

Matthew Dyck wins Students' Union Award for Excellence

SIWEI CHEN
Student Awards Office

When asked what super villain he would like to be, this year's Students' Union Award for Excellence winner chose Dr. Otto Octavius, or Dock Ock, one of Spiderman's most dangerous opponents. Matthew Dyck, graduating with an Engineering Physics and Nanoengineering Option degree, called Dock Ock an "engineer's dream", especially because he is thinking of working in medical robotics.

The Students' Union Award for Excellence is the Students' Union's most prestigious award. It is only awarded to students in their graduating year who have a minimum grade point average of 3.5, show involvement in extracurricular activities as well as a demonstrated skill in working with others.

Matthew, with a 4.0 GPA, and an extensive extracurricular repertoire, stood out amongst the other applicants.

"In pursuing academic excellence, my piece of advice would be: Everything matters," Matthew said.

He discouraged students from working hard on some assignments and allowing themselves to relax on others, and he stressed the importance of understanding all of the material thoroughly rather than guessing what may or may not be on a test.

"I work really hard. I'm putting in a lot

of time all the time, it seems. So I think my secret is a lot of elbow grease."

Some of his time-management techniques come from David Allen's work-life management system and book, *Getting Things Done*, where Matthew implements some of the techniques of managing his tasks and to-do lists.

However, Matthew noted that it is not possible to give a hundred percent to everything in spite of his desire to do his best, and he cited keeping things in balance as his greatest challenge.

"So I think my secret is a lot of elbow grease."

MATTHEW DYCK
STUDENT AWARD WINNER

"You have to keep your priorities in check. When you're making and investing that effort in some task, make sure you keep it in balance with other things... [and] devoting your time to things that really matter."

Guiding his priorities are a number of people in Matthew's life as well as his faith. Most notably, a had faced a great challenge around the age of thirteen: his mother's fight with cancer.

"Having come through some of those adversities and growing stronger

through them rather than buckling under the pressure, I think that would be a time where I can really look back and say, "Yeah, I was changed for the better."

Because of the difficulties his mother faced, an article on nanotechnology in chemotherapy drug delivery piqued his interest, guiding his career choice to engineering. To further his interest in the field, Matthew began working as a Project Management Coordinator within the MicroSystems Technology Research Initiative (MSTRI) in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta. Matthew spoke highly of his supervisor, Raymond Lemieux, for being a source of inspiration and a mentor.

"Ray really went out of his way to allow me to draw on his extensive network of contacts, to build my own network of contacts, send me to conferences, allow me to develop new skills and try new things."

Ultimately, Matthew believed that to do anything well, it has to be motivated from within rather than from an external source to achieve excellence.

"I remember something saying, 'If you need someone to get a job done, a slave will do it well, a mercenary will do it better, and a volunteer will outshine them both.' And that has stuck with me."

"[Winning the Students' Union Award for Excellence] is a tremendous honour...I'm humbled because I know



there are a lot of really good students on this campus who have selflessly devoted themselves to many worthy causes and pursued academic excellence and excellence in many areas of life, so to be

selected for this is a great honor." In the future, Matthew wants to do a Master's degree, and he hopes to work in Alberta in the long term.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD WINNERS!

ALBERTA TREASURY BRANCHES VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

- Aly Bhatia
- Darren Liviniuk

BILL SMITH STUDENT MENTORSHIP AWARD

- Kaitley Buller
- Angela Han

CIBC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AWARD

- Lu Qiao

CRISTAL MAR MEMORIAL AWARD

- Saadiq Sumar
- Mallory Nault

DEAN MORTENSEN AWARD

- Sarah Howe
- Annika Palm

DR. RANDY GREGG ATHLETICS AWARD

- Caitlin Buckell
- Fiona McCallum

EDO JAPAN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

- Namrita Amarnani
- Chia Shen Sow
- Natasha Kedia
- Kelts Hill
- Michael Schlegelmilch

EUGENE L. BRODY AWARD

- Sarah Beck
- Peter Iglinski

GATEWAY STUDENT JOURNALISM SOCIETY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE

- Steven Andersen
- Aaron Yeo

HILDA WILSON MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

- Lei Liu
- Pearl Tan

HOOVER-MUNROE ACADEMIC AWARD

- Matthew Li
- Alexandra Knebel

JAVA JIVE MERCHANTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Ryan Beck
- Laura Brookbanks
- Vanessa Johnson

LORNE CALHOUN MEMORIAL AWARD

- Elauna Boutwell
- Stephen Lee

ROYAL BANK FINANCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- Alexei Khair Mokhammad

ROYAL BANK STUDENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- Harry Chandler

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM AWARD

- Scott Fenwick
- Janine Hancock

SUBWAY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

- Malika Ladha

TACO TIME OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE AWARD

- Lance Chung
- Lillian Du
- Jonathan (Jung-Lynn) Yang

TEVIE MILLER INVOLVEMENT AWARD

- Alexis Young
- Dustin Chelen

TOM LANCASTER MEMORIAL AWARD

- Steven Dollansky
- Robert Lees-Miller

STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR

- Make Poverty History

STUDENT GROUP COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD

- Pakistani Students' Association
- Iranian Students' Association University of Alberta

STUDENT GROUP BEST EVENT AWARD

- Indian Students' Association 'Diwali'

STUDENT GROUP ACADEMIC SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Interdepartmental Science Students' Society

GREEN GURU — EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Arvin Abedi
- Stefanie Drozda
- Brett Hotchkiss

SALUTE AWARD

- Dr. Brian Maraj
- Marina De Rementeria
- Dr. Feng Dai

THE MAIMIE S. SIMPSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Lu Qiao

THE REGINALD CHARLES LISTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Matthew Li
- Adam Humble
- Cian Hackett

THE ALUMNI 75TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP

- Kevin Zuo

THE ALUMNI ADVANTAGE AWARD

- Bethany Ostrowerka
- Eric C. Y. Leung

THE TD INSURANCE MELOCHE MONNEX LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Lee Rehak

THE HONOURABLE DR. LOIS E. HOLE STUDENT SPIRIT AWARD

- Leona Semenoff

GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Chelsea Bedrejo
- Emerson Caorba
- Steven Dollansky
- Angela Han
- Darren Liviniuk
- Chris Skappak
- Kayla Stan
- Craig Turner
- Jonathan (Jung-Lynn) Yang

COCA COLA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Mandy Marie Archibald
- Debraj Das
- Rowan El-Bialy
- Cian Hackett
- Chongys Niu
- Mohamed Hassan Sharshar
- Rannie Tao
- Dalton Terhorst
- Logan Wiwchar
- Kevin Zuo

STUDENTS' UNION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

- Matthew Dyck

