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Legacy Gift to Luther College and Campion College Encourages Intercultural Exchange

A legacy gift to Campion College and Luther College at the University of Regina gives students both at home and abroad an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of different cultures through international study. The \$1.0 million gift bequeathed by the late Anna Kovacs supports The Martin Kovacs Scholarship Fund and allows for the establishment of future international scholarships.

The Martin Kovacs Scholarship Fund sponsors four Grade 11 students from Hungary each year to study in Regina. The two-month summer program is facilitated jointly by Campion College and Luther College. Mrs. Kovacs established the fund in 2001 in memory of her husband Dr. Martin Kovacs, who passed away in 2000. Since its establishment, fifty-two students have participated in the program.

“I learned so many things in the [past] two months that I would not have learned that quickly [at home]. My English is better, and I had the opportunity to meet new people and discover other viewpoints,” says Martin, a Grade 11 student at Fasori Hírmondó School in Budapest, Hungary.

Martin is one of four Hungarian students attending the program this summer and all can attest to the many benefits this learning opportunity has offered, including improving their English language skills and discovering other perspectives and cultures. Along with receiving academic instruction, the students visited attractions in and around Regina such as the Regina Farmers’ Market, the RCMP Heritage Centre, Echo Lake, and the Queen City Exhibition.

This legacy gift ensures that the program continues for many years to come, and allows for the creation of additional scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students looking to include international study experiences in their degree program.

“Mrs. Kovacs has accomplished so much with this scholarship. First, she honoured her husband, Dr. Martin Kovacs, a great teacher and scholar, which I know from personal experience having been one of his students. Secondly, she showed great insight into how people of different religious cultures can come to understand one another, namely through face-to-face interaction. Using Campion and Luther Colleges—whose work together on the University of Regina campus exemplifies this every day—was an obvious and smart choice for her. Finally, doing this through the planned giving of her will and estate ensured that the scholarship program will have a future for many years to come. We are so grateful to Mrs. Kovacs, both for her generosity and her wisdom,” says Dr. Bryan Hillis, President, Luther College.

“This program represents key components of a liberal arts education, which strives to expand one’s understanding of the world by encouraging students to explore other viewpoints and find connections between varying cultures and beliefs. Mrs. Kovacs was very interested in giving young people an international

experience as a chance to grow, learn, and develop as a person. Many students have and will continue to benefit from the gift Mrs. Kovacs made to the two colleges,” says Dr. John Meehan, SJ, President, Campion College.

Mrs. Kovacs was born in 1921 in western Hungary, but was forced to flee her home country with her husband Martin soon after their marriage in 1944. The couple lived, worked, and studied in Europe and Australia before moving to Regina, where Martin had accepted a professorship at the University of Regina. Martin and Anna made Regina their home for over forty years until their passing in 2000 and 2014, respectively.

Luther College, informed by a progressive understanding of Christianity, and Campion College, Canada’s only Jesuit undergraduate college, are federated colleges at the University of Regina. As centres of educational excellence, each offers academic programs and services in partnership with the university. Any student at the University of Regina studying in the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, and Science, may enroll through one of the Colleges, and course offerings at Campion College and Luther College are open to all University of Regina students.

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NOTE: THE STUDENTS FROM HUNGARY ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS UNTIL FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015.

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