Alumni couple creates bursary to support graduate students

When Terry Hercus [BA/52] decided in 1989 to plan a legacy gift to the University of Manitoba, he opted to purchase a life insurance policy for that purpose.

After learning about the current need for graduate student support, he and his partner Myrna Rourke [CertNurs/65, BN/66, MEd/81, MN/82, PHD/95] decided to establish their bursary now, with a monthly gift.

With three generations of University of Manitoba graduates in the family, Rourke felt it was time to give back to the institution that has given them each the opportunity to learn and grow.

Hercus and Rourke are supporters of business and nursing students. Knowing that graduate students need better funding to study in Manitoba, they chose to support a bursary for MBA students. By also arranging for a bequest in Terry and then Myrna’s wills, they will increase the student support their award provides. But by giving now, they have the opportunity to participate in awards ceremonies and to meet the students who benefit from their support.

They anticipate the day in the near future when the very first recipient is announced!

“This bursary will provide some financial security and comfort for students in need. It is particularly gratifying that this kind of support comes from previous graduates who are also genuinely interested and encourage student success,” says Dean of the Asper School of Business, Michael Benarroch.
President’s Message

“Dreaming big doesn’t just mean looking for immediate and often temporary results; dreaming big requires dreaming over time, dreaming deep into the future.”

These thoughtful words were part of U of M alumnus Hartley Richardson’s speech on April 14, 2016, when he announced the Richardson Foundation’s $10 million gift for classroom and laboratory upgrades at the University of Manitoba.

Although months have passed since then, those words have stuck with me. They’re a wonderful reminder of the visionary nature of our donors, and the generational impact they have – especially those who make planned gifts at the U of M. Guided not by temporary results, but by the desire to make a lasting impact, each of our legacy donors exemplifies the optimism, foresight, and careful planning to which Hartley alluded.

In this issue of Visionaries, we recognize in Peri Venkatesh and Patrice Yamada’s gift the vision to leave the world a better place; we celebrate the generational impact created by David McBride, Myrna Rourke and Terry Hercus; and we thank all of our legacy donors for having the courage to dream big.

Sincerely,

David T. Barnard
President and Vice-Chancellor
Promoting positive change in the world an important goal of bursary

In 1985, St. Paul’s College student Rahul Aggarwal was killed in the Air India terrorist bombing. When a scholarship in his name was established at the University of Manitoba, family friends Peri Venkatesh [MN/91] and Patrice Yamada [BN/75] made a meaningful contribution to the fund in Rahul’s memory. They continue to promote peace through their giving.

“Teaching and learning, in my opinion, is nurturing, sustaining and empowering,” says Venkatesh. “I believe that the University of Manitoba is a very deserving place for our donation.”

Last year, when Venkatesh and Yamada were trying to decide how to direct their giving, they were pleased to discover that the University of Manitoba offers a joint master’s degree program in Peace and Conflict Studies with the University of Winnipeg. In the process of considering their current gift, both of them also arranged for future contributions to the award through their wills. The current gift will enable them to see first-hand the benefits they are providing for students, while their future gift will increase the award and add to the legacy of valuing peace.

The couple says they both thought, “What better way of demonstrating community building than through endowing a bursary in this field – bridging two university programs through one stream?”

They felt that the U of M’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies was a practical program with the potential to make a difference in international conflict resolution and human rights. The couple was thrilled to find an opportunity to directly support future leaders in affecting a positive change in the world.

Venkatesh and Yamada hope they can minimize some of the stress students feel during their post-secondary journeys. They know that by investing in these students, they build optimism and confidence in the world’s future.

Leaving Your Legacy

The University of Manitoba is grateful for all that our donors make possible through their generosity.

A gift by will, known as a bequest, provides you with the opportunity to support the University of Manitoba once your needs and those of your family have been met.

Bequests can be a residual amount (a percentage of your estate) or a specific dollar amount.

The benefits of making a bequest include:

• You can use the asset during your life.
• A bequest reduces taxes owed by your estate.
• A bequest can be modified if your financial circumstances change.

When arranging a gift to the University of Manitoba in your will, it can be helpful to your lawyer to have a sample will clause:

I direct my Executor or Trustee to pay to The University of Manitoba at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (____ percentage (%)) of my Estate; or the sum of $___) for the general use and purposes of The University of Manitoba in its absolute discretion.

Your gift can be unrestricted, allowing us to direct it where support is needed most, or designated to benefit student awards, research or a specific department, school or faculty. If you are considering a gift in your will, please contact the Planned Giving office so that we can help you plan your legacy at the University of Manitoba.
Bequest from ‘man ahead of his time’ helps Department of Chemistry

When Dr. David McBride first began teaching inorganic chemistry at the University of Manitoba, he was considered a man ahead of his time.

McBride’s commitment to experiential learning had no boundaries. He was a true showman, planning his lab time outside of normal class hours to avoid causing undo alarm brought on by explosions and blue smoke.

It was the early 1960s when McBride started encouraging his graduate students to study computer programming and to seek answers through collaborative research.

“At one point, students were sent to a geology course and a session on crystology to better understand a chemistry problem we were solving,” says Dr. Leonard Kruczynski. Dr. Kruczynski was a student in McBride’s very first class before he went on to join the Department of Chemistry himself. “Professor McBride loved learning and he pushed us to acquire as much knowledge as we could.”

Through a bequest in his will, Dr. McBride recently made a gift that will see experiential learning in the University of Manitoba chemistry labs take a big step forward. By upgrading first-year laboratories with state of the art equipment and facilities, students will be able to train in an environment that will prepare them for future success.

This gift will transform the learning experience for chemistry students, continuing Dr. McBride’s lifetime efforts to encourage students to learn through experimentation. A fitting legacy for a man devoted to hands on experience.

“Professor McBride loved learning and he pushed us to acquire as much knowledge as we could.”