



# **THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS GALA**

**April 6, 2019**

**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 Students' Association 7th Annual Awards Gala.

I congratulate all of this year's deserving award recipients, and I thank you for your excellence, your leadership, and your service. The student recipients have bright futures, indeed, and can take great pride in this recognition. The faculty recipients are important mentors, and I thank you for encouraging and inspiring your impressive graduate students.

I wish to thank the Graduate Students' Association for hosting this special gala and for your ongoing support of graduate students at the U of S. Please accept my best wishes for a joyous and memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Molloy', is positioned above the printed name.

W. Thomas Molloy  
Lieutenant Governor  
Province of Saskatchewan



**A Message from Dr. Tina Beaudry-Mellor,  
Minister of Advanced Education**

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Advanced Education, congratulations to the award recipients.


The Government of Saskatchewan understands the importance of post-secondary education and has made a number of investments to expand research capabilities in the areas of innovation, science and medicine.

The University of Saskatchewan is an outstanding institution. Tonight's award recipients are examples of the high-quality education and research offered at the university. You are all great ambassadors for your school and the Province of Saskatchewan.

As you reflect on your successes, you should take pride in all you have accomplished.

Thank you to the Graduate Students' Association for hosting tonight's event and ensuring graduate students have access to quality services that support their academic success.

I wish you the best and congratulate you again on this recognition.



Tina Beaudry-Mellor  
Minister of Advanced Education  
Government of Saskatchewan



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

On behalf of my colleagues on City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Annual Awards Gala of the Graduate Students' Association.

The research and community leadership that you are recognizing and celebrating this evening is part of the story of Saskatoon. The University of Saskatchewan has deep ties with our community, through everything from students and faculty volunteering for different causes, the research from campus responding to the needs and aspirations of the city, or alumni choosing to live in Saskatoon and use the knowledge and skills they acquired through their studies, whether this be as teachers, nurses, actors, engineers, or a whole host of other professions.

The work being celebrated this evening grows on this story and the proud history of collaboration and interconnectedness that has been going on for over one hundred years. The university and the broader community share in each other's successes as Saskatoon continues to find and challenge our place in a changing world. We have a proud history of addressing the problems the world is facing, and the research and leadership coming from the university will only help to grow this.

Congratulations to all, and I wish you the best in your classes and in your research throughout the year.

Charlie Clark  
Mayor



# UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan, it is my pleasure to congratulate the students who are being honoured at this year's 7th annual Graduate Awards Gala.

Thank you to the Graduate Students' Association for providing this opportunity to celebrate the success of our graduate students and for recognizing and rewarding excellence in research, scholarly and artistic pursuits at this annual gala.

Graduate students are an integral part of our campus community and this event is a wonderful way to salute their academic achievements with family and friends. Today's graduate students are tomorrow's leaders and the future ambassadors of the university.

Congratulations to this evening's award winners, and continued success to the GSA in its mission to serve and support the university's graduate student community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Stoicheff".

Peter Stoicheff  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Saskatchewan



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate  
and Postdoctoral Studies

GRAD.USASK.CA


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

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.



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.

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.



Best regards  
Trevor Crowe





**A Message from Ms. Naheda Sahtout  
President, Graduate Students' Association**

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association, congratulations to all the award winners on your successes and achievements; your contributions and leadership at the University and in the community are inspiring and commendable. Your dedication and commitment to your studies and to your research do not go unnoticed and you have set yourself as role models to your peers.

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. 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 your 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.

*Naheda Sahtout*

With regards  
Naheda Sahtout





# Program

**5:00 PM — Cocktail Hour**

**6:00 PM — Greetings & Introductory Remarks**

- Remarks from Mr. Eric Olauson, MLA, Saskatoon University
- Remarks from Ms. Bev Dubois, City Councillor, Ward 9
- Remarks from Dr. Tony Vannelli, Provost and Vice-President Academic, University of Saskatchewan
- Remarks from Dr. Trever Crowe, Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, University of Saskatchewan
- Remarks from Ms. Naheda Sahtout, President Graduate Students' Association
- Guest Speaker — Professor Keith Walker

**7:00 PM — Dinner**

**8:10 PM — Awards Presentation**

*Reception and Dance to follow*

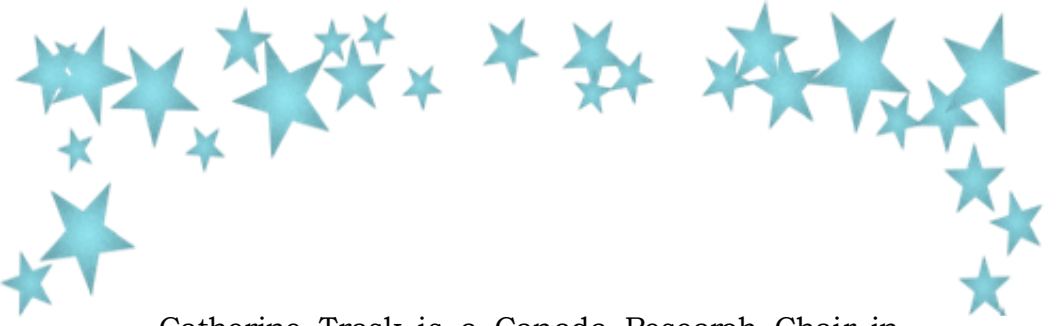


# **Advising Excellence Award**

## **Dr. Catherine Trask**

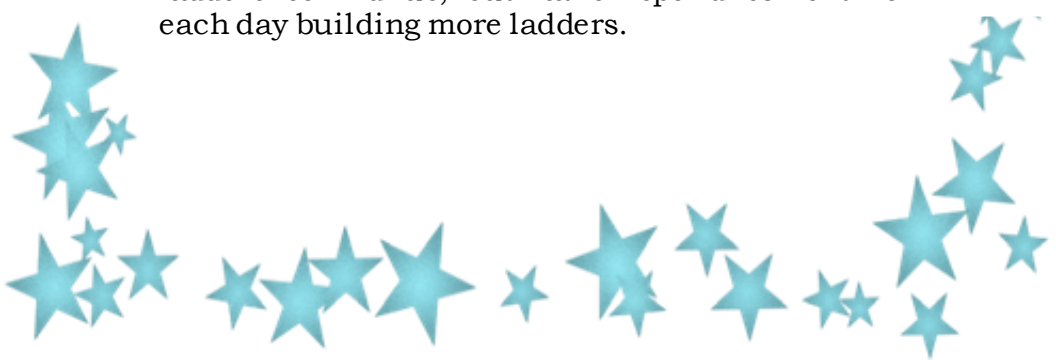
The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award (1/2) is presented to Dr. Catherine Trask for her excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as her exceptional support for her advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs. Dr. Trask embodies the capacity to stimulate graduate students to think critically and creatively, while enhancing their graduate student learning experience.





Catherine Trask is a Canada Research Chair in Ergonomics and Musculoskeletal Health and an Associate Professor. She is the director of the Ergonomics Lab at the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture within the Department of Medicine; there she leads research program focusing on injury prevention and ergonomics in agriculture and other heavy industries. She is a strong advocate for evidence-based prevention strategies and for the economic and health benefits of occupational research. She is proud to work with a large group of diverse and interdisciplinary trainees on treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis.

Catherine was very fortunate to have had great mentors and role models early in life, starting with her mother Annabelle Trask, who was the first person in her family to graduate from high school and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree. As a young academic, Catherine had the good fortune of being nurtured by more great female role models, including Drs. Helen Ward, Mieke Koehoorn, and Kay Teshcke. She believes strongly that inspiring and empowering young researchers is central to her role as faculty. When we reach a position of power in the academy, we shouldn't pull up the ladders behind us, but rather spend some time each day building more ladders.

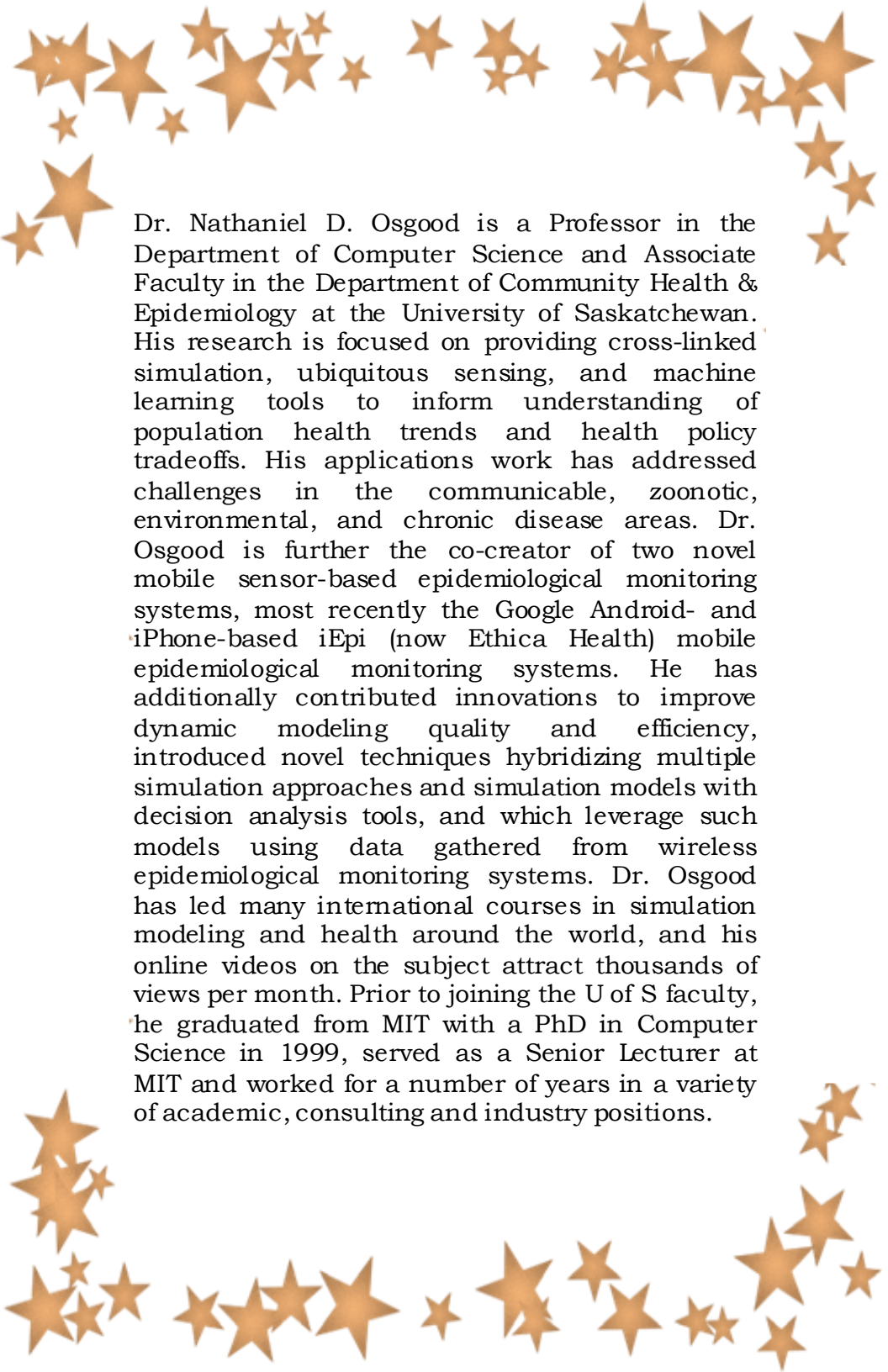


# **Advising Excellence Award**

## **Dr. Nathaniel D. Osgood**

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award (2/2) is presented to Dr. Nathaniel D. Osgood for his excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as his exceptional support for his advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs. Dr. Osgood embodies the capacity to stimulate graduate students to think critically and creatively, while enhancing their graduate student learning experience.



A decorative border of orange stars of various sizes surrounds the text, with a higher density of stars at the top and bottom edges.

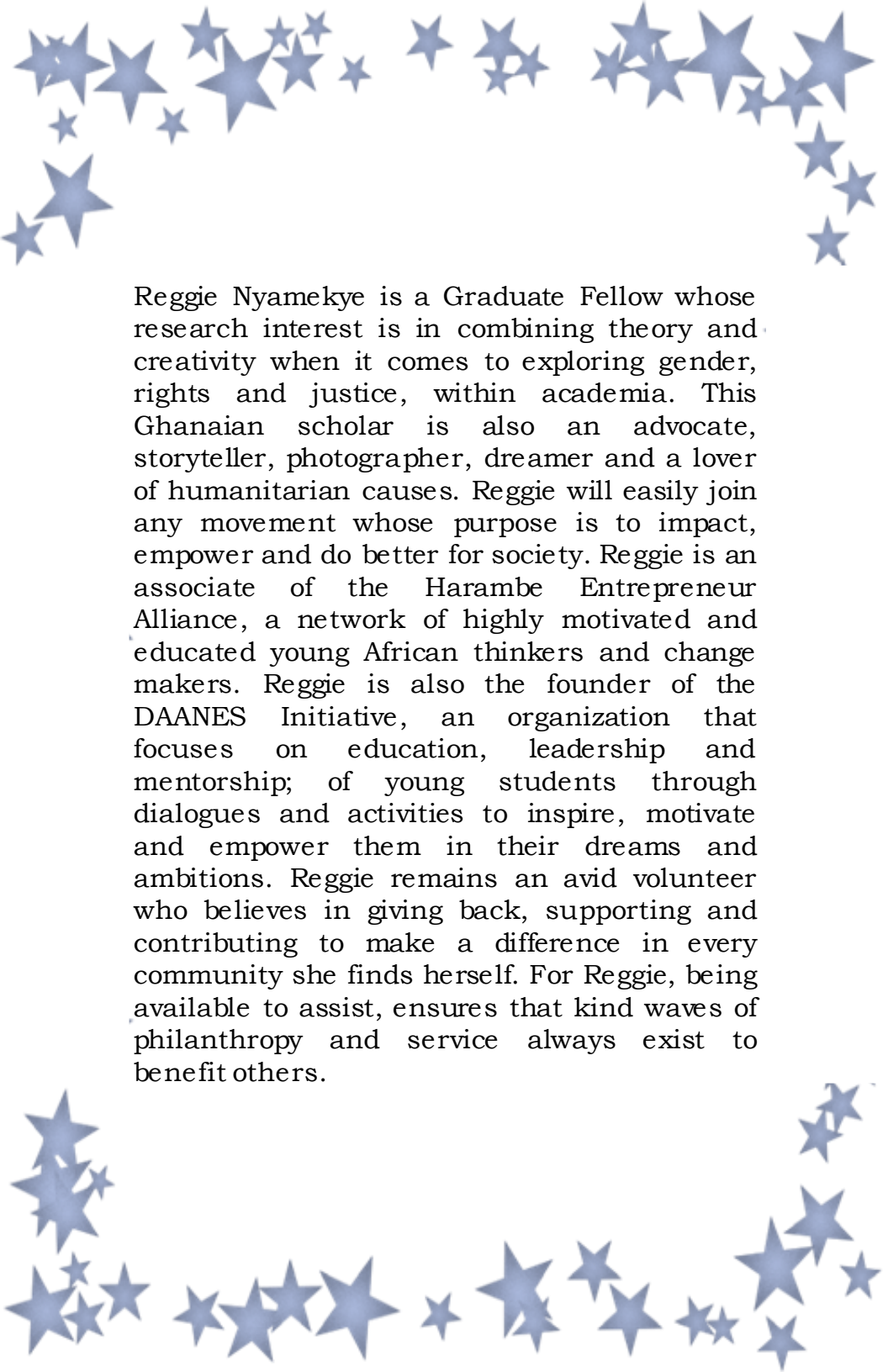
Dr. Nathaniel D. Osgood is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Associate Faculty in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. His research is focused on providing cross-linked simulation, ubiquitous sensing, and machine learning tools to inform understanding of population health trends and health policy tradeoffs. His applications work has addressed challenges in the communicable, zoonotic, environmental, and chronic disease areas. Dr. Osgood is further the co-creator of two novel mobile sensor-based epidemiological monitoring systems, most recently the Google Android- and iPhone-based iEpi (now Ethica Health) mobile epidemiological monitoring systems. He has additionally contributed innovations to improve dynamic modeling quality and efficiency, introduced novel techniques hybridizing multiple simulation approaches and simulation models with decision analysis tools, and which leverage such models using data gathered from wireless epidemiological monitoring systems. Dr. Osgood has led many international courses in simulation modeling and health around the world, and his online videos on the subject attract thousands of views per month. Prior to joining the U of S faculty, he graduated from MIT with a PhD in Computer Science in 1999, served as a Senior Lecturer at MIT and worked for a number of years in a variety of academic, consulting and industry positions.

# **Excellence in Community Service Award**

## **Reggie Nyamekye**

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Excellence in Community Service Award is presented to Reggie Nyamekye to honour her significant impacts and positive contributions to the local community in Saskatchewan and beyond. Reggie 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, 2018 – March 1, 2019.



The page is decorated with numerous blue stars of various sizes, scattered in the corners and along the edges, creating a starry border around the central text.

Reggie Nyamekye is a Graduate Fellow whose research interest is in combining theory and creativity when it comes to exploring gender, rights and justice, within academia. This Ghanaian scholar is also an advocate, storyteller, photographer, dreamer and a lover of humanitarian causes. Reggie will easily join any movement whose purpose is to impact, empower and do better for society. Reggie is an associate of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance, a network of highly motivated and educated young African thinkers and change makers. Reggie is also the founder of the DAANES Initiative, an organization that focuses on education, leadership and mentorship; of young students through dialogues and activities to inspire, motivate and empower them in their dreams and ambitions. Reggie remains an avid volunteer who believes in giving back, supporting and contributing to make a difference in every community she finds herself. For Reggie, being available to assist, ensures that kind waves of philanthropy and service always exist to benefit others.

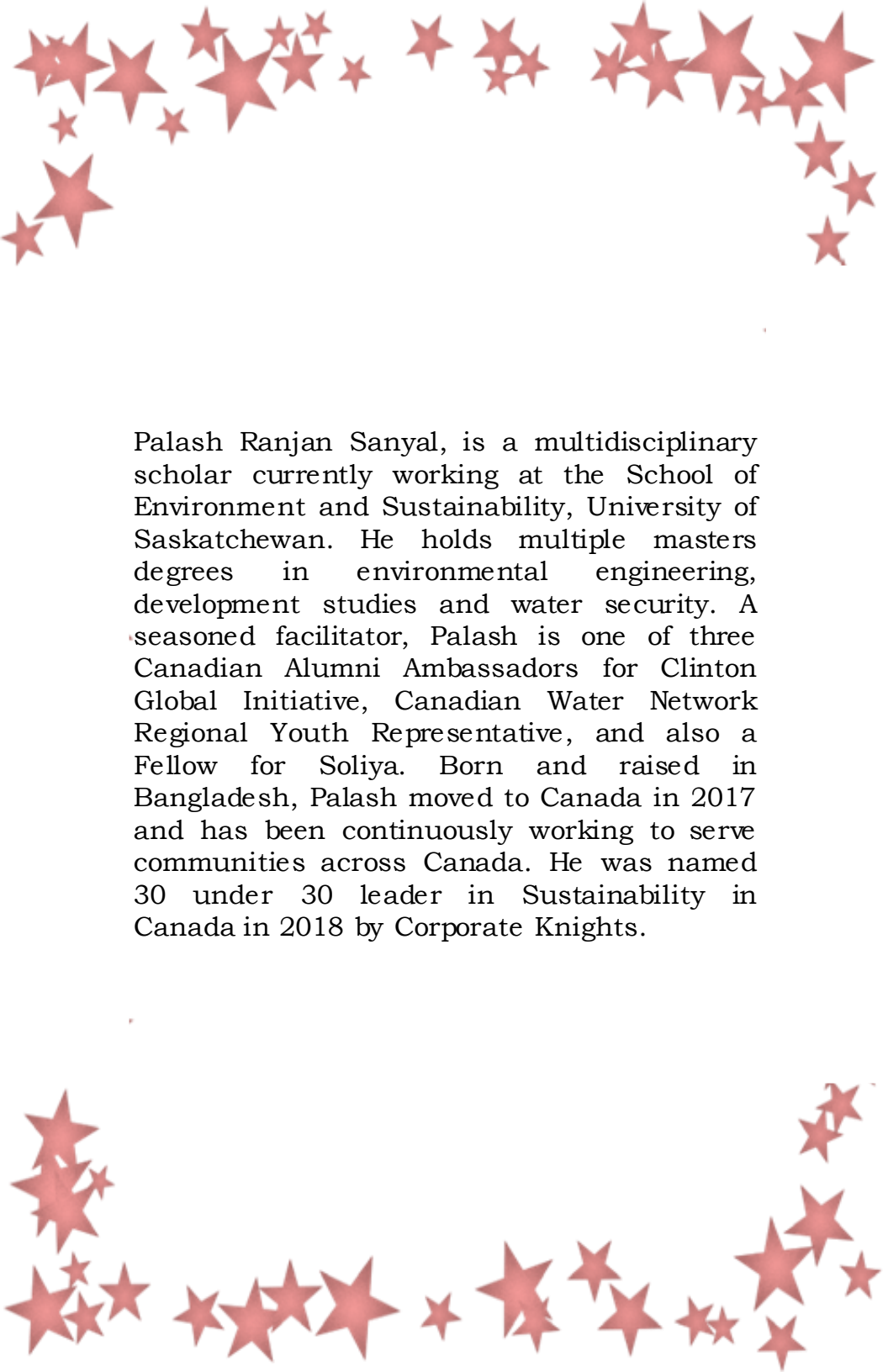
# **Professional Excellence Award**

## **Palash R. Sanyal**

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Professional Excellence Award is presented to Palash R. Sanyal to honour his significant academic achievements in his field of study and his outstanding non-academic contributions to the School of Environment and Sustainability. Palash is a favourable member that exemplifies scholarly achievements and community involvement.







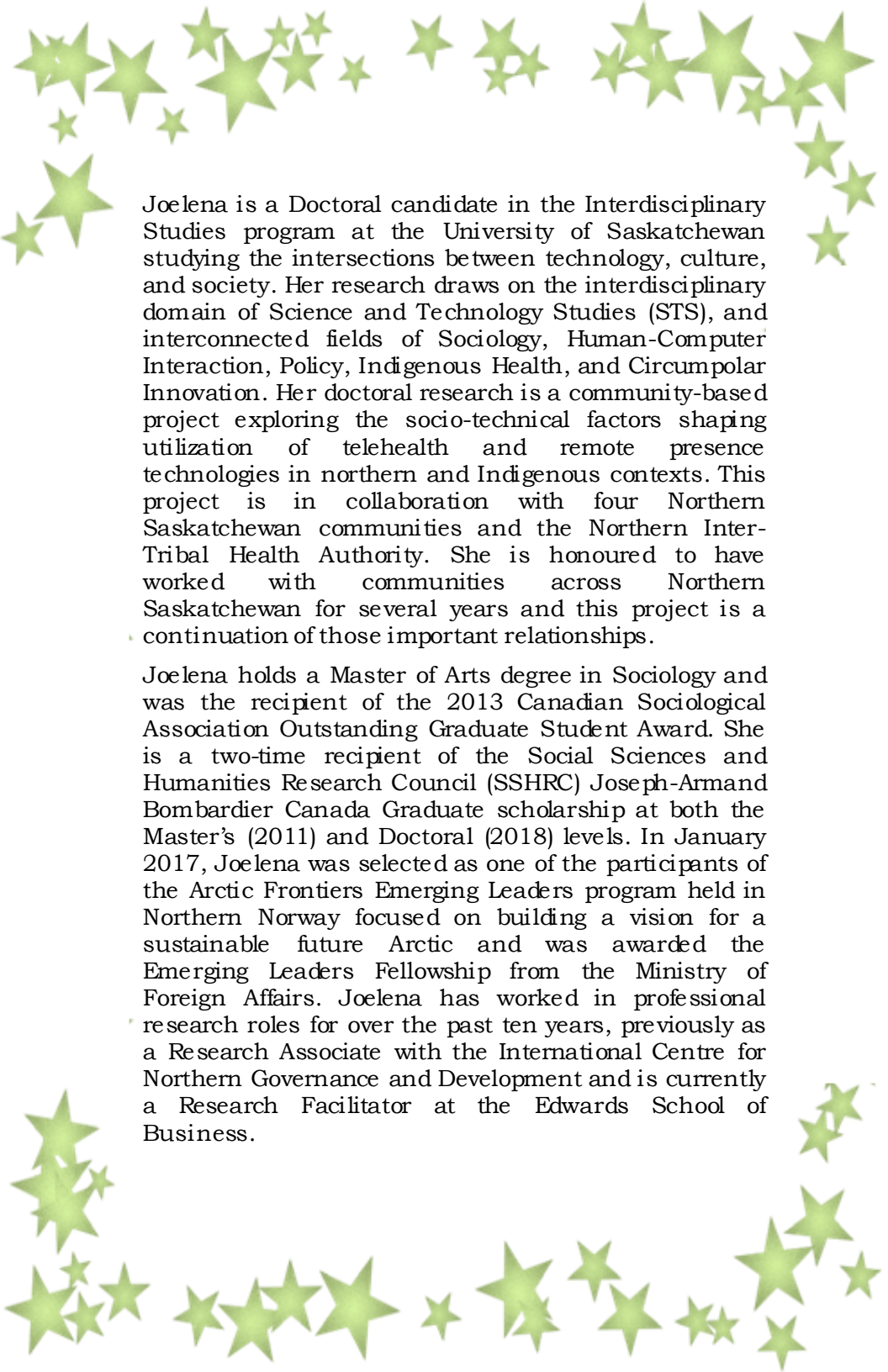
Palash Ranjan Sanyal, is a multidisciplinary scholar currently working at the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan. He holds multiple masters degrees in environmental engineering, development studies and water security. A seasoned facilitator, Palash is one of three Canadian Alumni Ambassadors for Clinton Global Initiative, Canadian Water Network Regional Youth Representative, and also a Fellow for Soliya. Born and raised in Bangladesh, Palash moved to Canada in 2017 and has been continuously working to serve communities across Canada. He was named 30 under 30 leader in Sustainability in Canada in 2018 by Corporate Knights.

# **Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award**

## **Joelena Leader**

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award is presented to Joelena Leader to honour the significant impacts she has made in two or more separate, but related, fields of study and for her outstanding research results throughout her course of study. Joelena has demonstrated that she is a favourable member in the research community, exemplifies scholarly achievements and has contributed to positive collaborations amongst researchers and the community.



A decorative border of green stars of various sizes surrounds the text. The stars are scattered along the top, bottom, and right edges of the page.

Joelena is a Doctoral candidate in the Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Saskatchewan studying the intersections between technology, culture, and society. Her research draws on the interdisciplinary domain of Science and Technology Studies (STS), and interconnected fields of Sociology, Human-Computer Interaction, Policy, Indigenous Health, and Circumpolar Innovation. Her doctoral research is a community-based project exploring the socio-technical factors shaping utilization of telehealth and remote presence technologies in northern and Indigenous contexts. This project is in collaboration with four Northern Saskatchewan communities and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority. She is honoured to have worked with communities across Northern Saskatchewan for several years and this project is a continuation of those important relationships.


Joelena holds a Master of Arts degree in Sociology and was the recipient of the 2013 Canadian Sociological Association Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She is a two-time recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate scholarship at both the Master's (2011) and Doctoral (2018) levels. In January 2017, Joelena was selected as one of the participants of the Arctic Frontiers Emerging Leaders program held in Northern Norway focused on building a vision for a sustainable future Arctic and was awarded the Emerging Leaders Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Joelena has worked in professional research roles for over the past ten years, previously as a Research Associate with the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and is currently a Research Facilitator at the Edwards School of Business.

# Research Excellence in STEM Award

## Dr. Gurcharn Singh Brar

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is presented to Dr. Gurcharn S. Brar 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. Gurcharn 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.



A decorative border of purple stars of various sizes surrounds the text, with a higher density of stars at the top and bottom corners.

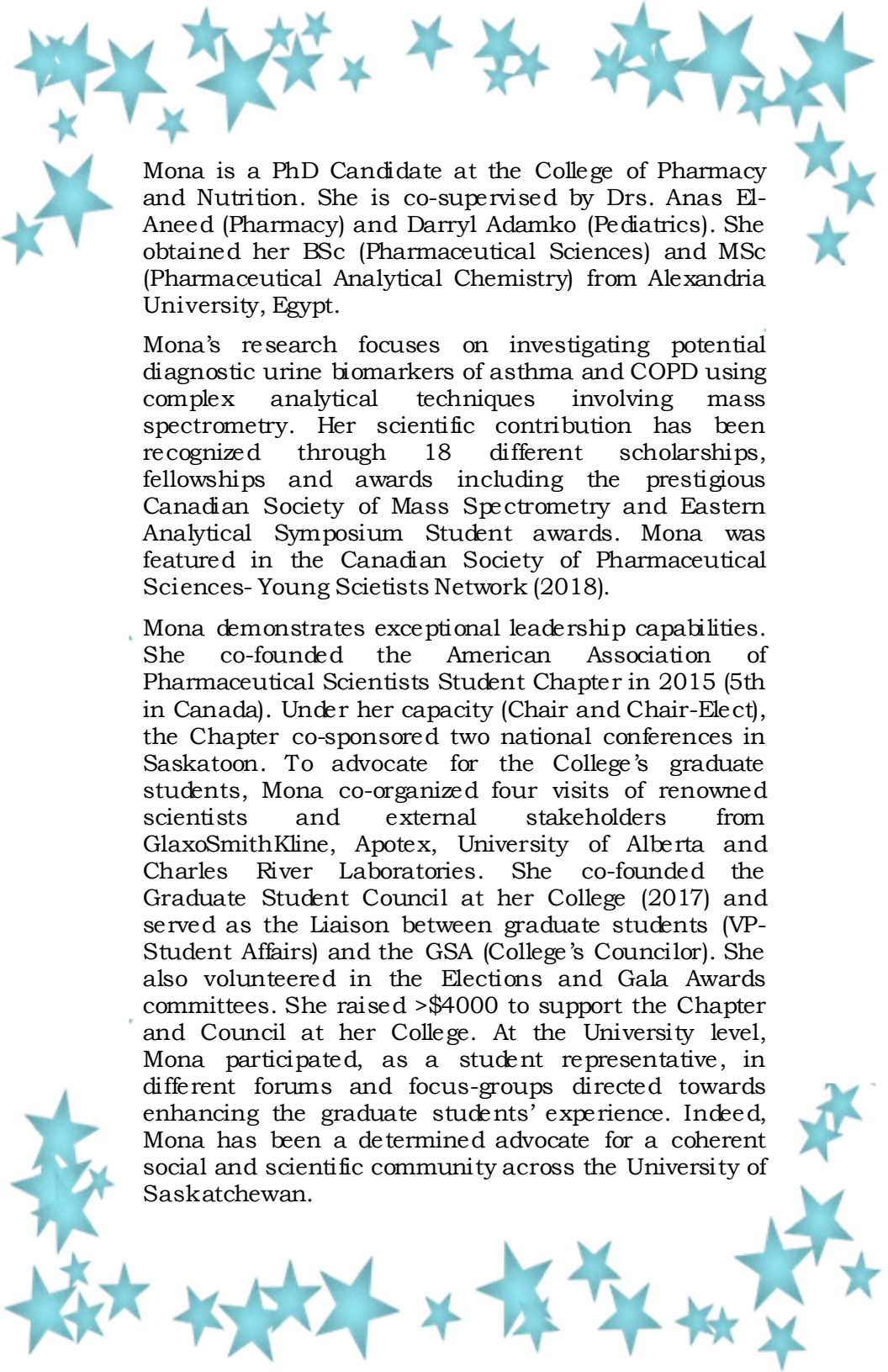
Gurcharn Brar recently finished his PhD program in March 2019 in the Department of Plant Science and Crop Development Centre. His PhD focussed on one of the most devastating diseases of wheat in North America i.e. Fusarium head blight and he studied genetics of resistance in bread and durum wheat against Fusarium head blight. Gurcharn has published a number of original research papers in reputed journals and awarded several national and international level scholarships, honors and awards worth more than \$330,000. Gurcharn originally came from Punjab, India after having an undergraduate degree in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honors in Crop Protection) from well-renowned Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India. Gurcharn finished his Masters in the Department of Plant Science and Crop Development Centre working on wheat stripe rust disease before moving on to his PhD. Gurcharn is extremely passionate about wheat and often call it the 'King of Cereals' and presently working on a few research projects in collaboration with researchers from the UK and Australia. In addition to his research contributions, Gurcharn is very actively involved in many professional societies in various capacities such as Board member of Canadian Society of Agronomy, member of Saskatchewan Advisory council on Grain Crops, Student Rep on Canadian Phytopathological Society, just to name a few. He is actively contributing to many peer-reviewed journals of many professional societies across the globe as peer-reviewer. Gurcharn aspire to become a public wheat researcher so as to keep exploring interaction of wheat with its pathogens and pests as well as helping in breeding better wheat for the future.

# **Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award**

## **Mona M. Khamis Hamada**

The 2019 Graduate Students' Association Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award is presented to Mona Hamada 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. Mona has shown outstanding involvement and collaboration with graduate students in her unit of study and across campus.





Mona is a PhD Candidate at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. She is co-supervised by Drs. Anas El-Aneed (Pharmacy) and Darryl Adamko (Pediatrics). She obtained her BSc (Pharmaceutical Sciences) and MSc (Pharmaceutical Analytical Chemistry) from Alexandria University, Egypt.

Mona's research focuses on investigating potential diagnostic urine biomarkers of asthma and COPD using complex analytical techniques involving mass spectrometry. Her scientific contribution has been recognized through 18 different scholarships, fellowships and awards including the prestigious Canadian Society of Mass Spectrometry and Eastern Analytical Symposium Student awards. Mona was featured in the Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences- Young Scientists Network (2018).

Mona demonstrates exceptional leadership capabilities. She co-founded the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter in 2015 (5th in Canada). Under her capacity (Chair and Chair-Elect), the Chapter co-sponsored two national conferences in Saskatoon. To advocate for the College's graduate students, Mona co-organized four visits of renowned scientists and external stakeholders from GlaxoSmithKline, Apotex, University of Alberta and Charles River Laboratories. She co-founded the Graduate Student Council at her College (2017) and served as the Liaison between graduate students (VP-Student Affairs) and the GSA (College's Councilor). She also volunteered in the Elections and Gala Awards committees. She raised >\$4000 to support the Chapter and Council at her College. At the University level, Mona participated, as a student representative, in different forums and focus-groups directed towards enhancing the graduate students' experience. Indeed, Mona has been a determined advocate for a coherent social and scientific community across the University of Saskatchewan.

# 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.





# **Three Minute Thesis Competition**

Held on March 27, 2019

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 2019 University of Saskatchewan 3MT® winners and honourable mentions.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Farzad Dehghan

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Miranda Zwiefelhofer

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Nicholas A. Belliveau

## **People's Choice**

Miranda Zwiefelhofer

## **Honourable Mention**

Alivia Mukherjee



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.

# Official Sponsors



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate  
and Postdoctoral Studies

[GRAD.USASK.CA](http://GRAD.USASK.CA)

# Gold Sponsors



**STUDENTCARE**



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Kinesiology

[KINESIOLOGY.USASK.CA](http://KINESIOLOGY.USASK.CA)

# Silver Sponsors



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Nursing

[NURSING.USASK.CA](http://NURSING.USASK.CA)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Agriculture  
and Bioresources

[AGBIO.USASK.CA](http://AGBIO.USASK.CA)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
**ALUMNI**



**EDWARDS**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

OFFICE OF THE VICE-DEAN RESEARCH  
[MEDICINE.USASK.CA/RESEARCH.PHP](http://MEDICINE.USASK.CA/RESEARCH.PHP)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of  
Veterinary Medicine

[USASK.CA/WCVM](http://USASK.CA/WCVM)

# Friends of the GSA



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of the  
Vice-Provost Health


[HEALTHSCIENCES.USASK.CA](http://HEALTHSCIENCES.USASK.CA)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

School of Public Health

[SPH.USASK.CA](http://SPH.USASK.CA)



*“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn't need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.”*

*— Ken Robinson*