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## Chair's Welcome

*Dr. Peter Mombourquette*

The Department of Business and Tourism welcomes all new and returning students on campus for the new academic year. Over the summer we have been anticipating your arrival and preparing a semester filled with great and interesting opportunities.

This fall we are hosting a number of events including our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Learners and Leaders Conference, Sustainable Business Tour, and our Local Entrepreneur and Cultural Tourism Tour. These events encompass the Department's desire to provide you the opportunity to enhance your learning experience through the Learning Passport Program, but also to make new connections that could become a future employer.

With the start of a new year I encourage students to pursue your interests, work hard to achieve your goals, and get involved. Most importantly, step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. You never know what could come out of taking on a new opportunity.

I wish you all the best this fall term and good luck!

## Business & Tourism Society: Welcome!

The Business and Tourism Society (BTS) would like to send a big welcome to students as they return to campus. We are excited for the upcoming academic year that will be filled with opportunities and events you will not want to miss. We look forward to seeing you at one of our weekly meetings or events!

### Meet our Executive Team:

President – Abbie Hodder

VP Marketing – Beth Connell

VP Finance – Zureena Rubaine

VP Administration – Bilal Khawaja

VP Management – Layona Millett

VP External Events – Rebecca MacDonald

VP Internal Events – Riley Chisholm

Faculty Advisors – Rhonda Bursey & Dr. Gabrielle Durepos



BTS members at Ronald McDonald House 2018

### Why join the BTS:

Here's why Rebecca our VP Internal Events thinks YOU should join the BTS:

- Your work on the BTS can help build your Co-Curricular Record! Volunteering looks fantastic on a resume.
- Can lead to opportunities to network with local business leaders.
- Meet a diverse group of business & tourism students, who want to make a difference!
- Give back to your campus and community by helping with events and fundraising efforts.

### Weekly Meetings:

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., McCain 106

### Upcoming Events:

Sept. 12 – MSVUSU Society Fair  
Rosaria Student Centre, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sept. 12 – First Meeting  
McCain 106, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 20 – Pizza Social  
Vinnie's Pub, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 25 – 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Learners & Leaders  
Conference  
Rosaria MPR, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.



/MSVUBTSociety



@msvubtsociety



@msvubtsociety



btsociety@msvu.ca

## Learning Passport Program

### What?

The Learning Passport program is a free program available to all Business and Tourism students with the goal of providing the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom through various events and activities.

### Why should I participate?

1. Opportunity to gain educational experiences relevant to your program of study.
2. Earn points toward your final grade in eligible Business & Tourism courses.
3. Network and make connections at events.
4. Get a learning passport certificate to add to your portfolio.

### When?

Learning Passport program commences September 13, 2018 and concludes November 21, 2018.

Booklets must be submitted by November 21, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. for your passport to be valid.

Learning Passport sign-up sessions will occur throughout the day on September 13, 2018 in Seton Academic Centre 404 at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

### How many points can I earn?

Two activities = 1 Bonus point

Three activities = 2 Bonus points

Four activities = 3 Bonus points



Students participating in Local Entrepreneur & Cultural Tourism Tour

### Steps to participate:

Step 1: Complete and submit the Photo/Video Release and LP Sign-Up forms at the LP sign up session (Sept. 13), McCain 405, or via the LP Moodle site.

Step 2: Sign into the LP Moodle site and plan your activities.

Step 3: From September 13 to November 21, 2018 participate in eligible LP activities.

Step 4: Ensure your booklet or activity page(s) have been filled out correctly in its entirety.

Step 5: Return your booklet to Miriam Gallant or Colleen Blacker by the LP deadline (November 21, 2018) for the Fall LP Program.

Online/Distance students will submit completed Activity Pages to Moodle.

Step 6: The committee will notify your professors of the number of bonus points you earned by December 6. Students are advised to check with their professors to ensure points have been awarded.

*Students are advised to check with their professors to confirm the course is a LP eligible course. There may be additional criteria in order to be awarded LP bonus points for a course.*



**For more information visit:**

Learning Passport Moodle site

<http://msvu.ca/learningpassport>

## Upcoming Learning Passport Events

### Halifax Universities Career Fair

- Tuesday, September 25: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cunard Centre
- Open to all Students
- Students will meet representatives from various organizations and learn about available careers and how to apply to full-time, part-time, Co-op, and summer job opportunities.

### Strong Interest Inventory Survey

- First Session: October 11, Second Session: October 18
- For first year Business & Tourism students
- Fee of \$5 upon acceptance
- Email [business@msvu.ca](mailto:business@msvu.ca) to sign up before Oct. 5 – limited spaces available
- Students will learn about potential career paths that match their interests.


### Sustainable Business Tour

- Friday, October 19: 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Tickets \$30 per person  
\*Limited tickets available – can be purchased at BTS Pizza Social
- Students will learn about sustainability and small businesses in rural communities.
- Tour stops include: Domaine De Grand Pre, Lockett Vineyards, Annapolis Cinder Company, and Foxhill Cheese House.



**BUSINESS & TOURISM  
FALL LEARNING PASSPORT**  
 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT  
 NOVEMBER 21, 2018

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STUDENT #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LP CERTIFICATE:  YES  NO



### Learners & Leaders Conference

- Thursday, October 25: 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Tickets \$25 for students  
\*Tickets can be purchased at BTS Pizza Social
- Students will have the opportunity to speak with experienced professionals from various industries, draw inspiration from entrepreneurs, learn from human resource professionals, and be guided by exceptional keynote speakers.

### Local Entrepreneur & Cultural Tourism Tour

- Friday, October 26
- Tickets \$30 per person  
\*Tickets can be purchased at BTS Pizza Social
- Students will learn from local restaurant and distillery owners about operating in Halifax and the impact of the Discovery Centre on tourism while becoming a tourist.



## Tourism and Hospitality Study Tour: Orlando, FL

*Would you like to spend time in Orlando during the fall reading week and earn course credit?*

We are looking for students to register for the Mount's Tourism course THMT 3380 Tourism and Hospitality Study Tour – This year the study tour will be going to Orlando Florida.

The trip will be subsidized; this means you will pay for only some of your total travel expenses. Your portion of the costs for seven days in Orlando is just \$1,200 plus money you will need for food as meals are not included. For \$1,200 you will receive a round trip airline ticket, accommodations, two day Walt Disney World pass and 2.5 to 3 days of volunteer activities. Just a reminder that you do have to pay the tuition fee for the course as well.

You can register for the course as a free elective or Tourism elective depending on your program of study. If you have already completed THMT 3380 Study Tour you can take this course again as a Special Topics Research course being BUSI 4408.

*What do you do on a study tour?*

You will work with Habitat for Humanity and local food shelters, for a total of 2.5 to 3 days, stay at a vacation home with a pool, spend two days at Walt Disney World, and have free time to enjoy Orlando. When the course is completed you will, in addition to course credit, have International volunteering on your resume and a great experience.

*Are you interested?*

If you are interested in the course, please contact Dr. Peter Mombourquette as soon as possible via email at [Peter.Mombourquette@msvu.ca](mailto:Peter.Mombourquette@msvu.ca) with Study Tour in the subject line. Dr. Mombourquette will follow up with a meeting on the phone or in person.

Faculty managing the course are Dr. Peter Mombourquette and Dr. Sandi Findlay.



## Student Spotlight: Abbie Hodder

Abbie Hodder is a third-year Bachelor of Business Administration student with a double major in Accounting and Management. This fall Abbie is completing her Co-op work term as the Special Projects Coordinator in the Department of Business & Tourism at Mount Saint Vincent University. She is also the President for the Business and Tourism Society.

“From the moment I had a campus tour in September of my grade 12 year, I knew the Mount was going to be a special place for me.”

Since starting at Mount in September of 2016, Abbie has become a familiar face in both her classes and on campus. In the 2017-2018 academic year, she was the VP External Events for the Business and Tourism Society, a Teaching Assistant, and the winter Supplemental Instruction Leader for both Introductory Accounting courses.

Abbie encourages students to get involved on campus. “The best thing to do while you’re here, other than work hard, is join societies and get to know the faculty! The experiences and knowledge gained from this will be far greater than you will realize at first and it will benefit you later in life.”

Abbie has spent the past 6 years working extensively in Aquatics as a Lifeguard, First-Aid Instructor, Aquatic Leadership Instructor, and Program Coordinator. Working in these positions have provided her with skills in the areas of public speaking, teaching, leadership,



management, and human resources. Abbie explains, “At first it started off as a part-time job teaching swim lessons, and then I continued to take more courses and achieve more certifications. Ultimately, it has become a large part of who I am.”

When you ask Abbie what she wants to do when she leaves the Mount she will reply “to pursue a career in academia.” Abbie clearly remembers her second day in classes at the Mount watching her professors teach their courses and thinking to herself, “I want to do that – It was a defining moment for me and has put a lens on how I am spending my time here at the Mount.” As Abbie continues to pursue her goals and dreams she will always say she is thankful for her parents and those who have come alongside supporting her and sharing their experiences.

With a new semester beginning, Abbie advises, “Make goals, achieve them and set new ones. They don’t have to be of great size, just something you want to see happen. Most importantly, have fun and step outside your comfort zone to experience new things. You never know where you might end up!”

## Faculty Focus: Dr. Heidi Weigand

Dr. Heidi Weigand is no stranger to the classrooms and students of Mount Saint Vincent University, since 2012, Heidi taught part-time within the Department of Business and Tourism. This summer she embarked on a new journey as the Coordinator of the Department's Non-Profit Leadership program, launching this September.

Heidi completed her PhD in Management at the Sobey School of Business, within her PhD research she developed and tested a new leadership theory, "leadership positivity and its effect on follower innovation and well-being." In addition, Heidi holds a Lean Six Sigma Blackbelt (LSS), which has trained her to look at efficiencies and error reduction in businesses. "I utilize this skillset in all aspects of my work, always looking for ways to maximize the economic, social and environmental aspects of a business; the triple bottom line performance, all while, most importantly, maintaining a high quality level of service delivery to stakeholders." Heidi was fortunate to receive this designation when she worked for Xerox Corporation while based in Rochester, New York.

Heidi's professional and academic background will play a key role in enhancing student learning within the Department's new program. Heidi plans to continue to further her knowledge in this discipline through her new research initiative, an interview format model analyzing the management function in the non-profit sector. Her scope will include management's role in sustainability, finance, innovation, ethics, and service delivery.

Heidi's work within the non-profit industry keeps her active. She is the Chair of the board for Motivate Canada and serves as a board member for both Venture 2 and Bryony House. Heidi has a strong interest in mental health in the context of sport. As a by-product of this, she is an



Associate Researcher with the Centre of the Study of Sport and Health. Heidi thoroughly enjoys interacting with students and participates in student initiatives including Student Athlete Mental Health Initiative (SAMHI) and the Mount's Caritas Day.

A core reason Heidi enjoys working at the Mount is because of the shared social justice values. Heidi comments that "These values are very important to me. I am exceptionally grateful for my experience and training in the corporate world, as it has helped me to navigate change with an innovative and strategic mindset. My academic training has taught me to focus on the triangulation of facts to support new ideas and paths. I find myself drawn to initiatives that focus on the distribution of resources to help individuals and communities thrive, blending these two past influences – the best of both worlds."

For students nearing graduation Heidi advises, "Seek out opportunities to acquire work and volunteer experience, this will aid in differentiating yourself from the market, challenge yourself to learn, and it will make a difference."

## Graduate Profile: Jessica Skinner



Hi there! My name is Jessica Skinner and I am a proud Mount graduate as well as a Senior Accountant with BDO. I graduated in the Fall of 2014 with a major in Accounting.

I started my public accounting career with BDO as a co-op student in January 2014. Progressing from co-op student to Senior Accountant, I have worked with a wide variety of clients including not-for-profits, public sectors, and private enterprises. During the first two years, I was able to complete the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) program and became designated in 2016.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I am a proud dog mom to my dog, Tex, who I adopted as a rescue from Texas earlier this year. I am also passionate about traveling, and I am fortunate to work for such an incredible firm that also places a value on encouraging this. My favorite place I have visited so far is London, England but also thoroughly enjoyed Dublin, Ireland as a close second!

I can say with full confidence that I would not be where I am today without the support, encouragement, and guidance of the faculty at the Mount. As a co-op student, I received invaluable experience which has led to my full-time employment today. The academic experience provided by the Mount has given me the confidence and experience to tackle any challenges that I am faced with. I highly recommend the business program at the Mount to any students that I know.





## An Open Letter to My Saudi Students: Dr. Gabrielle Durepos

Dear MSVU Saudi students,

You greeted me with a warm smile and an open mind in the fall of 2014 when I began my faculty position at MSVU. Even though I am Canadian with fluency in the English language, I felt the weight of making a home (once again) in a new city. You are from a different culture approximately 9,000 km away and English is not your native language. Despite these hurdles, I watched you with amazement as you greeted your friends and colleagues in the MSVU hallway with affection, support and care. Until then, I had only equated such depth of emotion with family ties. Your close connections with your friends are best described as a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood. You had made a home in Halifax. You inspired me to do the same.

Many of you took my communications management class (BUSI 2202) between 2014 and 2018. It was assumed in that classroom context that you would learn from me about verbal, written and nonverbal communication. With some 'negotiation' and 'cajoling' you did learn about western styles of communication. What cannot be underestimated is how much I learned from you. Your style of presentation, your unique sense of persuasion and ability to push your message opened my mind to your culture, sense of community and style of communication. You made my class fun. You challenged me to change the delivery of my content because of the heterogeneity of the class. As we surfaced our cultural differences as they related to communication and business, we learned about one another and through this, dealt with your anxieties about public speaking. You impressed me with your capacity to adapt quickly to a culture so very foreign to your own. I can only hope to do the same when I am dropped in a foreign culture. Though it is with sadness that I say farewell, you have an open invitation to visit us anytime at MSVU.

With care and appreciation,

Gabrielle Durepos, PhD  
Associate Professor

## Tips to Finding a Job before Graduation

*Don't wait until you've crossed the finish line to apply for a job!*

The job market today is very competitive and securing a job prior to graduation will help to alleviate stress during a time that is for celebrating your accomplishment and looking onward to the future.

### Why securing a job before graduation is important:

1. **You will be ahead of the game:** The job market is seeing increased numbers of graduates applying for entry level positions, by beginning your job search before your final semester of study you are allotting time for the hiring process and unsuccessful applications.
2. **You will have access to help:** Applying while finishing your degree means you have access to services such as Career Services, faculty, and staff whom can aid you in the application process as well as provide connections and recommendations.
3. **Set yourself up for success:** Helps to project your career growth, provide a sense of security and encounter more opportunities by starting early.

### Tips for the job search:

1. **Create a job search strategy:** Explore job boards, company websites, LinkedIn, social networking sites, and personal connections for available jobs.
2. **Network, network, network:** Make a list of available persons with whom you can network with and ask if they have connections in your desired industry.
3. **Stand out:** Volunteer and work experience are both equally valuable elements of your resume.
4. **Create a business card:** A business card is a quick and easy way to distribute your contact information.
5. **Build your online presence:** Have a strong LinkedIn profile that showcases your education, work and volunteer experience, skills, and achievements.
6. **Structured resume:** Ensure your resume is clearly formatted and structured to highlight what makes you the most qualified person for the job.
7. **Tailor your cover letter to each position:** For each job application you submit ensure your cover letter is customised to the organization and job – this means you'll want to conduct some research. Use the job posting as your guide when considering what relevant information to highlight.
8. **Prepare for your interview:** Become familiar with the organization. Practice interview questions in front of the mirror or your friend; ensure to solicit feedback. Become familiar with the organization. Know how your knowledge, skills, and attitude (KSAs) make you the best person for the job. Identify how you fit into the job and the organization.
9. **Clean up your digital image:** Employers will look to your online profiles (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) to see who you are. Ensure these represent the person you want them to consider when you apply for the job. Be selective about what you post online.

## Student Services Available on Campus

### Aboriginal Student Centre

- Location: 46 Melody Drive
- A place for students to be empowered, encouraged and educated in an environment that is rooted in Indigenous cultures and values.

### Accessibility Services

- Location: E. Margaret Fulton Building, Room 127-G
- Provides students assistance, support and recommendations for their unique learning needs.

### Black Student Support

- Location: E. Margaret Fulton Building, Room 132
- Strives to create an environment to unify students of African descent.

### Career Services

- Location: McCain Centre, Room 306
- Aids students in setting career goals that leads to academic success and the job search.

### Centre for Academic Advising & Student Success

- Location: Seton Academic Centre, Rm 304
- Students enrolled and interested in programs within the Department of Business & Tourism can contact Miriam Gallant in McCain 405 or at [Miriam.Gallant@msuv.ca](mailto:Miriam.Gallant@msuv.ca) to be connected with an academic advisor.
- Aids students in navigating their program of study, choosing courses and adhering to program requirements.

### Counselling Services

- Location: E. Margaret Fulton Building, Room 127-G
- Offers personal and academic counselling for free, and wellness and support groups.

### Financial Aid

- Location: Evaristus Hall, Room 207E
- Provides forms of funding to reduce post-secondary education costs.

### Health Services

- Location: Assisi Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- Medical services for students.

### Learning Strategist Services

- Location: E. Margaret Fulton Building, Room 127-F
- Provides students with resources and support to stay on top of their coursework and overcome challenges.

### Mount 101

- Location: Seton Academic Centre, Room 304A
- First year students are assigned a mentor to be their first point of contact for the Mount.

### Residence Life

- Location: Evaristus Hall, Room 202C
- On-campus living support.

### Writing Centre

- Location: E. Margaret Fulton Building, Room 205
- Services include: assistance in interpreting assignments, research and citing properly, and proofreading skills.

## Halifax Chamber of Commerce

*Students in the Business & Tourism program at the Mount are members of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.*

With this membership, students can attend chamber events and receive benefits such as:

- Discounts from Benefit Providers
- Connections in the business community and access to the Member Directory
- M2M Marketplace offers
- Halifax Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter

Attending Chamber events is also a part of the Learning Passport program.

**The membership with the Chamber provides an excellent opportunity for students to connect with business leaders, learn of career paths, and further their education beyond the classroom.**

**– Abbie Hodder, MSVU student**



### About

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is a best-practice and business advocacy organization, recognized as the first Chamber in North America, and is certified to ISO 9001:2015.

The Chamber focuses on creating positive business environments, growing the workforce, and accelerating the success of Chamber members through providing networking events, benefit programs, advocacy to governments, education, and information.

Approximately 1,600 businesses and over 65,000 employees are members of the Chamber.

