College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Recognizing Graduate Students
and College Stakeholders
2019-2020

$14 million

AVAILABLE IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

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DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE SUPERVISOR 2020

RON BOROWSKY

“STUDENTS: THEY ARE WHY WE ARE HERE”.

Remembering his experience as a grad student at Waterloo, Borowsky believes that being accessible and having daily interaction with students fosters a culture that contributes to the lab’s success.

From the sheer number of publications and conference papers his students complete, not to mention his habit of putting his students in first authorship position is a testament to the dedication Ron has for ensuring each student coming through his lab have every opportunity they need to succeed.

He believes that supporting one’s students in achieving their career aspirations through successful scholarships, and emphasizing the importance of developing good teaching skills through mentorship, are key to mapping a student’s success to completion of their degree and being influencers of the future.

We acknowledge that we, in Saskatchewan, are on the traditional lands, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory and that all the people here are beneficiaries of this peace and friendship treaty. Treaty 6 encompasses the traditional territories of numerous First Nations, including Cree, Dene (DEN-Ē), Nakota, Saulteaux (SO-TO), and Ojibwe (OJIB-WĒ) and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are dedicated to ensuring that the spirit of Reconciliation and Treaty 6 is honoured and respected. This acknowledgement also reaffirms our relationship with one another.

Lucy Fowler is a Métis woman from Treaty 1/ Red River territory and a member of the Two Spirit Michif local (Manitoba Metis Federation). She is a teacher and community organizer who is completing her PhD in the College of Education with Dr. Alex Wilson. Lucy's research focuses on the experiences of urban Métis youth who engage in hip-hop cultures. She is also a co-founder of the Mamawi Project and Red Rising Education, two grassroots organizations which respectively focus on community building across the Métis diaspora and Indigenous representation within education system.

Carrie Pratt is from Birch Hills, SK, and is of Cree, Métis, and Settler ancestry. She works as a Registered Nurse in rural home-care while she completes full time studies in the Master of Nursing, Thesis Program at USask. She does community research to understand the experiences of First Nation and Métis mothers who have had a baby in a Saskatchewan hospital. Carrie is an avid supporter of the use of culture and traditional teachings during pregnancy, childbirth and parenting as a way to support mothers and promote the healthy development of infants and children in our communities.

Brady Highway is Assin'skowitiniwak, meaning ‘people/person from the rocky area’ in the northern dialect of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. He is a Cree translator, father of two, and life-long student of the land. Brady learned how to respectfully interact with the environment through traditional and ceremonial teachings while growing up in the Churchill River region of northern Saskatchewan. Starting his career as a wildland firefighter and conservation officer, he transitioned to specialized work in public safety and wildfire management which offered many opportunities to travel into remote areas of Canada and the United States. His experience working with polar bear, black bear and grizzly bears in a wilderness setting made contributions to local and national projects and partnerships aimed at preventing and responding to human-wildlife conflict. Most recently he helped design and implement a grasslands restoration project to facilitate the reintroduction of plains bison to Wanuskewin Heritage Park. He is currently a member of the Saskatoon Indigenous Technical Advisory Committee where he provides advice to city managers on conservation strategies from an Indigenous perspective. Under the supervision of Dr. Simon Lambert at USask, Brady conducts his research in the area of protected areas establishment and Indigenous-led stewardship programs for the protection of biocultural diversity and the development of sustainable economic development.

Oxana Pimenova is a PhD Candidate at Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, USask. For the last 17 years, her academic research and professional activities have been focused on the public sector. Since graduating from the University in 2003, Oxana has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles in leading international journals across different areas of the Comparative Politics and Multilevel Governance, including two peer-reviewed monographs. Oxana was employed with the Russian government for 13 years. She held the positions of legal adviser, aide to the Senator, and policy adviser to the Prime Minister of the Dagestan Republic. Her most recent position was the Director of the Department for Liaison with Federal Authorities in the Council of Federation -the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament. She left Russia for Canada with the family in 2017. She has three kids, ages seven, five and two.

Harvey Graduate Scholarship

Dr. Ross Buschlen Harvey earned his Bachelor of Science (at age 18) and his Master of Science from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph. D. from McGill University in Montreal (at the age of 22) majoring in physical chemistry. He held a National Research Fellowship in 1940, then joined the Canadian Army where he attained the rank of Major, and where he served in the Directorate of Chemical Warfare 1940-1947. After WWII he attended Cornell University, Ithaca, New York for two years on a post doctorate fellowship from the Defence Research Board of Canada. Dr. Harvey's innate intelligence, curiosity and creativity showed in his pursuit of interests as diverse as art, music, horse back riding and jumping, photography, investments, electronics "tinkering", mechanics, cars and travel. Prior to university studies he became an accomplished pianist, and his love of the arts continued for his entire life. He held a deep regard for education and for those who diligently pursue learning. This scholarship is made possible through donations after his passing by his estate.

Tram Thai is currently a Ph.D. student in Soil Science at College of Agriculture and Bioresources, USask. She completed her MSc in Agricultural Studies at the University of Lethbridge and her B.A in Agronomy in her home country – Vietnam. Tram has a strong background in crop sciences having been involved in research on agronomic practices for tropical crops such as corn, cassava, peanut, etc. and also irrigated crop rotation system (soybean, dry bean, wheat and barley) in southern Alberta. Before joining University of Saskatchewan, she had worked for 5 years as a research assistant at Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam and 3 years as a research associate at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge. Tram lives with her husband and her 7-year-old daughter. She is an active community volunteer, has a huge passion for design, sewing, and singing. On Tram's bucket list is to visit as many of Canada's national parks as possible.

Mariia Tokareva is a PhD student in Swine Behaviour and Welfare at the WCVM, where she works under the supervision of Dr. Yonade Seddon. Mariia's PhD project involves investigating the impact of exercise and the gestation environment on sow performance and welfare. Mariia has educational background in both veterinary medicine, and animal behaviour and welfare. Mariia obtained her DVM (Hons) degree from Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University (Ukraine), and completed MSc (Hons) in Animal Behavior at the University of Life Sciences in Lublin (Poland). Mariia's work experience includes position of a staff member at the commercial pig barn in Denmark, and she also worked as a veterinary technician at the small animal hospital in her home country – Ukraine.

Hope Houston is an American transplant to the Canadian prairie. A winner of the Hantelmann Humanities Scholarship and the University Graduate Scholarship, she is finishing up her second year of the MFA in Writing program. Hope writes short literary fiction, as well as speculative fiction for middle grade and young adult readers. Her thesis is a middle-grade, fantasy novel exploring grief. She holds writing workshops for youth at the Saskatoon Public Library, and she is currently co-editor of the River Volta Review of Books (RVRB). Hailing from the cornfields of Ohio, Hope graduated summa cum laude from Wright State University in 2013, where she won the Adam Cline Memorial Award for Fiction Writing. Her work has appeared in the RVRB, Mystery Tribune, and the Nexus Literary Journal. When not writing, Hope enjoys theme parks, video games, pinball, and her two goofy cats.

Ariel Sanders is a Master of Science in Marketing student in her final year of graduate studies. She received a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Management from Edwards School of Business in 2018 with great distinction and high honours. Her thesis “Sound Sellers,” supervised by Dr. Barbara Phillips, explores how musicians think about, define, and manage the selling of their sound. She is the first marketing researcher to study sound through the perspectives of professional musicians. This spring, Ariel will defend her thesis with plans to graduate in the summer. Once graduated, Ariel will be dedicating her time to having her thesis published and pursuing her own music career.

Luke Heidebrecht is a PhD Candidate and Teacher Scholar Doctoral Fellow at USask. His research has focused on the communities role within experiential education programs and on research designs that aid in mobilizing knowledge for these communities and for curricular change. "I feel very thankful to have even been considered. **The TSDF was an incredible experience and I must give a shout out to the Gwenna Moss Centre and specifically Ryan Banow and Marley Duckett who did such an excellent job at facilitating our learning throughout the year".**

Andrea Wishart is completing her PhD in the Department of Biology, USask studying resource acquisition and management by North American red squirrels in conjunction with the Kluane Red Squirrel Project based in the southwest Yukon. Originally from London, ON, she attended the University of Western Ontario for her H. B.Sc. in Biology (2010) followed by her M.Sc. studying mouse genomics (2014). Andrea is the President of USask's Biology Graduate Student Association, serves as a steering-committee member for the recently formed Long-Term Research section within the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, and was recently appointed to the American Society of Mammalogists Systematic Collections Committee. She is currently teaching BIOL 302: Evolutionary Processes as part of the Teacher Scholar Doctoral Fellowship program.

Teacher-scholar doctoral fellows are committed to high-quality undergraduate education, pursue and active program of research and scholarship, and enliven and enrich their teaching and student experiences by incorporating insights from their own research into their instructional activities.

Awodele Stephen holds a Bachelor's degree in Crop Science from the Ekiti State University, Nigeria. As a research trainee, he worked at IITA headquarters under the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative program, conducting field trials and demonstrating best agronomic practices to farmers. Awodele is co-published in the International Journal of Plant and Soil Science, has worked with SHELL Petroleum, Port Harcourt, Nigeria as an Assistant Facility Manager (Horticulture & Environmental Mgt. Unit) while also volunteering for the Government in an Agricultural Development Program. In pursuit of an outstanding R&D career, he is pursuing an MSc in Plant Sciences under the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Bennett. His research goal is to unravel the mechanism of negative plant-soil feedback causing alfalfa stand decline in Saskatchewan using ecological and molecular approaches.

Miranda Zwiefelhofer is a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Gregg Adams in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences. Her project involves the use of advanced reproductive techniques such as in vitro embryo production to develop a genome biobank for the conservation of wood and plains bison. Her current research includes oocyte (egg) collection for use in wild bison herds where minimal handling is necessary and the production of bison calves from cryopreserved in vitro embryos. In her free time she enjoys hiking with her husband and competing in sheep herding trials with her Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

The canola industry was built on innovation and investment in knowledge. As the industry continues to grow, there are new challenges to face in the areas of canola production, development and utilization. To ensure Saskatchewan has qualified experts in these areas, SaskCanola awards funding to graduate students at USask.

Blend Frangu is an Agricultural Economics doctoral student at USask. He graduated from the University of Arkansas, with a masters degree in Agricultural Economics. During his stay in the United States, Blend held the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship positioned to continue to excel in education. Over the years, in his research, he has searched for ways to help farmers increase sustainable production efficiency and yields while protecting their investment. Today, he reasons that by adopting long-term crop rotation, Western Canadian farmers may be operating more viable and sustainable farm business models. With a particular focus in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Frangu has been using satellite and farm level data to better understand how crop rotation decisions impact canola yields and profitability. For the respective continuing research, he has been recognized with the Dr. Roger Rimmer Award for Excellence in Graduate Research by SaskCanola. The award has allowed Mr. Frangu to gain more confidence about the scope of his research and the emerging results that might prove to be farm practice changing.

Zayda Morales is a PhD candidate in Applied Microbiology under the supervision of Dr. Jim Germida and Dr. Bobbi Helgason. She completed her master's degree in Agricultural Microbiology at Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia in Brazil and her Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology at Army Polytechnic School in Ecuador. Zayda has a particular interest in microbes, small but powerful creatures essential for countless biological processes in nature. Zayda's thesis is part of “Phenotyping the Plant Microbiome” project, managed by the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), which studies the role and contribution of microbial communities in plant fitness and yield. She is analyzing the microbiota naturally carried by canola, lentil and wheat seeds to better understand the transmission and inheritance of microbes in plants. Findings in this study will lead to novel strategies for sustainable crop production by manipulating or engineering the plant microbiome through biotechnology and breeding. After finishing her graduate studies, Zayda intends to keep doing research and contribute to implementing sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries. In addition to her academic work, Zayda is an active community volunteer, plays soccer, swims and an avid reader of Gabriel García Márquez books.

Robert P. Knowles Scholarship

Robert Patrick Knowles Born at Unity in 1919 and raised on the family farm, Bob Knowles established a world-wide reputation as a pioneer in the development of grass breeding techniques and the breeding of 10 superior grass cultivars. He obtained his BSA (1941) and MSc (1943) degrees at the University of Saskatchewan. He served as a lieutenant in the Canadian army in 1943 and 1944. In 1950 he earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin.He joined the staff of Agriculture Canada's Saskatoon Research Centre as a research scientist in 1941. In 1964 he began 11 years as head of the crops section. He was promoted to principal research scientist, a position awarded to only the top five percent of scientists in the Research Branch. In 1985 he was named emeritus scientist and served as adjunct professor at the University of Saskatchewan.In 1985 he received the Canadian Seed Trade Association Seed Achievement Award. In 1987 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Saskatchewan. He was made a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the highest award given in his profession of agrology. Internationally, in 1996 he received the Distinguished Grasslander Award for his work as a forage scientist.Development of a perennial forage grass often involves 10 to 20 years of selection and evaluation. Bob Knowles produced an exceptional 10 new grasses, and these make up the large portion of forage grass seed produced in Canada today. He developed Summit crested wheatgrass (1953), Carlton smooth bromegrass (1961), Chief intermediate wheatgrass (1961), Magna smooth bromegrass (1968), Parkway crested wheatgrass (1969), Signal smooth bromegrass (1983), Kirk crested wheatgrass (1985), Fleet meadow bromegass (1986), Paddock meadow bromegrass (1986), and Radisson smooth bromegrass (1989). Most of these cultivars are still grown throughout Western Canada and several of them are used across Canada. Bob was in demand as a speaker at farm and industry meetings on grass seed and forage crop production. He was consulted by municipalities, rural and urban, about grass varieties to seed in parks and roadsides. He published more than 140 scientific and technical articles including frequently cited studies on grass breeding methods. In his will he bequeathed a substantial contribution to the University of Saskatchewan to establish the Robert P. Knowles Scholarship to support graduate students in plant breeding, hence his legacy continues.

KNOWLES SCHOLAR

Adam Carter is a PhD student working on methods to evaluate plant breeding field trials with new technologies, under the supervision of Dr. Curtis Pozniak. Adam grew up in Brandon, MB and developed an interest in plant breeding in 2012 while working as a summer student for Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). He completed a B.Sc in Genetics from the University of Manitoba and a M.Sc in Plant Agriculture from the University of Guelph before working as a biologist for AAFC. Adam's current research aims to find ways to add value to crop improvement programs and ultimately improve our ability to develop superior varieties for farmers.

Kimberly MacKay is a PhD candidate, supervised by Dr. Anthony Kusalik, in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Saskatchewan (Bioinformatics Lab). Previously, she obtained a B.Sc. in biochemistry (2012) and a M.Sc. in computer science (2016) from the University of Saskatchewan. Over the past 11 years, Kim has worked in a variety of biological and computer science labs where she has studied: novel disease therapies, crop improvement, ancient DNA, and antimicrobial resistance.

Her PhD research is focused on developing new computational tools that help elucidate the 3D structure-function relationship of the genome. In collaboration with researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, she has applied these tools to characterize 3D genomic organization in canola for the first time. During graduate school, Kim has demonstrated excellence in the full spectrum of research activities. For instance, She has published 5 first-author papers as well as 2 technical reports, given 49 presentations, and obtained over 500,000 CAD in competitive funding including the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

During her time at the University of Saskatchewan, Kim has also been an active member of her department and the greater university community. She has taught numerous undergraduate courses in bioinformatics and computer science, mentored junior trainees, served on a variety of university committees, and participated in multiple on-campus events. She has also represented the university at national and international venues. Most recently this has been as a software developer for the COVID-19 Dispersed Volunteer Research Network (based out of Harvard University) and as a member of Canada's Forum on Science, Policy, and Society.

Our take on the 3 minute thesis (3MT) celebrated world world-wide, the 3MP challenges **USask's postdocs** to present their research in just 3 minutes, in an engaging form that can be understood by an audience with no background in the research area. This exercise develops presentation, research and academic communication skills and supports the development of postdoctoral fellows' capacity to explain their work effectively.

3MP's Top 3

Dr. Ornwipa (Fah) Thamsuwan Evaluating the use of a passive exoskeleton as potential intervention for mitigating low back pain risk factors in farmers: Focusing on developing methods to quantify ergonomic exposures in field-based agricultural environment.

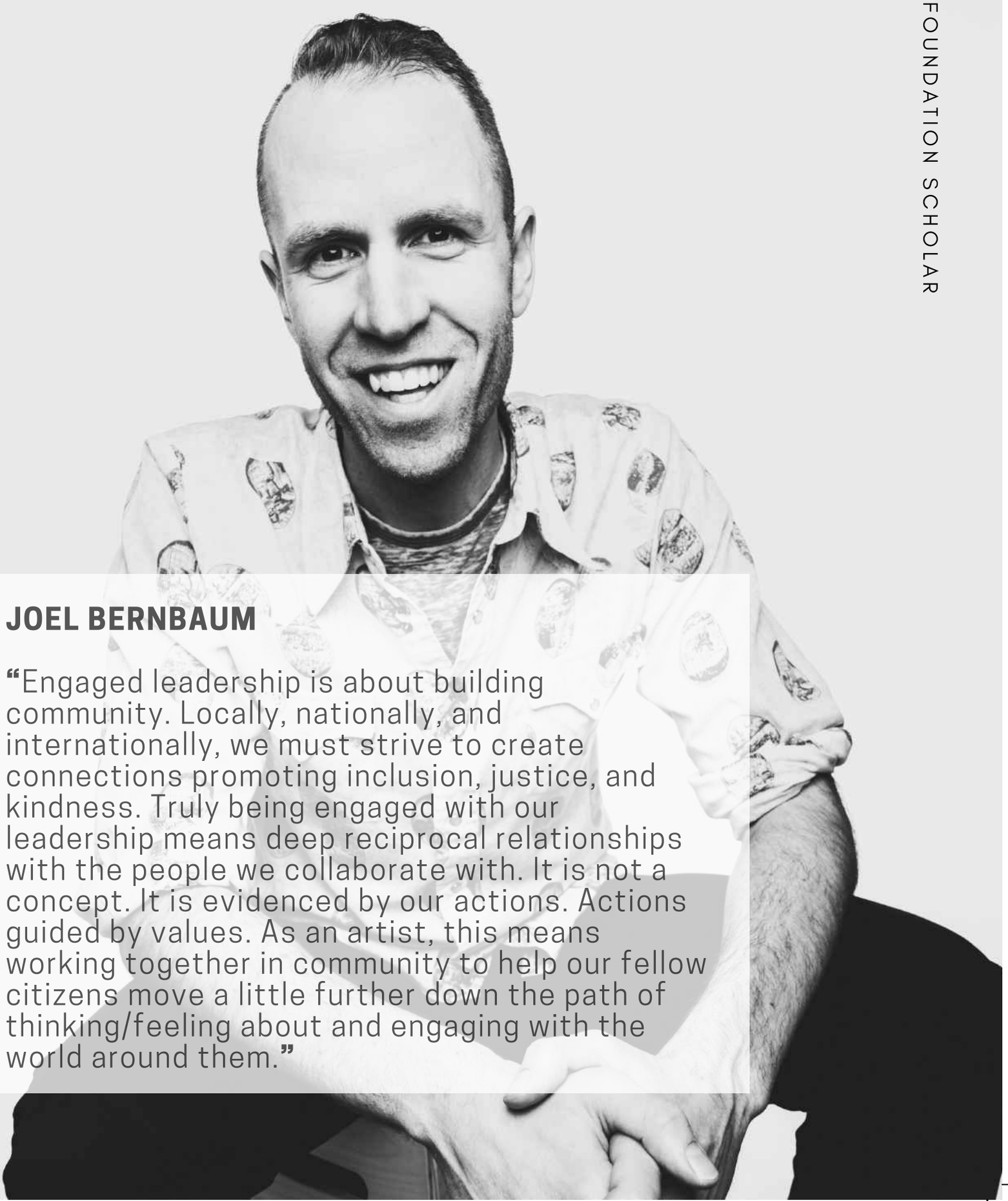
Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculutre

Dr. Alessandro Malusà Quantum gauge field theories: let's do some geometry! Geometric quantization is a construction motivated by and based on the techniques employed by physicists in the so-called canonical quantization. Ideally, one should look for a non-commutative deformation of the algebra of smooth functions on a symplectic manifold, the physical requirement being that the commutator of two functions should be prescribed by their Poisson bracket.

Dept. Math & Statistics

Dr. Edel Lopez Plant pathogen interaction:“It’s really difficult to study this disease at the molecular level because the parasite cannot be cultured in the lab. It needs a host plant in order to survive, so our tool makes it easier and faster for researchers to study the genetics of the clubroot parasite,” said Pérez-López, originally from Cuba.

Dept. Biology



JOEL BERNBAUM

“Engaged leadership is about building community. Locally, nationally, and internationally, we must strive to create connections promoting inclusion, justice, and kindness. Truly being engaged with our leadership means deep reciprocal relationships with the people we collaborate with. It is not a concept. It is evidenced by our actions. Actions guided by values. As an artist, this means working together in community to help our fellow citizens move a little further down the path of thinking/feeling about and engaging with the world around them.”

Joel Bernbaum is an actor, director, playwright, journalist and the founding artistic director of Sum Theatre. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Joel is the only child of a Buddhist Mother and Jewish Father. He is a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts and Carleton University, where he did his Master's Thesis on Verbatim Theatre's Relationship to Journalism. With Sum Theatre Joel created Saskatchewan's first free professional live Theatre in the Park. To date, over 45,000 people have participated in Sum Theatre's work. Joel's produced plays include *Operation Big Rock, My Rabbi* (with Kayvon Khoshkam), *Home Is a Beautiful Word* and *Reasonable Doubt* (with Yvette Nolan and Lancelot Knight). Next season Victoria's Belfry Theatre will produce his latest verbatim play: *Being Here: The Refugee Project*. Joel is currently an interdisciplinary PhD student at USask, investigating the potential of theatre to strengthen cities. He is proud to be the first Urjo Kareda Resident from Saskatchewan and the first Trudeau Foundation Scholar from the University of Saskatchewan. Joel lives in Saskatoon with his 4-year old son, Judah.

Naheda Sahtout is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Chemistry, USask. Her research is aimed at characterizing the proteins of the thioredoxin system, a system critical for maintaining the proper redox balance in all living organisms, from bacteria of diverse ecological niches, both hot and cold environments, to identify the features of these proteins that maintain their functionality despite changes to the environment. Naheda is an award-winning doctoral candidate and a commanding student leader with a commitment to serving the community. Originally from Palestine, she has conquered the spirit of hospitality, generosity and honour. She shows dedication, integrity, respect and emphasizes the values of diversity and inclusion in every endeavour she undertakes and is recognized as USask's first ever recipient of the SWAAC Graduate Student of Merit Award.

COGECO Graduate Communications Scholarships address the need for reater knowledge and imporve understanding of all aspects broadcasting and media communications. Its objective is to support graduate students whose research is related to virtually any area of media communications such as, but not limited to, the sociology of mass media, regulatory economics, educational applications or broadcast technology, and advanced telecommunications engineering**.**

Saskatchewan Innovation Opportunity Scholarship (SIOS) program for post-secondary students provides funding by the Government of Saskatchewan, matched with funds raised by post-secondary institutions through private sector and community-based partners. This scholarship is especially helpful to students in emerging fields of study where innovative work is being done.

University Graduate Scholarship (UGS) holders maintain an 80% average who are either continuing in their program or are in the process of being admitted into a graduate degree program.

Queen Elizabeth II scholarships are awarded by the Government of Saskatchewan. These prestigious scholarships recognize academic excellence of students pursuing graduate studies in Saskatchewan politics and government.

Indigenous Graduate Leadership Scholarships honour Indigenous graduate students for their leadership through community engagement in areas such as entrepreneurship, academia, Indigenous cultures and governance.

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship are highly recognized top-tier doctoral students who demonstrate excellence in academia, research impact and leadership at Canadian universities.

Banting Fellowships are awarded to post-doctoral researchers, both nationally and internationally, who work on projects that will contribute to Canada's economic and social growth.

SENIOR WOMEN ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATORS OF CANADA GRADUATE MERIT AWARD

NAHEDA SAHTOUT

“I hope that my leadership and philanthropy will inspire and empower other women in post-secondary education.”

EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE ADMINISTRATION

This new award established by the CGPS in 2020 is intended to be presented to a single staff member working in graduate program administration each year. In this, its inaugural year the College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies recognizes all graduate administers across campus.

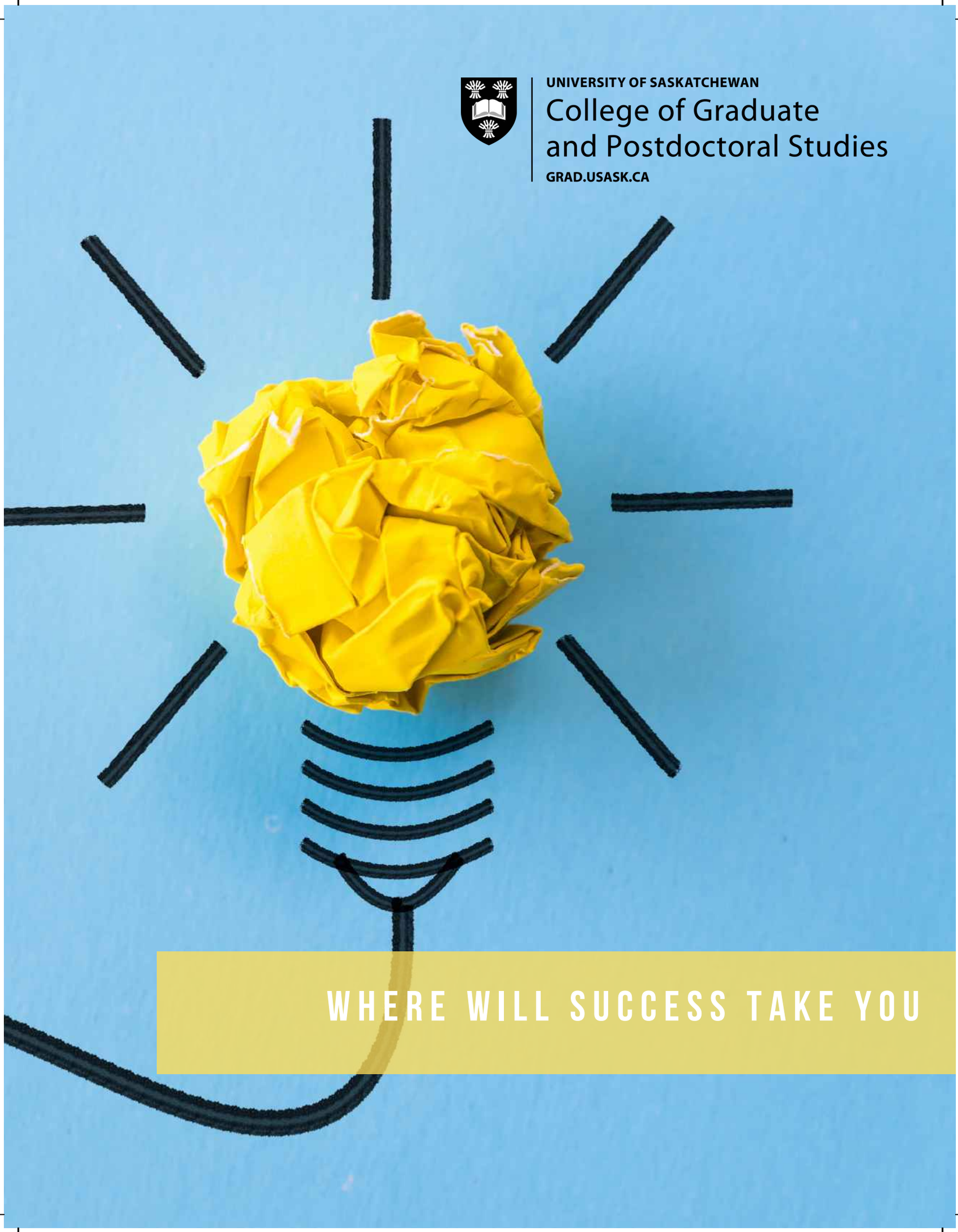
A Tribute to USask's Graduate Administrators who we affectionately call **grad admins**.

The unsung heroes of graduate programming, grad admins are involved in some manner in every aspect of making a graduate program run. They are advisors, communicators, the keepers of information, and are extraordinarily organized; from program start to finish, they support both faculty and students making sure the “I”s are dotted and the “T”s are crossed.

A great graduate administrator is a key contributing factor to the students' experience through the life cycle of a graduate program. Offering guidance and expertise, they are also often a listening ear and a friendly face for students when they need it most. They are our graduate community's unwavering cheerleaders from the beginning of a student's program to the convocation stage. Grad admins go above and beyond to support and advocate for graduate students, seeking answers and resources and helping whenever there is an opportunity.

Graduate administrators, the graduate community at USask thrives because of you THANK YOU for all you do.


4,348
311 POSTDOCS
grad
1800 GRADUATE FACULTY
students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WHERE WILL SUCCESS TAKE YOU