



# Student & Alumni Testimonials



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“Throughout the Program's second year, I had the privilege of being coached (one-on-one) by **one of our country's leading pension lawyers and current Chair of Ryerson's Board of Governors - Mitch Frazer**. During my initial application to the program, I had expressed my career aspirations to André. André was able to pair me with **Mitch, who provided great time and guidance to our mentor-mentee relationship...**

**Two years after graduating, I continue to be involved in the Top 200 Program in various capacities.** I continue to attend Learning From Leaders Panels, where I interact with current Program members and former Program alumni. I also **mentor and help current Program members with their professional challenges and aspirations.** The Top 200 Program has greatly enriched and continues to develop my skills as a student and as a future professional.”

- **Bogdan Nae**, Class of 2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> year Law Student, Western University





**“If someone were to ask me how I managed to land my co-op terms in my last two years, my answer would be the Top 200 Program. I owe my professional success to the amazing networking opportunities in the program where I was able to hone my communication and leadership skills. The industry professionals and mentors to whom I have been introduced have been exemplary...The Top 200 Program has also been an **eye-catcher on my resume** – **many employers and professional alike have inquired into this program and appreciated its mandate.** This program has been the **highlight of my undergraduate career**, and has put me on the right path for professional success.”**

- **Swetha Subramanyam**, Class of 2019

**“The Top 200 Program made the biggest impact on my professional development** while completing my 4 years at Ted Rogers School of Management. Andre acted as my biggest mentor and advocate - especially in my final year. He was able to facilitate my professional development while being a student through the organized leadership summit, long term mentorship, networking nights, and his honest belief in my potential. He helped me put myself out there and find a career that I never thought was possible right out of university.

I suffered with pretty bad anxiety in my final semester at Ryerson. I remember one day I saw Andre in the hall, he was holding an info table to talk about the Top 200 program. I walked by and he said "hi, how is everything?" I started tearing up and he immediately took the time to talk to me. The one to one session that followed was filled with lots of tears but also words of encouragement and tools to handle my fears and anxiety. He connected me to resources within TRSM that I had no idea of and booked a follow up session to make sure I was okay. This is one of the many examples that can speak to Andre's care in the well-being and commitment to the students in the Top 200 program.

**Through my Top 200 mentor I landed a permanent job at TD and was promoted after 10 months.** I know I have worked very hard to get here but **I don't know if I would have recognized all my potential if it wasn't for Andre acting as my champion.**”

- **Nima Hersi**, Class of 2017

Talent Acquisition Partner at TD Bank



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“I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for my first year in the Top 200 Program. It has definitely been **the most rewarding experience I have had at Ryerson** so far and I have got so much out of it. The overall planning and execution of the program is brilliant and makes it such a success. I am really looking forward to more great events next year!”

- **Sarah Weir**, Class of 2016

Data & Analytics Consultant at EY (London, UK)



“...I just got a fantastic internship as an Account Manager at Public Inc.. I started yesterday so I have been very busy trying to get up to speed. With that said, I wanted to express my gratitude for all your work on the Top 200 Program. **My mentor was...fantastic, and was the highlight of the program for me.** All signs point toward me continuing the mentor relation with her, which is fantastic news for me.”

- **Cole Banning**, Class of 2015  
Growth Marketer at Shopify

“As a Top 200 Program graduate, I always think back to how useful the elements of the program were for the early beginning of my professional career. From the Learning from Leaders events which helped me become comfortable interacting and networking with professionals, to the opportunity to be paired up with a mentor to receive career guidance and advice, **this program helps develop young leaders to shine in the working world after graduation.**”



- **Shiri Gawrielman**, Class of 2018  
Ethical Wall Coordinator at Stikeman Elliott LLP



“Top 200 has been such a great experience that helped me grow as a person, break out of many of my comfort zones, and connect me with amazing leaders...They have inspired me with their careers and stories, and they have encouraged me to reach for nothing less than *beyond* the stars. **The Top 200 program is a catalyst for guiding the future leaders of our society.**”

- **Anita Wu**, Class of 2019



“I can testify to the substantial value that the program has provided me with as an **emerging leader in the business community**. The program has allowed me to develop several qualities that current business professionals indicate are imperative to one’s success in their future endeavors....most importantly, to develop my leadership capabilities to be able to become a better version of myself.

As a future leader that will represent the TRSM and Ryerson University as a whole, I believe that the Top 200 Program was of paramount importance to my development. I believe **André Serero is an outstanding program leader and his ideas to maintain and develop the program further will continue to benefit all students engaged with the program. It is an honor to be considered a Top 200 Program graduate.**”

- **Artem Chaykovskyy**, Class of 2018





*“I owe a lot of where I am today to the **Top 200 Program and my mentor.**”*

*“The **overall planning and execution** of the [Top 200 Program] is brilliant and makes it such a success. I am really looking forward to more great events next year!”*

*“With multiple networking opportunities in this program, I have improved my **communication skills, professionalism, and confidence.**”*

*“The Top 200 Program provided me with excellent opportunities to **grow, build meaningful relationships** and to **discover more about myself.**”*

*“I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for my first year in the Top 200 Program. It has definitely been **the most rewarding experience I have had at Ryerson** so far and I have got so much out of it.”*

“I recall the first time I learned of the TOP200 program at TRSM. **When I was visiting the school as a high school student, I thought to myself that I would make it a goal of mine to enter this program, that I would shine as a top student...** As a Top 200 student, the program has equipped me with irreplaceable knowledge and opportunity, presenting the very best resources that TRSM has to offer...

**I was paired with Brian Segal as my mentor and have been learning of various leadership skills and gaining guidance on my future educational and professional endeavours.** This has been a rewarding opportunity and I am very grateful for this chance to learn from a professional such as Brian Segal...

The emphasis that the program places on professional development is unrivalled... The program also instils values of giving back to the community and encourages volunteerism throughout the participation of this program.

**This program sets me apart as I enter the workplace.** Past employers have always shown interest in learning more about this standing and upon learning more about it, expressed that these student development programs are very beneficial and bring forth strong candidates to jobs. This means a lot to me that **the program and its components are transferable to the workplace and can provide an edge to Top 200 students.**”

- **Bushra Amir Ali**, Class of 2019



“One of the best decisions I have made during my time at TRSM was applying to the Top 200 Program... In such a concentrated and competitive labour market with an abundance of students looking for work after university, we all need every extra competitive edge we can get. With committed involvement, the Top 200 Program can give you that professionalism, career preparation, meaningful network and the swagger to get you ahead of the game. **Don't miss this life-changing opportunity;** apply to the Top 200 Program today!”



- **Michael Galambos**, Class of 2018



“The quality of the events is truly outstanding. **I have been to many student-run panels before, but none of them has been as insightful as Learning from Leaders...**

Coaching from Andre Serero, which is another component of Top 200, has been a great help to me...

Overall, the Top 200 Program gave me so much more than I could even imagine. **It is a truly outstanding program that prepares students for professional life and for situations they might encounter there. I will looking forward to other upcoming Top 200 events.”**

- **Jane Tsekhovaya**, Class of 2020

“As a third year Entrepreneurship and Strategy Co-op student, I humbly have fulfilled numerous leadership positions within the Ted Rogers School of Management community and beyond, including: Peer Academic Coach for the Academic Success Centre, Peer Mentor for the Tri-Mentoring Program, Student Ambassador for Pearson Education, BUS 100: Strategies for Success Facilitator, Ted Rogers Co-op Mentor, Breakthrough Program Mentor in affiliation with the Ted Rogers Students’ Society, and an official committee member for the search of TRSM’s new Associate Dean, Faculty and Academic. In addition, I am the proud recipient of the following Ted Rogers School of Management student awards: The Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Business Scholarship, The HSBC Bank Canada Business Award and The Brain William Chant Award. **I share my successes and extensive contributions to emphasize that if it were not for the Top 200 Program, I truly would not have propelled into the emerging leader I am today** – this program thus far has instilled within me principles, teachings, skills and experiences which I truly could not receive at another institution. Students fear “entering the real-world” post graduation and the **Top 200 Program aids students’ fear through extensive preparation and resources.**

-- **Milad Moghaddas**, Class of 2020



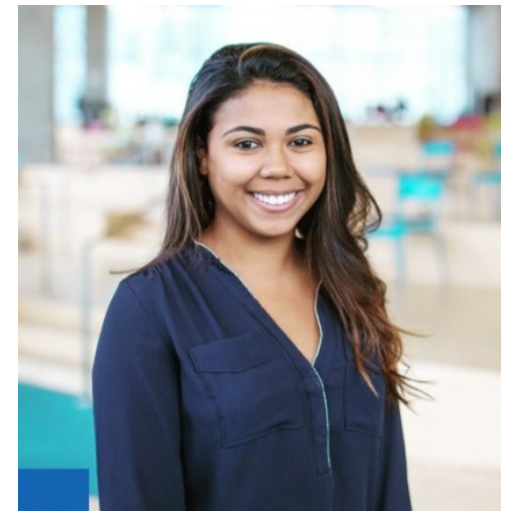
**“The Top 200 Program was one of the highlights of my education at Ryerson University.** I remember the first day of the leadership summit and thinking **“this is what I envisioned when I thought of going to business school”**...

I attended every Learning from Leaders I could as I saw it as an opportunity to not only meet and connect with professionals in the industry, but also to make lasting connections with like-minded peers and Alumni of the program. **Those friendships formed through the Top 200 Program still exist today**, even though I have decided to leave Canada and pursue my law degree in Barbados... **My mentor helped me figure out where I wanted to be professionally and how to get there.**

During my time at Ryerson, I was a student ambassador within the undergraduate recruitment office where I conducted campus tours and attended recruitment events for the university. I used this platform as an opportunity to promote the Top 200 Program and can attest to the fact that **the Top 200 Program was a major selling point for parents and potential students looking at the Ted Rogers School of Management.**”

- **Ashli Thomas**, Class of 2018

- 1<sup>st</sup> year Law Student at The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus



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“Ali [Soheil is a Managing Director in the Global Delivery & Strategy department at BMO] has been very involved in helping get [an] incredible opportunity for the summer, and I truly appreciate everything he has done, especially considering how busy he is. **It is not every day you meet someone who sincerely cares about helping university students get a working experience that they will cherish and grow from...** I felt like I needed to inform you about this experience of mine, and I believe it would have never happened without the Top 200 Program. **Through the program, I was able to attend this event with the status of being one of the Top 200 students in TRSM, and I believe that has opened many doors for me, including this one.** I want to thank you, André, for giving me the opportunity to be part of such a rewarding program, and allowing me to meet such unique and caring individuals like Ali and yourself.”

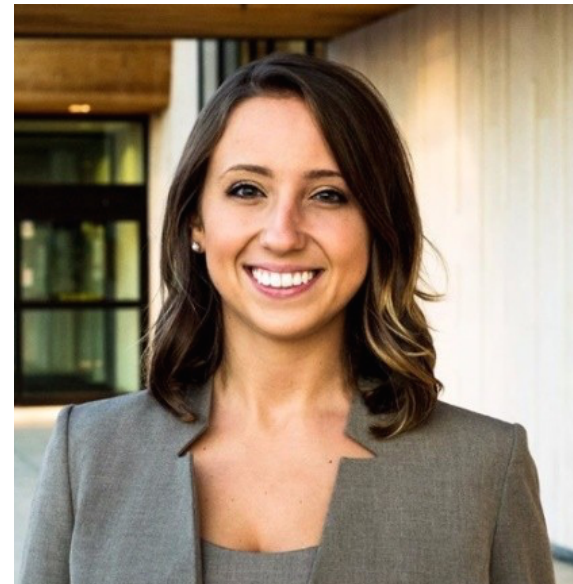
- **Vardit Dmitrenko**, Class of 2018

Capital Markets Operations Analyst at BMO Financial Group

“With multiple networking opportunities in this program, I have improved my communication skills, professionalism, and confidence. At one networking event...I met Mike Tamburro, who is a Division Director at Investors Group. We kept in touch throughout my third year and he become my mentor in my fourth year. **I have since been offered a full-time position at Investors Group and, although I had to compete for the position, the opportunity came from the Top 200 Program...**

Overall, I have really enjoyed my two years in this program and truly thank André for bringing this program to my attention and being an incredible mentor to me throughout my time at Ryerson.”

- **Danielle Bacci**, Class of 2015  
Financial Services Manager at BMO





“When I first applied to the Top 200 Program, I didn’t know what to expect. I also did not have a concrete career plan in place that I was striving towards. Top 200 Leadership Summit, [BESS], and [Lumina Spark] that were implemented allowed me to understand myself better than I would have on my own...Finally, the Mentorship Program was the icing on the cake, as it allowed me to be mentored by an individual who was able to answer all my questions whether it be about industry, school or future career mentor...**It has been a pleasure and great opportunity to be a part of the Top 200...**”

- **Aman Rana**, Class of 2015  
Sales Analyst at BMO



"If I could describe it in three words I would say: **dynamic, life-changing, and elite**. It is not just a title and honour, it's a commitment. In my first year in the program, I have gained essential skills...that are needed to strive in today's workplace from participating in skills workshops offered through the program. I had the chance to form lasting friendships and learn about my strengths and weaknesses and what makes me a unique leader at the Leadership Summit...**I find myself stronger and more prepared to face challenges in my unique career journey.** The Top 200 Program is one you don't want to miss out on!"

- **Julianna Co**, Class of 2020



"I would just like to say thank you once again for all you have done as it is greatly appreciated. **Over the past two years I have grown tremendously and do not think I would be the person I am today if it was not for the TOP 200 program. The Top 200 program has given me the confidence and "swagger" to truly be the best version of myself...**The opportunities I had with the program were unlike any other."



- **Adomas Grybas**, Class of 2018  
Associate at RSM Canada

"Thank you very much for putting so much hard work into cultivating an excellent program. **The Top 200 Program has done wonders for me both personally and professionally.** The mentorship from Henry has been great and I see our relationship continuing well past my completion of undergrad. I will be sure to continue recommending the program to my peers in 2nd year, as this is an opportunity they can't afford to miss."

- **Hari Muralidharan**, Class of 2018  
Portfolio Manager at Ryerson Investment Group



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