

THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

9TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Award Winners Booklet 2021

A Message from Ms. Humaira Inam President, Graduate Students' Association

On behalf of the Graduate Students' Association, congratulation to all the award winners for this year's annual awards. Your contribution to the University and graduate student community has been valuable, commendable, and awe inspiring during these unprecedented times. The dedication that you have shown to your academic commitments, research, leadership, and community has not gone unnoticed by your fellow peers, and graduate students.

We are immensely proud to see the hard work that our graduate students and faculty continue to demonstrate at the University of Saskatchewan year after year, and we are pleased to be a part of the process of awarding and recognizing their dedication to the University community and graduate students by way of these annual awards.

We also express our thanks for the support that we have received, and continue to receive, for our graduate students by administration, faculty, and staff at the University of Saskatchewan. Some of our initiatives would not be possible without this continued support and mutual understanding.

We wish all award winners the very best in their future endeavours, and hope that they inspire you, as they have us, to continue to achieve your goals through grit and determination.

Due to the ongoing pandemic situation, we were unable to celebrate our awardees in-person at the Annual Graduate Students' Association Gala for the second year in a row. However, we will be delivering awards to each winner in Saskatoon.

Lastly, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all our award winners, which includes our faculty and graduate students.

Humaira Inam

A Message from Dr. Debby Burshtyn Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies

The GSA gala is an event that all our graduate community look forward to, although the format has changed, it is truly a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the successes of our graduate community. This year's award recipients serve as role models, inspiring us all to commit to quality and excellence in all that they do.

Graduate students are marvellously diverse and contribute to the university and the community in so many ways. They are professionals gaining new advanced credentials, researchers dedicated to creating new understanding and finding innovative solutions to problems, and creative spirits that push us to examine our experience as individuals and as a collective. 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. Today, we celebrate advising, community service, leadership, professionalism, and research excellence in various fields. Graduate school really changes everything – paving a path to a successful future. It is venues like these that link us as students, educators, community leaders, humanitarians, and a larger graduate community.

While the Gala is to celebrate the award recipients, it would be remiss not to applaud the GSA leaders. The GSA continues to be diligent and steadfast in their commitment. They have assumed leadership roles on several very challenging portfolios in this unprecedented year, and they have remained consummate professionals in the advocacy and representation of all graduate students.

Congratulations to 2021's award recipients! You are responding to what the world needs. Continue to be bold and ambitious.

Debby Burshtyn, PhD



Advising Excellence Award

Dr. Chanchal Roy

The 2021 Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award is presented to Dr. Chanchal Roy for his excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as his exceptional support for his advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs. Dr. Roy embodies the capacity to stimulate graduate students to think critically and creatively, while enhancing their graduate student learning experience.



Dr. Chanchal K. Roy is Co-Director of Software Research Lab and Professor of Software Engineering/Computer Science at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He is the lead of an NSERC CREATE graduate program on Software Analytics Research and a co-lead of the Data Management and Repository group of an NSERC Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) on Food security. As the co-author of the widely used NICAD code clone detection system, he has published over 180 refereed publications, with many of them in premier software engineering conferences and journals that have been cited more than 7,600 times with Google Scholar h-index of 40. Dr. Roy works in the broad area of software engineering, with particular emphasis on software clone detection and management, software evolution and maintenance, recommender systems in software engineering, automated software debugging, and big data analytics in software engineering. He has received three 10-year most influential paper awards at SANER 2018, ICPC 2018 and SANER 2021, the Outstanding Young Computer Science Researcher Award by CS-Can/Info-Can in 2018, the New Researcher Award of University of Saskatchewan and the New Scientist Research Award of the College of Arts and Science of the University of Saskatchewan in 2019. He extensively serves in conference organizations and conference program committees and has been regular reviewers for many journals.



Advising Excellence Award

Dr. Debbie Pushor

The 2021 Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award is also presented to Dr. Debbie Pushor for her excellent supervisory and mentoring skills as well as her exceptional support for her advisees' ideas, scholarly work, and financial needs. Dr. Pushor embodies the capacity to stimulate graduate students to think critically and creatively, while enhancing their graduate student learning experience.







Debbie Pushor, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies. In her program of research, Debbie has engaged in narrative inquiries into parent engagement and leadership, a curriculum of parents, parent knowledge, and systematic parent engagement. In her undergraduate and graduate teaching, Debbie makes central an often absent or underrepresented conversation about the positioning of parents in relation to school landscapes. Working with consecutive teams of graduate students, Debbie has published two books, Portals of Promise: Transforming Beliefs and Practices through a Curriculum of Parents (Sense Publishers, 2013) and Living as Mapmakers: Charting a Course with Children Guided by Parent Knowledge (Sense Publishers, 2015); She has planned and facilitated a sold out three day event, Walk Alongside: A Parent Engagement Forum (2018), which drew teams of educators and parents from across SK and as far away as Australia; and has led the development of a video series on parent engagement in the early years, Care as a Bridge Between Us (2019), available athttps://www.debbiepushor.ca/courses/bridgebetwee nus; and has also planned and is in production with a 12 part podcast series on creating family centric schools (anticipated release August 2021);, filmed and is in production with a video series on parent engagement in secondary schools (anticipated release August 2021);, and begun a third book on systematic parent engagement (anticipated completion 2022).

Debbie is strongly convicted to supporting graduate students to make a significant contribution to academic discourse in the field of parent engagement and to make an impact on philosophy, pedagogy, and practice in their professional work.



Excellence in Community Service

Amara Zuhaib

The 2020 Graduate Students' Association Excellence in Community Service Award is presented to Amara Zuhaib to honour her significant impacts and positive contributions to the local community in Saskatchewan and beyond. Amara Zuhaib 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, 2020 – March 1, 2021.



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Amara Zuhaib came to Canada as an international student from Pakistan. After her master's in chemistry from USASK she is now in the last year of PhD in Physical Chemistry. She is also a mother of three children. During her studies she realized the lack of any specific platform for Pakistani international students. She is a co-founder of Pakistani Student Association (PKSA) and served as Vice-president and President of the association. She is actively involved in guiding and settling the students specially who are coming from Pakistan in Saskatoon. She has participated in multiple events in GSA and with ISSAC. Since 2014, she is an active volunteer of Pakistan Canada Cultural Association (PCCA) responsible for arranging different community events throughout Saskatoon. She has participated in different cultural events, folk festival, and Eid events. Along with her husband she organized "Kite Festival" which is a cultural event, happening consecutively 3 years since 2017 under her organization name "Saskatoon Dawat Club". Due to her extensive involvement in community, she was selected to represent Islamic faith during the interfaith dialogue for the federal election 2019. During Covid-19 pandemic she reached out community and students to ask for any help and distributed food hampers. She is always welcoming new students and families in Saskatoon and facilitating them in finding residence and jobs. She is inviting new families by arranging special feasts through her club. Being a multilingual (Urdu, Punjabi, and English) she helped many political parties for provisional election 2020. She also participated for "Saskatchewan Rush" lacrosse campaign representing diversity in 2020.

Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award

Khaled Zoroufchi Benis

The 2020 Graduate Students' Association Mark Kroeker Exceptional Student Leadership Award is presented to Khaled Zoroufchi Benis in honor of his strong leadership and exceptional initiatives, going above and beyond his call of duty, whilst carrying out the mission of the GSA. Khaled has shown outstanding involvement and collaboration with graduate students in his unit of study and across campus.





Khaled is a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He is an environmental chemical engineer with experience in wastewater treatment, air pollution modeling and control, environmental impact assessment, and planning and executing environmental management systems. His scientific contribution has been recognized through different scholarships, and awards including the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Khaled has published more than 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals during the last five years and contributed to more than 15 presented/published conference papers and posters,

demonstrating profound academic excellence and potentials in research.

Being active in leadership roles and extra-curricular activities in dozens of academic and civic organizations and giving back to society has been an integral part of Khaled's professional and personal life. Acting as the president of the university's poetry society for two years, editor of three different magazines, representative of students in the university council meetings, founder and president of Environmental Science Association, and head of association and leader for the mountaineering team were part of his leadership activities during his BSc and MSc studies. With all these experiences, Khaled actively continued the same path since he has started his Ph.D. program here at the University of Saskatchewan. He was elected as the vice president of the EGCC for 2018-2019, president for 2019-2020, and currently acts as the EGCC advisor. He also is an active member of GSA's governance team as a council and committee member. Khaled is passionate about his studies, giving back to his community, and bettering students' lives.

Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award

Henry K. Agbovi

The 2020 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award is presented to Henry K. Agbovi 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. Henry 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.



Henry was born in Nsawam, Ghana. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology with firstclass honors. He moved to Canada to start his Master's degree in chemistry at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. During his MSc. study, he conducted innovative and excellent research on optimizing environmental conditions to reduce effects of low temperatures and chemical aging on thermal and fatigue cracking in asphalt cement pavements, which received support from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. Thereafter, he moved to the University of Saskatchewan to commence his doctoral degree at the Department of Chemistry under the supervision of Professor Lee Wilson. During Dr. Agbovi's PhD studies, he carried out novel interdisciplinary research on the development and application of modified biopolymer flocculant systems for phosphate and turbidity removal to address global water security. Henry has several publications in high-quality peer review journals such as Carbohydrate Polymers, Environmental Chemistry, ACS Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research. Henry has contributed to the publication of a book chapter that focuses on the fundamentals and industrial application of biopolymer adsorbent materials for wastewater treatment. He has obtained multiple prestigious awards throughout his academic career. Henry's PhD dissertation received several regional and national award nominations. Dr. Agbovi is currently working with SSR Mining Inc. as a laboratory supervisor. He is married to Joana Adu Agbovi, with two daughters (Nhyirah and Nyamedo). Henry enjoys volunteering to teach chemistry and mathematics to high school students and spending worderful moments with his family.

Research Excellence in STEMAward

Dr. Scott Adams

The 2020 Graduate Students' Association Research Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is presented to Dr. Scott Adams 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. Asghar 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.





Dr. Scott Adams is a resident physician and PhD candidate in the Department of Medical Imaging at the University of Saskatchewan.

Passionate about advancing healthcare through health research, medical education, and leadership, he has served on the board of directors of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, Canadian Association for Medical Education, and Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan. He served as Chair of the University of Saskatchewan Health Innovation and Public Policy Conference to help effect positive change in healthcare and has helped promote research and innovation as President and Board Chair of the Saskatoon Regional Science Fair and Editor-in-Chief of the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal. He is a past Chair of the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association. Dr. Adams' research is in the areas of artificial intelligence, digital health, and access to medical imaging. He has published more than 25 papers over the past five years and his research has been recognized with the President's Award from the American Roentgen Ray Society, Radiological Society of North America Resident/Fellow Research Award, and Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation/Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Resident Research Award. His PhD studies have been supported by a CIHR Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, and he also holds the Amis Fellowship in Quality and Safety from the American College of Radiology and the Artificial Intelligence Health Research Fellowship from Innovative Medicines Canada.

Dr. Adams received his MD from the University of Saskatchewan and Licentiate diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music.



Three Minute Thesis Competition

Held on Friday March 26, 2021

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 2021 University of Saskatchewan 3MT® winners and honourable mentions.

1st Place: Ahmad Karimi

2nd **Place**: Kayla Cropper

3rd Place: Alivia Mukherjee

Honourable Mention Ninu Kallingal Mohandas





Thank you to all our faculty, staff and administration for supporting the successes of our graduate students, academically and otherwise. Let us continue mentoring our future leaders of tomorrow.

GSA Executives

