

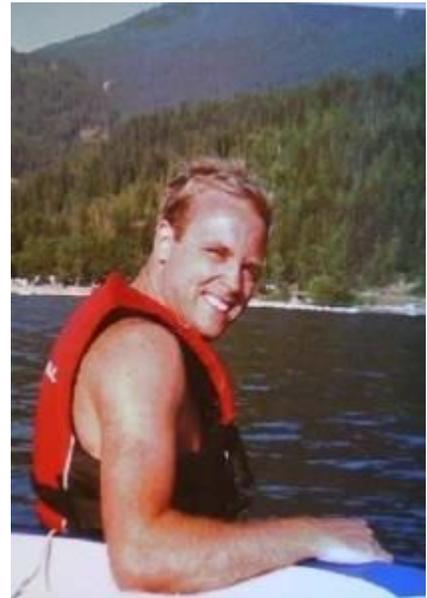
Aerial Evolution Association of Canada
Association pour l'Évolution Aérienne du
Canada



Aerial Evolution Association of Canada is honoured to support Canada's rising stars contributing to the future of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)

*In December 2006, a young, gifted RPAS engineer working with CDL Systems named **Mark Cuss** passed away after a courageous 22-month battle with cancer. At the time of his death, Mark was only 27 years old. However, during his short time Mark made significant accomplishments both in his personal life and in his professional life.*

Mark grew up near Spy Hill, Saskatchewan and spent his early years growing up on a farm, developing the exemplary work ethic that he carried through his life. Mark was very dedicated to his family, helping them farm 1200 acres, calving 100 head of purebred Simmental cows, and feeding feedlot cattle. Indeed, in later years, he even took some vacations from his job as an engineer to go back home to help his parents with the harvest. Even in his early years, Mark showed a strong interest in finding out how machinery worked, anticipating his later career as an engineer.



Mark applied the same work ethic he demonstrated on the farm to his schoolwork, especially in the math and science courses for which he had a particular aptitude. His hard work resulted in his winning a placement in the Shad Valley program in 1996; he received a scholarship to the DeVry Technical Institute in Calgary in 1997.

Mark thrived at DeVry, quickly becoming top of his class and it was here that he first became interested in the development of unmanned vehicles.

For his final project, Mark joined a team that developed, tested, and demonstrated a fuzzy logic control system for an unmanned tractor. Combined with rudimentary obstacle avoidance, his project won the top prize in the 2000 DeVry Project Expo which was subsequently spun off into a commercialized product.

*After graduation, Mark used his good grades, his obvious can-do attitude, and his experience with unmanned vehicles to obtain a position as a junior engineer with **CDL Systems**.*

In a short time, it was clear that he was talented well beyond the norm for someone so junior. Mark became a key member of the CDL Systems team, taking over and overhauling the corporate network, as

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*well as working on the software development for and heading up much of the hardware integration for the **Remote Viewing Terminal (RVT)**, a receive-only control station that allows soldiers to direct access to the video of an RPAS being flown in their area. This system has been fielded in Iraq and accumulated many thousands of combat hours, safeguarding soldiers and civilians by ensuring that accurate information is received in a timely manner.*

In 2005, Mark was diagnosed with Stage 3 testicular cancer. Despite a long and hard fight, Mark passed away on December 3rd, 2006.

In response to the untimely death of this talented young engineer, a scholarship fund has been established in his name, administered by Aerial Evolution Association of Canada in his memory.

The Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship has been set up to:

- Honour the memory of Mark Cuss by encouraging the interest of those in the field of RPAS and furthering future innovations.
- Help those interested in RPAS technology reduce the financial burden of post-secondary education.
- Encourage and facilitate students to develop and communicate concepts related to RPAS technology.



The AEAC Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship is open to undergraduate studies at any recognized Canadian University or DeVry Institute located within Canada. It is a cash scholarship of \$5000 to be awarded annually to student winners of an essay writing competition upon proof of enrollment in a qualifying institution.

The tenure of this scholarship is for one year. Should the scholarship not be able to be applied towards tuition during the year in which it was awarded, then an application for deferment may be made. It will be the decision of AEAC's Awards and Honors Committee to allow deferment or to award the scholarship to the second-place applicant.

Scholarship Application Requirements

To qualify as an applicant, students must:

- Be registered full-time in a post-secondary Canadian institution

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- Provide proof of academic accomplishment in the previous school year by maintaining a minimum of 75% average (or 85% average if the previous year was from a high school/secondary school)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the RPAS industry by writing an essay describing their 'vision for the RPAS industry' (details, below).

To apply for the scholarship, applicants must:

- Submit the **AEAC Scholarship Application Form** to Aerial Evolution Association of Canada by August 31;
- Submit transcripts of the previous school year from a recognized Canadian high school/secondary school, university, college, or at a DeVry Institute located within Canada to irynd.borshchova@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca by August 31;
- Submit proof of enrollment in a recognized Canadian University, college, or any DeVry Institute within Canada to irynd.borshchova@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca by August 31;
- Submit an essay on any RPAS-related topic outlining their 'Vision for the RPAS industry'. Essays have no minimum length but cannot exceed 3000 words to irynd.borshchova@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca by August 31.

Student Awards Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed and considered by AEAC Awards and Honors Committee appointed by the Board of Aerial Evolution Association of Canada. The evaluation process shall treat academic marks and the essay with equal weight to determine the successful applicant.

The AEAC Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship winner will be informed **by September 30**, and will receive:

- A \$5000 cash contribution
- A discounted rate to attend the annual Aerial Evolution Association of Canada Conference and Exhibition to receive their Award
- A profile on the AEAC National Industry Directory

Contact us

Any inquiries about the submissions can be addressed to the coordinator at the following email: irynd.borshchova@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca