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Laurier grad earns accounting gold medal

WATERLOO – Laurier graduate Joshua Huff (BBA '11) captured the Canadian and Ontario gold medals for achieving the highest standing in the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants 2012 Uniform Evaluation (UFE), considered one of the world's most challenging professional entry examinations.

Since 1993, Laurier accounting graduates have won more Canadian and Ontario gold medals than any other university in Canada. Huff, an accountant at KPMG in Waterloo, Ontario, is the fifth Laurier graduate to earn both medals.

"Laurier has a legacy of earning top national and provincial UFE honours," said Micheál Kelly, the dean of Laurier's School of Business & Economics. "We look forward to adding Joshua's name to Laurier's SBE Gold Medal wall of fame in the New Year."

The UFE is a national three-day evaluation and is an important component of the Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification program. Held every September, students write three papers in three days to assess essential knowledge, professional judgment, ethics and ability to communicate. More than 3,000 students across Canada passed the 2012 UFE exam.

Huff says Laurier helps prepare students for success in the UFE. The business program integrates accounting courses with other subject areas, such as marketing and human resources. It also exposes students to case writing, which is a big component of the exam.

"There is obviously a strong accounting component to the UFE, but they also want you to see the bigger business issues," he says. "Now that the UFE is done, I look forward to continuing to work at KPMG and getting practical experience."

Two other Laurier graduates achieved standing on the 2012 national UFE honour roll: Michael Black (BBA '11) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Toronto, and Thomas Callaghan (BBA '11) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in London.

"We are very proud of the more than 100 graduates of our programs that passed the 2012 UFE," said Bruce McConomy, Director: CA/Laurier Centre for the Advancement of Accounting Research & Education. "Congratulations to Joshua, Michael and Thomas, and all of our successful Laurier UFE writers."

Laurier UFE history

- 2009 Ontario Gold Medalist – Jacob Richard Bell
- 2008 Ontario Gold Medalist – Anna Nowak
- 2006 Canadian/Ontario Gold Medalist – Jennifer Hayton
- 2002 Canadian/Ontario Gold Medalist – Sarah Hadley
- 1998 Ontario Gold Medalist – Agnes Timmerman
- 1995 Ontario Gold Medalist – Simon Parmar
- 1994 Canadian/Ontario Gold Medalist – Dennis Kavelman
- 1993 Canadian/Ontario Gold Medalist – Paul Van Bakel