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SOI Alumni Win Top University Entrance Scholarships

June 27, 2016.

As the 2015-2016 school year comes to an end, we would like to recognize a few Students on Ice alumni who have earned major entrance scholarships. Best of luck to all of our alumni starting exciting new chapters this fall!



OLIVIA REMPEL

Expedition: Antarctic 2009 and Arctic 2010

Award: Departmental Fellowship and Dean's Merit Fellowship

School: University of California, Berkeley

Program: Master's at the Graduate School of Journalism, focus on Science/Environmental Reporting and Documentary

"A big theme throughout my application to the program was the need to make scientific information interesting and accessible to the public, and the role journalists play in making that happen. I wrote about my time working in the Students on Ice office, interviewing more than 60 alumni and educators from all over the world – many of them Inuit, adapting to a changing homeland – and how I realized the power of deeply personal stories to help communicate scientific information."



ALANA KRUG-MACLEOD

Expedition: Antarctic 2011 and Arctic 2012

Award: [Schulich Leader Scholarship](#)

School: University of Saskatchewan

Program: Environmental Biology

"Since both scholarships were based on academic achievement, experience and volunteer work, I credit SOI for a good portion of my success. I want to express my appreciation to the SOI organization and the many individuals who make it the powerhouse it is, for your role in this achievement. I don't know specific details of what I will be doing over the next two years as I study environmental biology, but

I know I will be continuing to work for sustainability in everything I do. SOI really did encourage me to be proactive in that way and to believe I have a role to play in creating a positive future."



BAILEY TARRANT

Expedition: Arctic 2013

Award: [Schulich Leader Scholarship](#)

School: Dalhousie University

Program: Pre-Veterinary Medicine

"While on my Students on Ice expedition, in 2013, I discovered the beauty in wildlife and took interest in endangered species and what I could do to prevent this. My experiences in Greenland and the Arctic helped me discover my passion for animals and pushed me toward a career in veterinary medicine...Once I complete my bachelor's degree, I intend completing my Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Prince Edward Island. Once certified, I hope to set up a private practice and a rescue shelter."



MIKE GE

Expedition: Arctic 2014

Award: [Western Science Faculty Entrance Scholarship](#)

School: Western University

Program: Medical Sciences, focus on Epidemiology and Biostatistics

"I am a student who has always been passionate about studying science and using it to help other people and the environment we live in. The 2014 Arctic expedition inspired me to broaden my view of environmentalism and realize how people working in different disciplines can come together to address very serious and relevant global issues. My plans for the future are to either pursue a career in medicine, research, or health policy, and further study the relationship between a healthy environment and a healthy body."



ASHLEY CUMMINGS

Expedition: Arctic 2015

Award: [Loran Finalist Award](#)

School: Mount Allison University

Program: Psychology

"Being a Loran finalist has really pushed me to go out of my comfort zone. This helped me make the decision to attend Mount Allison University. Although it is smaller, it is in a province I've only passed through a handful of times. I'm planning on majoring in psychology as preparation for my plans to become a mental health counsellor. What really solidified my plans to be a counsellor was speaking to Genevieve Killulark about the path to becoming a counsellor during my expedition...I feel so thankful that I've had such amazing opportunities that have contributed to who I am today!"



NITISH BHATT

Expedition: Arctic 2015

Award: [Loran Award](#)

School: University of Waterloo

Program: Systems Design Engineering

"I plan to focus upon studying the links between natural and human systems and how we can engineer solutions which can make the interface between human and natural systems smoother and more efficient. This study area was inspired by my time on the 2015 Students on Ice Arctic Expedition where I was able to note how we can study various social, scientific, and natural factors to assess, evaluate and better design interactions with the natural world in an efficient and sustainable fashion. So, while I look forward to the coming years and the endeavours that they hold, I will remember the core values and knowledge I learned during my time aboard the Ocean Endeavour."



VICTORIA HAN

Expedition: Arctic 2015

Award: [Western President's Entrance Scholarship](#)

School: Western University

Program: Medical Sciences, focus on Biochemistry and Cell Biology

"Western University has programs that are much more oriented towards my future plans. If it was not for such an eye-opening experience such as Students On Ice and interactions with tons of inspiring and ambitious people, I do not think I would have applied for a scholarship to an out-of-province school. Furthermore, Students On Ice offered knowledge in so many subjects that I developed a strong passion for mental health and climate change awareness. In fact, those were two of the issues that I would frequently speak about in my scholarship interview, along with the occasional mention of my amazing Students On Ice experience."



MICHAL LECKIE

Expedition: Arctic 2015

Award: [U of T National Scholarship](#)

School: University of Toronto

Program: Life Sciences

"I'm thinking about going into medicine to eventually study pediatric neuroscience. But, really, I have no idea what I want to do. However, I do know that no matter what I choose to pursue, I will apply everything that I've learned from Students on Ice: a deeper understanding of our world's climate system; our associated need to advocate for that climate system; and knowledge of global cultures developed by my interactions with other expeditioners."



GRACE KING

Expedition: Arctic 2015

Award: [U of T National Scholarship](#)

School: University of Toronto

Program: Humanities, focus on Political Science, Environmental Studies, and History

"This fall, I will be heading to the University of Toronto as one of their National Scholars for 2016; this scholarship covers the undergraduate program of my choice, along with residence, incidental fees, a mentorship program with professors of the faculty and extra monetary support! ...The sights and feelings experienced on my expedition with Students On Ice last summer were an incredibly strong factor in helping me to realize my purpose as a climate change activist for youth, and I'm excited to see where this passion might take me in the next chapter of my education."



ROBERT ADRAGNA

Expedition: Antarctic 2014 and Arctic 2016

Award: [U of T National Scholarship](#)

School: University of Toronto

Program: Engineering Science

"I plan to one day attend graduate school for a PhD in theoretical physics/mathematics and conduct research into unravelling the mysteries of our vast universe. Hopefully, this research will somehow require that I travel back to the polar regions! I would argue that my experience with SOI has tremendously influenced my decision to pursue mathematics and physics in post-secondary education. The Antarctic taught me that our world is fundamentally a beautiful, beautiful place. Words cannot describe the grandiosity of a towering tidewater glacier, or serenity of an Antarctic sunset, or the elegance of a waddling penguin. Upon my return, I began to see the world through the lens of appreciation for its enduring spirit of beauty. And nowhere is its existence more apparent than in the fields of mathematics and physics."

Are you a SOI alumnus who has an amazing entrance scholarship you'd like to share? Let us know so we can add you to the post! Send that or any other updates to alumni@studentsonice.com.

And follow our [Students on Ice Alumni page](#) on LinkedIn to stay up to date with alumni news, and check the [SOI blog](#) every Monday for new posts.

Tags: [Antarctic 2014](#), [Antarctica](#), [Arctic](#), [Arctic 2013 Expedition](#), [Arctic 2015 Expedition](#), [Loran Scholar](#), [UofT National Scholarship](#), [Western National Scholarship](#)

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