

Laurier computer science student wins Google Lime Scholarship

WATERLOO – Brian Moore was just 13 when he inherited his older brother’s computer and began a lifelong love with technology. Today, the fourth-year computer science student at Laurier will be able to continue his love of computers with the help of a 2012 Google Lime Scholarship for Students with Disabilities.

Moore is one of 15 students from across North America – and one of just four Canadian students – to win a Google Lime Scholarship. It is awarded to undergrads pursuing a degree in computer science, computer engineering, or a closely related field. Applicants have a visible or invisible disability, a demonstrated passion for computer science, and must maintain a strong academic performance.

“This is an extremely competitive scholarship,” said Susan Lang, CEO of Lime Connect, a not-for-profit organization that partners with Google to administer the scholarship. “The fact that Brian was selected means he is a top student in the field of computer science. He also stood out because of his academic accomplishments and his leadership skills.”

Every year as many as 200 students apply for the scholarship, which has been in existence since 2009. The 2012 recipients include students from U.S. universities such as Harvard, Cornell, Stanford, and Carnegie Mellon. Canadian winners include students from the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto.

Moore will receive a grant of \$5,000. He has also been invited to attend the annual three-day Google Scholars’ Retreat at the Googleplex in Mountain View, California in June.

“I was so excited when I found out I had won. I called my family right away,” said Moore. “This award will help me pursue my goal of becoming a professor of computer science.”

Moore has a progressive neurological disease that has slowly affected his balance and coordination. Growing up, he says it was hard to keep up with his peers due to the physical limitations of his disability. But then he discovered computers and realized he had a special talent.

“The computer my brother gave me was the single greatest gift I have or will ever receive,” Moore says.

Moore, who came to Laurier in 2008 for computer science, also has a computer science diploma from Sheridan College and a bachelor degree in computing from Australia’s University of Western Sydney. He plans to do a master’s degree in computer science.

For more information about Lime Connect, visit: www.limeconnect.com.