

START OF OUR SUCCESS STORIES FOR THIS YEAR 😊😊😊

Jordan Fraser – employed as of 1/4/19



Jamie Cairney – employed as of 14/3/19



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On our way to the IMAX during workshop week 😊



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## From Staff

We are happy to report that all interns are now in their third and final rotations. There was one match that turned out to be a bit different from what we had thought so it involved a change of plans for the young man concerned. (Anthony has now been changed from the role of receptionist at the Residences at GCU to now learning about the role of a CCTV operator within the security team. This involved a trial placement which has turned out to be a great success so Anthony will be going to this role starting after the holidays Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. He sees this as a possible job he would be interested in doing😊😊. THANKS VERY MUCH to Paul Smith and his team from Security Services for providing this opportunity).

Applications for Project SEARCH are being accepted for the next academic year – these can be made through the City of Glasgow College website. The selection day is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> April so all applications need to be in before then or the young person will miss the chance to take part in this day and there is no guarantee that there will be another event, as it will depend on numbers.

Audrey and Siobhan attended a Project SEARCH ‘Master Class’ in Glasgow with the founders of Project SEARCH. This was a very worthwhile event and we look forward to future events now that PS is continuing to grow in Scotland (and the rest of the UK).

We have made contacts with the new member of the University’s Internal Comms team so hopefully more people will get to hear about the great work being done around the campus thanks to everyone involved with the Project.

We have also made some contacts with a few possibilities for new rotations which we will be following up for next year.

As you can see, there is always something happening with Project SEARCH and it continues to go from strength to strength which is due to all the staff who get involved. Thanks again to everyone.

Remember if you are a family member or buddy to ‘SAVE THE DATE’ for Graduation on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. You will be notified nearer the time with details. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

THANKS  
Siobhan and Audrey.

### **Job Outcomes (by SM)**

**Jamie Cairney** has a job at Cineworld Renfrew Street, Glasgow as a cinema team host. He started this on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It will involve some shift working but Jamie is getting used to this and he has a job coach from Glasgow Supported Employment team working with him as he settles in to the role. Well done Jamie 😊

**Jordan Fraser** found out on Monday that he has a job as a cleaning assistant with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland based in Renfrew Street, Glasgow. He starts this on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April so no holidays for Jordan. He is being supported in to this role by a job coach again from Glasgow Supported Employment team. Well done Jordan 😊

As both young men are based in Renfrew Street, maybe they will catch up with each other after work???

### **Wheatley Modern Apprenticeship event**

This event took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Audrey took along 4 interns to see what modern apprenticeships were available and if they would be suitable to any of them.

### **Glasgow Guarantee Jobs Fair (by MB)**

On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March the interns made the short walk along George Street to the City Chambers for a jobs fair ran by Glasgow Guarantee. There were a lot of stalls to go around and employers spoke to us about modern apprenticeships and what was available to us. We learned a lot about the companies that were there and some of the interns have applied for the positions that they liked the sounds of. We wish the interns the best of luck with what positions they've applied for.

### **City Chambers Information Session about Project SEARCH (by FMcC)**

The Project SEARCH information session was held at Glasgow City Chambers on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Some of the interns were helping at the info session. When we arrived we went to the reception desk to ask where the information event was and the receptionist told us at level 2. My role was to escort the people to get to the right floor for the information event. One of the interns put signs on the walls for people to see which room the event was being held in, the other two interns were welcoming the guests at the door. The event was very well attended. The staff did a presentation and told people all about the course and there were two past interns talking about their time on the course. There were people there from the other Glasgow Project SEARCH site as well.

### **Neurocyber Event by Pervinder Reehal**

I'd attended an event called Neurocyber in Scotland with Project SEARCH lecturer Siobhan Martin on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. The Neurocyber event is about attempting to encourage individuals within the Autistic Spectrum to pursue a wide range of careers that is within the Cybersecurity sectors of the IT (information and Technology) industry through

removing the negative barriers that deprives individuals with autism to achieve their fullest potential as well as removing the negative perceptions that a majority of employers tend to have towards individuals with autism.

Apparently, Scotland was the first to host the Neurocyber event with a partnership with the Scottish Government as well as YoungScot.

The venue of the event occurred within Linlithgow at the Oracle Corporation's office based centre. So we travelled there initially by boarding a train from Queen Street station where I was informed in advance by Siobhan that we would be meeting up with other travelling companions who were also very interested in the Neurocyber event and are technology enthusiasts themselves.

When we eventually arrived at the Oracle's office based centre, I'd felt overwhelmed with amazement and of how impressive the size of the Oracle building was. The event consisted of various guest representatives from wide variety of companies from reputable technological companies and from the cybersecurity markets in Scotland as well. The guest speakers had highlighted upon various roles a person could potentially pursue within the industry for example IT Support Technician and Networking Engineer etc. The representatives also engaged visitors in learning programming fundamentals, ethical hacking quizzes as well as online resources with information to develop IT skills. The event was highly beneficial and has provided me with a positive mind set to pursue a career in the IT industry.

### **Social Outing (by SH)**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March we had a social outing to the IMAX and the Planetarium. We saw an educational film 'Under the Sea' in 3D at the IMAX and "The Solar System" at the Planetarium. We travelled by the X19 bus from Cathedral Street which took us to the Science Centre. We took packed lunches with us – we were allowed to go in to a large room for this but it was too busy so we just sat at two tables outside this room.

### **Autism Conference (by MS)**

Some of the interns volunteered to help Siobhan with attending the Autism Conference on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 to share information about Project SEARCH. Morgan, Stuart, Fraser and Siobhan went over to the University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) for the Scottish Strategy for Autism Seventh Annual Conference. On the day Morgan, Fraser and Stuart met Siobhan over at the TIC then we got checked in and given our name tags. We set up our table with leaflets and our Piktocharts which explained what Project SEARCH is and gave some examples of our current and past rotations.

I would tell people that there are 14 other Project SEARCH programmes throughout Scotland.

My thoughts of the day were brilliant and seeing different tables and that lots of people came to talk to us and ask about the Project. The food was amazing and venue was amazing.

Fraser's thoughts were "the event was interesting, I liked how busy the event was and I liked it when we were speaking to the people. The event venue was very good".

Stuart's thoughts were "I thought that it was interesting talking to people about project SEARCH. When all the delegates were walking around talking in the trade fair the time went by very quickly but the hour in-between the delegates trade fair was quite boring and went slowly. Over all the trade fair went quite well."

### **Visit to Dell by Pervinder Reehal**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March both myself and Audrey were invited to visit DELL ECM offices located at City Park near Dennistoun. Audrey had informed me that we were meeting one of the assisting managers called Iain Cappercauld for a Q&A session. There was also a tour of the various sections within the department where each team of workers were placed according to their key job roles as well as their responsibilities. For example, one team would be responsible for ensuring that a wide range of clients were satisfied with their needs (mainly businesses rather than home users) and another team would be responsible for handling customer complaints. Initially, I didn't realise how well facilitated the City Park building is because it consisted of not only a wide range of amenities such as cafes, a nursery and recreational areas but various company's offices such as Sky, British Gas and Wheatley Group. For a moment, I was under the impression that City Park seemed to appear as though it is a shopping centre rather than it being some business offices. I felt that the office environment was very openly spaced and it seemed as though there was a hardworking, welcoming yet sociable vibe with so much occurring within the office that I felt keen and enthusiastic to be involved with what the staff were doing. Also, when Iain had mentioned that the staff tends to be supportive and helpful in any way possible by supporting one another to excel in trying to improve themselves in their careers, I felt delighted because ideally, I would prefer that to be case in a work environment. I felt that the time of our visit to DELL department was short and would have preferred spending a longer duration of time. However, I felt that it was a very valuable visit as it was related to my desirable interests and hobbies which had also made me feel more motivated yet determined to pursue a job/career within the IT industry.

### **Practice Interviews**

We continue to do practice interviews to help us with our interview skills. We were interviewed at Glasgow Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. **Thanks to Nicola McGowan** for arranging and thanks to the staff who interviewed us and gave us feedback – **Nicholas Carroll, Juliet Dempster and Sarah Heaney**

## FabLab visit 29/3/19

We visited the FabLab at the University James Weir building where we learned about laser printing, 3D printing and other machines and equipment. We also got to use the software to create our own keyrings. It was a great visit and finished of the week in a good way. We are now all finishing for a two week holiday and will be back to our internships on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

