

Kurt McBurney Receives Dr. Bruce Crawford Award

Speech by Melissa Dekker (Class of 2017)



On Dec 17th, during IMP and DMSC's seasonal celebration, Melissa Dekker (Class of 2017) presented Kurt McBurney with the Dr. Bruce Crawford Award on behalf of her fellow classmates. Below is a copy of her speech.

Today I have the privilege of presenting a very special award to a very special teacher. This award is presented by the third year students of the Island Medical Program to the Island Medical Program teacher, preceptor or tutor who has made the most profound and positive impact on our first two years of medical training. I am honored to present this award to Kurt McBurney.

Kurt grew up on a grain farm in Manitoba and always thought he'd end up being a farmer. However, after his family sold the farm the year he graduated high school Kurt moved to BC and pursued a degree in education. Kurt began his career in education teaching young kids, but after an experience teaching anatomy to adults he knew he had found his calling. He went on to complete a graduate program in education and has been working in the Gross anatomy lab at the Island medical program ever since. Originally tutored by Dr. Bruce Crawford, Kurt is now the Assistant teaching professor and in his own words "absolutely loves" his job teaching medical students.

Kurt's passion for his job is so evident. Not only is he clever and creative in the ways that he teaches us, but he also goes above and beyond to ensure that we are well prepared in our knowledge. He is always available and happy to help if you are struggling with some material and will always support you in your learning.

In my second year of medical school I had knee surgery and was on crutches for 6 weeks and missed several gross anatomy lab sessions. Kurt took extra time at the end of the year to go over the all sessions I missed and ensured I was up to speed on all the material. Knowing I had his support put me at ease and allowed me to focus on healing from surgery. This is just one example of Kurt's commitment and dedication to our learning.

When I knew I would be presenting this award today I polled a bunch of my third year classmates and asked them to describe Kurt in a few words. These are the responses I received:

- Creative
- Knowledgeable
- Kind
- Generous
- The reason I passed anatomy
- Marry me....?
- Edutastic
- Super hero

Kurt is a huge part of why we all love the Island Medical program. I know I speak on behalf of the entire third year class when I say that we are extremely lucky that Kurt's parents sold that grain farm and that he is here teaching us. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I present Kurt McBurney with the 2015 Dr. Bruce Crawford Teaching Award.