

Algonquin College Announces Recipients of Steve Forster Memorial Bursary

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 26, 2004 – Algonquin College students Meghan Duncan and Samantha Whittaker are among the first beneficiaries of the College's newly established Steve Forster Memorial Bursary Fund.

The bursary honours the memory of Steve Forster, a former Algonquin College professor and Perth town councillor, who died of cancer in February 2003. This year, five students received financial assistance through the bursary.

"I really appreciated receiving the bursary," said Ms. Whittaker. "My mom is losing her job at the end of March, so the money is in a GIC to help pay for next year's tuition."

Mr. Foster began teaching Print Journalism at Algonquin College in 1989 and became the program's co-ordinator in 1991. He was keenly aware of the financial challenges facing many post-secondary students. Currently, half of the students who attend Algonquin College rely on financial aid to pay for their education. It was not uncommon for this gentle giant of a man to quietly slip a few dollars from his own pocket into the hands of a cash-strapped student who needed a bus pass or a decent meal.

Following his death, in consultation with his wife Rachel, the College established the Steve Forster Memorial Bursary Fund to keep his generosity of spirit alive. Through the Algonquin College "Plant Some Roots" program, money is made available to Print Journalism students at the College who depend on grants to fund their education.

"I wish I'd had the opportunity to meet Steve Forster. He sounds like someone who really cared about his students," said Ms. Duncan. "I'd paid my tuition fees by the time I received the bursary, but I needed the money to buy my bus pass to get to school. I really appreciated it."

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610

-2

The College continues to welcome donations in Steve Forster's memory. Information on the bursary fund is available at www.algonquincollege.com/alumni under "Plant Some Roots."

1385 Woodroffe Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2G 1V8

--30--

For more information, contact:

Dawn Dubé
Director, Public Relations
Algonquin College
(613) 727-4723 ext. 5192
Cell: (613) 220-5291

Jeannette Smith
Manager, Media Relations
Algonquin College
(613) 727-4723 ext. 5450
Cell: (613) 220-7796

Public Relations,
Communications,
Alumni and
Development
Department
Office: 613-727-4723
ext. 7664
Fax: 613-727-7610