



PEOPLE

2015 Schulich Leader Scholarship winners: Brendan Cottrell and Salina Kung

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Selected for their high school academic prowess and exceptional community engagement, Brendan Cottrell and Salina Kung begin SFU this fall with prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarships.

Established by Canadian business leader and philanthropist Seymour Schulich with \$100 million in 2012, the scholarships encourage 50 of Canada's best and brightest high school students to attend university to become future pioneers in global scientific research and innovation.

Each year, SFU selects two high school applicants interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, known collectively as STEM courses, to receive an \$80,000 and a \$60,000 Schulich scholarship.



Salina Kung—\$60,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship winner

By Justin Wong

Salina Kung, a recent graduate from Alpha Secondary School in Burnaby, B.C., is passionate about community engagement

and environmental sustainability.

That's why she founded an award-winning salmonid enhancement project that helped foster aquatic stewardship among secondary and elementary school students in Burnaby.

She also partnered with local schools to help create community gardens and a food-scrap recycling program.

And somehow, she found time to study, earning a grade point average of 99.5 per cent and more than 25 academic awards in her graduating year at Alpha.

She begins classes this fall in the **Faculty of Science** where she'll major in **biomedical physiology and kinesiology** as the first step towards pursuing her dream of becoming a neurosurgeon.

"I marvel at the complexity and resilience of the human body, and this area of study will offer me ways to involve myself in research opportunities and active engagement in the community to improve human health."

Kung plans to combine her university studies with continued volunteer work for a variety of non-profit organizations..

"Collaborating with passionate people has shown me the power that passion has in creating tangible changes in the community," says Kung. "This is what really inspires me to go out there and challenge myself."



Brendan Cottrell—\$80,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship winner

By Allen Tung

It runs in the family. Brendan Cottrell is following in the footsteps of his parents Joanne and Paul, SFU alumni who both graduated with science degrees specializing in marine biology.

Brendan is choosing a different path though, opting to enter the **Faculty of Applied Sciences'** **engineering science** program this month because of its research and co-op opportunities, and the ability to set his own path.

"It's a high intensity program that prepares students for the high tech world of the future, which I want to be a part of," he says.

"The most appealing aspect for me was being able to personalize the program to suit my interests."

As a student at Elgin Park Secondary School in Surrey, Cottrell won several top student awards in mathematics and sciences. In Grade 11, he was the recipient of the SFU Faculty of Applied Sciences' **Math 11 Excellence Award**.

He also established his own tutoring network, volunteering his time to help several different students, multiple times a week.

"I found tutoring a fulfilling way to help other students while also keeping up on my own studies," he says.

Outside of the classroom, he played on several school sports teams, and played 13 years with the community Coastal FC soccer team. He also volunteers for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, helping raise awareness about the human-induced dangers orcas face.

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