

Killam Awards

This wasn't a normal road trip. Rather than snacks and mixed tapes, we packed tuxedos and evening gowns. The event wasn't typical either; you don't often have dinner with the Governor-General. Several students from Elizabeth's group were lucky to have the opportunity to attend the Killam Prize ceremony and reception. Who knew grad students could look so good (see photo)?



The [Killam Prize](#) recognizes outstanding Canadian scholars in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, and engineering. The Killam Prize is among Canada's most distinguished research awards. This year, three University of Toronto researchers were honored. Our very own Elizabeth Edwards won the prize for engineering. She was recognized for utilizing molecular biology and environmental genomics to bring bioremediation technology into commercial application. Although the awards were presided over by the Governor-General, Elizabeth was introduced by Grant Allen. Elizabeth gave a very moving acceptance speech where she commented on the importance of synergies both in microbial communities and in research communities. These synergies allow research communities, like BioZone, to be greater than the sum of their parts.

After the very inspiring awards ceremony, which was accompanied by a string quartet, the guests were treated to a wide array of amazing food and the opportunity to tour Rideau Hall. Since 1867, Rideau Hall has been the official residence in Ottawa of both the monarch and his or her representative, the Governor-General of Canada. The residence has 175 rooms and is over 100,000 sq ft in size. Described in a single word, Rideau Hall is stately. Most guests' favorite room was the lush greenhouse attached to the residence. Congratulations Elizabeth for the well-deserved recognition.



1Photographer: MCpl Vincent Carbonneau