

## 1997 Co-op Student of the Year – David Landry

CAFCE is pleased to announce that David Landry of McMaster University, Science Cooperative Education has been selected as the 1997 Co-op Student of the Year. David is a 5<sup>th</sup> year, Honours Biology & Pharmacology student who completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> co-op with the Nova Nordisk Canada Inc. Congratulations David.

David will receive a plaque and a \$500 award. CAFCE would like to express its sincere appreciation to CIBC for sponsoring the 1997 Co-op Student of the Year Award program.

This selection is so difficult, the committee recognized seven students as ‘honorable mentions’ for this award as follows:

Jennifer Amend, Mount Saint Vincent University  
Dean Barnett, College of New Calendonia  
Stephanie Clarke, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Mark Deptuck, Saint Mary's University  
Angela Flanigan, Fanshawe College  
Terry Hillestad, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology  
Julie Lafontaine, Cégep de Trois-Rivières

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Working and Learning for Life : McMaster Student Honoured for Co-op Excellence  
Written by Andrea Baldwin, MSVU

While some university students planned special events, worked on local area networks or implemented marketing campaigns during their co-op work experience, David Landry was doing something a little different – trying his hand at basic animal surgery. Landry, who will soon graduate from McMaster University with his Bachelor of Science (honours) in biology and pharmacology, has divided his time over the last four years between academic endeavours and co-op work placements at a hospital, a research centre and a pharmaceutical company. This unique opportunity to blend such diverse hands-on work experience with his studies has helped Landry discover his strengths and uncover the areas of biology and pharmacology he is most interested in pursuing. And through it all, Landry's exceptional performance has set a precedent that will be hard for his successors to match.

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to co-op employers, school, and community, Landry was recently named Co-op Student of the Year by the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE). Catherine Walter, who supervised Landry during his eight-month term with Nova Nordisk, where he assisted in the review of a new drug submission and saw it through to the government approval process, was so impressed with his work that she nominated him for the national co-op award. “During his time with our company, David was involved with most of our functional departments,” says Walter. “He exceeded our expectations with his ability to perform, work independently and produce results.

Before his term at Nova Nordisk, Landry worked at the Centre for Evaluation of Medicines (CEM) at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario and Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research in Montreal, Quebec. It was during his time at the Merck Frosst Centre where on any given day he could be found in the laboratory examining the movement of white blood cells under a fluorescent microscope, and performing operations on small animals. He says this experience helped him understand “the trials and tribulations researchers encounter while developing new drug therapies.”

At the CEM, Landry assisted in the development of cost-effective strategies for drug prescribing around which he developed a public information campaign to advise physicians about new developments in drug therapies and guidelines for optimal drug prescribing. The breadth of

experience Landry gained from his work terms showcases the endless opportunities co-operative education can provide. His dedication to projects, his drive to perform and the great enthusiasm demonstrated toward all the challenges co-op offered him, combined to create an optimum recipe for achieving success.

“My experiences in co-operative education have been vital in directing my future career choices,” says Landry, who has become a great promoter of the program. “I encourage prospective university students to consider an undergraduate co-op program.” During his three co-op jobs Landry has been involved in all aspects of drug development, practiced basic surgical skills, and exposed to drug research in the areas of diabetes, women’s health care, hematology, cardiovascular disorders, asthma and chronic inflammatory conditions. All of this experience, he says, has wet his appetite for pursuing either a career in medicine or the pharmaceutical industry.

His achievements are further reaching than his on-the-job performance; Landry has received academic honours every semester since he began his degree. He has also been an active volunteer with such organizations as the Meals on Wheels program, the Cootes Valley Restoration Team and two local hospitals.

Every year more Canadian students like Landry are choosing university and college programs that offer a co-operative education option as students and employers alike realize the mutual benefits co-op provides. Created in 1994 the CAFCE Co-op Student of the Year designation is awarded annually to a student for outstanding contributions to their co-op employer, academic excellence and community involvement. Seven students received honourable mention this year. They are: Jennifer Amend from Mount Saint Vincent University, N.S.; Dean Barnett from the College of New Caledonia, B.C.; Stephanie Clarke, Wilfrid Laurier University, ON; Mark Deptuck from Saint Mary’s University, N.S.; Angela Flanigan from Fanshawe College, ON; Terry Hillestad from Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, AB; and Julie LaFontaine from Cégep de Trois-Rivieres, ON.