



Today's Program

Scholarship Committee Award Lunch

Topic

Keynote Speaker, Naresh Sritharan

Host

Don Brooks, *Committee Chair*

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street

The Scholarship Program

- by Don Brooks, *Committee Chair*



The Rotary Club of Toronto's Scholarship program has had and will continue to have a very positive impact on the seven young adults who have won scholarships since the 2012 start of the program. The recipients are involved in human resources, labour law, education, computer science, neuroscience, life sciences, business and medical technology. Our scholarship program has made university education possible for impressive young people who might not otherwise have been able to continue their studies due to financial circumstances.

The scholarship is open to outstanding students graduating from a Toronto District School Board or Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary school, and who will be attending a College or University in the Greater Toronto Area. To win a scholarship, of up to \$10,000 a year for four years, they have to demonstrate financial need, academic excellence, leadership, school involvement and community service.

In addition to the financial support we provide, one member of the Scholarship Committee takes on a very important and gratifying mentorship role for one of the scholarship winners throughout their undergraduate years. The mentor is a liaison between the student and our Club, assists with the transition from high school to post-secondary education and is an ongoing resource to the student. The mentor also helps the student get involved with our Club projects and events, such as Youth Day, the Children's Christmas Party and the recent RI 2018 Convention.



Naresh Sritharan 2013 Scholarship Winner and Keynote Speaker

Naresh was our Club's second scholarship winner. During his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough he actively participated in Rotary Club events and

also participated in campus initiatives to support incoming first year students with their transition and academics. In addition, he taught South Asian music at a local community music school and also tutored underprivileged students in his community.

Naresh completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto in June 2017 with a major in Human and Physical Geography and a double minor in Psychology and Applied Statistics. His interest in education and the extent to which he actively involved himself in educating and advising students motivated him to pursue a Master of Education degree in Higher Education. He is specializing in Student Services and Student Development at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). He will be completing his master's degree in June 2019.

Naresh currently works at the University of Toronto Scarborough in the Admissions and Student Recruitment office overseeing front line services. He intends to continue working in the higher education field to better support and guide students to reach their academic and career goals. His focus will be underprivileged and visible minority students who face many challenges and barriers within the education system and society.



Maryam Ali – The Rotary Club of Toronto Scholarship Winner 2018

Our Scholarship Committee is pleased to present Maryam Ali as this year's scholarship winner. Maryam will be studying Biomedical Engineering at Ryerson University. Her goal is to be a medical doctor in the MedTech field.

Maryam has an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, receiving Honours standing throughout high school. She is an Ontario Scholar and a member of M.P. Arif Virani's High Park Youth Advisory Council.

At Parkdale Collegiate Institute she was a Student Ambassador and a Student Director of the Parkdale Mentorship Program. Maryam was a Group Leader at UofT's program for Engineering Outreach and won the UofT's Math in Motion Girls in Gear design challenge.

Her community involvement has included participation at the Ontario Model United Nations Conference and being a Camp Counsellor at the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre International Summer Day Camp. Maryam also volunteers at Lakeside Long Term Care Home with the Horticultural and Music Therapy Programs.

Maryam's leadership, academic excellence and school and community involvement are only a few of the reasons she received The Rotary Club of Toronto's seventh scholarship award.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Scholarship Winners 2014-2017



Lorenzo Penate - 2017 Scholarship Winner

Lorenzo has completed his first year in Business Administration at York University's Schulich School of Business. He has had a full year with activities in addition to his studies. This includes being local Vice President of Corporate Relations at HULT PRIZE, an international organization focusing on generating start up ideas from young adults/university students to sustainably solve the world's most critical social challenges. Lorenzo is on the Toronto Youth Cabinet, has worked on a citywide homeless food drive action day, has founded a charitable organization named One-A-Day and is an Executive member of York University Sports Business Association.

Due to the 143 day York University strike Lorenzo's first year was completed during the summer, when he was finally able to have papers marked and to write his final exams. He received a summer internship at CIBC as a Business Banking Credit Analytics Analyst under Risk Management, working in downtown Toronto. In addition to valuable work experience Lorenzo was able to network and start developing some business relationships.



Amna Majeed - 2016 Scholarship Winner

Amna is starting her 3rd year in the Life Sciences Program at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus. She is completing a double major in Human Biology and Immunology, with a minor in French. In March, she participated in the National Undergraduate Science Case Competition, with her research proposal on how to minimize the environmental impacts on Hydraulic Fracturing; she and her team placed third among 210 teams. Her proposal was published in two leading multidisciplinary undergraduate journals.

This past summer, she conducted research at St. Michael's Hospital, analyzing the current medical school system and its flaws, challenges and successes. Amna is also active in her university; she is part of the Rotaract Club of UofT as well as an Ambassador for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), visiting local GTA schools and encouraging students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields. This year, she will serve as the International Service Director of the Rotaract Club, and Events Director of WISE for which she is currently planning a national conference.



Poorva Patel - 2015 Scholarship Winner

Poorva has now entered her 4th year at the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus. She will be completing her bachelor's degree majoring in Neuroscience and Molecular Biology. As part of that, Poorva has taken several language courses to further expand her communication skills and have more exposure to diverse cultures.

This year, she will be taking various science courses (such as Chemistry, Biology and Psychology along with Statistics and Calculus) that help develop analytical reasoning, independent thinking and communicating. This will assist her in acquiring the skills that will enable her to continue growing professionally and personally.

This past year, she worked in the Cadotte Lab at her university where she had the chance to help graduate students conduct research related to environmental science. Poorva will be working at a Clinical Psychology lab in her fourth year. She plans to take new opportunities to expand her knowledge and achieve great results in her current and future academic and professional career.



John Chen - 2014 Scholarship Winner

John has just completed a 10 month co-op work term at the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, through the Professional Experience Year office at UofT. While there, he worked as a software developer intern, initially on the DevOps team and later on the Risk team. This past June, he worked at the Vector Institute under the supervision of Dr. Frank Rudzicz. This involved improving doctor patient communication through the use of machine learning.

John was editor-in-chief of the Review of Undergraduate Computer Science, UofT's student-run undergraduate computer science research journal. He won the ETH UofT 2018 Blockchain Hackathon, creating novel smart contract functionality on Ethereum, a sophisticated computing platform and operating system. This year, he received a Woodsworth College Student Association award and a Federation of Overseas Chinese Association/Taiwan Outstanding Youth Award for his community service. He will finish his final year at U of T this upcoming academic year, and will apply to the medical program and the graduate computer science program at U of T.