

2024 MPAC Continuing Academic Excellence Awards

Introducing our scholarship recipients



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Congratulations to our 2024 award winners!

As part of MPAC's Continuing Academic Excellence Award program, we are delighted to present five scholarships to candidates who successfully demonstrated high academic standing and exceptional community leadership. Congratulations to our 2024 award winners.

- **Paige Baxter** | Recipient, President's Award
- **Alexander Chan** | Recipient, Jeff Smith Memorial Award
- **Danielle Golinsky** | Recipient, Continuing Academic Excellence Award
- **Jade Laurin** | Recipient, Continuing Academic Excellence Award
- **Adam Selalmatzidis** | Recipient, Continuing Academic Excellence Award

A word from our sponsor

At MPAC, we recognize that our greatest investment is in our people. Since its launch in 2001, the Continuing Academic Excellence Award program has exemplified our strong commitment to supporting the children of our employees in their pursuit of higher education, while reaffirming our dedication to community development.

We are proud to announce this year's five exceptional scholarship recipients: the winner of the President's Award, three recipients of the Continuing Academic Excellence Award, and the recipient of our memorial scholarship. Their achievements and ambitions highlight

the transformative power of education and the importance of community involvement.

A special thank you to TD Insurance for their generous support of this program.



I am truly honoured to champion this important MPAC initiative, which recognizes excellent young people and celebrates their outstanding achievements. Please join me in congratulating our 2024 scholarship winners.

On behalf of all of us at MPAC, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this initiative's ongoing success and to the lasting impact it continues to make on the next generation of leaders.”

CARMELO LIPSI

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

A look at this year's winners

Discover more about this year's winners—their motivations for pursuing their academic paths, the futures they aspire to create, and their dedication to making a meaningful impact.



Paige Baxter



Alexander Chan



Danielle Golinsky



Jade Laurin



Adam Selalmatzidis

Paige Baxter

PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT

Major: Animal Biology

University: University of Guelph

Career Aspirations: Veterinarian

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I am honoured to receive the President's Award. This recognition acknowledges the effort I've put into my studies and extra-curricular activities, and strengthens my confidence in myself and my work. I am grateful for MPAC's generosity, and excited to apply the insights I gain from Nicole as I continue pursuing my goals.”



What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

This school year, I hope to fully immerse myself in the University of Guelph community by joining clubs and participating in school activities. I am also dedicated to maintaining strong grades to help me achieve my future goals. I have already joined the Future Vets Club, which supports students pursuing careers in veterinary medicine. I have also signed up for intramural basketball, where I'm excited to make new friends through my love of sports. Overall, I hope to gain a stronger sense of self and become more involved in my new community.

What qualities do you feel are most important in a leader today and why?

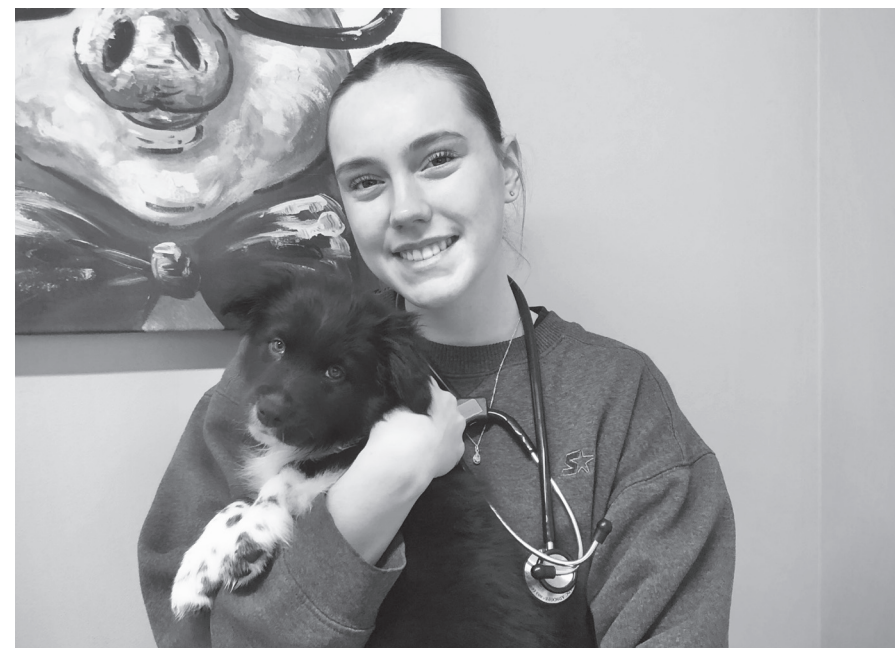
Society is constantly evolving and changing rapidly. I believe a good leader should always look ahead and stay committed to continuous learning. A strong leader should adapt to challenging situations and collaborate with those around them. They should listen, show empathy, and be inclusive of everyone. By doing so, a leader can inspire others to work with them, not just for them, and by fostering an interactive and inclusive environment, any goal can be achieved.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

For the past year, I have volunteered at the Orillia and District Veterinary Services, which has given me an incredible introduction to the veterinary medicine community. Through the clinic, I've had the opportunity to observe surgeries and assist the veterinarian, as well as participate in the Farley Foundation charity. I was able to take part in the auction, which raises money for those unable to afford veterinary care. This experience was very rewarding and has inspired me to one day be an active member of the community with my own clinic. These experiences are invaluable as I prepare to apply to the Ontario Veterinary College, and I'm grateful for the connections I've made at the clinic and the ongoing advice and support they continue to offer.



About Paige





Alexander Chan

JEFF SMITH MEMORIAL
AWARD RECIPIENT

Major: Bachelor of Law and Society (Honours)

University: York University

Career Aspirations: Corporate/Contract lawyer

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This award validates the path I've chosen and serves as a powerful reminder that my parents' sacrifices, along with my countless hours dedicated to academics and extracurriculars, have all been worthwhile. I am honored to accept the Continuing Academic Excellence Award, made possible by MPAC's generosity, as a testament to my potential to achieve great things.”

What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

Keeping up a high academic standard and getting the university experience through heavy campus involvement are among my two most important goals this year. As I work towards building a competitive law school application, it is essential that I uphold my academic performance throughout my next four years at university. At the same time, university is something entirely new for me. Along with my academic goals, I am focused on making the most of this experience —meeting new people and actively participating in events across campus.

What advice would you give to students who are looking to make a difference in their communities?

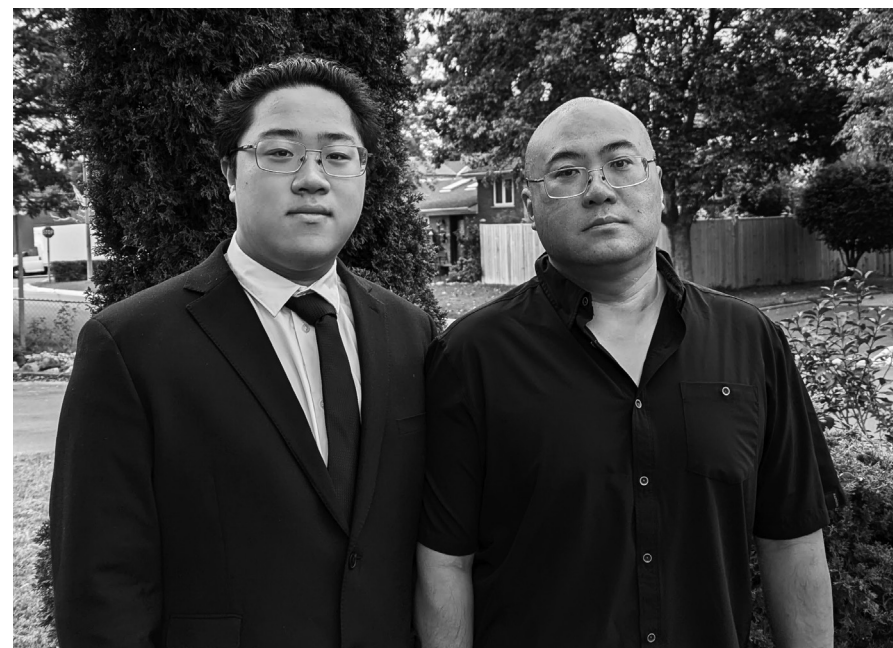
The first step is always the most important, yet it's often the one where many students get stuck. We're often held back by the fear and uncertainty of not knowing where to begin. The best way to make a difference in your community is to take that initial step, no matter how small. Whether it's joining local initiatives, volunteering, or supporting a cause you care about, these actions create momentum and contribute to meaningful change. Change has to start somewhere, and even a single action can spark significant transformations.

Where do you see yourself in five years? How will this scholarship help you meet your career goals?

In five years, I see myself successfully completing my first year at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law or Osgoode Hall Law School. While this is an ambitious goal, it is one that I have carefully prepared for. Throughout high school, I have taken intentional steps to build a solid foundation for my future law school application. Receiving the MPAC Continuing Academic Excellence Award is a significant step forward in achieving my goals for a career in law. It provides me with both essential financial support and the confidence to continue excelling in my academic and extracurricular pursuits.



About **Alexander**



Danielle Golinsky

CONTINUING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
AWARD RECIPIENT

Major: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

University: McMaster University

Career Aspirations: Registered Nurse to
Nurse Practitioner

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Receiving this award is deeply meaningful to me as it signifies the MPAC community's recognition and appreciation of my commitment to advocacy and education in both my local community and the healthcare sector.”



What or who inspired you to choose your major?

My passion for helping others and understanding the critical need for high-quality healthcare is what drew me to nursing. My experience volunteering at a children's hospital and observing the exceptional care provided by the nurses was pivotal for me. I was inspired by the respect and empathy they showed patients and their families, their advocacy for patients, and their ability to develop meaningful relationships. I aspire to use this approach in my own nursing practice.

What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

As the Education Chairperson of McMaster's Nursing Student Society, I am dedicated to organizing study sessions and educational events for my peers. Our program values mutual support, with upper-year students mentoring juniors to help them succeed in nursing school. Learning from alumni who are active in the nursing field also provides invaluable insights. My goal is to connect students with opportunities to explore nursing pathways that help clarify their career goals. With such diverse avenues in nursing – whether at the bedside, in the community, or beyond – this exploration is essential for understanding the profession's vast possibilities.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

While volunteering at a children's hospital, I worked with pediatric inpatients and their families, many who faced extended stays far from home. As part of the Therapeutic Recreation team, I facilitated activities like art, games, and sports to ease the stress of their hospital stays. Collaborating with staff and nurses, I adapted activities to meet each child's unique needs. Seeing them smile despite their challenges brought me incredible joy, and I hope to apply these lessons in my future practice.



About **Danielle**



Jade Laurin

CONTINUING ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

Major: Bachelor of Science in Biomedical
Sciences (Honours)

University: University of Ottawa

Career Aspirations: Pharmacist

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Receiving this scholarship from MPAC is incredibly meaningful to me. While the financial support is invaluable, what truly stands out is the recognition of the dedication and effort I've invested in my journey. This award is a powerful affirmation that I'm on the right track, and it reminds me that my hard work is being acknowledged by others who see my potential. It motivates me to continue pushing myself and to aim even higher in my future endeavors.”



What or who inspired you to choose your major?

My decision to pursue Biomedical Sciences at the University of Ottawa was inspired by my experience as a pharmacy assistant over the past two years. By working closely with patients, particularly in the methadone clinic, I have witnessed the profound impact that quality healthcare can have on people's lives. One moment that stands out is when a patient successfully completed the methadone program, a milestone that filled him with pride and left me with a deep sense of fulfillment. These experiences, along with participating in a healthcare event where I applied real-world techniques, confirmed my passion for healthcare and solidified my decision to study biomedical sciences.

What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

This year, I hope to deepen my understanding of biomedical sciences and excel academically while balancing my studies with hands-on experience in the healthcare field. I am focused on building strong relationships with my professors and peers, as I believe this will enrich my learning experience and open doors for future opportunities. I also want to actively participate in research projects or extracurricular activities related to healthcare, allowing me to apply my knowledge in real-world settings. Ultimately, I hope to grow, both academically and personally, laying a strong foundation for my future career in healthcare.

What advice would you give to students who are looking to make a difference in their communities?

My advice is to start by identifying a cause or issue you're passionate about. Volunteer your time and skills to local organizations or initiatives aligned with that cause. Listen to the needs of your community and collaborate with others who share your goals. Small, consistent actions can lead to meaningful change, so stay committed and open to learning and growing throughout the process. Your enthusiasm and dedication can inspire others, creating a ripple effect of positive impact.



About Jade



Adam Selalmatzidis

CONTINUING ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

Major: Mechanical Engineering

University: University of Waterloo

Career Aspirations: Robotic Automation

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Winning MPAC's Academic Excellence Award offers several benefits. As school costs continue to rise, finding the necessary financial resources becomes challenging. MPAC's generosity in providing this support allows me to focus on my education and achieving my goals. Beyond the financial support, this award affirms that I am on the right path, recognizing both my academic achievements and community volunteer efforts. I am truly humbled to be selected as a recipient of this generous award. Thank you, MPAC, for your thoughtful and meaningful support.”



What or who inspired you to choose your major?

Several people have impacted my decision to become an engineer. My mom's love for math has always been a constant presence, igniting in me a thirst for mathematics that remains unquenchable. My dad is always eager to find opportunities to learn and has encouraged me to meet each day with curiosity, and to embrace challenges, rather than shy away from them. In high school, these skills nurtured by my parents, allowed me to fully embrace my robotics and technology classes. With the support of my teachers and the guidance of my mentor, Mr. Coulas, I found the field that will keep me engaged and fulfilled, while helping to solve real world problems.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

Volunteering as a junior coach for the Special Olympics has been one of my most meaningful experiences. In this role, I had the pleasure of coaching enthusiastic and dedicated athletes who taught me the true meaning of teamwork, celebration and support. The Special Olympics is an amazing organization, and I encourage others to get involved and make a difference.

What advice would you give to students who are looking to make a difference in their communities?

In five years, I picture myself graduating from Waterloo's Engineering program and starting my career as a mechanical engineer. Combining my passion for environmental health with my education, I would like to work in the auto industry as part of a design team focused on improving transportation efficiency and reducing the environmental impact of automobiles on our planet.



About Adam





Since 2001, the Continuing Academic Excellence Award program has awarded over \$236,000 in scholarships!

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request.

Email us at accessibility.action@mpac.ca or call toll free 1 866 296-6722 or by TTY 1 877-6722.



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