ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME FROM U OF R

REGINA - You remember the old maxim: all roads lead to Rome. Well, at the University of Regina, some do - directly from the co-op work-study program. This year, Shauna Osborne, co-op work-study student in computer science, found one of those roads and is working for Systemhouse in Rome, Italy.

"It's incredible," says Bill Holbrow, co-ordinator for the co-op work-study program at the University of Regina. "There are never enough students to fill the computer science work terms. Demand for our students exceeds supply. We place 97 per cent of all our students."

The co-op work study program at the U of R alternates academic and work terms. Students in administration, computer science, mathematics, engineering and the natural sciences gain work experience, earn money, have the opportunity to travel and often have job offers by graduation. During their career-related internships, the students also discover whether they are suited to their chosen fields of study.

The U of R co-op program has been a gateway to travel for Shauna. Her previous five work terms were spent at Esso in Calgary and Bell Northern Research in Ottawa. She arranged this term at Systemhouse through the company's Regina office, with an interview there and then one by telephone to Rome. Shauna, who will be back in Regina in time for Christmas, graduates from the U of R next May.

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"Co-op students are worth their weight in gold," says Cam Fairbairn, systems analyst and recruiter at Systemhouse, Regina branch. "We've hired lots of co-op students in the past and look forward to hiring lots more in the future."

Two other U of R co-op students are working this term at Systemhouse, Greg Willox in Calgary and Charles Goertz in Regina. As well, three former co-op work-study students, Russ Aebig, Dawn Armstrong Marr and Craig Wagner, are now working permanently at Systemhouse in Regina. Systemhouse is a large organization, with branches across North America and clients around the world.

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