



Generations

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Inspiring the next generation of educators



“ Our hope is that people recognize the significance of the generosity from donors like Marion Clarke whose vision and passion has empowered students to further study early childhood education.”

◀ Jordanne Estergaard (left), education student, with cohort Christina Luross

The A. Marion Clarke Education Trust is having a tremendous impact on the advancement of early childhood undergraduate teacher education at the University of Saskatchewan—just ask Jordanne Estergaard and Christina Luross.

The two young women are teacher candidates in the College of Education. In September, they will begin their final year of university specializing in early childhood education—an area of focus that would otherwise not have been possible without Marion Clarke’s will gift. A fellow education

alumna, her donation re-established the program in 2016, allowing the college to continue supporting programming for those with an interest in the youngest minds in the education system.

Originally from southern Ontario, Jordanne had thoughts of becoming a teacher from a young age. Her choice was solidified after completing a co-op work placement in her senior year of high school.

“I worked in kindergarten classes, and then Grade 6 and Grade 8, but kindergarten stole my heart,” she said.

She went on to complete a child youth worker degree before moving to Saskatchewan in 2013 to work as a youth care worker at Eagle’s Nest Youth Ranch. Jordanne hopes to keep working with younger children after she graduates. Working in a school in a northern community is of particular interest to her—a challenge she feels prepared for, given her past experience and education.

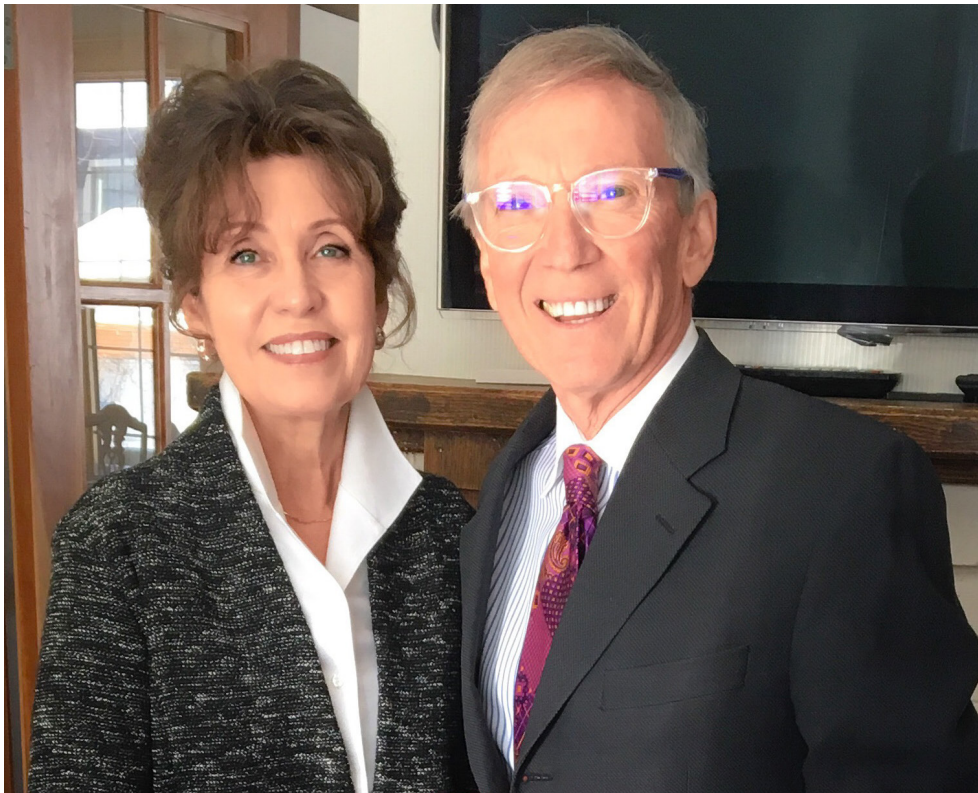
“The struggles they have there are different from the ones we have here,” she said, adding that

continued on page 3

Homegrown generosity: keeping kindness in the community

Generosity has deep roots. And here on the prairies, these roots often reflect moments when our own lives have been touched by the kindness of others.

Doug and Jocelyn Richardson have felt these moments in their own lives and strive to live a life that lifts others. Doug is senior partner with McKercher LLP and has been with the firm for over 30 years. Jocelyn is a professional engineer and president of Convent Management Limited. They were born and raised in Saskatoon, and have a lifetime of exceptional community work, volunteering, and fundraising under their belts. Proud U of S alumni and Greystone Circle members for 13 years, Doug and Jocelyn's roots in Saskatoon run as deep as their belief in the power of giving back.



▲ Jocelyn (BE'78) and Doug (LLB'74) Richardson—proud U of S alumni

“The university drives the city. It's been a big part of our lives, and we are proud of our ongoing involvement with the U of S.”

— Doug Richardson

They need not look any further than Jocelyn's own father to see how generosity can change the course of your life.

Owen Mann was the son of a Scottish miner, U of S graduate

and professor of engineering at the U of S for 47 years. He grew up in a poor family full of boys, and there was little hope that Owen would achieve much more than his father. It was a mine manager who first noticed something special in young Owen and insisted he could have a better life.

“He told my dad, ‘you should really be in university.’ And not only did he get to go to university on full scholarship, but he became the best professor he could be,” said Jocelyn. “When he died, there were so many notes from people who said he was someone who

really made a difference in their lives and careers.”

Jocelyn was raised on campus. She grew up with a love of its buildings and landmarks, and she even learned to skate on the Rutherford rink. While she was hugging the boards, trying to find her balance, Doug was only a few neighbourhoods away, discovering his love of community service and fundraising.

“I was at Aden Bowman, and I can't remember exactly what the fundraiser was about, but I remember it getting competitive!”

Continued from page 1

said Doug. “I went away from that thinking we had done something useful and important.”

When it came time to choose a university, neither hesitated to enroll at the U of S. Saskatoon is their home, and the university is the cornerstone of the community they love so much.

“The university drives the city,” said Doug. “It’s been a big part of our lives, and we are proud of our ongoing involvement with the U of S.”

The Richardson’s generosity will touch countless lives here on campus and around the world. They have chosen to designate their gift of life insurance to St. Thomas More College, the Canadian Light Source, and the Dennis Skopik and Dennis Johnson Scholarship in Physics and Engineering Physics.

They hope that their gift makes the difference to even one student who, like Jocelyn’s father, may go on to change the lives of countless others.

“He never would have dreamed that his life could be any different. But all it took was one person to see his potential,” said Jocelyn. “It just shows the power of one person. One person can change a life.” ■



▲ Christina Luross and Jordanne Estergaard

regardless of where she ends up teaching, she wants to act as an advocate for her students.

Jordanne’s cohort, Christina Luross, has a similar disposition for helping others. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Christina always looked forward to the future and knew she wanted to make a difference—whether by joining student council in high school or organizing bottle drives to send less-fortunate children to summer camp.

“We all want to make a difference in the lives of others—specifically young children—and have a positive impact,” she said.

Christina is currently working as an educational assistant in the Saskatoon Public School system while completing her studies. She would like to complete a French degree and work as a French immersion teacher. This means,

of course, spending a little extra time as a student herself, but she doesn’t mind—the calling card of a true teacher.

“I love school,” said Christina, a self-affirmed lifelong learner.

Jordanne and Christina both acknowledge the exceptional gift left by Marion Clarke that allowed them to reach their own educational goals.

“Our hope is that people recognize the significance of the generosity from donors like Marion Clarke whose vision and passion has empowered students to further study early childhood education,” said Jordanne.

“If Marion Clarke was here today, my hope would be that she could see the incredible impact her gift has had on creating inspired and passionate early childhood educators,” added Christina. ■

You're among friends in 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.

As a member of the Greystone Circle, you will receive regular updates from the university, be invited to enjoy exclusive events and generally made to feel special—because you are!

This past May, President Peter Stoicheff and his wife, Kathryn Warden, hosted our annual event at the President's Residence on campus.

Conditions were perfect for the scenic garden party, complete with traditional afternoon tea, dainties and plenty of good company. Chancellor Emerita Vera Pezer served as emcee, the U of S Student Jazz Trio dazzled guests with their melodies, and students Jordanne Estergaard



▲ Greystone Circle members enjoyed a lovely day of fellowship and camaraderie at the President's Residence in May.

and Christina Luross shared their inspiring stories as recipients of a realized estate gift. 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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