Giving Back Dollars and Sense

Jeremy Clark’s introduction to McGill was a humbling experience. “I came out of high school as a confident kid who thought he had the world by the tail,” he says, “I was used to succeeding with minimal effort, but when I got to McGill, I suddenly found myself in the middle of the heap. I felt like a fish out of water.”

But a dedicated Clark, BSc’98, dove into the deep end of academia and made the most of his time at the University. Today, he is reaping the rewards of those efforts, having worked his way up from an office intern at a predecessor company to co-owner and managing director of Clark Hetherington Financial Ltd., a Calgary-based company that provides a wide range of financial services.

Now, he is nurturing that same commitment in today’s students through a generous gift and bequest to support outstanding students from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Jeremy E. Clark Best in the West Scholarships in Management recognize exceptional students in the Desautels Faculty of Management who are pursuing a minor degree in another faculty, while the JE Clark – Best in the West Scholarships are awarded to top students in the Faculty of Science who are undertaking a minor in Management.

“I want to encourage students to become multi-disciplinary thinkers,” he explains, adding that his decision to make a bequest was an easy one. “I don’t believe in making short-term commitments. Even though I’m still in my thirties, I want this to be followed through beyond my lifetime.”

Clark’s involvement with McGill doesn’t stop with his cheque book. He’s also a member of the Faculty of Science’s Advisory Board and a member at large and past president of the McGill Alumni Association’s branch in Calgary. “There’s something to be said about being part of a university with 200 years of history,” he says, “It’s about more than what the school can give you; it’s what you can give back to the school.”