Recipients of the Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize for Excellence in Indigenous Studies

2018 – Erica Oberndorfer
PhD Dissertation: The shared stories of people and plants: Cultural and ecological relationships between people and plants in Makkovik, Nunatsiavut (Labrador, Canada)

2017 – Paul Chaput
M.A. Thesis: Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film.

2016 - Joanna Petrasek MacDonald
M.A. Thesis: From the Minds of Youth: Exploring Inuit Youth Resilience within a Changing Climate and Applications for Climate Change Adaptation in Nunatsiavut, Labrador, Canada' and it was completed at McGill University in December 2014.

2015 - Benita Tam, University of Toronto
M.A. Thesis: The effects of weather and climate variability on the well-being of a rural and urban Aboriginal group in Ontario, Canada
2014 - Lynn Barwin, University of Ottawa, Dept of Geography and Environmental Sciences

2013 - Vanessa Sloan-Morgan, Dalhousie's School for Resource & Environmental Studies

2012 - Chris Turner, PhD Student, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies | University of Northern BC

2011 - Zoe Dalton, University of Toronto

2010 - Nathan Bennett for his Masters of Environmental studies thesis (Nature Based Recreation and Tourism, Lakehead University)
Conservation, Community Benefit, Capacity Building and the Social Economy: A Case Study of Lutsel K’e and the Proposed National Park.
2009 - Claude Peloquin, University of Manitoba.
For his thesis: Variability, change and continuity in social-ecological systems: insights from James Bay Cree cultural ecology.

2008 - Suzanne Mills - Queen's University

2007 - Gita Laidler -University of Toronto, for a Ph.D. thesis titled: Ice, Through Inuit Eyes: Characterizing the importance of sea ice processes, use, and change around three Nunavut communities. The supervisors were Dr. Vincent Robinson, Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto at Mississauga and Dr. Deborah McGregor, Dept. of Geography and Aboriginal Studies Program, University of Toronto.

2006 - Piotr Wilk, for a Ph.D. thesis titled: Self-Employment on Indian Reserves. The supervisors were Dr. Paul Maxim and Dr. Jerry White, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario. This study relied on methods of multi-level modeling to examine how individual and community level characteristics interact and influence entrepreneurship among Canada's First Nations.


2003 - Yael Levitte from the Department of Geography, University of Toronto, was the 2003 winner. The title of Yael’s thesis was Social Capital and Aboriginal Economic Development: Opportunities and Challenges. Her thesis supervisors were Professor Meric Gertler and Professor Amrita Daniere. Yael’s thesis explored the history and future of economic development in three Northern Ontario Aboriginal communities.

2002 – The first Robin Armstrong Memorial Prize was awarded to Dr. Kathleen Wilson for her Ph.D. dissertation entitled: The Role of Mother Earth in Shaping the Health of Anishinabek: A Geographical Exploration of Culture, Health and Place.