



Economics

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

UNDERGRADUATE
AWARDS *for*
ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

2019-2020

ORDER OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 3, 2020

5:00 p.m. Our Virtual Doors Open

5:10 p.m. Welcome

Professor Robert Gazzale: Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies

5:15 p.m. Opening Remarks

Professor Ettore Damiano: Department Chair

5:20 p.m. Whys and Wherefores

Donors' messages

5:25 p.m. Breakout Room #1

Getting to know you...

5:35 p.m. Winning Words

Award recipients' videos

5:50 p.m. Breakout Room #2

Mix and mingle

6:05 p.m. And the Award Award Goes To...

Who will take the prizewinners' prize?

6:10 p.m. Closing remarks

Professor Ettore Damiano / Professor Robert Gazzale

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT



ETTORE DAMIANO

Department Chair



ROBERT GAZZALE

Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies

The ceremony where we come together to honour the winners, and to thank the donors, of the Undergraduate Awards for Academic Excellence is always a highlight of the department's calendar. In 2020, a year that will long be remembered for social distancing, coming together in community to celebrate the achievements of our award-winning undergraduates is more imperative than ever.

The undergraduates we honour today represent the best that the University of Toronto has to offer. They are evidence of what young scholars can accomplish when combining smarts and talent with hard work and dedication. They also provide a timely reminder of the need to take advantage of the opportunities that life brings. The University of Toronto is consistently ranked amongst the world's great universities, and our undergraduate program lives up to the University's high bar. But the University's size can be daunting, and it can be far too easy to limit one's engagement with it to what is necessary to get by. These students chose to fully engage, and in doing so have achieved excellence—reminding those of us with the privilege of being their instructors why our efforts are so worthwhile.

We also come together to thank our donors for their generosity. The previous Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, Professor Gillian Hamilton, found that while some of the awards date back over a century, the majority were established in the last two decades. As immensely grateful as we are for the financial support of the donors who established these awards, we are equally humbled by the number who come to the ceremony year after year to help celebrate the achievements of our undergraduates. We thank you.

BANKER'S SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This award was established with a gift from the Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1891. It goes to the student with the highest standing in the intermediate macroeconomics course sequence.



Qihan Jing

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Economics Specialist, Economics Major, Statistics Minor, (Fourth Year)

QIHAN SAYS...

After graduation my goal is to work in a financial institution with a project team. I believe being part of a team and focusing on one project from beginning to end will provide me with a clear overall picture of the industry and develop my skills on work completion and interpersonal relationships. In the long run, I'm considering teaching at the university level. I found that many professors, who had worked in financial institutions for many years, chose to return to the university environment, sharing their stories with students and giving them suggestions on how to succeed in the workplace. So, I would like to do that, too: to pass on my experience and serve the community.

JACK L. CARR SCHOLARSHIP

Established through a gift from Professor Emeritus Jack Carr and his family, this scholarship is awarded to a student in either Rotman Commerce or the Department of Economics who achieves the highest mark in ECO209Y (Macroeconomic Theory and Policy for Commerce).



Jacob Leong

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Economics Specialist (Fourth Year)

JACOB SAYS...

Outside of school, I have several interests. I've always loved playing sports, particularly hockey and baseball, and try to root for all of the Toronto teams, especially the Maple Leafs (though this can be challenging!). I also have a true love of film, and have attended TIFF for the last several years.

MARY CHILD SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This award is made to the outstanding graduating student in an Economics Specialist program, based on performance in the courses required in the program. The scholarship was established in 1984 by Arthur Child, President and CEO of Burns Foods Limited.



Kathleen Yuanxin Chen
Economics and Mathematics Specialist
(Graduate)

KATHLEEN SAYS...

I am employed at Analysis Group, where I work in health economics and outcomes research. I enjoyed my time in undergrad. I especially liked conducting research and learning challenging new concepts, so I hope to pursue graduate studies in the future. I am interested in studying economics and/or public health.

Kathleen is also the winner of the Lorne T. Morgan Gold Medal in Economics (see page 20).

NANDA CHOUDHRY PRIZE IN ECONOMICS (YEAR II)

This prize was established with a gift from the late Professor Emeritus Nanda Choudhry who retired in 1996. It is awarded to a student in a specialist program in Economics who has obtained the highest average mark in at least two of the required second year courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative methods.



Isabella Giancola-Schieda
Economics Specialist with a Focus
in Data Analytics
(Third Year)

ISABELLA SAYS...

After I complete my undergraduate studies, I plan to pursue a PhD in Economics and hope to eventually enter academia. I am very interested in exploring the connection between economics, statistics, and computer science to explore our behaviours, institutions, and society.

NANDA CHOUDHRY PRIZE IN ECONOMICS (YEAR III)

This prize was established with a gift from the late Professor Emeritus Nanda Choudhry who retired in 1996. It is awarded to a student in a specialist program in Economics, based on performance in at least two full Economics courses at the 300 or 400 level.



Rongrong Yu

Financial Economics Specialist, Statistics Major, East Asian Studies Minor
(Fourth Year)

RONGRONG SAYS...

When I am not studying, I either watch TV shows or do some small craft projects. I always keep multiple journals for scrapbooking (not as planners). I find that crafting and scrapbooking help to relieve stress.

DONALD DEWEES UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

This award honours our colleague Professor Don Dewees, for his many years of service to the Economics Department. It is granted to students demonstrating excellence in Don's areas of passion and expertise: the economic analysis of law, and the economics of energy and the environment.



Kashaf Sajid

Rotman Commerce,
Finance and Economics Specialist
(Fourth Year)

A FUN FACT FROM KASHAF...

I've watched "Friends" start to finish over ten times and I plan on doing the same with "Modern Family." Wish me luck!

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS ESSAY PRIZE IN ECONOMIC POLICY

As part of the Smith Family Scholarship competition (see page 26), the Department holds an essay contest. In recognition of excellence in these submissions, the Department of Economics instituted an award to specifically recognize the students whose essays stand out for the quality of writing and application of economics to an important question in public policy. The winners are:



Mariam Khan

Classical Civilization Major, Economics
Major with a Focus in Data Analytics
(Third Year)

MARIAM SAYS...

I am double-majoring in Economics and Classical Civilizations. I love reading classical literature, especially Pindar's lyric poetry, and I was an editor on the Classics Student Union Journal, The Plebeian, last year. This year I am interested in exploring Middle Eastern history, and am currently an editor on the Undergraduate Journal of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. As well as enjoying reading, I like swimming, and watching cooking shows.



Noah Schonewille

Economics Major,
Public Policy Major
(Third Year)

NOAH SAYS...

Outside of the classroom, I am an avid runner who enjoys travelling and discovering new places. I primarily use my downtime to read and keep up with current events. Amidst the pandemic, I've traded my love for travel with exploring Toronto's many coffee shops and parks. My goal beyond my undergraduate degree is to continue my economics studies and continue exploring new countries.

FREDERICK G. GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student enrolled in two of the following major or specialist programs: Economics, Political Science, and Public Policy.



Nathaniel Steven Dallal McLean

Economics Major with a Focus in Data Analytics, Public Policy Major
(Fourth Year)

NATHANIEL SAYS...

When I am not studying, I can often be found on the stage. I love acting and have performed in a wide variety of theatrical productions during my time at university. I am also currently working on writing a play with a couple of other students. Theatre is my greatest hobby and passion.

MARY KEENAN AWARD

This award is made on the basis of academic merit, successful completion of the first year in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and enrolment in a specialist program in Economics.



George Wesley Lyon

Economics Specialist
(Third Year)

GEORGE SAYS...

I would love to pursue graduate studies in economics, specifically studying inequality and education. I am interested in the factors influencing success that are outside of an individual's control such as their parents' wealth. Perhaps naively, I hope to study how to mitigate these factors as much as possible. Access to education is a huge mitigator of inequality. I am grateful for scholarships like this that help expand that access.

ARTHUR HOSIOS SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This scholarship was established by the family and friends of the late Arthur Hosios and named in his honour. It is held by one or more students on the basis of an original research paper that the applicant submitted as part of the requirements of a 300 or 400 level Economics course taken at the University of Toronto (St. George campus), for which the applicant received a credit. The applicants' work is evaluated based on originality and presentation. There are two awards—one each for the winning and second-best paper. This year's winning papers were both co-authored.



Clara Geddes
Economics Major,
International Relations Major
(Graduate)

CLARA SAYS...

I am currently pursuing a master's in economics at the London School of Economics. In my spare time, I enjoy singing in choir and jogging in the snow.



Christopher Sims
Economics Major, Mathematics Minor,
Philosophy Minor
(Graduate)

CHRISTOPHER SAYS...

I am now a first-year economics PhD student at Northwestern University. Outside of classes, I am a keen amateur classical pianist and chorister, and enjoy playing and writing questions for Quiz Bowl, an academic knowledge competition between universities. Since starting grad school, I've enjoyed having a bike for the first time in several years and meeting the other students in my very international cohort.

ARTHUR HOSIOS SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS Runners-Up

This scholarship was established by the family and friends of the late Arthur Hosios and named in his honour. It is held by one or more students on the basis of an original research paper that the applicant submitted as part of the requirements of a 300 or 400 level Economics course taken at the University of Toronto (St. George campus), for which the applicant received a credit. The applicants' work is evaluated based on originality and presentation. There are two awards—one each for the winning and second-best paper. This year's winning papers were both co-authored.



Yifan Fang

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Economics Specialist, Economics Major, Statistics Minor (Graduate)

YIFAN SAYS...

I just finished my undergraduate and I am currently in the MA Economics program at U of T, planning to pursue a PhD after my graduation. In my leisure time, I really enjoy outdoor activities and reading novels.



Jason Kei-On Ho

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Economics Specialist, Economics Major, Statistics Minor (Graduate)

JASON SAYS...

I grew up in Hong Kong and did my undergrad at Rotman Commerce. I've had some experience in private equity and private wealth management in different countries, and have recently developed an interest in statistics and econometrics and how these are applied in quantitative finance. I am currently in the Master of Financial Risk Management program, and I hope to leverage this experience into a quantitative buy-side portfolio management position.

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This award commemorates the late Alexander Mackenzie, and is given to a student enrolled in an Economics program who has completed at least two full courses in Economics in the session for which the award is made.



Yuhang Li
Financial Economics Specialist
(Third Year)

YUHANG SAYS...

While I haven't decided yet which school to go to, I would like to pursue a masters degree in economics. I have several candidate institutions in mind and will be looking into the options.

AL AND ELEANOR MAY SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

Named in honour of Al and Eleanor May, this scholarship was established by their children, Dorothy Wolfson (nee May), Mark May and William Wolfson.



Jinghan Yang
Rotman Commerce,
Finance and Economics Specialist,
Economics Minor
(Fourth Year)

JINGHAN SAYS...

Having been professionally trained as a finance undergraduate, I recognize the role of finance in driving social development. Money is nothing without the proper settings allowing it to function effectively; investments are much more valuable in areas that propel social progress. Therefore, my career goal is to become an investment banker with a healthcare focus because healthcare companies demand adequate sources of funds to promote general well-being.

Jinghan is also the winner of the Paul L. Nathanson Scholarship (see page 22).

NOAH MELTZ UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN LABOUR ECONOMICS

Awarded in memory of our colleague Noah Meltz who passed away in 2002., this scholarship goes to an outstanding undergraduate student in our third year course, ECO340H (Labour Economics: The Distribution of Earnings).



Mrudul Tummala

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Economics Specialist, Economics Minor (Fourth Year)

MRUDUL SAYS...

Outside of the classroom, I am closely involved with social justice groups such as HanVoice—a Toronto-based non-profit that deals with North Korean human rights and refugee issues. Aside from this, I am a fervent cricket enthusiast and closely follow the Indian cricket team. During my free time, you will probably catch me re-watching “The Office” or attempting to play the guitar.

LORNE T. MORGAN GOLD MEDAL IN ECONOMICS

This scholarship is awarded to the leading graduating student in a specialist or joint specialist program in Economics, based on the results in fourth year. Lorne Morgan, a veteran of both world wars, was an Associate Professor of Economics between 1932 and 1962, specializing in International Economics.



Kathleen Yuanxin Chen

Economics and Mathematics Specialist (Graduate)

KATHLEEN SAYS...

I am employed at Analysis Group, where I work in health economics and outcomes research. I enjoyed my time in undergrad. I especially liked conducting research and learning challenging new concepts, so I hope to pursue graduate studies in the future. I am interested in studying economics and/or public health.

Are you thinking this page looks familiar? You're right! Kathleen is also the winner of the Mary Child Scholarship in Economics (see page 5).

BRIAN MULRONEY AWARD

Endowed with a gift from Gerry Schwartz, this award goes to the student who achieves the highest mark in ECO230Y (International Economic Institutions and Policy), HIS 264H (Critical Issues in Canadian History) or POL214Y (Canadian Government and Politics).



Ingrid Wanxiao Cui
International Relations Specialist,
Economics Minor, Philosophy Minor
(Third Year)

INGRID SAYS...

I have been involved with The Trinity Review, Trinity College's literary journal, the G7 Research Group at the Munk School, and the Office of Advancement at the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering. My academic interests include political history, 20th-century continental philosophy, monetary policy, and political economy. I am the current elected Female Head of College at Trinity College.

PAUL L. NATHANSON SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in memory of Paul Nathanson, who was the founder of the General Theatre Investment Company. It is awarded to an outstanding student whose program includes at least three full courses in Economics. (A companion award goes to a student in Political Science.)



Jinghan Yang
Rotman Commerce,
Finance and Economics Specialist,
Economics Minor
(Fourth Year)

JINGHAN SAYS...

Having been professionally trained as a finance undergraduate, I recognize the role of finance in driving social development. Money is nothing without the proper settings allowing it to function effectively; investments are much more valuable in areas that propel social progress. Therefore, my career goal is to become an investment banker with a healthcare focus because healthcare companies demand adequate sources of funds to promote general well-being.

Yes, this page does look familiar! Jinghan is also the winner of the AI and Eleanor May Scholarship in Economics (see page 18).

RAMSAY SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

Funded with a bequest by the late William Ramsay of Bowland, Scotland, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student whose program of study includes at least three courses in Economics.



**Gabrielle Carelli
Yamamoto**

Economics Specialist, Statistics Minor
(Fourth Year)

GABRIELLE SAYS...

After graduation I will be staying in Toronto, and working in financial advising. After a few years working in the industry, and gaining some insights on how the economy works from a financial perspective, I hope to continue my studies in economics in graduate school either at the University of Toronto or elsewhere in Canada.

SAFARIAN SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

Endowed by our late colleague, Professor Ed Safarian, who was a member of the Order of Canada and a renowned policy expert, the award goes to an outstanding student in a specialist program in Economics.

**Mohamad Hassan
Hammoud**

Financial Economics Specialist,
Statistics Major
(Fourth Year)



Our congratulations go to Mohamad for his achievement!

REZA SATCHU AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMICS

This scholarship was endowed by Reza Satchu, co-founder of “The Next 36,” Canada’s Entrepreneurial Leadership Initiative. For many years, Reza taught the very popular course, “The Economics of Entrepreneurship.” The award is made to an outstanding student graduating in Economics.



Tianyu Du

Economics and Mathematics Specialist
(Graduate)

TIANYU SAYS...

I have just finished my journey at the University of Toronto studying economics and mathematics. Currently pursuing a master’s degree in management science and engineering at Stanford, I plan to devote my academic career to applying computer science methods to economic problems. I am working with the computer science department at Stanford on representation learning using a dataset of financial transactions.

SMITH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMIC POLICY

Endowed by James C. Smith, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student in Economics who intends to focus his or her studies on economic policy or economic history. In addition to strong academic performance, this unique award is also based on student writing: applicants must write a short essay analyzing a current economic policy issue.



Veronique Nuqui

Economics Major, International
Relations Major, Diaspora and
Transnational Studies Minor
(Third Year)

VERONIQUE SAYS...

A fun fact about myself is that I love learning languages. Currently, I speak English, French and Spanish—and would like to learn German and Dutch in the near future!

STEFAN STYKOLT SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMIC THEORY

Established in 1962 with a bequest from the late Stefan Stykolt, an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student in a specialist or major program in Economics who has completed ECO200Y/204Y/206Y and ECO202Y/208Y/209Y.



Yujia Zheng

Applied Statistics Specialist with a Focus in Economics, Economics Major, Mathematics Minor
(Third Year)

YUJIA SAYS...

Over the last two years, I have enjoyed exploring the fields of statistics and economics. I tried my best when learning and was able to obtain a satisfying result. After graduation, I plan to continue my studies with a master's degree in statistics or finance.

WILLIAM G. WOLFSON SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This scholarship was endowed by Bill Wolfson, who has taught our foundational courses ECO100Y and ECO200Y. It is awarded to an outstanding Economics Major who has completed second year, including ECO200Y and ECO202Y.



Katherine Zi Yang Ye

Economics Major, Industrial Relations & Human Resources Major, Psychology of Economics & Management Certificate
(Third Year)

KATHERINE SAYS...

Around a third of my time as a university student is dedicated to extracurriculars! I work on a team of pro-bono student consultants with UCG (University Consulting Group), and am co-lead of University of Toronto Females in Finance (a group that I recently founded with a fellow economics major). I am also the Treasurer of WUSC Trinity College, a refugee empowerment organization.



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