

Photo credit: Jeffrey Bosdet



Pictured from left to right: Nathan Drillot (Salazar Film), VCM Music Therapist Allan Slade, film composer Johannes Winkler, VCM Department Head of Music Therapy and Early Childhood Music Dr. Johanne Brodeur, Jeff Petry (Salazar Film), CEO Nathan Medd; in front: Ari Kinarthy

Photo credit: Salazar Film

Message from Nathan Medd, CEO

It has been a true pleasure hearing from the Victoria Conservatory community during my first year with the organization. People are eager to share their connections with this special place, and to music in general. They are proud to learn that although the Conservatory has operated a bit under the radar, their centre for music on this island is in fact the largest music school in Western Canada, with arguably the most diverse and inclusive programming. What a foundation to build on!

The Conservatory is many things to many people: A confidence builder. A social routine. A legendary concert venue. A reminder to practice! A step toward a career, or a creative sanctuary. A pathway to self-expression. A crossroads of cultures. A lark for some, and medicine for others. It is a place of many possibilities.

Local composer and performer Ari Kinarthy, a familiar face since 2007, shows us what is possible here. Shooting wraps this summer on a feature-length documentary that explores Ari's story as an aspiring musician living with spinal muscular atrophy, and the adaptive music technologies at the Conservatory that assist him in his creations. Produced by Salazar Film, and scheduled for release next year, the film will shine a light on the incredible work taking place in the music therapy wing, and will feature students in the postsecondary program performing Ari's original compositions.

Stay tuned for screening details, and so much more this coming year. Thanks for your support.

2500+

Enrolled Students 1900

Music Therapy Participants

140+
Faculty

6
Program
Areas

Message from Shannon von Kaldenberg, Board Chair

That was fast! As we near the end of a final term for four members of the Victoria Conservatory's Board of Governors – me included – it is worth reflecting on how far the organization has come with your support over the past eight years.

Where to begin? Since launching, the School of Music Technology and Creativity and the Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music have proven their value in the region, helping to drive new registrations. The Conservatory's first satellite location launched in fast-growing Westhills during this period, and emerged from the COVID interruptions stronger than ever.

The story of scholarships and bursaries over this time is even more remarkable. Led by a gift that created the Eric and Shirley Charman Young Musicians Bursary Fund, donors like you have established or grown a number of awards that supported deserving students and music therapy participants with a record total of \$211,000 disbursed this year.

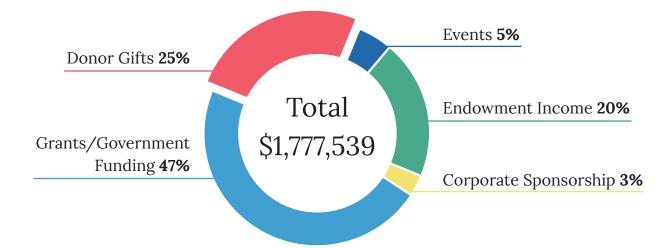
These highlights only scratch the surface of all that has been accomplished.

My sincere appreciation and kudos to fellow retiring Governors: Gareth Dickson, vice chair; Bijan Neyestani, chair of the Buildings Committee; Richard Fisher, chair of the Marketing Committee. Thank you for the gifts of your expertise, your stewardship, your passion, and more than a few evenings and weekends.

Serving the Conservatory on the Board has been a tremendous privilege, and I am pleased to continue my support just as so many of you reading do, as a yearly donor and member of the Encore Legacy Society. By remembering the Conservatory in both our annual and planned giving, each of you have played a vital part in advancing the Conservatory's mission of excellence in music education, performance, and wellness. Thank you, everyone.



Photo credit: Philip Maglieri





Faculty Announcements

We welcomed so many vibrant and talented individuals to our faculty in 2022/23!

- | School of Classical Music
 Alana Hayes (voice)
 Anne Grimm (voice)
 Jan van der Hooft (voice)
 Maria Wang (cello)
 Nancy Curry (voice/piano)
- | School of Contemporary Music Wes Carroll (guitar)
- School of Music Technology and Creativity

 Matheus Tera (Music Technology

Matheus Tera (Music Technology)
Marco Neri (Composition / Tech)

- Department of Music Therapy
 Julien Amar
- Department of Early Childhood Music

Annika Sauser

Message from Stephen Green, Dean and Chief Artistic Officer

Recently, I was listening to a 17-year-old student playing one of the most difficult piano concertos known in the repertoire during their lesson, and their performance was at a very respectable level! Walking through the halls of the Conservatory on any given day will reveal the sounds of our students practicing or having lessons, and with that, a commitment to realizing musical dreams. And we see the results through their successes, be it as festival award winners (at local, provincial, and national levels), concerto competition winners, as prestigious scholarship winners, as finalist in Fiddle Championships, or performing in various concerts, locally, and across Canada. This summer our cello alum Lexie Krakowski, a recent graduate of the Young Artist Collegium program, performed with pianist Arthur Rowe as guest collaborative artist in UVic's Summer Music Festival - this after performing Dvořák's cello concerto on tour back in April with Symphony New Brunswick. In August, 12-year-old violinist and fiddler Max Francis performed with the Victoria Symphony at a concert in Butchart Gardens, after winning first place in his class at the 2023 National Old-time Fiddlers' Contest and Festival in June. Excellence in performance is something the Conservatory is known for; and now extends far beyond the traditional Classical roots the organization was built upon.

Beyond the world of performance, we continue to expand our programs to realize the creative and artistic potential every individual has within. As an example, this year a group of middle school students participating in a SonicPi coding class offered through the School of Music Technology and Creativity, learned how to design and sequence any sounds or music they might imagine, and through Playtron snap-circuit kits, create sequencers to play and loop their compositions. In one case, students used copper connectors and raw carrots to make their own touch-sensitive midi synthesizer controllers. Our students are also learning more about music as one of many creative industries, including how to record and produce themselves as artists. Through our Centre for Music Wellness, adaptive learning models are being developed with a plan to integrate this as part of pedagogy-focused studies within our newly launched postsecondary Certificate in Advanced Independent Music Studies. Our students are realizing more than ever how transferable the music skills and knowledge they acquire are to virtually any profession.

Having the capacity to develop and attain through a student-centric lens, the broad range of programs the Conservatory offers to its community as part of its artistic mission, requires ongoing support, not unlike any one of our young emerging music artists who can't wait to be on stage to share their gift with the world. On behalf of myself and our program leaders, and especially our entire team of over 140 faculty artists, we thank you sincerely for your continued support.

Scholarships and Bursaries

A commitment to the next generation

Award Recipient, Trevor McMorran

Trevor McMorran is entering his third year of Postsecondary Studies in pursuit of his Diploma in Music Performance. As an adult learner, he was hesitant to commit his time and resources toward a diploma in music. Trevor was skeptical of its practical application upon completion, but his passion for music won out. He has since found a musical home at the Conservatory, citing it as a place to learn, grow, collaborate, and explore.

He is most grateful for the financial support he received through the Conservatory's Scholarship and Bursary program. Through donor support, Trevor is well on his way toward a future in music.

> Thursday Lunch Concert, April 2023 Photo credit: Dominic Hall



"Your contribution reinforces that I've made the correct choice in embarking upon this path. I truly feel that my best work is ahead of me, and that I'll emerge from my time at the Conservatory as a

more complete artist and person. Thank you for supporting me!"

TREVOR MCMORRAN

Awarded in **Scholarships**

\$74,500 \$136,800

Awarded in Bursaries

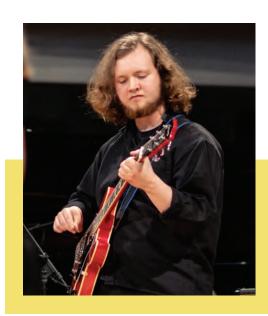
Student Recipients

210

2022 Recording and Production Award Winner, **Ethan Schultz Anderson**

Ethan Schultz Anderson (postsecondary student) is a contemporary artist and songwriter. The funding provided through this award gave Ethan the seed money to record three songs that will become the base of a future album. Over the course of the year, Ethan wrote, arranged, and recorded every aspect of his songs. Primarily a guitarist, with the help of instructors like Issah Contractor (drums), and Kiiri Michelson (voice), Ethan performed and recorded vocals, guitar, keyboard, bass, clarinet, saxophone, drums and more!

Facing many challenges, Ethan had the financial and technical support of the Conservatory community to help him achieve his sonic vision.



Postsecondary Combo Showcase, April 2023 Photo credit: Daniella Paddock



learned and progressed immensely since first starting in the Music Performance Program. I entered on guitar, and now, I play bass, piano, and clarinet. I value my teachers immensely for everything they've taught me, giving credit to Wes Carroll, Rob Cheramy, Joey Smith, Danuel Tate, Louise Rose, and Liam Hockley. With their help, knowledge, and support, I've been able to make great strides in my path as a musician, so I am eternally grateful for them."

CONNOR W,
POSTSECONDARY GRADUATE 2023





Bernice
Collegium End of Term Concert, May 2022
Photo credit: Marc Nichols

Postsecondary Studies

David Visentin, Director

With the 2022/23 academic year now behind us, the Postsecondary Department, in partnership with Camosun College, looks back at an extraordinary year of student performance achievements and academic successes. Notable successes were tenor Aidan Holt and soprano Juhui Yoon winning first place in our German and English Language Competitions, respectively. Essencia Leandro, contemporary piano and vocals, won the inaugural Joy of Life: Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Artists. Connor Wellmann, contemporary bass/clarinet/guitar, produced and presented a show stopping Tribute to Charlie Brown's Christmas in December. A number of Postsecondary groups have now been performing regularly in high profile jazz and after-hours series around Victoria and at Camosun College.

We learned the good news in June that our new Advanced Independent Music Studies (AIMS) program has been approved by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education Private Training Institutions Branch. As an independent Conservatory administered and delivered program, we are very excited to launch AIMS this September.

None of our achievements would be possible were it not for the continued strong donor support we are so fortunate to have through scholarships and bursaries. Thanks to you, students are finding their way to greater heights of creative achievement.



(l-r) Connor, Jeronimo, Jacob, Ethan Postsecondary Combo Showcase, April 2023 Photo credit: Daniella Paddock

Winds and Brass Department

Emily Nagelbach, Department Head

The Winds and Brass Department received a boost through Music Explorations Camp, held in partnership with St. Michaels University School, and Winds and Brass Summer Intensive. Re-launched in Summer 2022, with another successful run in Summer 2023, these programs are a great introduction to the Conservatory, with many continuing their studies through individual and group lessons.

The Winds and Brass Youth Chamber Intensive has seen real growth this year with its highest number of student registrations yet. Like the summer programs, we draw on middle and secondary school students enrolled in their school's band programs. Students benefit from this enriched learning experience taught by renowned faculty, as chamber ensemble work cultivates valuable individual and collaborative skills.

Building upon our inventory of instruments helps to enrich the student experience. This year, thanks to generous support from the Hamber Foundation, we were pleased to acquire a Jupiter Bass Clarinet for student use in our Clarinet Choir, Chamber Intensive and Summer Intensive programs.

Young Artists Collegium Program

Simon MacDonald, Artistic Director

The Collegium Program has finished another successful year of inspiring students to play at the highest level. As the year closed, we saw two Collegium chamber ensembles competing in the National Music Festival, as well as two Collegium students competing solo, after advancing from the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and BC Provincial Festival.

Our students continue to be accepted in prestigious postsecondary institutions; this year, acceptances came from the University of Ottawa, McGill (Schulich School of Music), and the Royal College of Music in London. Collegium students joined alumni this summer at Quartet Fest West (Victoria), Orford and Domaine Forget Academies (Quebec), and University of Ottawa Summer Music programs.

This year also saw the continuation of the Vocal Collegium, with a small cohort of vocal students back in action in 2022/23 after an extended break.

Once again, the program evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Our incredible and dedicated animateur Micki Stirling, as well as our faculty, will apply these learnings in developing powerful and exciting ways to encourage and inspire the next cohort of students.

Thanks to granting agencies and donor support, the program continues to be affordable (subsidizing up to 30% of the cost) with several worthy students being offered scholarships from an anonymous donor to cover the remainder.



Robert Holliston, Department Head

The generosity of our donors helps create an atmosphere in which students of all ages, levels, and ambitions can strive to learn, improve, and succeed.

Highlights of the year include our masterclass series, taught by faculty and visiting artists. We also saw the return of our Adult Recital Group, providing a supportive performance outlet for adult beginners without the full spotlight of a concert stage. In addition to our Saturday noon concerts and studio recitals, we held two excellent honours concerts and were well represented at our annual Spark to Flame Student Showcase by pianist Vivien Ye. A significant percentage of Victoria Festival piano awards went to Conservatory students this year, demonstrating once again the first-class quality of musical and technical instruction offered by our wonderful teachers.

Donor support has been especially significant in helping the Conservatory restore and maintain our large inventory of pianos, as well as helping many gifted and serious students afford lessons through our growing scholarship and bursary program.



"Your assistance has helped us with the financial aspect of pursuing music and has inspired me to keep going and truly seeing how my efforts pay off."

JACK Y, PIANO AND CLARINET
YOUNG ARTISTS COLLEGIUM PROGRAM

Roy Barnett Scholarship in Advanced Piano

Established in 2023, this transformational gift will be hosted in perpetuity at the Victoria Foundation, and young pianists will begin to benefit as of 2024.

"We want it to play a significant role in the education and artistic development of piano students at the Conservatory, to enable them to continue their studies to their highest level, and to encourage them to aspire to a career in piano creating beautiful music for all to enjoy".

ROY BARNETT



"I am very excited to join the Victoria Conservatory of Music, I feel as though I'm following in a family tradition. My mother M. Betty Doroschuk served as the Head of the Voice department of McGill University for a decade, which gave me the valuable opportunity to observe at close hand, just how an important voice department can be managed, developed, and maintained."

COLIN DOROSCHUK, HEAD OF CLASSICAL VOICE

Voice Department

The Voice Department continued to deliver such high-calibre through individual lessons and masterclasses; our highly popular Baroque and Choral Summer Intensives; two magnificent Seranata Concerts; and our English, German, Italian, and French Song Competitions. We continued to grow the department through our intergenerational music theatre workshops. We were thrilled to see the return of our Young Artist Collegium, which has been on a two-year hiatus. Thank you to the Faculty Steering Committee, with Committee Chair Kyron Basu, Dean Stephen Green, and Department Coordinator Jennifer Turner for leading the department as Dean Stephen Green and the search committee continued the recruitment process for the new Head of Voice.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Colin Doroschuk as the new Head of Classical Voice. As an internationally renowned performing artist, composer, director, and producer, Doroschuk has a unique combination of skills, knowledge, and lived professional experience in both the Classical and Contemporary genres. We are thrilled to see the reinvigoration of this department under his leadership, expertise, and professional connections in the industry.

Colin is also the inaugural Director of Contemporary Voice Programming, supporting additional crossover between the classical and contemporary schools.

Your support gave our Voice Department the opportunity to revitalize and grow our programming to better serve the needs of our students.

Spark to Flame Student Showcase

February 25, 2023

Your support made dreams come true for six student soloists:



Camilo Aybar
CLARINET



Joanne Jiang



Channing Mar



Layla Park VIOLIN



Walter Rees



Vivien Ye PIANO

Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music

Daniel Lapp, Artistic Director

Congratulations to our BC Fiddle Orchestra for winning the Community School category of the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge with their rendition of Neil Young's "Heart of Gold"! Held in association with MusicCounts, the Canadian Music Class Challenge uses the contest as a way to engage music classes across the country with Canadian music.

We rang in the holiday season with this toe-tapping and joy-filled 19th Annual Home for Christmas Concert featuring Daniel Lapp and his legendary ensembles: the BC Fiddle Orchestra, Folkestra!, and the Joy of Life Choir with a powerhouse performance by special guest, Métis performer, Andrea Menard.

And we launched the Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Music Artists. This new donor-funded award focuses on the emerging singer-songwriter, in support of their journey towards a successful career in the music industry. Congratulations to our first and second place winners, Essencia Leandro (voice, piano, songwriter) and Tia Greenwood (contemporary/folk cellist, composer). Both performed at the Celebrate Youth concert of our Joy of Life Festival.





Tia Greenwood (I) and Essencia Leandro Celebrate Youth, Joy of Life Concert, May 2023 Photo credit: Marc Nichols

School of Music Technology and Creativity

Daniel Brandes, Artistic Director

We continued to grow and strengthen strategic partnerships with local arts organizations, most notably the highly successful NeuzTec festival, presented in partnership with Garden City Electronic Music Society (November 2022). These performances featured 15 local electronic music creators, including faculty Nathan Jonson, Neri, and artistic director Daniel Brandes, as well as a series of workshops.

We launched several new courses this year, attracting a diverse group ranging in age from 16 to 80. This included our Songwriting Skills & Strategies courses, which helped 17 students strengthen and deepen their songwriting practice. Through donor support we continued to pilot our outreach initiatives, offering four 10-week courses for youth at Crystal Pool free of charge, helping students learn to create original electronic music compositions using coding, synthesis, sequencing, midi launchers, and more. We also piloted new Recording and Production classes, including a summer Introduction to Digital Audio Workstations, which ran with robust enrollment.

Thanks to our donors, the Auchinleck Family Foundation, and a generous grant received from the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, we will be expanding our outreach program in Greater Victoria school districts this coming school year.





Music Tech Lab, July 2022 Photo credit: Janis Jean



"Receiving these classes is such a gift and has made a huge difference to our children and our childcare team. We were all very excited but at the first class, my team and I looked at each other in total surprise! We had struck gold! Your generosity is so appreciated. We are grateful for all the love and energy the [Conservatory] music teacher is putting into her classes."

DIRECTOR,
OUTREACH PROGRAM BENEFICIARY SITE



"As caregivers of teens with complex health challenges and severe cognitive deficits, Music Therapy sessions have been an essential part of our lives. With your gift of new technology, weekly sessions continue to be the most crucial hour of our week."

ANONYMOUS CARE PROVIDER



Aidan Westhills Music Therapy, February 2023 Photo credit: Janis Jean

Department of Early Childhood Music Education

Dr. Johanne Brodeur, Department Head

This year has seen a post-pandemic resurgence of our Early Childhood Music Education Outreach Program. Funding from donors and granting agencies has enabled us to continue the important work we do benefitting families with young children, often marginalized in our community. Our highly qualified instructors deliver, free of charge, innovative and creative learning intervention personalised to meet the specialized needs of participants at childcare facility. Our young participants build a strong foundation to learn the social, cognitive, and language skills that help them reach age-appropriate developmental milestones and set them up for a lifetime of learning.

Your generosity is helping to build a solid foundation for the next generation.



Music for Life Class, March 2023
Photo credit: Dominic Hall

Music Therapy

Dr. Johanne Brodeur, Department Head

Donor support is fundamental to the growth of the Music Therapy Department and our ability to serve children, youth, and adults living with exceptionalities. Through your generosity, recent developments include the expansion of services, investment in new adaptive equipment, and the creation of a Music Therapy Endowment Fund.

We were pleased to welcome Music Therapist Julian Amar, who quickly filled his roster with many new faces eager to participate in the program. Combined with the increased availability of Music Therapist Noa Kay, program participation saw extraordinary increases this year, as we continue to enlarge our capacity to serve the community's ever-growing needs.

Critical funding was received to update adaptive equipment, revitalizing the department as our therapists were able to adapt and improve curriculum to better serve the needs of participants to restore, maintain, and improve mental, physical, and emotional health. Adaptive equipment is crucial in assisting those with physical and cognitive exceptionalities explore and develop their ability to create music.

Through an endowment bequest and additional donor support, we are creating a Music Therapy endowment fund held at the Victoria Foundation. These forward-thinking donors have built a foundation to support the long-term financial sustainability of this Department and we are so grateful. We look forward to sharing more information about this special fund soon.

Student Achievements

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Winners

Layla Park* (violin) SENIOR STRINGS

Camilo Aybar* (clarinet)
INTERMEDIATE WOODWINDS

Jelly Belly Trio* – Layla Park (violin), Veronica Park (violin), and Felina Yang (piano) INTERMEDIATE CHAMBER GROUP

Michaela & Samantha Yee (violin, Collegium Alumni)
INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL DUETS

Angela Pan, Janou Boutilier, Ada Chen, Isabella Xu, Elias Skripnichenko, Amani El Ouadghiri INTERMEDIATE PIANO

Cindy (Xintian) Jiang, Patrick Coolican, Sophie Sun, Malak El Ouadghiri, Amy Chen, Michelle George*, Linda Zhou, Filbert Zhang, Anna Wautier, Carey Wang, Felina Yang*, Johnathan Devey, Simon Eskildsen, and Richard Lee

Provincial Festival Winners and Honourable Mentions

Chloe Williams (flute*)
INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR WOODWINDS HONOURABLE MENTION

Grace Chen* and Keishen Zhang* (violin)
JUNIOR INSTRUMENTAL DUETS WINNER

Carey Wang (piano, Collegium Alumni) SENIOR PIANO HONOURABLE MENTION

Maisha Klette* (voice)

ADJUSTICATOR'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL VOICE

Michelle George* (voice)

ADJUSTICATOR'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER
JUNIOR CLASSICAL VOICE

National Music Festival

Veronica Park* (violin)
DEVELOPING ARTIST COMPETITOR

Layla Park* (violin)
EMERGING ARTIST WINNER; ROBERTO AND MARY WOOD
SCHOLARSHIP

Carey Wang (piano, Collegium Alumni)
EMERGING ARTIST COMPETITOR

Camilo Aybar* (clarinet)
DEVELOPING ARTIST COMPETITOR

Adrian Chen (classical guitar)
DEVELOPING ARTIST WINNER; GOLD MEDAL FOR GRADE 10
ROYAL CONSERVATORY EXAM

Tubman Trio* – Max Francis (violin), Joanne Jiang (cello), and Jack Yang (piano) JUNIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE WINNERS

Jelly Belly Trio* - Layla Park (violin), Veronica Park (violin), and Felina Yang (piano) SENIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE WINNERS

Cécile Chaminade Trio* – Chloe Williams (flute), Bernice Leung (flute), and Ellah Shields (piano) SENIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE COMPETITORS

National Fiddle Championships

Max Francis* (violin/fiddle)

NATIONAL OLD-TIME FIDDLER'S CONTEST JUNIOR DIVISION WINNER;

BOB WILLS FIDDLE CONTEST JUNIOR DIVISION WINNER

At the Conservatory

Recording and Production Project Award Tia Greenwood (cello, BC Fiddle Orchestra)

Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Music Artists

Essencia Leandro (piano/voice, Postsecondary) WINNER

Tia Greenwood (cello, BC Fiddle Orchestra)

In the Community

Walter Rees* (violin)
ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC GOLD MEDAL IN STRINGS

Morgan Sheeley (guitar)
OLYNYK PRIZE WINNER; 2023 NORTHWEST GUITAR FESTIVAL
COMPETITION WINNER

Elana Lin* (violin)
LOUIS SHERMAN CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

Camilo Aybar* (clarinet)
COWICHAN CONSORT CONCERTO COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE
WINNER; PERFORMED WITH THE EMILY CARR STRING QUARTET
AT MUSIC: Insideout Mozart on April 22, 2023; WILL BE THE
SUBJECT OF A DOCUMENTARY TITLED 'THE SOUND OF A PANDEMIC'
FROM EMPRESS AVENUE MEDIA

Ellie Steele (clarinet)
ACCEPTED INTO THE MUSIC PROGRAM AT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY









Your Victoria Conservatory of Music -Community Funded, Community Minded!

More than a music school, the Conservatory is the center of a vibrant and nurturing community which you are a vital part of. The impacts of your generous support are heard, seen, and felt here daily, where your contributions provide us with the opportunity and privilege to change lives through the power of music.

Whether on a path of artistic development or personal wellness, or simply seeking the emotional and experiential enrichment that only music can bring, every single person who comes through our doors benefits from your thoughtful giving.

These effects are not limited to within our historic walls. Through our outreach programs and the individual achievements of our students, our city, region, and beyond all share in these benefits and are enlivened by them. On behalf of our Board of Governors, staff, faculty, and especially our students, thank you for facilitating these transformative effects in our community!

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