



Planning Matters USA

Winter 2011

The motivation to give

Clinical psychologist John Baldwin [PhD/79] gives back to the school that helped him launch his career as a therapist, helping today's graduate students realize their own goals along the way.

John Baldwin was living in balmy southern California when he made the decision to come to the University of Manitoba to pursue his doctorate in clinical psychology. He and his wife were originally from New England, so they were confident they'd be able to deal with the Canadian winter.

"It was a longer and colder winter than what we were used to," admits Baldwin. But on the advice of another graduate student who said 'you can't beat winter, you've got to join it,' he and his wife Deborah learned to cross-country ski. "It was counterintuitive, but it was good advice."

Baldwin, now a clinical psychologist in the Boston area, has fond memories of his time in Winnipeg and the training he received at the University of Manitoba. That's why he's currently supporting the Marion and Morgan W. Wright Clinical Psychology Award, and has set up

a contingent bequest in his will for the award.

"It was a good time in our lives, we were warmly welcomed by the Canadians we met in Winnipeg," says Baldwin. "The training gave me the tools to advance my career as a psychologist."

"I feel indebted to the University of Manitoba and the psychology department because of the training I got," he continues. "In particular, I wanted to recognize Morgan Wright, one of the professors I respected deeply and remember fondly."

The Marion and Morgan W. Wright Clinical Psychology Award has made a big difference to Matthew Decter, who earned his PhD this year.

"It was a really positive experience," says Decter, who received the award early on in his clinical practicum. "It was recognition from my professors that I was doing well and excelling. When you



John Baldwin's gratitude to the University of Manitoba spurred him to give back to his alma mater.

are getting started as a clinician it can be hard to discern the nature of outcomes with clients. The reinforcement that I was doing well was encouraging."

Baldwin remembers he too was encouraged by student awards. "I was given a bursary and there was funding that helped me with tuition," he says. "I wanted to be able to give back in that way and I was hoping to help other graduate students in clinical psychology get through their training and into careers." ❁

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Med school at the grassroots level

A doctor's generosity will help medical students get the training they need to make a difference in people's lives.

“I certainly appreciate the start that I had in medicine at the University of Manitoba,” says William George Merrick (MD/58). “Even though I live in Duluth, Minnesota, I still have a very strong tie to the U of M.”

Merrick credits the former dean of Arts and Science, Hugh Saunderson, for helping him decide to attend medical school.

While Merrick was a science student, he landed a summer job cutting the dean's grass, and Saunderson urged the young man to major in chemistry.

Merrick did give chemistry a try, but ultimately decided he wanted to focus on medicine. Thanks to the dean's encouragement he pursued his dream of becoming a doctor – a challenge he had previously been afraid he wasn't up for.

Merrick's excellent education from the University of Manitoba allowed him to enter a top-notch residency at the University of Minnesota. He then embarked on a successful career as an ear, nose and throat doctor and surgeon.

Merrick has left a bequest to the Faculty of Medicine to show his appreciation.

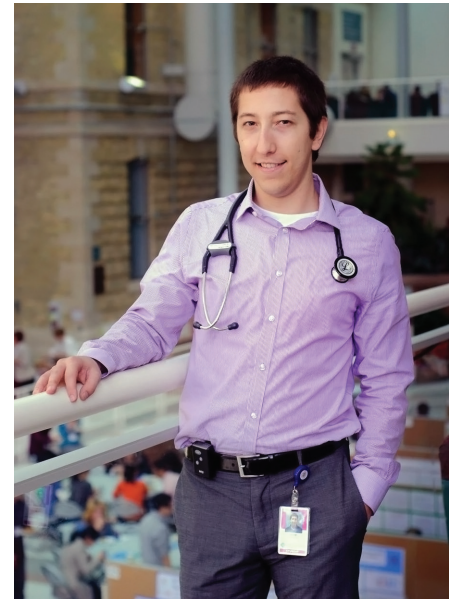
“I'd like to see the medical school flourish,” he says. “Medicine has changed and technology is increasing faster than we can pay for it. I'd like to do anything I can to support it.”

“I'd like to see the medical school flourish.... Technology is increasing faster than we can pay for it.”

Mark Lipson, a third-year medical student and Vice-Stick Internal of the Manitoba Medical Students Association, says students

are grateful for donors who invest in the future of the medical school.

“I think planned giving is fantastic,” says Lipson. “It certainly



Students like Mark Lipson are grateful for the support of alumni like Merrick who are investing in the future of the Faculty of Medicine.

shows someone who's reflecting on the past and looking to the future. I'm a big believer in paying it forward.” 

Did you know?

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