

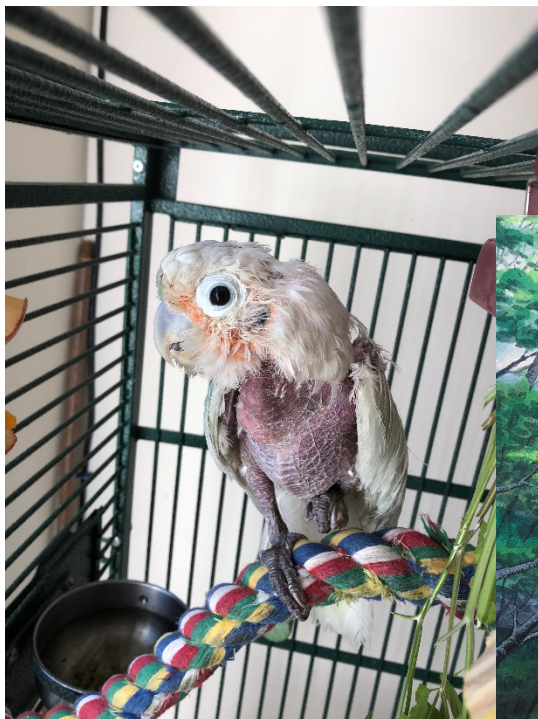
To Whom It May Concern:

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I am writing to personally thank you for your generous support in making a TRU Open Learning Faculty Association bursary possible for me. I have spent the last ten or so years working full time as a professional musician, holding a master's degree in music from Yale University (with a major in opera performance). With the state of the world being what it is, along with my own growing personal convictions about what I am called to do, I made the decision in the summer of 2019 to change careers and head into veterinary medicine, with an eventual focus on avian medicine. Since then, I have been enrolled in TRU Open Learning for the past year and a half and have taken almost 30 credits so far, ranging from Organic Chemistry to Genetics to Physics-- all pre-requisite courses for my application to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, which I hope to attend in the Fall of 2021.

In the meantime, I have also been working as an extern at the Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine at the Exotics Department under Dr. Julia Shakeri, who is an avian specialist, and volunteering and fostering parrots who need new homes through the Connecticut Parrot Rescue. My spare time is spent painting birds (I'm a hobby watercolorist), and I had hoped to send you a print of one of my pieces as thanks, although I understand with the pandemic, we are not allowed to send physical cards this year.

As such, please find attached my painting of a Goffin's cockatoo (*Cacatua goffiniana*)-- inspired by one of my former foster parrots, Chicken Little (whose picture is also attached). May her image express some measure of the gratitude I feel. Your gift has relieved some of the financial burden of making such a major life change-- especially in a time when most of my work as a musician has been cancelled for the foreseeable future-- and I cannot thank you enough for it. Please know I am now even more motivated to do my absolute best, and pursue my dream of becoming an avian vet.

All best, with my deepest gratitude,
Evanna Lai (Chiew)



Dear Donor/Supporter,

My name is Giovanni Tebia, and I am the recipient of the TRU Bursary for the School of nursing. I would like to thank you for your generous support.

I have been a Registered Nurse from the Philippines for more than 10 years and moved here to BC three years ago. Currently, I am residing with my wife and two kids at Vanderhoof, BC. I was required by the BC College of Nurses and Midwives to undergo Return to Registered Nurse certificate with Thompson Rivers University in 2019 as an educational requirement for us being Internationally Educated Nurses in transferring credentials in British Columbia. I and my wife were both nurses and we took the same courses together at TRU.

Taking the course is not cheap, especially when two in the family will take it, and also if you have two kids. All of our income will need to be planned and allocated accordingly. The online program worked very well for us. I was currently working at WorkBC Vanderhoof, BC as a Senior Case Manager, at the same time doing distance learning as I am the sole provider of the family. We did not qualify for the BC Student loan, so we paid for our course using a line of credit. Further, I have learned a lot from the program, & it made me more prepared in the Canadian Health Care setting.

Winning the Bursary means a lot to me and the family, as currently, we need additional financial support to provide for the growing needs of the family as well as for future continuing education. After obtaining nursing registration with BCCNM, I intend to pursue my education further and take the Master of Nursing or Nurse Practitioner program. I am also thinking of being in the academe & enhancing my nursing practice.

I and my family appreciate you sharing your blessings with other people, who are pursuing further learning and education. May our Lord almighty bless you more so that you can help more students who need help and financial assistance.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Tebia, PHRN, MSN(Ph)

Dear Open Learning Faculty Association,

I would just like to start by saying that I am very sorry that I will not be able to attend the virtual awards ceremony to thank you in person, but unfortunately I am scheduled to work at that time and will not be able to attend. Had I been able to, I would be able to say thank you and tell you how very excited and proud I feel to be receiving this bursary.

The last time I won any type of award was in high school - specifically it was in 2002 when I was in grade 12 and it was an award from the art department. I have never received any type of award for my academic achievements, and although course marks were only part of the evaluation process for this bursary I am still very proud of work that I've done over the past two years.

The opportunity to study online in an open learning environment has been life-changing, if it were not for this program I likely would not be able to finish my degree that I started back in 2003 at Langara College here in Vancouver. I've been able to take classes while working full-time but would never have been able to afford to take time off work to go back to school. I've really enjoyed all of my courses so far and have been genuinely impressed with how much the instructors care about the classes they teach and with helping the students succeed. That I've been able to perform so well has given me a real self-esteem boost and receiving this bursary feels like a wonderful reward for all my hard work over the past two years.

My plans for now is to continue plugging away at my courses - at this point I have about eight more classes to go before I'll be able to graduate with my BA General Program with a focus in Psychology and English. When I am done that I'm thinking about pursuing a graduate certificate in Child and Youth Mental Health also through TRU-OL.

Again, thank you very much for selecting me to receive the bursary this year
Rebecca Steuart

To the TRU Open Learning Faculty Association donor(s),

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient for the TRUOLFA bursary award. In my years of education, I have never received an award like this. I am grateful to be chosen and I thank the team for choosing me. It is my goal to complete the Masters of Education degree in the coming months. This will be a memorable moment to be receiving this award on December 3.

I look forward to seeing my award donor(s) virtually.

Thank you very much,

Rolly de Juan

To The Generous Donor,

My name is Trevor Woodburn, and I am the recipient of one of the TRU Open Learning Faculty Association Awards. Thank you so much for your generous contribution towards my education. I am from Vancouver Island and began attending TRU with the goal of becoming a medical doctor. With your financial contribution, I can help pay for schooling and expenses that will make that a reality. Winning this award means I can stress out a little bit less about where money will have to come from in the next few months and I can work towards helping others in the future.

Thank you again and I wish you the best,

Trevor Woodburn

Dear TRU-OL Faculty Association,

I want to take this time to express my sincere gratitude for being selected to receive a bursary for this academic year. My experience studying at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) from day one has been nothing but positive, and this bursary is just another fantastic example of how TRU has supported me to achieve success while pursuing my Master of Education.

Thank you for everything!

-Warren

Hello,

While we were not able to connect virtually at the awards ceremony, I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks for your generous award. Being awarded this bursary will substantially assist me to obtain my financial budgets in order to continue my Open Learning Studies. Thanks cannot be given enough for this wonderful opportunity.

Hoping to one day thank you in person, after this Covid madness has subsided.

Sincerely,

Caterina Loring

TRU Open Learning Faculty Association Awards

Hi,

My name is Chad Poon; I am a recipient of the TRU Open Learning Faculty Association Award. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

I grew up in Richmond, B.C. taking an apprenticeship program straight from high school. I realized that I wanted to further my education and chose Thompson River University's Bachelor of Technology, Trades and Technology Leadership. It has been a great challenge to work full time and pursue this degree. The assistance provided from this bursary is a great help and a motivator to keep on going forwards.

Once again, thank you so much.

Regards,

Chad Poon