

# BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL

DR. DAVID CHU SCHOLARSHIPS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES  
2012-2013 RECIPIENTS

**DAVID BYUN** is a first-year MA student in the Collaborative Program in Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto, where he also received an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Toronto. Throughout his academic career, he has been involved in various extracurricular activities including serving as a Co-Chair of the Canadian Centre for Responsibility to Protect, and serving as the Committee Director of the North American Model United Nations. David also worked as a research analyst for the G8/G20 Research Group, and he was the Captain / Company Commander of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. Most recently, he has been invited by the Government of the Republic of China to visit Taiwan as a member of the 2012 Young Leaders Delegation Program. He enjoys reading history books and debating various international political issues with his friends. David has been the recipient of many other awards and scholarships including the Andrew Nigrini Memorial Scholarship Award, Dean's List, and Trinity College Chancellor's Award.

**CHEN CHEN** is a first-year MA student in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. She received a BA with a Specialist in Anthropology and a Minor in East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Before coming to the University of Toronto, she received a Bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Manitoba. Now she is studying East Asian Studies and Asia Pacific Studies because of her interest in the culture and history of the area. Chen's primary interest is contemporary China, but she is also interested in topics related to Japan. She hopes to explore the new ideas she gained in an academic setting through her studies at the University of Toronto. Outside of school, she is a fan of Chinese opera, and enjoys Japanese pop music. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and singing.

**YUEH JEAN CHIA** is a third-year PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Last year she conducted a yearlong research project in Singapore, which focused on the intersection of historical memory and global economy surrounding public housing estates. Yueh is interested in identifying the tension between Singaporean national identity and the push to adopt neoliberal political and economic ideology, as expressed in visual practices of memory. While completing her MA and undergraduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Alberta, she was also a research assistant working extensively with First Nations groups. Outside of her research, Yueh runs her own web and media company called Northern Strength Web and Media Development, and is the editor of Vis-à-vis: Explorations in Anthropology, the graduate journal of the Department of Anthropology.



**SHIN-HYUNG CHOI** is a first-year MA student in the Collaborative Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto. He received his BA (Honours) in History from Queen's University in 2012. While studying at Queen's University he participated in an undergraduate study abroad program in pre-modern & modern Korean history at Seoul National University, South Korea. Prior to that, he participated in another study abroad program in advance Korean language at Korea University, South Korea. His current research interests include the legacy of colonial nationalism, North Korea in the context of the Cold War, and the cultural history of reunification in both Koreas. In 2012-13, Shin was an active member of the student body. He was Co-President of the North Korea

Research Group at the Munk School of Global Affairs, whose main goal is to change the one-dimensional views that people have of North Korea and to help academics and the public see beyond this country's stereotypes and politics. He was also an Executive Member of the East Asian Graduate Student Union. This is Shin's second time receiving the Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia Pacific Studies.

**KYOKO IWASA DAVIS** is a second-year PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. She earned a BA (Honours) degree from Sophia University and the University of Tokyo, and an MA degree from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto. Kyoko became a student again after taking two years off to focus on raising a family. For the last few years, she has been studying the history of East Asia and the former Soviet Union. After entering the PhD program, she became a teaching assistant for three history courses, which she enjoyed very much, thanks to the strong support and guidance from her course instructors. In her spare time, Kyoko enjoys cooking, playing sports and listening to music with her family. In addition to this award, she has been the recipient of many other awards including University of Toronto Fellowships and Teaching Assistantships.

**NICHOLAS MICHAEL FEINIG** is a first-year MA student in the joint Socio-Cultural Anthropology/ Asia Pacific Studies program at the University of Toronto. He received a BA in Anthropology with Minors in German language and East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto in 2011. In the year following his graduation, he completed his TESOL certification at OISIE, teaching at a community centre for recent Chinese immigrants. Over the winter break, Nicholas presented his research on Japan's night life at Yokohama National University. He interned as Business and Project Manager at the Munk School of Global Affairs, where he will continue to work in a fellowship position through the year and volunteer as part of their high school outreach program.

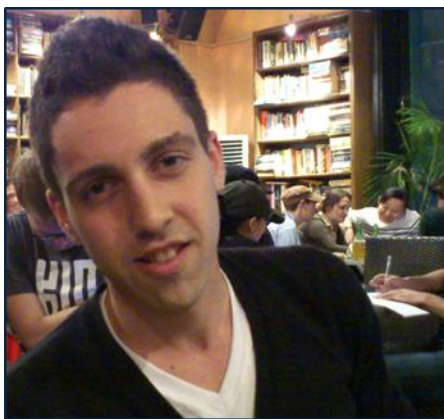
**SHENG PING GUO** is a first-year MA student in the Department of East Asian Studies and Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto. He graduated from Hunan Normal University and York University with a BA (Honours). Sheng has presented papers at international conferences at the University of Toronto and the University of Pennsylvania, and has published papers in the University of Toronto's student academic journal and the American Association for Chinese Studies website. In 2012, he received The Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia Pacific Studies and the Junior Scholar Travel Grant from the American Association for Chinese Studies (AACS). Sheng is interested in topics such as China's soft power, Chinese Cultural Revolution, and Confucianism in Asia.

**MINNA SO-MIN LEE** is a second-year MA student in Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. She received her BA (Honours) with a Specialist in Fine Art History and a Minor in East Asian Studies from the University of Toronto in 2009. Prior to receiving her BA, she participated in an international exchange program at Korea University, South Korea. Throughout her academic career at both universities, she has received many awards including the Harvard-Yenching Library Travel Grant from Harvard University, the Merit Scholarship from Korea University, and the William Taylor Bursary from the University of Toronto. Minna is an emerging contemporary arts writer who is interested in East Asian art history and visual culture. She is the resident intern for Canadian Art magazine. In addition to receiving all of these awards, she was also a recipient of the Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia Pacific Studies in 2011.



**GAULTIER LETOURNEAU-ROSS** is a first-year MA student enrolled in Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto. He grew up in Quebec City, Canada, where he graduated in May 2011 with a BA in Political Science. During his undergraduate studies, he had the opportunity to study abroad for one semester at Purdue University in Indiana. In the summers of 2008 and 2009, Gaultier travelled to China to study Mandarin and teach English. This gave him the opportunity to travel around the country and piqued his strong interest in the Asian Pacific region. After his graduation, he returned to China for a full year of Mandarin studies at Nankai University in Tianjin, with a full scholarship from the China Scholarship Council and a grant from the Quebec Department of International Relations. Living abroad in Germany, the United States and China, and travelling around Europe, Asia, North and Central America and Australia have given him a unique perspective on global issues and contributed to the passion he developed for international politics and economics. Gaultier spends his free time reading about current world affairs, working out and jogging. His other interests include aviation, the world of finance, and cinema.

**JING JING LIU** is a first-year PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, where her studies focus on Social and Cultural Anthropology. She received her MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science at the University of London in 2008. Her dissertation entitled *“A working model of contact: the experience of ‘China goods’ in a Ghanaian marketplace”* received the highest grade in the MSc program and has since been published in the Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology, and received her BSc in Biochemistry and Anthropology from the University of Toronto in 2006. In addition to Jing’s studies, she also works as an Associate Strategist for in-sync Consumer Insight Corp where she is a qualitative researcher using a variety of methods including ethnography, interviews, digital/social media monitoring, and meta-analysis/synthesis to generate deep human understandings. As an anthropologist, she combines data with social science thinking, drawing on foundational and contemporary theories, concepts and frameworks to help translate insights for her clients into strategies for better healthcare outcomes.



**MICHEL MARION** is a first-year MA student enrolled in the Collaborative Master’s Program in Asia-Pacific Studies, focusing on Colonial Korean history at the University of Toronto. During his BA, also at the University of Toronto, he divided his time between studying the colonial period and travelling. Travelling across Asia taught him a lot about the different ways people interact with law in their daily lives under different political systems. Michel’s goal is to expand on the same topic for his PhD. His current focus is law and society during the colonial period with a particular focus on legal consciousness and law in the media. This is Michel’s second time receiving this award, and he was a recipient of the Dr. David Chu Student Leadership Award in 2011.

**MELISSA MOLSON** was born and raised in the east end of Toronto. She completed her undergraduate degree in International Relations at the University of Toronto, while working part-time at TD Canada Trust and later as an Intergovernmental Affairs Officer with the Ontario Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs. Between her third and fourth years of her undergraduate degree, she traveled to Southeast Asia. Upon completing her studies, she left Canada to travel to India, Nepal, and China, ultimately settling in Taiwan. During her time in Taiwan, she worked as an English teacher and later as the Contracts and Placements Co-ordinator for HESS International Educational Organization, the largest English language school in Taiwan. Melissa returned to Toronto in July of 2011, after four and a half years abroad. She is currently the Policy Liaison at the Mowat Centre, an Ontario-based public policy think tank, and is pursuing an MA in Politics and Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto.

**JACOB NERENBERG** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology. His research focus on economic life in eastern Indonesia draws on his experience working as a volunteer for an international NGO there. Prior to his doctoral studies, he obtained a BEng in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University, and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Toronto. Jacob has supervised and participated in numerous collaborative research projects in Indonesia, involving students and faculty from the University of Toronto as well as Indonesian institutions. He has also consulted with a team of computer scientists from Berkeley University implementing a pilot project of low-cost telecommunication infrastructure in eastern Indonesia. Jacob was awarded the Sylvia Forman Prize for the top graduate paper from the Association for Feminist Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association. He has also been a recipient of the Lorna Marshall Fellowship in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Department of Anthropology, a Doctoral Fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Fund for Less-Commonly Taught Languages from the Faculty of Arts and Science. Jacob has been actively involved on campus, representing his department at Graduate Students' Union council and serving as an executive member of the Anthropology Graduate Students Union.

**MICHAEL PICKERING** is a first-year MA student in the Planning Program at the University of Toronto. He completed his BA (Honours) at the University of Victoria, where he majored in both Asian Pacific Studies and Environmental Science, with a Minor in Applied Ethics. From 2010-2011 he participated in a language exchange program to the East China Normal University on a full scholarship. He has travelled extensively around China and Vietnam. From 2011-2012 he lived in Mongolia while conducting ethnographic research on ethnocide through the displacement of Mongolian nomads by the state and the ways in which this has destroyed the delicate environmental balance of grasslands and exacerbated desertification. Michael recently presented his work through a publication and lecture at the International Society for Systems Sciences Conference in Hai Phong,



Vietnam. He has been the recipient of many awards and honours including a University of Toronto Fellowship and a UTAPS Grant. He is also a percussionist and plays world folk music in his leisure time, and is fluent in English, Mandarin, French, Spanish and Vietnamese.



**ZACHARY PRONG** is second-year undergraduate student pursuing a degree in contemporary Asian studies and social anthropology at the University of Toronto. Before moving to Toronto, he lived and worked in China for several years as an English teacher. When Zachary travelled to China after finishing high school, he intended to stay no more than two months, but several years later, China had become his home. His primary area of interest is political economy in China and Southeast Asia. Zachary remains deeply affected by his time there – something that led him to enroll in the Faculty of Arts & Science’s new Contemporary Asian Studies program. He has a passion for learning about China and Asia, and their place in the world. He believes that global economic and political power is quickly shifting to Asia and that it is an incredibly enormous and diverse region, and developments there present the international community with many risks,

challenges, and opportunities. He plans to return to China for a year in the summer of 2013 to study Mandarin. In addition to working with the Global Ideas Institute, Zachary is currently an executive member with the INDePth Conference (Interrogating Notions of Development and Progress), an annual conference organized by students that explores development issues in Asia. The focus of this year’s conference is China.

**JESSIKA TREMBLAY** is second-year PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. She is working under the supervision of Dr. Tania Li and Professor Joshua Barker who are both experts in the anthropology of Indonesia. She completed her BA in African Studies and her MA in Anthropology and Development Studies at McGill University, studying the impact of the One Laptop Per Child program in Rwanda’s primary education system. Her thesis is titled “*Welcome to Kampoeng Cyber: The Internet and Entrepreneurial Community in Indonesia*”. She is currently a research assistant and a teaching assistant. Jessika was a recipient of the Dr. David Chu Scholarship in Asia Pacific Studies in 2012, and the previous award provided her with the opportunity to visit Indonesia for the first time, where she spent four months conducting pilot research and learning the Indonesian language.



**CHESTER YU** is a fourth-year undergraduate student pursuing a double Major in East Asian studies and Asian-Pacific studies. Since the beginning of fall 2012, Chester has been participating in weekly language exchanges organized by the Japan-Canada Student Association (JCSA). In addition to being able to promote good relations between the two countries, he is able to practice spoken Japanese with the

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native speakers and gain insight into the Japanese culture and behaviors. Chester has a great passion for learning languages and is currently taking courses in French, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. He frequently visits the office hours of his professors to discuss culture and to converse in the languages he is learning. He also regularly converses with classmates in these languages to improve his skills. He has recently passed the N4 (high beginner) level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), and he will be taking the JLPT again in December. Chester has been the recipient of multiple awards this past academic year including the Mary Jane Hendrie Memorial Scholarship and the Hoisnec Family Scholarship.

**BANGHAO ZHOU** is an MA student in the in the Collaborative Program in Asia Pacific Studies and Economics at the University of Toronto. He received a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Waterloo in 2011. In addition to his academic studies, Banghao has worked as a lab instructor and a teaching assistant.

### DR. DAVID CHU STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD 2012-2013 RECIPIENTS

**CARMEN HO** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science and a SSHRC Doctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto. She is also the Manager of the Global Ideas Institute and Founder and Co-Chair of the Interdisciplinary Society for International Development (ISID). Her research interests surround sustainable solutions to food insecurity and poverty in low and middle-income countries, and her doctoral research focuses on scaling up child and maternal malnutrition interventions in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and Sub Saharan Africa. She holds an HBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business (University of Western Ontario) and an MSc in International Public Policy from University College London (UCL), and has studied on exchange at the National University of Singapore. Prior to entering the PhD program, she was an Economic Development Officer in the Philippines, working with Bohol's Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) to scale up sustainable rice production on a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded project. She also spent two years with SECOR Consulting, Canada's largest independent management consulting firm, providing advisory services for public and private sector clients.





**BETTY JIA YI XIE** is a third-year undergraduate student in Cinema Studies and Asia Pacific Studies. Last summer she traveled to China to take part in two courses - one about political differences between Shanghai and Beijing and the other about contemporary Chinese cinema. Betty has travelled and studied all over China on several occasions and is fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese. Her goal for the trip was to examine the relationship between the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese cinema, to film additional footage for a documentary she is directing about Taiwanese political identity, and as the co-chair of the INDePth (Interrogating Notions of Development and Progress) conference, to build connections with students and scholars specializing in sustainable development in China. Outside of her studies, she is also an editor of the Asia Pacific Reader, an interactive online platform for the research, discussion and publication of academic material concerning East Asia.

Betty was also the recipient of the Dr. David Chu Student Leadership Award for 2011-12.

