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GASlines Submissions

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General Arts
& Science

ALGONQUIN
COLLEGE



Message from the Chair

As the semester comes to an end, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all staff, faculty and students for welcoming me to General Arts and Science. Like many of our students starting this year, the learning curve has been tremendous. I know I am not alone in stating that if it weren't for the diligence and hard work that each of the professors, student success specialists and support staff provide, students and I alike, would often be lost.

The team spirit that makes GAS such a friendly, caring department was evident with the great turn out to the Annual GAS Faculty and Staff Bowling Tournament held in November. Congratulations to the reigning team: Darlene Tierney-Goebel, Kit Wolski, Jay Smith, Glen Andrews and Lawrence Wong!

This holiday season, I wish you all the best as you take time to rest, re-energize and spend time with loved ones. Give thanks for all your blessings, big and small.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you.

Sherryl Fraser

Media Students Get Sneak Peak of New Canadian Flick

Kerri Ayer

Students from the Media and Communication program were invited to attend the premiere of *The Grand Seduction*, an English remake of the French Canadian movie *La Grande Séduction*, first made ten years ago. The event took place at the Museum of Civilization, in Hull, on Monday October 28. The movie is about a small fishing village in northern Newfoundland that could no longer support itself. The solution is a hilarious comedy about the town trying to get a doctor to stay so the townspeople can create a petroleum re-purposing facility that will result in jobs. The movie is directed by Don McKellar and was written by Michael Dowse and Ken Scott.

Among the notable people who attended were Mrs. Laureen Harper, the Minister of Culture, Shelly Glover and Rogers Vice-President of Television, Collette Watson. Also at the premiere were stars Mary Walsh and Gordon Pinsent.

The Minister thanked the Algonquin students for their interest and attendance and pointed out that the event was also a good opportunity to see where students could end up career-wise as producers or even actors.

Following the screening, there was a wine and cheese reception that provided ample opportunity to mingle with the invited



Collette Watson, speaking on behalf of Rogers Canada

guests. Says classmate, Valerie Boucher, "I enjoyed the premiere, it was a good opportunity, and a good movie - I would go again."

Special thanks go to the Program Co-ordinator Calvin Climie for making the arrangements.



Starting Strong in Pre-Business Studies

Connor Smith and Calvin Climie

Professor Calvin Climie recently sat down with his newest flock of Pre-Business students to give them some insight on what they can expect from their program and the business world itself. Students arrived at room CA415 very eager to learn and were greeted by Professor Climie and his special guests Bill Garbarino, a program co-ordinator in Business Marketing, Jeremy McQuigge, Coordinator Business Administration, and Sidney McLennan, a former Pre-Business student now in Business Administration at Algonquin.



**Jeremy McQuigge, Coordinator,
Business Administration Core**

After settling in with complimentary pizza and pop, the students took their seats and began absorbing the knowledge, experience, and wisdom that the speakers had to offer. Professor Climie began with a brief introduction followed by an overview of



**Bill Garbarino, Program
Coordinator in Business Marketing**

the expectations of the semester. Bill Garbarino began with a PowerPoint presentation detailing his experience in the business world, and left the students considering the many career paths a business diploma provides. Sidney McLennan offered her first-hand experience as a former student in the Pre-Business program at Algonquin College, and offered ideas about what the students can expect throughout their education. Lastly, Jeremy McQuigge elaborated on the future possibilities of having a business diploma and had the students laughing and engaged with his sense of humour on the subject.

Each guest presented his/her knowledge in different ways, but ultimately the students came out feeling enlightened about the business world. Now they have a new sense of the possibilities that await them once they finish their business diploma.

Exploring South East Asia

Special Sabbatical Report

Mike Adamyk

In January 2013, I finished the last part of my sabbatical year with a six-month adventure of a lifetime travelling through South East Asia. Starting in Beijing, my back-packing adventure took me to southern China and down the Mekong River through Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. I finished my last two months exploring some of Indonesia's islands before flying back to Canada via Sydney, Australia.



Typical Beijing breakfast

I spent my first week in Beijing, recuperating from jet lag and renewing some old friendships while staying in a traditional neighbourhood called a "hutong". It happened to be one of the coldest winters in memory resulting in such severe smog that my plane out of Beijing was delayed three hours because of visibility problems.

From Beijing I traveled by air and train through Hunan and into Yunnan Province and the city of Jinghong. It was from Jinghong that I set off by bus to live in an isolated mountain village where I immersed myself in Bulang, a small scale culture living in the mountains near the Burmese border.



Morning alms in Laos

Laos, one of the least populated and poorest countries in the world, was my next destination as I traveled down the Mekong from China. Laos has a lot to offer in terms of culture, food, friendly people, sustainable tourism as well as a slow boat down the river to the historic capitals of Luang Prabang and Vientien.

After a dodgy and confusing Laotian/Cambodian border crossing and an 18-hour bus ride through the smoky devastation that used to be a tropical forest, I arrived in a small town to visit and volunteer at a community-based elephant sanctuary. Here, villagers are saving the disappearing forests and helping the elephants by switching to sustainable tourism instead of clearing land for rubber trees; they use the elephants for close up tourist viewing in a natural setting. I learned that we should never ride on the back of an elephant when traveling to other parts of the world.

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Exploring South East Asia - continued

Mike Adamyk

Another cramped, 12-hour, hair-raising ride from the elephant sanctuary brought me to the famous UN heritage site of Angor Wat outside the town of Siem Reap. It took three days to explore only half of the entire temple complex. Despite the shade-chasing sun and heat, an excellent guide and a rickshaw made for a memorable experience.

It was then on to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia and a fast boat ride down the final stretch of the Mekong into the "Nine Dragon" tributaries of the Mekong that empties into the South China Sea. The young lady beside me on the boat munched on fried spiders, a delicacy in the area. Many of the names of the cities in this region remind me of the Vietnam War, which the Vietnamese call the American War.



Elephant sanctuary, Cambodia

The delta is a fascinating, high density region where most people are involved in farming rice or working the fish industry. Flying from the delta to the ancient capital of Vietnam, Hue, one gets the impression that the Vietnamese are proud of their historic struggle to unite and be free of Chinese, French, Japanese

and American domination. I had to develop a whole new resolve and nerves of steel when crossing the streets to face waves of oncoming motorcycles in most large Vietnamese cities. From Hanoi, my flight took me to Malaysia where I arranged for an Indonesian visa before crossing the Strait of Malacca into Indonesia, one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. The islands of Sumatra, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Java and Bali rounded out my adventures in this vast island nation. Highlights included a village stay in Torajaland, Sulawesi, snorkeling in the Adnan Sea, sustainable tourism in the Javanese countryside near Yogyakarta, volcanoes in Bromo and orangutans in the jungles of Kalimantan.

South East Asia is a great destination for tourism and cultural exploration. Prices can be cheap if you plan to stay in hostels, and people tend to be friendly and proud to show you their culture; these elements make for an incredible learning adventure.



Sustainable tourism in Javanese countryside (with Mike in traditional dress)

Design Studies Students Take a Design Trek

Stephany Castilla

Students from the GAS Design Studies program had an opportunity to take part in hands-on activities with several programs from the School of Media and Design this semester.



During the Design Trek students took part in activities that got them reflecting on the strengths they may need in entering diploma programs in the School of Media and Design. With a focus on retention, Professor Stephany Castilla organized visits from program coordinators and their students. Design Studies students had the opportunity to conduct activities such as user centered design, conceptual thinking, team work, collaboration and industry specific tasks like colour matching for Interior Decorating.

After the Treks students reflected on their experiences and added comments to their Blackboard Observation Journals.

One of the students attending commented, “I learned about the importance of human interaction for designers and the complexity of the work for decorators. Most people, including myself, incorrectly believe that design careers are simpler than they really are.”



Examples of team building and other tasks conducted during the Treks



20+ Art Pieces Highlighted in the Faculty of Arts, Media and Design Showcase

Kerri Ayer

On Wednesday, November 13, the faculty of Arts, Media and Design displayed their talents in an open house art show in T-102. Artists from General Arts and Science included Professors Natasha Mazurka, Rich Lauzon, Alan Stewart, Calvin Climie and Rosarii Mooney.

"It's been exciting to see what the staff does", says event Coordinator Nancy Boughner, "There's quite a variety on display."

The showcase has been held for the past ten years and is a great way for students, parents, faculty, and other stakeholders to come and experience the depth and variety of skill and talent expressed by our college faculty and staff in their work.



The Shaggy Knowl by Rosarii Mooney

Community Building through Giving

Although Thanksgiving in October reminds us to give thanks for all the good things in our lives, at the end of year when we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Eid Al Adha, and the Chinese New Year, we have another opportunity to spend time with family, reflect on the year, and think about the one to come. The holiday season is also a time to think of others who are less fortunate and to find ways to offer help and support. When Sharon Smith, one of our GAS Student Success Specialists put out the call to help students in need earlier this month, GAS staff and faculty responded by donating over \$300 towards Loblaws cards in less than a week.

For the past 12 years, Professor Lou Di Millo and his band The Wise Guys have played in the Rockin' for Toy Mountain party. This year, the party held on December 10 raised over \$1100 in toys for needy children in and around Ottawa. Our Chair, Sherryl Fraser, participated in the 24 Hours of Tremblant ski relay earlier in December. The event, which included over 200 teams, raised close to \$2 million in support of children's foundations and support organizations in the region. It's heartwarming and inspiring to see the generosity of GAS displayed within our own department and out in our communities; thanks to everyone whose kind help made these donations possible!



Introduction to Music Industry Arts Hosts Open Mic Night at the Ob

Adele Yamada

We know the term is winding down when the Introduction to Music Industry Arts students start planning their set lists for the Open Mic night at the Ob! This exciting event took place on Friday, December 13, and students and faculty alike enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the last day of term with music, dancing and fun. The lead organizer this year, Gerard Levesque, ran an exceptionally smooth show which started on time at 7:00 pm and gave many performers a chance to get up on stage and share their talent.

The five-hour event featured the musical skills of Trevor Gosling, Sarah Mercer, Sam Daviau, Connery



Brown, Dan Robertson, Taryne Greenlaw, Riley Bennett, Adam LeBlanc, Joel Deslauriers, Gordon McNally, Jordan Blackwell, Sean Hannam, Nik Zevenbergen, Jake Bornheimer, Nick Haight, Kyle Dube, Wade Carruthers, Justin Perron, Mitch Scott, Alex Thoms, and Randy Massia and his band. The students' musical skills impressed the audience and gave the Intro to MIA professors' band with Mike Wood (guitar), Lou Di Millo (bass), Bob Deeks (guitar) and special guests Mike Miron (guitar/vocals) and Anthony DiMillo (drums) a few tough acts to follow! A huge "Thanks!" to the Intro to MIA students for making this year's Open Mic night a delightful explosion of talent and fun!



The Youngest Canadian MP Visits Algonquin College

Connor Smith



At only 22, Laurin Liu is recognized as the youngest elected member of the Canadian government; she serves as the NDP representative for the electoral district of Rivière-des-Mille-Îles and as the

deputy critic of science and technology for the NDP.

On November 8, Laurin visited Algonquin College and treated the General Arts and Science Media and Communication classes to an intimate presentation in the CA building where she told us a little about herself and her political values. Laurin then opened up the floor to allow students to voice their ideas and views as young voters, giving her an idea of what needs to be improved in the world of Canadian politics. The presentation concluded with a Q&A where Laurin gave her input on a wide range of questions regarding political ideologies, current events, and the state of the Canadian government. Laurin's presentation received a thunderous round of applause; students walked away with a greater sense of appreciation for the work politicians do and a better sense of their own opportunities to engage in the political process.

Organ Donation - the Best Gift Ever

When donor recipient H       Campbell visited Algonquin College on November 26 to share information about the Best Gift Ever Campaign, one of our GAS students, Robert Martinho, stood up on stage with H       and urged the Algonquin College community to think about organ donation and what this gift of life can mean for a family. Robert is the thankful recipient of a liver donation that makes it possible for him to live a full life and pursue an education in the health field.



Robert Martinho with his Mom.

Two of the event organizers, Shannon Gemmell and Sondra Higginson, graduates of the GAS Pre-Nursing program, are now in their fourth year of the collaborative BScN program at Algonquin College. We appreciate their work in bringing awareness to the amazing outcomes organ donation creates!



24 Hours of Reality: The Cost of Carbon

In addition to being a professor in the GAS Environmental Studies program, Jay Smith is a volunteer and regional mentor with the Climate Reality Project Canada. On October 23, 2013, Jay and volunteers from this organization hosted an event at Algonquin College in conjunction with the global web-streamed event called 24 Hours of Reality: The Cost of Carbon.

The purpose of the event was to engage the campus in a dialogue about moving towards a sustainable future. To show their support and to encourage awareness of global environmental issues, 13 GAS students from three programs (Pre Business, Environmental Studies and Design Studies) volunteered their time to help draw in audience members. The event took place in the Algonquin College Commons Theatre, in the Gold LEED certified student building, and the entire event was also live streamed for the other two Algonquin College campuses at Perth and Pembroke.

One of the goals was to have attendees walk away feeling empowered towards taking action for a sustainable future. Jay and his team engaged with 149

attendees who were involved with a discussion that included three local experts: Chris Henderson, a clean energy expert and author of *Aboriginal Power*; Charles Hodgson, an Ecology Ottawa volunteer and Climate Leader for the Climate Reality Project; and Terry Audla, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), a national organization representing 55,000 Inuit in Northern Canada. At the end of the discussion, a Citizen's Response presentation was offered by Climate Leaders Jay Smith and Candace Labelle, which was designed to engage and empower the local audience.

We'd like to thank Jay and his team for participating in this important event as part of the national Campus Sustainability Day. As a member of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Algonquin College joined with 89 other live-streamed awareness events across North America which can be viewed here: <http://www.aashe.org/campus-sustainability-day>. The GAS students who participated in this event not only facilitated audience learning, their volunteer activities have been added to their Co-Curricular Records.



Professor Jay Smith and his GAS volunteers

Focus on Aboriginal Studies: Innosar Issakiark

Adele Yamada



The Aboriginal Studies program in GAS brings together students from all over Canada who have an interest in learning about First Nations cultures, languages, experiences, and challenges.

Innosar Issakiark, one of the students in the Aboriginal Studies program, comes from Arviat, a community of about 2500 people situated on the southeastern coast of Nunavut. Before coming to Algonquin College, Innosar attended John Arnalukjuak High School where he studied drama, staging, and video production with Gord Billard, a teacher highly praised for giving students opportunities to learn and use technology to find their voices and share their ideas through drama, film and TV.

Being part of the drama club and helping with the school's TV show meant that students had to

overcome shyness and develop acting and public speaking skills. According to Innosar, the school puts on at least three plays every year that identify social and cultural issues and provide students, teachers and community members with an engaging, entertaining and often emotional way to share their ideas and experiences. Innosar praises his teachers, especially Gord Billard, for giving students a range of learning opportunities that build communication skills and technical abilities.

In May 2013, Innosar was awarded the TD Scholarship for Community Leadership, one of Canada's top merit scholarships at a ceremony in Iqaluit. On October 16, Innosar was invited to attend the Dignity Day ceremony at Ottawa City Hall honouring young community role models from across Canada who demonstrate leadership, community involvement, and a commitment to empowering youth. GAS students, staff and faculty congratulate Innosar on receiving this prestigious award!

Helping Survivors of Haiyan through Art

Design Studies professor and artist, Stephany Castilla, took part in a fundraising event on December 4 at the Shenkman Gallery located near CentrepoinTE in support of victims of typhoon Haiyan which raged through the Philippines in early November.

The event featured several local and North American artists and photographers who donated their work to raise money to send to relief agencies in the Philippines. The sale of Stephany's painting "Winter Birch" contributed \$300 towards the total of \$5,000 raised at the event. With the government matching the donations dollar for dollar, the kind generosity of the artists made a \$10,000 donation from UNICEF possible for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

