



**2021/2022 Executive Committee**

Dino Vito – Chair  
Michael Etezad - Secretary  
Billy Singh – Regional Director  
Amir Poshnejad – Treasurer  
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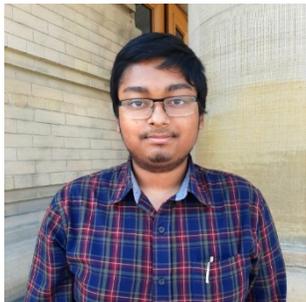
Aly Abdelaziz – Event Lead  
Isabel Perez – Event Lead  
Rajib Dey – Event Lead  
Sen Hu – Event Lead

Vanessa Marshall – Sponsorship  
Bill Li - Membership and Award  
Mike Diez de Aux – Communication  
Rashid Bashir – Student Liaison

**2021 CGS-SOS Undergraduate Scholarship Award Recipients**

Canadian Geotechnical Society, Southern Ontario Section (CGS-SOS) is pleased to announce the recipients of 2021 Undergraduate scholarships. The intent of these scholarships is to encourage students to study and enter the practice of geotechnical engineering. Six universities in Ontario were attended in the scholarship program and one student for each university was selected. The scholarship amount is \$500 each and was awarded to the students with the highest mark in geotechnical course in Academic Term 2020-2021. In addition to the cash award, CGS-SOS will also pay for the one-year student CGS membership recipient.

The 2021 CGS-SOS Undergraduate Scholarship Award recipients are:

		
<p><b>Lisa Deng</b> <b>McMaster University</b></p>	<p><b>Urooma Samoon</b> <b>York University</b></p>	<p><b>Md Shadman Samin</b> <b>University of Toronto</b></p>
		
<p><b>Mitch Cotic</b> <b>Western University</b></p>	<p><b>Martin Chrabalowski</b> <b>University of Waterloo</b></p>	<p><b>Xiaoyu Hao</b> <b>Ryerson University</b></p>



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**Lisa Deng, McMaster University**



My name is Lisa Deng and I'm honoured to be receiving the undergraduate scholarship from Canadian Geotechnical Society. I'm expecting to begin my final year in completing my bachelor's in civil engineering at McMaster university during fall of 2022. One of the things I love the most about my program is its diversity in subjects. Geotechnical engineering was newly introduced to me and that's when a new curiosity peaked in my academic career. Throughout my three years at McMaster University, my understanding of what civil engineering encompasses has changed drastically and broadens every day. Geotechnical engineering is a captivating study in which I hope to continue to further my understanding in. As a current construction intern at Enbridge Gas Distribution, I hope to find an opportunity to shadow the geotechnical sector within the company. I see value in hands on experiences and applying in class knowledge to real life problems. This award has defiantly encouraged me to continue to further in geotechnical studies and I look forward to what the future holds.

**Urooma Samoon, York University**

Urooma Samoon is a First-Class Civil Engineering graduate from Lassonde School of Engineering at York University. During her undergraduate studies, Urooma took an interest in geotechnical engineering applications. She worked under the supervision of her professor on a research project with regards to groundwater recharge and climate change as the recipient of the Lassonde Undergraduate Research Award. During her research, she learned that climate change is real and as engineers we need to learn how it can impact engineering applications. Urooma further explored her interests in the geotechnical field for her forth year capstone project which revolved around geotechnical and transportation improvements for the Port Lands site in Toronto, Ontario. The geotechnical services provided focused on foundation design recommendations for the Lakeshore Boulevard bridge. The team used modelling software to justify the use of micropiles foundation. Urooma will be starting her Master of Applied Science in Civil Engineering at Lassonde in Fall 2021. She will continue her studies within the geotechnical field and hopes to further understand how as engineers we can adapt and mitigate to climate change.



## The Canadian Geotechnical Society Southern Ontario Section



## La Société Canadienne de Géotechnique Section Sud de l'Ontario

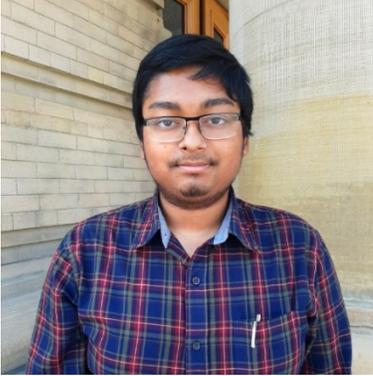
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### **Md Shadman Samin, University of Toronto**



My name is Shadman. My interest for geotechnical engineering sprung from my coursework in my third year of studies. I learned a lot of the basics of what goes into geotechnical engineering and found out how much of an impact this field of civil engineering has on our society and everything that we build. I was deeply motivated to try and pursue further learning opportunities in this field. I was very grateful to be granted the opportunity to work with Professor Mason Ghafghazi to learn about triaxial testing, and the background behind this work, as well as learning many geotechnical concepts such as critical state lines and the effects of grain size distribution. In September 2021, I will be continuing my civil engineering undergraduate degree into my final year of studies, where I plan to learn a lot more about geotechnical engineering.

### **Mitch Cotic, Western University**

I was first exposed to soil mechanics in a landscaping summer job, early on in my Civil Engineering program at Western University. That small experience later landed me a truly invaluable internship with a shoring and deep foundations contractor, who performs high-end projects all over Ontario. I spent a year out in the mud and cold and got an appreciation for the many challenges involved in making a geotechnical project happen in real life. Even though I was a Field Engineer, I was given ample opportunity to learn from the project engineers and challenge myself in the technical side of things, which I greatly appreciated. This fueled more interest in the geotechnical stream as I returned to university and undertook a fourth-year capstone project. Our project was in the area of stormwater management, but I had the chance to perform a detailed slope stability analysis for a natural ravine, which contributed to our group placing 2nd in the design competition. As of late, I am working at a family farm and preparing to enter the M.Eng. program in the geotechnical stream this September. I am delighted to receive the CGS scholarship, and one piece of advice I would give to other students is to get experience on the field. No experience is wasted if you can challenge yourself to find ways to learn from it!



Website: <http://www.cgs-sos.ca>

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**Martin Chrabalowski, University of Waterloo**

My name is Martin Chrabalowski and I am a recent graduate from the Geological Engineering program at the University of Waterloo. During my undergraduate degree, I have worked with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Wood, among others. At the TTC I developed my interest in geotechnical engineering, especially with respect to tunneling. At Wood, I was introduced to slope stability analyses for tailings dams. During my final co-op term, I received an NSERC USRA to modernize legacy FORTAN code to develop a discrete element model for granular media. My knowledge of slope stability was supplemented by geotechnical courses and a capstone project, which placed first in the MTE Pitch Competition in Fall 2020, based on the hazard mitigation of an unstable rock slope in Norway. I have just started my employment with Wood as a Junior Geotechnical Engineer. In terms of extra curriculars, I am involved with the Canadian Ski Patrol, and enjoy camping, hiking, and cooking.



**Xiaoyu Hao, Ryerson University**



My name is Xiaoyu Hao. I am now finishing my final year of Bachelor of Engineering degree at Ryerson University. Over my study life I think Geotechnical Engineering will be the foundation of society. And this got proved in my final year Capstone project. When we design a high-rise building, all the loadings are ending at foundation and soil. In other words, our geotechnical engineering is the primary and most important security assurance. We need to ensure all the calculations are accurate and precise. At the same time, engineering know that soil is a very intriguing material. Therefore, we must do more research test on soil. In Summer Research, I was lucky enough to touch the real Geotechnical Engineerings' work with real soil data from GTA area. My job was to create a database to store and manage the data. Therefore, I need to read and understand those tests. From this experience, I learned how complicated the material of soil is. Also, I know that I am lacking in the Geotechnical Engineering area. Therefore, I plan to continue my graduate studies in geotechnical engineering at Ryerson University. This scholarship will help me prepare myself for real geotechnical challenges in my career ahead.