

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **SIAS Kelsey graduation honours students**

*Awards recognize innovation and commitment to community*

**May 28, 2009** – SIAS Kelsey Campus will honour students tomorrow during its annual graduation ceremony. Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO, and other dignitaries will be on hand for the presentation of three major awards during the SIAS Kelsey Campus graduation ceremony. The awards include a SIAS honorary diploma, the SIAS Student Innovation Award, a SIAS Student Outstanding Citizenship Award and two Governor General's Academic Medals.

A **SIAS honorary diploma** will be awarded to Kerry Peru, a senior organic mass spectrometry technologist with the Aquatic Ecosystem Protection Research Division, Science and Technology Branch of Environment Canada. Peru is a highly respected graduate of SIAS's Chemical Technology program and is best known for his work in the field of mass spectrometry. To date, Peru has authored and co-authored more than 40 journal articles. He has also been a speaker at many conferences and workshops. Peru is very interested in advancing education in the area of Chemical Technology. He has served as a technical supervisor for graduate students researching organic contaminants in aquatic environments. He has also acted as chair of the program advisory committee for the Chemical Technology program at SIAS and is currently president of the SIAS Chemical Technology Alumni group.

The **SIAS Student Innovation Award** recognizes a proven capacity for innovative thinking or problem solving in a particular field of study that goes beyond course requirements. This year's winner of the SIAS Student Innovation Award is Tanner Barmantloo. Barmantloo is graduating from the Electronic Systems Engineering Technology program. Working with an existing piece of equipment, Barmantloo developed a therapeutic ultrasound power metre such that the total cost for the metre was lowered significantly. His efforts benefited the Canadian Food for the Hungry International, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the poor and marginalized in developing nations.

The prestigious **Governor General's Academic Medals** will be presented to Barbara Schmitz and Anita Sthankiya by Dr. Robert McCulloch on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. Schmitz, a graduate of the Medical Laboratory Technology

program and recipient of a SIAST Achievement Scholarship, received the collegiate bronze medal for achieving the highest overall average upon graduation from a diploma-level SIAST Kelsey program. After graduation, she will be working as a medical laboratory technologist for the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

Anita Sthankiya will receive the bronze medal for achieving the highest standing in secondary programming at SIAST Kelsey Campus. Sthankiya was also the recipient of the John Stratyckuk Memorial Scholarship. She is currently working on a bachelor of arts with a major in cultural studies.

The **SIAST Student Outstanding Citizenship award** recognizes commitment to the SIAST community beyond the responsibilities of program requirements. It will be presented to Vanessa Kostiuk. Kostiuk is currently finishing her second year of the Medical Radiation Technology program. She is an active volunteer who has served on the students' association and was a grad representative for her class. Kostiuk stepped up and allowed herself to be interviewed by prospective students at applicant information sessions.

Media are invited to attend:

**Date:** **Friday, May 29, 2009**

**Time:** **9:00a.m.**

Presentation of the SIAST honorary diploma and the SIAST Student Innovation Award

**1:30 p.m.**

Presentation of the Governor General's Academic Medals and the SIAST Student Outstanding Citizenship Award

**Location:** **TCU Place  
Saskatoon, SK**

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 13,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 32,000 individual course registrations. It operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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