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Waterloo welcomes top Canadian students

Friday, September 4, 2015

Four incoming first-year students at the University of Waterloo are recipients of Schulich Leader Scholarships, for their demonstrated leadership in areas such as academic excellence and entrepreneurship.

This year's scholars have averages ranging from 94 to 99 per cent, and extracurricular activities that include founding a humanitarian group and participating in international robotics competitions and competitive sports. All of the scholars were drawn to the University of Waterloo for its reputation for innovation, high standards and entrepreneurial spirit.

Ella Rasmussen of Oakville, Ontario, will join the mechatronics engineering program. She founded and co-captained a team that took home 15 awards from regional, provincial and international events in one season, and co-founded WeeSprout, a startup that combines environmental sustainability with food nutrition and community.

"Since Grade 6, I've wanted to go to Waterloo because I heard that it was one of the best engineering schools in Canada," said Rasmussen, who says coming to Waterloo satisfies a lifelong dream. "I also thought that the co-op opportunity was one of the best things that could happen for an engineering student."

Madeline Shred of Ladysmith, British Columbia, graduated with an average of 99 per cent, and will be a student in Waterloo's biomedical sciences program. She helped found a charitable organization at her school called Building a Legacy, which raised money for Free the Children.

"I'm really interested in Waterloo's reputation for innovation," said Shred. "In today's economy and world, it's innovation that's going to help us create a better future."

Aaron Grenke, from Spruce Grove, Alberta, made a Rotary Club-sponsored humanitarian trip to Guatemala, and spearheaded a mentorship program for younger students at his high school. He will study mechanical engineering at Waterloo.

"I'm really excited about having a hands-on approach to learning, especially with the co-op term. It should expand my personal horizons, and open my eyes," he said. "I'm really excited to be able to work alongside my education and see how it fits."

Rising regularly before dawn to hit the rink in her hometown of Coquitlam, Cindy Wei is a competitive skater who attained the silver levels in both free skate and ice dance, won medals in many competitions, and performed in ice dancing shows. She gives back to that community as a CanSkate assistant coach and learn-to-skate instructor for the City of Coquitlam. She's written two children's novels and has a blog about cooking and nutrition. Wei will study kinesiology in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.

"I ended up choosing Waterloo because it's such an innovative university, and the environment there seems very welcoming. It's a place where I can be creative and develop my ideas further."

Open to every high school, secondary school and CEGEP across Canada, [Schulich Leader Scholarships](#) recognize Canadian students who plan to study one of the STEM disciplines during their undergraduate years at university. These students demonstrate two of the following attributes: academic excellence, outstanding community, business or entrepreneurial leadership or financial need.

About the University of Waterloo

In just half a century, the University of Waterloo, located at the heart of Canada's technology hub, has become one of Canada's leading comprehensive universities with 35,000 full- and part-time students in undergraduate and graduate programs. A globally focused institution,



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celebrated as Canada's most innovative university for 23 consecutive years, Waterloo is home to the world's largest post-secondary co-operative education program and encourages enterprising partnerships in learning, research and discovery. In the next decade, the university is committed to building a better future for Canada and the world by championing innovation and collaboration to create solutions relevant to the needs of today and tomorrow. For more information about Waterloo, please visit uwaterloo.ca.

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Attention broadcasters: Waterloo has facilities to provide broadcast quality audio and video feeds with a double-ender studio. Please contact us to book.



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