Remarks by Adrian Gilling ’09, Cissy Van Dyke Bryson Scholarship recipient

I feel that when people think about the word “scholarship” they tend to focus on the purely financial aspects, but it’s so much more than that. Receiving a scholarship means one has been given an opportunity. Because of our hard work, we’ve been given the opportunity to advance our education at MIAD, with lessened financial stress due to your generosity.

I transferred to MIAD at the beginning of fall semester last year from a public college because I felt that I needed the concentrated creative environment that MIAD offers. I needed to be challenged by my classmates and I needed to learn what the amazing faculty could teach me. Choosing to attend MIAD has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life.

However, it was a big step to take, coming from a college that costs only about $6-7,000 per year to one that doesn’t. But through financial aid and, on top of that, the generous scholarship I received, the transition has been somewhat seamless.

Opportunities like this also mean a great deal to me because my younger brother Ben is planning to attend MIAD this spring semester. Knowing that there is a system in place to support those who excel in their studies and art comforts me, and my brother has told me that it also motivates him to produce the best work he can.

Once again, on behalf of all of the scholarship recipients and MIAD, I thank you for your present and future generosity and support.