



## Scholarships 2011-2012

### **Dustin Paul**

**Law Student, University of British Columbia**

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At a level of C4, Dustin's spinal cord injury resulted in quadriplegia with significant limitations in mobility. He uses a power wheelchair and requires assistance with most daily living activities such as dressing and preparing meals. Dustin uses a note-taker at school because he is unable to write, he also uses voice activated computer software to complete his academic work.



Managing an active lifestyle and organizing the care and assistance required to participate in academia is a significant task for an individual such as Dustin. To add a law school education, with high academic achievement, is impressive to say the least. But perhaps most impressive is Dustin's tremendous leadership skills and his commitment to his community. One of his professors puts it best – *"I have no doubt he will, by both example and advocacy, make the world a better place for people with disabilities, and indeed for everyone."* His volunteer experiences as a law student, fundraiser for children's camps, and as a public speaker to raise awareness of people with disabilities, made this an easy decision for the scholarship committee.

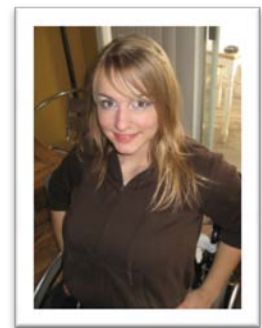
Dustin Paul was awarded a BC Paraplegic Foundation Scholarship and the Joseph David Hall Memorial Scholarship as recommended by the committee, for a combined total award of \$2,500.

### **Elyssa Donovan**

**Undergraduate Studies (English Major), University of British Columbia (Okanagan)**

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Elyssa received a spinal injury from an accident six years ago and has found her education to be of great value to her during her rehabilitation and adjustment. She now finds herself very excited to be pursuing her goal to become an educator at the high school level and she is doing so successfully with letter grades in all classes ranging from A- to A+.



As a singer, Elyssa is also very involved in performing at various fundraisers in the Okanagan area, from helping to raise money for Haiti to supporting local arts organizations. A letter of recommendation from one of her professors is of the highest praise, noting particularly her high degree of responsibility,

initiative and diligence. She described Elyssa as a “*high achiever*” and one who “*puts significant effort into learning*” and this was apparent as well from her scholastic success.

Elyssa Donovan was awarded a BC Paraplegic Foundation Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.

**Kelly Charlton**  
**Business Program, Camosun College**

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Kelly is used to challenges; as a paraplegic since an injury just two years ago he experiences challenges daily. But he is a particularly focused and determined young man who has a goal to combine his ten years of pre-injury work experience with a business certificate to “*re-enter the work force as soon as possible*”.

Kelly has been attending school without a break for the past year and plans to continue with his studies nonstop until he finishes the program –he is currently managing this accelerated pace with an A/B average. His work ethic and determination has greatly impressed his teachers. One wrote that “*During the seven weeks of this short term, Kelly has made amazingly rapid progress. In fact he has completed two complete math courses, each with a final grade of A+ during this brief time. This amount of work completed, with such high grades, and in such a short time is almost unheard of in my over 40 years of teaching experience.*”

Needless to say, the committee for the James H.G. Roche Memorial Scholarship was very impressed with his strong work ethic and determination, and so awarded Kelly Charlton with \$3,000 to help him achieve his goals.



**Heather Jensen**  
**Education Program, Simon Fraser University**

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Living long term with Harrington rods and significant back pain with limited mobility has not restricted Heather from pursuing her goals, thanks to her strong determination and positive outlook. She is close to obtaining her second degree and looking forward to a career teaching in the elementary school system.

Her volunteer commitment is equally impressive to her scholastic achievement. In her home community of Abbotsford, Heather has supported the Special Olympics, the Sunshine Kids, the Salvation Army, the Youth Commission and the Kiwanis Club (Clearbrook) and the Children’s Respite Program with the Communitas Supportive Care Society. She also recently signed up to volunteer with the Fraser Valley Metis Association. Heather has held a position as a Youth Care Worker for the District of Abbotsford which has now ended to allow her to participate in a teaching practicum and full-time study.

Her manager at the Communitas Supportive Care Society shared that, “*Despite any physical discomfort that Heather may be experiencing, she is always busy trying to improve the lives of children that she interacts with professionally.*” The families that she has worked with believe that they are “*fortunate to have Heather in their lives.*”



The committee members for the James H.G. Roche Memorial Scholarship were confident that Heather Jensen will be an outstanding teacher and role model for young children and awarded her a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.

### **Barbara Schober**

#### **Doctoral Student, University of British Columbia**

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Barbara is well known to the Scholarship Committee, having been the worthy recipient of numerous awards during her education. Barbara's very successful academic record would be impressive for any individual; the fact that she has achieved this despite living with a very high level spinal cord injury, tremendous physical restrictions and significant secondary health issues, is simply inspirational.



Her goal is to complete her Ph.D. program within two years, after which she hopes to continue in the field of academia as a part-time history instructor and researcher. She is also working on a number of projects that she'd like to pursue to the publication stage. Barbara is also very active with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre as a volunteer writer, researcher and transcriber.

One of her professors provided a letter of *"unqualified support"* of Barbara's application. He shared that Barbara is *"an extraordinary researcher with a powerful ability to analyze a broad array synthesize the information in cogent and articulate arguments."*

In recognition of her achievement and perseverance in pursuing her goals despite ongoing challenges, the committee was pleased to provide Barbara Schober with a BC Paraplegic Foundation Scholarship and successfully recommended her for the C.W. Dean Memorial Scholarship through UBC for a total award of \$1,000.