyond Arts & Humanities, both within and beyond the gates of the university.

“We look forward to the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity bringing students and faculty from all over campus into the excitement of invention, creation, innovation and speculation. What an exciting time to be part of Western English and Writing Studies.”

“We are thrilled to be moving forward with the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity and grateful to the many supporters who made it possible.”

Michael Milde
What do you hope students will take from their experiences studying in Western’s Faculty of Social Science?

A: A social science education – in addition to giving students the tools to succeed in areas related to social science – enables students to hone general skills, such as communication and problem-solving, which are essential in countless professions. Research has shown that social science programs teach the skills necessary to move up in the real world.

Q: What are some of the challenges currently facing Social Science?

A: The social sciences, generally, are suffering from an identity problem because instead of coming together, we’re too often working on our own and not collaborating in the ways we could be to get the best results. We also need to promote the importance and value of what social scientists can do through analyzing empirical data and looking to other countries for information to address so many of the issues in the world. We need to draw more attention to what Social Science can offer. If we invested a little more in these areas, we could come up with programs that would limit problems in other areas that aren’t necessarily seen as directly related, such as healthcare or terrorism. We’re uniquely situated to be able to tackle the largest issues facing society and providing solutions.

Q: What are a few of the new initiatives on the horizon?

A: We’re in the process of developing an Institute for Social and Economic Policy that will bring together top researchers in our faculty and elsewhere to conduct research and enable us to address critical issues facing our world today, such as immigration, ethnic relations, income disparity, human capital and economic prosperity, as well as produce first-rate academic research. Our aim is to foster a multidisciplinary approach to using advanced data creation and analytic techniques to generate evidence-based policy research that will inform social and economic policy. This institute will set Social Science apart and help to shine a light on the value of collaboration by social scientists, in general.

We are also in the process of creating a much-needed Social Science Student Reading Room. Once renovated, this signature space will be located in the former Map Library and will address the need for study and collaboration space in our ever-growing faculty. Currently, study space is at a premium, with students often having to sit on floors and in stairwells to study.

Q: Why should donors consider supporting Social Science?

A: There are many ways in which donors can and do provide a tremendous amount of support to our faculty and for which we are very grateful. I think it’s important that donors are excited about the projects and students they support. New initiatives like the institute and the reading room will truly make a difference to our students, our researchers and, ultimately, to our society because of the impact social scientists have on understanding and shaping our world. We want to work with donors to find projects that interest them and have meaning for them so they can feel like they’re part of something of value.

For more information about supporting the Faculty of Social Science, contact Rob Rombouts, Social Science Communications Officer (519.661.2111, ext. 84739 or rrombout@uwo.ca) or visit extraordinary.westernu.ca
Thank you to our donors

We would like to recognize the following individuals for their gifts of $25,000 or more and corporations, foundations and organizations for their gifts of $100,000 or more to Western between Feb. 1, 2016 and June 30, 2016. We also wish to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

This list reflects those gifts made during the time frame specified above; please note that it does not reflect cumulative giving to Western. Individual donors who have given $25,000 or more cumulatively and organizations that have given $100,000 or more cumulatively are recognized in The 1878 Societies. In addition, those individuals who have made a commitment to Western’s future through their wills, life insurance policies or other form of bequest are recognized in the Helen M.B. Allison Legacies Society.

We are very grateful for the extraordinary contributions made by our graduates around the world. Individual Western alumni and The Alumni Association of The University of Western Ontario have cumulatively given $479 million to Western University as of April 30, 2016.

Full donor lists can be found on our web site at: giving.westernu.ca/your-impact/recognition/

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- Michael Bernstein and Nan DasGupta
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**$25,000-$99,999**
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**$750 million**

Funds raised
$645 million
(as of July 31, 2016)

With your generous support of the Be Extraordinary campaign, you are enhancing The Western Experience – preparing the next generation of leaders to tackle the world’s most pressing social, economic, scientific, medical and cultural challenges. You are also contributing to groundbreaking research by leading scholars that is sparking new thinking and advancing innovative discovery.

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- Inspire Learning: Attracting and retaining the best faculty
  Goal: $215 million
- Build Tomorrow: Developing and investing in infrastructure
  Goal: $90 million

To learn more about Be Extraordinary, visit extraordinary.westernu.ca