2026 Northern STEM Alumni Panel

Meet the Panel

Abby McIntosh Bachelor of Science Physiology McGill University 	Abby graduated from McGill University in Spring 2025, where she majored in Physiology and competed on the varsity Track & Field team. She was involved in laboratory and clinical research throughout her undergraduate degree, specifically working in neurogenetics laboratories, studying the genetic mechanisms behind rare neurodevelopmental diseases. Since graduation Abby has continued working in research and has applied to graduate school for a Masters in Genetic Counselling.
Andreas Hitzler Electrical Designer (Electrical Engineer) at Kepler Communications Inc. 	Andreas Hitzler works in the aerospace industry as an electrical engineer at Kepler Communications Inc. After graduating from Northern (Class of 2015), Andreas went on to receive a Bachelor of Engineering from McMaster University in Engineering Physics, and a Master of Applied Science in Aerospace Science & Engineering from the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies. Andreas worked as a space systems engineer at Canadensys Aerospace Corporation designing camera systems that flew on the NASA CLPS Lunar lander missions, as well as collaborating with the Canadian Space Agency to develop science payloads to support the Artemis missions to the Moon. Andreas furthered his work at the Space Flight Laboratory working on a wide range of Earth observation satellites for greenhouse gas emission monitoring and global surveillance. Currently, Andreas is helping develop the next generation of optical communication satellites (space lasers) at Kepler Communications.
Dr. Daniel Felsky Associate Professor | U of T Scientist | CAMH 	Dr. Daniel Felsky is a Koerner New Scientist and Head of Whole Person and Population Modelling (WPPM) in the Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics (KCNI) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). He is also an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Biostatistics, and Anthropology at the University of Toronto, and adjunct faculty at Baycrest Hospital and the University of Waterloo. He is a full member of the Institute of Medical Science (IMS) and a mentor for the CANSSI Strategic Training for Advanced Genetic Epidemiology (STAGE) Program. Dr. Felsky received his PhD at IMS and completed Postdoctoral Fellowships at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, the Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard, and Columbia University Medical Center. He was the 2023 recipient of the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry Newly Established Researcher Prize and 2025 recipient of the IMS Emerging Leader Award for Scientific Achievement, has published 98 peer-reviewed papers, is a Statistical Reviewer for *Nature Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical AssociationJournal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open*, and is a Faculty member of the IMS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Dr. Guire Coyle General Surgery Resident University of Toronto 	Guire is a second year General Surgery resident, completing his training at hospitals across the GTA. His interest in healthcare began as a campus first responder while at the University of Guelph completing his BSc. This interest was expanded through four years working in the Canadian Coast Guard's Search and Rescue program as a crew member and petty officer. He completed his MD at McMaster's Niagara regional campus and is now pursuing speciality training in General Surgery at the University of Toronto. He has an interest in Trauma and Acute Care surgery, working on various research projects in this field throughout medical school and residency.
Islay Fitzgerald Genetic Counselling University of British Columbia 	Islay is a board-certified genetic counsellor. She graduated from Northern in 2007, and went on to obtain her Masters of Science in Genetic Counselling from the University of British Columbia in 2014. She currently works at TELUS Health, working to establish and grow the company's national preventive genetics program. Prior to this, she worked for seven years in the public healthcare system with a specialization in preconception and prenatal genetics, and also has experience working in the private sector in preventive genetics and fertility genetics. Islay has also worked as a genetic counsellor in the United States and in the Bahamas. She was a previous board member of the Canadian Board of Genetic Counselling.
Kailey MacDonell Bachelor of Computing, Software Engineering Guelph University 	Kailey MacDonell is a student in her final year of Software Engineering at the University of Guelph where she has developed a strong technical foundation in multi-language programming, full-stack development, UI/UX design principles, and artificial intelligence. As part of her studies, she has completed many projects involving mobile applications, website backends and game development. In addition to her major, Kailey is completing a Minor in Marketing with particular focus in product development, pricing strategy and the role of advertising in society. Outside of the classroom, Kailey enjoys fitness, entertainment, and travel. She was a member of the University of Guelph Varsity Ultimate Frisbee team for two years and is a general member of the Women in Science and Engineering Club. She also recently completed a 2.5-month backpacking trip through Europe where she got to try different cuisines, learn about history, and experience different cultures. Post graduation, Kailey is interested in pursuing a career in User Experience Design, with a focus on creating meaningful, intuitive, and memorable digital experiences for users.

Kyle McMaster Engineering | McMaster MScAc Applied Computing McMaster | U of T 	Kyle McMaster is a MSc of Applied Computing student at the University of Toronto, where he is focusing on intelligent systems for decision making and planning. He is a recipient of the 2025-2026 Vector Scholarship in AI, an award given to leading AI Master's students in Ontario. His interest in computing began at Northern (2020), and was solidified by his Engineering coursework at McMaster University (2025), where he majored in Software Engineering with a minor in Statistics. During his undergraduate degree, he was an active participant in McMaster's co-op program, through which he held numerous data-focused roles in telecommunications and banking. In addition to his studies at the University of Toronto, he is currently developing geospatial data collection and presentation tools as a research assistant at the University of Waterloo. In his free time, he enjoys working in his garden, exploring the ravines of Toronto, and developing AI bots to play games.
Natasha Zimonjic Nursing TMU 	Natasha Zimonjic graduated from Northern Secondary School in 2017, and has since built a fulfilling career in healthcare. After completing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) at Toronto Metropolitan University, Natasha has spent the past four years working in the Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center, providing care to critically ill or extremely premature newborns. Additionally, Natasha has acquired various certifications, such as the Perinatal Intensive Care Postgraduate Program certificate through George Brown College to enrich her clinical knowledge and enhance her ability to provide specialized care within the NICU setting. Natasha is currently working on further advancing her career, with the goal of applying to a Masters in Nursing/Nurse Practitioner program in the upcoming year. Outside of her professional life, Natasha is passionate about travelling and maintaining an active lifestyle.
Noah Ripstein Honours BA/BSc | McMaster University PhD Statistics | U of T 	Noah Ripstein (NSS class of 2020) is a Statistics PhD student at the University of Toronto. In 2024, he graduated from McMaster's Artsci program with combined honours in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. Artsci is a small cohort interdisciplinary program with mandatory courses ranging from calculus and physics to philosophy. Noah spent some time in his undergrad unsure of what he wanted to do before he decided on statistics. He found this interest through a neuroscience lab that investigates whether our brain subconsciously makes "statistically optimal decisions." His PhD research involves developing algorithms for analyzing large and complex datasets which can be completed quickly on a laptop, rather than a compute cluster. Noah previously interned as a software developer at RBC, where he built a machine learning product which is now patent pending.

Peter Forte Health Care & Life Science Practice, Salesforce Writer, CDN Healthcare 	Peter Forte is currently a Senior Account Executive within the Healthcare & Life Sciences Practice at Salesforce, one of the largest tech companies in the world. Prior to Salesforce, he worked for 3+ years at Maple, a Canadian virtual care provider focused on improving access to care through the thoughtful application of technology. Peter was one of the first 25 employees at Maple, and the company has since grown to close to 200 people and enables hundreds of thousands of virtual healthcare visits per year. Peter's post-university career started at KPMG, where he spent half a decade as a management consultant in their Healthcare Practice, advising governments, hospitals, and health systems on a range of areas, but with the common theme of unlocking how technology can make healthcare more modern, accessible, and sustainable. He has an undergraduate degree in health sciences from Western University, and a Master's of Health Informatics from the University of Toronto.
Saeran Lowe Life Science and Biochemistry Queen's University 	Saeran Lowe is a first year direct-entry Life Science and Biochemistry Student at Queens University. In her first year, Saeran took a wide variety of core Science courses, including Pathology of Human Disease, Human Cell Physiology, and Anatomy of the Human Body, where she had the opportunity to learn within a Cadaver Laboratory. She was able to have hands-on experience within many labs, participating in undergraduate-driven research guided by the departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Besides academics, Saeran is an executive member of the Queens Rheumatic Disease Club, helping spread awareness and care for children with Rheumatic Diseases of all kinds! Saeran is very interested in Cellular Physiology and is working towards a Subject of Specialization or a Major in Life Sciences, starting next year!
Stella McIntosh Engineering Queen's University 	Stella McIntosh is a first-year Engineering student at Queen's University, pursuing her Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc). As part of the general first-year program, she is exploring a range of engineering disciplines and is particularly interested in mechanical and biomechanical engineering. Throughout her first year, Stella has taken a wide variety of engineering-focused courses, including design, computer programming, engineering mechanics, chemistry, physics, graphics, communications, and Earth systems. In her first-semester design course, she collaborated with a team of 4 peers to design, build, and program a fully autonomous water filtration system, which was a small-scale prototype for potential water treatment facilities, inspired by water treatment challenges faced by Indigenous communities in Northern Canada. Stella will continue developing her engineering design skills in a client-based course, where potential projects include designing a lunar rover with the Canadian Space Agency, creating assistive accessibility devices, or developing a handheld Raman spectrometer for mineralogical analysis at the Mars Desert Research Station. Outside the classroom, Stella is a member of the Queen's Space Engineering Team (QSET), where she works on the Rover Science branch. She works with a team to design chemical life-detection tests for use in the University Rover Challenge, held at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. Through these projects, she has developed strong interests in space exploration, planetary science, and the intersection of engineering and biotechnology.