

Donor Impact Report

2024-2025



CAPILANO
UNIVERSITY



CapU Squamish Student Housing

Dear friends and supporters,

Since stepping into the role of interim president in April, I've been reminded of how deeply our University community cares about students and their success. This commitment is something I've come to know well over many years here, and it's woven into who we are and what makes Capilano University truly special.

At the end of the 2024-25 academic year, more than 2,000 students graduated from CapU. This remarkable milestone capped off a year of achievements, including the opening of our Squamish campus; the opening of the Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies; the addition of three new baccalaureate programs, the Bachelor of Environment and Society degrees in Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and Literature; and preparations for new student housing scheduled to open next year. Lastly, the launch of the President's Entrance Award—the University's now largest donor-endowed fund—honours the legacy of past president Paul Dangerfield's leadership while opening doors for future changemakers.

Despite these achievements, our students are navigating unprecedented challenges, from rising living costs to the mental fatigue of financial stress.

**Your generosity is much more than a donation.
It is a source of relief, hope and possibility for today's
students to continue their studies and ultimately
join the CapU community of alumni.**

Every gift, large or small, is a vote of confidence in our learners and the future they're building. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, thank you for your continued belief in the transformative power of education.



With gratitude,
Laureen Styles, EdD
Interim President & Vice-Chancellor
Capilano University



Thank you for your new and continued support. Capilano University and its students are deeply grateful for our community's generosity and confidence in the education taking place across our campuses.

This has been an inspiring year—we have much to celebrate with our donors. Walking through the newly opened Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies highlights the profound commitment of our champions to invest in innovation, nation-leading educational opportunities and CapU's role as an integral part of a thriving and diverse North Shore.

We are excited to share both monumental milestones and essential continuous community and alumni support for CapU. We have the story of Robbie Morrison, who, in post-retirement, returned to CapU as a student and was inspired to give in two different ways. Also in the report is Emma Mabley, a thriving music therapy graduate, whose dream to attend CapU was fulfilled with the help of bursaries.

Through your incredible support, the CapU Foundation has provided exceptional life-enhancing educational opportunities for students to recognize their full potential. Perhaps 2025 graduate Aaron Closs said it best: "It's allowing students to take their knowledge and flourish."

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

Mary-Ann Booth
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.

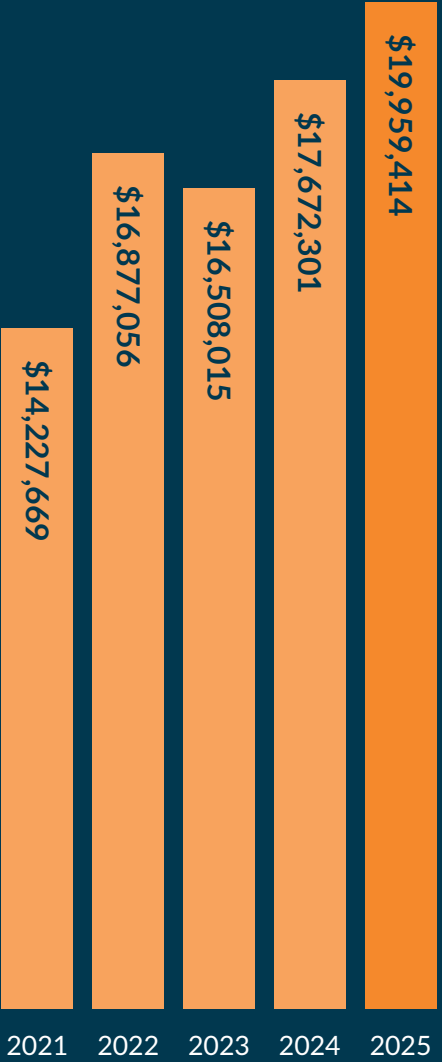
The Capilano University Endowment is now valued at over \$19 million. The large endowment is comprised of individual endowments that have been established by donors. The investment income generated each year by the endowment is used to support scholarships, bursaries, awards and specific projects or 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 2021-2025 As of March 31, 2025



I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand how students rise. Their passion, creativity and determination are amplified by your support. Their energy is fueling not only their own futures but also Capilano University's Envisioning 2030 and Illuminating 2030 strategic priorities, in partnership with our broader community.

Capilano University and I are grateful for your generosity. Financial support undoubtedly lightens the load of the post-secondary journey. But again and again, students tell us that receiving an award is more than just help. It is an affirmation that their hard work matters and that their dreams are valid.

Giving is never a passive act. It is a bold and powerful statement. It inspires students to keep going and opens doors for those who follow. Thank you for being a part of that impact.

Kari Wharton
Vice President, University Relations
Capilano University

Illuminating the future: CapU's largest donor-endowed award

The new President's Entrance Award is a University milestone.

Looking back on a dynamic life and thriving career, Paul Dangerfield's defining moment may have come when he was a hungry third-year university student unable to afford groceries or books after paying his tuition.

"I had no money left," said Paul. "I remember seeing the cost of the organic chemistry textbook I was going to need for that semester—it was more than three times my entire food budget for three months. Just one book."

This was the formative moment that changed the course of Paul's life and engraved a humble tattoo of compassion and understanding on his identity that influenced how he moved through the world in the decades to come.

"I had run out of money to pay for food. I was scrambling for what I could get. My friends were sneaking me into the cafeteria so I could eat. What could I do? I joined the army."

A LEGACY OF LEARNING AND SUPPORT

2025 was the last year for Paul as president of Capilano University. His stewardship guided CapU with a vision for now and the future.

From expanding to Squamish to revitalizing the BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts to building the Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies, Paul championed investment and support for the University.

But the students remain at the centre of it all. The Eat Care Share Fund was a big step towards food security for students who have struggled in ways like Paul himself.

"I was a student who faced challenges," he said. "Students today have it harder. Financial aid is where we can invite the community in to support students and empower them to focus on their education, not their survival."

The President's Entrance Award is Capilano University's first donor-endowed award to surpass the \$1 million mark. It will support students for decades to come and will uniquely adapt its selection criteria each year to align with University goals and priorities.

It is a legacy that will support CapU to continue to move along the path defined by Paul in our *Envisioning 2030* and *Illuminating 2030* plans. For the 2025-26 academic year, it will support students pursuing a bachelor's degree program.

"A lot of my hope comes from the students I have been so fortunate to work among," he said. "I am always inspired by their determination to forge ahead in pursuit of their ambitions, no matter what."

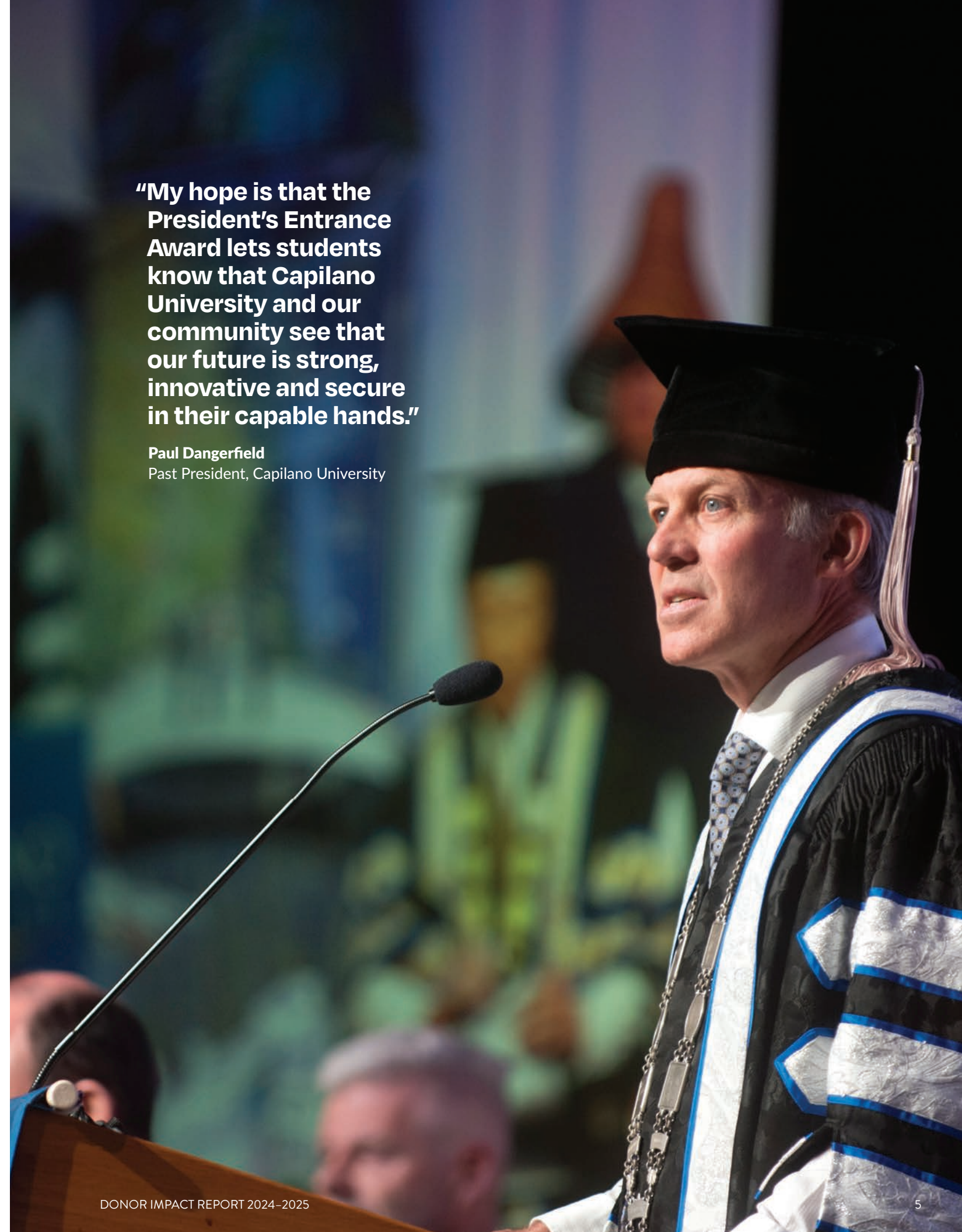
"My hope is that the President's Entrance Award lets students know that Capilano University and our community see that our future is strong, innovative and secure in their capable hands."

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Paul Dangerfield
Past President, Capilano University

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Paul Dangerfield
Past President, Capilano University



Heart-centred leaders making a difference

Sitting around the breakfast table, Tom Shepansky recalled a disturbing statistic with his wife, Roxanne: 40 per cent of CapU students experience food insecurity. They were disappointed to learn the number is actually a touch higher at 42 per cent.

"If you have financial stress, do you think you can really learn and grow and absorb and get the full extent of the experience you want?" asked Tom, co-founder of Canada's leading independent creative agency, Rethink.

The Vancouver-based company changed the marketing landscape in Canada by being willing to innovate and challenge norms. Early in its success, Tom says it was important that Rethink use the same skills to give back.

"We felt, and feel, at Rethink, a desire to use our creativity for good. We could donate money to causes we believe in, or we could give our time and expertise. What those charities need is awareness and understanding. It continues to this day. We champion things that are meaningful."

Personally, Roxanne and Tom choose to support philanthropy with both time and resources.

"We have been North Shore residents for over 30 years. One of the things we always say is that we want to give in our community and CapU is close to home. I had a great career in marketing and advertising and now a desire to take those gifts and what I have learned to where it's needed."

PEOPLE POWER

With board appointments as varied as St. Paul's Hospital Foundation to the Vancouver Foundation and Canuck Place to ArtSpring (on Salt Spring Island where he now spends much of his time), Tom looks for one thing before getting involved: good people.

"When we built Rethink, we always said 'people first.' I have been super impressed with the leadership at CapU under Paul [Dangerfield]. Where there are good people, good things happen," said Tom. "Look at Squamish. Look at all the initiatives. Look at where CapU was and where it is today. It's transformative. We have seen it in our own backyard, from a small community college to a growing, thriving university doing great work."

Tom and Roxanne's contribution to the President's Entrance Award (see page 4) was motivated by keeping the momentum of positive change and setting students up for success.

"Look at someone in their late teens or early 20s, trying to focus on their studies," he said. "How can you do that without some level of financial stability and food security if you can't even cover the basics?"

He credits CapU Chancellor Yuri Fulmer and past-president Paul Dangerfield for leading with heart.

"It's hard not to be attracted to CapU's heart-centred leadership," said Tom. "The gift my wife and I gave is to support students from the beginning, holistically. The connection between body, nutrition, mental health and spirit. It's all aligned. Everything is more challenging if they are struggling for basic needs like rent and food."

"We were not scared to support marginalized communities and initiatives that really need it. 'Creativity for good' is to try and amplify the cause in a creative and sometimes even dramatic way—that was and continues to be an important part of our DNA."

Tom Shepansky
on Rethink Communications' culture of philanthropy





From basketball to boardrooms

Looking back on what he learned in university, David Nelson credits the basketball court as much as the classroom.

“I see it in my company all the time,” said the founder of Nelson International, a wood products manufacturer and distributor. “When I hire people, if an employee doesn’t have a well-rounded education experience that includes social interconnection—sports being one option, I will look at others.

“Sports develop skills you don’t get from academia: drive, commitment and desire to be better every day. There are so many qualities that come from sports that if you haven’t experienced it, perhaps you don’t understand.”

David recently created the Nelson Family Entrance Award for women’s basketball, taking advantage of a fund he established decades ago for a business program no longer offered by the Faculty of Business & Professional Studies.

Inspired by his love of university athletics and his granddaughters’ experiences as CapU Blues alumni, he wanted to help support education without sacrificing sport.

“I know how hard it is to play elite sports, go to university and afford all the rest of it like housing and tuition. It was different when I went to school. With a summer job, you could pay all your fees and still go out for a beer on the weekends. It’s a different challenge today—it’s important awards like this exist.”

TAKING A LONG SHOT

As a North Vancouver business owner, David sees the challenges today’s student athletes face.

“For many kids, it’s a question of whether they can go to CapU—or any university—or not. The cost of living here is maybe the highest in Canada. They have that hurdle. They have the time commitment to be an elite athlete—it’s very demanding.

“You must work hard at practice, you need to give it your all in games and also, you have to travel. You don’t have time for a part-time job.”

When David encounters the occasional opinion that universities should be purely academic institutions, he bristles. He sees the challenges student athletes often face.

“Athletes sometimes struggle to get into university, working part-time jobs, practicing and keeping their grades up. But once they get in, their graduation rate is higher than that of non-athletes,” he said. “University life should be more than just going to class. I firmly believe in hiring graduates with a background in sports.”

With a deep involvement in university sport, stemming from his days on the court, Nelson hopes to help CapU overcome its challenge of being a relatively young university with fewer alumni and endowments.

He hopes that financial support will put him in the stands rallying CapU’s students to success, a small support to the mentorship offered by CapU Blues staff who coach on and off the court.

“It comes down to coaching. I see how they develop students over the years—some who come from very tough backgrounds, and I see how much they grow up in four to five years. It’s a community and social life that complement academia.”

Lessons from the court and classroom

CapU Blues varsity basketball player Lauren Tomlinson heads over mid-afternoon to a North Vancouver secondary school to coach high school players.

She has already wrapped up two hours on the court, a gym workout and classes. Her evenings include homework, strategy sessions and games. She sometimes also volunteers at a local elementary school. On Sunday, she hits the books.



“CapU has the most amazing hardworking staff and the most amazing donors who make things possible, supporting us as people and athletes. I want to have a positive impact on the world. I hope they know that by supporting me, they are doing that too.”

Lauren Tomlinson
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology student
Varsity Women’s Basketball
Recipient, Bill McEwen Memorial Athletics Award

“If I didn’t play basketball, I don’t think I would have created a community that helped me with personal growth and ambition,” said Lauren. “It’s a challenge to be a student and an athlete. It taught me to manage my time, lean into community for support and work to get things done.”

Lauren will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Psychology next spring and has plans to ultimately become a teacher with a master’s degree in clinical counselling to work in the school system. She was presented with several CapU scholarships and awards, including the Bill McEwen Athletic Memorial Award, this past spring.

“Financial support has helped me tremendously. It allowed me to be a kid when I was younger,” said Lauren, referring to family challenges as a child while her mom (successfully) fought breast cancer over a three-year period. “It allowed me to have fun and develop positive ways to get emotions out and positively deal with difficult circumstances.

“It has been a lifesaver at CapU. It’s amazing to have this support, so I can focus on my classes, graduate without student loans and set goals for future education.”

A tale of two grads

When Robbie Morrison walked into his first documentary class at the School of Motion Picture Arts, he felt honoured to return to school after 40 years with such vibrant classmates.

Stepping out of retirement from a lengthy Canadian military and public service career and into the adventure of filmmaking, Robbie was quickly aware that while he considered purchasing the latest piece of equipment for this new dream, his classmates were facing financial pressures, like rent and food.

"Giving is new to me. I was 'house poor,' as they say, most of my career until I retired and sold my home. I can now afford what I call memory dividends: experiences, enrichment and fun," said Robbie.

Meeting the students and dynamic instructors at CapU inspired Robbie to give in two different ways. He wanted to directly help a classmate by donating to a program fund distributed by faculty, as well as establishing an entrance award for outdoor filmmaking, a program debuting at the Squamish campus next September.

"I think about how tough it is to be one of these students learning a passion and establishing themselves in a career where it can be difficult to make money," he said. "It must be exceedingly difficult to find their way."



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Moving from rural Saskatchewan via Winnipeg to North Vancouver to pursue a career in documentary film, Aaron Closs started to second-guess the plan when he realized it was more expensive to be a roommate in a basement suite than to live in the previous three-bedroom home he had to himself.

"It was intimidating to move from one of the cheapest places to live to the most expensive, but it has opened a whole world of possibilities," said Aaron. "If I hadn't gone to school at CapU, my opportunities would look very different. It's invaluable—with the instructors and students, you are building a whole support system that you will be working with five or 10 years into the future."

Aaron and Robbie were part of the same 13-person cohort of documentary students graduating together this past June. When Robbie donated to the Motion Picture Arts Student Program Fund, he left it to the faculty to determine the recipient, hoping to help a new graduate transition from student life to career and have a solid line on their new filmmaking resume as an award winner.

"I am grateful. It takes the pressure off to do the projects I have lined up," said Aaron. "For the next few months, I don't need a part-time job. I can look for the next [film] job, and I don't have to cut grass or flip burgers."

With a career already taking him to remote parts of British Columbia, Aaron says his dream is to work in the central coast making wildlife films with First Nations to support them in telling important stories.

"When you are donating money, you aren't just paying rent or putting food on my plate—what you are doing is allowing me to use the education I worked for and to start off as a filmmaker rather than step back to get a job that pays me immediately. It's allowing students to take their knowledge and flourish."

Robbie didn't expect to be so energized and empathetic to the younger people in his class.

"I am pursuing filmmaking as a labour of love, not at the very beginning of my career. There is so much pressure on them. They are brave and up to the challenge," said Robbie. "To be there in the moment and see Aaron beaming as he got the acknowledgment for his passion and skills was the best. I received the tax receipt in the mail, and it didn't even cross my mind that this was a charitable donation. I have only just started giving in this way, and it felt so good—that's why I would do it again."

"If I hadn't gone to school at CapU, my opportunities would look very different. It's invaluable—with the instructors and students, you are building a whole support system."

Aaron Closs
Documentary Certificate, 2025
Recipient, Motion Picture Arts
Student Program Fund

"I have only just started giving in this way, and it felt so good—that's why I would do it again."

Robbie Morrison
Documentary Certificate, 2025
Donor, Motion Picture Arts
Student Program Fund
and Outdoor Filmmaking
Entrance Award

Celebrating the sound of success

Enrique Lopez chuckles at himself for calling sound design the silent partner in film when it’s obviously anything but.

Enrique and third-year student Katayoun Kamdar were both recent recipients of the Annex Pro Award, recognizing the best achievement in sound design.

“Sound design is an invisible role in the industry and sometimes at school,” Enrique said. “[Motion Picture Arts] is a broad course. It covers a lot of different aspects of film, and it’s up to you to figure out and put the energy in to find what you like and to put the time in to get better at it.”

With financial pressures ever looming, the Annex Pro Award helped Enrique focus on his studies.

“Any support that can go to students, whether it’s now or coming out of university, is helpful to launch their future. It makes a difference. For the career that I want to do, equipment is very, very expensive in the film industry.”

LOCAL LEADERS RECOGNIZE TALENT

In uncertain times of tariffs and flux in creative industries, Annex Pro is focusing on what it has for decades: investing in the future. Its relationship with CapU began almost 25 years ago.

“I don’t know what to tell people,” said Kerry Corlett, founder and CEO. “I am at a loss. Never seen anything like this. What does this mean for us? Our industry? New grads? It’s scary.”

He recognizes that the very nature of the industry has graduates working contract to contract, and creating the award helps students finish their degree strong while leaning into Annex Pro’s own humble start.

As a national leader in supplying technologies to digital creatives, film and TV productions, based in Vancouver, Annex Pro is on the leading edge of industry transformation.

“We were founded in the area of recording sound and music. We decided to honour that beginning when we created the award. We do so much more than that now, but it’s near and dear to us.”

“The mental impact: it’s a load off your shoulders. This is truly something that helps not only in the reward aspect but also in knowing that you are capable and worthy.”

Katayoun Kamdar
Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts student



Kerry Corlett
Annex Pro

Kerry sees firsthand how CapU students and new graduates use their skills to succeed.

“The industry is quite nomadic, and we run into people with connections to CapU at any time, in any place: Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal.”

Local businesses like Annex Pro have been a part of the success of Vancouver’s robust film, television and gaming industries. “While facing rapid digital innovation, students are graduating ready to be the next generation of creatives,” said Kerry.

“People still want to be entertained by high-quality, original entertainment,” he said. “[Grads] will find their way to do good work and to use the skills they learned. Outside of the entertainment industry, there is more communication through video and images than ever before. It’s growing—the internet is becoming primarily images and videos. People who are entrepreneurial will find their place to use their skills.”



EARLY INVESTMENTS OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

Financial support had a direct impact on how Katayoun Kamdar planned her post-secondary training.

“Without help, I would have gone to do something smaller, like a diploma. My parents said they could help me, but I would not have wanted to make them handle the high costs of a four-year degree,” she said.

The award came at a pivotal time.

“I was taken aback to have this come along,” she said. “They see that I am capable, that I can do this, that I have a future in this industry. It gave me a moment to sit back and reflect that I enjoyed learning this new skill, and I am good at it. Without worrying about finances so much, I was able to give back, which gave me a push to get involved with my program and help the lower years because I didn’t have to worry about getting by.”

“I thank Annex Pro. Your contribution helped to further my career. I can’t tell you how much this means to me. It’s a reassurance that I am on the right path, and my efforts have been and will continue to be worth it.”

Enrique Lopez
Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts, 2025

New Awards



THE LISA LAMBERT LEGACY MUSIC AWARD

The Lisa Lambert Legacy Music Award was created in 2024 by a close friend, Jolene Cumming, to honour Lisa's significant contributions to Vancouver's music community. Lisa was a talented, well-respected, trailblazing woman, drummer, percussionist, vocalist, mentor and music teacher. The purpose of the fund is to support female-identifying Capilano University students in the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies - Performance and Composition program who demonstrate a committed focus on drum set. Through this award, Lisa's legacy of inspiring future musicians lives on.

NANCY MCMASTER MEMORIAL MUSIC THERAPY BURSARY

CapU lost a pioneer when Nancy McMaster, a long-time instructor in the Bachelor of Music Therapy program, passed away in December 2023. Nancy co-founded the program at Capilano College in 1976. She served over the years as an instructor, coordinator, program steward and active member of the University community. Her passion for the profession, dedication to student success, enthusiasm, wisdom, warmth, humour and passion were deeply appreciated by those who knew her. She had a special ability to speak her mind. She was a gifted storyteller and a skilled listener. To continue her legacy of investing in the future of the profession, Susan Baines, a CapU Music Therapy instructor, established the Nancy McMaster Memorial Music Therapy Bursary. The purpose of the fund is to support students in the program who demonstrate financial need.



SQUAMISH CAMPUS OUTDOOR FILMMAKING ENTRANCE AWARD

Coming to CapU as an older student in the Documentary Certificate program sparked CapU graduate Robbie Morrison to give back (see page 10). Sharing the classroom with young, driven filmmakers, along with his own passion for wildlife and outdoor filmmaking, sparked a desire to support future students. Pursuing this field as a new creative outlet in his retirement from a long career in the federal public service, Robbie is excited to be the establishing donor of the Squamish Campus Outdoor Filmmaking Entrance Award. He is thrilled to help students learn the craft in the ideal location to immerse themselves in the outdoors for living, learning and playing.



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Established by the Capilano University Alumni Association (CUAA), the CUAA Excellence Award envisions a future where its investment in student and alumni success inspires members, strengthens the CapU experience, and fosters excellence in all communities. Initiated by Matthew Smith, Chris Carnovale and Jamil Kara (serving as Board Chair and Vice Chairs in 2024), it supports students in their final year of study at CapU who demonstrate dedication and community engagement beyond their classroom while maintaining academic achievement. This support aims to ease their transition to becoming graduates, reflecting the CUAA's commitment to nurturing future leaders.



Dreams supported by donors

As Emma Mabley took to the stage this past June as the student speaker for convocation representing the Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development, she was humbly aware of the financial support that got her there or even to Capilano University and North Vancouver in the first place.

STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

When Emma began to explore the idea of a career in music therapy, she quickly settled on CapU as her dream school. Unfortunately, that created some financial hurdles to overcome and ultimately led her to start her post-secondary education at the University of Calgary.

"I was able to get help from my parents, but money is something I needed to think about, save and plan to come out to CapU," said Emma. "It made sense to stay home as long as I could. I definitely noticed that everything is significantly more [expensive in Vancouver] than Calgary for groceries, gas, rent and those types of things."

Careful planning brought Emma—as she dreamed—to CapU for the final two years of her Bachelor of Music Therapy degree.

"It was everything I wanted it to be and more," she said. "Our program is very demanding, requiring seven courses, including a whole day of the week for a practicum. It isn't designed to be done part-time for those last two years of instruction. Lots of people feel the pressure of the program and finances."

Emma was supported by the Gary Le Tourneau scholarship and the Bill Ekins Memorial Music Therapy scholarship, in addition to her cohort receiving an external grant to support the work-integrated learning portion of the program.

"It felt wonderful to have some relief from financial pressures, but also the feeling that someone cared about what I was doing, and they could see me giving it my all. It was hugely validating that people who care about my field had faith in me."

"I feel so grateful for the scholarships I received. I can't say a big enough thank you. It meant a lot to me to learn about what motivated people to create a scholarship, and I felt honoured to be trusted with representing the memory of someone they cared about."

WHERE THERE IS A WIL, THERE IS A WAY

One of the biggest draws to the CapU program was the opportunities for Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), which allowed Emma and fellow graduates to get a wealth of hands-on experience while in school. These are worthwhile rewards that also have a few challenges.

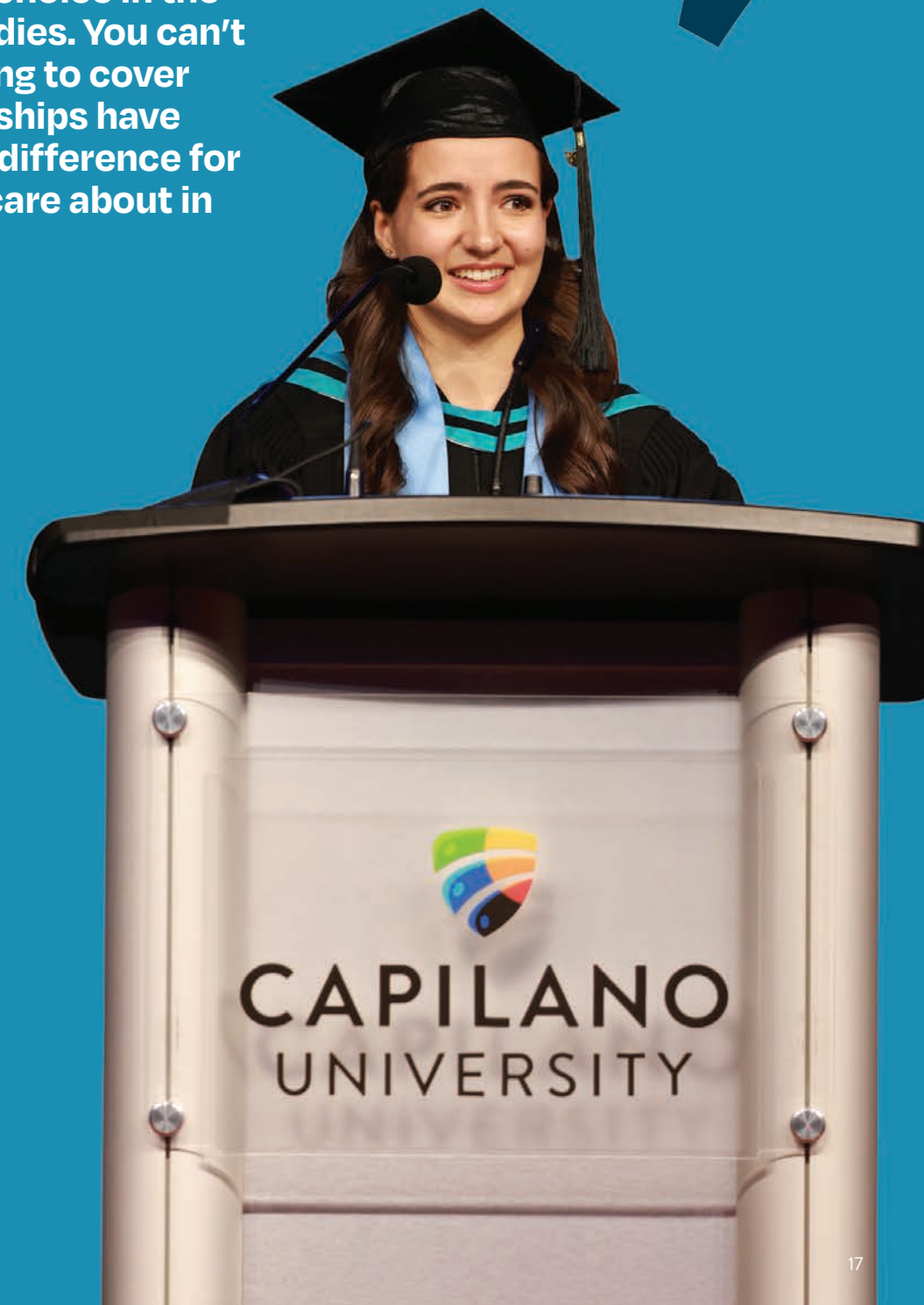
"This is a field where you have to slowly build your practice, so the internship is an incredible experience to help with that. However, internships are often unpaid, and that makes it very hard to get enough hours in to graduate on time. The cost of living being what it is, I had to tighten my belt quite a bit. Some people have to reduce their hours, extend their internships and delay graduation to be able to afford to live while doing practicums. It was such a huge relief to have help to cover tuition while we were in the internship."

CapU is growing its programs offering WIL opportunities, supporting students with needed and practical experience and often serving non-profit organizations struggling with labour costs. Donors can support both community partners and students by funding WIL placements to help students during a time when they cannot take on additional part-time employment.

"There are just things you don't do when you are trying to extend your budget. I ate a lot of the same things all week to be budget-friendly," said Emma. "For some people, the scholarships and grants made the difference between taking a pause and completing their degrees. It was a matter of covering rent or not. The margins are that small."

"Donors may never know the full impact of their donation. It helps people feel affirmed in their purpose at university, that they are making the right choice in the direction of their studies. You can't learn if you are fighting to cover basic needs. Scholarships have made a great deal of difference for me and the people I care about in this school."

Emma Mabley
Bachelor of Music Therapy, 2025



From the classroom to the courtroom: Investing in the future of legal support



When Elizabeth Kollias graduated from Capilano University with a legal assistant diploma, she could not have predicted that she would lead the province’s paralegal association and give back to her alma mater.

“Our association values education and upholding standards, which is one of the reasons we have such a long-standing relationship with CapU. We are seeing consistently that its graduates contribute to the legal community in a meaningful way,” said Elizabeth, president of the BC Paralegal Association.

For more than three decades, the association has invested in CapU and its students with contributions to our library endowment and its Victoria Legal Support Staff Association Legacy Award and BC Paralegal Association Endowment Bursary.

“Our philanthropy philosophy is simple. We want to invest in future paralegals who will be future legal professionals. We want any aspiring paralegal to have access to financial support and resources that will assist them in succeeding,” said Elizabeth.

SETTING UP SUCCESS

For F.P., a recipient of the award and Paralegal diploma student, the financial support felt like being welcomed to the profession.

“Knowing that professionals in the field are investing in students like me feels like I’m already part of a wider, supportive legal community. I am very grateful to be a part of a community that is so willing to give back,” she said.

Supporting students to be successful with their education is one way to help enthusiastic, driven people enter the profession.

“Education is an investment in the future, and having scholarships and bursaries available ensures the people who are passionate can have the opportunity to

succeed irrespective of any financial barriers they may have,” said Elizabeth. “Students need opportunities to thrive. They play a vital role in upholding the quality and professionalism of paralegals in British Columbia.”

PRACTICE EXPANSION

The association and its board are working with the Ministry of the Attorney General to reform the *Legal Professions Act*—a move that would bring paralegals, notaries and lawyers under a single regulator and introduce a new designation: regulated paralegal. This role would allow qualified professionals to offer independent legal advice, increasing access to legal support for British Columbians, said Elizabeth.

“CapU is known for rigorous training and a curriculum that always adapts to changes in the legal industry, as well as offering a practical experience component. Not only am I an alumna of CapU, but I have also worked with alumni and mentored CapU graduates. They are highly regarded in the legal industry.”

Bursaries, scholarships and awards help students meet those high academic standards.

“It allowed me to dedicate the time and energy needed to excel in my program, ultimately helping me earn a place on the Dean’s List,” said F.P. “I had taken some time off school after completing my undergraduate degree to travel and work, so stepping back into school and the legal field was both exciting and daunting. The community at CapU, along with the support I received, made the transition smoother and lessened some of the burden.”

Elizabeth received similar support during her undergraduate degree—an impact she still feels today and shapes the priorities of the BC Paralegal Association.

“I was fortunate enough to have the support of scholarships and bursaries. It alleviated some of the financial burdens and influenced my leadership to give back to students. Supporting their academic goals will help them achieve their professional goals.”

CapU Alumni Association (CUAA)

Proudly championing our alumni who are making an impact here and around the world.

Join us in building a stronger, more connected alumni community.

Learn more: capilanou.ca/alumni

Instagram: [@capualumni](https://www.instagram.com/capualumni)
Facebook: [@capilouniversityalumni](https://www.facebook.com/capilouniversityalumni)
LinkedIn: [@capualumni](https://www.linkedin.com/company/capualumni)



Find out about alumni perks

A THRIVING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

100,000 CapU alumni who reside in 75 countries worldwide

22,000 Actively engaged alumni through events, programming and communications

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

10 Grants Awarded through the Community Sponsorship Program to support alumni-led non-profit initiatives

Over 600 Engaged alumni participating in alumni programming, initiatives and events this year

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING AND SUPPORT

\$69,510 Funds raised from alumni in support of CapU students this year

82.5% Increase in alumni-led giving compared to last year



1,375

Scholarships, bursaries and awards given to CapU students during the 2024-2025 academic year, an increase of 2.7 per cent

\$2,060,322

Awarded to students to support them in their educational journey, an increase of approximately 8.5 per cent

974

Donor gifts supported more than 122 programs at CapU

1 in 8

Students received a financial award during the 2024-25 academic year



It's been a remarkable year at Capilano University. Together, we launched the President's Entrance Award—our largest donor-endowed award to date, surpassing one million dollars—opened the Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies and welcomed the first students to CapU Squamish.

Our students and community would not have benefited from any of these achievements without your support.

Thank you for investing in our future and theirs. Your impact will be felt today and for generations to come.

Please connect with us to see firsthand the difference you're making and to explore further opportunities for involvement.

Jennifer Bryan

Director, Philanthropy & Alumni Relations
Capilano University



CAPU ALUMNI

Keep your network strong
and stay connected!

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in Capilano University Alumni Group
capilano.alumni-perks.com

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