



## Matthew David Johnston Memorial Scholarship

On April 16, 2009 Matthew Johnston passed away after a three-year fight with cancer.

Born at home on August 24, 1984, Matthew grew up and lived his short life in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia. Besides his interest in aerospace, Matthew was also passionate about music. He earned his Royal Conservatory Grade 10 in piano, became proficient at all of the brass instruments and sang in the community choir.

Matthew's interest in the physical sciences and mathematics led him to Aerospace Studies at Carleton University. He dreamed of working perhaps at NASA or elsewhere in the space sciences industry. Matthew would have been interested in the newly-created Space Sciences department. As a result the Matthew David Johnston Memorial Scholarship was established in his memory and is available for students in this area.

In his third year at Carleton University Matthew was diagnosed with cancer in his right shoulder. Surgery resulted in his inability to play the piano, and that passion was taken from him. Recovering enough to continue his studies, Matthew completed and received his aerospace degree. He entered a Masters program the next fall but had not gone far when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. More surgery removed the tumor, but by the next fall it became apparent the cancer could not be defeated. He passed away the following April.

Those who knew Matthew well described him as a determined person who strove to become the best he could be at whatever he put his hand to. He was logical and precise, well spoken and written and had a great sense of humor. He was an abiding optimist, believing the world could become a better place. One friend said Matthew "embraced the empowering idea that the good will in humanity could be realized through scientific discovery and artistic exploration both". Overall, he treated everyone he met at face value, believing in the equality of every person.