
CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE STUDENT WINS £10,000 FOR FACULTY WITH MISSION TO HELP GLOBAL LONELINESS IN THE FUTURE

- Prize winner sees new investment market emerging by 2169 - the Companionship Industry
- Student's 'obsession with dystopian future novels' helps them scoop financial education prize

London, Monday 18 March 2019 – As part of the legacy for its 150th anniversary year, F&C Investment Trust launched a new Prize fund with City of Glasgow College, Scotland's largest college. Having received thousands of public votes and additional consideration by a panel of judges, The final winner of the *F&C Investment Trust Prize* is announced today.

The winner is **Heather Ramsey**, studying for an HND Legal Services at City of Glasgow College.

Designed to showcase students' financial understanding, the competition asked them to unlock inventive ways to close the UK's financial knowledge gap. They could pick one of three categories to enter. Heather, from **Bearsden in Glasgow**, chose to submit an individual entry on the topic of "*Growth: what can we expect in 150 years' time?*" in a short video format.

- Watch Heather's video here: www.fcitprize.com/votes/profiles/shortlist/profile-9.html

Talking about her winning entry, Heather said:

"I chose to tackle this particular question because I have always had an interest with the future of technology stemming from my obsession with dystopian future novels. I wanted to explore how the future might look, and what problems my theoretical future might bring. There are certain challenges with answering a question that asks you to look 150 years into the future. For example, would a person in 1869 have been able to predict the rise of Amazon? Probably not, but they may have predicted the rise of high-speed global communication, as the slow speed of sending messages hindered the latter part of the 19th century. Pioneers, like Alexander Graham Bell, saw this need and found ways to overcome it. This thought-process helped me pick my topic. After watching a documentary on how people are becoming isolated, I thought the industry surrounding helping people become more connected to the world around them would be an interesting thing to investigate. So, I decided to explore a rising issue which may hinder the 'digital revolution': loneliness.

"I asked people, including my grandparents, what helped alleviate their feelings of loneliness. They said pets helped keep them in contact with the community, through chatting with people while walking their dogs; and the dogs themselves are a great sense of comfort. I also asked people around my own age if they felt lonelier than their parent's generation. Most said yes and suggested social media makes it easier to amuse yourself at home. I observed friends who treated their phones as 'living creatures' and expressed distress when their phones were 'hurt'. Which made me wonder if humans could form emotional bonds with robots which would become a form of companionship. I also read about people paying to go on 'friendship dates' in California, which brought out interesting questions about renting people as a source of companionship and this led me to discover Rental sisters for Hikikomori (shut-in's who spend all day online) in Japan. My research directed me towards my ultimate entry in the form of video for this competition, which I am utterly thrilled to have won!"

Heather's Prize Package:

- The *F&C Investment Trust Prize* trophy
- £10,000 for her faculty to invest in research, innovation or development; plus a laptop computer
- Exclusive career training - offering guidance, mock interview questions and CV building tips
- Special recognition at annual City of Glasgow College Student Excellence & Achievement Awards 2019
- Special recognition on Graduation Day, in Graduation booklet, and Prize plaque on the College walls
- Presentation lunch with F&C Investment Trust Board – for networking and opportunity for Q&A

Paul Little, Principal and CEO City of Glasgow College said: *“Our congratulations go to Heather who is a very deserving winner. Our college, her faculty and friends are very proud of her achievement. We were delighted with the wide range of stimulating entries and the resulting student engagement with this partnership competition. As the first of its kind for an educational institution, I’m particularly pleased that such an innovative and creative submission has won.”*

Other entries:

- Second place - Finance Fanatics, in the Financial Services department
- Third place - Leila Moeinaddini, Pre-intermediate student
- Highly commended - Future of Finance, in the HND Financial Services department

A team of judges were part of the process to award a final winner, comprising a member of college staff. Commenting on competition, they said:

Simon Fraser, Chairman of F&C Investment Trust: *“The variety and quality of the entries were excellent, which made it very difficult to select a winner. The entries demonstrated that there is a clear need to improve financial education, particularly through the use of social media and other digital platforms. Thank you to everybody who took part. They have put in so much effort.”*

Jamie McIvor, BBC Scotland Education and Local Government Correspondent: *“There were many interesting and imaginative entries. But the winner was clear. Heather-Ramsey produced a well-researched concept and communicated it very well. As a communications and TV professional, I admired the effort. But special praise too for Leila’s entry.”*

Milea Leone, Student President of City of Glasgow College: *“Congratulations to Heather Ramsey who showed real creativity in her video submission that won so many votes. It was original, surprising and thoughtful. I also loved Finance Fanatics’ entry, as lots of research was undertaken for their submission. Interviewing the younger generation was excellent. The document was well written and explained the concept of investing in great detail. It was also very interesting to read the younger generation’s responses to the value of objects question as well as teachers giving their opinions on kids learning about investing from a younger age and what should be introduced as well as what is already provided.”*

Ends

Media Contacts:

Campbell Hood, BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA)

campbell.hood@bmogam.com

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7011 4243

Mob: +44 (0) 786 091 1622

FTI Consulting

FCIT150@fticonsulting.com

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3 319 5604

Notes

1. A hi-resolution photo is available to download at <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/DLGd02187K>



2. Further details about all the entries and the Prize can be found online at: www.fcitprize.com/votes/

3. Judges: *Julia Belgutay*, Scotland Education Correspondent at The Times Education Supplement; *Andy Denholm*, Scotland Education Correspondent at The Herald; *Simon Fraser*, Chairman of F&C Investment Trust; *Jamie McIvor*, BBC Scotland Education and Local Government Correspondent; *Milea Leone*, Student President of City of Glasgow College; *Lucy Martin*, Graduate Client Management, BMO GAM; *Marrack Tonkin*, Head of Investment Trusts, BMO GAM.
4. Both F&C Investment Trust and BMO Global Asset Management are committed to improving financial education and increasing financial literacy for future generations, so they can achieve financial security. They support a range of projects to help young people understand how saving and investing can help short-term life goals, as well as long-term ambitions. Learn about the projects at: www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/our-commitment-to-financial-education
5. Education Scotland is the Scottish Government agency responsible for financial education in Scotland. There are four aspects of financial capability in the Scottish provision: Financial understanding, Financial competence, Financial responsibility, Financial enterprise (source: www.young-money.org.uk/planning-teaching/financial-education-outside-england/financial-education-scotland).

About City of Glasgow College

City of Glasgow College is the largest college in Scotland offering up to 2,000 technical and professional programmes, with a technologically advanced twin site campus designed for up to 40,000 students. This super college has an unrivalled global reach with a presence in every continent and 110 international partners and students from 120 different nationalities. It is widely recognised as one of the top colleges in the UK, delivering £1.5 billion into the Scottish economy each year. The college is top in the UK for WorldSkills; overall number one in the Scottish sector for success in student attainment in combined Further and Higher Education; and is the third most popular tertiary destination for all Scottish school leavers. More information at: www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk

About F&C Investment Trust

The Company formally changed its name from Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust PLC to F&C Investment Trust PLC, following approval from shareholders at its Annual General Meeting in May 2018. Launched in March 1868, F&C Investment Trust is the oldest collective investment fund and has since gone on to amass an impressive track record and grow into one of the largest of its kind, with assets under management of £3.8bn (as at 31 December 2018). Its aim is to generate long-term growth and income by investing primarily in an international portfolio of listed equities. The Trust is well diversified and cautiously managed, with exposure to over 450 individual companies from around the world.

About BMO Global Asset Management

BMO Global Asset Management is a global investment manager with offices in more than 25 cities in 14 countries, delivering service excellence to clients across five continents. Our four major investment centres in Toronto, Chicago, London and Hong Kong are complemented by a network of world-class specialist managers strategically located across the globe: BMO Real Estate Partners, LGM Investments, Pyrford International Ltd. BMO Global Asset Management is a signatory of the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment initiative (UNPRI). BMO Global Asset Management is a part of BMO Financial Group, a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America with total assets of CDN \$774 billion as of 31 October 2018, and over 45,000 employees.

The value of investments and income derived from them can go down as well as up as a result of market or currency movements and investors may not get back the original amount invested.