TRIUMF Student Scholarship Winners 2006

Each year, TRIUMF awards scholarships to Canadian students majoring in physics and engineering physics and who have obtained a first class standing in their program of studies. For them, it is a great opportunity to spend a few months at TRIUMF to gain some valuable experience, learning and working in an internationally-recognized research laboratory. The annual Scholarship Award consists of $2,000 and a paid four-month summer internship.

TRIUMF advertises this Scholarship in the physics, biology and chemistry departments of major Canadian universities. In addition, many professors in these disciplines also encourage their top students to apply. Since the launch of the scholarship five years ago, TRIUMF has received more than 170 applications. We are pleased to present the winners and the technology transfer summer interns of 2006.

Louis Gagnon

University
Ecole Polytechnique
Engineering Physics

Project Name
T2K

Supervisor
Rich Helmer

Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?
The chance to work in a world class facility, with people who know for their world-class expertise.

Long-Term Plans
I want to stay in contact with the people I have worked with for shared knowledge and expertise in future projects. I also want to use the knowledge that I have obtained at TRIUMF as a starting point to explore more deeply the complexities of physics.

Career goals
I would like to pursue graduate studies and have the chance of becoming a teacher.

Daily activities at TRIUMF
I participate in the elaboration of device-testing experiences (like scintillator bars and silicon photomultiplier) that would be used in the FGD detector in the T2K neutrino experiment in Japan, and work in the acquisition of data. I also participate in meetings where I present my results and have discussions with the other scientists of the T2K group.

Living and working in Vancouver, BC
This is my first trip on the west coast and I really like it. The mountains are so beautiful. I joined the TRIUMF hiking club and each Sunday, we do a hike in a different place where I can enjoy all the beauty of the west coast nature.

Hobbies
In my spare time I practice a lot of sports like alpine skiing, soccer, badminton, hockey, rollerblading and running. I also love to hunt/fish and hike in the woods. I play the guitar and enjoy to practice with bands. I love to spend time with my friends.

Aspirations
I hope that I would do the best things that I could do and take all the opportunity that could come to me. I also hope to keep the best contact possible with all of my friends.

Evan O'Connor

University
University of PEI
Physics

Project Name
DRAGON

Supervisor
Dave Hutcheon

Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?
The chance of becoming a teacher.

Long-Term Plans
Nuclear physics was an area I did not have a lot of experience in before this summer. Working at TRIUMF has allowed me to expand my knowledge in this area; this will stay with me as I continue on in my education and beyond.

Career goals
I plan to continue on with graduate school after my undergraduate degree and obtain my masters and doctorate in Astrophysics. I want to teach as well as perform research, so I plan on obtaining a faculty position after this.

If you weren't studying physics
Engineering has its own little space in my heart; maybe this is a copout, but if I could not work in physics research, I would want to be an engineer and work in physics instrument design, (telescopes, for example).

Daily activities at TRIUMF
DRAGON, the project I am working on, calculates how fast new elements are formed through nuclear reactions; an important part of this process is having computer simulations that accurately simulate what is happening inside the machinery. This summer I am working with a computer model of DRAGON and directly comparing the results with recent data taken within the last two months. The project results will both improve the simulations and DRAGON itself.

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."
Albert Einstein

Living and working in Vancouver, BC
The weather has been great this term. Vancouver is a big city. I know I haven't experienced all it has to offer but what I have seen has been
Gabriel Lee

University
University of Toronto
Mathematics and Physics

Project Name
Tests of the Standard Model from Nuclear Beta-Decay

Supervisor
Gordon C. Ball

Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?
Gaining a greater understanding of the rigors and intricacies of experimental science, especially projects which involve the cooperation of many different groups and people from disparate locations.

Long-Term Plans
I hope to keep in touch with the people I’ve met here, and to consider the field as a possible candidate for intensive study at the graduate level.

Career goals
Completing the required graduate degrees, and pursuing research in theoretical or mathematical physics.

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.”
Mahatma Gandhi

“TRIUMF researchers display a sense of passion for science, one which is both contagious and inspiring. Meeting other summer students from all across the nation has been equally rewarding. Despite our diverse backgrounds, our scientific aspirations brought us together and forged a marvelous unity. The people I have met, and the scientific challenges that we have tackled together will thrive in my memory for many years to come.”

Prateek Khatri

University
University of Ottawa
Medical School

Project Name
Radiolabeled antibodies for cancer therapy

Supervisor
Tom Ruth

Most rewarding about working at TRUMF?
The opportunity to conduct cutting edge scientific research at a world-class facility with highly talented scientists has been incredible! TRIUMF researchers display a sense of passion for science, one which is both contagious and inspiring. Meeting other summer students from all across the nation has been equally rewarding. Despite our diverse backgrounds, our scientific aspirations brought us together and forged a marvelous unity. The people I have met, and the scientific challenges that we have tackled together will thrive in my memory for many years to come.

University of Ottawa

This September, I will be starting medical school at the University of Ottawa to become a physician. As a physician I will have the opportunity to fight disease with the mind of a scientist and relate to people with a caring heart. In addition to patient care, I also hope to pursue some clinical research throughout my career.

Daily activities at TRIUMF
My research centers on radioimmunotherapy, which involves the use of radioactively labeled antibodies for cancer therapy. A radioisotope is conjugated to a monoclonal antibody that binds specifically to a tumor cell receptor. The conjugate is then injected into the patient’s body, where it localizes in tumors. This results in the delivery of a radiation dose selectively to tumor cells, while minimizing the dose to normal cells. By damaging the genetic material of cells, radiation induces tumor cell death. I am studying the efficacy of a rehumin-labeled antibody directed against the insulin-like growth factor (IGF) receptor, a protein which is over expressed on tumor cells.

Living and working in Vancouver, BC
The weather and relaxed pace of life, and natural amenities of Vancouver. This is my first time living here for any extended period of time.

Hobbies
I enjoy music. In terms of travel, next year I will be visiting Asia and Australia, and am very much looking forward to it.

Aspirations
To contribute something valuable to the scientific community.

University of Ottawa

Ottawa, Ontario

Toronto, Ontario

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Aspirations
To contribute something valuable to the scientific community.

University of Ottawa

Ottawa, Ontario

Toronto, Ontario
Peter Winslow

**University**
University of Winnipeg  
Mathematical Physics

**Project Name**
TWIST

**Supervisor**
Art Olin

**Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?**
The most rewarding aspect of working at TRIUMF is working with people who are on the cutting edge of physics. It’s completely different from the academic side of things. There’s a sense of urgency here that you just don’t find in the regular University atmosphere.

**Plan to do with your knowledge**
My plan from day one has not changed and that is to use all the knowledge, experience, and contacts to go to graduate school to gain more knowledge and experience. I have a very real and general curiosity about everything and physics seems to be the best way to satisfy that curiosity. Actually, before I decided on physics I was pretty sure that I was going to go into philosophy.

Joel Zylberberg

**University**
Simon Fraser University  
Chemical Physics

**Project Name**
DRAGON

**Supervisor**
Dave Hutcheon

**Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?**
Being at TRIUMF is fantastic because there are so many knowledgeable and dedicated scientists (and other students) around. Being in this kind of environment has allowed me to learn a lot about nuclear physics, and has really motivated me to continue on in this field.

**Long-Term Plans**
I hope to be able to apply some of the modeling techniques that I’ve learned at TRIUMF to future research problems, both in nuclear physics, and in other areas.

**If you weren’t studying physics**
If I wasn’t studying physics, I would probably be studying materials chemistry (my other main research interest).

**Career goals**
It’s very hard to nail down one particular area of research that I would like to do since I haven’t been introduced to everything yet but ultimately I would like to be involved in physics research in some capacity.

**Daily activities at TRIUMF**
Monitoring the experiment is probably the most important. I’ve spent most of my time here learning programming techniques, mostly to do with C++. I’ve used these techniques to write a program that will aid in keeping track of the quality of data.

**Living and working in Vancouver, BC**
This is not my first long-term visit to the West Coast. I lived on Long Beach in Tofino for a short while and have seen a number of other places, mostly on Vancouver Island. I love the West Coast because the mountains and the ocean are so close. It’s great being able to go hiking or to the beach if you have a couple of hours after work. Also, the climate allows for a far greater scenic view than in most other places in Canada.

**Hobbies**
I guess my top hobby is music (I play the guitar). I also like to run, work out, and train martial arts and get out into nature as much as possible. I would love to go to Greece, Peru, Egypt, Tahiti, China, Mongolia, and anywhere else. I guess anywhere where it’s completely different from where I’m from would be worthwhile seeing.

**Aspirations**
I aspire to one day overcome all the difficulties that now hold me back.
Lisa Milligan

University
University of Waterloo
Science and Business

Project Name
Technology Transfer

Supervisor
Ann Fong

Most rewarding about working at TRIUMF?
The most rewarding thing is to work in a reputable firm and to work with a very nice and qualified team. I am learning a lot about technology transfer thanks to the Technology Transfer staff. Thus far this term, I’ve had the opportunity to attend conferences in Seattle and Minneapolis, both of which were great experiences. First of all, it was my first stay in those cities; second, because I have been learning a lot; and thirdly, I have met many people and plan to keep in touch with them over the next few years.

Career goals
I would like to work in a biotechnology-based business. In the short-term I plan to learn more about the technologies in the infertility field, and the types of careers that are available. I intend to get some work experience after graduating from my degree program, and then continue researching business or management studies at the post-graduate level.

Daily activities at TRIUMF
I spend much of my time among the people and documents that make patents possible. Between researching urgent patent issues, communicating developments in applications to scientists and counsel, and tracking the movement of paperwork in our office, I also assist in the preparation of presentations to different audiences. I have prepared the inaugural TTO brochure on intellectual property for internal distribution.

Living and working in Vancouver, BC
I’ve most enjoyed living in a city with such fantastic scenery – to see both mountains and water right in my backyard.

Hobbies
My favorite pastime is to explore new locations on my rollerblades. I also enjoy running, baking, embroidery and listening to music.

Carine Brasile

University
INSEEC Paris
Business Studies

Project Name
Technology Transfer

Supervisor
Ann Fong

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Career goals
Next year, I’ll have to choose one of several options in my business school in Paris. I will have to choose from international business, finance, or marketing. I plan to pursue finance, even if I eventually continue my career in a foreign country.

Long-Term Plans
I have no firm ideas right now, but each new opportunity raises more options. I believe my business school is giving me a lot of knowledge, so thanks to that and my scientific background at the Sorbonne University, I can hopefully realize what I want. Nothing is impossible when you really want to achieve it, and when you do your best to reach your ambitions.

“Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow. Delay may give clearer light as to what is best to be done.”
Aaron Burr

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TRIUMF is operated as a joint venture of:

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