



*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual*

*Graduate Awards  
Gala*

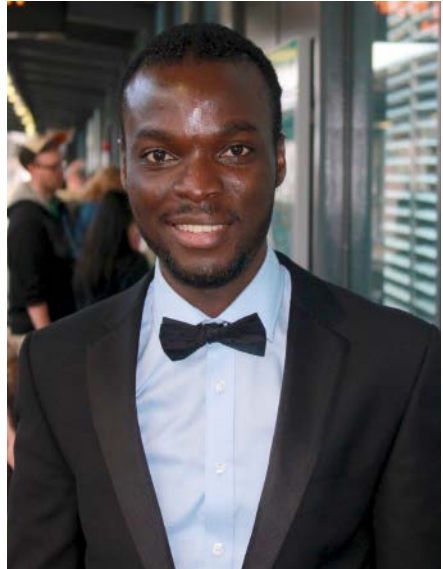


# MESSAGES OF WELCOME

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Welcome to the 2014 GSA Awards Gala. The purpose of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is to ensure its members have access to quality services that support their academic success and build a cohesive community among its members.

In fulfilling the mandate of the association, we organized this event to recognize and reward graduate students for their research, scholarly and



artistic pursuits, excellent supervisory and mentoring skills, and our partners. The award winners will motivate and serve as valuable role models for the University of Saskatchewan graduate student population. Also, we are pleased to have Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz as the Keynote Speaker for this evening.

A special thanks to the Awards Gala Organizing Committee and to our sponsors. The GSA relies on the involvement of its members and friends to have successful events. We are delighted you participated in this event. Thank you!

Best wishes,

Ehimai Ohiozebau

GSA President

Ph.D Candidate

School of Environment and Sustainability

# MESSAGES OF WELCOME

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I extend a warm welcome to tonight's award recipients, their family and friends, fellow graduate students, faculty and staff. Congratulations are due both to the award recipients and to the Graduate Students' Association for initiating this event, now in its second year.

Our university has made significant investment in improving the graduate student experience, including increasing scholarships and bursaries, and we are also now seeing our graduate student numbers grow on campus.



As a member of the U15 group of Canadian medical-doctoral universities, the University of Saskatchewan is a distinguished leader in post-secondary education in Canada and the world, in an environment where curiosity leads to discovery. As graduate students, your role in this teaching, artistic and research mission is critically significant.

To the award recipients, I am pleased to recognize your achievements tonight. Your success is our success, and we are grateful for your extraordinary accomplishments.

Best wishes,

Ilene Busch-Vishniac

President



# MESSAGES OF WELCOME

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The College of Graduate Studies and Research extends warm greetings to all graduate students, faculty and staff attending tonight's 2nd annual gala. For those of you fortunate enough to be able to attend last year's gala you will remember the excitement of the winners and the joy we all shared hearing their stories of achievement.



We recognise that for our university to achieve its goal of being one of the most research intensive in North America we must continue to nurture our graduate students so they receive the best graduate education possible from the institution. Part of the nurturing process is to award outstanding achievements. So with that in mind we are gathered here tonight to fulfill that promise and share with our graduate students our time so that they can be awarded and share their experiences with us. I wish everyone an enjoyable evening.

Best wishes.

Adam Baxter-Jones,

Acting Dean College of Graduate Studies and Research

# MESSAGES OF WELCOME

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Congratulations to all the nominees of the 2nd annual Graduate Awards Gala. The graduate student community at the University of Saskatchewan is a dynamic and committed community, and we're delighted at the tremendous contributions graduate students are making to their city, province and beyond.

As a GSA partner for almost 15 years, it has been our privilege to witness the academic, philanthropic and artistic achievements of graduate students from the U of S. Time and time again we've been privy to the determination and brilliance behind each and every success. Backed by the strong support of the GSA, through events such as this gala, it's our sincere pleasure to see this graduate community continue to thrive. We are a proud partner of the Graduate Awards Gala and we look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come.

On behalf of the entire studentcare.net/works team, we offer our warmest congratulations to all the honourees, and we look forward to even more great things from University of Saskatchewan graduate students in the future.

Sincerely,

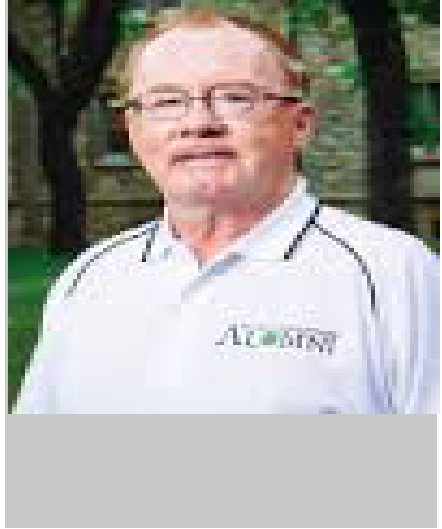
studentcare.net/works



# MESSAGES OF WELCOME

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Greetings! On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association and our over 141,000 members, it is my pleasure to offer my congratulations to all the award recipients and greetings to the students, faculty and honoured guests who have gathered to celebrate this evening.



The diversity of the award categories - and subsequently this evening's recipients - is reflective of the diversity of educational offerings and what makes the U of S unique. The breadth of research, teaching, and scholarly and artistic work that happens on our campus is impressive to say the least. And it's that unique blend of programs, and how they work together, that gives our graduate students the ability to advance the knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live.

Your time at the University of Saskatchewan helps build not only the foundation of your career, it augments the collective story of accomplishment and achievement that is over 100 years in the making.

Wherever life takes you, remember your alma mater - stay in touch with your classmates, professors and mentors; visit campus often; and share your personal and professional milestones with your fellow alumni.

Sincerely,

Peter Stroh,

President, University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association

# MESSAGES OF WELCOME



A Message from Her Honour  
The Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

It is my sincere pleasure to extend greetings on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, to everyone gathered for the University of Saskatchewan's 2nd Annual Graduate Awards Gala.

I congratulate all those who will be recognized this evening on this well-deserved honour. Thank you for striving for excellence, for making important contributions to the University of Saskatchewan, and in turn, to our province. I am grateful to the Graduate Students' Association for advocating on behalf of Graduate students, for building a strong student community, and for celebrating achievement.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vaughn Solomon Schofield', written in a cursive style.

Vaughn Solomon Schofield  
Lieutenant Governor  
Province of Saskatchewan

# AWARDS INTRODUCTION

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The Graduate Student Awards Gala is held once a year to honour the excellent graduate students and this is the 2nd Annual Gala. The awards are introduced by the category below.

## **Excellence in Aboriginal Research**

This award honours a graduate student that has made significant impacts in his/her field of study and the research positively contribute to the Aboriginal community.

## **Research Excellence in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Law or Education**

This award honours a graduate student that has made significant impacts in the field of humanities, arts, social sciences, law or education and has produced outstanding research results throughout their course of study.

## **Research Excellence in the Sciences**

This award honours a graduate student that has made significant impacts in the field of science and has produced outstanding research results throughout their course of study.

## **Professional Excellence**

This award honours a graduate student (non-thesis based program) that has made significant academic achievement in his or her field of study and has made outstanding non-academic contributions to his or her department of studies.

## **Interdisciplinary Research Excellence**

This award honours a graduate student that has made significant impacts in two separate but related fields of study and has produced outstanding research results throughout their course of study.

## **Advising Excellence**

This award honours a graduate student advisor that has shown excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as exceptional support for their students' ideas, scholarly works, and financial needs.

## **Excellence in Community Service**

This award honours a graduate student that has made significant impacts and positively contributes to the local community of Saskatoon.

## **Exceptional Course Councillor Award**

This award honours a course councillor of the GSA that has shown exceptional initiative beyond their call of duty to carry out the mission of the GSA.

## **Outstanding Past GSA Executive**

This award honours a past GSA Executive graduate student that has made significant contributions to the GSA. The current GSA Executive appreciates their dedication and hard work.

## **Outstanding GSA Partner Award**

This award honours a special partner of the GSA and as a result of the partnership has made significant contributions to graduate students on campus. The current GSA Executive appreciates their dedication and support of our work.

## **Excellence in Aboriginal Research - Janna Schurer**

Janna Schurer is a PhD student in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology. She has served as an ambassador and advocate for the University in environments ranging from national science conferences to stakeholder meetings in local indigenous communities. To exemplify her extraordinary abilities to build positive collaborations, Janna has worked closely with Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan, including Dene, Cree, Saulteaux and Ojibway communities. Her research is providing a foundation for these communities to develop local, culturally appropriate, and effective interventions to reduce the health risks posed by parasites and free-ranging dogs.



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## **Research Excellence in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Law or Education - Rim Lassoued**

Rim Lassoued is a PhD student in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics. Her research focuses on consumer confidence in food attributes, particularly providing a clearer understanding of the concept of public trust that should be of relevance for policy makers and the food industry. Rim had been communicating her research findings and contribution in a number of national and international conferences. In 2001, Rim won the 3rd prize when participating at the 1st Annual Canadian Agricultural Policy Conference in Ottawa. Furthermore, some of her work has been published in the top agricultural journals.



## Research Excellence in the Sciences - Abdallah Karoyo

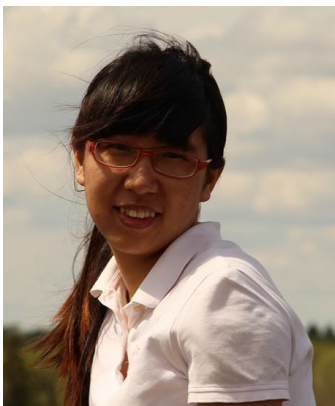
Abdallah Karoyo is a PhD student in the Department of Chemistry. He has carried out pioneering work on the structure and function of supramolecular materials using novel solid-state NMR methodologies. Such materials have potential application in adsorption processes in drug delivery, separation and interfacial phenomena and 'smart materials' technology. Abdallah's research work has produced important novel findings that have led to several high quality publications in top shelf physical chemistry journals, which to address major knowledge gaps in this field. He presented his research at various local, national and international (Europe & USA) conferences.



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## Professional Excellence - Mengna Lu

Mengna Lu is a graduate student in the Department of Environment Engineering. She quickly embarked on knowing her community by volunteering. Mengna volunteered for the career expo held by the Student Employment & Career Center (SECC) in the university. Likewise, she has volunteered for other numerous industries as a way of honing her networking skills. In study, she is always willing to take on difficult projects like Numerical Modeling in Environmental Engineering and Science. Mengna balanced the laboratory work, the teacher assistance work, and her studies through proper time management and planning processes. She also projects a warm, cheerful attitude to her fellow students and those she come into contact.





## **Interdisciplinary Research Excellence - Albert Ifeanyi Ugochukwu**

Albert is a PhD student in the Department of Bio-resource Policy, Business and Economics. He is an enthusiastic scholar who loves what he does, and also always willing to share what he finds interesting should it be academic, social life, or world issues. Albert has worked in the areas of rural development, agricultural marketing, production value chain, and food safety. Besides, he has



carried out research in various disciplines across Africa, Europe and North America. Albert is a member of several professional associations and has attended several conferences around the world where he presented his research papers.

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## **Advising Excellence - Nazmi Sari**

Nazmi Sari is a professor in the Department of Economics. Since 2004, Prof. Sari accepted a position at the Department of Economics. He is known for his excellent supervising and mentoring skills. When Prof. Sari interacts with graduate students, he combines patient guidance with a commitment to excellent. He gives students the latitude to explore their own ideas but also guides them toward rigorous academic methods and profes-



sional standards. Sari's students are well trained for a professional career. They are easily employed upon graduation as they are well equipped with a deep knowledge of Health Economics.

## **Excellence in Community Service - Sarah Crawford**

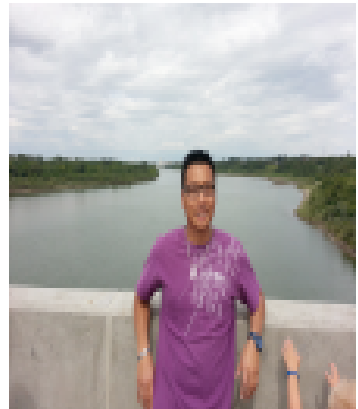
Sarah Crawford is a PhD student in the Toxicology Graduate Program. Sarah is also always willing to go beyond the hard work and long hours related to her thesis research and do other things that benefit the graduate program, the university community, the wider community in Saskatoon, and in her case community service at the national and international levels. Sarah initiated a local chapter of the global Café Scientifique, called “Tox on Tap”. She has been closely involved in the recently established Prairie Northern Regional chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), a global non-profit society. Meanwhile, Sarah has been an extremely active participant in the Toxicology Graduate Student Association.



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## **Exceptional Course Councillor Award - Cinnati Loi**

Cinnati Loi is the PhD student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the president of the Engineering Graduate Course Council (EGCC). He initiated the reformation of the EGCC in 2012, after a period of inactivity for the group that lasted over two years. He sought out academic councillors from all nine disciplines of engineering to form the EGCC. Cinnati has created numerous, tangible improvements to student life for the graduate students of the College of Engineering. He was actively involved in organizing much-needed renovations to the engineering graduate student lounge, securing \$50,000 in funding from the College and university for this purpose. Cinnati has also worked as a key in establishing a clear link and presence of engineering graduates students with the GSA.



## Outstanding Past GSA Executive - Nicole Callihoo

Nicole Callihoo is a graduate student at the Johnson Shoyoma Graduate School of Public Policy currently enrolled in the Master of Public Administration program. Raised in Alberta and a proud member of Paul First Nation, with a BA in Native Studies from the University of Alberta, she has over 15 years work experience with Friendship Centres across Canada and at all levels. She was the 2012-2013 Chair of the Aboriginal & Indigenous Graduate Student Council and the past Aboriginal Liaison for the Graduate Student Association. Her work with the GSA Executive resulted in the first GSA Awards Gala and creation of the Legacy Fund.



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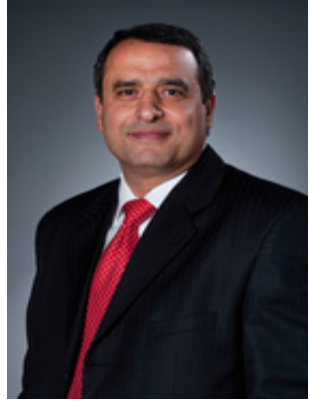
## Outstanding GSA Partner - Alumni Association

The partnership with the Alumni Association has resulted in a number of positive waves. The GSA Executive would like to officially acknowledge the support of the Alumni Association for this this event and ensuring its success. In addition, the Alumni Association provided much needed guidance in the selection of the keynote speaker for this evening.



## Keynote Speaker

Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz assumed his responsibilities as the sixth president and vice-chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island on July 1, 2011. Since that time he has championed a highly collaborative strategic planning process designed to define and advance the strategic direction of UPEI and support its academic mission—teaching, research and service.



Dr. Abd-El-Aziz has delivered over 160 presentations, and has chaired several international conferences including the International Congress on Advanced Materials held in China in 2011 and 2013. He has been invited to present lectures nationally and internationally. During the course of his career, Dr. Abd-El-Aziz has secured research funding totalling over \$10,000,000.

An accomplished chemist and fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, Dr. Abd-El-Aziz received his BSc and MSc degrees from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, his PhD from the University of Saskatchewan.

# THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICIAL PARTNERS!

The GSA would like to humbly thank all the official sponsors for your assistance. This event would not be possible without your generous donation. Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our graduate students.



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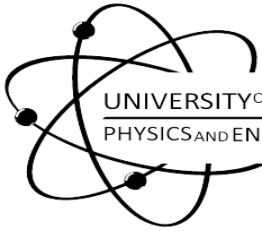
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**The GSA Executive would like to thank you  
all for attending this important event.**

**Please enjoy your evening.**