



Generations

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Your support keeps students in the game



“ This is the beauty of giving. No matter what the recipient is going through, the support of receiving an award can only bring about positive change. For that I would like to thank the Pollards and all other university donors for their inspiring generosity.”

◀ Jesse Gordon, engineering physics student, and former Huskie athlete

When he isn't on the football field, you can find Jesse Gordon analyzing space missions, contemplating synchrotron physics and experimenting with solar cells. At times, his academic and athletic schedule bleed into one another.

He will study until the early hours of the morning in the library, grab a few hours of sleep and return to campus to board the game bus with his teammates, off to another province to represent the U of S Huskies. “Despite the sacrifices, it has been worth it,” Jesse asserts.

From the time he was 18 years old, Jesse knew with certainty these two things:

1. He wanted to play football.
2. He wanted to pursue a higher education.

When he was offered a spot on the Huskie football team, he was overjoyed. He recognized it would be difficult to balance a demanding athletic schedule while pursuing a degree in engineering physics, but his competitive nature and motto—that hard work pays off in

the end—had him moving forward at a fast and furious pace.

This pace would successfully propel him through four years of schooling, until recently when everything came to a stop.

Jesse suddenly found himself sidelined from his motto and the game he adored. He had developed a serious hip injury and would require surgery, with extensive physiotherapy to follow.

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The giving cycle: what goes around should come around

Lawyer Karen Almadi spends her days drafting and reviewing oil and gas contracts, but in her first career, she maintained a very different kind of beast, or beasts, as it were. As a young biology graduate, she was an animal records clerk at the Calgary Zoo. “The zoo training stood me in good stead when I began working as a lawyer—the law firms were structured a lot like gorilla troops, with the senior partners beating their chests!” she jokes.

“ I always feel very grateful that I went to the U of S, because it’s an amazing school that gave me a terrific legal education.”

— Almadi

Karen enjoyed zoo work, but the salary couldn’t meet some of her major goals: to own a home, travel and live independently. So at 29, she applied to law school. “I knew it would be a challenging career that could provide me with a good living,” she says. Her aunt was a secretary in the legal department at Shell Canada, and many of their lawyers hailed from the U of S. “One of them

told me that the U of S turned out good, solid law practitioners,” she says. “And the campus was just so stunningly beautiful.”

She loved her time at the U of S. “We were a tight-knit year...a really collegial bunch,” she says. Graduating in 1996, Karen now works as an in-house lawyer and devotes her free time to her passions: bike tours, theatre and

military history. “I always feel very grateful that I went to the U of S, because it’s an amazing school that gave me a terrific legal education,” she says. “It really did live up to what that fellow told me!”

Karen’s education has given her a wonderful life and a great career, which made her want to give something back. “I travel,



▲ Karen Almadi, J.D. 1996, devotes her free time to one of her passions: bike tours.

Jesse's story continued from front page

I live very comfortably and independently. I thought the least I could do is help others achieve the same," she says. Right after graduating, she started donating to the College of Law and the law library. But she also planned further ahead. "When I started thinking about my Will, the U of S was one of the things I wanted to make provision for," she says. In 2000, Karen decided to establish a future gift to support the law library and create student scholarships. Since then, she has been a member of the Greystone Circle.

"People before me had a vision to create this terrific establishment that has had a huge impact on my life," she says. "When you're fortunate enough to get this kind of opportunity, it's important to make future plans to give back."

So what does Karen have planned next? More travelling, more bike tours, and eventually, another degree—this time in military history. "I can't wait till I can get back to school!" she says. ■

“To be recognized for your hard work and know that people believe in you is a feeling like no other.”

— Jesse Gordon

^ Jesse Gordon at work in the lab, creating solar cells for research purposes.

Physiotherapy would be required during the summer, which would interfere with taking a full-time job to help pay for his schooling. He would have to choose between his health and education.

Fortunately, Jesse never had to make this choice, thanks to the Ruth and Eber Pollard Scholarship.

"When I received news that I was the recipient of this amazing scholarship, I made the decision to take a class over summer so that I would have time to rehab my hip," said Jesse.

That class was paid for by the Pollards' support, and gave Jesse reassurance that hard work does

pay off. "To be recognized for your hard work and know that people believe in you is a feeling like no other," he says. "This is the beauty of giving. No matter what the recipient is going through, the support of receiving an award can only bring about positive change. For that I would like to thank the Pollards and all other university donors for their inspiring generosity."

Jesse is now looking to the future and where his education might take him. For Jesse, hard work, dedication and passion will always fuel a person forward in life. He likes to think that Ruth and Eber Pollard stepped in at the perfect time to remind him of this—it's how you play the game. ■

Welcoming you to the Greystone Circle

The Greystone Circle is our way of thanking you for being a treasured friend and supporter of our university. If you have already included the University of Saskatchewan in your Will, thank you so much! The university would not be what it is without people like you. The Greystone Circle is our way of thanking you for your future support of our university. As a member, you will receive regular updates from the university, be invited to enjoy exclusive events and generally made to feel special—because you are!



▲ Greystone Circle Members taking in an afternoon of entertainment, conversation and sweet treats on campus. Photograph by Amanda Shalovelo.

This past June, Chancellor Emerita Vera Pezer hosted an afternoon ice cream social for this special group. Emcees CD and Cathie McIvor graciously guided their fellow Greystone Circle members through the afternoon's activities, including an inspiring message from Jesse Gordon and an outstanding musical

performance from two former music students. We're already planning for next year's event and hope to count you among our guests.

If you would like to let us know about your future gift, we'd love to hear from you. Please fill in and return the enclosed response

form. We would appreciate the opportunity to honour you for your future generosity and welcome you to the Greystone Circle! ■



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Bev Cooper c/o University Relations
University of Saskatchewan
Room G16, Thorvaldson Building
110 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5C9
Phone: (306) 966-2416 Toll free: 1-800-699-1906
bev.cooper@usask.ca
usask.ca/giftplanning