

September 2013

Volume 5

Issue 1

INTERNATIONAL

EDUCATION AT VANIER COLLEGE



VANIER

CÉGEP / COLLEGE

VANIER INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
NEWSLETTER

Table of Contents

Introduction to International Education	3
Student Mobility	
• Holocaust and Totalitarianism Trip	4
• Malawi Nursing Exchange	6
• Business Administration Exchanges	8
• Office Systems Technology: Micropublishing and Hypermedia Exchange	10
• Modern Languages: Chinese Scholarships	10
• Modern Languages: Exchanges with Germany	11
• Training for Industrial Electronics Students in Ontario	12
• Honours Science, Liberal Arts and Honours Social Science Trip to New York City	13
• Environmental & Wildlife Management Internships	14
• Vanier Students at the Prix Goncourt, France	15
• Modern Languages: Italian Cultural Trip	16
• Modern Languages: Russian Language Exchange	17
Faculty Mobility	
• Philippe Gagné in Mexico	18
• Gabriel Bulgarea in Romania	18
• Nathan Loewen in Russia and in The Netherlands	19
• Rachel Jobin in Brazil	20
• Lisa Jorgensen in Argentina	21
• Shirley Zhu and Sanaa Rizk in China	22
Conferences	
• Vanier College Nursing Conference	23
• Robotics and Active Learning at Vanier College	24
• Association Québécoise de Pédagogie Collégiale (AQPC) in Montreal	25
• Canadian Bureau of International Education Conference (CBIE) in Montreal	25
Delegations	
• Chinese Delegation (Shandong Province)	26
• Libyan Delegation	27
• Romanian Delegation	28
• Virtual Chess Competition with National College, Mircea Cel Bătrân, Romania	29
Language School	30
Internationalizing Vanier	32
Funding for Students	33
2012-13 Employee Recognition Team Award	34
Concluding Remarks	35

Introduction to International Education



I am delighted to invite you to read the International Education Newsletter, 2012–2013.

The Strategic Plan, 2008-2013, emphasized establishing an "international presence" at the College, and this is what, with the contributions of many members of our community, is happening. In Nursing, for example, the Malawi Nursing Exchange is always expanding, this past year including a Nursing Conference where the six students on the exchange presented what they had learned while in Malawi.

The Business Administration Exchange has also grown with Belgian students welcomed here in A12 and Vanier students now planning to study in Belgium. In addition, the French exchange program is continuing to grow.

Several innovative projects have further helped internationalize the campus. The Holocaust and Totalitarian Trip to Eastern Europe during the March Break involved thirty-eight students from various disciplines. This project went on to win acclaim at the AQPC Conference this spring for its experiential team-teaching approach. Also to be noted was the Global Classroom project whereby international experts virtually joined the classroom of Nathan Loewen. This project ensured that literally hundreds of students learned about global concerns.

The Strategic Plan also called upon our faculty to become involved in international projects and increasing numbers are doing so. Our expertise in various facets of pedagogy is becoming recognized, extending the reputation of the College. Two members of the French Department were selected to represent the Quebec network of French as a Second Language teachers in Mexico and Brazil, as one example. Teachers involved in international projects brought back new perspectives for their own teaching, and the synergy created has benefited other teachers.

Moving the College in the direction of increased participation in international projects would be impossible without the sustained support of the community and I believe that this support is indeed present. The enthusiasm of the new Sub-Committee of Academic Council on International Education for international projects illustrates college-wide support.

2013 - 2014 should be a year of continued growth for international education at Vanier. We hope to share our pedagogical expertise abroad and at the same time, continue to offer opportunities to our students to expand their understanding of global issues both while at Vanier and abroad.

Gilbert Héroux, Director General

Student Mobility

Holocaust and Totalitarianism Trip



“Overall, the travel component of the course was one of the best trips I have ever taken. It was a unique learning experience and one that I will remember forever. Poland, the country I was the least excited to visit, turned out to be spectacular—both as a city and as an important historical location. It is definitely going on my list of places I must revisit and should be on everyone’s travel bucket list.”

Amalia St-Laurent

“Auschwitz is today regarded as an international symbol of intolerance, racism and to what extent one group of people can hurt another group. Upon visiting the Nazi extermination camp, I feel transformed and never again will I look back on the Holocaust, intimidation and bullying in the same way.”

Mathieu Mackay



This past semester during March Break at Vanier College, 38 students and 5 teachers travelled to Europe as part of the international component of a new universal complementary course entitled "Holocaust and Totalitarianism: Journeys through Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic."

It was the culminating point of 7 weeks of classroom lectures the students had attended prior to their departure, in which they studied the period covering the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany up to the demise of the Soviet Union, and analyzed the major themes of genocide, totalitarianism and the Cold War. The class then complemented their knowledge with visits to important sites associated with the material covered in class, including Berlin's Check Point Charlie, the Wall, Warsaw's Ghetto, Krakow's Schindler Factory Museum and the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.

"The trip was a resounding success," says Humanities/Social Science teacher Sevak Manjikian who taught the course. "The students were able to fully understand the significance of the sites they visited as well as draw a conceptual line between the rise of Hitler and the fall of the Berlin Wall."

Upon their return to Vanier, the students put together videos and elaborate scrapbooks about the trip, detailing their observations, impressions and reflections on what they had seen and experienced. These works were then shared publicly in display cases in the College.

Mike Besner, the trip organizer, who accompanied the students to Europe, indicated it was a very moving experience for them. "During the course, Ted Bolgar, a Holocaust survivor, visited the class and told his story. Then at Birkenau/Auschwitz II, we pointed out to the students that we were standing in the exact spot where an SS Officer had taken seconds to determine if Ted and his other family members were healthy enough to be sent to a work camp. Ted and his father survived by a quick point of a finger. His mother and sister were sent in the other direction, to the showers. Having met and spoken with Ted in class made that moment surreal for the students."

Indeed, student Alexandra Ceasar summed up perfectly the impact of this visit in a Vanier student newspaper article, "Auschwitz was an emotionally exhausting experience," she wrote. "Some cried, some were silenced in disbelief; most of us could not even begin to imagine how such horror could have occurred seventy years ago on the very ground where we were standing."

Clearly, Mike Besner is right when he concludes, "I think this trip will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Marguerite Corriveau, Communications

Malawi Nursing Exchange

Since 2011, the Nursing Department at Vanier College has offered third-year Nursing students an opportunity to complete their 160 hour stage course in Malawi, Africa. Students spend their first three weeks working at the rural hospital, St. Andrews, followed by three weeks at the Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe. This project allows students to gain insight into health care practices in sub-Saharan Africa and to develop their nursing skills in order to create more culturally competent healthcare providers.



The six students who participated this year were challenged everyday as they learned to adapt in a resource-poor country, which can be frustrating but also transformative. Their reflective blog posts express a continuum of emotions but what shines through is ultimately an appreciation of Canada's healthcare system and a deeper understanding of health-related issues.



With limited resources, nurses and doctors must do what they can do with what they have here in Malawi. At times this may mean that not all is done to the capacity of the health care providers' scope of knowledge for the patient. This is a helpless feeling, one which we have all had the opportunity to experience during our stay here. One student commented; *"How do they (the healthcare workers) return to work day after day?"* One wonderful Clinical Officer responded; *"I do what I can do by trying to save one life at a time"*. During

our short few weeks at this small rural hospital, he did just that. His dedication, compassion and empathy, not to mention his superb skills and knowledge, were an inspiration to us all.

Melodie Hicks, Nursing

“We are currently living in the nursing college residence and it is amazing to see how hard some of these students work. They learn the exact same subjects we do, they have access to an incredible library where they read the same books we do back home. So it is frustrating when you hear others say that the people here are not at the same level as we are, because they are. It all comes down to the basic concepts and procedures, no matter where you live; they are universal. I admire the nursing students here because they have to struggle so hard to make the right decisions, more than we have to at home.”

Chrissandra Mitchell

“My perception of international aid has changed since I have been in Malawi. It is great to leave your country for another with your head full of knowledge and your bag filled with medication, but when you find yourself in the Malawian reality, your great convictions aren't enough. What I have learned from this exchange is that; to do meaningful international aid, you need to know the culture you enter, the resources available, the needs and the issues you will be facing.”

Janie Plourde



“During the day, I often ask myself how the nurses are able to practice in such difficult conditions and still go back day after day. It is very difficult for me to wrap my head around this, as I often leave the hospital frustrated and overwhelmed by all the things I've witnessed. I don't think I'll ever be able to understand and be at peace with the reality of health care here in Malawi, but I have great respect for the health care workers that go in every day and do their best to make a difference in a patient's life.”

Olivia Lafortune

Business Administration Exchanges

French and Belgium Students at Vanier in A12

In 2012, the Business Administration Department welcomed another forty students for a full semester. Over the past eight years, over three hundred exchange students (from various regions of France) have benefited from this experience. In 2012, the program expanded to include students from Belgium for the first time



Vanier Internships Abroad

In April 2013, eight students from Business Administration completed a six week stage in two partner institutions in France. Students were placed in local businesses and organizations as part of a credited stage course. The participants, Sara Petion, Maximo Paredes Espinal, Camilo Lara-Menendez, Shawn Filion-Dubuc, Cong Minh Nguyen, Mark Clarizio, Samantha Hughes, and Stephanie Leylekian were funded by Cégep international, Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse, and the Vanier Foundation. The goal of this project is to offer students valuable working opportunities in the business administration field while being immersed in the French language. This project allows students to improve French language proficiency, to build their curriculum vitae, and develop professional and intercultural skills.

George Dracopoulos, Business Administration

Vanier Students in Belgium in A13

Four second year Vanier College Business Administration students have been offered the opportunity to study for one semester at the Haute École de la Province Liege in Belgium. The courses run from September to December and students are enrolled in classrooms with thirty to forty European students from various countries. Their curriculum includes Entrepreneurship, Oversea Exports, International Marketing, Cross Cultural Marketing, International Insurance and language courses in French, German, and Spanish. These courses will be credited towards their DEC diploma in Business Administration. This project is co-funded by our partner, Cégep international, and is also supported by the Vanier Foundation.

Congratulations to Mohammed Mazri Hafiz, Stephanie Di Bacco, Kasandra Milbradt, and Ruth Mariana Sierra Alonso for being selected as this year's participants!



Vanier Student in China

Suzeustacha Louis from Business Administration also completed an internship in Shanghai, China as a Marketing and Content Management Intern through the organization Projects Abroad. She secured an internship with the online magazine, Shanghai 247, where she shadowed the staff and gained insight into the world of online media. Everyday tasks included content upload and checking, marketing strategy and fulfillment of marketing projects, and helping with an advertising strategy and an advertising project.

Office Systems Technology: Micropublishing and Hypermedia Exchange

Every year, Vanier welcomes French students in the Office Systems Technology: Micropublishing and Hypermedia program. This year, eight students participated in this exchange

French students visiting Vanier love their experience. They improve their English while getting a taste of Montreal, as well as Canadian and North American culture. Vanier students benefit from working with the exchange students, gaining new perspectives about their education and the industry.

In the future, we hope to set up a winter exchange, to give students from France a chance to experience a true Canadian winter.



Modern Languages: Chinese Scholarships



Thanks to our partners at Qufu Normal University in the province of Shandong as well as Shirley Zhu from Vanier's Modern Languages (Mandarin), five lucky students were awarded a full scholarship to study Mandarin at Qufu for the 2012-2013 academic year. Nearly a year later, Julie Martin, Lam Son Nguyen, Bernard Wong, Cedric-Rene Najjar and Amine Ashad are now fluent in Mandarin, and several students are even looking for ways to extend their stay past their first year.

The next group for the 2013-2014 academic year is now getting ready to leave and they couldn't be more excited. Sandra Sandoval, Morgane Gouilloud, Roxane Richer-Lussier and Katrine Bergeron have been honing their basic Mandarin skills with Shirley Zhu, and the previous scholarship recipients have helped them psychologically prepare for this wonderful experience.

Modern Languages: Exchanges with Germany

Every year, the Vanier College Modern Language students studying German are invited by Alain Forget, Coordinator of the Modern Languages Program at Collège Ahuntsic, to partake in a three-week exchange trip to Germany. This year, one Modern Language student took advantage of this unique opportunity to experience German culture and language culture first hand. She traveled to Germany on June 1, 2013 with the group of ten students from Ahuntsic College.



The students stayed one week in Berlin where they explored the rich culture of the city, and where the group engaged in a German language course. The group then traveled to Freiburg in the Black Forest region of Southern Germany. Here the students were individually accommodated by the families of their exchange partners; the students of the Rotteck Gymnasium in Freiburg. The language students gained insight into German family life and culture. (The German students will visit their exchange partners here in Montreal in October 2013.) The trip involved visits to Rotteck Gymnasium, as well as excursions to the Swiss town of Basel and the French town of Strasbourg. The value of the cultural and linguistic immersion to our participating student is immense and described in her own words as having been: "absolutely amazing and definitely an experience of a lifetime."

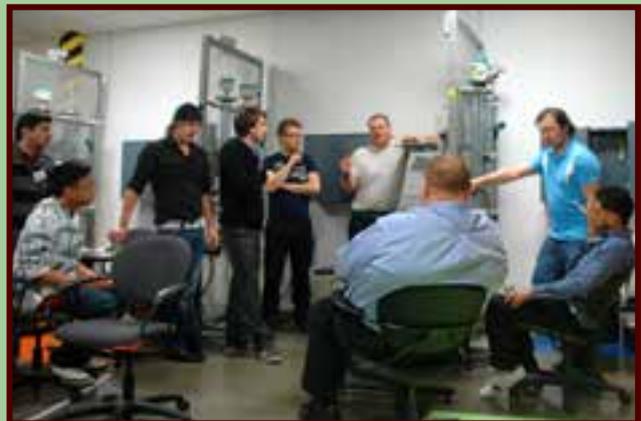
The Berlin-Freiburg exchange trip not only allows participating students a rich linguistic and cultural immersion into German culture, but is also quite affordable thanks to the well organised nature of the program. The approximate price of the trip was \$ 1,900 per student. In addition, in recent years, the participating students were generously funded by the Ministry of Sports, Leisure and Education of Quebec (MELS) and received approximately half of their cost back in funding at a later point in the year.

I am also pleased to welcome for the 7th year now, a young student teacher from Germany, Ms. Anika Droste. Anika will stay with us for the 2013/14 academic year. She will offer our German students extra-curricular activities such as conversation practice, language games, and German film screenings, and thus provide our students with an inter-cultural experience with a native guest from Germany. This exchange is funded by the Ministry of Sports, Leisure and Education of Quebec (MELS) and by the German Pedagogical Exchange program (PAD).

Gisela Mutter, Modern Languages (German)

Training for Industrial Electronics Students in Ontario

In March 2013, thirteen students from the Industrial Electronics Department had the opportunity to receive weeklong training at the Siemens World Class Center of Excellence in Peterborough, Ontario. This training is valuable to the students as it assists them in launching their careers. The hands-on experience Siemens provides is an excellent way to complement their 3 year technical program. The students have been grateful for this opportunity, and with the help of their supervisor, Jason Duheme, they held bake sales in an effort to raise as much money as possible to help fund their transportation and their stay in Peterborough.



“We learned about several types of technologies used to measure the level of several different kinds of materials such as liquids and gases. We correctly installed and calibrated ultrasonic probes and capacitance sensors. In addition, we were also taught how to correctly select the correct type of technology for the right application. The hospitality offered by the people at Siemens was A+. This was an amazing trip and I am personally very grateful to have been able to participate in and attend this fantastic field trip with my colleagues.”

Kenny Meza-Boxer

“My trip to Siemens, Peterborough, was an enriching experience. The training covered a lot of level instruments and their applications, which are unavailable to experiment with at Vanier. Therefore, I highly recommend this practical experience to anyone within the field of process control. Trust me, the certificate is worthwhile. “

Ahmed KhodjetKesba

Honours Science, Liberal Arts and Honors Social Science Trip to New York City

This year's destination for the annual Honors Science, Liberal Arts and Honors Social Science trip was New York City, from April 5 to 7, 2013. Thirty-eight excited students and four teachers packed a bus for what felt like a short drive to the Big Apple. Shortly after our arrival, we headed for midtown to visit the Museum of Modern Art. That was followed by some sightseeing in Times Square. Some students chose to simply hang out with the other tourists packing the area, while others saw a Broadway play and even a few enjoyed the Knicks basketball game at Madison Square Gardens.

Saturday was a fantastic sunny day. After our group visit to the American Museum of Natural History, many of us took the subway to Ground Zero to admire the new Freedom Tower under construction. The students enjoyed the weather and spent the afternoon and evening walking and discovering the different areas of Manhattan (China Town, Little Italy, Greenwich Village and Times Square).

Finally on Sunday, in between pleasant walks in Central Park, we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and spent our last moments getting ready for the bus ride home. As in past years, we returned to Vanier tired but happy after another successful student trip.

Rhys Adams, Physics



Environmental and Wildlife Management Internships



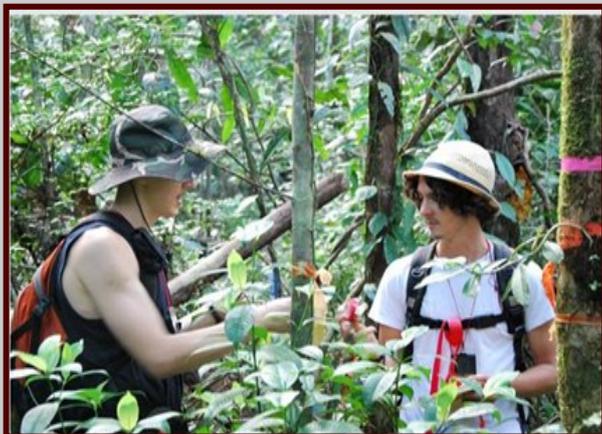
The Caño Palma Biological Station in Tortuguero, Limon, Costa Rica welcomed Vanier students for a six week internship in H13. The Caño Palma Biological Station is run by the Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC) a Canadian non-profit organization, that is dedicated to conserving rainforest biodiversity through education and research. The Caño Palma Biological Station welcomes researchers, interns, and volunteers from

around the world who participate in various projects at the station.

The student project involved a plant species inventory of a one-hectare forested plot within the boundaries of the biological station. The project was set up in 2012 by another Environmental and Wildlife Management student. The ACER sampling methodologies were used for the plant inventory. ACER is a Canadian organization developed to monitor forest biodiversity. Using Smithsonian research protocols, ACER inventories and monitors a number of forest plots throughout Canada. The aim of the project at Caño Palma is to apply ACER sampling methodologies to a Neotropical rainforest setting.



The project saw our Vanier students going through all twenty-five of the sub-plots within the one-hectare plot and identifying the trees previously tagged by the 2012 Vanier intern. A local ethnobotanist, Mario Gracia Quesada, was brought in to facilitate identification.



Once all of the trees were identified, the process of re-tagging all of the trees began, using more permanent aluminum tags. The DBH (diameter at breast height) of all tagged trees was then measured and recorded, and the heights of three representative trees within each sub-plot were measured and recorded. All of the data was compiled and then was sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

Brandee Diner, Environmental and Wildlife Management

Vanier Students at the Prix Goncourt, France



Each year, a college in Quebec is selected to represent Quebec students in the Goncourt, in France. The Goncourt aims to give students a taste of reading and writing, and invites students to share their opinion by discussing their readings. This year, Vanier College was selected!

In the two months prior to the Goncourt, Margot Beauchemin-Daoust, Cinthia Benavidez-Mina, Ikram Mecheri, Nathalie Previl, Elysa Racanelli, Andreea Silvia Deac and French teacher, Catherine Duranleau, read the eleven novels of the official selection of the Goncourt Academy. Once a

week, they met to analyze, comment on and criticize each book in preparation for local, regional and national deliberations. In November 2012, they went to Paris and Rennes, where for a week, they met with French students and selected the winner at the end of discussions, meetings and deliberations.

"Six students and I have been through a challenging and demanding literary adventure," says professor Catherine Duranleau, who had the bold idea to nominate Vanier to represent Quebec students at the Goncourt.

Vanier College was the only foreign institution in 2012 to join the French jury. On multiple occasions, our students proudly represented not only the College and an increasingly cosmopolitan Quebec culture, but also Francophones of tomorrow. It was also the first time an English college represented Quebec in this contest.

For some students, this was their first trip abroad. They were enthusiastic about visiting Paris and Rennes. There were cultural outings, meetings and activities surrounding the 25th annual Goncourt. On the plane and even in their hotel rooms, they continued to talk about their novels, preparing arguments to support their choice for "best book". The eve of the final deliberations in Rennes, students stayed up until 2 am to prepare their representative, Ikram Mecheri, to defend their choice: Joel Dicker, author of *"La vérité sur l'affaire Harry Québec"*. Incidentally, this book was the winner! As a result, Vanier College students got to meet the author and gave numerous interviews to the French media, as well as to Radio Canada and CBC. What an amazing experience for all the students! It was an intellectual adventure that will surely mark their college experience.



Marguerite Corriveau, Communications

Modern Languages: Italian Cultural Trip

During this nine day cultural trip to Italy, seven students visited Milan, Verona, Venice, Florence, and Rome with Italian teacher, Giovanna Picciano. The students also visited a post-secondary education institution called The Leonardo Da Vinci School in Florence and Rome to see the different learning activities related to language immersion. The tour of Italy was led by a bilingual tour guide and site specific art historians where the students learned about the Italian language economy, commerce, history, philosophy, arts, food, and society. They were also able to improve their Italian by dropping in to the Leonardo Da Vinci School.



"Italy is incredible. Once we got to the cities, the guided tours were good and we visited at least the most important monuments. Everything was so beautiful it was overwhelming! My favorite moments of the trip are many: the gondola ride, going on the top of Giotto's Campanile in Florence, visiting the Uffizi Gallery, looking at Sorrento's coast from a viewpoint, having the opportunity to walk around Sorrento and Assisi, visiting the Coliseum, The Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica."

Daniela Monzon

"This trip went beyond my expectations! I honestly had an amazing time. I was amazed and impressed by everything I saw, I met really nice and cool people, I had a lot of fun during our free time and at night, and most of all, I was with a good group of girls whom I became very close to over the course of the trip. I felt secure and safe the whole time and this trip definitely made me want to travel more, and consider going back to Italy next summer."

Vanessa Perri

Modern Languages: Russian Language Exchange



For the second year in a row, Natalia Pakhamova organized a study abroad project in St. Petersburg, Russia in the spring. She accompanied four students, Patrycja Nowak, Vanessa Calero, Iliyana Mircheva and Priscilla Fernandez, all of whom participated in a five week study program at the Institute of Russian Language and Culture at the Saint-Petersburg State University. Students received twenty hours of instruction in language and culture per week and immersed themselves in Russian culture by staying with families. The goal of this project is to offer students language immersion opportunities that complement their classroom learning. The students received funding from the Vanier Foundation.

Faculty Mobility

Philippe Gagné in Mexico



Philippe Gagné was selected by Cégep international in October, 2012 to represent Quebec colleges at a National Seminar for French Teachers in Technological Universities in Mexico. The goal of this event, which took place from October 23 to 26, 2012, was to give a presentation on the Quebec college network and a workshop on the development of communicative activities and assessment in the competency-based French as a Second Language program.

Philippe's workshop on communicative activities focused on the development of learning activities according to problem-based learning (PBL), one of the main tools used in competency-based programs but one which the Mexican colleagues were not familiar with. Philippe presented many examples to ensure a thorough understanding of the approach. In addition, references were made available on the web, for which participants were appreciative. Feedback from teachers was very positive.

Gabriel Bulgarea in Romania

As a continuation of the partnership between Vanier College and National College, Mircea cel Bătrân (CNMB), Gabriel Bulgarea traveled to Romania this summer to meet with DG Vasile Nicoara and Professor Ion Bararu, the Coordinator of CNMB Student Research Centre. Together with the Romanian students, they started planning and working on different research projects that could be interesting and feasible for Vanier students as well.



One project involves an interdisciplinary study of water quality, both in the field and in the lab. The Romanian students are already working on the design and construction of remote control robots that could go under water to take and then analyse samples. Gabriel's visit was extended to include a visit to the Maritime University of Constanta, an institutional partner of CNMB. Here Gabriel met with Prof. Dr. Dan Argintaru, the leader of the research on water and environment quality. They agreed on a common research project concerning the presence of radioactive radon in the wild and in industrial waters. Gabriel is also planning an inter-collegiate math/science competition between CNMB and Vanier for the fall semester. Other plans include arranging a trip to Romania for Vanier students who would get involved in research activities there.

Nathan Loewen in Russia and Belgium

On December 4, 2012, Vanier Humanities teacher, Nathan Loewen, delivered the plenary address to an international seminar, "Cross-Cultural Education within Globalization," which was hosted by the Moscow UNESCO Chair on International Education. Nathan based his presentation directly upon his Humanities teaching; the title of the address was, "The Global Classroom: Using ICTs for Intercultural Education."

The final statement of the seminar included the following mention of Nathan's contribution: "The Seminar convincingly reaffirmed [the] practical importance of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in promotion of cross-cultural education. This was a key topic of the plenary report by Dr. Nathan Loewen from Vanier College (Quebec, Canada), who presented ingenious, methodologically sound practices of so-called "global learning" allowing youth to understand cultural diversity concepts and to obtain collaborative skills."

In January 2013, Nathan traveled to the University of Antwerp in Belgium to research a pedagogical failure that he felt many faced when teaching religion: the problem of evil and addressing this issue to students. As explained by Dr. Loewen, a brief summary of the problem is to ask the following question: "How can a supreme being coexist with a world that includes evils such as sickness, natural disasters and genocide?" The study of this problem is among the most accessible tools for college-level teaching of critical thinking. By thinking through the possible responses to this question, students learn how to structure arguments, how to think logically and how to find fallacies and other errors of reasoning. This is why almost all introductions to religion and philosophy discuss this problem.



Rachel Jobin in Brazil



This past March, I had the great pleasure of being selected by Cégep International to participate in a colloquium organized by the Alliance Française in São Paulo, Brazil, which focused on “L’interculturel en cours de langue: approches, enjeux, pratiques”. Six talks and twenty workshops were held over the course of three days and were attended by some 200 French teachers working in Brazil, mostly native Brazilians who are passionate about the French language. I was impressed to see that at this international event, two of the six speakers were from Quebec.

On March 7th, I gave a talk and a workshop about the role of interculturalism in French as a second language courses at an Anglophone college. I gave a detailed presentation of three courses that have been created by teachers from the French department over the last few years, “Montréal, mosaïque culturelle” (602-100-MQ), “Ces gens venus d’ailleurs: l’écriture migrante” (602-101-MQ) and “Dialogues interculturels” (602-102-MQ). In these courses, offered to students from different levels for whom French is not always a favourite subject, we emphasize the fact that French is not only a language but also a culture open to a diversity of accents, ideas and perspectives. The students discover artists (authors, playwrights, directors, musicians, humorists) whose mother tongue isn’t French but who have chosen to express themselves in French, thus contributing greatly to the French culture, and who are positive models students can identify with. Through the works of these artists, the students become familiar with cultures from around the world and the way they interact. These courses also involve many round table discussions about current issues in our province.

I learned many things at the colloquium and am looking forward to sharing these new discoveries. Gilberte Furstenberg, a teacher at MIT, presented a Web-based project called Cultura that can be used to link two classes anywhere in the world. It provides students with a variety of material to help compare their ideas and cultural values with those of students in another country without the need for any sophisticated technological equipment. This tool is accessible at the following website: <http://cultura.mit.edu/>.



Rachel Jobin, French

Lisa Jorgensen in Argentina



Lisa Jorgensen, a teacher in the Humanities Department at Vanier College, a member of the Women's Studies program, a co-founder and member of the Open Door Network, and a member of the Human Rights Advisory Board, went to Buenos Aires in March 2013 to meet with scholars at the University of Buenos Aires and the University of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo to learn about women and social movements in Latin America.

Lisa focused her research on the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, mothers who initially organized to bring international attention to human rights abuses in Argentina during the "Dirty War" from 1976 to 1983. These women continue to protest human rights abuses and have since expanded their human rights advocacy to include contemporary social justice causes. The Mothers have become pioneers in human rights education through the university that they founded in the 1980s.

Lisa will use the knowledge gained from this trip to build a Humanities course called Women and Social Movements. Relating her direct experience with women promoting social justice in Buenos Aires will make students more aware of global issues and will encourage them to get more involved in international projects. She will also be learning about new ways to teach issues around social justice and human rights. This will not only be useful in the classroom, but also in promoting human rights and social justice at Vanier through Women's Studies and the Open Door Network. Quebec has been an innovator in human rights policies in Canada and there is a strong tradition of grass-roots political organization in the province. In making links between Vanier College and women's organizations in Argentina, both academic and community-based, Lisa will build on this tradition.

Shirley Zhu and Sanaa Rizk in China

In 2011, Vanier College and John Abbot College joined forces to embark on a two-year training project with Qufu Normal University in the Shandong province of China, to encourage the development of best practices and the sharing of knowledge in second-language teaching and learning. The languages targeted by this project were French, English and Mandarin. Quebec and Shandong institutions have different methods, resources and strategies in terms of teaching second languages, but we share common goals: to facilitate language learning for students and, consequently, ensure their academic success. The first phase of this project saw Shirley Zhu, Modern Languages Department, and Sanaa Rizk, French Department, visiting Qufu Normal University to share teaching practices regarding second language training during the March 2012 winter break. They were accompanied by Michele Trepanier, English, John Abbott College.

The second phase of this collaborative project took place in May 2013 and was highly successful. The English teacher's emphasis on developing reading skills was praised as it answered an express need – the lack of skills and motivation to read Sanaa's model lessons as well as observations of classes with feedback to the teachers was very much appreciated. In addition, Sanaa met with the Qufu French Department to discuss issues such as evaluation and linguistic theories. French teachers also met with Sanaa individually for assistance on the correction of student work, etc. Sanaa was asked to coach a Chinese student participating in an interprovincial contest and she later found out that her student had won!



This successful training program was supported by the Ministry of International Relations. One result of this program is that Vanier students can now benefit from year-long scholarships to study Mandarin in China. In 2012-2013, five students took advantage of this amazing opportunity. A second group of four Vanier students will study at Qufu Normal University in 2013—2014.

In order to further sustain this partnership, Shirley Zhu approached the Physics Department of Qufu Normal University to explore the possibility of Vanier and John Abbott delivering a training project in active learning to Physics professors. This project was well-received and plans are now underway for Vanier to receive a delegation from this university in A13 to see how this project could be implemented.

Conferences

Vanier College Nursing Conference



On May 3, the Vanier Nursing Department in collaboration with the International Office held a nursing conference, *Raising Cultural Consciousness*. Opening remarks were given by the Academic Dean, Martine Gauthier, who reinforced the importance of experiential learning activities for college students. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Christopher Stonebanks, a professor from Bishops University. Dr. Stonebanks has had extensive experience working in James Bay and in Malawi. His work is used at McGill to prepare interns for their rotations in Northern Canada and he is also responsible for the coordination of experiential learning trips to Malawi for university students. His engaging presentation about culture shock provided students, just back from Malawi, with a better understanding of how they were feeling. It also offered their peers and teachers some insight regarding the difficulties experienced by students when returning home to Canada and the need for their support during this time.

Former students from 2011 and 2012 joined this year's participants to share their immersion experiences with the audience. It was obvious to all that their participation in the Nursing Exchange has been transformative.

Melodie Hicks, Nursing



Robotics and Active Learning at Vanier College



Dr. Enrique Ruiz-Velasco Sánchez from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico city, was at Vanier College on Friday, May 17th to facilitate a hands-on workshop on robotics. UNAM is a partner institution of Vanier College.

Dr. Ruiz-Velasco Sánchez is an international leader and researcher in the world of robotics and artificial Intelligence in education. This was an opportunity for the participants to be involved in active learning and to learn about a unique model of robotics developed by Dr. Sánchez where the robot is controlled at a distance by a cell-phone. In the past several years, UNAM has previously involved Vanier teachers in their international conferences so we were especially pleased to have the opportunity to welcome our visitor to our College.



Association Québécoise de Pédagogie Collégiale (AQPC) in Montreal

This year's Association Québécoise de Pédagogie Collégiale (AQPC) was held in Montreal from June 4th to the 6th. Vanier College was well represented with two workshops presented by members of our faculty.

The first, "Internationalizing the Classroom—Literally!" was presented by Sevak Majikian, Mike Besner and Rhys Adams. These teachers had developed a complementary course that brought students on a ten day journey to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Based on the contemporary problems framework, they created a pedagogical experience involving the Holocaust and totalitarianism. At the session, they presented the course content, the journey, the challenges related to the implementation of the project and its benefits for the students, as well as this course's possible adaptation to other courses that touch on contemporary issues.

The second workshop, "Montreal to Saint-Petersburg: Building a Common Culture" was presented by Stéphane Giroux, French Department, and Eric Lozowy, Dean of Science and General Studies. In the last two years, the course "Langue et littérature du Québec modern" has been simultaneously offered through videoconferencing to students from Vanier and those of the University of Saint-Petersburg, Russia. Stéphane and Eric presented the cultural, social, linguistic and institutional challenges that teachers face in offering such a course. They also highlighted the positive impact that this course had on student learning: the reinforcement of a common Quebec identity, and an enriched international dimension to their course.

Canadian Bureau of International Education Conference (CBIE) in Montreal



Rhys Adams and Gregory Mulcair, John Abbott College, presented the student-centered project involving Vanier, John Abbott and Tamil Nadu Polytechnic Colleges of India at the annual Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) Conference, held in Montreal in November 2012. The presentation provided an overview of the collaboration, highlighting the benefits of student-centered learning and how this approach can be tailored to Tamil Nadu's local reality. They discussed the project's impact on teachers and students in India. Furthermore, they presented their student-centered workshop materials and their exportability for new international collaborations abroad.

Chinese Delegation (Shandong Province)



On Monday and Tuesday, November 19th and 20th, 2012, Vanier welcomed a group of seventeen school administrators from three technical Colleges in Shandong Province, China. They came to Quebec to learn about our educational system, how our schools are governed, and to understand our relationship and reporting structure to the government. Hosted by International Education, the group attended several presentations and visited classrooms and labs. The delegation was hosted by John Abbott, Marie-Victorin and André-Laurendeau Colleges. As a result of the partnership agreement between the Provincial Governments of Quebec and Shandong and with the support of Cégep international, we have been able to send groups of students and teachers to Shandong to participate in cultural and academic projects.

Libyan Delegation



A Libyan delegation of four senior officials from the Ministries of Higher Education, Labour, and Foreign Affairs visited Vanier College on January 15, 2013. The purpose of the Libyan visit was to learn more about Canada's educational system and to meet with institutions like Vanier with the objective of building relationships and identifying areas of cooperation. Libya's long-term goal is to send students abroad for English and technical training.

Both the Director General and the Academic Dean welcomed the delegation. Vanier's technology programs were presented by Gilda Gangai, Vanier's High School Liaison Officer; the Language School was presented by Chris Hall, the Coordinator, and by Lauren Godfrey-Smith, an English teacher of the Language School. Lauren's presentation on the communicative approach, the approach to language learning used by the Language School, was particularly well received by the delegation. In addition, the delegation visited the Industrial Electronics Department; thanks to Louise Robinson for her usual enthusiastic assistance.

We were joined at lunch by Wissam Chaya, Physics teacher, and Bachar Karkoukli, Building Systems teacher, whose contribution to the overall friendliness and warmth of the session was appreciated.

This cross-country mission from Libya was supported by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as well as by Cégep international. The Vanier participation was organized by International Education; special thanks to Sonia Husseindjian and Jennifer Joseph.

Romanian Delegation



Vanier welcomed three representatives from the National College, Mircea cel Bătrân, located in Constanta, Romania on October 18 and 19, 2012. The Director General, Prof. Dr. Vasile Nicoara; the Chair of Biology, Prof. Doina Munteanu; and the Chair of Physics and the Student Research Center, Prof. Dr. Ion Bararu observed various classes in action, visited labs, as well as the Math and Science Centre. They gave a presentation on their school, which has been given the designation of “national college”

because of the outstanding achievements of their student body. Not only are their graduation rates extremely competitive, but their students enter numerous national and international contests and they are very frequently first place winners. One example is the participation of twenty students in a space competition at the NASA Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas where they won the Grand Prize. Mircea cel Bătrân also has a Student Research Centre with 235 students participating in varied research endeavors.

This delegation to Vanier College was the result of the 2012 faculty mobility project undertaken by Physics teacher, Gabriel Bulgarea, who visited Mircea cel Bătrân to explore possibilities of collaboration. In particular, Gabriel saw the potential for Vanier in the Student Research Centre of Mircea cel Bătrân, a project he now has release time for during 2013 – 2014.



Virtual Chess Competition with National College, Mircea Cel Bătrân, Romania

On May 14th, 2013, a virtual chess competition took place between seven students from Vanier College and nine students from our partner institution, the National College Mircea cel Bătrân of Constanta in Romania.

Four rounds were played with a total of twelve games. Players who were eliminated in the early rounds played each other in several unofficial games. Two students from Vanier College made it to the semi-final round and the final round took place between two students from the National College of Constanta who battled for the championship win.



The competition, the first of its kind for Vanier, was a success. The atmosphere and interactions between the students were friendly and the technology operated satisfactorily. What was especially gratifying was that the students, so physically far apart, had the opportunity to chat online between moves. Furthermore, this competition served as a pilot project and will help to create a framework for establishing future virtual mathematics and science competitions. We are also now planning a joint English project where students from Vanier and CNMB will share writing online. Vanier goes global!

Haritos Kavallos, Math & Science Centre

Language School

IELTS Preparation, Information and Testing Center

In cooperation with Administrative Services, Vanier College had its first successful year as an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) testing, information, and preparation center. 100-200 individuals per month apply for their test through the Language School, prepare for the test in new IELTS Preparation Courses, and take the test here at the College. This internationally recognized test is a requirement for all potential new Canadian Immigrants as well as international students who are applying to Concordia or McGill.

Mexican Students at Vanier

Sixty five 15-19 year old students and four teachers from the Cuernavaca campus of the Tec de Monterrey, a technical college in Mexico, studied English or French at the Vanier College Language School for four weeks in June. This was the largest group the Language School has hosted and it was a huge success. The most common comment from student evaluations was that we helped them develop independence.

We hosted our guests with homestay families through our Homestay provider, La Maison Internationale de Montreal, and required that the students stay with a buddy. This allowed the students to safely explore the city, use public transit (which does not exist in their city), and be safe. Sixty-three students and three teachers will study for five weeks in the summer of 2014.



Danish-German Group of Students at Vanier



For the fifth year, Vanier welcomed a group of Danish and German students, studying at Deutschen Gymnasium für Nordschleswig, a German school, located in Southern Denmark.

The students spent four weeks at Vanier studying English, French, and Music. They participated in many activities at the College, traveled to Quebec City and Ottawa on weekends, and visited Montreal. While here, they stayed in the homes of Vanier students, teachers, and staff. They also visited several German classes to help Vanier students practice their German skills.

The VCSA and the Key Society organized parties and other activities for our visitors. Through this exchange, our Vanier students were given opportunities to meet with Danish-German students and to experience a little of Europe, even while in Montreal.

Chris Hall, Language School

Internationalizing Vanier

Global Classroom

The Global Classroom was an initiative of Nathan Loewen supported by Eric Lozowy, Dean of Faculty of Science and General Studies. Using one of the specially designed active learning classrooms, Nathan introduced his students to a variety of world experts on different topics of interest. Nathan brought in, for example, a student from Kabul, Afghanistan, who is a women's rights activist. From this online visit, the students learned about rural education, economics and health. Using Skype and other means of connecting via the internet, the students would engage directly with the experts, asking questions and then reflecting on the responses. The Global Classroom was also supported by Jen Mitchell of the PDO office and was a means of introducing a large group of students to global issues. Nathan also worked with Caroline Chwojka to bring in other international experts into her classroom.

World HIV/AIDS Day



For the last four years, the International Education Office has observed World AIDS Day on December 1st, 2012. It is an opportunity to raise awareness by improving education and fighting prejudice. Activities on this day include documentaries, fundraisers, quizzes and factsheets. This year the International Education Office raised \$120 for the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research. We thank the Vanier community for their continual support.

Intercultural Workshops

For the last two years, a workshop on effective intercultural communication has been offered to students as part of the EPIC leadership workshop series coordinated by Dany Brown from Student Services. The workshop looks at how we can deepen our cultural understanding and recognize cross-cultural differences thereby improving communication and broadening perspectives. This skill helps students attain their personal and academic goals.

Funding for Students

International Education assists students in obtaining various kinds of funding:

Exemption des droits de scolarité majoré pour les étudiants étrangers:

This award offers fee waivers to international students in technology programs. This year, four students were granted this award by Cégep International: Ha My Pham, Thi Hong Nhung Tran, Thi Thuy Van Nguyen, and Hieu Chau Nguyen

Bourse d'excellence

This scholarship grants international students with above-average grades \$15,000 and a fee waiver for one year. This year's winners are Damian Kazior from Poland and Nadejda Buzdugan from Moldavia.

Bourse de court séjours:

This bursary funds Quebec students hoping to complete part of their Cégep studies outside of Canada.

- Seven students from the **Business Administration program** completed a stage in Montbéliard and Paris and were funded by this program: Sara Petion, Maximo Paredes Espinal, Camilo Lara-Menendez, Shawn Fillion-Dubuc, Cong Minh Nguyen, Mark Clarizio, and Stephanie Leylekian;
- six students from the **Malawi Nursing Exchange** were also granted this financial support: Matthew Barr, Janie Plourde, Chrissandra Mitchell, Olivia Lafortune, Ryan Monzon, and Jennyfer Belval;
- and finally, five students from **Environment and Wildlife Management** completing stages in Costa Rica benefitted from funding: Derek Royea-Spratt, Oliver Wockner, Joanna Griffin, Michael Martino, and Sofia Papakonstantinou.

Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec

This office offers funding for credited projects abroad. This year the above-mentioned Business Administration students and Malawi Nursing Exchange students were awarded funding from this organization.

VCSA and Vanier Foundation

The International Education Office has collaborated with both these offices with the intention to regularize student funding for mobility projects. This year, more than fifty students were supported by these two sources for study abroad projects.

Congratulations to our students and many thanks to our partners.

2012-2013 Employee Recognition Team Award

It takes a remarkable team of people to put on noteworthy events and offer great services to students. This year Vanier College honored two outstanding teams with the 2012-13 Employee Recognition Team Awards; the team that designed and implemented the new universal complementary course entitled *Holocaust and Totalitarianism: Journeys through Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic*; and the Nursing Recruitment Integration and Identity Team. The Team Award recognizes teams involved in a particular project that work cohesively, demonstrate a shared commitment to providing exceptional service and use their combined expertise to produce high quality results.

The *Holocaust-Totalitarianism* Course team consisted of Sevak Manjikian, Mike Besner, Frédérique Denis, Rhys Adams, Gisela Mutter, Eric Lozowy, and the International Education Office of Judy Macdonald, Jennifer Joseph, and Sonia Husseindjian. The Project consisted of three phases: 1) the design of the course, including writing the course framework, 2) the team-teaching of the course; and 3) a class trip to Europe (Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic) during March Break 2013 involving 38 Vanier students and 5 faculty members.



According to the nomination, "This team deserves the Team Award because the team members have such different skill-sets, but they all worked together with a student-centered focus and a commitment to enriching student learning by combining a travel abroad experience with a course." This course, with its integrated international trip, is a first at Vanier. It aimed to give students the conceptual and historic background to Totalitarianism and the Holocaust in Europe,

then to make the course come alive by travelling to important sites associated with the material studied in class. This allowed students to make links in person and fully understand critical aspects of 20th century history.

Marguerite Corriveau, Communications

Concluding Remarks

I hope you enjoyed the International Education Newsletter 2012 - 2013. The innovative and carefully planned projects that were undertaken last year helped internationalize our campus. This work is timely given the position of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation, on the importance of internationalizing collegial training. The recommendations of "The Internationalization of Québec Colleges; A World of Possibilities" to the Ministry of Superior Education, Research, Science and Technology encourage the promotion of the internationalization of the curriculum; student mobility projects help attain this goal.

The newly created Sub-committee of Academic Council on International Education (Melodie Hicks, Mike Besner, Shirley Zhu, Nathan Loewen, Eric Lozowy, Jennifer Joseph, Sonia Husseindjian and myself) met regularly to explore issues. Discussions were wide-ranging and focused on the high cost of international study abroad projects and possible alternatives; interculturalism and its inclusion in the mandate of the International Education Office; the internationalization of the College; and the importance of our policies and protocols in the implementation of study abroad projects. The committee also recommended the universal complementary course, *Le Nord: territoires et imaginaires*, to be implemented by Myriam Mansour and Catherine Duranleau in H14.

I want to thank our many partners within the College for their support, especially the Director General, Gilbert Héroux; the Academic Dean, Martine Gauthier; and the faculty deans, Michael Sendbuehler, Odette Côté and Eric Lozowy. In addition, the Communications Department, the Pedagogical Development Office, the Vanier Foundation with Silvana Cannatelli, and the VCSA have all contributed to our success. Purchasing and Accounting are invaluable to us as well and we thank them for their services. I wish to also thank my colleagues in International Education, Jennifer Joseph and Sonia Husseindjian, for their invaluable contribution.

At the same time, I want to thank our external partners, particularly the Ministère des Relations Internationales, Cégep international and LOJIQ, Special thanks go to Brenda Pinsky of Garth Allen Marksted Travel, whose comprehensive services helped us ensure the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff who travelled abroad. We particularly want to thank Brenda for her outstanding service to the Holocaust and Totalitarian trip. Also a big thank you to Sonia Husseindjian for her persistence in editing this newsletter!

Judy Macdonald, Coordinator of Learning Enrichment & Support Services for Programs

