

## Letter from the CEO

To CASB's 1,037 successful 2009 UFE writers – congratulations, your hard work has paid off! We're proud of you and look forward to seeing you at convocation. I give a special nod of respect to our national gold medallist, Jolene Kendrew from Victoria BC, and her 23 CASB colleagues on the 51 person national honour roll. Well done!

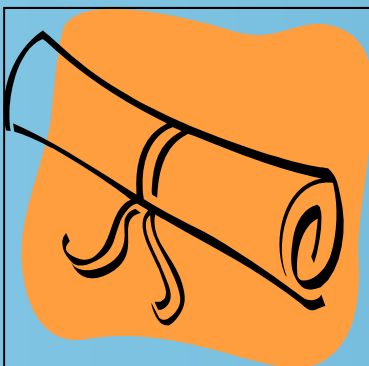
Business-ready professionals – that's how we at CASB like to describe our graduates. And once your practical experience requirement has been completed, that is what each of you will be: a business-ready professional.

The CASB program has offered you a simulation of the real world, a safe practice field in which to develop and hone your professional skills. The UFE presented another simulation ... a high stakes opportunity to prove that those professional skills have reached the high standard of the CA profession.

As a business-ready professional, you will be leaving those simulations behind, and continuing your real-world learning, already begun during your three years of required practical experience. It's not always safe out there, stakes are sometimes even higher than on the UFE, and the feedback is generally not as clear-cut as the definitive "competency achieved" UFE assessment.

So UFE grads ... say goodbye to the safe practice field of CASB. Savour for a moment or two the clear vote of confidence you have received from the UFE markers. And step forward with confidence to take on the tests of the real world. I wish you well.

John Gunn, MEd, FCA



**RESULTS ARE IN.....** 1,037 CASB students successfully challenged the UFE. This is the breakdown of students by province:

BC: 443, AB: 451, SK: 58, MB: 81, NWT: 4

CASB students made up 24 of the 51 National UFE Honour Role spots. And, CASB student Jolene Kendrew won the Governor General's Gold Medal for the highest placing in Canada. Check out page four for more information.

## Cheryl Zealand: CASB Facilitator and New Mom

Cheryl Zealand is based in Winnipeg, and is one of CASB's online facilitators, mostly facilitating Modules 1, 2 and 4 as well as marking Module 6 each summer. She also contracts audit services to KPMG.

A French immersion high school student, Cheryl decided to continue her bilingual learning by completing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Math and Chemistry, from College Universitaire St. Boniface in Winnipeg. She graduated in 1996 and continued into Commerce at the University of Manitoba, majoring in Accounting. After graduating in 1999, she began articling for KPMG.



Cheryl Zealand, CA and her two new bundles of joy!

Unfortunately, Cheryl had to write the UFE between September 10 and 12, 2001. She acknowledges this was very tough writing after September 11. But, her perseverance paid off, and Cheryl tells us, "I am proud to be a part of a fast growing and ever changing industry that prides itself on integrity. I enjoy the flexibility being a CA offers in terms of opportunities in various sectors and well as both domestic and international job opportunities."

Coming from a family with two teachers in it, Cheryl has always been interested in education. After deciding to stay home with her son, beginning in November 2005 with an online Module 4 offering, Cheryl was able to explore this interest.

Cheryl recommends that other CAs become CASB facilitators for three reasons: flexibility, the students, and keeping up to date with the technical side of chartered accountancy.

Flexibility definitely plays a role in Cheryl's continued interest in facilitation. "I am able to spend a lot of my day time with my sons as I work mostly in the evening and weekends, when my husband is home. I can schedule appointments and activities around my facilitating schedule," says Cheryl.

Students are another reason for Cheryl's enthusiasm for facilitating. "I take my responsibility in their learning process very seriously, and I firmly believe that the facilitator is a large part of a student's confidence and ability to learn and progress through the modules," says Cheryl. She goes on to say, "Seeing their commitment and perseverance each week, all while working full time is inspiring and makes me want to give them 100% of my knowledge and commitment."

By facilitating for CASB, Cheryl keeps her technical skills. She tells us, "new handbook sections and updates to existing sections are well communicated to the facilitators. Often in public practice I would deal with the same clients and same issues each year, never being exposed to many of the HB sections CASB teaches. Facilitating various modules and researching student questions is the best way for me to stay up to date in this ever-changing industry!"

*Cheryl, thanks for your commitment to CASB, and we welcome your two future CAs, Luke Timothy and Kyle Kenneth, born on November 16, 2009!*

### Temporary FFIS Policy Relaxation

Effective immediately, in light of the H1N1 pandemic, students who miss the Face-to-Face Interactive Session (FFIS) for reasons beyond their control will be allowed to write the evaluation and, if successful, continue to the next module.

However, the student must attend the FFIS in the next available offering in order to be granted credit for the modules.

In accordance with current policy requirements, students must still submit the required documentation to accommodations@casb.com.

Only after a review of the necessary supporting documentation will the Director, Delivery Services approve the accommodation request.

Please email accommodations@casb.com if you have any questions.



Important  
DATE!

## Registration Deadline

**March 1**

Modules 1, 2, 3, 5  
(Spring 2010)

## Evaluation Date

**December 18**

Modules 1,3,4 and 5  
(Fall 2009)

## Results Release Date

**January 15**

Modules 1,3,4 and 5  
(Fall 2009)

## Registration Checklist

Before submitting your registration, please ensure you have completed all the requirements. You can download the *CASB Registration Checklist*, located under "Forms" at [casb.com](http://casb.com).

## Robyn Davidson: One Very Impressive CASB Student

Robyn Davidson started CASB in May 2009, and is currently in module 3. Working for the Vancouver office of Grant Thornton, she completed a secondment in special advisory services (forensics, valuation, insolvency, consulting, business risk services, and mergers and acquisitions) and has now moved into audit. Her previous work experience includes Environment Canada and the Provincial Health Service Authority.



Robyn Davidson

On a full entrance scholarship, the Gordon M. Shrum scholarship, Robyn earned her Environmental Science degree at Simon Fraser University (SFU). She went on to win SFU's Governor General's Silver medal, which is given to the student with the highest CGPA in the university's undergraduate class. Robyn has won several other awards, some of which include, the Beverly Raymond Scholarship in Biological Sciences or Environmental Sciences, the Surrey Metro Savings Leadership Scholarship, and the Scotia Bank Student Scholar Scholarship.

It is clear that environmental issues are dear to Robyn. Her employment history includes working for Environment Canada as a scientist and database auditor, and she is one of the seven team members on Grant Thornton's Green Committee, a group that monitors the firm's carbon footprint and finds new ways to decrease it. If Robyn had not become a CA, she told us she would have pursued her PhD in Environmental Science.

A woman as bright and talented as Robyn could pursue anything she wanted, so we were very interested in why Robyn chose chartered accountancy. She told us: "It's the versatility. CAs are so much more than accountants; we can pursue any number of career paths from auditing, to investing, to owning our own business."

Robyn has completed her first two modules with distinction, so she is certainly in a position to offer advice to other CASB students. Her wise counsel is, "don't leave things to the last minute; review course material regularly; and, stay calm no matter how stressed you feel. The stress is proven to impede your ability to think, so it only makes matters worse."

To Robyn, the CA designation means, "options and a future full of possibilities. It means personal accomplishment, having endured the treacherous two years of modules and the UFE. It means confidence that I have the skills to succeed in the business community." And, when asked what she wants to do in the future, Robyn responded, "Everything! There are so many different avenues to pursue with a CA that I am not restricting myself to one end goal. I'm looking forward to exploring new avenues and finding my passion."

Robyn finished the interview by telling us, "Although CASB is challenging and demanding, I am very impressed with the material and format. It makes me confident that CAs are equipped with the skills to make them exemplary professionals in the business industry."

*Robyn, congratulations on your success to date. We wish you all the best in your future.*

## Practical Experience Requirements

Across Canada, practical experience requirements for CA students changed on September 1, 2009.

CA education and evaluation are based on a set of nationally recognized competencies. Now, practical experience is also competency based, instead of only hours based.

This change affects students who registered with CASB on or after September 1, 2009 and who do not have any previous practical experience.

CASB will send out a more detailed communication to affected students before the end of the year.

For further information you can visit: [www.catoadvantage.ca](http://www.catoadvantage.ca), and click on the link for students.

## 2009 UFE Gold Medallist in Canada



Photograph by Deddeda Stemler,  
Photography by Deddeda in Victoria

**Jolene Kendrew**  
City of Colwood  
Victoria, BC  
University of Victoria

Congratulations to Jolene Kendrew, the Governor General's Gold Medallist, for earning the highest standing in Canada on this year's UFE. She will be formally recognized at CA graduation ceremonies to take place in Vancouver in May of 2010.

Originally from Kelowna, Jolene earned a bachelor of commerce degree with a specialization in general business from the University of Victoria. Jolene completed her articling experience in 2008 and went on to accept a position in local government. Today, she's the acting deputy director of finance for the City of Colwood, a municipality just west of Victoria.

Growing up, Jolene always wanted to be a teacher, and in the future, she would like to become involved in CA education by teaching and mentoring future CAs, through CASB and possibly other post-secondary institutions.

Jolene thanks her husband Jeff for supporting and encouraging her through the entire UFE process. She also thanks Jennifer Reed, the acting director of finance for the City of Colwood, and Laura Belding, an articling student with KPMG LLP in Victoria and Jolene's study buddy!

## 2009 CASB Honour Roll

Congratulations to the other 23 CASB students who earned a place on the National UFE Honour Roll (*listed here in alphabetical order*):

Natalie Bessette, MB

Faiez Elahee, AB

Shannon Erno, AB

Marilyn Flaman, SK

Brian Giang, AB

Kristi Gilbert, AB

Leanna Ho, BC

Siobhan Hughes, BC

Kimberly Isotti, AB

Morgan Kenny, BC

Marie Koop, SK

Grace Loh, BC

Damon Lowenberger, AB

Ilya Margulis, BC

Robin Rudd, AB

Sumeet Sangha, BC

Terri Shaddick, AB

Matthew Stevens, BC

James Stewart, BC

Dylan Vokey, BC

Ni Wang, BC

Sean Wilson, BC

Melissa Wolfe, AB

**CASB Surveys:**

Please be judicious in using the opt-out link in survey emails. If you use this link, you will no longer receive any surveys, unless you reinstate yourself. In doing so, you may miss mini surveys that directly impact you.

Instead, you can close and delete the emails containing surveys you do not wish to participate in.

If you have previously opted out, and want to be reinstated, please click on this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/OptOut.aspx> and fill out the required information.

## Do You Know that CASB has a Student Advisory Council?

Do you know that CASB has a Student Advisory Council (SAC)? The SAC acts as an advisory committee to CASB management. Its role is to review and provide input in four areas:

1. Proposed changes to the CASB curriculum;
2. Student evaluation survey results;
3. Matters of interest to CASB students; and
4. The terms of reference for the Council.

SAC members serve a rotating two-year term, with six new members each year. The members represent a cross section of CASB students in terms of geographical location, employer size, and stage in the CASB program. Eight members are registered CASB students, two from each of the four provinces represented by CASB, and four members are newly-qualified CAs. This ratio may vary at times as students progress to membership.

The current SAC members are:

|                        |                                  |                           |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tracy Borrhalho (BC)   | Cindy Janssen-Highfield, CA (MB) | Kelly Ross (AB)           |
| Katherine Chen (AB)    | Ingrid Odegard, CA (AB)          | Matthew St. Onge, CA (SK) |
| Sheri Connery (MB)     | Ryan Palmer (MB)                 | Natasha Tsai, CA (BC)     |
| Christopher Goetz (SK) | James Porter (BC)                | Travis Wong (BC)          |

The following members recently completed their two-year rotation on SAC, and we would like to thank them for their dedication and commitment to CASB and wish them continued success in their future endeavours:

|                          |                         |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Paul Blackstock, CA (SK) | Gordon Gee, CA (AB)     | Brent Smith (MB) |
| Amanda Chevrier (AB)     | Cherie Grunert, CA (SK) | Mindy Wight (BC) |

### BE INVOLVED!

If you are a student and have a concern or suggestion regarding CASB's policies or its educational program that you would like to raise with the Student Advisory Council, please send your email to [sac@casb.com](mailto:sac@casb.com), and it will be forwarded to the members of the Council.

Also, if you are interested in serving on the Student Advisory Council next year, watch for an email announcement from Student & Support Services requesting application submissions early next summer.

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