

TOP 24

UNDER 24

The school year's only just begun but some students are already ahead of the curve. We asked you to nominate the best and brightest and the response was incredible. In our series, prepare to meet this year's class of stellar students, each with their own unique story.

PROFILES COMPILED BY STEPHANIE IP, 24 HOURS

Traffic-stopping talent

The Musician

Clara Shandler, 21
University of B.C.

Clara Shandler, a classically trained and punk influenced cellist, was forced to stop playing for a year as she recovered from surgery to relieve the tendonitis in her wrists — a condition from years of incorrect posture.

"It's probably a lifelong battle but for the first time in five years, I can play as much as I want to," said the 21-year-old UBC music student.

Shandler, who is now working to correct her posture, began playing an "itty bitty cello" at age three.

"I love the sound. You can play anything on the cello," Shandler said.

"I've done anything from AC/DC to Metallica, to Coldplay and jazz. It's probably one of the most diverse instruments."

She even spent a brief stint in a punk band but admitted the cello stole the spotlight more than her fellow band mates preferred.



UBC student Clara Shandler performs in Yaletown in May. She teaches cello and allows disadvantaged families to pay whatever they can afford. PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN DY

"There's probably about a thousand guitars for every cellist. That's a bloody shame because the cello is a really

cool instrument," said the East Vancouver musician, who teaches lessons on a sliding scale — meaning even

children from disadvantaged families who can't afford to pay much can still take lessons.

The Athlete

Loren Lidin, 22
Langara College

Loren Lidin began playing soccer when she was eight years old but at that point, never imagined she would go on to achieve the highest possible individual and team honours in college athletics.

"I was always told I'd never be able to do it," said the 22-year-old who, despite her small size, wanted to play goalie from a



they fought hard to win gold. She even played the entire tournament with torn ligaments around her collar bone since the team didn't have a substitute goalie.

"I basically played through

The Historian

Alice Huang, 22
University of B.C.

Most college and university students only spend time in a library when it's exam week. Alice Huang, however, wants to turn those endless shelves of history books into a career.

"What I love about history is that there's so much. It's not just one story but you can approach history from so many different angles," said the UBC



dent Essay prize, is passionate about aboriginal studies. Her paper will be published later this year in *British Columbia History*.

The student has also been working with the federal gov-