



University of
Lethbridge

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Lethbridge medal winners shine for 2021 Spring Convocation

The University of Lethbridge is excited to celebrate the achievements of its newest graduates this week during our online 2021 Spring Convocation.

Distinguishing themselves among the many outstanding graduates are the U of L's medal winners for 2021. They are as follows:

Gold Medal of the Governor General — Douglas Turnbull

(Awarded to the student with the highest academic standing at the graduate level)

See writeup below

Silver Medal of the Governor General — Janelle Bykowski

(Awarded to the student with the highest academic standing at the undergraduate level)

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry, Bykowski conducted research in chemistry professor Dr. Michael Gerken's lab. Under his supervision, she completed two independent studies and an honours thesis. Bykowski will be continuing her education at the University of Alberta. [Read More](#)

Undergraduate Academic Medals

Faculty of Arts & Science Gold Medal (Arts) — Grace Forster

A political science student with minors in philosophy and French, Grace Forster recently completed her honours thesis on labour party development. Not only has she excelled in her political science courses, she embodies the goals of the liberal education model, completing two minors in addition to her major. Her undergraduate research has led to publication in an undergraduate philosophy journal, and she has also presented her research at the Association of Political Science Students' Research Colloquium. Her excellence in French language and literature led to her receiving the French Language Centre Book Prize in 2020. [Read more](#)

Faculty of Arts & Science Gold Medal (Science) — Jhanvi Mehta

Jhanvi Mehta completed an honours thesis studying the effects of cannabis on stroke recovery and has been awarded NSERC and AIHS grants to fulfill her research. Mehta

also volunteered extensively in Dr. Robbin Gibb's laboratory, and is applying for medical school to further her education. As notable as her achievements inside the classroom are her contributions to the broader community. She has been acknowledged for years of volunteer work at Chinook Regional Hospital with a Leaders of Tomorrow Award, the Healthcare Professionals of Tomorrow Award, and has been a two-time volunteer of the month. She was also a staunch supporter of the University's Let's Talk Science initiative. [Read more](#)

Faculty of Education Gold Medal — Lacey Rose

Lacey Rose completed her after-degree program in the Fall of 2020 with a Bachelor of Education in Physical Education and a minor in science education. Rose graduates with the highest academic standing in the Faculty of Education. She also excelled in her field experience placements. Her PS III internship at Lakeview school in Lethbridge required shifting from online to in-person teaching multiple times — all of which was done with skill, exceptional planning and care for the learning needs of the students. [Read more](#)

Alberta Teacher's Association William Aberhart Gold Medal in Education — Sophia Larney

Sophia Larney completed her after degree in April 2021 with a Bachelor of Education in Social Studies. Larney excelled academically as well as in her field experience placements. At St. Paul's school in Lethbridge, she was noted for building strong relationships with her students and having a strong presence in the classroom. Poised and self-confident, she presented her professional inquiry project at the semi-annual PS III symposium which investigated outdoor learning in core subjects. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Fine Arts Gold Medal — Dylan Bauer

Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts - Multidisciplinary allowed Dylan Bauer to play saxophone for the U of L Jazz Ensemble, take courses in music, art, and new media, while maintaining a focus in technical theatre. He extended his academic excellence into the humanities, social sciences and sciences, all while participating in 19 theatrical productions. Bauer also held the role of technical director for the student-run theatre program Theatrextra for two years. [Read more](#)

Faculty of Health Sciences Gold Medal — Cassandra Zucht

Cassandra Zucht, a Bachelor of Nursing graduate, stood out as an engaged student who cared about her work, her peers and her clients. Her maturity and self-awareness were characteristics that shone brightly in all her work, most notably in her senior preceptorship. Zucht embodies the caring, curious and dedicated student who will be a valuable and committed member of the nursing profession. [Read more](#)

Dhillon School of Business Gold Medal — Eric Turner

A Bachelor of Management graduate, Eric Turner completed a major in finance and a minor in family and small business management. A talented student who is curious, fully involved, engaged, hard-working, disciplined and driven, he was a strong role model to

his peers and brought teams he worked with to a higher level of learning. Turner participated as a member of the CFA (Certified Financial Analyst) research challenge team and excelled in multiple extra-curricular activities. [Read more](#)

Graduate Academic Medals

School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit, Doctor of Philosophy — Douglas Turnbull

Dr. Douglas Turnbull completed his doctoral work at the Canadian Centre for Advanced Fluorine Technologies under the supervision of Dr. Michael Gerken. In Turnbull's experimentally challenging research, he prepared novel fluoro tungsten complexes that are fundamentally important because of the range of their geometries. His research is highly impactful as it will serve to predict and explain geometries of new compounds. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at McGill University. [Read more](#)

School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit, Master of Arts — Kacie Neamtu

Kacie Neamtu's *Pedagogy in Practice: an exploration of writing instruction in a high school English Language Arts classroom*, brilliantly models the layers of expert knowledge that inform effective writing instruction in schools. Her work promises to provide new foundations for the design of teacher professional development programs, and pre-service literacy education programs. Celebrating this potential, the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, honoured Kacie with The J. Estill Alexander Future Leaders in Literacy Award. [Read More](#)

School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit, Master of Nursing — Czarina Balbina Bonifacio

Czarina Balbina Bonifacio's interest in the Health Care Aid workforce, whose voice until now had not been heard, demonstrates her commitment to enhancing the health of all Canadians. Her recommendations will undoubtedly help employers support this essential health care workforce. [Read More](#)

School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit, Master of Education — Kathryn Desrochers

Kathryn Desrochers excelled in all aspects of study, showing attention to detail and disciplined focus. Desrochers was a valued member of her cohort and always supported her peers. Since completing her MEd, she has made several presentations to successive graduate student cohorts and school leaders to share her research and experiences with the scholarly process. Her thesis marks the beginning of her academic journey as she considers future doctoral studies. [Read More](#)

School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit, Master of Science (Management) — Matthew Sentes

Matthew Sentes, a finance major, is known as a thoughtful, very hard-working and ideal student. His thesis, *Director Charter and Firm Performance: Evidence from Canada*, was extremely rigorous and of the highest quality. [Read more](#)

University of Lethbridge 2021 Spring Convocation is a virtual celebration this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For all things convocation related, visit the dedicated web page: uleth.ca/convocation/class-2021.

To view online: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/medal-winners-shine-2021-spring-convocation#.YMpWFZNKhAc>

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