

## **Co-President Candidates (2 Positions)**

### **Danielle King – Co-president**

Hi! I'm Danielle and I'm running to be your CASA co-president for the upcoming year. After 2 full terms on CASA in both my first and second years at UofT, I feel completely committed to giving back to this wonderful organization.

As COG250 rep for 2015-2016, I implemented and organized study groups, which I believe helped many students navigate the occasionally treacherous road that is COG250. Many students were then able to discuss the material, make friends, and have a group within the class.

As conference coordinator in our last UTISM year, 2018, I gained so much insight into this amazing conference, and I hope to be involved a second time to make it even better. We managed to sell record ticket numbers and get some incredible speakers flown in from across the U.S, and it was a humbling experience to organize such an awesome event.

Finally, this past year I was not involved in CASA, as I was busy being Orientation Coordinator for the University of Toronto Students' Union. This involved organizing the Tri-Campus Parade, Clubs Carnival, Night Social and StreetFest. Through this experience, I learned a lot about leadership, fundraising, marketing, and about some incredible resources available here at U of T. I hope to utilize this experience and bring new ideas to the CASA community.

If elected as co-president, I hope to build on the program's momentum and continue our outreach, academic and social events. I especially hope to prioritize mental health, by making sure our students know what resources are at their disposal, and by prioritizing get-to-know-you events that will hopefully make UofT feel smaller and more welcoming. The CASA community has brought so much joy into my life, and this is ultimately why I am running to be your co-president. Hope you vote for me :)

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### **Jeremy Yang – Co-president**

Hi there, my name is Jeremy, a third-year cognitive science, computer science, and mathematics student and I am running for the co-presidency of CASA. Regarding my relative experiences, I have been involved in CASA since my first year and I was the treasurer of the current executive team. In addition, I am also involved in the CSSU, I was a member of the executive team of 2018-19 CS frosh and a member of the general council of the CSSU. I think my past experiences in student organizations provided me with the capability and knowledge to work as the co-president of CASA.

I am very fond of this cognitive science community and would love to contribute more to it. If elected, I will put my work and energy into maintaining this welcoming atmosphere within the community as well as promoting academic seminars catering towards the students who have taken cog250 and are yet to take fourth-year seminar courses.

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## Conference Coordinator Candidates (1 Position)

### Chelsea Tanchip – Conference Coordinator

Hey there — I'm Chelsea Tanchip, and I want to be CASA's new Conference Coordinator.

You may know me from spamming frequently posting on the Facebook group and emails. I'm dedicated to CASA and the Cognitive Science Program; this year I was CASA's Communications Director, running our Facebook group, mailing list, and redesigning our website. Additionally, I was a Media Assistant to the Cogsci Program for two years, in which my main responsibilities were increasing the Program's digital presence (with Facebook and a mailing list), creating promotional/marketing material for Program wide events, which includes originally-designed posters, pencils, and other program info sheets, and working directly with the Program Director and Coordinator, and various Cognitive Science faculty, to improve our Program's events and communication with students.

My key experience in the conference-sphere was being part of the executive team planning the Undergraduate AI Group (UAIG)'s sold-out conference, **StartAI**, last November at the **MaRS Institute**, which featured Geoffrey Hinton as keynote speaker and speakers from a variety of companies nationwide, such as TD, Bell Canada, and Vector Institute. I was primarily involved in outreach and marketing, ensuring that we would sell tickets and spread the word across Canada.

Moreover, I was a volunteer at UTISM 2018 before joining the executive team this year, an experience that familiarized me to the conference and inspired me to run for this position — planning UTISM 2020 is an invigorating experience that I aim to deliver with precision and with the consideration of different perspectives.

Physically, my vision is far from 20/20. But my skills in planning, organization, outreach, marketing, graphic design, and extensive experience in Cognitive Science/CASA will make up for it.

I hope you can trust me to make UTISM 2020 a cohesive, diverse, and memorable experience for all.

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### Julia Wainstein – Conference Coordinator

Hey everyone! Next year CASA will be hosting UTism, an international conference that brings together experts in different fields to share their perspectives on a topic in cognitive science. Interesting and novel information about cognitive science research is available everywhere. I think that what still draws us to conferences like these is the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with people who are excited about the same things that we are. With this as a goal, I would try to emphasize interdisciplinary conversation at next year's conference. For example, rather than having four talks each day with one large panel at the end, we could have three talks a day with a smaller panel at the end of each day. I'd like to take advantage of the unique opportunity we have to bring together experts from different fields and give speakers and the audience more opportunities to engage in deeper conversation. (I'm also more than open to renaming the conference...)

I was conference coordinator for Confluence this year, and I was involved in UTism planning and execution in 2018. I have experience handling the inevitable hurdles that come up in conference planning, and in dealing with speakers, scheduling, budgeting, and the general logistical whirlwind that is

conference planning. Like everything CASA does, this conference is a community effort. I have the necessary experience and skills to communicate and delegate in a diligent and compassionate way. Lastly, I will be a (ASSU fee-paying) part-time student next year, so I will have the time and energy to dedicate to planning this event. I care about our community and want to continue to nurture it by planning another successful conference that we can all take part in, enjoy, and be proud of. 😊

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## **Secretary Candidates (1 Position)**

### **Gabrielle David – Secretary**

Hello, my name is Gabrielle David and I am a second year Cognitive Science student here at the University of Toronto, and I would love to be your new CASA secretary for the 2019-2020 academic year!

In my three years here at the university, I have never felt so welcomed and received so much support from a student body before, after joining CASA. CASA made one of my main goals this year of being more involved in school and connecting with other students really easy, and I always love to share how admirable this student association is with everyone I meet. This time, I want to be part of the reason why this association is so wonderful and help create the same great experiences I've had with other students!

Prior to university and up until just recently, I have been working as an administrative assistant in an architectural company and each year I have been there, my job responsibilities increased. I want to be the person that the CASA executive committee can always rely on. I want to be able to showcase my capabilities and skills and be everyone's main support.

I will ensure the office will always be maintained and cleaned daily. I will always have an open-ear policy to everyone in the executive team and the association, to make sure everyone's ideas and concerns are being heard. I want to make sure every student's visit in the office will always be useful to them, whether it be advice from the office hours holders or by the accessible pool of past assignments and books in our library. I want to help create a safe space where students can all come together, learn and even have fun, and I promise I will work tirelessly to achieve this goal!

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### **Eisha Haroon – Secretary**

Hi! My name is Eisha and I am running to be your CASA Secretary for next year. I will be entering my third year as a Cognitive Science student, and my third year as an active member of CASA. In my first year, I was an administrative member of CASA and held office hours; I was also a volunteer at the biennial CASA conference UTISM. This year I continued my role as a regular office hour holder and was a speaker at the undergraduate conference Confluence. I have a lot of experience with CASA and a great love for the association.

It is very important that the Secretary be organised to carry out the jobs set by the constitution and more, such as ensuring strong communication amongst the executive council and maintaining minutes at the various meetings. I think I would be a great fit for this role as I have balanced my schoolwork whilst

being involved with CASA and working as a research assistant in a psychology lab. With UTISM approaching next year, it is more crucial than ever that the executive team work as a cohesive unit, something I hope to help foster.

Another one of the jobs of the Secretary is to maintain the CASA library and documents, this includes the research articles posted on the website, a tradition I hope to continue and build upon. I would also like to create an online catalogue on the CASA website that contains a list of books available at the CASA library.

I am very passionate about the association and the help it provides to Cognitive Science students at UofT, and the way it promotes discussions and provides opportunities to further the field of Cognitive Science, and I hope to continue and further these traditions as your Secretary.

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## **Treasurer Candidates (1 Position)**

### **Andrew Heyman – Treasurer**

Hello, and thank you for coming out to vote! I'm Andrew Heyman, and I'm running to be your CASA Treasurer. I'm a second-year student pursuing a Computer Science specialist and a Cognitive Science major, although I'm also passionate about philosophy and hope to squeeze in a Philosophy minor. Since two of my biggest interests converge on cognitive science, it would be a pleasure for me to help strengthen U of T's CogSci community as part of CASA.

As I see it, the primary difficulties involved in the job of Treasurer, and CASA executive more generally, are in keeping track of things (e.g. meeting times and locations, CASA's expenses) and planning ahead (e.g. preparing a budget). I have experience handling those challenges in a leadership role – I currently lead a collaborative video game design project organized over the internet, overseeing and coordinating the contributions of several people at a time and planning demo releases around what will be finished when. I also habitually apply those skills in my personal life, making sure I have written records of the due dates of my assignments and the times and locations of my social commitments. I also keep receipts of my major expenditures and check my bank account balance at least every few weeks.

Of all of my hypothetical executive duties, I'm most looking forward to office hours. I've long enjoyed communicating things I understand to others, and I've been told I'm good at it too. I already host one office hour a week together with Jeremy Yang (I didn't sign up for more because I was cautious not to overextend myself), but more office hours as an exec would mean more opportunities to help newcomers to the cognitive science program understand and think about introductory course material. I would find that very rewarding.

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### **Tinny Nguyen – Treasurer**

My name is Tinny and I am majoring in cognitive science with minors in philosophy and buddhism, psychology, and mental health. I am running for treasurer because CASA has helped me tremendously in all aspects of university life, both academic and social. When I first went to a CASA event, I was nervous, but everyone was friendly and welcomed me like I have known them for five years. Needless to say, I had an amazing time and since then, I have attended most CASA events and I was only absent when I had a

class during that time. One of my highlights this school year was attending the end of term social in the fall where I got to socialize with my friends from COG250 outside of a course setting. With CASA, I have met a lot of amazing people whom I would not have met if it were not for CASA who actively try to integrate the cognitive science community through putting out events. CASA provided me with a sense of community and I sincerely hope to give back to the community.

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### **Nick Robichaud – Treasurer**

Hi! My name is Nick and I am running for The Treasurer position in CASA!

I have found a home with the communities of CASA and cognitive science, and I am looking to help these communities grow and flourish by joining the CASA exec.

### **Guarantees and Qualifications**

I believe I am well suited to the position of Treasurer, for several reasons.

First and foremost, I have the skills and experience necessary to keep the budget and expenses of CASA organized. Secondly, I have the communication abilities necessary to cooperate with the other members of CASA exec. Finally, I love learning! Being a part of CASA will allow me to engage with the community and help students learn.

If elected, I assure that:

- The CASA budget will be managed responsibly, and any expenses will be negotiated fairly in cooperation with the rest of the exec. In my work experience as a team lead with Shack Shine, I have managed and handled many payments and can be completely trusted.
- The students of cognitive science benefit from CASA resources. I will do this by helping to organize events, attending meetings, and holding office hours.
- I will remain in regular communication with everyone in the CASA exec, facilitating group chats, and contacting individuals when necessary. I believe I am very personable and friendly making this simple.
- Our CASA office will remain as clean as possible. In my personal life I am a very neat person who takes lots responsibility for cleaning any messes that I find or create. As such, I believe I can assist in keeping the CASA office very well organized.
- I will go above and beyond to help with any other tasks this role may demand.

Your vote is very appreciated!

Nicholas Robichaud

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## **Communications Director Candidates (1 Position)**

### **Ariel LaFayette – Communications Director**

It is with great privilege that I am applying for the role of Communications Director for 2019-2020. After participating as a CASA admin for a second year, I've become deeply connected with the cognitive

science community. Volunteering at events such as Confluence has made me appreciate the passion and excellence of my peers, and has inspired me to support CASA at every opportunity that I am presented with. My aim as Communications Director is to increase awareness about the remarkable events that CASA has to offer by promoting online engagement. I believe this is extremely important, as CASA relies heavily on social media to share information about events throughout the year.

I have developed organizational and writing skills by participating on the Debating Team Executive at my high school for three years. In this role, I was responsible for recruiting new members, leading debating workshops for younger students, and sending email updates about upcoming events. My experience on the Debating Executive has made me detail oriented and well-qualified for writing informative emails. Furthermore, I have experience doing administrative work while interning at Listen First Media in 2017, a data analytics company that helps brands develop their social media platforms by tracking engagement on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. One facet of the company's model that interested me was developing reports based on the data trends to help clients transform their online identity while maintaining the ingenuity of the brand. Through this, I gained insight on how brands professionally manage their social media to appeal to a wider audience. I hope to transfer the knowledge from my experiences to the CASA executive team in the following year.

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## Jiesi Liu – Communications Director

**Name:** Jiesi Liu

**Occupation:** UofT 2nd Year Cognitive Science and Psychology Major, CASA admin, that person always passed out in JCR

**Experience:** former VP of my high school yearbook club, former concertmaster and section leader of several orchestras, former manager of too many tumblr accounts

**Skills:** finding obscure information on the internet, photoshop meme making, paying my rent on time

### **Why You Should Vote for Me As Your Communications Director:**

- I believe information should always be open to others, so I will make as much information as possible available and update it often.
- Social media is my home. I will prowl the depths of Facebook to make certain everyone can see their opportunities to participate in the CASA community and our related ones.
- I check my emails every hour. I have five of them. And I check them all.
- Actually, I might go crazy with the emails. I'll answer them. As soon as possible. To the best of my ability.
- Like aesthetically designed graphics? I got you.
- Like deep-fried memes? I still got you.
- On a diet? Fat-free memes are available. I got y'all.

Why vote for me? Because CASA has an amazing community, and I'd be honored if you would all let me play a part in shaping it!

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## **Events Coordinator Candidates (1 Position)**

### **Kathy Du – Events Coordinator**

Hello! My name is Kathy Du, I'm currently a second-year Psychology Specialist and Cognitive Science major and I'm interested in becoming next year's Events Coordinator for CASA.

This winter semester I've had the great opportunity of being apart of CASA admin and holding office hours; allowing me to get to know many of the wonderful people in cogsci I otherwise would not have met.

Additionally, I was also a member of the seminar subcommittee for the PSA, giving me experience and exposure to the planning of events such as finding and emailing potential speakers, booking rooms, and providing food for said seminars.

I'm an enthusiastic, responsible, and organized individual who if elected I will ensure that rooms will always be booked in advance, events will always be clearly advertised to the student body, and most importantly I will use my yelp expertise to make sure we'll always have the tastiest foods!

This year I attended and was impressed by many of the events held by CASA from the socials to the academic workshops. Through these events, I was not only able to strengthen the quality of my class work, but also helped me get to know my fellow students and make this program feel like home. I'd love to contribute back to this community that has given so much to me as the events coordinator.

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