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## MEDIA RELEASE

## Pair of SFU students share \$180,000 in Schulich scholarships

September 14, 2017

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**Photos:** <http://i.sfu.ca/ZJMivd>

New students Basil Giannopoulos and Jasmine Rai are Simon Fraser University's recipients of the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarships, awarded annually to high school graduates enrolling in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) undergraduate program at participating universities in Canada and Israel.

Giannopoulos, a graduate of Gleneagle Secondary School in Coquitlam, is the recipient of the engineering scholarship valued at \$100,000 and Rai, a graduate of Princess Margaret Secondary School in Surrey, receives \$80,000.

Both begin their studies at SFU this September. Giannopoulos is pursuing a bachelor of science in engineering physics, while Rai is pursuing a bachelor of science with a joint major in computer science as well as molecular biology and biochemistry. They were selected for their outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements, which are core requirements for the scholarship.

Giannopoulos says: "I feel incredibly grateful having earned the Schulich Scholarship, which will allow me to focus primarily on my academics. I couldn't have achieved this without the support of my teachers and family members."

Rai says: "The Schulich Leader Scholarship will continue to open many doors for me as I can continue to explore my interests and pursue my passion without any worries of financial burden. As a recipient of this prestigious award, I am excited to have this opportunity to be a part of this vast network of young innovators. I hope to channel my passion for STEM to create opportunities for the betterment of society."

Upon graduating at Gleneagle, Giannopoulos finished with stellar a 4.00 grade point average, out of a possible 4.00, and won several top student awards including the Governor General's bronze Academic Medal, which is awarded to the high school student with the highest grade-point-average from their respective high school. Outside of the classroom, they volunteered in their community to help young children develop an interest in, and learn about, STEM-related programs.

Upon graduation from Princess Margaret Rai, who also boasts a perfect 4.00 grade point average, has earned multiple academic awards in mathematics, science and language arts. Outside of the classroom, she volunteered countless hours as a peer tutor at her school as well as tutoring young neighbourhood children in STEM-related courses.

**ABOUT SCHULICH LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Schulich Leader Scholarships are prestigious entrance scholarships awarded to high school graduates enrolling in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) undergraduate program at participating universities in Canada and Israel. Recognizing the increasing importance and impact that STEM disciplines will have on the prosperity of future generations, businessman and philanthropist Seymour Schulich established this \$100 million scholarship fund in 2011 to encourage our best and brightest students to become the next pioneers of global scientific research and innovation.

This program awards 100 scholarships annually, valued at more than \$7 million. High schools across the country put forth more than 1,300 Schulich Leader Nominees who were vying for 50 Canadian scholarships. Schulich Leaders can devote their full time and attention to their studies, as all of their financial needs are covered over the course of their degree. Canada's highest potential students are winning these scholarships and will make remarkable contributions to society.

#### **ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:**

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university "to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities" Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey "SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 135,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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