

Announcing:

Patrick Chan Award in Sustainable Agriculture

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While colleges and universities receive a certain amount of core funding from government and industrial projects, donations for awards and scholarships also help students achieve innovative goals. An example is the “Patrick Chan Award in Sustainable Agriculture”, recently established by the University of Lethbridge to provide additional financial support to undergraduate students studying sustainability and agricultural innovation. This new award is one of many small awards and scholarships meant to help students cover some of the costs of their training, and to recognize their interests and contributions in special topics.

There are, of course, many ways to improve the world, and attending college or university is just one of them. Patrick Chan took that path as an undergraduate at the University of Lethbridge, where he studied Biological Sciences, Environmental Science, and Geography, while also remaining active as a hardworking business person. Patrick joined our team as a summer research assistant in 2008, assisting in research on alternative methods in agriculture and ecology. He refined skills and gained experience through independent studies and mentoring in sustainable development, ecological agriculture, laboratory methods, insect pathology, microscopy, data analysis, and field studies of weather, crops, insects, fish, and soil. He was full of ideas, trying out projects in areas like hydroponics, organic soil additives, and innovations in the food industry. He became interested in research in support of responsible and enduring management of resources, environment and crops.

Patrick graduated from the University of Lethbridge in May, 2009. Lethbridge Herald coverage of the graduation ceremony included a memorable photo of Patrick and his sister Patty, both in their graduation gowns, looking back and smiling with typical optimism. Patrick accepted a position as a research technician in the Alberta Water and Environmental Science building. He contributed to projects on sustainable management of agriculture, soil, water, mining, wildlife, and business. Four months after he graduated and took the research job, Patrick died suddenly, at the age of 29. Co-workers, students and faculty remember him for his enthusiasm, responsibility, and cheerful work ethic. Patrick’s case illustrates that a short life does indeed make very significant contributions to the world by affecting others close to him, and also by influencing the attitudes and optimism of co-workers and fellow students. His enthusiasm for work and his positive attitude continue to inspire. In the newly established Patrick Chan Award in Sustainable Agriculture, we remember his win-win vision of profitable business based on knowledge of healthy ecosystems, and his way of getting the daily jobs done in a friendly, enthusiastic way. The vision of a sustainable future is not just something for a few people to work towards, but for thousands to share. This annual award will be given to a student studying or promoting some aspect of sustainable agriculture, to pay some bills but more importantly to recognize effort and ideas. Individuals or companies who would like to donate to support this award in future years can contact the University of Lethbridge.

(Current value of this award is \$500, with an award plaque)



Patrick Chan

Aug 1, 1980 - Sept 15, 2009



(photos by D. Johnson)

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**Applicants or potential donors should contact:
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