

FEATURES

Schulich Leader Scholarship supports student potential



Second-year mechanical engineering student Xiongyi Cui is a recipient of the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship. Photo by Jae Im

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by Lisha Hassanali

Xiongyi Cui is ready to lift off. The second-year mechanical engineering student is preparing for a masters degree in aerospace engineering. "It's an exciting field," he says. "I want to be a part of the expanding aerospace field and be involved in this new era of technological advancement."

His talents and achievements match his career aspirations. Cui was a part of a group of elite Canadian high school students who received the prestigious **Schulich Leader Scholarships**. Each year, 40 students receive the scholarships and Cui was selected in 2013 with his acceptance to the **Schulich School of Engineering**.

"I chose Calgary partially because I wanted to experience more of Canada, and the city is situated next to the Rockies" says Cui, who graduated from the Prince of Wales Collegiate in St John's, Nfld. "I am especially interested in the Schulich School of Engineering because it's a top school in engineering research and I want to build relationships with faculty members and learn from their breadth of knowledge."

Undergraduate experience

A keen and driven student, Cui is spending the summer of 2015 on undergraduate research studying vortex induced vibrations. The research results could provide a cost effective means of harvesting energy from wind and water flows.

Chris Morton, assistant professor in the mechanical and manufacturing department, is impressed with Cui. "Xiongyi is a mature and dedicated person with an active engineering mind," says Morton. "He has a refreshing combination of theoretical and practical knowledge, and shows many qualities of a natural leader. This is particularly rare for such a young engineering student."

In addition to contributing to research that makes a difference at the Schulich School, Cui is involved with the Schulich Aerodesign team. This team will design and build a radio-controlled airplane that can carry as much weight as possible to compete in the SAE Heavy Lift competition. Cui has also been constantly involved in the University of Calgary chapter of Engineers Without Borders and Light up the World, a club committed to installing solar panels to rural communities who wish to obtain a renewable form of energy.

It's busy summer for the bright student who also plans to attend his first Calgary Stampede this year.

Developing engineering leaders

As a Schulich Leader, Cui receives a four-year, \$60,000 scholarship to study at the University of Calgary. The scholarship program recognizes students who present outstanding community, business or

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entrepreneurial leadership, as well as academic excellence, and are enrolled in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) — during their undergraduate years of study. Two incoming University of Calgary students are awarded the scholarships annually.

The financial support allows Cui to focus on his education, “It’s definitely given me more time to pursue my studies and co-curricular projects,” he says. “I lived in residence for the past two years and the scholarship has really helped me financially.”

The Schulich Leader Scholarship program is the brainchild of Canadian business leader and philanthropist Seymour Schulich. These prestigious national awards were established in 2012 to support and encourage outstanding young Canadians to embrace STEM disciplines in their future careers. Currently, six students at the University of Calgary have received Schulich Leader scholarships.

“I want to thank Mr. Schulich for providing these opportunities and fostering a generation of future leaders,” says Cui.

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