



## President's Updates



On behalf of Westland Scholars, Volunteers and Board, I am pleased to share with you the Westland Foundation Spring 2018 Newsletter. I am grateful to all of our many donors and volunteers who helped make this past year a tremendous success. Inside you will find news from our Westland Scholars and highlights from the past months.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible support we have received since our humble beginnings in 1993. Thanks to gifts from generous donors like you, the Westland Foundation Education Fund (WFEF) has reached an impressive \$2.02 million as of July 2017. We are delighted to celebrate this milestone achievement with you!

This year we awarded a record number of Westland scholarships: 114 scholarships totalling over \$77,500. This brings our grand total to 619 scholarships valued at over \$373,000 since 2009.

With appreciation for the Winnipeg Foundation's operating grant, we were able to hire a full-time communications and development coordinator which allowed for an increase in communications and development activities. This in turn allowed for an impressive increase in volunteer and scholar participation and individual and corporate gifts raised.

I am also proud to announce the recent launch of the Westland Communications Committee made up of dedicated board and community volunteers who will help support our overall communications initiatives. I am grateful for the outpouring of support towards all of our volunteer activities.

Westland continues to experience outstanding community support and cooperation. A special thanks

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## 2018 Westland Foundation Education Fund Breakfast



You are invited to the 2018 Fundraising Breakfast in support of the Westland Foundation Education Fund which is held at the University of Manitoba.

This year's guest speaker is Distinguished University of Manitoba Alumnus Gregg Hanson.

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# Meet the Westland scholars

## University of Winnipeg



Ashlyn La Liberty is a recipient of the 2017 University of Winnipeg Westland Foundation Education Fund Scholarship. She is taking a double major in biopsychology and biochemistry and is hoping to complete a minor in psychology. Ashlyn's dream is to obtain a Ph.D. and to make a difference in the field of mental health.

Ashlyn wants to explore psychology to understand better the complex world of mental illness.

"By studying mental health, I would like to heighten our future generations' awareness of mental health issues as well as help with preventing mental illness," says Ashlyn.

Ashlyn credits a high school research project for her love of science. She and three other classmates studied the level of mercury in the Walleye fish species. The project allowed her to travel through southern Manitoba and as far as Saskatchewan and Ontario gathering samples and sharing research findings. The project fed Ashlyn's curiosity and penchant for more knowledge. She says after the project her passions revolved around science, and her remaining high school years became a strong foundation for her undergraduate studies.

Today, Ashlyn volunteers with Let's Talk Science on campus. Let's Talk Science conducts outreach projects for students within and outside Winnipeg and as far as rural Manitoba. Let's Talk Science aims to get students more aware and passionate about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The program aims to inspire students to get involved in science.

Let's Talk Science has allowed Ashlyn to work in large-scale events, such as the Halloween Howl at the Manitoba Children's Museum and to travel as far as Neepawa, Manitoba to help run a science day camp.

Ashlyn recognizes her chosen field is costly and will take many years of study. She says the Westland Foundation Scholarship helped her family and herself to afford her tuition and go after her passion.

"I am proud of the recognition, and honoured that Westland has noticed the hard work that other students and I have put in towards our studies."

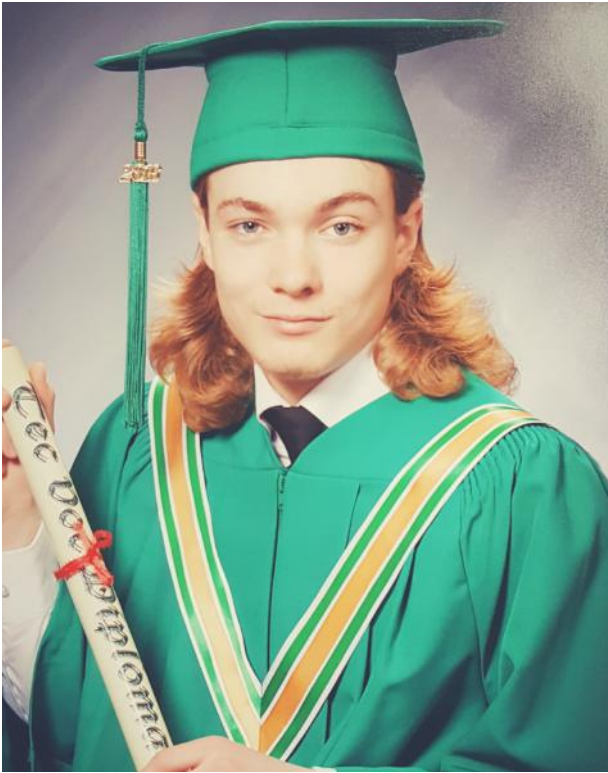
Ashlyn encourages other students to find as much support as they can, be it financially, through scholarships and bursaries, academically, by finding student groups, or socially, by studying with a friend or a classmate. She says having the right mix of support will help with all of the challenges of pursuing one's chosen profession.

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*Ashlyn dissecting a sheep's brain*



## Red River College



Spencer Albietz' knack for machine technologies brought him to Red River College's manufacturing technician program. He says the program will lead him to a number of future work opportunities. His goal is to work in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) operation or programming. He looks forward to contributing to Manitoba's agriculture and aerospace industries.

Spencer knows that before he can land his dream job, he needs support. His family has been a tremendous help. Having a place to stay and someone preparing his meals means a lot for a full-time student going through the first year of his two-year program.

Spencer is also grateful to the Westland Foundation for the scholarship he received in 2017.

Spencer's advice for high school students is to keep hitting the books in preparation for the future. He puts tremendous value on post-secondary education and encourages fellow students to reach for higher standards.

He believes having a positive attitude will bring him and his peers closer to their dream jobs.

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## University of Manitoba



University of Manitoba student Ninna Marie Opena is working on her commerce degree. She would like to be an accountant with an end goal of having her own business.

Like all full-time students, Ninna says high tuition and textbook costs are a burden. Being accepted into the Westland Scholarship program helped lighten the burden. The scholarship further motivated her to excel in her studies.

"The scholarship not only helped pay for my tuition fees but also inspired me to work harder to reach my future endeavours," says Ninna.

She advises high school students that their journey might have ups and downs, but everything will work out in the end.

"As long as you do not give up on any challenges you encounter, you are bound to succeed," says Ninna.

Ninna is grateful for the Westland donors who believe in her. The financial support helps bridge the gap, and she also admits that it's incredibly inspiring knowing people are giving back to advance students' educational journeys.



## Meet the 2018 WFEF Breakfast Sponsor



James Cohen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Gendis Inc, believes that education plays a huge role in making the world a better place.

James is the 2018 Westland Foundation Education Fund Breakfast Sponsor. His longtime connection to Westland began when friend and past Westland Foundation President, Phil Burns invited him to the Westland golf tournament in 1994. He currently serves as an honorary board member and is a loyal supporter of the fundraising breakfast.

James' community service extends far into the community. He is the Board Chair of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and sits on the board of the Manitoba Museum. In June, he will become the Manitoba Museum's Board Chair after serving the past six years as a board member.

In addition to committing time and talent to his community, James and his wife Linda McGarvin-Cohen have also been generous

financially. In 2012 the couple donated money to Winnipeg Harvest to fund the purchase of a refrigerated truck to assist in picking up surplus leftover food for redistribution to the city's hungry. In 2013 they made a significant donation to the Assiniboine Park Zoo for its greatly-expanded Amur tiger exhibit.

Thanks to James' belief in corporate responsibility, Gendis Inc. also has a long history of corporate giving and is a proud supporter of many local and national organizations and charities. It supports many community projects involved in arts and culture, healthcare, education, and poverty reduction projects. In 2015, Gendis Inc. received the Downtown Winnipeg Biz Place-Making Award for its downtown beautification efforts.

"What the company supports and believes in brings a sense of pride to the business and its employees. It makes employees feel proud and feel good about helping others," says James.

James is proud to be a part of the Westland Foundation because of its focus on inner-Winnipeg education. He is especially inspired by the stories of inner-Winnipeg students who have been helped by the Foundation.

"The stories that come from our Westland Scholars reminds those of us who live in the suburbs of the challenges facing the broader community. It reconnects us with issues that truly affect us all," says James.



James Cohen with John Prystanski at the 2017 Breakfast

# 2018 Westland Foundation Education Fund Breakfast



Westland's board and staff person with 2017 Breakfast speaker Sandy Riley

The 2018 WFEF Breakfast is fast approaching!

## Please save the date:

May 2, 2018, Wednesday  
RBC Convention Centre

Doors open: 6:45 a.m.

Continental-style breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Program: 7:30 a.m.

Cost: Tickets - \$50 each | Table of 8 - \$400

For tickets or table sponsorship, call 204 960 6771 or email [westlandfoundationinc@gmail.com](mailto:westlandfoundationinc@gmail.com)

This Breakfast is made possible by our generous event sponsor James Cohen.

This year's guest speaker is University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumnus and "proud Manitoban" Gregg Hanson.



Westland Scholars at the 2017 Breakfast

Wawanesa Insurance's past president and chief executive officer of 15 years, Gregg volunteers with numerous charitable organizations in Manitoba. He is a current member of the President's Campaign Team for the University of Manitoba's Front and Centre campaign and, with his wife Mary, the 2017 Manitoba Museum Ambassador. Past volunteer leadership positions include 2010 campaign chair for the United Way of Winnipeg, 2009 fundraising campaign chair for Habitat for Humanity, chairman and board member of the Winnipeg Foundation from 2000-2009, and finance chair for the 1999 Pan American Games.

In 2016, Gregg was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his longstanding commitment to his community. He is also a recipient of Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community, the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ignatian Challenge Award, and a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal.

Join Gregg for the 2018 Breakfast and together, let us help impact the education landscape of inner-Winnipeg through the WFEF scholarships at the U of M!

**See you there!**



*Westland's founder and president John Prystanski with Westland Scholars and staff person during the education fund announcement*

## Westland Foundation in the News

Westland sincerely thanks, Winnipeg's leading news agencies and its educational partner Red River College, for the extensive coverage of its \$2.02 million fund announcement made in January 2018.

- CBC's Up to Speed | February 1, 2018, segment
- Winnipeg Sun's Fund Helps Inner-city Students Realize Dreams | February 03, 2018
- CJOB's Geoff Currier's Show | February 5, 2018, segment
- Red River College's Red Blog: Westland Foundation Provides Opportunities for Inner-Winnipeg Students February 06, 2018
- CHVN's Sending Every Inner-Winnipeg Kid to University for Free | February 07, 2018
- Winnipeg Free Press - The Times' Foundation Facilitates Access to Education | February 12, 2018
- Pilipino Express' Special Features: Westland Foundation's Education Fund Exceeds \$2M | February 16, 2018
- Punjab Today's Former City Councillor Sends Inner-Winnipeg Students to University | February 2018, issue
- Indo-Canadian Telegram's Westland Foundation's Education Funds Exceeds \$2 Million, Offering More Opportunities February to March 2018, issue

**Your help enabled Westland to reinforce its message to inner-Winnipeg students that Winnipeg cares, THANK YOU!**

## Westland Scholars Meet Hamelin

Westland thanks, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) for Westland Scholars' tickets to Marc-André Hamelin's February 21st matinee show. The scholars were thrilled to meet Hamelin and savour the performance of one of the world's most celebrated living pianists.

The ticket donations are made possible through MCO's Music for All program. The Music for All program aims to bring MCO's music to our entire community.

Thank you, MCO and bravo, Hamelin!



For more of MCO programming, click here:  
<https://www.themco.ca/>





Duyen Chau  
2015 Westland Scholar  
University of Manitoba

## Calling Westland Foundation Alumni

Westland Foundation is developing its alumni program with support from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. The program's goal is to provide opportunities for Westland Scholars to participate in Westland's organizational growth. Westland Alumni are WFEF scholarships recipients.

Thank you to 2015 Westland Scholar Duyen Chau for volunteering to encourage past and present scholars to join the alumni and to speak to potential scholars to avail the scholarships.

We welcome everyone who has received a WFEF scholarship to the Westland Alumni. If interested to join or to be involved in the organizing committee, please email Duyen at [duyen.chau@live.ca](mailto:duyen.chau@live.ca).

We are looking forward to hearing from you!



Matthew Hebert  
2017 Westland Scholar  
University of Winnipeg

## It's Time to Apply for WFEF Scholarships!

We are inviting graduates of:

- Argyle Alternative High School
- Children of the Earth High School
- Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
- Gordon Bell High School
- R. B. Russell Vocational High School
- Sisler High School
- St. John's High School
- Technical Vocational High School

You can now apply for WFEF scholarships available at Red River College, University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. Please take note of below application deadlines:

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## The Horatio Alger Association of Canada's Scholarships for Young Canadians

The Horatio Alger Association of Canada annually awards need-based post-secondary scholarships to young Canadians who have shown resilience in the face of adversity. The value of the scholarship is from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per qualified student. Below are Horatio Alger Association of Canada's scholarship opportunities:

**Horatio Alger Canadian Scholarship** – eighty \$5,000 scholarships for eligible students across all Canadian provinces and territories.

**Horatio Alger National Entrepreneurial Scholarships** – five \$10,000 scholarships for eligible students across all Canadian provinces and territories. Scholars will receive an all-expense-paid

trip to Washington D.C. during the spring of scholars' terminal high school year to participate in a conference with American counterparts.

**Horatio Alger - Fairfax Financial Holdings Scholarship Program** – forty-five scholarships valued up to \$5,000 for students attending select Canadian post-secondary institutions.

Please note scholarships' application opens on **August 1 and ends on October 25, 2018.**

Apply at this link:

<https://www.horatioalger.ca/en/scholarships/>

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

*from page 1*

to our partners who helped advance our mission and organizational growth:

- The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba for the grant towards Westland Foundation Alumni program development;
- Manitoba Community Services Council for the grant towards website redevelopment;
- Kellaway Foundation for the WFEF contribution;
- South East Resource Development Council (SERDC) for supporting WFEF awareness program for Indigenous students; and
- TransCanada Corporation for the WFEF contribution and support towards our job finding program.

I invite you to join us on May 2, 2018, for our annual fundraising breakfast, as we raise funds for the WFEF held at the University of Manitoba. This year's theme is, "Reconciliation: Westland Foundation and Indigenous Youth Creating Partnerships for Higher Education."

We are glad to have University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumnus Gregg Hanson as a guest speaker and University of Manitoba Westland Scholars Duyen Chau and Gerald Trojillo as emcees. We will also hear from SERDC's executive director Doug Mercer on our partnership to increase inner-Winnipeg Indigenous youth's post-secondary education participation.

On behalf of the scholars, volunteers and board, thank you very much for believing in Westland.

Sincerely,

**JOHN PRYSTANSKI**  
Founder & President

## MEET THE WESTLAND SCHOLARS - U of W

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She says to high school students, "If you're passionate about something, go for it. Take classes and watch videos and find people around you to emulate. Enjoy every bit of the process of learning something you love."

"A huge thank you to the Westland Foundation for supporting me to continue to pursue my passion for science," ends Ashlyn.

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## It's Time to Apply for WFEF Scholarships!

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June 01, 2018 | University of Manitoba

July 13, 2018 | University of Winnipeg

September 01, 2018 | Red River College's fall programs

February 15, 2019 | Red River College's winter programs

Download application forms here:

<http://www.westlandfoundation.ca/scholarships/apply.html>

Apply now!



# Westland Foundation

"Empowering Inner-Winnipeg Youth Through Education"

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