



# 2014 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Chartered Accountants  
Education Foundation of Alberta

# ABOUT THE CA EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

The Chartered Accountants Education Foundation of Alberta (CAEF) supports the institutions and people who will develop and inspire future professional accountants. Through the contribution of every Alberta CA, and additional generous donations, the Foundation is able to provide support in the form of:

- funding awards to post-secondary institutions;
- PhD support funding to qualified individuals interested in accounting research and pursuing their PhD;
- teaching prizes to exceptional post-secondary educators;
- annual scholarships, awards and bursaries to Alberta high school, post-secondary and CA School of Business students, as well as Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) Professional Education Program Candidates; and
- funding for special projects that advance accounting education and raise the profile of the accounting profession.

The CAEF, led by a Board of Governors, is highly respected by members, post-secondary institutions and donors for its demonstrable contributions to business and enhancing the brand of the accounting profession.

# CAEF LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generous donations from our Alberta CAs, the Foundation was able to award the 30th Anniversary Scholarships once again this year!

The Foundation offered these scholarships in the form of awards called Legacy Scholarships.

## **Legacy Scholarship Awards:**

Aboriginal Student Business Award

Academic Excellence Awards

CA School of Business Student Award

Generations of Excellence Awards

Young Emerging Professional Awards

New Canadian Achievement Awards

**Meet the 2014 recipients  
in the pages that follow!**

*“Receiving this award is recognition from the people I wish to be my peers one day and affirms that I have the skills and abilities to accomplish my goals. Without contributions such as theirs, there would not be as many successful students in the world.” — Cameron LaRocque*

# ABORIGINAL STUDENT BUSINESS AWARD

Value: \$2,500

This award supports Aboriginal students in Alberta who want to pursue a professional accounting designation and/or a career in business.



## Cameron LaRocque

Growing up with both an aunt and uncle who are accountants, Cameron’s family had a great influence in his decision to pursue an accounting designation. “When my aunt brought me to Take Your Kid to Work day, I became inspired and wanted to be in her role,” says Cameron.

Cameron’s interest never wavered, and he’s now entering his fourth year at the University of Alberta’s School of Business with a major in accounting. With aspirations of either one day running a business of his own or holding an executive position with a medium-to large-sized company, Cameron is feeling even more inspired after receiving this award. “I am honoured and humbled to receive this award. It’s almost as though I was given confirmation that I could achieve my goals,” says Cameron.

When he’s not focused on his budding career, Cameron enjoys playing hockey for the U of A Campus St. Jean Centurions, playing guitar and volunteering for the Rocky Mountain Business Seminar.

*“The donors will never know the extent of my gratitude. They should be enormously proud of the support they offer. The accomplishments of those they’ve supported are now accomplishments of the donors themselves. The CAEF’s support shows me that students are worth the investment, generation after generation.”— Rebeka MacDonald*

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD POST-SECONDARY

Value: \$2,250

This award supports post-secondary students who excel in academics.



## Rebeka MacDonald

Rebeka MacDonald credits her academic success to her discipline, reliability and resilience. Knowing her strengths and personality would be best suited to a career in business, Rebeka chose to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Alberta. Now in the second year of her degree, Rebeka feels confident in her choice, “When I have an interest in something, the topic becomes much easier to retain and understand.”

She considers herself extremely focused, but does not consider herself to be a student with their “nose in the books.” While she acknowledges that classroom learning provides her with the fundamental technical skills, she values the development of her skills and intellect through life experiences as well.

Participating as a student member in Toastmasters has been one of those beneficial life experiences – she enjoys networking with other student members, and believes her overall confidence has improved during her time as a member. “Toastmasters has been a huge help in not only preparing me for presentations, but for potential job interviews as well,” says Rebeka.

Another important experience for Rebeka has been her time tutoring French to students in Grade 8. Prioritizing her bilingualism has given Rebeka an advantage, as she has recently accepted to partake in a business school exchange to France in 2015.

*“It means a lot to me that the CAEF takes an interest in students’ educations across the province. These awards are an excellent way to help students achieve their desired careers. Thank you so much.”— Hillary Dressel*

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HIGH SCHOOL

Value: \$2,250

This award supports high school students who excel in academics.

## Hillary Dressel

Most high school students struggle with the decision of “What do I want to do with my life?” For Hillary Dressel, a Grade 10 student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, she already knows she wants to become a professional accountant. “I have taken a course on the basics of accounting and I really enjoyed it. I enjoy working with numbers, so I believe a career in accounting will be a perfect fit for me,” says Hillary.

To achieve this career goal, Hillary knows she will have to continue to do well in her academics and gain work or volunteer experience that will lead her to become a well-rounded business professional.

Along with focusing on her academics, Hillary enjoys being involved with activities on her school’s campus, like playing on the field hockey team. She also volunteers on the Chief Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council for the Calgary Board of Education where she participates in educational discussions to represent the voice of high school students.

Hillary aspires to be a voice on the international front as well. In summer 2014, Hillary will be making a trip to Kenya for the “Me to We” project, where she will be helping villagers in the Massai Mara region.



*“Thank-you to all members and donors who support the CAEF and the work they do. I can tell you first-hand that these awards make an impact and a difference in the lives of future members.” — Justin Van Dyk*

# CA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AWARD

Value: \$2,500

This award is designed to support Alberta students who are enrolled in the CA School of Business (CASB) and working towards the Chartered Accountant designation.

## Justin Van Dyk

Twelve years ago Justin Van Dyk started working at John Van Dyk Professional Corporation in Lethbridge as an accounting technician—a temporary position while he pursued a career in policing. What he didn't know back then was that his career in public practice was only just beginning.

After a few years of working in public practice, Justin realized he was becoming more and more interested in getting his CA designation. To qualify for the CA School of Business, he decided to pursue the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta's Mature Student route, which entails completing 12 prerequisite courses and writing a challenging Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). With a wife and children at home to support, Justin knew it was a daunting task, but he was up for the challenge.

While completing the Mature Student route, Justin was involved as an active member of CCH's Development Partner Group where he gave advice and tested new accounting software. His role also included travel throughout North America to stay current with new products and the best practices of other firms.

The future looks bright for Justin, as he prepares to write the Uniform Evaluation (UFE) in September 2014. After obtaining his designation, Justin aspires to become partner and expand the IT practices in the consulting arm at John Van Dyk Professional Corp.



*“I would not be where I am today without the support of many individuals in my life, and that includes the CAEF’s donors. I am extremely grateful for this award. Thank you for recognizing my hard work.” — Brandon Stetson*

# GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

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**Value: \$2,500**

This award supports family of ICAA members in pursuing a career path in accounting.

*“This award has allowed me to more comfortably pursue my professional and personal goals without too much stress surrounding my budgetary concerns. I cannot adequately express the great impact that this has had on my life.” — Erin St Pierre*



## Brandon Stetson

With three Chartered Accountants in his immediate family, it's no wonder Brandon Stetson considered he might also have the accounting gene in his blood. "I decided to pursue accounting because it's something I enjoy doing. Also, I've been able to see the merits of the profession through my father, mother and aunt who are all Chartered Accountants," says Brandon.

Now in his fourth year at the University of Alberta's School of Business, Brandon plans to finish his Bachelor of Commerce degree, pursue his CPA designation and article at SVS Group LLP in Edmonton. "The funding from this award will help me greatly," says Brandon. "It will provide the additional financial flexibility I need to get started so I can focus my energy towards my studies in the CPA Professional Education Program without financial stress."

Knowing the years ahead will bring on different career opportunities, Brandon is prepared to keep an open mind. "I think locking myself into one specific goal may cause me to lose sight of other good opportunities. My ultimate goal is to work hard and find something I truly enjoy doing."



## Erin St Pierre

For Erin St Pierre, the choice to pursue an accounting designation came with a little guidance from her professors, colleagues and, most importantly, her sister, who happens to be a Chartered Accountant. "I have been lucky to see many of the benefits this designation has to offer through my sister's path as a CA," says Erin.

Sure enough, Erin's own experiences have confirmed her love of accounting. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Professional Accounting (MPAcc) program through the University of Saskatchewan. Learning she had received this award couldn't have come at a better time for Erin. "This funding made a huge impact on my financial situation and my ability to move to Saskatoon to pursue my MPAcc without taking on astronomical amounts of debt," says Erin.

This coming September, Erin begins articling at MNP Edmonton and hopes to find her niche and grow her career in an area of accounting she is passionate about.

*“The future leaders are today’s students and I truly appreciate organizations like the CAEF who, through their generous support, make it a priority to reach out to students like me and give us confidence as we take our place in the business world.” — Marko Laschuk*

# YOUNG EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

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**Value: \$5,000**

This award was created to support the next generation of aspiring young business leaders in Alberta.

*“I want to say thank you. These awards really make an impact on the lives of young professionals. They provide us with the ability to succeed in our chosen fields and give us the confidence to seek out our goals.”  
— Mariam Elamy*



## Marko Laschuk

Marko Laschuk defines what it means to be a “young emerging professional.” Though still in university, Marko is already a leader, both in and out of the classroom. Currently enrolled as an accounting major at the University of Alberta, Marko leads by example. He previously acted as the Vice President of External Relations with the Business Students’ Association and is part of the Leadership Certificate Program at the U of A School of Business.

While Marko has the brains for business, he also has a passion for athletics and sports, particularly tennis. Having played tennis competitively in Canada and internationally, Marko is the current captain of the Men’s Varsity Golden Bears tennis team and spends his free time coaching and volunteering in the community. “I believe to reach your full potential it’s very important to be a well-rounded individual that embraces family, friends, school/job, community work and a healthy lifestyle,” says Marko.

Marko is already reaching his full potential and his future accounting designation will surely set him apart from the rest of the crowd. “This award acknowledges the confidence I have in my aspiration to seek a career in accounting and as a leader of the future,” says Marko.

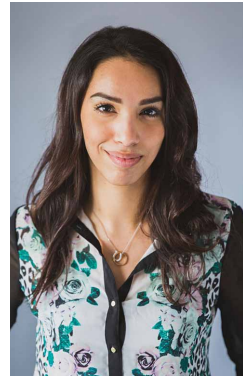
## Mariam Elamy

If she’s not busy studying for her Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Alberta School of Business, Mariam Elamy is volunteering her time in the community.

Mariam volunteers as a Human Resources Consultant with a not-for-profit organization called GEOMEER that concentrates on the local community and helps the less fortunate families in and around Edmonton. “I work with a dedicated group of individuals and I really hope to make a significant impact for the organization and the community as a whole,” says Mariam.

She plans to use the funding from the award to attend educational and developmental conferences abroad. She has been selected to participate in the G20 Youth Summit in Munich, Germany, and will be sitting on the roundtable for Human Rights & Law. “This opportunity will allow me to gain a better understanding of what I am most passionate about.”

Wherever her career takes her in business, Mariam knows she wants a career that will help those less fortunate in her community and the world. Her goal is to continue applying herself in the not-for-profit sector and gain the necessary skills to start her own organization.



*“I sincerely appreciate the contribution from the CAEF donors. Your generosity enables students like me to remain focused on studying and inspires me to be more proactive in assisting others to succeed in their careers.” — Hua Wei Chan*

# NEW CANADIAN AWARD

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**Value: \$2,500**

This award was created to support new Canadian or permanent residents who are working towards a commerce degree, or an accounting designation.

*“I want to thank the CAEF for believing in an education and offering students a reward for their hard work. As a student, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing that others see value in what you do and that in the end, when you work hard, you do get rewarded.” — Andra Bob*

## Hua Wei Chan

Discovering he had a knack for numbers at a young age, specifically mental arithmetic, which involves making arithmetical calculations using only the human brain, it is safe to say Hua Wei Chan found his calling in accounting.

After moving from Malaysia to Edmonton for his undergraduate studies, Hua Wei quickly discovered the merits of an accounting designation, and his efforts in attaining that goal did not go unnoticed. "Receiving this award shows that my effort in establishing my career in the accounting field has been recognized," says Hua Wei.

Having already passed the UFE, Hua Wei is currently finishing his articling hours at Collins Barrow in Edmonton, and will soon be a full-pledged Chartered Accountant. As if working and articling doesn't keep him busy enough, Hua Wei still finds time to pursue his newest hobby (snowboarding), improve his English language skills and volunteer on campus and in the community.



## Andra Bob

With a natural interest in numbers and math, it came down to two choices for Andra Bob: engineering or business. "My dad is an engineer and my mom is an accountant. Let's just say mom won this debate, so I went to business school," says Andra.

This proved to be a wise choice for Andra, who recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce, Cooperative Education degree with a major in accounting. With a career goal of becoming a CEO or VP of a North American company, Andra is on the right track as she enters into the new CPA Professional Education Program this fall.

Originally from Romania, Andra has embraced Canada as her second home and was very humbled to receive this award. "After emigrating to Canada when I was in Grade 9, we did not have a chance to set up a school fund, so the award money will go towards paying off my student loans," says Andra.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS TO THE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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These are the generous supporters who donated to the scholarship program from April 1, 2013, to May 31, 2014:

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*\*A special thanks to David and Janet Bentley. The Bentleys matched all other contributions donated to the CAEF Legacy Scholarships in 2013/14. Thanks to their support, the CAEF was able to reach its fundraising goal.*

# HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

- >Lend a hand to tomorrow's accounting leaders
- >Help build excellence in accounting educators
- >Provide support to post-secondary education
- >Raise the profile of the accounting profession
- >Give back to your community

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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