MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Now at the end of my first term as Dean, I’d like to share some reflections on our Faculty’s accomplishments, challenges and objectives over the past six years, particularly as they relate to our students’ preparedness for life after graduation.

We recognize that there are some prejudices amongst Canadian and international publics about Arts degrees, and that our students experience anxieties about job-readiness. With our students and faculty members we began to rethink the Arts degree and provide better documentation about its efficacy.

In order for students to understand what they’re going to get from a program of study, we designed program outcomes; we inaugurated a new career preparation initiative that spans the four years of undergraduate education and refocuses on students’ graduating competencies, their readiness for work in the world, and their record of accomplishment in both classroom and community contexts; and we developed more professionally-oriented four-year programs including the Bachelor of International Economics and the Bachelor of Media Studies, both of which offer co-op to their students.

Notably, we made new investments in the Arts Co-op Program this spring, and are encouraging students to take advantage of the size and scope of the Faculty to thoughtfully and intentionally explore their career pathways inside and outside the classroom. All of this is coming together in a new Arts narrative focused on producing life-ready students who are “powered by Arts.”

Our investment to expand co-op opportunities recognizes this Program’s ability to provide transformative, high-impact education both domestically and internationally and the pages of this year’s annual report are a testament to the high quality, real-world work experience our students gain.

I want to thank our new and returning employer partners who joined us this year. We can create the conditions for growth of the co-op program, but you are the partners who actually make it happen. The student and alumni profiles in this report demonstrate the remarkable trust our co-op employers put in our students, and our students’ ability to rise to the challenges their co-op experiences present. Thank you!

Gage Averill
Dean, Faculty of Arts
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I write this message we are currently in the midst of recruiting our next group of co-op students to our graduate and undergraduate programs, so I’m having the pleasure of hearing some of our current students speak about their recent co-op experiences. As I listen to students describe their journey through co-op—several of whom are profiled in pages 10-13 of this annual report—certain themes emerge. Students feel more confident about their skills and abilities after a work term, they see how their disciplinary expertise matters in the work world, and they develop a greater sense of the career paths available to them with their Arts degrees. For these students, co-op experiences are nothing short of transformational; adding workplace experience to their classroom learning helps their futures open up in amazing ways.

As our Faculty aims to ensure all of our students feel empowered by their Arts degrees and are able to make a smooth transition at graduation, we are delighted that our co-op program is becoming increasingly central to the student experience in Arts at UBC. This year we had the pleasure of working with the first cohort of students in the new Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program which draws on UBC’s strengths in global issues, Asia Pacific issues, and environment and sustainability issues to prepare graduates ready to drive positive change in the world. Their employers reported that the students added significant value in their workplaces, consistently performing at levels that exceeded their expectations.

As this year’s report showcases, our program continues to experience steady growth, leading to another banner year for student hires. We’re also pleased to see student salaries increasing, with Arts Co-op students earning a record $4,710,522 this year. Since the Program’s launch in January 2000, Arts Co-op student wages have totaled over $37.9 million! And a record 52 students completed international work terms this past year in countries including Argentina, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

Of course, none of these experiences would be possible without our remarkable employers; thank you for the investment you are making in our students, the next generation of global leaders.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions anytime at julie.walchli@ubc.ca or 604.827.5194.

Julie Walchli
Director, Faculty of Arts Co-operative Education Program
OUR ROOTS

The UBC Arts Co-op Program started as a pilot program in 1997 for students in the Department of English. As a result of our growth and success, the program is thriving and includes students across all undergraduate disciplines within Arts (40+ different undergraduate majors in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts) and graduate programs in the UBC iSchool (more formally known as the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies), Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and English PhD.

We are now the third largest co-op program at UBC with over 675 active students in the program.

ARTS CO-OP PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

The UBC Arts Co-op Program offers students enriched educational experiences for personal and professional growth by working with diverse community partners and sectors to provide transformative workplace learning.

The UBC Arts Co-op Program aims to:

- Provide students with the support and opportunities for career exploration, and diversification of experience and skill sets
- Develop skilled professionals who can strengthen the workforce in new and innovative ways
- Enable students to be engaged citizens who contribute positively to a global society
- Build student capacity for leadership
- Foster student and alumni connections to UBC and the local and international communities
The Arts Co-op Program placed 485 students during 2015/16, including 401 undergraduate (UG) students from Humanities, Social Science, and Creative and Performing Arts majors, 74 graduate (G) students from the UBC iSchool, 7 graduate (G) students from the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program, and 3 PhD students from the Department of English. This is the highest placement success in the program’s history and a 9% increase over last year’s numbers.

EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR & REGION

The public sector remained the largest employer of Arts Co-op students in 2015/16 with 48% of placements, up 2% from last year. The non-profit sector had 25% of placements (a decrease of 2% from last year), with the remaining 27% working in the private sector.

In 2015/16, 75% of our placements were in the Lower Mainland area, 3% on Vancouver Island, 3% in other BC locations, 8% in other Canadian provinces and territories, and 11% in foreign countries.

EDUCATING GLOBAL CITIZENS: INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

This year 52 students completed international co-op work terms in Argentina, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

Since the Program’s inception in 2000, Arts Co-op students have worked in 33 different countries.

We know that living and working abroad is one of the most powerful educational experiences students can have, and want to ensure all students who want international co-op experience have access to challenging opportunities.

FACTS & FIGURES

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"My experiences working through the Arts Co-op program have definitely changed the way I think about my post-UBC career plans...I feel less stressed about graduation and entering the workforce because I have gained a lot of transferable skills and experience to show for it."

- Morrell Andrews, International Relations Major
2015 UBC ARTS CO-OP STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

The Arts Co-op Program recognized each of the three winners for outstanding achievement in all aspects of student performance, including academics, the workplace, and professional and/or community involvement with a monetary award recorded on the student’s transcript.

**iSCHOOL MLIS CO-OP**

**CECILIA ROSE**

Master of Library and Information Studies

Work term: Information System Project Librarian, UBC Student Academic System Initiative

**iSCHOOL MAS CO-OP**

**PAIGE HOHMANN**

Master of Archival Studies

Work term: Archival Project Assistant, UBC Okanagan Library, Okanagan Special Collections

**UNDERGRADUATE ARTS CO-OP**

**AUDREY TONG**

Bachelor of Arts, Honours Political Science with International Relations Major

Work term: Research Assistant, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
STUDENT INTAKE & SELECTION

During our annual intake in Fall 2015, we received 405 applications from undergraduate students and admitted 204. For the graduate program, we received 59 applications from iSchool students and admitted 56, and we received 11 applications from Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs students and 7 participated. For the PhD program, we received and admitted 1 student.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The Arts Co-op Students’ Association (ACSA) strives to create a community for students and alumni to connect with their peers, and to share their co-op experiences and career aspirations. As the first co-op student association at UBC, ACSA organizes events to enhance students’ professional skills and provides them with an opportunity to get to know others in the program so they can learn from one another, have fun, and stay connected.

ACSA’s 7 teams are led by students and elected by Arts Co-op students:

- Publishing Team
- Social Team
- Finance & Promotions Team
- Web Team
- Mentorship Team
- Alumni Relations Team
- Professional Development Team

In addition to regular professional development workshops, mentoring, and a range of social events, ACSA also contributes a portion of each students’ membership fees to the UBC United Way campaign, helping to raise awareness of the needs and services within our local community.

To learn more about ACSA and their accomplishments, and to read their online blog, visit http://ubcacsa.wordpress.com

HIGH CALIBRE STUDENTS

Potential undergraduate Arts Co-op students go through a rigorous and competitive application process, as we strive to admit outstanding students who will meet the needs of our employers.

We assess students’ suitability for the Program by reviewing their academic achievements, previous work and volunteer experiences, interpersonal skills, writing abilities, and career motivation. After reviewing applications, we select the strongest students to participate in group interviews where students are asked both behavioural and standard interview questions. Following this, students deliver a brief presentation and complete an independent writing assignment.

We invest in this rigorous selection process to ensure that we consistently deliver the highest calibre students for our employers.
Since the Program’s launch in January 2000, Arts Co-op student wages have totaled over $37.9 million!

The following salary data shows co-op salary averages by employment sector. Undergraduate students earn an average of $2,489 per month while on Arts Co-op work terms, while graduate students earn an average of $3,189 per month. In total, undergraduate Arts Co-op students earned $3,638,931 in salaries during 2015/16, and graduate Arts Co-op students earned $1,071,591 in salaries, for a total of $4,710,522 earned in 2015/16.

An undergraduate student will earn on average a total of $27,264 over 3 work terms. Students who choose to do an optional fourth co-op work term before graduation will earn an average of $36,979 and students who choose to do an optional fifth co-op work term will earn an average of $49,725.

**UNDERGRADUATE SALARY BY WORK TERM**

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<tr>
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</table>

**UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SALARIES BY SECTOR**

- Undergraduate (public: $2,677, non-profit: $2,263, private: $2,412, overall: $2,489)
- Graduate (public: $3,339, non-profit: $2,629, private: $3,016, overall: $3,189)
ALEXANDER TSAI-GOODMAN
International Economics Major

Alexander began his co-op journey as a Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator at Marpole Oakridge Family Place (MOFP). There, he planned events, developed a membership program, and ran the inaugural MOFP Day Fundraiser which raised $1,600. His second co-op brought him to the Canadian Embassy in Thailand where he completed trade and commercial briefs, planned events, and liaised with Canadian businesses in Thailand. Alexander also created the EduCanada newsletter in Thailand, which promotes Canadian schools to international students. In his current position as the Junior Policy Analyst for the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises, Alexander organized the Small Business Information Exposition on Haida Gwaii, among other duties. Alexander notes that this position is highly relevant to his degree and has greatly advanced his data analysis skills. “The co-op program has provided me with a practical environment to utilize my studies and demonstrate to potential employers that I have the capabilities to make the step up to be successful in a professional setting,” says Alexander of his co-op experience.

YANIV PEREYASLAVSKY
Political Science Major

During Yaniv’s first co-op term as the Digital Support Advocacy Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada (now Global Affairs Canada), he produced and published the Government of Canada’s Eyes Abroad column, monitored and assessed over 350 social media accounts, and contributed to various advocacy campaigns. “The opportunity to work at the Department was not only a highlight uniquely offered by the Co-op program but also provided me with an extensive network of connections in the National Capital Region,” notes Yaniv. He completed his next two co-op work terms as the Market and Competitive Intelligence Analyst at Avigilon, where he produced internal research and reports, and conducted intelligence research. Yaniv’s experience in the Canadian Forces, as a Reconnaissance Trooper, made his co-op experience quite unique. “Knowing my background, the Co-op office went out of their way to match me with employers who appreciated my degree and welcomed my experience in the Forces,” says Yaniv. “In my final Co-op term, I was recommended for a position in Corporate Intelligence with an employer who made direct use of my soldiering skills and encouraged me to apply my degree.”
CLARA SALTER
Canadian Studies Major

Clara started her co-op journey as a Parks Canada Research Assistant where she wrote park improvement proposals and developed a historical research package that is currently being used to develop educational and interpretive materials for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of confederation. Clara’s work at Parks Canada nurtured her interest in First Nations Studies, which she continues to pursue through her degree. In her second co-op as the Junior Policy Analyst for Environment and Climate Change Canada, Clara developed ministerial level communications during the transition in leadership after the recent federal election and for the COP 21 conference in Paris. In her current position as a Communications Intern at Coast Opportunity Funds, Clara is working on the launch of an online platform that aims to feature First Nations business initiatives in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii. “The skills, experiences and connections that I have developed through co-op have already opened doors for me professionally and will continue to make me a competitive candidate in my area of interest upon graduation from UBC,” says Clara.

NICOLE ALIVOJVODIC
English Literature Major

Nicole’s first co-op experience as a Management Trainee Intern at Enterprise Rent-A-Car allowed her to strengthen her customer service and communication skills. Her second co-op term as the Administrative Assistant at Presentation House Theatre allowed her to utilize skills from her first co-op term while performing administrative duties and maintaining the company’s website, experiences that were great additions to her portfolio. For her final work term, Nicole was able to apply her critical thinking and writing skills, learned through her English Literature degree, as the Media Relations Intern at Laura Ballance Media Group. Her responsibilities included writing and research, attending press events, and escorting media at client events. “This is an experience that I never would have gotten if it weren’t for the co-op program and I am very happy that I had this opportunity as this position was a perfect fit for me and my future career goals,” says Nicole. “Not only will I be better prepared and more competitive for future jobs that I apply for, but I have a good sense of what I want to pursue as well as what I need to do to get there.”
KETTY ZHANG
Visual Arts & Art History Double Major

Ketty began her co-op experience as the Museum Experiential Education Assistant at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden Society where she delivered public presentations and education programs for over 300 visitors, aided in the curation and promotion of a multimedia art exhibit, and designed promotional materials. Here, she strengthened her communication skills in both English and Mandarin, and learned more about Chinatown’s history and culture. In her current position as the Public Arts Coordinator at The Heights Merchants Association, Ketty is responsible for managing and designing mural pieces for the anti-graffiti program, and supporting community events. While the position only called for two murals, Ketty has gone above and beyond and is already planning her third. “My career goal is to become a successful art management professional while being a practicing artist. I am fortunate to have both of my co-op terms so far relevant to this goal,” says Ketty. “Co-op has helped me build a foundation of transferable skills, networking connections and workplace confidence, and I will continue to build upon this foundation in the future.”

ASHLEY OH
Theatre Major

For Ashley, co-op has been an opportunity to investigate possible career paths within the Vancouver arts community. Ashley’s first co-op term was at the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, where she worked for two terms as the Senior Management Assistant. Here, she contributed to the organization by developing a distribution plan for 20,000 program guides and 50,000 brochures that promoted the festival to the public. In addition to this project, Ashley also archived media coverage information, and managed travel schedules, bookings, and production meeting minutes. “There was a direct correlation between my studies and co-op terms; my theatre degree helped me truly appreciate the work that the Festival was doing and to meet people in the Vancouver arts community,” says Ashley. “After graduation, I believe that co-op will benefit me because I will have professional work experience, soft and hard skills developed from my work experience, as well as my degree.”
MASTERS DEGREES

- Library and Information Studies (MLIS)
- Archival Studies (MAS)
- Dual Archival Studies & Library and Information Studies (MASLIS)

TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

- Electronic information retrieval
- Internet research
- Knowledge management
- Management principles
- Organization of information
- Records management
- Research & analysis
- Website design & content development

JARIN SCHEXNIDER
Master of Archival Studies

Jarin’s co-op experience has taught her to be adaptable in information management and archiving arenas outside of academia. Jarin completed her first co-op term at The Cinematheque as a Film Archive Preservation Coordinator, where her main responsibilities included executing a major film preservation project that required over 1,000 archivally safe film canisters, developing a media guide for staff reference, and curating and lecturing at The Cinematheque’s Archive Day. In her current position as the Collections Assistant at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Jarin splits her time between working with the Registrar and the permanent art collection, and the Archivist and the institutional and artist records. “It’s been great to not only work within this arts organization, but also to have this ongoing, evolving, and wide-scoped conversation about information, including how it’s represented and maintained within an artistic context,” says Jarin. “Co-op positions have been a crucial instrument in gaining hands on experience in the areas of interest my coursework doesn’t cover.”

VICTOR LIANG
Dual Master of Archival Studies & Library and Information Studies

Victor has found his co-op terms to be highly relevant to his degree and his professional career after graduation. For his first co-op term, Victor worked as a Policy Analyst at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC, where he contributed to the legislative review of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. During his second co-op term as an Information and Privacy Analyst at the BC Liquor Distribution Branch, he worked on Freedom of Information requests, developed a Personal Information Inventory, and drafted the Privacy Impact Assessments for the Branch. Here, Victor had the opportunity to work with SLAIS graduate Elizabeth Denham, the current UK Privacy Commissioner. “If there is anything I can emulate from her it’s that you can do a lot with this degree and it’s on us as graduates to take that initiative to break the mold,” Victor says. “Both of my co-op terms involved information management and analysis - in particular privacy protection - and showed me how far a library and archival degree can go, beyond just being a traditional librarian or archivist.”
ALUMNI PROFILES

NOMI IYOSHI | B.A. 2002 | Psychology & Family Studies
HR Advisor, Mountain Equipment Co-op

Nomi currently works as the HR Advisor at Mountain Equipment Co-op, and she believes that co-op taught her the importance of patience and persistence. Nomi worked as the Project Assistant at the Ministry of Children and Family Development for her first and second work terms, where she developed website content and maintained the database of children in care. This experience allowed her to build transferable skills necessary for her final co-op terms with the Atira Women’s Resource Society as a Business Planner. There, Nomi created a strategic business plan for the non-profit organization. Currently working in HR, Nomi has had the opportunity to explore multiple career paths after graduation. She credits her co-op experience as being very valuable in enabling her to make the transition into this career. “My co-op experience gave me the confidence to research, network, and make deliberate decisions about how to plan my chosen career path,” says Nomi.

PHIL CASEY | B.A. 2010 | Human Geography
Manager, Social Responsibility, Goldcorp

Phil attributes his current role as Manager, Social Responsibility at Goldcorp to his co-op terms, which introduced him to the world of social performance work and corporate social responsibility. Phil started his co-op experience as the Socio-Economic Research Assistant/GIS Assistant at ERM Rescan, where he developed Environmental Assessment Baseline reports and performed geographic analysis with GIS and database management technology, among other duties. During his second co-op term at Teck Resources Ltd., he conducted research on sustainability, and represented the Teck team during internal and external Sustainability Committee meetings. Phil continued to contribute to the Teck team for another five years after his co-op placement, before working at Goldcorp. “If it wasn’t for my first Co-op job which exposed me to social performance work in the extractives industry and allowed me to continue advancing my skills in my second placement I wouldn’t be where I am today!” says Phil.

PATRICIA CHU | B.A. 2004 | Political Science
Major Gifts Officer, BC Children’s Hospital

Patricia currently works as the Major Gifts Officer at BC Children’s Hospital. She started her co-op experience at the Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society as a Multicultural Worker where she worked to cover up graffiti with a colorful family-friendly mural, among other duties. Then, Patricia worked as the Volunteer Coordinator Assistant at the Vancouver Fringe Festival where she had the opportunity to work in a fast-paced arts community. She then worked as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Powell Street Festival, where she was responsible for recruiting and supervising the 200 festival volunteers. In her final co-op term, Patricia worked as the Event Coordinator for the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC, where she worked to organize large scale events that gained international exposure. Patricia continued to work as the Event Coordinator full-time for a number of years after co-op, where she gained valuable experience and skills before she made the transition into fundraising. “I really enjoyed the work and the event and time management skills I learned continue to be of value to my job to this day,” says Patricia.
HELEN HALBERT | Master of Library and Information Studies, 2014
Librarian, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

In her current position as the Librarian at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the national Inuit organization, Helen is responsible for everything from library administration to collection development. “This is completely different from working in a large academic library setting, but through my co-op with UBC Library I got to meet and work with library staff from all different departments and learn about how everything comes together,” says Helen. She worked as the Web Services Co-op Student at the UBC Library, Library Systems and Information Technology unit for two terms, where her responsibilities ranged from web design research to data analysis. Here, Helen created a resource toolkit to help resolve connectivity and authentication issues at the UBC Library. She notes that her most memorable and fun experience was when she helped conduct usability testing with student volunteers for library web applications. “It also just so happens that my first major project in my current position was planning and designing a digital library so it was really important that I had experience testing and configuring new technologies,” says Helen.

KATHLEEN BROW | Master of Archival Studies, 2013
Records Coordinator, City of Abbotsford

Kathleen’s co-op experience introduced her to the varied aspects of records management and started her on her career path, where she is currently working as the Records Coordinator for the City of Abbotsford. During her first co-op experience as an Archivist at the Association for Mineral Exploration BC, Kathleen handled and digitized historical records, implemented an archival database, and uploaded over 700 images into the system. Then, as a Records Assistant at Environment Canada, she worked to transfer Canadian Wildlife Service records to permanent storage and developed a classification plan to facilitate the transfer process. She then worked as an Archivist with the Tsilhqot’in National Government in Williams Lake, where she collaborated with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Analysts and Legal Counsel to contribute historical information into the organization’s GIS portal. In this position Kathleen also had the opportunity to conduct research and work in the archival collection at the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg. “My previous co-op positions have been instrumental in getting me to where I am currently in my career,” says Kathleen.

ALUMNI RELATIONS

The UBC Arts Co-op Alumni Network started in 2010 and the 2015/16 Organizing Committee consists of Elena Janssen (BA ’08), Will Silver (BA ’04), and Meghan Chapman (BA ’11). They work closely with the Arts Co-op office and the Arts Alumni Relations office to connect alumni, staff, current students, and the university. The group holds networking events throughout the year, and shares professional advice with current students through pre-employment conferences and the ACSA mentorship program.

UBC alumni play a critical role in supporting the growth of our program. In the fiscal 2015/16 year, they posted 79 co-op positions with our program, accounting for 6% of all postings.
EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES
ANDREW FABRO, Head, Library Services West, Environment and Climate Change Canada
ROB HAJDU, Project Manager, Canadian Environmental Assessment Authority
TARA HARTLEY, Regional Director, Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Pacific Region, Public Works and Government Services Canada
SUZANNE JAY, Director, Communications, MS Society of Canada, BC and Yukon Division
SUSAN MA, Head of Education and Group Programs, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
HOPE POWER, Assistant Head, Information and Instruction Liaison, Simon Fraser University Library
BRONWEN SPROUT, Head, Digital Programs and Services, Digital Initiatives, UBC Library

FACULTY MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
SUNAINA ASSANAND, Associate Dean, Student Success
HEATHER O’BRIEN, Assistant Professor, UBC iSchool

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
SARAH GIESBRECHT, Dual Master of Library and Information Studies/Master of Archival Studies Representative
GRAACE HERMANSEN, Major Philosophy, Minor International Relations, Elected Representative
OLIVER MA, Major Economics, Minor Commerce, Executive Coordinator, Arts Co-op Students’ Association
CHRISTOPHER STEPHENSON, Master of Library and Information Studies Representative

UBC STAFF
JULIE WALCHLI, Director (Committee Chair)
SHEILA ASHWELL, Associate Director
ANNA JUBILO, Coordinator, Graduate Programs
MELISSA NIGHTINGALE, Student Services Coordinator, UBC iSchool

ARTS CO-OP ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES
CHRISTINE GERICICH, Supervisor and Appellate Court Records Officer, Superior Courts Judiciary
JOCELYN HALLMAN, Teaching and Learning Librarian, Capilano University
ELENA JANSSEN, Project Manager, ECHO Storytelling Agency
SORAYA SAVJI, Recruitment Consultant, Annex Consulting
MARYN WALLACE, Director, Strategic Partnerships, THINK
SUHER ZAHER-MAZAWI, Archivist, Archives of Ontario, Government of Ontario
OLIVER ZIHLMANN, Development Officer, St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation
JULIE WALCHLI, Director

Julie has worked in the field of co-operative education since 1997 when she founded the first co-op education program in Arts at UBC in the English Department. Since then she has helped to create an Arts-wide program for students throughout all undergraduate programs, masters programs in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, and recently to PhD students in the English and History Departments. She is currently managing a multi-year, Arts-wide project to explore ways to support faculty members, staff, and students to integrate career education throughout the undergraduate experience. During 2008/09 she completed a secondment with the UBC Go Global International Learning Programs Office, creating a Student Safety Abroad policy and resources for UBC, and a handbook for faculty members leading Group Study Programs Abroad.

Julie has served in a number of leadership roles in the co-op community, including President of the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education and President of the BC Co-op Association. A graduate from UBC’s B.A. and M.A. programs in English, Julie taught in the English department from 1993-97 and co-edited Landmarks: A Process Reader for Canadian Writers. Recognitions include the UBC President’s Service Award for Staff Excellence and the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon award for outstanding contributions to the Association.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., English (Honours) & Political Science (UBC)
Graduate Degree: M.A., English (UBC)

SHEILA ASHWELL, Associate Director

Sheila has been working in the career education and employment services field for over 2 decades. Starting with youth in the Vancouver School Board, she moved on to recruitment services, employment coaching, and workshop delivery with Career Services (now the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers) at UBC, and has spent the last 16 years actively involved in the growth and development of UBC’s Arts Co-op Program.

An alumna of UBC’s Psychology Program, along with a M.Ed. in Counselling Psychology, Sheila understands the value of an Arts degree, and is passionate about helping students see how they can apply their Arts degree in the workforce. As the Associate Director, Sheila oversees the Undergraduate Arts Co-op program, including the strategic direction of the prospective co-op student recruitment process and pre-employment training/advising services offered to students.

In 2008/09 Sheila served as Acting Director of the Arts Co-op Program. In 2009/2010, she took a personal leave to act as UBC’s Loaned Representative to the United Way of the Lower Mainland and to volunteer/travel in East Africa. Sheila is the recipient of the 2008 Dean of Arts Award for Staff Excellence. She has mentored many students through the UBC Arts Tri-Mentoring Program, recently joined as a mentor with the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education’s Mentorship Program, and liaises with the Arts Co-op Alumni Network executive committee.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Psychology (UBC)
Graduate Degree: M.Ed., Counselling Psychology (UBC)
JASMINE BASSI, Coordinator, UG Student Engagement

Jasmine’s role in the office is to develop and implement advising strategies to support current students in the program. She also liaises with employers looking to hire co-op students, plans conferences and professional development sessions for students, conducts site visits with employers and students on work terms, and supports the Arts Co-op Students’ Association. In her last position, Jasmine worked as a First Year Experience Coordinator at UBC’s Centre for Student Involvement and Careers. Her role was to coordinate the University’s orientation program, Imagine, for over 7,000 students. She has experience in managing and developing student teams, training thousands of leaders, planning events, and leading committees across campus. Jasmine is a big supporter of co-operative education, having completed three work terms with the Arts Co-op Program, including two with the Arts Co-op office. She was highly involved with the Arts Co-op Students’ Association as an undergrad, along with various leadership positions across campus.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Political Science & Sociology (UBC); Graduate Degree: Masters in Higher Education (UBC)

JONATHAN LEE, Senior Program Assistant

Through his Bachelor of Music and tenure as President of the UBC Music Undergraduate Student Association, Jonathan developed a keen interest in student services and academic support. Continuing in this vein, Jonathan immersed himself in various administrative roles to develop his skills and gain experience working with students. He brings knowledge and expertise to this role from his work at the Segal Graduate School of Business at SFU and the UBC International Student Initiative Awards Office. As the Senior Program Assistant, Jonathan supports the essential operations of the Arts Co-op Program. He mediates all stages of the co-op hiring process in close collaboration with students, employers, and stakeholders – interactions where he finds himself engaging in new challenges and eye-opening experiences every day.

Undergraduate Degree: B.Mus., Vocal Performance & English, Emphasis Language (UBC)

HEATHER LIAU, Manager, Marketing & Industry Relations

on leave from September 2015

Combining her background in marketing and a passion for student learning, Heather supports the growth of the Arts Co-op Program through active marketing and industry outreach. She works with employers, alumni, and industry partners to promote co-op hiring and to create quality learning experiences for Arts Co-op students. In her previous experience, Heather brought international attention to British Columbia’s technology industry by launching the province’s first International Partnering Forum at the Vancouver International Digital Festival. Through Heather's personalized business matchmaking, local companies were able to pitch the likes of Cartoon Network, BBC, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Heather has also led multiple cross-functional teams in marketing campaigns for Vision Critical, makers of one of the world’s most adopted online research platforms. Until May 2015, Heather held the role of Co-Chair of the External Relations Committee of the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon.

Undergraduate Degree: B.Com., Marketing (UBC)
ANNA JUBILO, Coordinator, Graduate Programs

Anna has been working with graduate students since 2002 and has a wide-ranging background in program coordination, librarianship, communications, and administration; extensive experience working with and participating in international exchange programs; as well as many years at UBC. She first worked with Arts Co-op in 2001 as a Communications Assistant co-op student shared with the Dean of Arts Office. Her other co-op positions were as a Technical Communicator for TELUS Enterprise Solutions and as an Academic Office Assistant with the YMCA International College. During her M.L.I.S. degree at UBC, Anna completed a practicum and professional experience with the Vancouver Art Gallery, worked as a Coordinator for the Vancouver Public Library’s Summer Readalong Program, and as a work-study student, managing UBC Linguistics’ Reading Room. She has been in her role with Arts Co-op since 2008. Anna is also actively involved in the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon as Co-Chair of their Professional Development Committee.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., English & Linguistics (UBC); Graduate Degree: M.L.I.S. (UBC)

MERRY WANG, Coordinator, Information Management

On leave from March 2016

Having graduated from the UBC Arts Co-op Program in May 2005, Merry has first-hand knowledge of the value of co-operative education. Through the Arts Co-op Program, Merry learned how to apply the skills she developed as an International Relations major in a variety of work environments. Merry completed her co-op work terms at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (as an Assistant Program Coordinator), Atira Women’s Resource Society (as a Human Resources Assistant), and TRIUMF (as a Technology Transfer Assistant). Merry hopes that through participation in the Arts Co-op Program, students, employers, and faculty members will realize that a Liberal Arts education prepares students for a wide range of career opportunities. Merry is the recipient of the 2012 Dean of Arts Award for Staff Excellence.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., International Relations (UBC)

MICHAEL WONG, Manager, Marketing & Industry Relations

An alumnus of the UBC Arts Co-op Program, Michael has always been a strong supporter of Arts Co-op and co-operative education. Michael completed co-op work terms in the non-profit and public sectors, was a part of the Arts Co-op Students’ Association executive team, and was a Co-Chair of the Arts Co-op Alumni Network. He has over 10 years of marketing and communications experience and, prior to working in the Arts Co-op Office, Michael was the Marketing and Communications Coordinator at the UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Michael uses his experience as a co-op alumnus and co-op employer to provide career advising and coaching for students in the Program. Michael is responsible for overseeing employer outreach and coordinates marketing strategies and internal and external communications, including managing the Program’s website, communications collateral, social media channels, and e-newsletters.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Sociology (UBC)

DAVID YUEN, Manager, Job Development

David, a UBC B.A. International Relations and Arts Co-op graduate, started his journey with the Arts Co-op team as its Program Assistant. During the three years in this role, David had the opportunity to build on his undergraduate experience and passion for student affairs and experiential learning by managing all aspects of the co-op hiring process. Since June 2015, David has helped the Program expand its opportunities by cultivating new partnerships with industry as the Manager, Job Development. He also continues to leverage his career and co-op advising expertise to help students successfully transition into young professionals. From his roots as an Arts Co-op student, David is dedicated to spreading the enriching value of co-operative education to students and employers alike.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., International Relations & Psychology (UBC)
The UBC Arts Co-op Program has students available each January, May, and September for 4 or 8-month paid work placements.

Undergraduate students study a wide range of courses in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts.

Graduate students from the iSchool, Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and English PhD programs are also available.

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