

## Ryerson University

The St. George's Society of Toronto / Bill Davis Graduate Entrance Awards in Public Policy and Administration will recognize academic excellence and provide support for two incoming students enrolled in the MPPA Program.

### Award Winners:

#### **Evangeline Lu (2021)**



Evangeline Lu is a full-time student in the Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration program (2021-2022) at Ryerson University. She has been a healthcare professional for over five years with experience providing health services in rural communities, clinics, and hospital settings. She holds three Bachelor's Degrees with Honors in Chemical Biology, Health Sciences, and Nursing with consistent high academic standing. She has diverse volunteering experience over the past decade, ranging from ESL tutoring at community centers to helping clients with schizophrenia in day programs to health promotion activities at the local youth shelter. She is driven to do the best she can for her community because she understands the differences that these changes can make for individuals from marginalized communities, having grown up facing language barriers, social isolation, and financial insecurities as a first-generation immigrant. Most recently, she had been working on the frontlines as a Registered Nurse during the pandemic as well as a contractor for the Ministry of Health in COVID-19 case management, focusing on the delivery of public health policies. As a nurse, she's had the privilege to advocate for patients, their families, and the nursing profession on issues of health disparity and social injustice. Bringing her experience and insight from healthcare, Evangeline hopes to pursue a career in public service to continue to make a difference for people of all walks of life by participating in the making and delivery of fair, balanced, and equitable social and health policies.

#### **Julia Anker (2021)**



Julie Anker is a full-time student in the Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration program at Ryerson University. She graduated from Western University with an Honours Specialization in Political Science. During her undergraduate career, Julie volunteered at Mine101, which is a second-hand clothing store that is affiliated with Anova. Anova provides safe places, shelter, support, counselling, and resources for women and their children. Julie also had the opportunity to be a representative for the USC Women in House initiative where she shadowed a female Member of Parliament for a day in Ottawa. This experience helped Julie develop personal and professional awareness of women's representation in Parliament. Julie is passionate about women's rights and will continue to advocate for women's rights upon receiving her degree.

#### **Maria Rodriguez (2020)**



Maria Rodriguez is a full-time student (2020-21) in the Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration program at Ryerson University. She was born in Colombia and, at the age of six, immigrated with her family to Canada with hopes of escaping violence and finding a better life and future. The family settled first in Peterborough, and then in St. Catharines. She holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Brock University (2017), and was awarded the Distinguished Graduating Student Award for graduating with the highest academic standing in the program. During undergraduate degree studies, she had the opportunity to organize a Women In House shadow program aimed at increasing female participation in politics. Since graduation, she has worked as a program manager for an expense management firm, focusing on telecommunications policy and implementation. In 2019, she decided to transition her career and focus on her passion for policy. After finishing the MPPA program she hopes to pursue a career in the public sector pertaining to immigration and social policy - which are her main areas of interest, with the hope of making a difference to immigrant and vulnerable communities.

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#### Glyn Narca (2020)

Glyn Narca is a Masters of Arts in Public Policy Candidate at Ryerson University. She graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Equity Studies. During her undergraduate career, Glyn worked with the Filipino Students' Association of Toronto (FSAT) in organizing the mentorship program for young Filipino students. She also worked as a Youth Settlement Work providing social services to newcomer youth in Toronto, which she continued on after graduation. Her interest lies in not only advocating for, but also working with, the Filipino community in Canada in addressing the unique challenges experienced by the community through public policy. Upon receiving her degree, she intends to help develop alternative policies that will be beneficial to newcomer youth in Canada.

#### Natassja Bilinski (2020)

The unique challenges associated with stewardship of the complex body politic of Canada motivated Natassja to pursue a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration at Ryerson University with a focus on citizen-oriented governance; specifically, how public consultations might offer an integrous process of generating informed democratic engagement and anti-oppressive policies and theories. As the first in her family to pursue a post-secondary degree, Natassja is keenly aware of the importance of education for self-empowerment and community building. Recently graduated from the University of Waterloo (UW) in Honours Political Science and Legal Studies, Natassja has been privileged to hone and accrue knowledge in public policy and law from a diverse curriculum, mentorship from a variety of scholars, and experiential opportunities, so as to diversify her intellectual capacities and develop her personal interest in political education and legal advocacy. These experiences culminated in the writing of an original honours essay on agglomeration economics ("Location, the Crux of Cluster Economics: A Case Study of Toronto's Financial Services Cluster"). Natassja supplemented these scholastic achievements with a myriad of legal and public policy-relevant extracurricular commitments such as: Director of Education and Outreach, UW Model Parliament; Assistant Director, UW Model G20; Competitor, UW Model United Nations; Director of Relations, UW Undergraduate Mock Trial; and Competitor, Osgoode Cup Moot Court Competition. These collaborative experiences taught her how to cultivate trust and legitimacy, steer vibrant legal and political discussions, and listen to the voices of students with diverse backgrounds and interests. Natassja hopes to prosper as a capable and integrous participant within the larger legal-policy environment of Canada.

#### Chante Barnwell (2019)

Chante Barnwell is a full-time student in the Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration program at Ryerson University. Born in Toronto, Canada, Chante is a multidisciplinary visual artist, documentarian and scholar, who in 2014, obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree, Specialist in Art and Culture, Major in Studio (Visual Arts) and a Minor in Art History from the University of Toronto. In 2018, she graduated from Ryerson University with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Documentary Media and has held leadership positions in several local, national and international initiatives, accumulating over 5000 volunteer hours. Due to her academic excellence and community contributions to various organizations across the City of Toronto, Chante was selected as the 2009 (OCNA) Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year award winner, representing Scarborough and was honoured by the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley, at a ceremony in the Ontario Legislative building, Queen's Park. While conducting research for her MFA degree, she became interested in the social and political implications of cultural policy, which led her to pursue a second Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. Upon graduating from the MPPA program in 2020, she will continue to contribute her time to community initiatives that focus on social justice, art, culture and citizen-centred policy implementation in Canada.