

UBC ARTS CO-OP PROGRAM

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CAFCE

Co-op Student of the Year Award (2007)
834 Yonge Street, Room 205
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2H1

Dear Selection Committee:

On behalf of the UBC Arts Co-op Program, I am extremely pleased to put forward a nomination for Kathryn Blair—an exceptional, up-and-coming student leader—for the 2007 CAFCE Co-op Student of the Year Award. As a third year, Visual Arts major, Kath truly demonstrates the role that co-op plays in bridging academics and career development. Kath has played an important part in our co-op program and has not only worked hard to develop practical skills to support her personal career goals through co-op, but has also been an exceptional mentor and role model for other students in our program.

Without a doubt, Kath has gone above and beyond throughout her participation in our Program. From the moment Kath was admitted she has demonstrated a consistent commitment to learning and being accountable for her own success. This behaviour is evident from the exceptional feedback she has received from her co-op supervisors, her participation in the UBC Arts Co-op Student's Association (ACSA) and the UBC Visual Arts Students' Association, and through her volunteer experience working with organizations outside of her school obligations. Despite all of these commitments, Kath has managed to balance her time and maintain a high-level of academic achievement. Notably, Kath's academic and leadership strengths include being a \$2000 President's Entrance Scholarship, \$1500 for Trek Scholarship, and induction into the Golden Key International Honours Society.

In her first co-op work term, Kath was hired as a Technical Writer with Business Objects on an 8-month placement. During this time she was exposed to a dynamic, team-oriented environment with two separate supervisors each term. Both supervisors were extremely impressed with Kath's high-level of maturity and commitment to her role. Significantly, during her most recent site visit, Kath's supervisor remarked that she was actually "out-performing many of the full-time staff." Kath's ability to take on new challenges and demonstrate a positive work ethic were also identified as core qualities. In addition, Kath showed tremendous leadership by mastering a new software tool and assisting regular employees with adjusting to its features. Finally, Kath's artistic talents in design developed through her Visual Arts major made a difference in her success at Business Objects. Her creative assets helped infuse a "fresh perspective" in team discussions on software user interface. Typically, the company didn't invite co-op students to participate in these discussions; however, Kath's input was seen to be "invaluable" to the developers and she was specifically asked to contribute. During her 8-months at Business Objects, Kath was able to stretch beyond her role as a co-op student and clearly became a well-respected member of the team, making hers a true co-op placement success story!



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Although Kath has only completed two co-op work terms to date, she has proven to be a star in our program. As an active executive team member in ACSA, the only co-op student association at UBC, Kath has played a key role in promoting the value of experiential learning to prospective co-op students. She is consistently one of the first students we call upon when we need volunteers. In fact, Kath has always been willing to help our office with all of our pre-employment training and mentoring of new students. She has helped to organize activities such as a welcome event for new students and a mentorship kick-off party. Additionally, Kath's technical skills and design knowledge were influential in the redesign of the ACSA website (<http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca/acsa/>) and helped to create a more interactive, visually appealing format that engages new and current co-op students, helping to build a student-centered learning community. Her ideas and commitment to improving the site meant countless hours of her own time were spent developing a plan, revising ideas, and getting the site ready to launch. Not only is this site of great benefit to students, but it is an extremely valuable external communication tool for our program.

In addition to her Co-op and ACSA commitments, Kath is an active volunteer. She has dedicated a lot of time on-campus to the executive team of the Visual Arts Students' Society and recently offered her design expertise to a local non-profit organization, The North American Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS). The mandate of IDEAS is to raise awareness and "provide quality of life enhancing programs for children and young adults afflicted with intestinal diseases and their families." To help the organization achieve this goal, Kath volunteered her energy, enthusiasm and time to create and build FOUR new websites for the organization: [IDEAS](#), [IDEAS Kids](#), [No Guts Know Glory](#), and [24 Hours of Climbing](#). All of these sites are fundamental to raising the profile of the organization and essential to their public education and fundraising efforts. Again, it is important to note that Kath has donated her talents to this very worth cause.

We are privileged to have Kath Blair as a student in the Arts Co-op Program and look forward to her continued growth, development, and active participation. She is an approachable, reliable, and intelligent student with great passion for co-op. We strongly believe that Kath will continue to be an ambassador for co-operative education and truly embodies the values we hope to find in all of our future leaders.

Kath Blair is truly deserving of the 2007 CAFCE Student of the Year Award. Should you require clarification or any further information about her background or contributions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 604.822.1529. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Coby Fulton
Coordinator

