

# Running to save lives



By Jim Prime ('69)

"I've been horrified by landmines since elementary school," says Vancouver-born marathoner Morgan Harrop, an Acadia philosophy major. With 14 kilometers left to run in last summer's 42-K Edmonton Marathon, Harrop's legs felt like "two blocks of stone." He was faced with the choice of continuing to run with excruciating leg cramps and risk

permanent injury, or to quit, letting down supporters who had pledged money to his cause of landmine clearing. Running for a cause made the difference.

"I'd spent four months training for the marathon only to have my expectations dashed. There was no way that I was going to quit. Hobbling 15 kilometres with severe leg cramps is painful, but it obviously doesn't compare to the pain of losing a limb or a family member to an indiscriminate landmine. It's humbling to run for a cause that made the pain of that experience completely trivial."

"I can't imagine too many more compelling stories," says philosophy professor Dr. Stephen Maitzen. "He has a very strong humanitarian impulse."

It was this highly-developed social conscience, along with academic achievement, leadership skills, and unquestioned integrity that have made Harrop one of four Acadia nominees for a Rhodes scholarship. "Being a

Rhodes nominee is truly an honour," he says. "My professors have pushed me academically to do things that I never would have considered attempting before coming to Acadia. Still, while it's nice to have your accomplishments recognized, it has taught me to never stop striving for more. There is always hard work to be done to improve not only one's own life, but more importantly the state of our world in general."

Harrop is a member of the Acadia Axemen soccer squad and credits that role with teaching him about dedication. "The compressed season is so intense that you have to fully commit physically, mentally, and emotionally in order to see any rewards," he says.

"Coming to Acadia has made me realize that my actions actually make a difference. Instead of sitting back and expecting others to take care of things, I've come to realize that it's much more rewarding to get involved in projects yourself." ✕



## Associated Alumni of Acadia University Awards – Call for Nominations

### Distinguished Alumni Award

The AAAU "Distinguished Alumni Award" recognizes the outstanding achievements of an Acadia alumnus whose endeavours in research, civic duty, business, athletics, the arts, the community, or other areas, have made a significant contribution and have inherently brought honour to Acadia.

### Exceptional Alumni Volunteer Award

The AAAU "Exceptional Alumni Volunteer Award" recognizes alumni who contribute significantly to the work of the Association as it endeavours to accomplish its mission.

Nominations for awards will be accepted until January 15, 2010. For more information on these awards and the nomination process, please visit [www.acadiau.ca/advancement/aaau/awards/honourawards.html](http://www.acadiau.ca/advancement/aaau/awards/honourawards.html) or contact Geoff Irvine, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs (902) 585-1361, [geoff.irvine@acadiau.ca](mailto:geoff.irvine@acadiau.ca)

### Associated Alumni of Acadia University (AAAU) Board of Directors

The AAAU Board of Directors is made up of 24 dedicated Acadia alumni who serve the association and Acadia for two-year terms. Every year the Board requires new Directors, and welcomes interested alumni to put their names forward for consideration by the nominating committee. Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting held during Convocation weekend in May.

For more information and to view criteria please contact Geoff Irvine, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, (902) 585-1361, [geoff.irvine@acadiau.ca](mailto:geoff.irvine@acadiau.ca):

*Deadline for nominations is  
March 1, 2010.*