2015 Board of Governors’ Elections
Candidates for Graduate Student Position

1. Natale Dankotuwage, Master of Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation student

Natale is a current candidate for the Master of Design in Strategic Foresight & Innovation at OCAD U. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Post-Colonial History from the University of Toronto. Over the past few years she has been exploring the development of sustainable inclusive third spaces and has been on the Board of Sri Lankans Without Borders.

Natale says: “Natale Dankotuwage is a graduate student. She is pursuing a Masters in Strategic Foresight and Innovation. Prior to attending OCAD she was an Asia Foundation and IDEX Accelerator Fellow, which has provided her with extensive experience working in the developing world. As a Student Board Governor she is driven to advocate for inclusive, equitable, informative and affordable space for the collective student body.”

2. Elisha Lim, Master of Fine Arts, Criticism & Curatorial Practice student

Elisha is a current candidate for the Master of Fine Arts in Criticism & Curatorial Practice at OCAD U. They completed their Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and English and a Master of Arts in English Literature from the University of Toronto. Elisha has work experience in art galleries, and in the roles of public relations, administration, and freelance illustration and graphic design as well as their own art practice.

Elisha says: “I am in the Masters of Critical Curatorial Practice, with a background in graphic novels and social movements. I’m inspired by OCAD because of its arsenal of networks, which I see constantly sparking radical ideas around me like a creative ground zero. I believe that this could become even more electric if it mined deeper into Toronto’s greatest strength - racial diversity - through staff hires and student scholarships. I want to be a Student Board Governor so that I can observe how these decisions are made, what the limitations are, and how new opportunities might one day be created.”
3. **Ryan Murphy, Master of Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation student**

Ryan is a current candidate for the Master of Design in Strategic Foresight & Innovation (SFI) at OCAD U. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology & Computer Science (Software Engineering) at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). He has governance experience as part of the MUN Student Union and MUN Senate Committees.

Ryan says: “Hi, everyone! I’m a full-time student in OCAD’s SFI program. I’ve dedicated my life to my passion: the role of education in the 21st century. My nomination for OCAD’s Board of Governors is inspired by this passion and my experience in university governance. I was elected for six consecutive years to the Board of the 14,000-member students’ union of my alma mater, representing students on 30+ committees while managing (and creating) student-centred programs and services throughout the university.”

4. **Valentyna Onisko, Master of Fine Arts, Criticism & Curatorial Practice student**

Valentyna is a current candidate for the Master of Fine Arts in Criticism & Curatorial Practice at OCAD U. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Interdisciplinary) with a Minor in Art History from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) University. She has worked as a guide in an art gallery, an art museum and an art festival, and as part of the NSCAD Student Union, and has her own art practice.

Valentyna says: “As a graduate student, visual artist and advocate, I have broad experience working with various non-profit, artist-run, and social justice organizations. This includes serving as the VP of Cultural Affairs and Women’s Representative on the NSCAD Student Union and sitting ex-officio on the boards of Visual Arts Nova Scotia and Eyelevel Gallery. I hope to bring my extensive experience working in liaison roles to become an effective representative by facilitating dialogue between the Student Body, Student Union, Faculty, and the Board of Directors.”