

The Pursuit

November, 2013



The signature 14th hole at Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. This truly magnificent hole borders the North Sea, and is not for the faint of heart.

Dear Society Directors,

Last night marked the annual University of Guelph Graduate Awards Presentation and Dinner. It was an evening full of excitement, in a room bursting with knowledge seekers. It was thrilling being surrounded by other students like myself who are striving to reach their academic goals, and even better realizing we have done so. And for this feeling of accomplishment and inspiration, I owe to you.

Being chosen as the recipient of the Thompson Graduate Studies Scholarship is the greatest form of motivation that could be bestowed upon a student who so admires what the society does. The scholarship is made even more extraordinary by The Society choosing a female beneficiary as their first ever recipient. Achievements like this convince me that a successful career in the golf industry for women is attainable.

Beyond the financial boost that the scholarship has given me, it has provided me with the confidence and encouragement to take risks, aspire bigger, and pursue my ambitions wholeheartedly. Which is why I decided to use the funds given to me to travel to Scotland to conduct research and collect qualitative data for my graduate thesis.

For two exhilarating weeks I rented a car, traveled the country solo, and experienced golf in it's simplest and purest form.

Miles put on the rental car: 812
Highest number of putts on one green: 5
Lost golf balls: 12
Gorse injuries: 1
Times I got into the wrong side of the car: lost count
Favorite Local Delicacy: Innis and Gunn





This journey on which I walked the likes of The Old Course, North Berwick, Royal Dornoch, Trump International, Prestwick, and Turnberry, has changed the way I perceive the game. Not to mention changed the amount of mulligans I took (thanks to the wind, rain, gorse, and Thompson-esque contouring).

I was able to meet with the superintendents and mangers at these monumental golf courses and further my understanding of traditional golf course architecture. We discussed subjects of conformity, sustainability, stewardship, and history. All of which directly pertains to my thesis, and will contribute greatly to its validity and reliability in the academic world. It seems as though my appreciation for architects like Cumming, Thompson, Cornish, and Jones, has heightened more than I thought it could.

The knowledge that I gained while on this research trip was not something I could have read



Travel Itinerary: Glasgow - Beith - Falkirk - St. Andrews - Dundee - Aberdeen - Balmedie - Inverness - Tain - Dornoch - Stirling - Edinburg - North Berwick - Ayr

in a book, or discovered in an article online. The actuality of feeling the unrelenting wind on my face, teeing off on the original Redan hole, walking the beach looking for my ball, pondering the ten foot break in a putt, and holding an original drawing by Old Tom Morris himself are all experiences that deeply affected me. And I would not have experienced any of it without the generosity of The Stanley Thompson Society. The journey has humbled my existing knowledge and revealed just how much I have yet to learn. So let's get to it, shall we.

Simply knowing that The Stanley Thompson Society believes in me has motivated me to exert excellence and quality in all that I do. The Society has provided me with a once in a lifetime opportunity to grow and succeed, for which I am perpetually grateful. For this, in the memory of Mr. Newton, I thank you.

In the pursuit of knowledge and adventure,

Christine Fraser

Master of Landscape Architecture
Candidate 2014

University of Guelph