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#### KEY DATES

##### CASB Office Closure

24 December through 3 January

##### Module Results Release: 13 January

Modules 1, 3, 4, 5 (Fall 2011)

##### Module Start Date: 13 February

Module 4 (Winter 2012)

##### Registration Period:

23 January through 5 March

Modules 1, 2, 3, 5 (Spring 2012)

### Opening Notes from CASB CEO John Gunn, MEd, FCA

To CASB's 1,038 successful 2011 UFE writers – congratulations! I hope each of you is feeling a well-deserved sense of satisfaction, knowing that your diligent preparation has paid off.

And a special nod of respect goes to the 28 CASB students who earned a place on the 52-person national honour roll. Well done!

Business-ready professionals – that's how we at CASB like to describe our graduates. And once you complete your practical experience requirement, 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.

### UFE Results

Once again, CASB students achieved success on the national UFE. In 2011, 1,038 candidates from the CASB region were successful. We congratulate all of them on their success. Their names are published on the CASB website and will appear in an ad running in the *Globe & Mail* and *La Presse* in January.

#### Office closure reminder:

Starting at 4:00pm on 23 December and running until 8:00am on 3 January, the CASB offices will be closed. Our email and voicemail systems will indicate individual staff members' absences. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

## Gold Medallist Profile: Catherine Chew



Catherine Chew

Photo: Kent Kallberg of Kent Kallberg Studios Ltd.

Catherine Chew, a student with KPMG in Vancouver, is the regional gold medallist of the 2011 UFE, and one of 28 CASB students on the national honour roll. A graduate of the UBC commerce program with honours, Catherine started to consider entering the CA program after attending CA recruiting events and seeing people who she respected working with, and being hired by, KPMG and other training offices. After investigating the program further, she appreciated that it is multi-faceted and offers a range of opportunities. So, she accepted a summer internship between her third and fourth years of university, and then started full time with the firm in 2009 after graduating from UBC.

At KPMG, she works with a variety of clients: large public clients, start-ups, health care organizations, restaurants, and private equity funds. She was impressed to see how applicable what she learned through the modules was to the work she was doing for those clients. "It was really cool when I learned something in CASB one week and then a few weeks later had to do the same thing at work. Some of my clients really resembled the CASB scenarios," she explains.

Catherine admits that the program was a challenge, however. "If I could change anything, it would be time required to complete the program. With work, CASB, and trying to fit personal things around them, time management was sometimes difficult. In the grand scheme of things, I knew the personal sacrifices I made would be worth it. I would definitely recommend the CA program to others who are looking for a rewarding career in the business world."

Reflecting on her career so far, Catherine found the support that her firm gave to all of its UFE candidates a highlight. "This past [UFE results release] Friday was amazing, the way they celebrated everyone." And, she thinks that one of the toughest things that she's had to do so far was keep her result a secret (BC honour roll members learn their results early as the provincial institute publishes their profiles on results day). "I'm not an actress, which is why I entered the CA program!"

*CASB congratulates Catherine, the other members of the National Honour Roll, and all 1,038 CASB students who were successful on the 2011 UFE.*

## Honour Roll

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Board of Evaluators recognizes the top UFE writers in Canada by naming a national honour roll. Four gold medallists are identified from across Canada--one from each of the Western, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic regions.

The CA candidate with the highest standing in Canada on the 2011 UFE receives the Governor General's Gold medal, which also includes a cash prize of \$5,000. Three other regional gold medals include a cash prize of \$2,500, each of which is funded by the CICA.

We congratulate the 28 CASB students named to the national honour roll, including Catherine Chew, from BC, the region's gold medallist.

Alyssa BACCHUS (BC)  
 John BLOW (AB)  
 Matthew BOLLEY (MB)  
 Drew CALANCHIE (SK)  
 Catherine CHEW (BC)  
 Ana-Maria CHIRILA (BC)  
 Livia DANILA (BC)  
 Jonathan GALLO (AB)  
 Kalyna HAMILTON (AB)  
 Jenna HARDY (AB)  
 Melanie HONG (AB)  
 Jordan KENNEDY (SK)  
 Carla KOTYLAK (AB)  
 Paul LEPAGE (SK)

Alanna MCLENNAN (BC)  
 Stephanie MURRAY (AB)  
 Nicholas PURICH (AB)  
 Melissa SALOMONS (AB)  
 Kelly SCHMITT (AB)  
 Stefanie SINGER (BC)  
 Erik ST-HILAIRE (MB)  
 Ashley STRADESKI (SK)  
 Alida VANDERSTAM (AB)  
 Devon VIG (AB)  
 Kevin WAN (BC)  
 Amber WHALEY (AB)  
 Tsz Ying WONG (AB)  
 Agatha ZACHARA-SZCZAKOWSKI (BC)

## Facilitator Profile: Tanya Hollister, CA, CPA



Tanya at the Taj Mahal

Though Tanya Hollister, CA, CPA, was amongst the first CASB students to write the competency-based UFE in 2003, she is a relatively new member of the CASB facilitation team.

Shortly after qualifying as a CA in 2004, she moved to the Cayman Islands, where she worked in the Deloitte office for 4 years. Beginning in late 2009, she took a break to travel through Middle East, Asia, and South America. When she returned to Canada in 2011, she moved to Fredericton (where much of her family lives).

Before she left for the Caribbean, Tanya worked at CASB review centres for Module 1 and UFE Prep (then called Module 6), and was involved with the in-house UFE prep program at Deloitte. Earlier this year, she started facilitating Module 2 with CASB and has joined the team that writes and updates the module content.

Comparing her own CASB experience to that of her current students, she's impressed with how the user-friendliness of the available resources has improved. "Having access to all of the tax information in Folio Views, and having

resources that are searchable, makes a real difference," she explains. But, she encourages students to take more advantage of another resource available to them: their facilitators. She says students could ask their facilitators more questions than they do as she believes that "facilitators are here to support students, but we really only know what support students need when they ask us questions." Tanya has seen a correlation between what a student gets out of a module and the effort that they put into it.



Tanya at the Great Wall

Another piece of advice that Tanya has for students is to really get into the user's role. "Ask yourself, 'What would I do if I were really making that decision?' The students who do that well end up learning more."

Tanya really enjoys working with students, and finds it rewarding to help them understand and learn something new.

When she's not facilitating, Tanya enjoys travelling and spending time with friends and family.

## We're Social!



Check out our [blog](#) for posts about the program, tips for employers, and CASB news, including registration deadlines.



"Like" our [Facebook page](#) and our blog posts will appear on your Facebook feed.



Follow us on [Twitter](#) at @CASB\_news.



Subscribe to our [RSS feed](#) and links to our posts will appear in your web browser or in your Outlook.

Students and training offices: Watch your inboxes in January for our annual registration, fees, and program update, which will include details about our upcoming switch to a new learning management system.

## The CASB Quarterly is published by the CA School of Business

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### Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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