July 10, 2015

KEGS Foundation Announcement

20 Geophysics Scholarships Awarded for 2015/16

For Immediate Release

The Directors of the KEGS Foundation are very pleased to announce the awarding of a near-record 20 scholarships totalling more than $17,000 to ten undergraduate and ten graduate students in geophysics at thirteen Canadian universities for the forthcoming academic year (2015/16).

These awards mark the sixteenth year of the KEGS Foundation’s scholarship program directed at fostering the education of future geophysicists in Canada. The high number of recipients and the level of scholarship awards for 2015/16 reflect both the number of well qualified applicants and the continued strong financial support of the Foundation by the geophysical and exploration community across Canada despite a significantly reduced level of overall activity in the mineral resource sector. In focusing its efforts on supporting undergraduates, the Foundation regrets that its resources were not sufficient to extend support to several well-qualified and deserving graduate students.

The ten undergraduate recipients from eight universities who have been awarded KEGS Foundation scholarships for 2015/16 are:

- Beatriz Lombeida, Memorial University (WAMIC Scholarship)
- Jennifer Adam, University of New Brunswick
- Zachary Sala, Queen’s University
- Anastasia Smolina, McMaster University
- Wesley Campbell, University of Waterloo
- Sean Bettac and Robert Ritchie, University of Alberta
- Matthew Griffiths (BCGS Scholarship) and Collin Paul (KEGS Pioneers Scholarship), University of Victoria
- Gustavo Avendano, University of British Columbia
The ten graduate students (six MSc and four PhD candidates) from six universities who received KEGS Foundation scholarships to support the commencement or continuation of their graduate studies in 2015/16, are:

Pierrick Lamontagne-Hallé (MSc), Université de Laval

Dong Shi (PhD), University of Toronto (GSC Pioneers Scholarship) ®

Johnson Ha (MASc) and Qi Zhao (PhD), University of Toronto (Engineering)

Michael Cunningham (MSc), Carleton University (CGG Airborne Geophysics Scholarship) ®

Sara McPeak (MSc), Carleton University

E. Judith Elliott (MSc), Queen’s University

Derek Kouhi (MSc) (Limion Scholarship) and Hadis Alinia (PhD), Western University

Yongxing Li (PhD), Laurentian University

The amount of each scholarship awarded is generally between $750 to $2,000, depending on the recipient’s merit and need and the available Foundation funds. The recipients of specific endowed scholarships recognizing particular excellence, indicated capacity for innovation and/or career orientation are noted above, and renewals of prior awards indicated by ®. (Details of the endowed scholarships may be found on the Foundation’s website.)

Depending on circumstances, additional assistance in the form of travel bursaries up to $250 has been allocated to facilitate various recipients’ participation in future KEGS or BCGS events.

Additionally, five graduate students, Peter Oliver (MSc), Ray Caron ® (PhD), Kyle Harris ® (PhD) and Maxim Ralchenko ® (PhD), Carleton University; and Wajahat Ali (PhD), Western University, are eligible for travel bursaries up to $250 to facilitate their participation in upcoming KEGS events in Toronto.

In addition, thanks to generous support by KEGS, all of the above awardees will also receive a free KEGS membership entitling them to fully subsidized participation at a KEGS Geophysical Breakfast and at the annual KEGS Symposium during the upcoming year. All students will also be encouraged to participate in local professional societies, and, where relevant, to present their research at a suitable event.
Lastly, the KEGS Foundation wishes to congratulate those Canadian students who have received scholarships from the SEG Foundation, including several past recipients of KEGS Foundation support, notably Sara Devriese (University of British Columbia) who received a Stan Ward Scholarship.

The Directors extend their best wishes for further success to all the above recipients in their studies and future careers. They also acknowledge with gratitude the continuing support of the Foundation and its scholarship program by the Canadian exploration and geophysical community, including recent major donations by Phoenix Geophysics, Lamontagne Geophysics, BC Geophysical Society, KEGS, Agnico-Eagle, Peter Kowalczyk and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame, along with various individuals who took advantage of the Foundation’s matching donation program established with very generous corporate and individual support. Renewed support is encouraged to enable the continuation of this important program in future years.

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