Fellowship Award continues former CFO’s legacy

Clarence Elliott was an institutional real-estate investment pioneer with Great-West starting in the 1940’s. Mr. Elliott spent more than five decades advising Great-West on its mortgage and real estate investments. He began his career with Great-West as a farm loan inspector in Saskatchewan. By 1944, he had moved to the Winnipeg head office, where he spent the next 30 years helping develop Great-West’s expertise in mortgage investments. Among his many roles with the company, he was at various times both Vice-President and Treasurer before “retiring” in 1975, only to rejoin Great-West again in a consultant role.

In 1994, friends and colleagues established the G. Clarence Elliott Fellowship, an endowment fund which supports a full-time graduate student(s) at the University of Manitoba in either a masters or doctoral program. Since the Fellowship began, 33 deserving students have received over $100,000 to help them complete their higher education. A specific selection criterion was established by Mr. Elliott to not only reward students with an exceptional GPA, but also support those like him who came from a rural background and were less economically fortunate than others. Students in the field of Agriculture, Architecture, Business Administration, City Planning, Economics, and Statistics have all benefited from the Fellowship.

One such recipient of the G. Clarence Elliott Fellowship was Maddy Samaddar, a graduate of the University of the Faculty of Architecture at the U of M. After working in Montreal, Maddy now works as a senior planner for one of South Florida’s largest developer groups. She is currently developing the master plan for an entire ‘new town’ with town and village centres, parks, waterways, a nature centre, farmers' markets and nearly 10,000 housing units on 5000 acres spanning a site 4 miles long.

“I am still thankful to the support the fellowship had given me and the people who were on its committee. Clarence Elliott’s experience comes in handy even today. During the fellowship's application process, we had to read some information about Mr. Elliott's contribution and real estate acumen. How true it was. Especially his statement to the effect that when the market is good, developers overbuild until there is a slump and the demand has to catch up with over-supply. This is exactly what I am seeing first hand in Florida – and it goes to confirm the time-and-place independent wisdom of Mr. Elliott.” Maddy says about her time working in Florida.

While Mr. Elliott passed away in 1995 his Fellowship continues his legacy and will always be a means to honor the memory of the man. If you would like to contribute, you can contact the U of M at (204) 474-7835 and express that you would like to make a donation to the G. Clarence Elliott Fellowship.