



Preparing for the *Goncourt des lycéens 2012*

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Intercom is published regularly and serves to inform Vanier staff and teachers of notices and special events. It is posted on the [Vanier College Website](http://www.vaniercollege.gc.ca) and distributed electronically. Submissions should be sent to intercom@vaniercollege.gc.ca. Submissions should be in **WORD**, and sent as an **attachment**. No formatting or bullets. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication.**

Vanier students off to the *Prix Goncourt des lycéens 2012*



This past weekend six Vanier students and their French teacher Catherine Duranleau flew off to Paris to represent Québec and Canada at the *Prix Goncourt des lycéens 2012*, one of the most prestigious prizes in French literature. After a day of deliberations with other students in Paris, the Vanier students will go to Rennes for the finals.

Congratulations to Nathalie Prévil, Margot Beauchemin-Daoust, Ikram Mecheri, Andreea Silvia Deac, Cinthia Benavidez-Mina, and Elysa Racanelli for their hard work and their teacher Catherine Duranleau who spearheaded this project and prepared them for this remarkable adventure.

See the full story on the Vanier Newsroom site:
<http://www.vaniercollege.gc.ca/newsroom/2012/11/vanier-college-will-represent-quebec-at-the-2012-prix-goncourt-des-lyceens/>

Marguerite Corriveau, Vanier Communications

Vanier College's Maxim Hanna wins an award

Congratulations to Vanier's Maxim Hanna who received the CTSQ (Corporation des thérapeutes du sport du Québec) Outstanding SAT (Student Athletic Therapist) /Internship Provider Award.



This award is given to a CTSQ member who, as an SAT or Concordia University curriculum internship provider has given tirelessly of themselves to provide time, support, and guidance to CTSQ certification members on their quest to becoming successful Certified Athletic Therapists.

Their efforts provide a strong professional base and future for the field of Athletic Therapy in Québec. This monetary award of \$500 is meant to acknowledge their efforts.

Linda Macpherson, Manager of Sports & Recreation

PEER TEACHING COURSE

The Peer Teaching course is a special B-Block English course (603-HS course) open to students in all programs and offered every winter semester. Every fall, I recruit students with strong English language skills who are interested in learning how to tutor/teach and help other students. This course is an opportunity for exceptional students to gain valuable pedagogical experience while also obtaining a B-Block (603-HS) English grade.

Please encourage motivated and interested students in your classes to apply for my course by **Friday, November 30, 2012**. The

students who apply must have already taken two English courses and passed them with a grade of 75% or over. Furthermore, they must be students who have not yet completed a B-Block English course. Application forms are available at my office (N-554) and at the FSGS Dean's office (B-208). The applicants will be interviewed in early December and selected according to their level of excellence, commitment, and responsibility.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at ext. 7271 or send me an email at photopos@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Thank you for your consideration,

Spiridoula Photopoulos, English Department

One-day pedagogical conference at Dawson College

On January 8, 2013, Dawson College will host a pedagogical conference entitled: ***From Competency to Evaluation... and The Steps In Between***. This conference, which will run from 8:30am to 4pm, is an opportunity for Cegep teachers, professionals, and administrators to hear and to share best practices on evaluating student achievement.

There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided free of charge. Online registration will begin in early NOVEMBER at: <http://agpcform.ccmd.qc.ca>

For more information, please contact:
Maria Chiras at chirasm@vaniercollege.qc.ca
Rédactrice, *Revue Pédagogie collégiale*
Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale

Maria Chiras, English Department

Henry Lehmann Gallery



Galerie Henry Lehmann Gallery proudly presents and invites you to join us for the performance, exhibition and closing of

The Digital Absorption

Juan José Mendoza

31st October- 15th November, 2012

The live performance will be held on Wednesday October 31st, 2012 from 12:30 to 2:00pm

The closing will be held on Wednesday November 14th, 2012 from 12:30 to 2:00pm

galerie **HENRY LEHMANN** gallery

Vanier College, Room B305, 821 Sainte-Croix, Montréal, H4L 3X9, info@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Digital Absorption
October 31 – November 14, 2012

Artist: **Juan Mendoza**
Title of the work: **Vanier Tribute: A Year of Photography**

Medium: **Film Cans. Plaskolite**

The final showing will take place during Universal Break on Nov. 14th.

Dan Stefik, Communications, Art, Media and Theatre

Teaching Tip: Developing effective questions

Check out the full version of this Teaching Tip [here](#).



Image courtesy of:
ponsulak/ Freedigitalphotos.net edigitalphotos.net

Asking questions is an essential element of teaching. In fact, it is an essential element of being human. Asking *effective* questions is something that all teachers need to develop and it may be something that seems relatively easy to do spontaneously in class and more difficult to do when preparing an assignment or a test. But are we asking good questions of our students, appropriate to the course content, the course objectives, and what we want to evaluate?

How Do We Develop Effective Questions?

We all know when we have asked a really good question – because the responses from the students are thoughtful and help us to gauge their understanding of the course material or topic. And we all know when our questions are ineffectual – because the responses don't give us much indication of where the students are thinking.

Developing effective questions requires thought and preparation. Several things should be considered before you begin:

1. When will these questions be used? In class, for an assignment, on a test or an exam?
2. How are these questions connected to the course objectives?
3. What specifically are you trying to find out? Is it factual knowledge, a skill, a problem to be solved, a case study?
4. What level of thinking are you targeting? The use of Bloom's Taxonomy can be helpful here.
5. What type(s) of questions are you planning? Multiple choice, matching, true-false, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, long answer, essay, etc.

Competency-Based Education

When we assess our students, we should be taking into consideration the Course Competencies and testing our students on these competencies. Is the course an introductory level course, an application course, an analysis course, or an advanced level course? A review of the specific course competences for your course will help you determine what you should be testing, and will often give you clear guidelines and suggestions of ways to test your students.

Bloom's Taxonomy and Marzano's New Taxonomy of Education Objectives

To help you focus on the level of thinking you are requiring your students to demonstrate in your course, you may wish to consult [Bloom's](#) and/or [Marzano's Taxonomies](#). These two taxonomies have many ways to help you determine the level of thinking at which you are expecting your students to perform. Some of the levels of thinking you can consider include: remembering (recall and reproduction), understanding and applying (concepts and

skills), analyzing (strategic thinking), evaluating and creating (extended thinking). Marzano's Taxonomy includes Three Systems and Knowledge. The three Systems are: Self, Metacognition, and Cognition. The Knowledge areas include: Retrieval, Comprehension, Analysis, and Utilization.

When it comes to [developing effective test questions](#) to help your students learn, there are many aspects to consider: what are you testing, how many students do you have, the size of the room, the time available, and the types of questions: multiple-choice, true and false questions, matching, completion, short answer, short or longer essays. For longer assignments or tests, having a marking rubric will help you develop your questions and prepare your students.

If developing effective questions is a topic of interest, join us for our [Brown Bag Lunch on Developing Good Exam Questions](#), November 14 in the PDO Office, Room F-217, during UB (12:30-2:00). See you then!

See this and other Teaching Tips on the [PDO web page](#)

Wilma Brown, Pedagogical Development Office

Hear the Vanier Big Band and Concert Bands today

Time once again for a big, brassy display from the Music Department. Today is the only day this semester that you can catch live performances by both the Vanier College Big Band (directed by *Jocelyn Couture*) and the Vanier College Concert Band (directed by *Christopher Smith*). They will put on their usual excellent show with selections from jazz, popular and classical band repertoires.

The concert takes place in the Auditorium, and it is not often you get to hear performances like this for free--join us!

Glen Ethier, Music Department

100-mile dinner

The food we eat is the most primordial link we have with our planet. Food that is imported from far away has undertaken many transformations and gone through many hands. Counter-intuitively, because of the global food system, local food tends to be more expensive than what is produced in massive farms in faraway places. Buying local, though, ensures that we support local growers, local merchants, ensure fresher produce and better quality goods as well as essential food security.

Vanier's second 100-mile dinner will be held on November 23rd from 5 pm onwards in the staff cafeteria. Please come support the students involved in creating this event. All the food served will come from within 100 miles of Vanier College!

Tickets are 15\$ and are now on sale from the VCSA or by visiting the kiosk on Thursday in the Metro.

Richard Dugas, Sustainability Office

Come cheer us on! This week, faculty and staff 100m freestyle and 50m butterfly race against Olympic-bound student athlete Ashlyn Karosas.



**Wednesday, November 14th at 1:30PM,
Vanier Sports Complex, in the pool**

Ashlyn Karosas will race her biology teacher, Stephanie Felkai, staff member Paul Price who is bound for the FINA 2014 Masters, and student Tami Banon, provincial waterpolo player. There is one more lane available for one other challenger. Contact Stephanie if you are interested felkais@vaniercollege.qc.ca

This event is meant to draw attention and support to our high-level student athletes attending Vanier College. We hope this will be the first of a series of competitions that demonstrates the talent and abilities of more than 40 sport-etude Vanier students. We want to show these students that the Vanier Community is proud of their accomplishments both in sport and in academics. If you are interested in competing against other student athletes, please contact Alex Borja borjaa@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Show your support by attending the event, passing the video of the event to your contacts, and by backing your favourite competitor with a few dollars that will go to the Vanier College Foundation Students in Need program.

Stephanie Felkai, Biology Department

Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Our annual Holiday Craft Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in participating in this year's event, please reserve your table with me by Nov. 25th.

The participant MUST be a member (faculty, staff or student **not** a family member or friend) of the Vanier community. All items to be sold MUST BE HANDMADE by the participant.

Each participant will pay \$15.00 which will be donated to the Vanier College Foundation.

For any further information, please call me at ext. 7572.

Nora Soukiasian, FSSCAL

List of VCSA Clubs for 2012 – 2013

Anime Club
Afghan Club
Asian Association (VA2)
Chinese Club (VCCC)
Contact Club
Commerce Club
Chess Club
Dance Club
Debate Club
Gamers' Club
Christian Fellowship
Hellenic Organization (Greek Club)
Hillel Club
Martial Arts
Muslim Student Association (MSA)
Russian-Slavic Club
Theater Troupe
UMBRELLA
United Nations

Bev Chandler, Vanier Communications

Help for preparing legible camera ready copy for your courses packs

This year's course pack order deadline for Winter 2013 course packs is December 14th

The legibility of the Course Packs that we sell to students depends on the quality of the camera-ready copy you provide. If you have trouble in developing good copy from books and articles, come to the PrintShop B-121. We will assist you, or do the job for you.

Mike Demole, Printing Services

Brown Bag Lunch: Developing Effective Exam Questions

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 @ UB, 12 to 1:30 p.m.
Location: PDO Office, Room F-217

Come and discuss how best to develop effective test and exam questions that will assess your students' understanding of the course competencies. Depending on participants' concerns, issues about Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Essay, and Lab Exam questions can be addressed.

Animator: Wilma Brown, PDO Coordinator
We hope to see you there!

Wilma Brown, Pedagogical Development Office

