

## **Glenn Schatz, BSc in Economics (Hons) at UofR (2010) and MA in Economics at University of Alberta (2011)**

I currently work as an Alberta Power Trader in Energy Commodities Trading. I am responsible for buying and selling power for about 150,000 customers. I produce long-range forecasts for power consumption for my customers, and buy power based on those long-range forecasts. I then adjust how much power I have bought as forecasts update and market conditions change. I am responsible for managing the risk between what I have contractually sold power to my customers for and what I can buy in the forward financial markets.

### ***What I learned in my program that has got me to where I am today:***

1) To think and learn independently. I think the biggest strength of programs in the Arts/Sciences faculty, is the focus on learning how to learn, as opposed to being taught how to do something. Being able to learn abstract economic concepts and then independently apply those concepts to equally abstract real-world problems is what I do for a living. There is no manual on how to trade power financial contracts. There is no book on energy commodity fundamentals and how those fundamentals drive futures contract prices. You have to be able to interpret what you see, and draw conclusions independently and sell those conclusions to your bosses. And I credit a lot of my ability to do that with my education at the UofR.

2) Technical skills in data management/modelling. I credit a lot of this to my undergraduate econometrics course. I deal with ridiculous amount of data on a day-to-day basis, and being able to manage that data, build models, and share the results of those models with coworkers has made me invaluable to my coworkers.

### ***What I want to say about my UofR experience:***

I think the biggest strength to the UofR Economics program I took, was the access to professors. I found it easier to get one-on-one time with my professors in my BSc then in my MA. And I've sought similar environments in my career. I like working on small teams with a strong mentor/mentee relationship. This has allowed me to succeed in a very niche environment. Similarly, I found my co-students to be an invaluable resource. We had a very strong group, and worked well together. I think the smaller class size, smaller university atmosphere provided at the UofR made that student-student relationship easier to come by.