



MUNICIPAL
PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT
CORPORATION

2022 MPAC CONTINUING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

INTRODUCING OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2022 AWARD WINNERS

Each year, MPAC presents scholarships to successful candidates who achieved high academic standing and displayed exemplary community leadership. We are pleased to announce this year's Continuing Academic Excellence Award winners!

Jing wen (Steven) Hui - Recipient of the President's Award

Abby Graham - Recipient of the Elizabeth Walker Memorial Award

Joseph Zhu - Recipient of the Bonnie Paluch Memorial Award

Massimo Giammarco - Recipient of a Continuing Academic Excellence Award

Lauren Hum - Recipient of a Continuing Academic Excellence Award

Joanne Leung - Recipient of a Continuing Academic Excellence Award

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR



At MPAC, we recognize that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. By celebrating their accomplishments and investing in their futures, we're doing our part to help our communities grow and thrive.

Through the Continuing Academic Excellence Award program, now in its twenty-second year, we have presented scholarships to children of MPAC employees who have demonstrated a strong commitment to higher learning and exceptional leadership within their communities.

In these pages, you will meet our six outstanding scholarship recipients: our three general scholarship winners, our two memorial award winners and our President's Award winner. Learn what inspired them to choose their major, where they see themselves in five years, what advice they would give other students who want to make a difference, and more!

Thank you to TD Insurance for their continued support of this program.



I am so pleased to champion this important MPAC initiative that recognizes our phenomenal young people and celebrates their numerous stellar achievements.

Please join me in congratulating our 2022 scholarship winners!

**EDWARD BRODERICK
VICE-PRESIDENT,
HUMAN RESOURCES**

JING WEN (STEVEN) HUI

RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Studying:

Neurobiology

School:

University of California San Diego, First Year

Career Aspirations:

Neurosurgeon

"The ability to effectively assemble teams that proficiently carry out tasks while keeping conflicts to a minimum is a skill that translates to other aspects outside of work. I look forward to my mentorship with President and CAO, Nicole McNeill, as it will provide me with essential leadership skills to serve my community like the great team at MPAC."



What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

Stepping outside of the country where I grew up, I hope to broaden my horizons by participating in multifaceted opportunities such as school clubs, internships, and research. Although academics are crucial, I believe building a well-rounded college experience develops me as a person rather than just as a student. I look forward to enrolling in clubs like the UCSD Health and Medical Professions Preparation program, and research opportunities such as the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society; both offer incredible hands-on learning and networking experiences. I hope to make the upcoming school year a smooth but thrilling transition into post-secondary education.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

I was fortunate to volunteer at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. I managed the flow of patients by separating them according to vaccine brands and number of shots. Although my job did not require much technical knowledge, I was extremely impressed by how our community collaborated to combat the virus. Our team included nurses, physicians, students, and professors. I realized how peaceful and efficient a community can work when ignoring people's differences and focusing on their similarities. It is vital for human development to carry this trait into other parts of our lives.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Imagining myself five years from now is exciting due to the countless possibilities. Being a biology student, attending medical school has always been my primary goal after undergraduate studies. This scholarship provides me with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to communicate with a great mentor, Nicole McNeill, who will help guide me through a challenging transition year into university and teach me important problem-solving and networking skills that will significantly contribute to the rest of my life.



ABOUT STEVEN



Steven with his mom and dad, Hunter (Jun) Hui,
Property Valuation Analyst, Toronto

ABBY GRAHAM

**RECIPIENT OF THE ELIZABETH WALKER
MEMORIAL AWARD**

Studying:

Conflict Studies and Human Rights

School:

University of Ottawa, First Year

Career Aspirations:

UN Refugee Agency or similar NGO

"My most meaningful volunteer experience was creating the Kindness Pledge. It allowed me to partner with advocacy groups and learn how to not only be a strong ally, but to promote, on a grand scale, allyship."



What does winning this award mean to you?

Winning this award is not only incredibly helpful financially, but it inspires me to work hard towards my academic goals and career aspirations.

What or who inspired you to choose your major?

After witnessing bullying against minority groups in my local community, it inspired me to pursue an educational path that would fight against inequities on a global scale.

What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

Along with my academic pursuits, I hope to become involved in my school community and new city through volunteering, including continuing my work in the field of harm reduction and other helpful endeavors.

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

I feel any good leader needs a strong sense of empathy, the courage to act, and keen listening skills. This allows for voices and ideas to be heard, innovation to occur, and people to feel valued and respected.



My advice to students looking to make a difference: don't think, act. It can be scary to take on a big project or to speak up, but you never know whose lives you will change and how you will be supported along the way.



ABOUT ABBY



Abby with her mom, Shelley Graham, Director, Valuation, Research and Advisory Services, Kitchener

JOSEPH ZHU

RECIPIENT OF THE BONNIE PALUCH
MEMORIAL AWARD

Studying:

Life Sciences

School:

University of Toronto, First Year

Career Aspirations:

Neurosurgeon

"Although having a high academic standing is important, I plan to extend my learning through co-curricular activities. Specifically, I aim to obtain opportunities and positions that will allow me to make a lasting impact on the scholarly and research communities while also developing myself."



What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

As a senior mentor at my school, I had the opportunity to support new students in both academic and non-academic activities, including clubs and council advice. I also provided students with the tools and skills to manage their workload and social life. My mentee enjoyed his first year in high school, due in part, to the time I spent providing guidance to him.

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

Take the initiative. When it comes to volunteering, students should make the first move and reach out to various organizations, as they are always looking for help. Mentoring is also an excellent way to make a difference, as it allows you to pass on your own experiences and knowledge, while also developing your leadership skills.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I hope to attend the University of Toronto's medical school, where I will begin my studies to obtain a Doctor of Medicine degree. Besides the monetary value, this scholarship serves as official recognition of my achievement — recognition that can be leveraged when applying for future opportunities and positions.



Although the last couple of years have had many unique challenges, this award recognizes that I persevered despite the unprecedented situations.



ABOUT JOSEPH



Joseph and his mom, Wei Ma,
Property Data Generalist, Pickering

MASSIMO GIAMMARCO

**RECIPIENT OF A CONTINUING
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Studying:

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

School:

Ontario Tech University, Third Year

Career Aspirations:

Medicinal Chemist

"The field of chemistry plays an important role in many industries; however, the field of medical chemistry is most appealing to me. My vision of my future contributions to society has been shaped by this pandemic and further solidifies my focus on pharmaceutical chemistry. I am hopeful that my hard work will place me in a position to further advance the field of medicine."



What do you hope to accomplish this school year?

Aside from achieving good grades, I want to continue assisting and conducting research with the talented professors at Ontario Tech University. My experiences have taught me so much thus far, and I am motivated to achieve my highest potential. Additionally, I want to become more involved in student clubs. Helping, motivating, and mentoring students who share a similar passion for chemistry would bring me great joy.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

I believe participating in sports teaches many valuable life lessons while also benefiting both physical and mental health. Volunteering at my local soccer club was my most meaningful life experience, and I was very fortunate to be part of the Unionville Soccer Club, High Five Program. This opportunity included assisting athletes with different physical and mental challenges one-on-one. The relationships and mentoring were reciprocal, and it was very encouraging to hear family members share stories of how their children and young adults gained confidence and skills during our time together. It is very humbling to be invited into these young people's lives and share in the joy and unity that sports bring to a community.



As with most skills, an individual can learn and execute the characteristics and qualities of a good leader; however, you cannot teach passion. Without passion, you will never be able to reach your full potential.

Massimo with his mom, Lucy Giammarco,
Property Valuation Analyst, Richmond Hill



ABOUT MASSIMO



LAUREN HUM

**RECIPIENT OF A CONTINUING
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Studying:

Medical Sciences

School:

Western University, First Year

Career Aspirations:

Radiologist

"As I begin my studies at Western University, I am looking forward to forming new connections and becoming involved in the school community. I hope to establish myself in this new environment by taking on leadership roles. I am determined to instill positive change at the school through my participation in various clubs and student events."



What does winning this award mean to you?

I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this award as it attests to the fact that my hard work put into academics, extracurriculars, and volunteering has paid off. With the help of this generous scholarship, the burden of educational expenses decreases, thus allowing me to focus more on my studies. As a recipient of the award, I am motivated to persevere through challenges I may face throughout my post-secondary journey and plan to use each obstacle as a learning opportunity.

What has been your most meaningful volunteer experience?

My most meaningful volunteer experience was as an Assistant Basketball Coach for an all-girls basketball team. While motivating athletes by modelling perseverance and assisting players in setting attainable goals, it was inspiring to see them slowly develop self-discipline and confidence. Observing the curiosity of young athletes learning a new sport taught me to always view life with an optimistic and positive approach.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

With my newly acquired Medical Sciences degree, I hope to further my education by attending medical school. In the next five years, I plan to continue working towards pursuing a career in the healthcare field as a radiologist. With the help of this scholarship, I will be able to maximize my university experience by participating in more volunteer positions and internships.



To navigate our complex world, I strongly encourage students to educate themselves about the resources they have access to and understand how to effectively use them.



ABOUT LAUREN



Lauren with her mom, Sue Tam,
Property Valuation Clerk, Richmond Hill

JOANNE LEUNG

RECIPIENT OF A CONTINUING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Studying:

Accounting and Financial Management

School:

University of Waterloo, Fourth Year

Career Aspirations:

CPA and CFA

"Being a recipient of the MPAC Continuing Academic Excellence Award is an honour for which I am very grateful. This award not only recognizes the hard work I have put into my studies, extracurriculars, and volunteering, it also motivates me to continue to do my best in my future studies and community involvement."



What or who inspired you to choose your major?

My interest in business was first piqued in eleventh grade when I took a business management course. My teacher had a “tough love” teaching style, and he certainly never hesitated to push us to think critically and perform at our best. While I was amazed by the vast opportunities that lay within the field of business, I want to pursue my Chartered Professional Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst designations and specialize in accounting and finance. My major provides me with one of the fastest paths to obtain both designations.

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

I strongly believe that leading by example is the most important quality in a leader. Leading by example inspires others to perform at their best as the leader demonstrates the value of teamwork and collaboration. In return, employees will be more motivated, engaged, and passionate about their work. During my co-op terms, I found that I enjoyed working in teams when my manager took on some tasks and mentored us through the work. My team and I bonded quickly over the duration of our engagement, and we delivered high-quality deliverables.

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

Get started! There are a countless number of options to volunteer for any cause. If there's something you're passionate about, a quick internet search will show you different ways you can work for something you care about while also making a difference in the community. For me, I have always enjoyed working with kids, so I served as a mentor to a small group of elementary school kids and guided them through adolescence. A friend of mine is passionate about travelling the world, so he volunteered for two weeks to build houses in Jamaica. There are endless opportunities, so dive right in!

Joanne and her mom, Doren Chan,
Database Administrator, Pickering



ABOUT JOANNE



Since establishing
the program in 2001,
over \$158,000 in
scholarships have
been awarded to
127 students!



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