



THREE SHADS AMONG "YOUTH IN MOTION'S TOP 20 UNDER 20™"

[Related Pages](#) [Français](#)
Recent News

Shads Wojciech Gryc, Joshua Liu, and David Wen were all recognized as being among Canada's next generation of success stories as they were included on Youth in Motion's Top 20 Under 20 list for 2005.

The Top 20 Under 20 Awards serve to celebrate and honour Canadians who have not yet reached the age of 20, but have demonstrated a significant level of innovation, leadership, and achievement.

At the age of 19, **Wojciech Gryc** of Thornhill, Ontario has dedicated much of his teenage life to ensuring that youth have the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding issues which impact their lives. Among his efforts is the founding of **Five Minutes to Midnight** (FMM), an online human rights publication which gives youth a voice and a media outlet which allows them to become aware and get involved in political and international issues.



"Shad really opened my eyes to what technology can do. Its multidisciplinary approach to learning is what makes Shads the future technical and life leaders of the country."

Christine Desmarais
(Shad Alumna)

Wojciech also currently serves as the Chair of Human Rights and is a former member of the board of directors of the United Nations Association in Canada – Toronto Region Branch.

Wojciech Gryc attended Shad Valley at the University of Calgary in 2003.

Like Wojciech, **Joshua Liu**, a Toronto-native, has dedicated much of his time to keeping youth informed. Joshua's passion has always been for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



At an early age, Joshua was given the opportunity to participate in various STEM competitions and programs including the ASM Materials Camp, the Ontario Math Olympics, and the Toronto Science and Technology Fair. He soon learned that this was not the case for many students.

Now 17 years of age, Joshua founded **SMARTS**, the Student Mentorship Association Regarding Technology and Science, in response to his surprise at the lack of information many schools had about STEM opportunities.

SMARTS is a volunteer-based, student-run program that informs, inspires, and engages students across Canada in the science, math, and technology-related programs which are vital to the maintenance of Canada's status as a world leader in innovation.

From July 3 to 29, 2005, Joshua will be attending Shad Valley at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

The final Shad to be recognized as one of the top 20 Canadians under the age of 20 is 18-year old **David Wen** of Surrey, British Columbia.

David is an entrepreneur and philanthropist. Ever since the age of 14, his goal had been to backpack through Japan. In 2003, he started If You're Away (IYA) Enterprise International — a workforce of young adults available to look after what needs to be done at home when people are away — in hopes of funding his goal.



The business quickly evolved to include other ventures such as vending machines, selling candles, creating rice burgers and a contract with American Eagle School in Hsin-Chiu Taiwan to translate handbooks, kindergarten science labs and math workbooks for schools.

On the basis of his business success, David was able to take the trip of his dreams. However, he did not forget about his commitment to giving back. When David was in Taiwan, he spent time teaching English to local youth and also provided aid at a hospital.

For his accomplishments, David was awarded First Prize at the Surrey Youth Recognition Awards and named a finalist for the Surrey Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

David attended Shad Valley at the University of Waterloo in 2004.

Not only were three Shads named recipients of a Top 20 Under 20™ Award, but two Shads were also named as finalists for the award. The Shad finalists were **Corina Mihaela Paraschiv** of Montréal who attended Shad at the Queen's International Study Centre in 2003, and **Lisette Yorke** of Hillside Boularderie, Nova Scotia who attended Shad at Carleton in 2004.