

2023-2024

Donor Impact Report



CAPILANO
UNIVERSITY

This scholarship is a testament to your commitment to helping students expand their global horizons, and I am deeply honoured and appreciative of the opportunity it provides. Your contribution has a profound impact on my educational and personal development, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity.

JERICOHO APIL

Bachelor of Business Administration student



Capilano University is named after Chief Joe Capilano, an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the territories of the Lílwat, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.





Thank You

Dear friends and supporters,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the enduring support and generosity that you, our valued donors, have shown towards Capilano University.

Over the years, CapU has seen tremendous growth. At the top of that list is the addition of relevant and imaginative [degrees and diplomas](#) in sciences, humanities, applied arts and health. We opened [CapU Lonsdale](#) in the heart of North Vancouver's Shipyards District, created the [Centre for Teaching Excellence](#), renamed the Sechelt campus *kálah-ay*, opened off-campus student housing, and established the [Centre for Student Success and the Learning Commons](#). This coming year, we are looking forward to opening the new [Centre for Childhood Studies](#), becoming a 24/7 campus with the inaugural opening of on-campus student housing and welcoming students to CapU Squamish for the Fall 2024 term. Your generous contributions have played a pivotal role in everything we've accomplished so far.

Since I arrived at CapU in 2016, my years here have been some of the most rewarding of my career. I am inspired by all we have achieved together during that time. And as I wrap up my final year as president, I'm excited for CapU's future, including the introduction of new graduate degree programs.

I extend my deepest gratitude for your generosity and partnership which continue to transform the lives of our learners, employees and communities.

PAUL DANGERFIELD

*President & Vice-Chancellor
Capilano University*



Thank you for your generosity and support. You have helped shape the future of many CapU learners. Reflecting on this past year, I am inspired by the countless stories of transformation made possible by donors like you.

One such example is Carol Todd, whose profound loss led her to establish the [Amanda Todd Legacy Music Therapy Award](#) in honour of her daughter. Through this initiative, students like Jewel Epp are empowered to pursue careers in music therapy, bringing healing to those in need. Carol's generosity transforms personal tragedies into stories of hope, demonstrating the profound impact that compassionate support can have within our community.

Another example comes from [Stephen Williams](#), a beloved CapU instructor, whose legacy of giving stems from personal loss. Stephen's approach to philanthropy turns the darkness of grief toward the light, empowering others with the legacy of those he loved.

Through your incredible support, the CapU Foundation has provided exceptional life-enhancing educational opportunities for students to recognize their full potential.

On behalf of myself and the entire Foundation team, I extend a heartfelt thank you.

DAVID AYRISS

Chair

Capilano University Foundation

Investing in Student Success

CapU Endowment Management

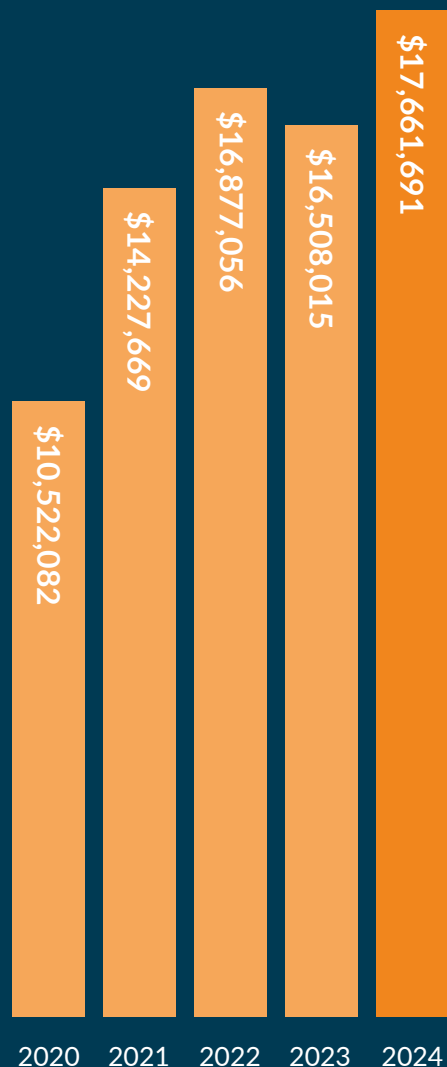
Endowments are held by the Capilano University Foundation with oversight from the University's [Board of Governors](#), under the guidance of its Finance Committee. They carefully monitor the impact of current market conditions and the performance of the Foundation's endowment. The Capilano University Endowment is now valued at over \$17.6 million. The large endowment is comprised of individual endowments that have been established by donors. The investment income generated each year by the endowment is used to support scholarships, bursaries and awards and specific projects or programs in various faculties.

Donors establishing an endowment need a minimum of \$25,000 to generate enough investment income to support individual endowments. Each endowment is established by dedicated and generous donors, or companies for a specific purpose. By creating an endowment, donors like you create a lasting legacy of support for students.

The Finance Committee reviews the investment income annually and recommends a distribution rate which is approved by the Capilano University Foundation directors. Last year's annual distribution rate was set at 3.5 per cent.

Capilano University Endowment Fund

Principle Growth 2020-2024
As of March 31, 2024



I am sincerely grateful for the impact your contributions have had at Capilano University. Your support not only empowers learners to realize their dreams but also strengthens the University and enriches the communities within which we operate.

As CapU continues to deliver on [Envisioning 2030](#) and [Illuminating 2030](#), my profound gratitude goes to you for your contributions to our shared mission.

KARI WHARTON
Vice President, University Relations
Capilano University





ELIAS DE LA VEGA
Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts student

Clearing a path to CapU

Entrance award hits the note for music student's vision for the future

With music in his genes and his enthusiasm driving him forward, [Elias de la Vega](#) will dive into the power of soundscapes and film at CapU this fall, thanks to the donor generosity that helped to create the Sarah McLachlan School of Music (SoM) entrance award.

"I was definitely stressed out about the idea of university, with all the fees," says the second-year CapU student, bound for the School of Motion Picture Arts. "But this award has completely opened a new path that I would have never been able to experience otherwise," he says.

Launched in partnership with CapU, the award is for a SoM student who combines self-discipline, motivation, curiosity, community-mindedness and collaboration.

Andrea Unrau, the program director at SoM, wasn't surprised he won the award.

"Elias was always the helper, always the one who would teach kids to learn their parts. He's always been kind and attentive, and he has a wisdom that is beyond his years," Andrea says.

PURSUING AN "INVISIBLE ART"

This fall, Elias will apply his background in music to his education at CapU to pursue his dream of working in sound design.

"Sound design is cool because it's an invisible art; it's all about making an atmosphere in a soundscape that matches with the picture and makes it more immersive to the viewer."

Elias focused on sciences throughout high school at Templeton Secondary, but always knew he'd follow his heart into the arts.

It didn't hurt that his mother was a trained pianist; he was bit by the music bug as a kid after his brother received a ukulele for his birthday.

"I started picking it up more often than he did. Eventually, my mom got me my own ukulele. And that's where it all started."

He took some YouTube lessons and eventually began attending the SoM. He still performs with a marimba band with friends.

With his decision to use his musical background in a career in film, he says the award provides financial relief and allows him to imagine a brighter future in music and film.

"For people who don't get as many opportunities as others because of financial reasons, I think awards like this can really make dreams come true. That may sound cliché, but it's really true," he says.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Now in its 22nd year, the [Sarah McLachlan School of Music](#) serves more than 1,000 children and youth in Vancouver, Surrey and Edmonton each year who face barriers to access to music instruction and need a place to feel safe and confident as they explore their creativity.

"At the Sarah McLachlan School of Music, our motto is 'find your voice' and scholarships like these are allowing more beautiful voices to shine in the Capilano University community and soon in the broader world," says Sarah McLachlan, the West Vancouver-based winner of three Grammy awards and eight Juno awards.

Throughout her long career, she's released nine studio albums and founded Lilith Fair, the popular music festival celebrating the work of women in music.

"To see young adults, when they're brimming with hope and possibility and passion, you just want so badly for them to fulfill their potential, to share their talents and skills with the world," says Sarah.

"We all lose out when young people don't get the chance to reach their full potential. With everything happening in the world today, we can't afford to lose out on future leaders, innovators and changemakers because of financial barriers to higher education." 🎵

To see young adults, when they're brimming with hope and possibility and passion, you just want so badly for them to fulfill their potential, to share their talents and skills with the world.

SARAH MCLACHLAN





With so much going on in the world, reminding everyone about Amanda Todd's legacy, in a very uplifting way, is the way to go.

JEWEL EPP
Bachelor of Music Therapy student

Transforming tragedy into hope

Amanda Todd Music Therapy Legacy Award propels students to compassionate careers

When the power of music therapy revealed itself to them, Jewel Epp had no words to describe how it made them feel.

Jewel was just seven years old when they accompanied their mother and brother to visit their grandfather at Burnaby's George Derby Care Home.

They remember a music therapist, guitar in hand, standing in front of a room full of senior veterans. Many of them, like Jewel's grandfather, were frail and suffered from cognitive decline.

"Looking back, I remember this was a room full of old soldiers, seniors who've been through a lot. I noticed that when she went up there, I got this feeling: 'Everyone is feeling present. This is bringing people together.'"

Growing up in a musical household, and with years as a choral vocalist behind them, Jewel has since blossomed into a talented singer and musician. Imprinted by those early experiences, Jewel is now working toward a [Bachelor of Music Therapy](#) degree at CapU.

The Amanda Todd Music Therapy Legacy Award was created to support students like Jewel enrolled in the Music Therapy Program looking to pursue their dreams.

This new financial award is named in tribute to the late Amanda Todd, the Port Coquitlam teenager who took her own life in 2012 after enduring years of online bullying, harassment and extortion.

AMANDA'S LEGACY

Though the end of her life was marked by tragedy, Amanda's legacy has evolved into something beautiful.

"Amanda passionately expressed herself through her words, her singing and her written poetry," her mother, Carol Todd, an educator and district coordinator of Supportive Technologies and Digital Literacy in Coquitlam School District 43, fondly remembers.

After losing her daughter, Carol embarked on a national campaign to educate children, parents and educators through the Amanda Todd Legacy Society, a non-profit society that focuses on prevention and awareness of cyberbullying, exploitation and Internet safety. The foundation has since earned awards for its contributions to education, mental health and ending sexualized violence.

Amanda's story took an artistic turn with a symphonic and multimedia performance composed by the late Vancouver composer Jocelyn Morlock. The composition, *My Name is Amanda Todd*, was presented as one of four stories in *Life Reflected* performed

by the National Arts Centre Orchestra and has since been performed across North America and Europe. My Name is Amanda Todd also won a Juno award for Classical Composition of the Year in 2018.

Carol and Jocelyn were so moved by the public reaction to Amanda's story, they discussed how the non-profit society could use the power of music as a vehicle to motivate people to help those with mental health challenges and/or suffering from trauma.

"We asked ourselves, how can music be used to help others?" Carol says. The two decided to recognize and support music therapy students who have made the decision to pursue a career focused on using their musical talents to help vulnerable populations.

Carol is pleased that she has been able to help establish the Amanda Todd Music Therapy Legacy Award with a \$25,000 endowment that will assist CapU students in the Music Therapy program.

"Music therapy students have chosen this professional career path to help others. This path will lead to journeys of healing and will be both fulfilling and rewarding at the same time," she says.

"SUNSHINE TO OVERCOME HARD TIMES"

Jewel says having the opportunity to receive an award like the Amanda Todd Music Therapy Legacy Award resonates with them, as they struggled with mental health. Though Jewel says they are known as a talented and bubbly person, it is tempting for them and their peers to use "sunshine to overcome hard times."

"With so much going on in the world, reminding everyone about Amanda Todd's legacy, in a very uplifting way, is the way to go," Jewel says.

After completing their degree, Jewel hopes to work as a music therapist in the educational system. Until then, having access to student awards helps propel them toward reaching their goals, Jewel says the funding gives them the independence and time to devote to their studies with fewer worries.

"The impact of being a beneficiary of student bursaries is already visible," Jewel says.

"I'm completely funding my education by myself and having bursary support like this has allowed me to do so. I'm so grateful and excited that there are going to be more opportunities like this for other students." 🍀



Carol Todd with her daughter Amanda Todd

New Awards

KLEI ENTERTAINMENT ANIMATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The acclaimed Vancouver-based video game studio, Klei Entertainment, proudly celebrates its strong connection with Capilano University with a newly created award. Co-founder and alumnus Jeff Agala, a 2000 graduate of CapU's 2D Animation and Visual Development program, rose to prominence in his field while maintaining close ties with CapU.

Jeff inspires current students as a guest speaker in CapU classes and by providing career opportunities at Klei. This new award will support outstanding 2D and 3D animation students at Capilano University, fostering the next generation of creative talent.

BC FILM FOUNDATION BURSARY

This past year the British Columbia Film Foundation, through Creative BC, established an endowment to support Indigenous students with demonstrated financial need who are enrolled in production courses in CapU's Indigenous Digital Filmmaking program. The new bursary will support aspiring Indigenous filmmakers as they get ready to launch their careers.

NATIVE NORTHWEST AWARD FOR THE SUNSHINE COAST

Indigenous art purveyor Native Northwest, founded by Larry Garfinkel and Sandi Karmel, established a new award to support Indigenous students enrolled at CapU's káľax-ay Sunshine Coast campus. The award was established through the Native Northwest Reconciliation Fund, which supports justice for those who continue to be impacted by residential schools.

"Native Northwest is honoured to support Indigenous student education and empowerment, which benefits the students, their families and their communities," says owner Larry Garfinkel.



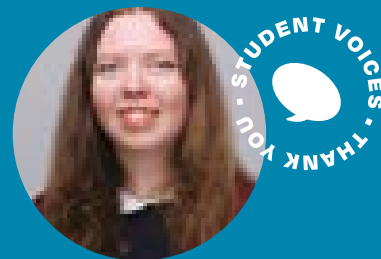


GUARD.ME INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AWARD

Insurance provider, guard.me, is a dedicated sponsor of the International Leadership & Mentorship program at CapU. Their commitment to empowering students to safely travel the world to enrich their lives through international study has led to the creation of the guard.me International Student Award. Prioritizing convention refugees and refugee claimants, the award supports international students in their transition to life in Canada and academic success. This initiative aims to provide crucial financial assistance and a supportive environment, ensuring these students can fully engage in their studies and feel safe, supported and cared for during their time abroad.

This scholarship is a blessing that I am grateful for every day. It has helped me pursue my dream of working in the film industry and studying and living in one of the greatest cities for it. I have learned so much already—not just from the course material but also from my incredible professors, mentors and fellow students.

REBECCA MCGRATH
Motion Picture Arts student





I decided to use my money in a tithing concept for community organizations and charities. It's part of a family history: when you have resources, you share them.

STEPHEN WILLIAMS

The gift of a lifetime

After a loss, Stephen Williams turns to the power of legacy

Stephen Williams' approach to philanthropy turns the darkness of grief toward the light, empowering people with the legacy of people he loved.

Since he began teaching at Capilano University nearly three decades ago, Stephen has built and sustained three endowments and four annual awards, changing the lives of 121 students who need financial aid to help continue their studies in the Bachelor of Music Therapy degree program.

"When somebody passes, those that love them keep them in their hearts, but the broader circles of their influence disappear very quickly," Stephen, a longtime CapU instructor and now coordinator of the Music Therapy program, said.

"Seeing their name on a scholarship is a way of valuing and keeping a connection to how important they were."

Now, he's devoting his own legacy to do the same, with a gift in his will to assist hundreds more hardworking, compassionate and talented music therapy students in the future.

PHILANTHROPY AS A FAMILY TRADITION

For Stephen, giving is a natural, nearly automatic gesture that honours his own past as much as it celebrates the future of young people in his field.

Raised by pious parents, including a father who was an Anglican priest, he lived in rectory housing or clergy residence; he remembers watching his parents regularly give 10 per cent of their income back to the church through tithing. It baffled him.

"As an eight-year-old, I was confused by the concept of tithing. I told my parents, 'Wait a minute, you work for the church. You're paid by the church. Then you give the money back to the church?' My father had to patiently explain the concept."

A longtime musician, his studies in Victoria, Toronto and Philadelphia eventually led to a great appreciation of the power of music therapy as a tool to help people cope with emotional, physical and cognitive challenges in productive, healthy ways.

As an adult (much to his parents' chagrin), he drifted away from organized religion. But he never forgot the lessons of his youth.

"I decided to use my money in a tithing concept for community organizations and charities. It's part of a family history: when you have resources, you share them."

He launched his teaching career in a turbulent era of the 1980s-90s, when the AIDS crisis led to tragic losses the

world over. It was particularly challenging for him as a gay man to bear the loss of two partners to the disease. He's since created the Brian Beaudoin Memorial Music Therapy Scholarship and the Gordon Hewitt Memorial Music Bursary in their honour.

"I like to think of myself as a vibrant survivor of the AIDS epidemic. And when I started working at CapU, some key people in my life, including two different partners, died. And I was looking for a way to make a difference."

FROM GRIEF TO GIVING

Grief transformed into a resolve to ensure their names and the memories they evoke for him could be ever-present and practically impact the lives of hardworking students in financial need.

He defined the next stage of his life by generosity, starting with the small annual awards for his first partners.

"As I moved from teaching into the program coordinator position (at CapU), it became clear to me how much student financial need there was at CapU."

"And that's when building the endowment started."

Since then, every loss has inspired reflection and generosity. His stepfather's passing motivated him to establish a scholarship in his memory for international students, reflecting his own journey of studying abroad.

Losing his mother two years ago inspired Stephen to explore how he can continue to give and give his own

loved ones the satisfaction he gets from seeing students thrive with financial aid.

A LEGACY OF HIS OWN

Sometimes there's nothing more motivating than a big number on a spreadsheet. When he was in his early fifties, his financial advisor gave him a reality check.

"He told me, 'When you die without a will, here's what the government gets,'" he said. The sum was hefty enough to propel him to calculate how to divide his modest estate.


Naturally, he was attracted to the idea of a gift to fund a scholarship in his name for CapU's music therapy students.

His ideal scholarship winner would be a person who prioritizes academics while balancing community service, and he's optimistic about the future of CapU students.

He says that he's seen a substantial growth in the public appreciation of music therapy, and its capacity to attract learners with strong values and a life purpose to transform the lives of vulnerable people.

"One significant change is that students as young as in grades 11 and 12 are already determined to pursue music therapy," he says. "We continue to attract musically talented students with a desire to make a difference." 🎵





**It's challenging, you
wish you could just
focus on school and live
in that mindset.**

BRYN KINDERS

*Bachelor of Arts — Applied Behaviour
Analysis student*

Freedom to learn

Y.P. Heung Foundation embraces legacy and generosity to aid students

Raymond Heung and Bryn Kinders have never met, but they have much in common.

Born generations apart, they share thoughtful compassion toward those who might be suffering or misunderstood. They also share a persistent work ethic—a hunger that allows them to rise above their circumstances.

Raymond Heung's family story is a classic one. His father, Y.P. Heung, grew up in abject poverty in China, but was motivated to improve his and his family's life, first in Hong Kong and then after a move to Canada.

His initiative fostered the same traits in his son. Raymond and his family now help to shepherd students to success in their chosen studies in the arts, humanities, liberal arts and science through the Y.P. Heung Foundation.

Bryn has travelled the world performing as a tap dancer and currently balances her life as a CapU student, dance instructor and advocate who supports autistic and neurodivergent children, youth and their families.

It's been a challenge. "I had to make a choice to study part time just to manage being able to work and pay bills," Bryn says, reflecting on her first year at CapU.

In her second year, Bryn received the [Y.P. Heung Foundation's student entrance award](#) to continue working towards her Bachelor of Arts in [Applied Behaviour Analysis \(Autism\) degree](#) at CapU.

The award has helped deserving CapU students in their first and second years ease the pressure of juggling rent and everyday expenses.

Thus far, students from 12 universities across B.C. and Canada have received awards. Raymond and his family hope they have provided an economic safety net for students with the passion to move forward in their studies and in their lives.

“We thought this award would be the best way to close the gap for inequality and to enhance economic performance for our country,” says Raymond, who oversees the Foundation with his wife Terry Heung.

Raymond received an [Honorary Doctor of Laws](#) degree from the University earlier this year in recognition of his years of support for CapU students.

A PROMISE TO A NEW GENERATION

After spending his youth in deep poverty, Y.P. Heung continued working low-paying jobs as an adult before serving in the Second World War. He then moved to Hong Kong before settling in Canada.

“When we were young, my father only made one promise,” says Raymond. He said, ‘I want to make sure there is food on the table.’”

Raymond studied commerce at the University of Ottawa. He did well, even through the challenges of required French before earning an advanced degree at UBC.

“I got a 52 in French in my final year and I’ve never been so happy in my life,” he says with a laugh. He founded Vanac Development Corp in 1982 and is still its president.

FREEDOM TO ACHIEVE

Like so many other young people living in expensive cities, Bryn works while studying so she can pay her rent, tuition and bills.

“It’s hard to navigate one mindset for school, one mindset for work,” she says. “It’s challenging, you wish you could just focus on school and live in that mindset.”

She’s not alone.

In 2023, the Y.P. Heung Foundation helped launch a matching campaign for CapU’s Eat Care Share food security program, which has ultimately raised over \$250,000.

Raymond initiated the donor challenge after reading reports of student hunger.

“We wanted to take part in that matching campaign, because how do you study when you’ve got an empty stomach?” 🍲

We wanted to take part in that matching campaign, because how do you study when you’ve got an empty stomach?

RAYMOND HEUNG





We were forming a new life, so even a little help was great. The [financial assistance] did a lot to offset the costs of school and help me get to where I am today.

BARBARA GREGUSOVA

Costuming for Stage and Screen diploma, 2009



Slovakia to Hollywood North

Young and gifted, Barbara Gregusova knew she was destined for the world of costume design.

In 2008, she approached her first year at CapU's Costuming for Stage and Screen program with caution. As new immigrants escaping strife in their native Slovakia, she and her family were still trying to find financial footing.


In a leap of faith, Barbara applied for financial assistance from CapU, which proved to be a crucial turning point. Two entrance awards supported a strong start for her studies and propelled her to a now-celebrated career that's earned her three Leo Awards, several Leo nominations, more than 100 stage and screen credits, and a 2024 CapU Alumni Award of Excellence.

CapU Alumni Association

A global community of 100,000+ CapU alumni are making an impact here and around the world. The [CapU Alumni Association \(CUAA\)](#) is committed to providing graduates lifelong learning, support and inspiration. We are proud to highlight these achievements and the ongoing support from our alumni.

LEARN MORE AND STAY CONNECTED:

capilanou.ca/alumni

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 [LinkedIn group](#)




[Find out about alumni perks](#)

My fellow alumni are the heartbeat of CapU, continuously shaping the future with their innovation, dedication and generosity. I am immensely proud of our Board and alumni for their generous contributions to the Eat Care Share fund, which assists students facing food insecurity. Thank you for your unwavering support of our student community.

MATTHEW SMITH
CapU Alumni Association Board Chair
Bachelor of Business Administration, 2016

 <p>A THRIVING GLOBAL COMMUNITY</p>	 <p>EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>PHILANTHROPIC GIVING AND SUPPORT</p>
<p>100,000+</p> <p>CapU alumni who reside in 75 countries worldwide</p> <p>18,000</p> <p>Alumni participants in programming, events and initiatives</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Grants awarded to support alumni-led non-profit initiatives through the Community Sponsorship program</p> <p>over 500</p> <p>Alumni who attended CUAA-hosted programs and events promoting continuous learning</p>	<p>\$38,087.63</p> <p>Funds raised from alumni in support of CapU students</p> <p>33%</p> <p>INCREASE IN PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>The CapU Perks App, featuring 36 perks and affinity partners, provides alumni with exclusive benefits, strengthening our community ties</p>



When I discovered non-profits, I knew I could combine my love of travel with my love for making a difference.

SOPHIE CHESHIRE

Outdoor Recreation Management diploma, 2023

Taking the scenic route

CapU grad promotes sustainable tourism

Sophie Cheshire will recall the summer of 2024 as a turning point in her life and career.

In June, she and her partner packed up their van and left Vancouver on a cross-country drive, with stops at natural landmarks that evoke pride and protection among conservationists.

She'll connect with non-profit groups overseeing sensitive ecological biosphere sites—from Howe Sound to Niagara Falls, the Squamish estuary to New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy—to persuade them to provide short-term volunteer opportunities for tourists and locals alike.

It's a grand plan, but well within the capacity of the ambitious graduate of CapU's [School of Outdoor Recreation Management](#).

The opportunity to take on a key research project during her studies allowed Sophie to follow her own wanderlust and apply her new expertise to make positive changes in her field.

"I didn't know what I was going to do when I signed up for the diploma," she recalls. "I love hiking and backpacking, so I thought, maybe I'd be a hiking guide. But when I discovered non-profits, I knew I could combine my love of travel with my love for making a difference."

CO-OP STUDENT BECOMES AN ENTREPRENEUR

During the spring of 2022, and with the help of essential donor funding, Sophie steered her own research to interview several non-profit conservation groups to explore and measure their progress in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

She also led workshops and presentations that inspired others to volunteer with the [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#) (HSBRIS) which collaborates with the Squamish Nation to promote biodiversity conservation and a marine use plan in the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region.

"I saw a need for more awareness within the community about what's happening in terms of conservation and where people can volunteer locally," she says.

That research, combined with her passion for sustainability work which she nurtured with mentor and instructor Roy Jantzen, drives her entrepreneurial spirit.

"My vision is to transform people to become stewards of the environment," she says. "I want them to go home and ask what they can do all the time, not just be eco-conscious when they travel."

A "GAME CHANGER" FOR CAPU STUDENTS

Dawn Whitworth, Associate Vice-President of Creative Activity, Research, and Scholarship (CARS) & Graduate Studies at CapU, believes Sophie's success can serve as a model for self-directed research in higher education.

"Timely and relevant applied learning can be a game changer in a CapU learner's career trajectory," says

Dawn, who serves on CapU's [Howe Sound Biosphere Working Group](#).

"It affords students time to work with faculty and external partners, such as companies, organizations and governments, in ways that build skills and capabilities that can be mobilized in future career opportunities or further studies."

Sophie says CapU's new Squamish campus would have been ideal for her, in her work in the Howe Sound region. "I definitely would have saved a lot of money on transportation expenses." 🍷



The bursaries I received were not just financial assistance; they were beacons of encouragement, urging me to persist in my educational pursuits. They were the silent force behind my triumphs, propelling me forward when challenges seemed insurmountable.

I urge everyone to consider the profound impact their support can have on someone's dreams and aspirations.

JESSIE ANTHONY

*[Indigenous Digital Filmmaking diploma, 2019](#)
[Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts, 2021](#)*



From corner suite to CapU campus

Bridging theory and practice with CapU's first Executive in Residence

Graduate with a business degree, work hard, climb the ladder and the sky's the limit? As it turns out, it's not that simple.

Reality is much more rigorous, uncertain and full of setbacks, demanding resilience, initiative and humility.

"Sometimes young people think finding success as an entrepreneur is a straight line," says Keith Cross, Executive in Residence (EIR) at CapU's [Faculty of Business and Professional Studies](#).

"I tell students, 'You're going to fail, get knocked back and experience disappointment. But it's all about how you pick yourself up and get going.'"

CONNECTING THEORY TO REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES

As the first EIR at CapU, Keith gives business students the opportunity to catch a first-hand glimpse of business practices and corporate culture that they

might not otherwise be exposed to until much later in their careers.

He is a business leader who has served on faculty boards at the business schools for UBC, UVic and SFU. He is currently the chair of Connect Health.

As part of his role, Keith visits with classes and participates in roundtables and networking sessions to engage with CapU students. He also helps faculty members strengthen their expertise in relation to ever-evolving business issues and trends.

He aims to reach students with the learnings and experiences he had working for Canada's top telecommunications companies before co-founding a management firm that today boasts employees in 37 countries across five continents.

"This program introduces students to real business world experiences to learn what to expect and navigate them," says Geoffrey Rosen, the founding sponsor of the Executive in Residence program, which brings in seasoned executives for a two-year term. Geoffrey is also Chief Operations Officer at Quay Pacific Property Management and has a long history of working with CapU when he was a student and now as an alumni.

Having watched his own father influence students as an Executive in Residence at Edmonton's then-Grant MacEwan College (now MacEwan University), Geoffrey is well-acquainted with the dynamic way that these programs boost students' confidence by exposing them to real-world business insights. That experience inspired him to sponsor a similar program at CapU.

Laura Kinderman, dean of the Faculty of Business & Professional Studies at CapU, says students want to know how to navigate the volatility of business environments and hone their skills in the essential areas and competencies they need to be successful. Learning from an expert with Keith's credibility and track record gives them that edge.

"The voice that Keith brings to CapU has relevance and value for learners today," Laura says. "Keith offers his perspective in a way that enables students to better recognize and develop their potential."

"I have heard Keith say, 'You know, I wouldn't necessarily worry about that thing — I would think about it from a different perspective. There is a lot that you can learn from all leaders, the good, the bad and the ugly ...'

As our Executive in Residence, Keith tells his story and asks questions for the benefit of students in a way that is both generous and unassuming,” she says.

“WE WERE ALL EXCEPTIONALLY HUNGRY”

In meetings with students and faculty, Keith reflects on his experiences working his way up as a young businessman in other companies before launching his own with three partners, RLG International.

The partners shared a sense of urgency, but the venture also involved a lot of sweat and worry.

“Most of the time as an entrepreneur I was constantly aware of threats to the business,” he says, reflecting on the launch of RLG International in the early 1980s. “You’re wondering if there’s going to be enough business, or if you’re going to keep the bank happy.”

“But at the same time, the best days as an entrepreneur were when I sat down with my partners to figure things out,” he says. “We had different personalities, but we were very similar when it came to our values and principles. We were all exceptionally hungry.”

Keith recognizes that in his role as a mentor for students, he can help instill the confidence to bring their ideas across to those in power or authority.

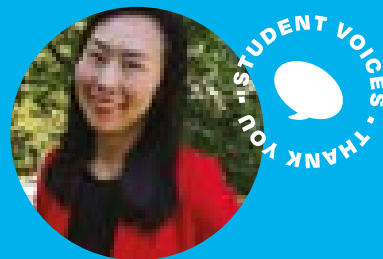
“I tell them all the time, ‘yes, this person may be your boss, so you need to respect them, but you don’t need to be intimidated by anybody,’” he says.

“Know that your opinion is important, your contributions are important, and that you can make a difference.” 🗣️

This award means more than just financial assistance; it profoundly acknowledges my dedication and passion for my area of study. The decision to return to university has been a transformative journey, expanding not only my knowledge but also providing invaluable experiences and insights that have reignited my passion.

VANESSA JINYOUNG YANG

Bachelor of Tourism Management, 2024



Thank You

A group of six diverse young adults are posing together outdoors. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The group consists of three men and three women of various ethnicities. They are dressed in casual, contemporary clothing. The background features a large, vibrant mural with abstract shapes in shades of red, pink, and blue. The overall mood is positive and celebratory.

Support for Students

2023-2024

1,339

Scholarships, bursaries and awards given to CapU students during the 2023-2024 academic year

\$1.9M

Awarded to students to support them in their educational journey

437

Donors who gave this past year to support more than 122 programs at CapU

1 in 7

Students who received a financial award during the 2023-2024 academic year



It's a testament to the dedication and support of the community that we've achieved such incredible impact. Thank you for your exceptional generosity and unwavering support.

Your contributions have lightened the financial burden for many students, allowing them to focus on their studies and seize opportunities to thrive. Your commitment is not only transforming individual lives but also enriching the entire community.

We invite you to [connect with us](#) to witness the difference you're making and explore further involvement opportunities.

JENNIFER BRYAN

*Director, Philanthropy & Alumni Relations
Capilano University*



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