

THE GRADUATE
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ASSOCIATION
WELCOMES YOU TO

THE 5TH ANNUAL
GRADUATE STUDENT
AWARDS GALA



#GSAgala2017

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PROGRAM

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM Greetings

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Awards Ceremony

Reception to follow

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Award Introduction

The Graduate Student Awards Gala is held once a year to honour the excellence of graduate students. The awards are as follows:

Excellence in Indigenous Research

This award honours an Indigenous graduate student (i.e., First Nation, Métis, or Inuit) who has made significant impacts in his/her field of study, and research that has positively contributed to the Indigenous community

Interdisciplinary Research Excellence

This award honours a graduate student who has established connections across, or hybridization of techniques across disciplines and has produced outstanding research results throughout their course of study

Research Excellence in Sciences

This award honours a graduate student who has made significant impacts in the field of science and has produced outstanding research results throughout his/her course of study

Innovation Research

This award honours a graduate student who has made significant impacts in new and emerging areas of study in one of the signature areas of the institution

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Professional Excellence

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

Excellence in Community Service

This award honours a graduate student who has made significant impacts and who has positively contributed to a local community

Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership

This award honours a student who has shown strong leadership and exceptional initiative beyond his/her call of duty to carry out the mission of the GSA

Advising Excellence

This award honours a graduate student advisor who has shown excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as exceptional support for their advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs

Teaching Excellence

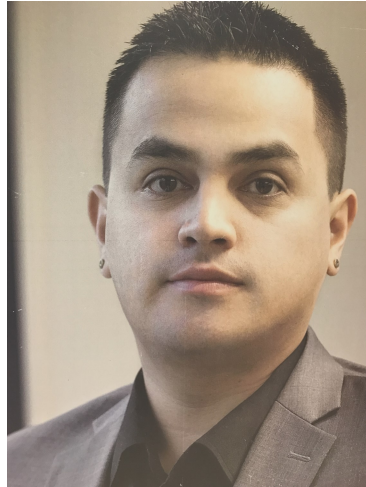
This award honours a professor who has shown excellent teaching practice in a graduate level course, enhancing the classroom experience, and mentoring graduate students

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Excellence in Indigenous Research

Awarded to:
Mylan Tootoosis

Mylan is Plains Cree-Nakota from Poundmaker Indian Reserve located within Treaty Six Territory. He is currently a Doctoral Student in the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Mylan has been active in ongoing research projects in regards to safe drinking water and Water Governance and Policy. His Research currently concentrates on The Sustainability of Indigenous Prairie Livelihood in Modernity.



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Interdisciplinary Research Excellence

Awarded to:
Arinjay Banerjee

Arinjay Banerjee is a third year PhD student at the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Arinjay is part of the bat zoonosis lab (Dr. Vikram Misra) and his doctoral thesis aims at understanding how bats survive infections with viruses such as Ebola virus, Marburg virus and coronaviruses that cause severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle-East respiratory syndrome (MERS). Bats can survive experimental infections with these viruses. Understanding the mechanisms that allow them to do so might allow us to identify better and novel drug targets for other species that die from these viral infections, such as humans.



Besides virology and immunology, Arinjay is also actively involved in public policy for emerging infectious diseases and in the concept of One Health. Arinjay has a certificate in Integrated training program in infectious diseases, food safety and public policy (ItraP) and he continues to collaborate with different disciplines to identify and publish policies to tackle emerging problems such as antimicrobial resistance, Nipah virus encephalitis and MERS. Arinjay has also published in the field of pedagogy, where he and colleagues have explained the concepts of One Health and problem-based learning.

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Research Excellence in Sciences

Awarded to:
Adam Crane

Adam is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biology, conducting research on social behaviour and fear in aquatic organisms, primarily fishes and amphibians. He works in the laboratory of Aquatic Predation and Environmental Change under the supervision of Dr. Maud Ferrari. His other research interests include how prey learn about predators and whether prey recognize invasive predators. Adam is originally from Atlanta Georgia, and then moved to Springfield, Missouri to undertake a Master's degree in biology and employment as a biology instructor and laboratory technician before beginning doctoral studies at the U of S. Adam is joined by his wife, Amanda, and their three children, Bailey (7), Darryn (5), and Logan (1).



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Innovative Research

Awarded to:
Inimfon Abner Udoetok

Inimfon was born in Abak, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Applied Chemistry from the University of Uyo in 2002 and the degree of Master of Science in Industrial Chemistry from the University of Port Harcourt in 2006. Inimfon worked as an Assistant Lecturer at Akwa Ibom State College of Agriculture, Obio Akpa, Akwa Ibom State. In 2012, he was appointed an Assistant Lecturer at Akwa Ibom State University, Mkpat Enin and worked there till



May 2013 when he commenced his PhD studies at the Chemistry Department of the University of Saskatchewan, under the supervision of Dr. Lee D. Wilson and Dr. John V. Headley. The success of his PhD studies which aims at the development of biopolymer sorbent materials for the uptake of Naphthenic acids from aqueous solutions is affirmed by publications in high quality peer review journals such as Carbohydrate Polymers, RSC Advances as well as Applied Materials and Interfaces.

Inimfon's scientific achievements brought him prestigious awards such as the Saskatchewan Innovation & Opportunity Scholarship, Dr. Kenneth Johansson Scholarship, Graduate Teaching Fellowship, 2nd best poster of the 26th Canadian Materials Science Conference, Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Community Scholarship and best 5 student abstracts at International Conference, Workshop and Exhibition on Biotechnologies for Improved Production of Oil and Gas in the Gulf of Guinea at Abuja. He is a member of Chemical Institute of Canada, Chemical Society of Nigeria and Canadian Society for Chemical Technology.

He is married to Idorenyin Udoetok, with two daughters (UbongAbasi and IfioAwasi). His hobbies include singing, soccer, scrabble and table tennis.

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Professional Excellence

Awarded to:
Arathi Arun

Arathi Arun an MPH candidate at the University of Saskatchewan with interests in health policy and management. Her passion for improving community health, as well as her multicultural background has enabled her to pursue a career in the public health profession. Her work with the School of Public Health has been an invaluable experience, as it has enabled her to intertwine her academic rigor along with her passion to make an impactful contribution to the community.



Arathi, is also the recipient of the Dr. James Rossiter MPH practicum award, through the Canadian Institute of Health and Research.

Arathi has worked with the Ministry of Health in Regina to delve deeper into the process of health policy integration and put the core competencies of public health into use. She is an advocate of promoting good health practices and improving the health of the community at large. She firmly believes in building relationships with community members to integrate living.

Arathi has shown leadership through her involvement with health promotion initiatives. She has conducted health workshops with the SWITCH organization, to promote exercise as a form of medicine to marginalized community members of Saskatoon's West side. She has also collaborated with the Student Health Services and College of Medicine to promote sexual health awareness and initiatives on campus. Arathi has volunteered at Juravinski Cancer hospital and MacWheelers spinal cord rehabilitation center in Hamilton, Ontario.

Arathi is a research assistant investigating the flow of ventilator dependent clients in Saskatchewan, using social network analysis. Through this research she hopes to address the health care issues faced by ventilator clients.

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Excellence in Community Service

Awarded to:
Jebunnessa Chapola

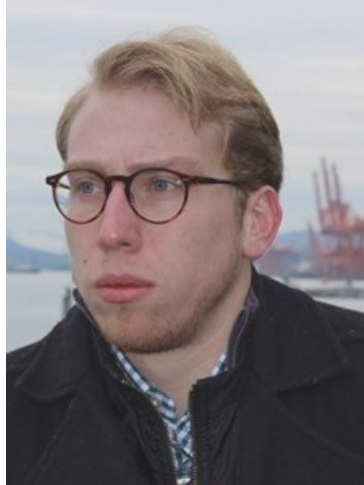
Jebunnessa Chapola is a doctoral student at the University of Saskatchewan in Women's, Gender, and Sexualities Studies. A Bangladeshi-Canadian and mother of two young daughters, she holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Bangladesh, Sweden and Norway. As a community engaged researcher, community builder, leader, activist, and volunteer Jebunnessa's work impacts many newcomers' and students' lives. She worked tirelessly, building community and women's empowerment, based on sound principles of intersectional gender and environmental justice. Among newcomers, refugees, international students to reduce barriers to integration by mobilizing both formal and informal resources, through the campus community garden, community radio, anti-racist education and inter-cultural performances/activities. She is also committed to linking newcomer families with Aboriginal communities, engaging the lessons of Canadian history to create greater belongingness across groups. Jebunnessa has dedicated herself to cultural continuity through the Sargam vocal performances group she founded six years ago to maintain traditions of storytelling, poetry, music, working both as a performer and teacher/mentor with the project. She also founded a weekly radio show named Banglar Gaan O Kotha at CFCR community radio which provides heritage language programming as well as information on very diverse topics, often related to anti-racism, building relationships across cultures, international student's/newcomers integration and mental health awareness. Jebunnessa engages U of S students, faculty, community educators and leaders on her show regularly. She believes land based community engaged learnings and processes of reconciliation are very important in Canada's future. Her life personifies multicultural values through living out the five multicultural streams of Cultural Continuity, Celebration of Diversity, Anti-Racism, Intercultural Connections, and Integration.



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In Memory of Mark Kroeker

Mark Kroeker was born in Loma Linda, California on September 21, 1989 with a fatal condition known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome and underwent a cardiac transplant when he was just one week old. After recovering from transplant surgery in California for eleven months, Mark moved with his family to British Columbia where he insisted on living a completely normal life.



Mark loved school. He was always a strong student leader, and was highly involved with his community. During his final year he was a student representative on the Vancouver School Board. In high school he was very involved with the drama club and won several awards from his school and a city-wide annual event known as Vancouver Drama-Rama.

After graduating from high school, Mark went to study at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. where he completed a B.A. in Geography. Mark served as VP External on the Mount Allison Students' Advisory Council for three years, and was well respected by the community as a leader.

Mark enrolled in a Masters program at the University of Saskatchewan in the department of Geography and Planning, exploring urban Aboriginal attitudes regarding city planning in Saskatoon under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Walker. As per usual, he immediately became engaged in his community, serving as President of the Geography and Planning Students' Association, and Chair of Course Council for the GSA.

Many of us who knew Mark personally are still struggling to come to terms with the enormous void in our hearts and lives left by his sudden and unexpected death in May, 2014. The award in his name to acknowledge exceptional student leadership is a very fitting and meaningful tribute to the Mark Kroeker we all remember.

Mark Kroecker Exceptional Student Leadership

Awarded to:
Jaylene Murray

Jaylene is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Environment and Sustainability. Hailing from Vancouver Island, she came to the University of Saskatchewan to work with the Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN). She holds a Diploma in Adventure Tourism Business Operations and a BA in Recreation and Tourism Management with a focus on sustainable community development through cultural tourism.



Her background as an outdoor educator, guide, and sustainable tourism researcher shaped her interest in education for sustainability. With SEPN, Jaylene's Ph.D. research examines the ways in which sustainability is taken up in higher education, with a particular focus on student perceptions. She will track what students identify as drivers and barriers to sustainability uptake and document the ways that they have been working and organizing to implement sustainable initiatives at their institutions.

Jaylene's research interests align quite well with her personal advocacy work for environmental and social sustainability. In addition to her role as the President of the School of Environment and Sustainability Students' Association, she also works with a variety of campus and student groups interested in implementing sustainability initiatives at the University of Saskatchewan. Through her position on the GSA Sustainability Committee, she is actively campaigning the university to increase institutional commitments to environmental and social sustainability. Jaylene's passions shine through in her studies and in her work across campus as she pulls people together to create lasting change for the betterment of the environment.

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Advising Excellence

Awarded to:
Dr. Bev Brenna

Dr. Bev Brenna (Professor, Curriculum Studies, College of Education) worked as a classroom and special education teacher prior to beginning her faculty work in 2010 at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research areas include literacy and Canadian children's literature, and she has published over a dozen books for young people including *The White Bicycle*, shortlisted for a 2013



Governor General's Award. She is committed to lifelong improvement as a teacher, and is very grateful for the exceptional graduate and undergraduate students who continually recharge her teaching batteries.

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Teaching Excellence

Awarded to:
Dr. Carey Simonson

Carey Simonson is a Professor and Graduate Chair in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He received Bachelor's (1991), Master's (1993) and Doctoral (1998) degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the U of S and has been a professor at the U of S since 2001. He has supervised 48 graduate and postdoctoral students (27 MSc, 14 PhD, 7 PDF) who have published over 100 refereed



journal papers and have been awarded over \$1 million in prestigious scholarships and awards. In 2007/08 and 2014/15, Prof. Simonson was a visiting professor (sabbatical leave) at the University of Oulu in Finland. Prior to becoming a faculty member at the U of S, he spent 4 years at the Technical Research Centre of Finland.

Prof. Simonson is a Fellow of ASHRAE, the premier society in his research field with over 56,000 members from over 130 countries. Less than 1% of ASHRAE members (479) are Fellows. In February 2015, Prof. Simonson received the NSERC Synergy Award for Innovation - the 3rd NSERC Synergy Award for the U of S in the 17-year history of the Award. The nomination was titled "Venmar and University of Saskatchewan – Research and Development of a New, Revolutionary HVAC system".

At home, Carey and his wife (Virpi) are proud parents of 10 children (8 boys and 2 girls). The oldest will graduate from Civil Engineering in May 2017 and the youngest will start kindergarten in September 2017.

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