

# ALUMNI

newsletter

June 2009



## Message from the Chair

Greetings Alumni,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I am writing this message to be included in



Melissa Ann Retty

our first OSTA-AECO Alumni Newsletter! As part of our strategic communication goals, the Alumni Board of Directors is committed to keeping you up to date on all of our undertakings. We will be sending out quarterly newsletters that will hopefully fulfill this purpose.

Since the beginning of our term in February 2009 we have accomplished a number of tasks. We have established our long-term and short-term goals, created board policies, took an active role in AGM as well as organized our first event. This is only the beginning. Our hope is to bring to you true value in being a past student trustee. We will be taking on a number of new initiatives to further serve you as members of the Alumni Network, as well as aid the Executive Council in achieving their goals.

OSTA-AECO has been a vibrant organization for nearly 10 years and this milestone will be celebrated in a grand way with a reunion in 2010. Please stay tuned to future newsletters with more information.

We hope this letter finds you well and above all, encourages you to get involved. As mentioned in this document, there are a number of upcoming initiatives that will solicit your input and participation and we would love for you to once again become involved in OSTA-AECO. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of connections, rekindle friendships and allow your professional network to grow.

Remember, once a student trustee, always a student trustee.

Best,

Melissa Ann Retty  
Chair

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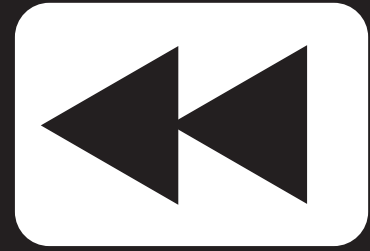
## Mentorship

We all remember what it felt like to sit at our first board meeting as student trustees. Do you feel that you would have benefited from the opportunity to receive information and advice from a student trustee alumnus? The answer from outgoing student trustees surveyed was a resounding 'YES!'

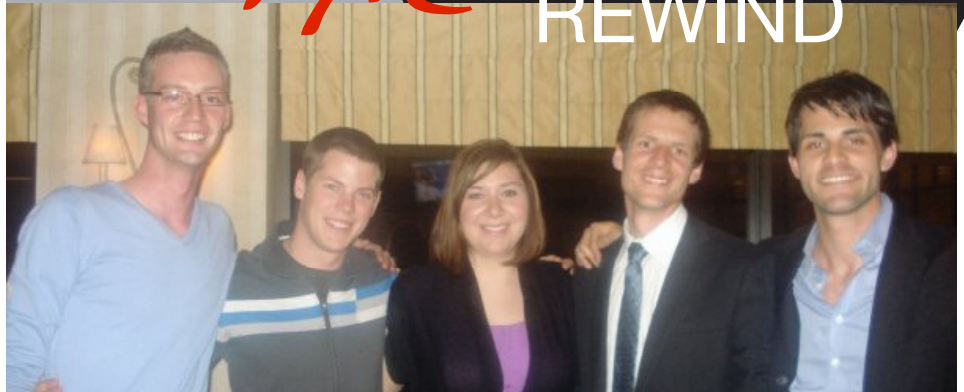
The Alumni Board of Directors is setting up a mentorship program to connect experienced alumni with new student trustees. Having each spent a year or more as student trustees ourselves, alumni mentors will be able to help with any questions, quirks, or concerns about the position throughout the year via one-to-one communication with a current student trustee.

If you think you may be interested in this program as a mentor, please stay tuned for further information!

Hit



REWIND



Past Presidents: Nathan Lachowsky, Matt Ried, Melissa Ann Retty, Peter Wightman, & Karl Baldauf

## Event Recap

The alumni network recently held its first organized event of the term: a meet and greet at the Courtyard by Marriott on May 29th. The event was attended by a number of alumni and was a great opportunity to get together and catch up. We would like to thank everyone who attended and hope to see many more of you at future social events.

## What Have You Been Up To?

Recent university grad? Just got promoted? Travelled around the world? The alumni network wants to know what you have been up to since your time as a student trustee! In our upcoming newsletter editions we will be including alumni personal profiles. To be featured, please contact us at [ostaaeco.alum@gmail.com](mailto:ostaaeco.alum@gmail.com). Send us a photo and a quick note as to what you've been up to, we can't wait to hear all about it!

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## Message from the President

Dear Alumni,

I would like to thank you for the time and effort you have put into the association during



your terms. The mantra 'once a student trustee, always a student trustee' still rings true, and we appreciate your continued interest in the association. The 2008-2009 term was very successful for OSTA-AECO as it continues to grow towards the tenth operating year. The

year kicked off with the newly redesigned website with an archive of reports and continual news updates. The Sheraton Toronto graciously hosted our Fall General Meeting, as it began a great year of networking.

OSTA-AECO once again advocated for student trustee rights and power in the release of Student Trustee Today: The Challenges a discussion paper geared to fixing the inequities in our role across the province.

Both Jonathon Scott, director of policy, and myself were published in Education Canada and Education Today respectively with articles we had written. During the Public Education Symposium we released the report Equitable Education?: The Cost of Extracurriculars in

Ontario, which was featured in the Toronto Star on April 11th 2009. OSTA-AECO called for the implantation of a cap system on activity fees and the eventual phasing out of the fees. This past year we also staunchly advocated in opposition to the School Information Finder website from the ministry. At all three OSTA-AECO conferences, attendance was higher than previous years and we hope the success of the past year will be building block for the future.

Yours in Education,

Cody Welton  
President

## 2009 AGM Recap



Melissa Ann Retty, & Cody Welton

OSTA-AECO held its 9th AGM in Toronto on May 28th to 30th. The Alumni Board of Directors took an active role and planned a workshop for outgoing student trustees to build awareness of the alumni network. This workshop was used to inform them of our mandate, our goals but most importantly was used as a feedback mechanism. The interactive workshop allowed us to discuss essentially what they want from the alumni network and initiatives that would interest them as future alumni. It was a great opportunity to meet new members of the network and helped us gain insight on what the board should be doing to serve you better. Overall, the workshop was a great success!

## Regional Social Coordinators

With OSTA-AECO nearing its ten-year milestone, there are now hundreds of student trustee alumni. As alumni, we belong to a group of people with a unique experience in common, and each of us has valuable skills and experiences in vastly different areas which we can share. We can all benefit greatly from staying in touch as a group, and maintaining active communication.

In order to create a stronger network, the Alumni Board of Directors will be working with regional social co-ordinators to organize events for alumni across the province. Be they formal or informal, such events will give former student trustees the opportunity to reconnect and reminisce, to meet new people and to make valuable connections with other alumni. Watch for upcoming applications for regional social co-ordinator positions and events in your area!