



ELICIA WILKINSON

Which History program did you take? When did you graduate from Western?

I graduated from Western in 2014 with an Honors Specialization in History and a minor in Geography.

How have you been engaged since you graduated? What is your current position?

After graduating I completed a Master of Information (MI) at the University of Toronto with a double concentration in Library and Information Science, and Archives and Records Management. While studying at U.of T. I worked part-time for Rotman's Business Information Centre and the John M. Kelly Library as a student library assistant. The MI program also allows you to complete up to two practicum projects for credit towards your degree. My first placement was at the Canadian Environmental Law Association where I catalogued and digitized 40 years worth of publications (which are now freely available to the public on CELA's website). My second placement was at the Toronto Lawyers Association Courthouse Library where I completed a usability analysis of their website to provide feedback for a future redesign. Since graduating in June 2016 I have started a new position at the Ontario Securities Commission as a Records and Information Management Analyst.

How did your History degree prepare you for your current position (assuming that it in fact did so)?

My history degree has been a great asset throughout grad school and in my current position at the OSC. I would say that my classes at Western taught me how to think critically about problems and how to

take into consideration multiple perspectives on an issue. These skills have been invaluable as a lot of the work I do involves research and policy drafting.

What would you tell current or prospective History students?

I would tell current or prospective history students not to fear the looming "what next?" after graduation. The skills you learn throughout your history degree can be applied in so many ways and you should be commended for following your interests. The best advice I've received was to never say no when asked to try something new; don't be afraid to volunteer for The Mirror or compete in the Trivia Bowl because you are bound to learn something new and meet great people in the process.

Of course I would also tell them to join the History Society (right now, as quickly as possible)! I was reluctantly persuaded by a friend to go to my first History Society game night but it was the best decision I made while at Western. The people I met through the History Society were not only exceptional Historical Pictionary players, they've become lifelong friends. The History Society also gives you a chance to get to know the great faculty and staff of the History department.

Do you have any other thoughts or comments?

I would like to thank the History Department for choosing me as the Alumni of the Month, and to wish all current and future history students best of luck in their studies!