

# ARTS CO-OP PROGRAM

2016/2017 YEAR END REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



It was an honour to serve as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 2016/17. Among the greatest pleasures of the job were the opportunities to meet hundreds of the Faculty of Arts' outstanding students – from Imagine Day to graduation and many points in between.

Speaking to Arts students about their values, accomplishments and ambitions, I am more convinced than ever of the importance of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. At a time of growing international tensions and xenophobia, Canada and the world need engaged global citizens who are thoughtful about the human condition, comfortable with challenging dialogue, and sensitive to intercultural differences.

With that background, Arts graduates are prepared for fulfilling and impactful careers, none more so than graduates with Co-op experience. They have had opportunities to develop and apply their growing knowledge and skills through both pre-employment workshops and co-op work terms. They've been able to try out different work environments and sample possible career paths. And those experiences have, in turn, enriched their academic experience – all while earning income to help pay for their education!

The rich learning experiences offered by Co-op have prepared a generation of Arts students to ask challenging applied questions, and it's a pleasure to be on the receiving end of those questions. I look forward to continuing our work in the Faculty to build a student and alumni community that will assume positions of leadership in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, and make a positive impact that spans our country and the world.

**Kathryn Harrison**

Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, 2016/17

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year has been an exciting one for Co-operative Education in Canada, with the Federal Government announcing \$73 million over 4 years for a new Student Work Integrated Learning Program and BC's newly elected NDP government pledging to grow Co-operative Education opportunities in our province. The time has never been better for students to participate in our Co-op Program, or employers to consider hiring a Co-op student.

This year was marked by two achievements that demonstrate the extraordinary capacity of our students to be leaders in co-operative education. In May, Dr. Jon Newell became the first PhD student to graduate with a co-op designation at UBC, blazing a trail for future students looking to explore their professional potential during a PhD. At the undergraduate level, English student Rebecca Peng was recognized as one of our province's best co-op students by the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon for her work term with data warehouse company PHEMI Systems. It's the third time since 2010 that one of our students has been recognized provincially for their achievements.

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 \$4.9 million this year. Since the Program's launch in January 2000, Arts Co-op student wages have totaled over \$42.8 million!

Of course, none of these experiences would be possible without our remarkable employers; thank you for the investment you are making in our students. By hiring and mentoring students you aren't just getting important work done; you're also playing a vital part in shaping the workforce of the future.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions anytime at [julie.walchli@ubc.ca](mailto:julie.walchli@ubc.ca) or 604.827.5194.

**Julie Walchli**

Director, Faculty of Arts Co-operative Education 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

## 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 634 active students in the program.

## FACTS & FIGURES

In 2016/17, students in our program secured a total of 525 work terms, which breaks down to 448 undergraduate (UG), 65 iSchool, and 12 MPPGA. This marks our program's most successful year in total number of work terms and an 8% increase over last year's figures.

### EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR & REGION

The public sector remained the largest employer of Arts Co-op students in 2016/17, making up 53% of work terms, up 5% from last year. The non-profit sector had 19% of work terms (a decrease of 6% from last year), with the remaining 27% in the private sector (an increase of 1% from last year).

In 2016/17, 77% of work terms were in the Lower Mainland area, 2% on Vancouver Island, 2% in other BC locations, 10% in other Canadian provinces and territories, and 8% in foreign countries.

### EDUCATING GLOBAL CITIZENS: INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

This year 44 students completed co-op terms in Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Croatia, France, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Lao, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United States.

Since the Program's inception in 2000, Arts Co-op students have worked in 38 different countries.

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

### PLACEMENT HISTORY

	OVERALL				INTERNATIONAL	
Year	UG	G	PhD	Total	Work Terms	% of Total
99/00	112	-	-	112	10	9%
00/01	119	-	-	119	10	8%
01/02	144	-	-	144	10	7%
02/03	134	15	-	149	15	10%
03/04	189	25	-	214	18	8%
04/05	182	20	-	202	19	9%
05/06	212	28	-	240	35	15%
06/07	225	46	-	271	25	10%
07/08	264	54	-	318	43	14%
08/09	223	39	-	262	29	11%
09/10	201	37	-	238	16	7%
10/11	215	61	-	276	23	8%
11/12	265	64	-	329	29	9%
12/13	304	71	-	375	41	11%
13/14	345	69	1	415	46	11%
14/15	369	77	1	447	41	9%
15/16	401	81	3	485	52	11%
16/17	448	77	0	525	44	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,352</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5,121</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>10%</b>

## ARTS CO-OP AT WORK



Amelia, Nathan and Farah are @ubcMPPGA students making a difference at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa @CanadaFP #educated2employed



Victoria is leveraging her creativity and writing skills while contributing to causes she cares about @queerfilmfest #educated2employed



Cecile is playing on a piano with 100 years of history at the #livemuseum of @RoeddeHouse where she's working. #educated2employed



CJ's social media co-op term supports the raising of awareness and money for health of women & newborns @BCWomensFdn #educated2employed



As Community Ambassadors, #UBC co-op students Brooke & Vinson help the @yvrairport engage with you and I around the city! #educated2employed





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## 2016 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 STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Simon Robins, Master of Library and Information Studies**

Work term: Student Intern – Library Promotions & Archival Assistant, McBride and District Public Library



### **iSCHOOL MAS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Lara Maestro, Master of Archival Studies**

Work term: Archives Project Assistant, UBC Okanagan Campus Library, Special Collections and Archives



### **UNDERGRADUATE ARTS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Rebecca Peng, Bachelor of Arts, Honours English**

Work term: Marketing Associate, PHEMI Systems

Provincial Recognition: Honourable Mention for the 2016 Co-op Student of the Year by the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon

## ARTS CO-OP MARKS FIRST PHD STUDENT TO GRADUATE UBC



This year, Dr. Jon Newell became the first PhD student to graduate with a co-op designation at UBC, blazing a trail for future students looking to explore their professional potential during a PhD. Having completed three co-op terms, Jon considers co-op a critical and invaluable component of his program. Through co-op, Jon diversified his experiences, financed his studies, and discovered true value in his degree.

An English PhD student, Jon began his postgraduate co-op journey as Special Projects Officer at the UBC Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, where his most memorable accomplishment was organizing the 2014 “Reimagining the PhD” Symposium. Over the course of his work, Jon developed administrative skills and gained background insight into higher education, an experience relevant to both his degree and career goals in academia. For his next two terms, Jon worked as Communications Officer at the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute. He was primarily responsible for managing internal communications and drafting a bi-weekly newsletter, and he also completed an intranet redesign and improvement project. Jon is currently teaching at UBC, and he feels this experience provided him with the writing and technical skills necessary to develop exceptional online learning content.

Through his co-op experiences, Jon has learned that his academic skillset is “enormously marketable and genuinely useful in a wide variety of professional contexts” – including but not limited to academia. As the first PhD student to receive a co-op designation in UBC history, Jon graduated with professional experience and confidence in his degree and career path. Jon recommends co-op as a valuable part of any PhD program for students who want to discover their full potential in both academia and the world beyond.

## STUDENT INTAKE & SELECTION

During our annual intake in Fall 2016, we received 574 applications from undergraduate students and admitted 253. For iSchool, we received 49 applications and admitted 46. For MPPGA, we received 20 applications and admitted 19. For the PhD program, we received and admitted 1.

## 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.



# STUDENT SALARY AVERAGES

Since the Program's launch in January 2000, Arts Co-op student wages have totaled over \$42.8 million!

The following salary data shows co-op salary averages by employment sector. Undergraduate students earn an average of \$2,216 per month while on Arts Co-op work terms, while graduate students earn an average of \$3,133 per month. In total, undergraduate Arts Co-op students earned \$3,971,206 in salaries during 2016/17, and graduate Arts Co-op students earned \$965,090 in salaries, for a total of \$4,936,295 earned in 2016/17.

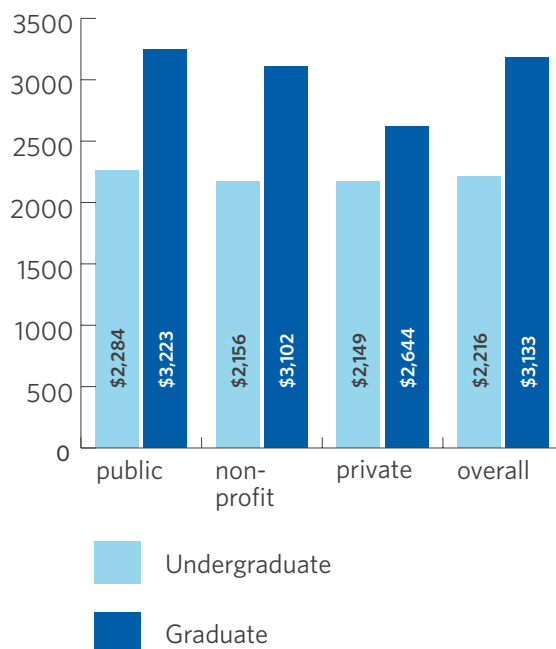
An undergraduate student will earn on average a total of \$26,279 over 3 work terms. Students who choose to do an optional fourth co-op work term before graduation will earn an average of \$36,687 and students who choose to do an optional fifth co-op work term will earn an average of \$50,125.



## UNDERGRADUATE SALARY BY WORK TERM

Work Term	Average Salary
1	\$8,671
2	\$8,294
3	\$9,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,279</b>
4	\$10,408
5	\$13,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,125</b>

## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SALARIES BY SECTOR



## STUDENT PROFILES



### **MORRELL ANDREWS** **Major: International Relations**

Morrell Andrews secured her first co-op term at Global Affairs Canada in 2015 and never looked back. As an International Relations major working at Global Affairs, Morrell asserts that co-op “has acted as a bridge between my academic, experiential learning, and career goals in every way possible.” Her journey began as a Junior Advocacy Officer, where she facilitated new training for Canadian diplomats, consuls, and trade commissioners working in North America. Following this experience, Morrell secured her second placement at GAC as Desk Officer involved with European Union commercial relations. She drafted ministerial correspondence, monitored trade relations with countries including Germany, Austria, and Hungary, and even wrote an economic report included in Minister Chrystia Freeland’s briefing on the day after Brexit. Due in large part to her co-op experiences, Morrell received three job offers leading up to her graduation, and she eagerly anticipates her professional future. In her own words, Morrell believes her case shows “the value of experiential learning and the outcome of dedicating your time as a student to professional development – it pays off in so many ways that I could have never anticipated!”



### **ALVIN LIN** **Program: International Economics**

From Taiwan to Kazakhstan, Alvin Lin has leveraged co-op to develop his skills across the globe. He believes his experiences have complemented his education in international economics, while providing a foundation for future career development. During his first term as Marketing Intern at Blue Seeds Corporation in Taiwan, Alvin was responsible for delivering pitches to various interest groups. He facilitated \$500,000 in sales and sponsorships and secured a \$10 million grant for the company, in addition to leading an international marketing campaign. Following this first term, Alvin transitioned to conducting a study of the Kazakhstani black market as Economist Analyst Intern at the Embassy of Canada to Kazakhstan. Alvin is currently helping improve the global competitiveness of Canadian clean fuel companies as Business Analyst at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. Though Alvin acknowledges that his co-op experiences have helped build a foundation for future success in international economics, he believes “the most valuable takeaways from co-op will be all the unique stories I can proudly share, and the relationships I formed with those who wrote them with me.”

## STUDENT PROFILES

### **MORGAN GOVIER** **Major: English**

English Literature major Morgan Govier believes she discovered her true potential through her co-op experiences. For Morgan, co-op provided both incredible opportunities and challenging obstacles, beginning with her first term as Museum Interpreter at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Morgan found a rewarding challenge in relocating to Banff, leading up to 210 guests on tours each day, assisting with museum events, and creating an interactive, enjoyable experience for all visitors. In her next two terms at Harbour Publishing, Morgan was able to recognize her true passion and potential in writing. Morgan began as Marketing Assistant, and she was ultimately promoted to Publicist for a spring book, with responsibility for full promotion of the title. She worked one-on-one with the author and engaged with writers and media personnel from across the globe, forging an invaluable network and foundation for her future career. Through the unique opportunities of co-op, Morgan was able to identify her passion and develop her potential.



### **KELLY CHEN** **Program: Media Studies**

As a Bachelor of Media Studies student, Kelly Chen has cultivated her interest in a diverse field of study. However, the many opportunities available left her feeling overwhelmed. In Kelly's own words, "I didn't know how to narrow down my interests for the next stage of my career." Enter co-op. In her first placement, Kelly worked as a Marketing Intern at WhatToZee, where she managed social media content for 3 companies and increased social media presence by 70%. Kelly is currently working at Avigilon Corporation, and is responsible for planning and executing corporate video campaigns as Video Marketing Coordinator. Several videos that she produced were premiered at IFSEC International 2017, the largest security tradeshow in Europe. Co-op prompted Kelly to explore her passions by delving into real-world professional settings, and she is now confident that her career will begin in video marketing after graduation. As Kelly writes, "co-op helped me experience exactly what I needed in order to decide what was ultimately for me and my future." For this reason, Kelly considers co-op the highlight and defining experience of her time at UBC.





## STUDENT PROFILES



### **CARLY WHETTER**

#### **Major: English | Minor: Creative Writing**

Through Arts Co-op, Carly Whetter is developing a career rooted in her academic background and professional passions. Carly is an English major and Creative Writing minor, and co-op helped her access opportunities to exercise these academic and creative muscles. Carly began her co-op journey as Summer Program Assistant at the Roedde House Museum, where she spearheaded an exhibition and developed a passion for promoting Canadian tourism. She followed this experience with a term at the Arts Co-op Office, where she applied her writing skills to revitalize the student hub, an online resource center that supports her fellow co-op students. For her final term, Carly worked as Editorial Intern at Western Media Group, writing articles and conducting interviews for *Western Living* and *Vancouver Magazine*. Throughout this experience, Carly was able to exercise her writing skills and develop an impressive portfolio, both of which she leveraged to secure a position as Communications Assistant at Tourism Vancouver after her upcoming graduation. In her own words, Carly credits co-op with showing her "how incredibly versatile my degree is, and how I can make my education and experience work to my advantage during the post-graduation job search."



### **AMELIA DUGGAN**

#### **Program: Public Policy & Global Affairs**

When Prime Minister Trudeau met with President of Chile Michelle Bachelet, he relied on a briefing note prepared by Arts Co-op student Amelia Duggan, who was working as a Junior Policy Analyst at the Latin American and Caribbean department of Global Affairs Canada. In addition to providing briefings and strategic documents for Global Affairs leadership, Amelia assisted in organizing Canada-EU political consultations on Latin America and drafted a major country-by-country Gender-Based Analysis of the region to support the implementation of the new Canadian Feminist International Assistance Policy. A Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs candidate, Amelia is driven to address societal problems at any scale by promoting understanding among people. She credits co-op with jumpstarting her career in international development, empowering her to build a professional network and foundation of experience to leverage in exploring new opportunities. Amelia asserts that co-op has equipped and "empowered me to make the best possible decision" regarding her career development in global affairs.

## STUDENT PROFILES

### **MICHELLE SPELAY** **Program: Dual Archival Studies, Library & Information Studies**

Many Arts Co-op students discover their dream career through the program, and Michelle Spelay is no exception. Michelle initially expected to work with rare books and special collections, but co-op led her to change goals and pursue a career in records management. Michelle chose to pursue this career due to her experience as Records Assistant at the BC College of Registered Nurses. As Records Assistant, Michelle was primarily responsible for migrating information to a new content management system. She was also responsible for ensuring that all record management practices complied with provincial information and data laws. Over the course of her work term, Michelle migrated more than 1,500 vital records and designed an entirely new filing system from the ground up. Co-op also connected Michelle with Elaine Goh, her supervisor and a past graduate of Arts Co-op. In Michelle's own words, Elaine has "served as not only an amazing mentor, but also a friend that I will have forever." Through Arts Co-op, Michelle gained exposure and experience in a career that she is eager to pursue into the future. According to Michelle, "co-op gave me a real appreciation for records management – something I would never have given a chance if not for this placement!"



### **LUCINDA MURRAY** **Program: Library & Information Studies**

Few UBC Arts Co-op students have found a position better suited to their studies and passions than Lucinda Murray. As a Master of Library and Information Studies candidate in the First Nations Curriculum Concentration, Lucinda notes that working as Children's Program Coordinator at the Invermere Public Library is a perfect match between her academic background and professional aspirations. Her main responsibilities are implementing youth programs and assisting with daily operations, but Lucinda is also working to build relationships between the library and two local First Nations, the ?Akisq'nuk and Shuswap. As part of this initiative, Lucinda has already created a recommended booklist and organized outreach activities during the ?Akisq'nuk Amazing Race, including an opportunity for indigenous readers to vote on new books for the library. Though her work can be challenging and demanding, Lucinda recognizes the value in both learning from every experience and building a practical background in her chosen field. Lucinda feels her placement has proved beyond a doubt that she is pursuing the right career.



## ALUMNI PROFILES



### **ALEXA EVANS | B.A. 2017 | Economics**

#### **Research Assistant - Canadian Economic Analysis, Bank of Canada**

During her four terms of co-op, Alexa Evans redesigned databases, monitored financial markets, and developed econometric models. Today, she asserts that the work experiences, transferable skills, and networks she developed through co-op are integral to her current position as Research Assistant at the Bank of Canada. Alexa began her co-op journey at the Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control as Health Economic Research Assistant. In this capacity, she developed an econometric model for determining patient quality of life after diagnosis with various diseases. She presented this model to renowned academics at an international quality of life conference, developing her networking, presentation, and data management skills. Following these experiences, Alexa worked as Junior Analyst in the Ministry of Finance, where she conducted research and drafted reports on various economic and commodity indicators. Co-op bridged Alexa's studies and professional aspirations. In her own words, "being able to supplement classroom theory in dynamic workplaces allowed me to learn new software and skills that are not taught in lectures," all while gaining hands-on experience in her industry. For Alexa, co-op is foundational to her current role at the Bank of Canada.



### **KARAN SURI | B.A. 2008 | Geography**

#### **Manager, India & Europe, Trade & Invest British Columbia**

Karan Suri currently works for the BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology, where he is primarily responsible for cultivating trade and investment relationships between British Columbia and India. As the manager of trade and investment in India, Karan continually relies upon the professional networking and organizational skills he first developed through Arts Co-op. Karan's first co-op experience was with the Recycling Council of British Columbia, where he helped develop an online materials exchange program. For his second and third terms, Karan relocated to Ottawa to work as Junior Policy Analyst for Citizenship and Immigration Canada. His most memorable experience in this position was organizing, planning, and coordinating three meetings between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments. Through these events, Karan developed vital networking skills and gained exposure to key decision makers across Canada, and upon graduation he leveraged these contacts to conduct informational interviews and learn of employment opportunities in the provincial government. His efforts paid off with a position in the BC government, and Karan believes his experience is a testament to the value of networking and informational interviewing – skills he first explored through Arts Co-op.



### **AARON LAO | B.A. 2014 | Geography & International Relations**

#### **Urban Planner, City of Vancouver**

Arts Co-op helped Aaron Lao develop the skills that are essential to his everyday success as Urban Planner at the City of Vancouver. In this role, Aaron is responsible for understanding and communicating complex policy to the public. Through co-op terms at TRIUMF, the UBC Faculty of Arts, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Aaron developed the perspective and communication skills that are fundamental to his work. At TRIUMF, Aaron learned to engage the public through videos, web articles, and interviews that explained TRIUMF's initiatives in an approachable manner. For his next term, Aaron transitioned to the UBC Faculty of Arts, where he assisted in training over 300 orientation leaders and gained experience working with many diverse groups toward a common goal. In his final term at INAC, Aaron grappled with high-level decision making and learned how policy can impact people's daily lives. These three experiences combined to provide Aaron with a foundation for his future professional success, and he asserts that the skills he developed in co-op help him adapt to the complex and ever-changing nature of community planning. Like many students, Aaron Lao unlocked his professional potential through co-op.



### **TARYN DAY | Master of Archival Studies, 2014 Senior Sample Librarian, Lululemon Athletica**

Taryn Day is a Senior Sample Librarian at Lululemon Athletica, where she manages company archives and handles hundreds of reference requests each month. Though she now works in a fast-paced corporate environment, Taryn notes many similarities between her current position and her past co-op experiences as Archives Assistant at the New Westminster Museum and Archives. "I could easily look at every aspect of my job and point to something I did while at New Westminster that helped prepare me for this role," Taryn asserts. Indeed, during her co-op term Taryn developed the archival skills that she calls upon every day at Lululemon. However, Taryn believes the human connections she experienced in New Westminster were the most valuable aspect of her co-op term. She found sharing the history of New Westminster with local residents immensely fulfilling, and Taryn now credits these interactions with encouraging her to pursue a private sector career. In a role that isn't traditional for most archival students, where "archives are full of clothing, accessories and raw materials, rather than textual records," Taryn believes co-op provided valuable experiences critical to her work.



### **NIKKY McCARVILL | Master of Library & Information Studies, 2016 Librarian, Salt Spring Island Public Library**

For Nikky McCarvill, Arts Co-op provided a direct bridge between academic and professional success. In fact, Nikky is currently a Librarian at the Salt Spring Island Public Library, the same library where she completed her first co-op term as Student Librarian. This is a dream come true for Nikky, who writes that "from the moment I first entered this library as a student, I knew that this was where I wanted to start my career." Nikky especially valued the diverse opportunities available through her co-op experience. She had been working as an academic Library Assistant for ten years, but according to Nikky, "in that time I wasn't given nearly the variety of work or level of responsibility that I experienced in my four-month co-op term." One year later and just before her graduation, Nikky applied for a new permanent position that had opened at the Salt Spring Island Public Library. She is certain that other candidates had more experience, but because of her co-op experience at the library, the hiring committee was eager to interview and ultimately hire her. Nikky feels "co-op helped me get the position largely because it allowed me to get to know the library, and for the library to get to know me." Like many students, Nikky has found co-op to be a path to achieving her professional goals.



## ALUMNI RELATIONS

The UBC Arts Co-op Alumni Network started in 2010 and the 2016/17 Organizing Committee consists of Ge Li (BA '16), Timmy Wong (BA '12), and Maria Cortes (BA '16). 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 2016/17, they posted 104 co-op positions with our program, accounting for 7% of all postings.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016/2017



Photo: Hover Collective

## 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

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

## ARTS CO-OP ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

CHRISTINE GERGICH, 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, THNK

SUHER ZAHER-MAZAWI, Archivist, Archives of Ontario,  
Government of Ontario

OLIVER ZIHLMANN, Development Officer, St. Paul's  
Hospital Foundation

## 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

GRACE 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

### 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)





## ARTS CO-OP STAFF



### **GELSEY GUAN, Coordinator, Undergraduate Student Engagement**

Gelsey comes to UBC Arts Co-op after working in private industry as a Chartered Professional in Human Resources. Among her accomplishments, the most notable include helping BMW Canada's largest retail partner to earn top national ranking in Training and Development for two consecutive years, facilitating the launch of Philips' new HR Information System, and assisting Metrie with building its first company-wide performance management program. Through years of observation and experience dealing with employee performance issues, Gelsey believes that future career success is greatly influenced by the opportunity for students to take part in experiential learning, where they can practice, learn, cultivate and reflect on essential competencies. Gelsey is currently pursuing a Master of Education at UBC to understand adult learning in the context of globalization.

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Commerce, Human Resources; Minor Psychology (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)



### **SAVANNAH LI, Program Assistant**

As a recent co-op graduate from the UBC Sauder School of Business, Savannah is excited to continue her journey with UBC and to support experiential learning opportunities with students, employers and faculty members. Through her co-op terms, Savannah gained a variety of experiences, including positions with Aon and UBC Go Global, as well as working abroad as a Recruitment Assistant with Perfect World in Beijing. These work terms enabled Savannah to apply classroom knowledge in the workplace, and now offer her a unique perspective on local and international placements. Savannah is keen to blend these experiences and her passion for student growth to help individuals reach their potential through Arts Co-op.

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), Org. Behavior & HR & International Business (UBC)



### **HEATHER LIAU, Manager, Marketing & Industry Relations**

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.

Undergraduate Degree: B.Com., Marketing (UBC)



### **ISABELLA SQUARISI, Senior Program Assistant**

Isabella moved abroad from Brazil to pursue a degree internationally, leading her to acquire an Associate Degree in Psychology in California, and a B.A. in International Relations from UBC. She started her professional journey in Canada as a Work Learn student with UBC's Faculty of Medicine, eventually leading to a role as Curriculum Coordinator for 120 Masters students in Occupational Therapy. Isabella's experience living, working and studying abroad complements her passion for student academic and professional development. As the Senior Program Assistant with Arts Co-op, Isabella supports essential operations of the program by overseeing all stages of the hiring process in close collaboration with students, employers, and other stakeholders.

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



### **MERRY WANG, Coordinator, Information Management**

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)



### **DAVID YUEN, Manager, Job Development**

David, an 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)



## HIRE EDUCATION

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.

## ARTS CO-OP OFFICE

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Arts Co-op Program