



Seizing Opportunities

First Federal Annual Government Career Fair

By Jennie MacDonald

This winter in partnership with the Student Career Centre, the Students' Union, and Government Relations & Strategic Initiatives, the Co-op Education Office hosted the first annual Federal Government Career Fair. Eight different government departments were in attendance to share information about the variety of career opportunities available within the Federal Government.

During the career fair, Transport Canada hosted onsite interviews with StFX Co-op students in a variety of roles, hiring seven of our co-op students from business, computer science, and biology programs. The career fair had a great turnout of students, and employers were impressed with the level of professionalism displayed by the students who attended.



Deputy Minister, Transport Canada,
Michael Keenan

StFX also welcomed Transport Canada Deputy Minister Michael Keenan, Class of '87, to campus. The Deputy Minister spoke to students about career opportunities with the Government of Canada and provided career advice.

The Federal Government is interested in making this an annual event and discussions have already begun for next year's career fair in the fall of 2018. *Stay tuned!*

HIGHLIGHTS

Co-op Leaders Recognized in PCYA

Onex Gold Medal Winner

StFX IT Services: Employer's Choice Award

Contributing to StFX Community

PwC Fostering Student Success

Celebrating Success

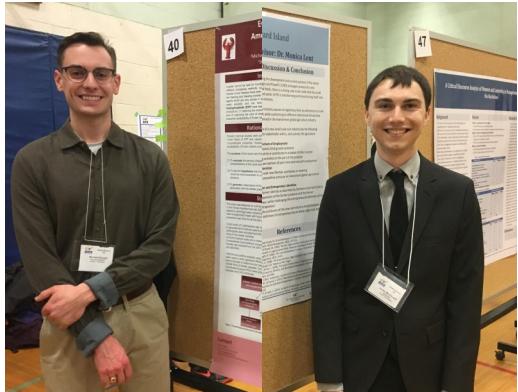


President's Circle of Young Alumni

Ten of our graduating co-op students were inducted into the President's Circle of Young Alumni, this year, with Sam Gan being selected as a Life Officer. The students who were inducted include: Alesha Baker, Chris Allen, Christine Kingan, Darshana Sriharan, Jordan MacDonald, Kiana Malt, Lukas Fleck, Olivia MacDonald, & Ryan Finn. Our alumni network is well represented with all of you!

Athletic Award Banquet

Sam Gan, BBA Co-op student, was this year co-winner of the Larkin Award for top senior exemplifying academic excellence, athletic performance, and Xaverian spirit. Congratulations Sam!



Student Research Day

Congratulations to Co-op students Mike Keough, BSc Honours in Human Nutrition Co-op (left) and Jordan MacDonald, BBA with Honours Co-op (right), in completing and successfully defending their honours thesis this year.

Leadership Summit at X

Sam Gan shared his unique perspectives on leadership with the crowd at the 4th Annual Leadership Summit hosted at StFX.

Those gathered heard powerful messages that ranged from the importance of stepping outside your comfort zone to learning leadership is within oneself to being aware of the inequity of opportunity.

For more information on this story, please visit <https://www.stfx.ca/about/news/x-talks>



GRADUATION STATS

- ♦ Graduated: 20
 - ◊ Employed: 14
 - ◊ Studying: 4
 - ◊ Actively Looking: 2

FUN GRAD FACTS

- ♦ 1 BBA First Class Honours
- ♦ 1 BSC HNU Honours
- ♦ 9 BBA Adv. Major with Distinction

EMPLOYERS

- ♦ KPMG
- ♦ Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation
- ♦ Deloitte
- ♦ PepsiCo
- ♦ IBM
- ♦ PWL Capital Wealth Management
- ♦ Venture for Canada
- ♦ Grant Thornton
- ♦ Cabot Links
- ♦ Collins Barrow
- ♦ CKDM Chartered Accountant



Left to right: Dr. Kent MacDonald, President, Jordan MacDonald, BBA Honours Co-op Student, and Chancellor Susan Crooker, May 2018 Convocation

Onex Gold Medal Winner

Jordan MacDonald, BBA First Class Honours Co-op, was the recipient of the Onex Corporation Gold Medal, awarded to the top BBA student.

While enrolled in the Co-op Education program, Jordan completed 12 months of work experience, four months as a Tourism Development Officer, with North Cape Coastal Tourism Area and eight months as a Marketing Communications & Events Coordinator, with the StFX Extension Department. Through this role, Jordan was a member of the Leadership Development Conference planning committee and worked with StFX 4-H Society and various stakeholders to organize

the first Leadership Development Conference at StFX, which was a huge success. Jordan's passion for entrepreneurship and community development fueled his pursuit of working with the StFX Extension Department.

"Extensions role has historically been to engage with grassroots groups in the community, which are activities that I find very important given my interest in non-profit sectors."

- Jordan MacDonald

Jordan is off to the University of Guelph in the fall to join their MSc Capacity Development & Extension program.



Co-op Awards

Left to right: Alesha Baker, BBA Co-op Student Michelle Murray, Technical Business Analyst, IT Services, & Ryan Finn, BBA Co-op

Each year the Co-op Education Office issues three awards during convocation, *Student's Choice for Outstanding Co-op Supervisor Award*, awarded to a supervisor who was an exceptional mentor and went above and beyond normal expectations to ensure that the student had a quality work term. *Co-operative Education Student Achievement Award*, awarded to an outstanding co-op student who has made significant contributions to Co-op Education, the StFX community, and their work placements. *Employers Choice Award for Excellence in Co-operative Education*, awarded to a student who demonstrated exceptional work ethic, leadership, personal accountability, integrity and professionalism on the job.

This year's recipients were, Michelle Chisholm, StFX IT Services, for the Outstanding Co-op Supervisor Award, Alesha Baker, BBA Co-op, for the Student Achievement Award , and Ryan Finn, BBA Co-op, for the Employer's Choice for Excellence in Co-op Award. This year the Co-op Education Office hosted a small reception, recognizing our three award recipients for their

contributions and their nominees.

A special thank you to our judges, Professor Jennifer Alex, Bhavik Parikh, and Rhonda McIver for taking the time to review our nomination packages, as well as the Antigonish Art Fair for their continued support of the StFX Co-op Education program.



Left to right: David Miller, Beth Latwaitis, Ryan Finn, & Mike MacEachern, Antigonish Art Fair

S STUDENTS ON WORKTERM



By Paul MacLellan (left)

For my second co-op term, I had the opportunity to work with Grant Thornton.

The classes that I have taken at StFX, such as Introductory and Intermediate Accounting, had prepared for me some of the tasks required in this position and reinforced much of my learning in the accounting courses I have completed. I know that when I return to school, the practical application of accounting theory I have gained will be very beneficial to my future accounting courses.

The atmosphere at Grant Thornton was friendly and collaborative and my co-workers were very supportive. During the work term, my senior managers did a great job of giving me feedback of the work I completed, helping me to enhance my knowledge, skills, and abilities to grow professionally.

This opportunity has reinforced my decision to pursue my CPA and has increased my confidence in my abilities.



WINTER TERM STATISTICS

- ◆ 100% employed for winter work term
- ◆ 8 student out on work term

EMPLOYERS

- ◆ The Magic Touch
- ◆ Sodexo
- ◆ National Capital Commission
- ◆ StFX Extension Department
- ◆ Grant Thornton
- ◆ Husky Energy
- ◆ Scotiabank
- ◆ Health Canada

POSITIONS

- ◆ Marketing & Communications Coordinator
- ◆ External Sales Coordinator
- ◆ Research Assistant
- ◆ Accounting Intern
- ◆ Customer Service Representative
- ◆ Marketing Intern
- ◆ Students Facilities and Asset Management Coordinator
- ◆ Project Management

Contributing to Community

Career Planning Workshops for Youth

Graduating business students Emma Vossen, Heather Simmons, Chrystina Acker (Co-op), and Teagan Moxam (pictured here left to right) created and conducted a Service Learning project within Dr. Opal Leung's Leadership course. Their project focused on preparing high school students to choose between post-graduation opportunities, and how to excel in those opportunities, through various workshops at St. Mary's Academy in Sherbrooke.



2nd Annual Schwartz Women in Business Conference

Vice President of the Schwartz Women in Business Society and Co-op student, Alesha Baker (right) hosted the 2nd annual business conference at X—Pushing Limits Conference. A variety of workshops and case competitions were hosted, to a sold out crowd. This event is the largest undergraduate women in business conference in Atlantic Canada.



Fundraising for L'Arche

Co-op student Alesha Baker (left) and team members Devon McCarron, Devon, Devon Pinkham, and Chris Kurdyla, hosted a fundraiser for L'Arche, selling their art work on campus. The fundraiser was a huge success, raising \$1900 for L'Arche Hearts and Hands.



13th Annual Business Banquet

Ryan Finn (BBA Co-op Student), Schwartz Business Society President and his team hosted the 13th annual business banquet, recognizing the valuable contributions business students have made to the StFX Community.

Employer Column



StFX Business Student to PwC Professional

By Holly Ivanka, National Talent Acquisition Manager

Hi my name is Holly Ivanka. I am the Atlantic Talent Acquisition Specialist for PwC. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Nikki Mills, StFX Alumni and now one of our Senior Associates at PwC. I hope you enjoy reading about Nikki's story, learning a little bit about PwC and navigating your career aspirations!

1. Can you start by introducing yourself?

I hail from Indian Harbour Lake, Nova Scotia. I graduated from the Bachelor of Business Administration program with First Class Honours in Accounting in 2015. I started with PwC after graduation, as an Associate in our Assurance practice and have worked on some of our major clients such as Sobeys Inc and J.D Irving. Currently, I am a Senior Associate within our Assurance practice.

2. Why did you decide to attend St.FX?

What drew me to St.FX was the community. You can get a similar education at any number of great universities across Canada, and get the tools you need to be successful, but you can only get the sense of community and belonging from St.FX.

3. What interested you about the business program and accounting?

I had a difficult time deciding what path to take, as I was interested in many things. What interested me about business and accounting, is the balance between requiring technical knowledge and being able to collaborate with people. I've always been a problem-solver and a people person and I love to meet new people. Accounting, and my career with PwC, has offered me the ability to enjoy the best of both worlds.

4. How did you know PwC was a place you would enjoy starting your career?

I had a difficult time deciding whether I wanted to work in industry or in a firm setting. I attended the information sessions and did my research in my second and third years' to see what would be the best fit. My first experience with PwC was a case competition practice for JDCC in my third year. I made a connection with Nikki Robar at that practice and she encouraged me to apply for the Talent Academy that PwC was offering that summer. The performance-based culture at PwC my interviewers talked about sounded like just the challenge I wanted for my career.

5. Can you share information about the CPA program and how PwC supports you?

When you arrive at PwC you're given a Coach and a Buddy that help you define your career goals, navigate PwC, and successfully complete the CPA program. Your Coach is a CPA who has been through the process and has written the CFE. Your buddy is a person that is in the program and can offer support along the way. You also start with a group of CPA candidates that are going through the same program. Overall, you've got an amazing support group.

6. Lastly, what is one thing you wish you would have known before starting at PwC?

At the end of the day, an employer will be looking for someone authentic who has a good attitude and a drive to be successful - just be yourself and find the place where you feel like you fit and the rest will feel easy!

For more information about PwC, what we look for, and application deadlines visit our campus website:

<https://www.pwc.com/ca/en/careers/campus-recruiting.html>

Welch LLP

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Hire a Co-op Student!

StFX co-op students are bright, innovative and eager for professional experience. Year round, our office will work with you to help your organization benefit from a StFX student. Work terms start in May, September, or January of each year.

Have questions?



Co-operative Education Program
St. Francis Xavier University

www.sites.stfx.ca/co-op
Tel: 902-867-5359

A special thank you to all of the students and employers who submitted stories for the newsletter.

Please send us your stories for our next issue in August.