Dr. Richard Playle Awards for Outstanding BSc and MSc Theses in Ecotoxicology

****Nominations are currently being sought for the Dr. Richard C. Playle Awards for Outstanding Theses in Ecotoxicology. These awards (one each at the BSc and MSc levels) were established by the Aquatic Toxicity Workshop (ATW), the precursor to CEW, in memory of Dr. Richard Colin Playle, a Professor of Biology at Wilfrid Laurier University from 1992 to 2005, who was an enthusiastic supporter of ATW and whose original insight spawned what was essentially a new area of research in aquatic toxicology: Biotic Ligand Modeling.

Award:

At the annual meeting, award recipients will be presented with a commemorative plaque, plus a cheque in the amount of $300 for Honours BSc students and $700 for MSc students.

Award recipients are expected to give an oral presentation on the subject of their thesis dissertation. The next Canadian Ecotoxicity Workshop will be held in Ottawa, ON on October 2-5, 2023.

In order to support recipient attendance at the meeting, the following costs will be reimbursed by CEW, up to a maximum of CAD $1,000:

* Registration at CEW
* Reasonable expenses for transportation at minimum rates
* Accommodation (if required).

Eligibility:

In order to qualify for this award, individuals under consideration must have had their thesis submitted and accepted at an accredited university within the year preceding the nomination deadline.

Nominations are limited to one thesis per degree level (BSc and MSc) per department, although more than one department in a university may nominate a thesis.

Please note that Playle Award winners will not be eligible to receive CEW student presentation awards for presentations on their thesis material.

Selection of Award Recipients:

Selection of recipients will be made by a committee of three judges chosen from among past, present and future CEW organizing committee members.  Awards will be made annually if qualified applicants are identified.

In each of the two categories (BSc and MSc), theses will be judged on the:

* Quality of the science (50%)
* Presentation of the thesis (20%)
* Quality of the applicant, as reflected in their CV (30%).

Specifically, judges will assess each nomination by considering the following criteria:

* Writing is appropriate for the target audience
* Thesis makes a compelling argument for the significance of the student’s research within the context of the current literature
* Thesis clearly articulates the student’s research goals
* Results are skillfully interpreted in the thesis
* Compelling discussion of the implications of findings
* Thesis is clearly organized
* Thesis is free of writing errors
* Citations are presented consistently and professionally throughout the text and in the list of works cited
* Tables and figures are clear, effective and informative
* Nomination package demonstrates that the student is academically gifted
* Student is involved in a broad range of activities
* Student shows promise to continue his/her academic training and/or interest in toxicology

Dr. Playle was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and literature and recognized the value of contributing to his community inside and outside the university.  Candidates whose CVs demonstrate a broad range of activities and/or participation in extracurricular fields will receive a higher weighting in the competition in keeping with Dr. Playle’s philosophy of leading a well-rounded life.

Winners will be notified of the award by August 31st, 2023 and formally announced at the annual meeting in October.

Nomination Instructions:

The nomination package must include:

* Thesis
* Nominee’s CV
* Letter of support written jointly by the nominee’s supervisor and the Chair of the nominee’s department. In the case of multi-authored, peer-reviewed publications forming one or more of the thesis chapters, the letter of support should clearly indicate the role of the student in conducting the research; supervisors are asked to contact [Natacha Hogan](mailto:natacha.hogan@usask.ca) in advance of the deadline to obtain the evaluation criteria for this scenario.

The thesis, CV, and signed letter of support may be submitted either electronically or in hard copy.

The complete nomination package must be received by the CEW Board of Directors by **June 2, 2023.**

Submit  your nomination package to the CEW Awards Officer [Natacha Hogan](mailto:natacha.hogan@usask.ca)