



School of Business

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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NIC and McDonald's create business degree pathway

NIC and McDonald's Canada are celebrating a new partnership that makes it easier for McDonald's restaurant managers to complete their business degree at NIC. Prospective students who have completed management training courses at McDonald's and met NIC's admission requirements will be offered a seat in NIC's Bachelor of Business Administration, General Management major.

"When I found out I could receive NIC credit for my management training at McDonald's I was amazed and excited," said Brandon Sawyer, who started NIC's Bachelor of Business Administration this September. "I love the business programs at NIC and this will help me launch my career faster."

Read [NIC School of Business News](#) online to learn more.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR



More business courses offered in Campbell River

It is an exciting time to be taking on the role of NIC's School of Business chair. The department has seen significant growth in recent years. We will have more than 130 BBA graduates by the end of this academic year and increased business courses available in the summer semester. We are also adding more in-person instruction at our Campbell River campus with four first-year courses in fall 2018 and six (including two third-year courses) in winter 2019.

Former chair Bill Parkinson helped cement NIC's reputation as a place where students could launch their careers, make industry contacts or further post-secondary training. I will continue to build on this foundation as I bring more business professionals on campus to connect with students. We will also be offering a wider range of electives, online, blended and in-person courses to make education more accessible in Campbell River and beyond.

I am always looking for opportunities for students to work with local businesses on meaningful projects such as product or service development, business cases or data analysis. If you have a suitable project, please let me know. I'd love to hear from you and encourage you to add me to your professional network on LinkedIn or email me at ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ali Mayboudi, Chair

NIC School of Business

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Samantha Strueby (BBA, 2014)



Last fall, Samantha Strueby, CPA (BBA, 2014) started a new position as an accountant at the City of Campbell River. She credits the co-op work experience she gained as an NIC student for helping her launch a successful accounting career.

"My professional journey began with NIC's co-op education program," she said.

In 2011, Strueby joined Seymour Pacific Developments as a co-op student. This led to a permanent position with the company, where she worked through the remainder of her degree. After graduating and partway through her CPA, Strueby moved into public practice, taking a position with Thorburn Guinan (now merged with MNP).

"I gained so much experience in a wide variety of accounting functions," she said. "I quickly realized what Norma Pelletier was talking about when she stressed to her students to go to a public practice firm while going through the CPA Program."

To read more NIC success stories, search #NICSuccessStories on [NIC's Facebook page](#).

NIC business student named Ch'nook Scholar

Jessie Gervais recently became a Ch'nook Scholar, the third-ever NIC student to receive this honour.

Gervais moved to Vancouver Island when he was 10, finished high school early and began training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He later moved to Spain to dance professionally, followed by a four-year stint at Compañía Nacional de Danza de México and then two years at Ballet Victoria. He completed his first year at NIC online and second-year courses on campus before transferring to UBC with a goal of working in international relations.

Read [NIC School of Business News](#) online to learn more.



Alumni share expertise at high school open house

Every February, more than 1,000 high school students from across the North Island discover and explore unique opportunities at our annual NIC Open House.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Harley Elias who facilitated the sessions and our distinguished alumni Sean Frisby, Sonia Waring, Ryan Hansen and Allyson Hamilton who brought all the excitement of their professional journey to this event," said Mayboudi.

Visit [NIC's event calendar](#) to learn more about NIC events on campus and in the community.



Notable events, appointments and achievements



We are proud of our students, alumni and faculty and celebrate their many achievements throughout the year.

In September, six NIC alumni successfully wrote their multi-day Common Final Examination as part of their CPA Professional Education Program. Congratulations to **Brad Dolce, Lesley France, Evgeniya Gorbatova, Chelsey Gurr, Jason Knodel** and **Preston Thompson**.

In November, NIC and the CPA hosted its **8th annual Business-Student Mixer**, an annual community networking event that brings together business students, colleagues and local employers.

In December, **NIC President John Bowman** was reappointed to serve as NIC President and CEO for a second term, until June 30, 2022.

In January, **Ali Mayboudi** was appointed to serve as Chair of the NIC School of Business.

Read Ali's [faculty profile](#) to learn more.

In January, Ali Mayboudi presented **Adicus Bird** (pictured) with the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Award. The NIC School of Business has had the honour of sponsoring this award for the past four years.

In January, **NIC's Student Leadership Team** hosted its most successful student leadership retreat ever with 28 students including one TRU student who flew in from Kamloops. The annual event is open to all post-secondary students from across BC and Canada.

In March, **Bill Parkinson** was appointed to the role of Interim Dean, International Education.

In March, NIC alumni **Kelsey Anglin** and **Sonia Waring** were named as finalists in the Top 20 under 40 Business & Community Achievement Awards.

The **BBA Alumni Bursary** supports business students who demonstrate strong academics, community involvement and financial need. This award is generously sponsored by NIC alumni. To donate toward next year's bursary, email foundation@nic.bc.ca or call 250-334-5074.

If you've recently received an award, promotion or been appointed to a new position, please email ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca so we can share your success in future editions of this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 31, 6 pm

Business degree alumni spring social at Blackfin Pub

Don't miss our annual spring social. Enjoy a complimentary dinner and no-host bar, network with former classmates and fellow alumni, connect with faculty and administration and meet our 2018 graduates as we welcome them into NIC's alumni community. RSVP to ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca by Friday, May 4 to reserve a spot.

June 19 to 25

NIC celebrates 2018 graduations college-wide

NIC's graduation ceremony is the highlight of the college year as we honour the achievements of our students. Ceremonies will take place June 19 in Port Alberni, June 20 in Campbell River and June 22 in the Comox Valley.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NIC'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

CareerCentral is NIC's new, free online job board, making it easier than ever to hire NIC students and graduates. You can promote jobs, co-op and internship opportunities at careercentral.nic.bc.ca to reach highly qualified NIC students and grads. Contact Anita Budisa-Bonneau at 250-334-5007 or email Anita.Budisa@nic.bc.ca for more information.

Guest speakers welcome. Members of the business community can share their expertise and the excitement of their professional journey with current students throughout the academic year. If you are interested in volunteering as a guest speaker in the classroom or at an event, please email ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca.



KEEP IN TOUCH

NIC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
CHAIR

Ali Mayboudi
250-334-5209

ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca
[in Ali Mayboudi](#)

WORK INTEGRATED EDUCATION
COORDINATOR

Anita Budisa-Bonneau
250-334-5007

anita.budisa@nic.bc.ca
[in Anita Budisa-Bonneau](#)

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