



**THE GRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

**6TH ANNUAL
AWARDS GALA**

April 7, 2018

Delta Bessborough



**A Message from His 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 taking part in the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Awards Gala.

As Chancellor Emeritus and alumnus of the University of Saskatchewan, this event is near and dear to my heart. I am grateful to the Graduate Students' Association for providing valuable services and for celebrating excellence through this awards program. As I begin my new role as Lieutenant Governor, I am keenly aware of the value of awards. They enable us to honour and thank individuals for their outstanding contributions, and also to inspire others. I congratulate everyone who will be honoured at this 6th Annual Awards Gala and I thank you for your hard work and commitment. We are very proud of you.

Please accept my very best wishes for a joyous and memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Molloy', is centered below the text.

W. Thomas Molloy
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan



City of
Saskatoon

**A Message from His Worship Charlie Clark
Mayor, City of Saskatoon**

On behalf of City Council, I would like to congratulate all of those being honoured at the Graduate Students' Association 6th Annual Awards Gala.

To the students receiving awards this evening, congratulations on your exceptional research in your chosen field, for contributing back to the community, and for demonstrating strong leadership both on and off campus. And to the staff and faculty nominees and award recipients, thank you for the invaluable guidance and motivation that you are providing to the students.

The University of Saskatchewan has helped to define the growth and success of our city, and the research being done at this institution—by students and faculty members alike—is addressing many of the complex issues facing our community and world. It is this sort of passion and commitment that we need for success with issues at both the local and global levels.

I wish you all the best this evening and I hope that you enjoy your night.

Charlie Clark
Mayor



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A Message from Dr. Peter Stoicheff President, University of Saskatchewan

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan, congratulations to our graduate students being recognized at the 6th annual Graduate Awards Gala. Thank you to the Graduate Students' Association for providing this important opportunity to recognize and reward excellence.

The Gala celebrates graduate student achievements, and brings the community together for an evening of fun and fellowship. I extend my best wishes for your continued success.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Stoicheff".

Peter Stoicheff
President and Vice-Chancellor



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A Message from Dr. Trever Crowe Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Congratulations to the Graduate Students' Association for arranging another successful awards gala! It's a pleasure to bring greetings from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and I thank the GSA for this opportunity.

The annual awards gala is a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the successes of deserving students and the commitment and dedication of faculty colleagues. These award recipients serve as role models, inspiring us all to commit to quality and excellence in all that we do. Congratulations to all the award recipients.

Awards are obvious signals that highlight important achievements and work. By drawing attention to and celebrating excellence in community service, leadership, research, teaching and student advising, the GSA has clearly identified those elements that are important to graduate students. It should be no surprise that these same attributes are also highly valued by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Striving for mediocrity or settling for "good enough" is not in our playbook. While there are few awards, there are many deserving individuals. Excellent students study at the University of Saskatchewan, and we as staff and faculty are fortunate to be able to work with them. Students motivate us. They challenge us. They inspire us, and they make us proud.

At this time of year, we often pause to reflect on the achievements of the past and to look forward to future challenges and opportunities. I am sincerely grateful for the



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work of our current GSA executive. They have been diligent and steadfast in their commitments. They have assumed leadership roles on a number of very challenging portfolios, and they have remained consummate professionals in the advocacy and representation of all graduate students. As we say, “Adieu” to our outgoing GSA leadership, we will soon welcome new members of the GSA executive, and we look forward to working with them on new and exciting opportunities for our graduate students.

I also want to recognize the unwavering commitment by our faculty. Indeed, they are the ones who teach the classes, arrange the exams and enforce the deadlines, but they also help students to interpret research data, to prepare that conference presentation and to apply for entry into the next stage of students’ careers. Thank you for all your work. You make a difference every day.

Our staff members are able to elevate good programs to greatness. They support our students in ways that often go unnoticed but are especially important. I am truly grateful for the work of our many staff members who contribute to the exceptional experience for our graduate students. We are especially fortunate to have such great staff members.

We have many reasons to be proud. Once again, congratulations to all of the award recipients and thank you to all who have contributed to the successes of our graduate students and graduate programs.

Trever Crowe

Best regards
Trever Crowe



A Message from Mr. Ziad Ghaith President, Graduate Students' Association

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association, I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate all of the individuals who will be recognized tonight. Your efforts, contributions and leadership within the University are truly inspiring. Your dedication and commitment to your studies, research and to the community set you as role models for all graduate students.

We continue to see the remarkable work that graduate students do at the University of Saskatchewan. We are proud of our members and we hope that you continue striving to achieve your fullest potential. We hope that this evening will inspire you to dream big, reach high and aim far. All of you are capable of success.

We want to thank the administration, faculty and staff who continue to support our graduate students. Indeed your presence ensures that our graduate students have less barriers to achieving success. We would like to thank the City of Saskatoon and the Government of Saskatchewan for their continuous support towards post-secondary education and graduate student activities in Saskatchewan.

Thank you to those in attendance. Your presence reinforces and acknowledges the work that our graduate students do at the University and in the community.

Ziad Ghaith

With regards
Ziad Ghaith

Program

5:00 PM — Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM — Greetings and Introductory Remarks

- Remarks from His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
- Remarks from the Provost and Vice-President Academic Tony Vannelli
- Remarks from the Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Trever Crowe
- Remarks from the President, Graduate Students' Association Ziad Ghaith
- Guest Speaker — Dr. Len Findlay, Distinguished University Professor

6:40 PM — Dinner

7:50 PM — Awards Presentation

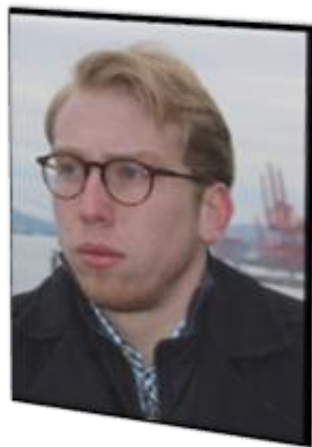
- Presentation of the Graduate Students' Association Awards
- Presentation of the 3MT Winners and Honourable Mentions

Reception to follow

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.

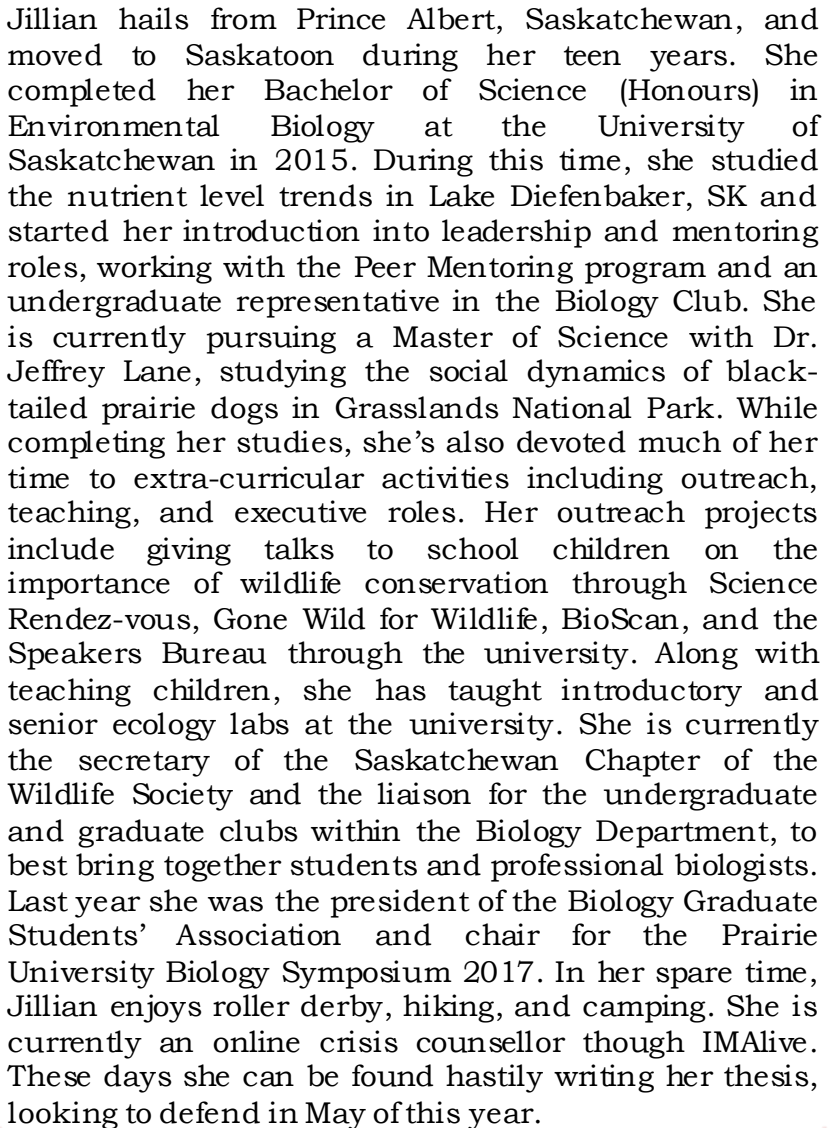
Many of us who knew Mark personally are still struggling to come to terms with the enormous void in our hearts and lives left by his sudden and unexpected death in May, 2014. The award in his name to acknowledge exceptional student leadership is a very fitting and meaningful tribute to the Mark Kroeker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

*Mark Kroeker
Exceptional Student
Leadership Award*

**Awarded to
Jillian Kusch**

The 2018 Graduate Students' Association Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award is presented to Jillian Kusch in honour of her strong leadership and exceptional initiatives, going above and beyond her call of duty, whilst carrying out the mission of the GSA. Jillian has shown outstanding involvement and collaboration with graduate students in her unit of study and across campus.





Jillian hails from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and moved to Saskatoon during her teen years. She completed her Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Biology at the University of Saskatchewan in 2015. During this time, she studied the nutrient level trends in Lake Diefenbaker, SK and started her introduction into leadership and mentoring roles, working with the Peer Mentoring program and an undergraduate representative in the Biology Club. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science with Dr. Jeffrey Lane, studying the social dynamics of black-tailed prairie dogs in Grasslands National Park. While completing her studies, she's also devoted much of her time to extra-curricular activities including outreach, teaching, and executive roles. Her outreach projects include giving talks to school children on the importance of wildlife conservation through Science Rendez-vous, Gone Wild for Wildlife, BioScan, and the Speakers Bureau through the university. Along with teaching children, she has taught introductory and senior ecology labs at the university. She is currently the secretary of the Saskatchewan Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the liaison for the undergraduate and graduate clubs within the Biology Department, to best bring together students and professional biologists. Last year she was the president of the Biology Graduate Students' Association and chair for the Prairie University Biology Symposium 2017. In her spare time, Jillian enjoys roller derby, hiking, and camping. She is currently an online crisis counsellor through IMALive. These days she can be found hastily writing her thesis, looking to defend in May of this year.

Advising Excellence Award

**Awarded to
Dr. Regan Mandryk**

The 2018 Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award is presented to Dr. Regan Mandryk for her excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as her exceptional support for her advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs. Dr. Mandryk embodies the capacity to stimulate graduate students to think critically and creatively, while enhancing their graduate student learning experience.





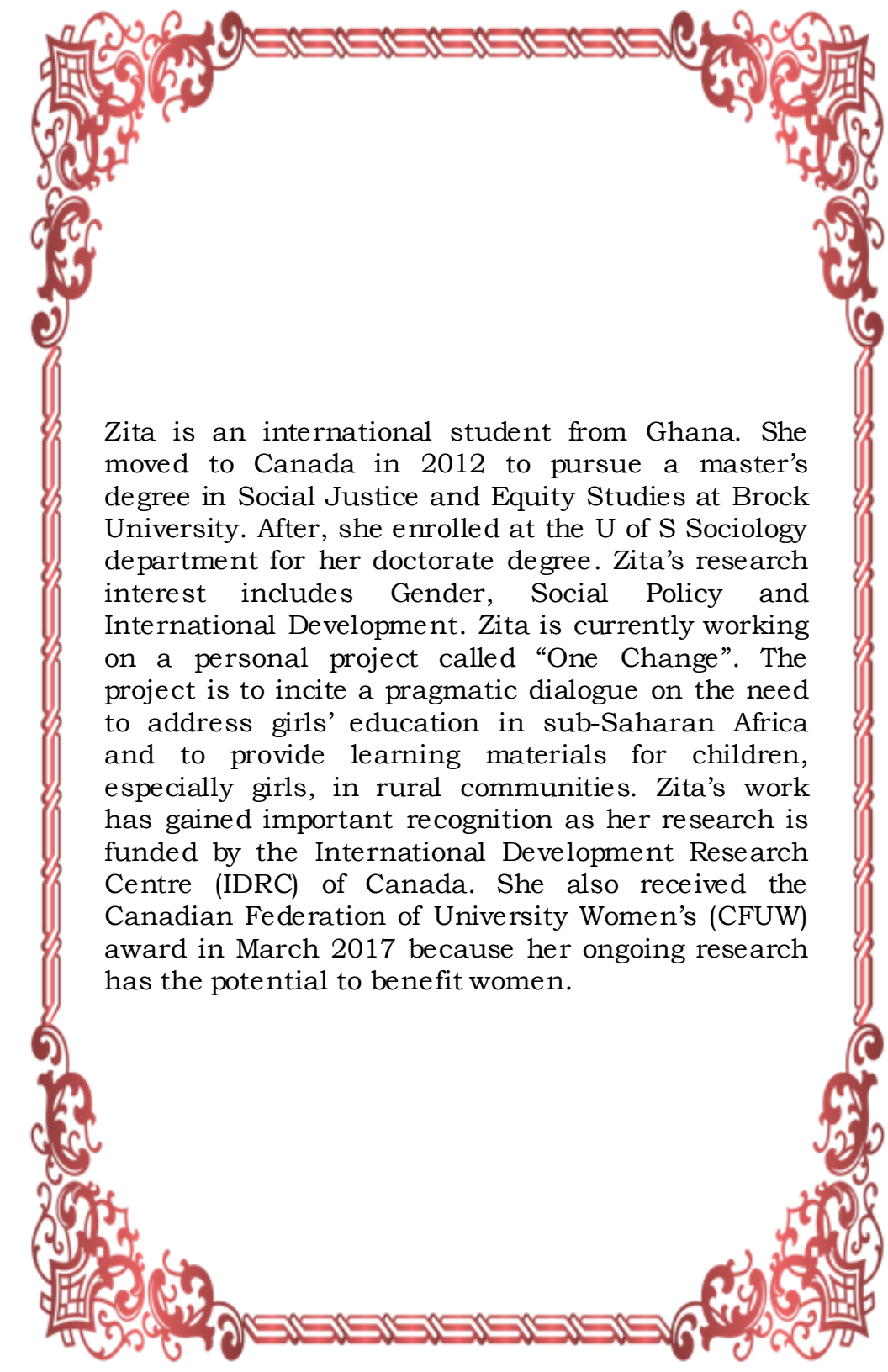
Regan Mandryk is a professor in Computer Science at the University of Saskatchewan; she pioneered the area of physiological evaluation for computer games in her award-winning Ph.D. research at Simon Fraser University with support from Electronic Arts. With over 200 publications that have been cited thousands of times (including one of Google Scholar's 10 classic papers in HCI from 2006), she continues to investigate novel ways of understanding player experience in partnership with multiple industrial and international collaborators, but also develops and evaluates persuasive games, games for health, games for special populations, and games that foster interpersonal relationships. Regan has been the invited keynote speaker at several international game conferences, led Games research in the Canadian GRAND Network, organizes international conferences including the inaugural CHI PLAY, the inaugural CHI Games Subcommittee, and CHI 2018, and leads the first ever Canadian graduate training program on games user research (SWaGUR.ca) with \$2.5 million of support from NSERC. She was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada's inaugural College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2014, received the University of Saskatchewan New Researcher Award in 2015 and the Canadian Association for Computer Science's Outstanding Young Canadian Computer Science Researcher Prize in 2016. She is particularly proud that she is a three-time recipient of the Department of Computer Science Excellence in Supervision Award (2012, 2014, 2017).

Excellence in Community Service Award

Awarded to Abigail Zita Seshie

The 2018 Graduate Students' Association Excellence in Community Service Award is presented to Abigail Zita Seshie to honour her significant impacts and positive contributions to the local community in Saskatchewan and beyond. Zita has shown extensive initiative and significant achievements in serving the community in addition to excelling in her academic studies. She has contributed a minimum of seventy-five (75) hours of volunteer work from May 1, 2017 – March 1, 2018.





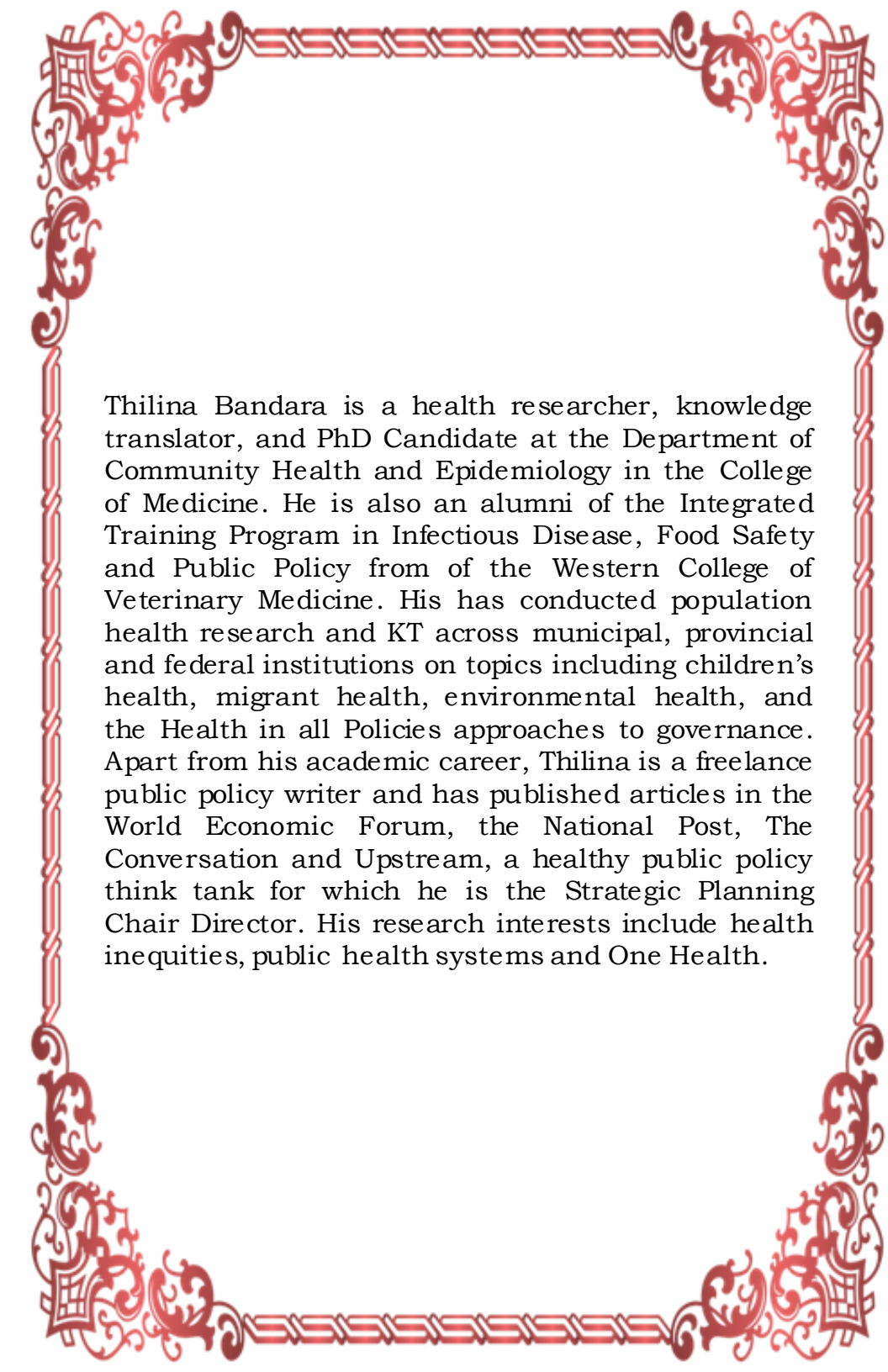
Zita is an international student from Ghana. She moved to Canada in 2012 to pursue a master's degree in Social Justice and Equity Studies at Brock University. After, she enrolled at the U of S Sociology department for her doctorate degree. Zita's research interest includes Gender, Social Policy and International Development. Zita is currently working on a personal project called "One Change". The project is to incite a pragmatic dialogue on the need to address girls' education in sub-Saharan Africa and to provide learning materials for children, especially girls, in rural communities. Zita's work has gained important recognition as her research is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. She also received the Canadian Federation of University Women's (CFUW) award in March 2017 because her ongoing research has the potential to benefit women.

Research Excellence In Interdisciplinary Studies Award

**Awarded to
Thilina Bandara**

The 2018 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award is presented to Thilina Bandara to honour the significant impacts he has made in two or more separate, but related, fields of study and for his outstanding research results throughout his course of study. Thilina has demonstrated that he is a favourable member in the research community, exemplifies scholarly achievements and has contributed to positive collaborations amongst researchers and the community.





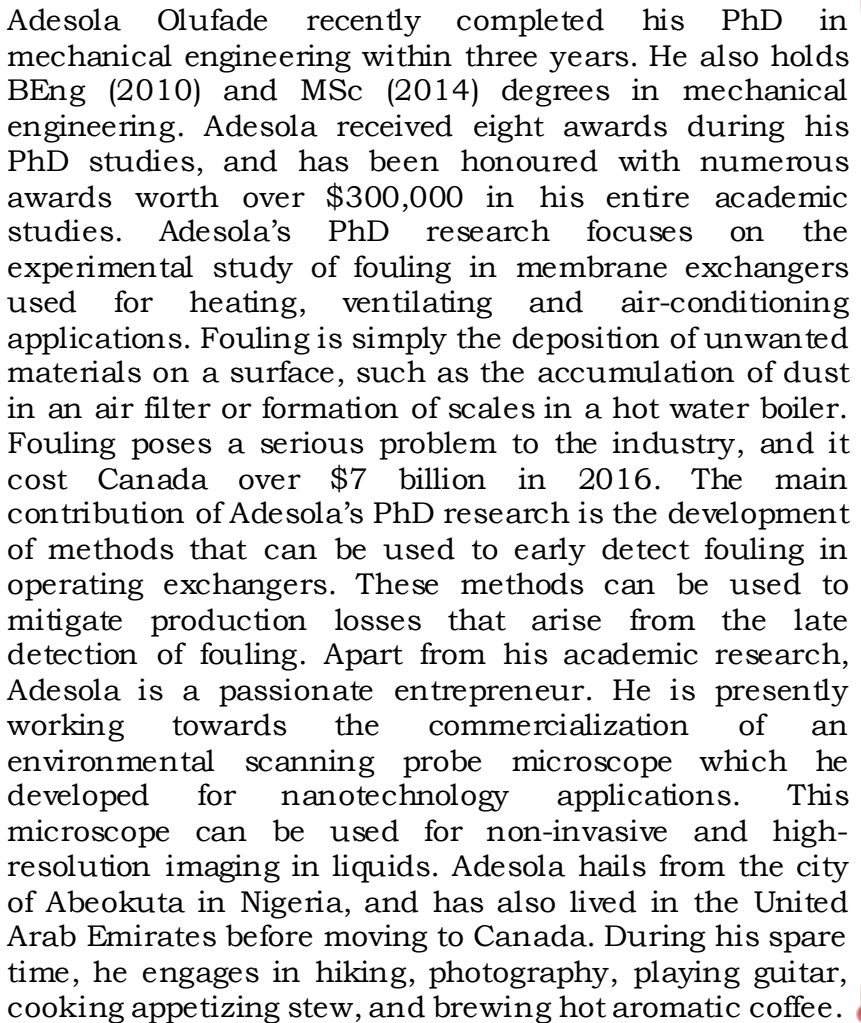
Thilina Bandara is a health researcher, knowledge translator, and PhD Candidate at the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology in the College of Medicine. He is also an alumni of the Integrated Training Program in Infectious Disease, Food Safety and Public Policy from of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. His has conducted population health research and KT across municipal, provincial and federal institutions on topics including children's health, migrant health, environmental health, and the Health in all Policies approaches to governance. Apart from his academic career, Thilina is a freelance public policy writer and has published articles in the World Economic Forum, the National Post, The Conversation and Upstream, a healthy public policy think tank for which he is the Strategic Planning Chair Director. His research interests include health inequities, public health systems and One Health.

Research Excellence In STEM Award

**Awarded to
Dr. Adesola Olufade**

The 2018 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is presented to Dr. Adesola Oluwasijibomi Olufade for his significant impacts in the field of science, technology, engineering or math and for the production of outstanding research results throughout his course of study. Dr. Olufade demonstrated that he is a favourable member in the research community, exemplifies scholarly achievements and has contributed to positive collaborations amongst researchers and the community.





Adesola Olufade recently completed his PhD in mechanical engineering within three years. He also holds BEng (2010) and MSc (2014) degrees in mechanical engineering. Adesola received eight awards during his PhD studies, and has been honoured with numerous awards worth over \$300,000 in his entire academic studies. Adesola's PhD research focuses on the experimental study of fouling in membrane exchangers used for heating, ventilating and air-conditioning applications. Fouling is simply the deposition of unwanted materials on a surface, such as the accumulation of dust in an air filter or formation of scales in a hot water boiler. Fouling poses a serious problem to the industry, and it cost Canada over \$7 billion in 2016. The main contribution of Adesola's PhD research is the development of methods that can be used to early detect fouling in operating exchangers. These methods can be used to mitigate production losses that arise from the late detection of fouling. Apart from his academic research, Adesola is a passionate entrepreneur. He is presently working towards the commercialization of an environmental scanning probe microscope which he developed for nanotechnology applications. This microscope can be used for non-invasive and high-resolution imaging in liquids. Adesola hails from the city of Abeokuta in Nigeria, and has also lived in the United Arab Emirates before moving to Canada. During his spare time, he engages in hiking, photography, playing guitar, cooking appetizing stew, and brewing hot aromatic coffee.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Held on March 15, 2018

The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition is an internationally recognized research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in 2008. The 3MT® is a unique competition that challenges thesis-based graduate students to present their research and its significance in only three minutes, with only one PowerPoint slide, in language appropriate to a general audience.

The 3MT® is designed to share and celebrate the outstanding research of our dedicated students and to provide students with the opportunity to showcase the importance of their work.

Congratulations to the 2018 University of Saskatchewan 3MT® winners and honourable mentions.

1st Place: Roland Macana

2nd Place: Sajna Simon

3rd Place: Dr. Adesola Olufade

Honourable Mentions:

Brittney Lins

Mays Al-Dulaymi

Vedashree Meher

This event could not have happened without the support of all of our sponsors, monetary or otherwise. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your continued support of graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan.

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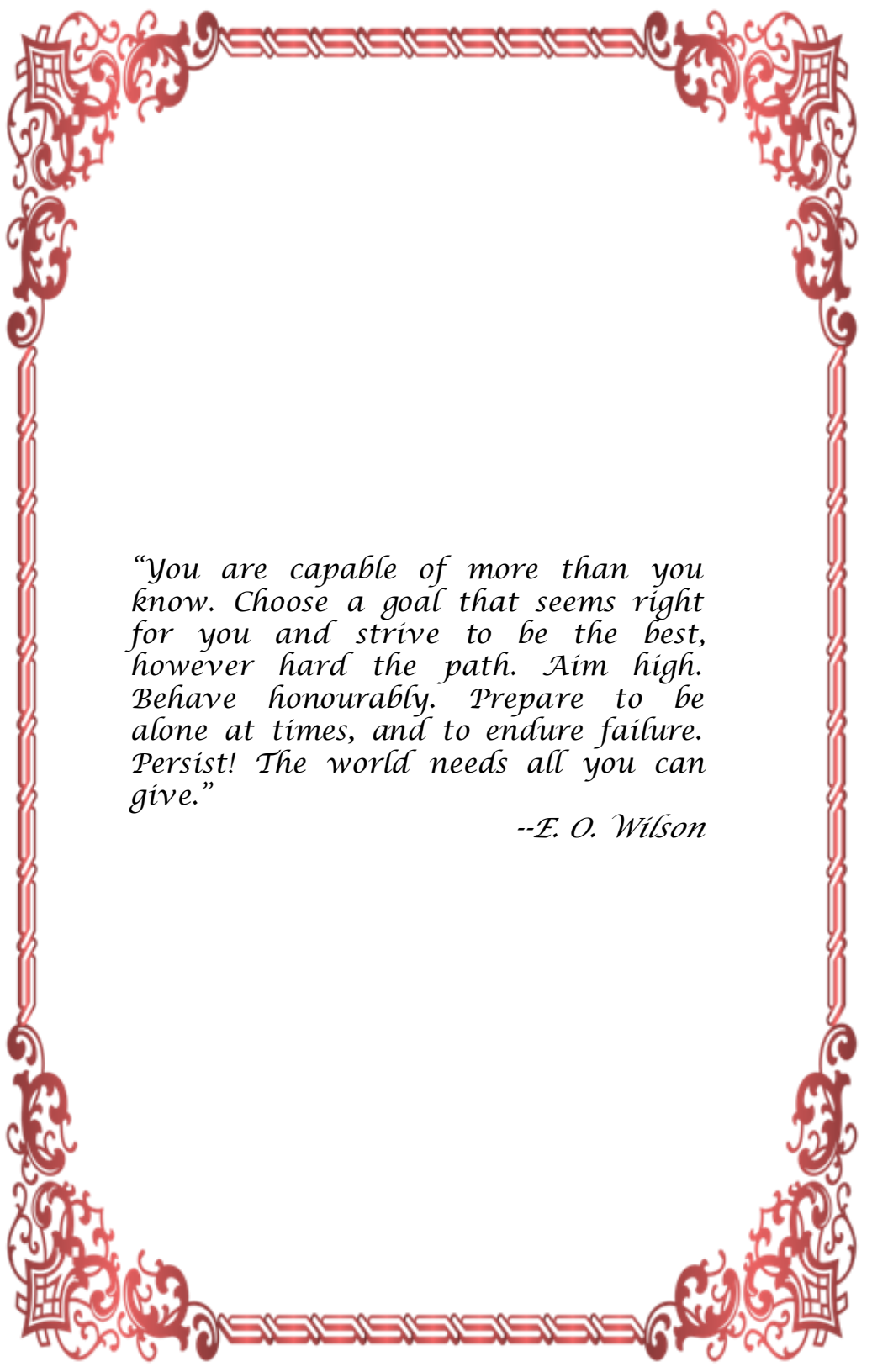


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“You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honourably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist! The world needs all you can give.”

--E. O. Wilson