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 and distributed electronically. Submissions should be sent to intercom@vaniercollege.qc.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.

Photocopier Training for Staff and Faculty

Xerox will be giving a training session on how to operate the new photocopiers on October 18th. The session will take place in the Auditorium from 12:30 to 2:00 and is open to all Vanier College staff and faculty.

Mike Demole, Printing Services

Call for Applications: Meg Sircom Memorial Scholarship

Please encourage students who like to write fiction, poetry, personal essays or other creative work, and who have good grades in English, to apply for the Meg Sircom Memorial Scholarship.

Meg Sircom was an English teacher at our college from 2001-2011. She was a fiction writer, and valued both academic and creative writing.

Scholarship amount: $500
Deadline for applications: November 6, 2017

Requirements:
- The applicant must be a student at Vanier College during the A17 semester.
- The student has received final grades of 80%+ in at least two English classes (101, 102, 103, HS)
- The student will submit a portfolio of 5-15 pages of creative literary work (poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, graphic storytelling, or other)

For information on applying, students should contact
- their English teachers, or
- Dana Bath (A513, 514-744-7500 x 7814, or through MIO)

MID-TERM ASSESSMENT – DAY DIVISION

In order to give students an indication of their academic standing, the Mid-Term Assessment Module will be available on OMNIVOX starting on Saturday, October 7. The deadline for submission of student ratings is at midnight on Monday, October 16. Instructions for online submission of Mid-Term Assessments will be forwarded to all teachers on Friday, October 6.

If you have any questions regarding Mid-Term Assessments, please call Popie Marinakis at 7108.

Thomas Ingerman, Registrar

Vanier’s Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Would you like to participate in our Annual Holiday Craft Fair?

Vanier’s Annual Holiday Craft Fair is scheduled for:
Wednesday, November 29, 2017
in the Student Mall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Here is your chance to show the Vanier community your handiwork. 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 as a donation to the Vanier College Foundation to help a needy Vanier student.

If you are interested in participating in this year’s event, please reserve your table with Nora Soukiassian by November 15, 2017.

For any further information, please contact Nora at 514-744-7500 ext. 7572 or in person at her office, room A286.

Nora Soukiassian, Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences
Vanier College is proud to announce that Biology’s Christopher Gregg and Rhys Adams from the Physics Department have both received grants worth $32,000 each for research projects they will carry out at Vanier over the next couple of years! Both projects will not only contribute to scientific knowledge and advancement but will also involve students who will benefit greatly from participating in the research work. Congratulations to Rhys and Christopher!

Engineering yeast strains to produce a particular compound

Christopher Gregg of the Biology Department received a research grant of close to $32,000 from the Fonds de recherche Nature et Technologies Québec to evaluate the efficiency of genetically engineered strains of yeast to produce commercially important compounds similar to morphine and codeine.

His research project will be carried out in collaboration with the lab of Dr. Vincent Martin at Concordia University who has made headlines by engineering a strain of yeast that can produce morphine (http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/gm-sugar-can-be-turned-into-morphine-heroin-without-using-poppies-1501726).

Vanier students who work on the project will benefit from learning to use equipment bought with the grant money to do a lot of the molecular biology work on campus. Christopher is hoping his research students will have engineered 12 yeast strains by the end of this semester, which will then be tested using facilities at Concordia University this coming winter.

“This project will be a step toward implementing effective, innovative pedagogical practice, namely the inclusion of students as part of an active research team. It is also an opportunity for Vanier to connect with the larger research community in Montreal, which will help enhance Vanier’s appeal and distinctiveness as a learning institution,” says Christopher Gregg.

Investigating the Use of Silicon Nitride to Enable Faster, Cleaner Communication Signals

Rhys Adams’ research grant of $32,000 is an extension of his previous two grants (2011-present). “The focus of my previous grants was to demonstrate the use of silicon nanowires (instead of conventional optical fiber) in achieving nonlinear optical effects that enable advanced optical signal processing functionalities for microwave photonic systems (e.g. using photonic components to process cellphone and wi-fi signals) and high data rate optical communication systems (e.g. broadband internet).

Why should we care? Well, as data rates keep increasing, typical electronics that process the data cannot keep up. So we need to have optical solutions, but by doing so, we end up with bulky devices such as routers and data centers that take up a lot of space. Furthermore, having some electronics may still be desirable and using a known manufacturing technology will help keep costs down. So by using silicon, we have an approach that integrates the optics into a chip that is compatible with computer chips, we achieve small size, and can keep costs low. See a recent publication (July 2017) of Rhys’ work from summer-fall 2016 (http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7898400/). E-mail Rhys if you wish to have the complete PDF of the article.

“What I propose now is to investigate silicon nitride instead of just silicon. The goal of this research is to demonstrate the use of silicon nitride in achieving nonlinear optical effects that enable advanced optical signal processing functionalities for microwave photonic and
high data rate optical communication systems. This work is done in collaboration with McGill University and with Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden,” says Rhys Adams.

Students in Rhys’s Waves and Modern Physics course will continue to follow his photonics research in class and will be invited to visit the McGill University laboratories. Funds are set aside to allow college students the opportunity to join Rhys at McGill for a paid summer research internship.

Marguerite Corriveau, Vanier Communications

Vanier College Celebrates 30 Years of Collaboration with Héma-Québec

Last Wednesday, Vanier College marked 30 years of collaboration with Héma-Québec during its annual blood drive on campus. Over the years, members of the Vanier community have given nearly 10,000 blood donations that have helped saved lives throughout the province of Quebec.

“It has been an honour for Vanier College to partner with Héma-Québec for the last 30 years. Every donation helps save lives and supporting blood donation is a safe and simple to help the community. By playing an active role in supporting blood donations Vanier College aims to help make a positive impact on the health of people in the greater Montreal region and across the province,” said John McMahon, Director General of Vanier College.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vanier College for their ongoing help in terms of supporting Héma-Québec’s mission. Like many other of our partners, Vanier College has shown an ongoing commitment to raise awareness for this cause and generating an ample supply of blood, which is crucial since the need for blood is constant,” said Laurent-Paul Menard, Director of Communications for Héma-Québec.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the collaboration between Vanier College and Héma-Québec, a ceremony was held in the student mall at Vanier featuring speeches by Mr. McMahon, Mr. Menard and Whi Kweon Kang, President of the Vanier College Students’ Association. Héma-Québec also gave Vanier a certificate honouring its commitment and an anniversary cake was cut and shared by students in Jake’s Mall.

Read the full release for more details.

Marguerite Corriveau, Vanier Communications

PSI NEWS

Office 365 Training for Teachers and Staff

Microsoft will be on campus October 11th to give teachers and staff training in Office 365. There are many apps useful for classrooms and departments, so please come by and learn about what advantages Office 365 can offer. For more details, see our post on PSI’s site: http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/psi/office-365-training-for-teachers-and-staff/

Online Moodle Workshops

DEClic is again offering Online Moodle training this semester. A schedule of the workshops and registration information are available on PSI’s website.
Herbal Medicine Workshop with external guest Mark Reynolds!

Sponsored by the Vanier Collective Gardens

Herbs can be used to recover for everything, from beating the flu to helping recover from seasonal depression but the amount of medicinal herbs that grow out there can be a little overwhelming to the herbal newcomer.

This hands-on workshop will focus on specific herbs native to Quebec and will also give a broad introduction and history to herbalism. This workshop is divided into two parts:

1) A herbal walk through Vanier’s Collective Gardens: Here we will learn how to identify, harvest and store herbs to keep them good for years.
2) Tea Tasting Session! Here we will taste the herbs we harvested. We will also learn how and when to use these herbs, as well as how to transform them into oils, tinctures and salves to unlock their full potential.

When? Tuesday, October 10, 12:00-13:30

Where? We will meet in B205, then head to the Permaculture planter behind the K wing for the first part of the workshop (1). At around 12:45, we will head back to B205 for the tasting part (2).

Resource available online on Medicinal Herbs at Vanier Collective Gardens: Permaculture and Perennials with Mark Reynolds – workshop at the K planter, May 2017 – Audio File

This event is FREE of charge and OPEN TO ALL! Come join us at any time!

For more information, please contact Myriam at mansourm@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Myriam Mansour, Geography

Volunteer Recognition Gala

The Volunteer Recognition Gala will be held on 16 April 2018 from 5.30 – 7.30pm. This annual event recognizes and honours the vital contribution of student volunteers at Vanier College.

This year TASC and Vanier Student Life will jointly coordinate the event. We would like to ensure that all departments and programs that have student volunteers this year will be able to recognize the efforts of their volunteers.

We are therefore calling all departments and programs that wish to recognize their volunteers to contact Rowena Selby at Vanier Student Life by 1 December to inform us that you would like to include your volunteers in this year’s Gala event. Program Coordinators would also be expected to attend the event in order to give out certificates and introduce their volunteer initiatives. We would then contact you with further details on this year’s gala event.

Rowena Selby, Student Services
Vanier College Humanities Symposium: Call for Presenters

Humanities Symposium, February 5th-9th, 2018

The Humanities Department at Vanier College is hosting its 7th annual Humanities Symposium, to be held during the week of Monday, February 5th to Friday, February 9th, 2018. The symposium committee invites scholarly, academic, professional, and artistic expressions on the theme of “Beauty.”

Theme Description

“Beauty will be convulsive, or it will not be at all,” declared the founder of the surrealist movement, André Breton, in his novel, Nadja (1928). This was not merely an eccentric provocation. Indeed, the statement embodies the modernist spirit which, from dance and music to art, architecture, and literature, set out to dismantle the classical idea of beauty as something that had to do with order, harmony, and reason, and that was supposed to be pleasing to the senses. Neither was this merely a youthful revolt against tradition. The modernists wanted to draw attention to the fact that classical beauty had increasingly come to appear meaningless: detached from old metaphysical ideals and incapable of responding to a world permeated by violence, injustice, and exploitation. Today, despite the enduring lack of agreement concerning the meaning or value of the concept, we nevertheless continue to be both fascinated by beauty, and our responses to it reveal much about who we are. Ideas about beauty permeate our explicit or implicit, conscious or unconscious notions of sex, gender, class, race, ethnicity, health, or power, and today’s beauty industry is not only unprecedented in scale, but also in its function as a kind of moral, social, political, or economic imperative hardly anyone can escape. So how should we think about beauty in the 21st century? How should we speak about this seemingly indefinable quality that, all too often, can feel at once oppressive and rare?

Submission Criteria

The theme of beauty is not bound to any particular field of inquiry and invites analyses and interpretation from art, music, cinema, literature, architecture, design, gender and sexuality, media studies, ethnic studies, cultural studies, religion, history, and science to name only a few possible modes of inquest. We invite individuals from a multitude of backgrounds to freely appropriate the theme of beauty, in order to develop presentations according to their acumen and expertise.

Abstracts should be roughly 50 - 75 words and ideally should not exceed 250 words. Please send abstracts to the symposium committee, c/o the following email: koloszyd@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Submission deadline for abstracts is Friday, October 20th, 2017.

All presentations will be held in the Vanier College Auditorium. Presenters will be expected to speak for approximately 40 minutes and allow 10-15 minutes for questions and discussion. Audio-visual technologies are available upon request.

Questions and concerns pertaining to any aspect of the Humanities Symposium should be addressed to David Koloszyc at koloszyd@vaniercollege.qc.ca

David Koloszyc, Humanities Department
The Early Alert Support referral form is available online for teachers to refer at-risk students to the Academic Success Advisor. Teachers are encouraged to fill out the online referral form as soon as it becomes noticeable that a student is likely to fail and requires support beyond help understanding course content.

Referred students will be invited to meet with the Academic Success Advisor, who will work with students, or refer them to the relevant resource(s), and follow up to help ensure the student receives the necessary support.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you want further information: extension 7568 or cloughc@vanier.college.

Referral form: Early Alert Support:

A link can also be found on:

Cari Clough, Tutoring and Academic Success Centre, E-308

Vanier celebrates Women of Science 2017 – October 10-13

For a 5th year, Vanier College will celebrate Women of Science with a series of talks and a panel discussion on women in STEM fields.

Vanier recognizes that women are less likely to choose a career in a STEM (Stats Canada, 2017). To bolster confidence in imagining a career in STEM, and for recognizing the normalcy of women-led research labs, we have invited five guest speakers to describe their work and five undergraduate and graduate students to discuss their experience as women at the beginning of their STEM career.

All talks take place during from October 10th to 13th.

See the schedule at the end of Intercom for some details and keep alert for updates next week.

Stephanie Felkai, Biology Department
## Vanier College Celebrates Women of Science 2017
### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY and Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday Oct 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Sleiman:</strong> <em>Building DNA Structures for Drug Delivery into Cancer Cells</em> (McGill Chemistry)</td>
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<td>amphitheatre 13h00</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday Oct 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Daryl Haggard:</strong> <em>Black Holes are Awesome</em> (McGill Physics Department)</td>
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<td>at 12h30 Library 5th floor</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday Oct 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Panel discussion:</strong> Eliana Lambrou (undergrad in Physics at Concordia), Gabrielle (undergrad in engineering at Concordia), Sarah Sanderson (M.Sc. candidate Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science), Sandra Klemet-N’Guessan (undergrad major in Biology, minor in Natural History, McGill), Lea Blondel (M.Sc. candidate in Evolutionary Biology, McGill)</td>
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<tr>
<td>at 13h05 Library 5th floor</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, Oct 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Nicole Li-Jessen:</strong> <em>Computational Biology in Vocal Fold Injury and Treatment</em> (Canada Research Chair in Personalized Medicine of Voice Disorders)</td>
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<td>at 10h00 Library 5th floor</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Sylvia Cox (researcher at Montreal Neuro Institute)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, Oct 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Margaret Magdesian:</strong> <em>The next generation of Cell Cultures to enable 21st Century Discoveries</em> (CEO and Cofounder of Ananda Devices)</td>
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<td>at 13h00 in amphitheatre</td>
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## Staffing Announcements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW PROFESSIONALS</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>BEGINNING ON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Satin</td>
<td>Pedagogical Counsellor - ATE</td>
<td>Professional Services -</td>
<td>September 26, 2017</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<th>NEW SUPPORT</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<th>BEGINNING ON</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan Somaio</td>
<td>Language School Administrative</td>
<td>Academic Dean</td>
<td>September 18, 2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Support Agent - Class I (Replacement)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Dudley</td>
<td>Social Work Technician</td>
<td>Services for Students</td>
<td>September 25, 2017</td>
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## Recent Appointments to New Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<th>BEGINNING ON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgiana Guica</td>
<td>Administration Technician</td>
<td>Language School and International Education</td>
<td>September 18, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Legault</td>
<td>Procurement &amp; Auxiliary Services, Administrative Support Agent, Principal Class</td>
<td>Procurement &amp; Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>October 3rd, 2017</td>
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<th>PROFESSIONALS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tamara Brown</td>
<td>Pedagogical Counsellor - Animation and Academic Programs</td>
<td>Pedagogical Support and Innovation</td>
<td>September 28, 2017</td>
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*Stephanie Too, Human Resources*