

Co-op Program Placement Leads to DFAIT Careers

When Algonquin College student William Schrock found a DFAIT placement as a co-op student in the Information Management and Technology Bureau (SXD), he was delighted. It eventually led to a job here.

"The system works. I'm happy. I've got a good job, it's a great place and I love working here," he says.

At Algonquin he was studying business administration and information systems. The DFAIT ad for co-op placements was different from most of the other ads because it offered a range of jobs as opposed to the smaller choice that other companies were proposing to the students. "That ad caught my eye," says Mr. Schrock, who came back the next summer again as a co-op student. Upon graduation, he was hired by DFAIT. Currently he is working on a team in the Mission Operations and Client Support Section (SXCH).

Elizabeth Gauthier, a co-op student for two consecutive terms from January 1999, is also very pleased with the way the program has worked out. Now she is a trainer with Operations Training (SXTM) and loves her work. "It was a self-fulfilling prophecy," she says. She had worked for eight years in sales and marketing when she decided to go to Algonquin College in Business Information Systems. She hoped one day to get involved in training.

"Everything fell into place. During my co-op, I was able to assist trainers at DFAIT and I loved it." Now she is coordinating training requirements for IM/IT specialists posted abroad. She teaches two courses in systems administration. "I enjoy my work. I have a chance to use my own training and to be with people," she says.

Sean Tucceri, in Secure Systems (SXTC) also did two co-op placements at DFAIT as an Algonquin student. "I grew up in a military family, I was really interested in working at DFAIT." Now he is working on a secure systems development team on cutting edge projects like encryption technology "It's been great. I'm very happy where I am." He'll soon be training two other employees as back-up.

David Winter in Voice Services and Switching (SXTV) was in computer programming at Algonquin College when he did two co-op placements at DFAIT from September 1998. During that time he wrote three automated scripts which are still used regularly. When he was offered a job after graduation, he went



From left to right - Shirley Lanthier, Deputy Director/SXMH, David Winter, SXTV, William Schrock, SXCH, Sean Tucceri, SXTC, and Elizabeth Gauthier, SXMT.

back to Voice Processing where he works with manager Daryl Almond. "At DFAIT, I've had the opportunity to learn new technology. It's been a really good experience. There is no question that I could not have gotten this job without the co-op placement," he says.

The co-op program plays an important role in helping the Department to recruit qualified IM/IT staff in an increasingly competitive market

and helps SXD continue to provide high quality services to DFAIT staff around the world. "The co-op placement program has been a tremendous success for us," says Shirley Lanthier, Deputy Director, Human Resources Planning and Reporting (SXMH). "The Bureau (SXD) averages 20-25 co-op students each term. In the last three years, DFAIT has hired 32 of these students as a result of their co-op placement."



Twenty locally-engaged (LES) Mission Administration Officers came to Ottawa Feb. 14 to 25 for a two-week learning session that culminated in the presentation of certificates by Director General Sandelle Scrimshaw (GGD) on the last day.

Courses the first week included cross cultural awareness, FSDs and travel directives, finances, budgeting, client service and communication, conflict of interest/harassment and LES rules and regulations. The second week included supervision and team work, time management, property and materiel management, information management, screening and physical security as well as a presentation on audit and fraud awareness.

Participants were from missions around the world: In the photo, from the left, standing: Vivien Ratcliffe, programme manager, CFSS, Kenneth Hershfield, Los Angeles, Vima Bertelli, Milan, Brian Austen, Detroit, Sandelle Scrimshaw, Director General, GCD, Mariana Duffney, Minneapolis, Thomas Bellos, Oslo, Peggy Sikes, Miami, Tomas Merti, Bern, Bill Hawley, Dallas, Aliya Dzhubaliev, Almaty, Tsitsi Mwanandimai, Harare, Darrie Wohlman, Atlanta, John Banim, Dublin, Bradedine Braouyk, Helsinki; Seated: Heidi Marongiu, Capetown, Ann Lai, Sydney, Thi Thanh Loan Tran, Ho Chi Minh, Barbara Powers, Boston, Beverly Deinhart, Buffalo, Stavroula Sotiropoulou, Athens; Absent: Mike Connery, Chicago.