

MEDIA RELEASE

SFU student pair wins \$140,000 in Schulich scholarships

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**Contact:**

Justin Wong, University Communications, 778.782.3210, jrwong@sfu.ca

Allen Tung, University Communications (Surrey), 778.782.9017; allent@sfu.ca

Photos: <http://at.sfu.ca/ZTPJSU>

New students Brendan Cottrell and Salina Kung are Simon Fraser University's recipients of the prestigious **Schulich Leader Scholarships**.

The scholarships are awarded to 50 Canadian high school graduates who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM courses).

Cottrell, a graduate of Elgin Park Secondary in Surrey, is the recipient of the engineering scholarship valued at \$80,000 and Kung, a graduate of Alpha Secondary in Burnaby, receives \$60,000.

Both are beginning their studies this month. Cottrell is pursuing a bachelor of applied science in engineering science, while Kung is pursuing a bachelor of science in biomedical physiology.

"I am extremely grateful for the scholarship as it provides me the opportunity to devote myself wholeheartedly to my schooling," Cottrell says. "I am fortunate enough to pursue my passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) knowing that I will have financial security for the upcoming years."

Says Kung: "I feel blessed to have earned this great opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a neurosurgeon. I will continue to stay proactively involved in my community and help expand large-scale initiatives, through creative campaigns and projects that will encourage others to step out of their comfort zones, and try something new that will challenge them to think critically."

Cottrell and Kung were both selected for their outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements, core requirements for the scholarship.

As a student at Elgin Park, Cottrell won several top student awards in mathematics and sciences. Outside of the classroom, he established his own tutoring network, volunteering his time to help several different students, multiple times a week. He also volunteers for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, helping raise awareness about the human-induced dangers orcas face.

Upon graduation from Alpha, Kung earned a grade point average of 99.5 per cent and more than 25 top student academic awards. In addition to her academic achievements, she founded an award-winning salmon-raising project that helped foster aquatic stewardship. Her passion for environmental sustainability motivated her to partner with elementary and secondary schools in Burnaby to help create community gardens and a food scraps recycling program.

Created by Canadian business leader and philanthropist Seymour Schulich in 2011, this scholarship program encourages high school graduates to embrace STEM disciplines in their future careers.

In total, 50 scholarships were awarded across Canada this year with 25 scholarships, valued at \$80,000, awarded to students pursuing engineering degrees. The other 25 scholarships, valued at \$60,000, were reserved for students pursuing degrees in science, technology or mathematics.

ABOUT SCHULICH LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS:

Schulich Leader Scholarships are prestigious entrance scholarships awarded to high school graduates enrolling in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) undergraduate program at participating universities in Canada and Israel. Recognizing the increasing importance and impact that STEM disciplines will have on the prosperity of future generations, businessman and philanthropist Seymour Schulich established this \$100 million scholarship fund in 2012 to encourage our best and brightest students to be the next pioneers of global scientific research and innovation. This program awards 100 scholarships annually, valued at more than \$5 million. Schulich Leaders can devote their full time and attention to their studies, as all of their financial needs are covered over the course of their degree. As a result, many of our highest potential students are winning these scholarships and will make great contributions to society.

ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 135,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5A 1S6

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