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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT VANIER COLLEGE



VANIER

CÉGEP / COLLEGE

VANIER INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Word from the Director General	3
Nicaragua Study Project	4
Malawi Nursing Exchange	8
Russian Language Exchange	10
Architectural Technology Habitat for Humanity	12
Industrial Electronics Training at Siemens	15
Honours Science/Liberal Arts Boston	15
Cultural Trip to China	16
Business Administration	18
German Exchange	20
Faculty Mobility	22
Language School	26
Conferences	28
Silent Auction	32
Concluding Remarks	33

VANIER

C É G E P / C O L L E G E

INTERNATIONAL

EDUCATION AT VANIER COLLEGE

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



I am pleased to invite you to read the International Education bulletin, 2011 - 2012.

The Strategic Plan, 2008 - 2013, underlined the need for an "international presence" to be established at the College, and this is what, with the contributions of many members of our community, is happening. I note with pride, for example, the extent to which the international component of Business Administration has positively impacted this program, how the Malawi Nursing Exchange has brought cultural competencies to our students, and how Modern Languages and Literature has developed several study abroad projects for their students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

The Strategic Plan also calls 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. Those involved bring back new perspectives for their own teaching and I have observed a dynamism amongst our teachers as a result.

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 overwhelming participation in our community fundraising activity, the Silent Auction, this year, is just one indication of the understanding on the part of the community of the need to involve our students and faculty in a diverse range of international initiatives.

Unfortunately, only a small percentage of our students and faculty will, in fact, travel abroad but we can still bring into the classroom global perspectives. We can also build on our rich and varied student population, finding opportunities for our students to learn from one another.

2012 - 2013 should be a year of continued growth for international education at Vanier. New partners and projects are suggesting innovative activities for involvement. At the same time, the development of the new Strategic Plan, 2013 - 2018, will provide opportunities for input as to future directions. The College welcomes your suggestions. We want international education to reflect what is best at the College and to promote what is best and to accomplish this, we ask for your involvement.

Gilbert Héroux
Director General

NICARAGUA STUDY PROJECT

OVERVIEW

In January 2012, seven students; Ariel Poupart, Bianca Lawson, Carlos Daniel Delgado Vasquez, Magdalena Martinez, Michael Homsy, Nima Sajedi, Noah Seltzer, and Valerie Cooper, traveled to Nicaragua and lived with families in a rural community. They alternated their time between rural and urban settings to get an overview of underlying issues faced by Nicaraguans. The project revolved mainly around three major issues in Latin America: gender, social justice, and environment. Students visited NGOs, community based organizations, and interviewed local Nicaraguan people to collect information about the above-mentioned topics. Throughout the winter semester, students prepared presentations and workshops and disseminated what they learned during International Women's Week.

For full student reports, and to find out about the application deadlines for our next trip to Nicaragua, please visit our website:

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/international-education/students/projects/nicaragua

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer





GOALS OF THE PROJECT

In the last two years, we have found this project to be very successful, and to have made a big impact, not only with the local villagers in Nicaragua, but with our students as well. Students from our pilot project in 2010 have since started their own non profit organization and are actively trying to get involved in sustainable change in Los Jobitos, Nicaragua.

We are continuously looking for ways to expand this project and to facilitate learning about Latin America and the developing world. The focus behind this project is threefold; social justice, environment, and gender equality. We hope to incorporate more topics in the next year, and ultimately have a bigger group of students participating in this project, so that we can start reaching out to neighboring villages as well.

If this is something of interest to you, please don't hesitate to contact the International Education department, or send any interested student our way.

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN NICARAGUA



Michael Homsy

The trip as a whole was very enlightening. Those of us fortunate enough to have grown up amidst Western society often develop preconceived notions of the impoverished countries of the "Third World", be it due to mainstream media documentation or subconscious viva voce stereotypes. However, it often takes the experience of witnessing the phenomenon of life within poverty to truly grasp the realities of such a ball game.

Valerie Cooper

At the end of my stay, I had learned so much about the Nicaraguan food that I felt almost able to prepare a dish on my own. I am definitely glad to have been able to take part in this unforgettable trip to a third world country where I was reminded of how spoiled we are by our own western lifestyle. Thanks to this trip, I am happy to say that I have been inspired to continue travelling, as it lets you discover things that you might not have otherwise been interested in before.



Nima Sajedi



On this trip, I learned a lot about international relations and national identity. The people really embody the spirit of Nicaragua in solidarity and Christian values. I learned a lot more Spanish while I was there, and I tried to talk to everyone there with some success. I also learned some Latin-style dancing like Bachata and Salsa. The highlights of my trip were the geothermal plant and the time in the village. In the village, I learned the most about the culture and the identity of Nicaragua. I enjoyed meeting people and learning about how they worked and played. I would advise anyone who wants to go on this amazing journey to learn some Spanish, and to keep an open mind.

Bianca Lawson

I can honestly say that this is a study trip that I'll never forget; this opportunity opened my mind and my heart to this developing country and I'm more than happy to have had the chance to interact and learn from them, hoping I've been able to make a small difference in their lives. This has been a truly enriching experience and though it is hard for me to express it all into words, I would encourage anyone to take part in this study project.



Noah Seltzer

Some of my fondest memories of my trip would be playing soccer in the village with the teenagers, playing cards with my Nicaraguan family, and teaching a bit of English to the kids and teenagers who were very eager to learn. These were highlights because during these moments, there was nothing segregating us; we were simply people having a good time -- regardless of skin color and language.

Magdalena Martinez

In Nicaragua, I learned much on various topics. This would not have been the same without the direct contact with the people. To learn something from another culture, it is important to talk with the locals and I was able to enjoy this experience to its fullest because of my knowledge of Spanish. Making that extra effort really allowed me to take this experience to a whole new level, and the locals were very grateful to have someone to share their knowledge with.



Ariel Poupart

My experience in Nicaragua really broadened my perception of the world I live in and its realities. Staying with a local family is really different than just staying at a resort, because you get to be immersed in their culture and experience their daily routines. I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of this trip to Nicaragua, because now I can share my knowledge and understanding with others to try little by little to make a change, and at the very least, appreciate what I have here all the much more.

MALAWI NURSING EXCHANGE



OVERVIEW

In April 2012, five Nursing students Helen Curtis, Ioana Demtra Horotan, Kara Leigh Redden, Michelle MacIssaac and Duchelin Joseph, accompanied by teacher, Melodie Hicks, spent six weeks in Malawi completing 160 hours of their clinical stage hours at St. Andrews Hospital. Working with our partners at the Kamuzu College of Nursing, the aim of this project is to increase the cultural competence of nursing students by providing them with the opportunity to be immersed in another culture. Students experienced rural and city living in sub-Saharan, Africa. They gained insight into the healthcare practices and values of the Malawian people and the role of the nurse. This project was co-funded by Office Quebec-Monde pour la jeunesse.

This year, the students focused all their efforts on a big fundraising and awareness campaign, raising \$20 000 of their ambitious goal of \$50 000. You can still contribute, and read through their experience, on their blog at:

<http://www.malawinursingexchange.com>

In the spirit of our partnership with Kamuzu College, we are working to welcome two nursing students from Malawi in the winter 2013 semester. We hope this will be an enriching experience not only for our guests, but also for the many students who unfortunately don't get the chance to go to Malawi for themselves.

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN MALAWI

"On one of the clinical days, we were able to visit the orphanage that had about 50 children of all ages. We fed the babies and the younger children and then we learned how to change nappies (diapers). The children danced and sang for us, it was such a beautiful moment. "

- Demetra Horotan

"I would like to thank everyone who helped us get to this point. It was far from an easy road but your persistent and continuous support made it possible. Learning Chichewa with Doug and his wife Nelly and being taught proper dining etiquette (which includes eating with your hands) has been quite an experience"

- Duchelin Joseph

"In a country that is so ill-equipped with resources, the basic fundamentals of nursing still exist but in a different light. One of the dressings nurse taught us her technique of an iodine paste dressing. Since wrap-around dressings use too many materials, she cleans the wounds with soap, then rips off small pieces of cotton and applies them to the open wound. She then dabs iodine on them, making a paste that adheres to the wound. This leaves the patient with a minimal obstruction dressing that allowed his wounds to heal without risk of infection, and the hospital with more resources that could be used on other patients."

- Helen Curtis

"If there is one thing we can learn from the nurses here in these conditions is that there is a silver lining behind every cloud. They have inspired us to never give up. Whether you are a nurse in Canada, Malawi, Cambodia or Brazil, I am proud to say that I support nurses here, there and everywhere. "

- Kara Redden

"Being here for the past 6 weeks has definitely broadened my views and opinions of the many people who suffer from epidemic illness in this and every other part of the world. I can say confidently that I look at not only those who are sick with this illness but at many other things through a different set of eyes, a more accepting and open pair."

- Michelle Maclsaac



RUSSIA LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

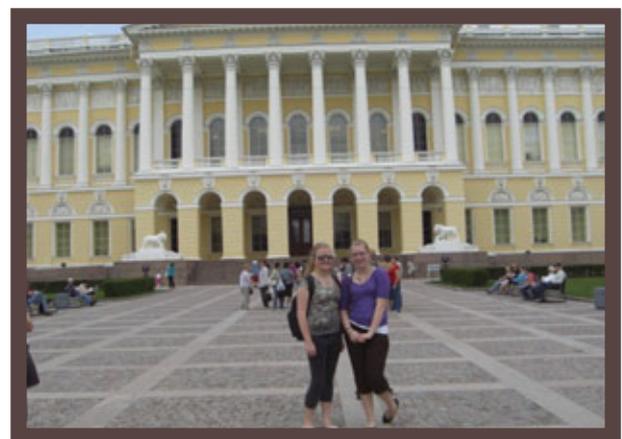
OVERVIEW

In May 2012, supervisor Natalia Pakhamova and two students, Elise Kovac and Patrycja Nowak, traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia. The students 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 language and culture instruction per week and immersed themselves in the culture by staying with a Russian family. The goal of this project is to offer students language immersion opportunities that complement their classroom learning. This project was partially funded by the Vanier Foundation

For full student reports, and to find out about the application deadlines for our next trip to Russia, please visit our website:

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/international-education/students/exchanges/modern_languages

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

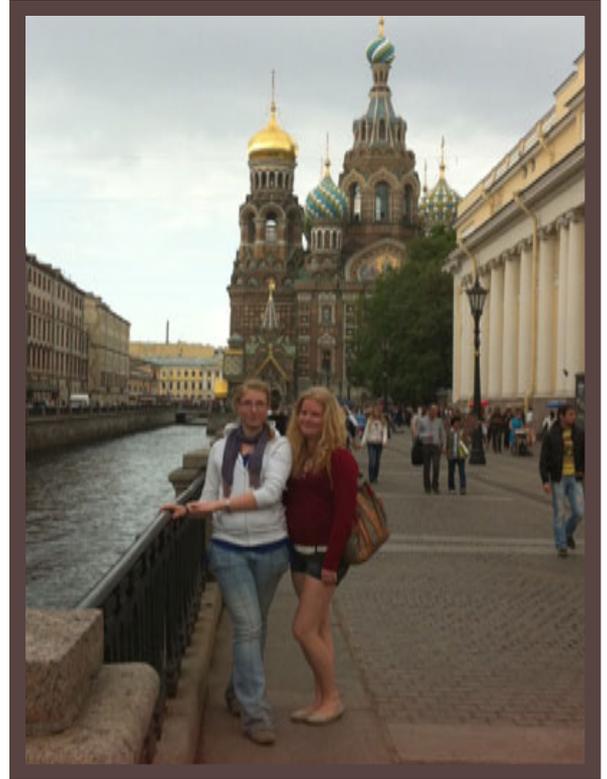


STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN RUSSIA

Elise Kovac

A language barrier can be very intimidating. Thinking of my friends in Montreal whose first language isn't English, I can now sympathize with their struggle to communicate in English in their daily lives. The teaching methods in Russia were very different, paying particular attention to things like the right accent, or the right variation of words used in different situations.

I would definitely say that this experience changed me. Visiting different cities and learning about their history and culture, opened my eyes to see the world differently. I would do it again, and I would recommend this experience to anyone who has a passion for traveling and learning new things.



Patrycja Nowak

The main reason for this trip was to study the Russian language at the Saint-Petersburg University. Another reason was to get to know the cultural and historical heritage of this 300 year old city. This trip has been a wonderful experience, not only to study a language, but also to know a little more about the people that speak it. We've made so many connections with locals, teachers and other foreign students, and these have helped make so many amazing memories. Elise and I plan to go back, because there is still so much to learn and so much to see!

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

OVERVIEW

In May 2012, twelve students took part in a humanitarian trip with the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Westchester, New York. Our students stayed in the community for 5 days, where they assisted with demolition, painting, and repairs. This is the third time Architectural Technology students have participated in a Habitat for Humanity build.

Thanks to Vanier's International Office, contributors such as John Pitrie Foundation, the Dean of the Faculty of Careers and Technical Programs, Vanier College and some Architectural firms in Montreal, eleven students got a chance to gain an incredible experience volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

On top of giving back to the community, this provides an excellent opportunity for students in the Architectural Technology program to see a side of the construction business they wouldn't see otherwise.

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer





Before arriving to Westchester, we spent a few days in New York City, mostly admiring the architecture of the city. The students really enjoyed piecing together the theory of their courses at Vanier with the real world application of a city like New York. We especially got an excellent view from the top of the Empire State Building. From there, we made our way to Westchester. During our time volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, they were working on two sites so we decided to split the group in order to help as much as possible. The first house belonged to an old woman and it was a great feeling to know that

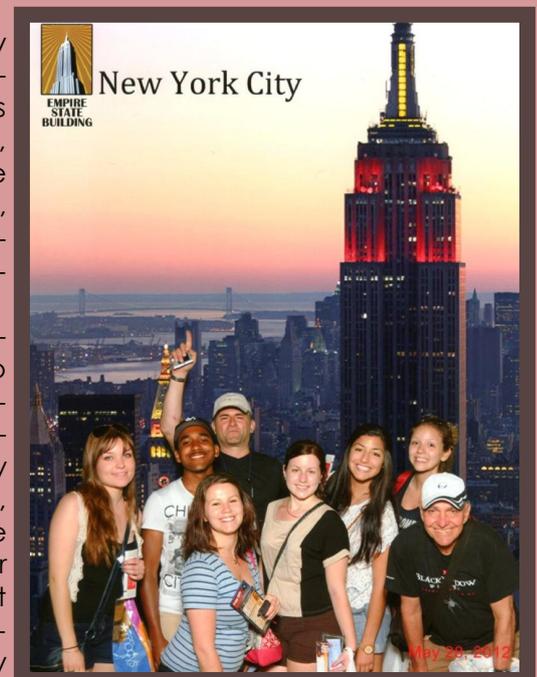
other volunteers like us were helping people in need.

Upon arrival the superintendent, Steve Hagganey, welcomed all of us, and gave us a tour of the house and explained that this was a net zero energy home. Steve explained how the foundations were poured using foam insulation as frame work in order to have a better thermal value. He explained that the exterior walls and the roof were insulated with recycled blue jeans insulation and the house had two solar panels in the roof to collect heat. All the rain water was collected in a cistern in the basement and reused to help minimize the use of clean city water. Overall this has been a great experience for our students and I am very happy to have been able to be a part of this.

Xavier Trevino, Architectural Technology

The second Habitat for Humanity site was supervised by "Mighty Mike". This site had a different mission which is based on Habitat's "No more Ugly" objective. This program is referred to as "Brush with Kindness". Six students: Melissa, Lisa, Jessica, Nikki, Tawyna, Despina and I were assigned to this mission. We were assisting a Vietnam War Veteran who, because of a war injury, was not able to work and therefore over the years has been unable to upkeep his Heritage Property, resulting in the house having extreme water damage and mould infestation.

Our students' mission was to execute the surface preparation and application of several coats of paints to spruce up the exterior walls. They were also required to execute deconstruction of the inside walls and ceilings. To my amazement Melissa, Lisa, Jessica, Nikki, Tawyna and Despina got down and dirty in the demolition of thick plaster work using sledge hammers, crow bars, axes in full body Tyvex suits learned the importance of communication and site safety methods in executing their work. They put so much "sweat & muscle in this activity" that they called themselves the "Demolition Divas". Prior to our arrival this site was extremely disorganized. The student immediately recognized for their safety and the production of work, they needed to organize and do drastic house keeping in the work area. This and many other situations made me proud to have been able to give these students this opportunity to give back to a community, all the while learning many skills in the process. What a great way to end their studies with us at Vanier College.



Joe Bellantoni, Architectural Technology

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Jonathan Estrade

All the construction knowledge learned onsite, in the morning briefings and in our site seeing of the architecture in New York, all helped each and every one of us thankful for Vanier College and supporters like the John Pitrie Foundation for this opportunity. In my opinion, we should get the architectural technology student to learn some more hands on knowledge since it really complements all that we've learned for the past 3 years.

Nikki Apostolatos

In New York City we got to see many important buildings and styles that we've only seen in books. To finally see how they fit into the city and how they characterize New York City as a whole was a great feeling. I felt like everything I learned in the past year finally made sense and all the pieces came together.

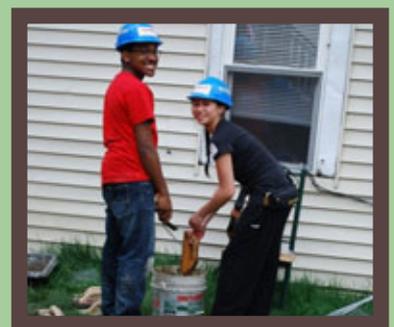


Samantha Kerr

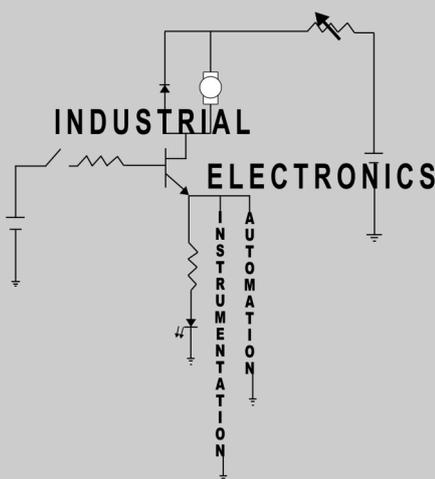
Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful organization, I am glad to have been a part of it. I would like to thank Vanier College for providing such a great opportunity to Arch. Tech students. I would recommend this trip to everyone, not only for the learning experience but to be able to bond with classmates and experience new people, ideas, areas, and to get a feel for how much a little bit a volunteering counts for.

Darren Lee

I think that the Habitat for Humanity mission is a great one. Not only does it educate students and volunteers, it also brings communities together to help one another. I would also like to note that Habitat is trying to make places greener as they construct a home which is a great thing .



INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS TRAINING AT SIEMENS



In March 2012, ten Industrial Electronics students, along with their supervisor, Jason Duheme, were given the opportunity to train at Siemens-Milltronics, well-known manufacturers of cell phones, trains and other electronic equipment. This one week training session allowed students to experience typical job training at a world leading industrial facility where they were prepped on topics such as process instrumentation and industrial communications. Also, students met with instrumentation manufacturers and were given a tour of the local ethanol production facility.

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

HONOURS SCIENCE/LIBERAL ARTS BOSTON

This year's destination for the annual Honours Science, Liberal Arts and Honours Social Science trip was Boston, MA. We were blessed with great weather, so many of us took advantage to explore the city; walk the freedom trail, see Fenway Park, or even cross the river to Cambridge, to visit Harvard and MIT University.

One of the highlights of this trip for many students was the visit to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, considered the second most important art museum in the USA. We also visited the Museum of Natural History and the Boston Science Museum. Some lucky students even got to watch the New York Yankees play the Boston Red Sox at historic Fenway Park! As usual, we returned to Vanier tired and happy after another successful trip!



Rhys Adams, Physics

CULTURAL TRIP TO CHINA



OVERVIEW

This pilot project is a joint initiative with John Abbott College. In June 2012, four students; Ian Tam, Claudia Parent, Julie Martin, and Rina Re, as well as four John Abbott students, embarked on a 17-day excursion to China. Students visited Beijing, the capital of Shandong province, Qufu, the birth place of Confucius, and Shanghai, the largest city in China. Activities included visiting historical and cultural sites, observing and experiencing life in China, and communicating with students from our partner, Qufu University. This experience allowed students to be fully immersed in Chinese culture and provided them with an ideal setting for language learning.

For full student reports, and to find out about the application deadlines for our next trip to China, please visit our website:

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/international-education/students/projects/china

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN CHINA

Claudia Parent

My trip to China with Vanier College was the first time I was traveling without my family, and while I was very nervous before departure, this experience has been amazing! I loved the fact that we were a small group, which allowed us to get to know each other very well, very fast. China is a beautiful country full of history and culture, but it also has a very modern side to it. I can honestly say that it was the most memorable trip of my life so far.



Julie Martin



I feel so fortunate to have been able to go to China. You never truly experience a culture until you've been to the country and lived as the locals do. Everywhere we went, the locals were extremely kind and tried their best to communicate with us, being very patient as we practiced our limited Mandarin skills. I will always remember this trip fondly and highly recommend anyone to visit this country if they have the chance to go there.

Rina Re

I am very passionate about traveling the world and China has always been on my bucket list. Not many people get to truly experience other cultures and the Chinese culture is very different than our North American standards. This has been an amazing opportunity to experience a new culture that I now see is misrepresented in North America.



Ian Tam



Coming from a Chinese background, I was excited to be a part of the Modern Languages and International Education department's China Study Trip. This has been an excellent opportunity to experience a culture entirely different from our own. This has truly been a once a lifetime experience that I will never forget.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

INTERNSHIPS IN FRANCE

OVERVIEW



In June 2012, five 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, Kayla Goddard, Noemi De Paoli, Gisela Amadu, Ama Boahemaa Ankamah, and Julia Ferreira were funded by Cégep international; Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse, and the Vanier College Student Association. The goal of this project is to offer students valuable

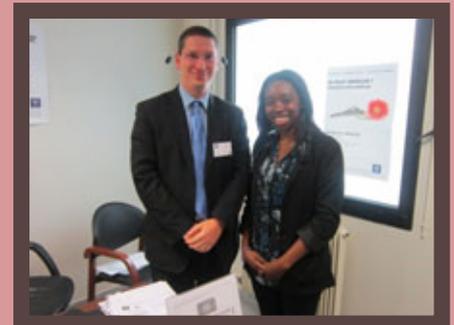
working opportunities in the business administration field while being immersed in the French language. This project allows students to improve French language proficiency, to build their curriculum vitae and develop professionally. This entire exchange program is coordinated by George Dracopoulos, with the help of Stefan Kuch.

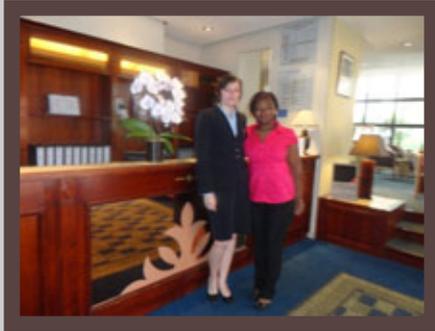
Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE

Ama Boahemaa Ankamah—La Poste

Wanting to experience a different culture and get a glimpse of what the work force had in store for me as a college graduate and future employee, I was given the opportunity to travel abroad to France to complete my internship in the business administration program. I worked at La Poste, a company located in Cergy St.Christophe that offers various services such as mail, parcels, financial, and general public services all in one.





Gisela Abaka Amadu—Hotel Mercure

I had the opportunity to complete my internship at Hotel Mercure in Cergy, Grand Centre which is a franchised company that is located across Europe. I would recommend this experience to students studying in Business Administration in order to gain international experience, to be aware of cultural differences, and to gain hands-on experience in a business environment. Working abroad takes hard work, patience, an understanding of other cultures and an open-minded view.

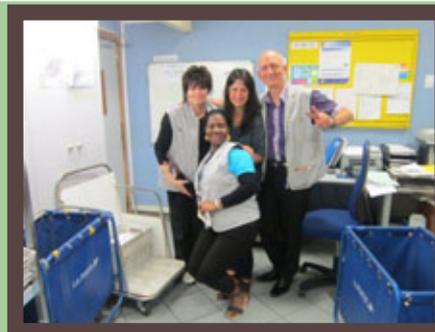
Julia Ferreira—Pole Musique

I am proud to say that the exchange program at Vanier College, through the Business Administration Program, has truly changed my life. It gave me the opportunity to open my eyes to new cultures, new habits, and new ways of life and, of course, gave me the opportunity to work in a professional company. I had the chance to work for the Pole Musique of Belfort, France,



Kayla Goddard—Compagnie des Bains-Douches

La Compagnie des Bains-Douches is a small non-profit organization whose mission is to establish itself as a place of artistic production in several areas of contemporary culture, such as design and construction of stage sets, sculptures, exhibitions, street interventions, etc. Having an internship experience abroad opens a lot of doors. I believe that it will increase future employability because studying abroad shows open mindedness, independence and maturity. I believe that these factors will be very beneficial for students applying for jobs after an internship in a foreign country.



Naomie de Paoli—La Poste

In many ways, I believe my internship at La Poste will increase my chances to find employment once I graduate. I plan to have a career in a bank, and I believe this experience will set me apart from other candidates. This has been a great learning opportunity and I am thankful to have had the chance to partake in it and learn so much.

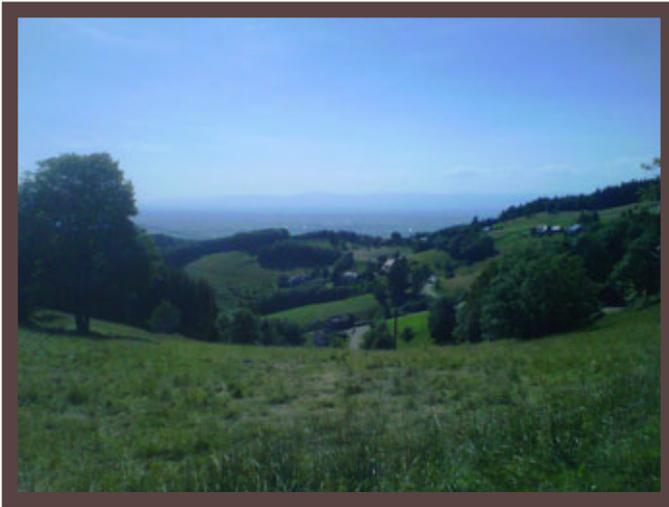
GERMAN EXCHANGE

Once again, two Vanier College students, studying German in the Modern Languages Department, had the opportunity to participate in a three-week student exchange trip to Freiburg and Berlin in Germany, lasting from June 3 to June 26, 2012. They were part of a well organised exchange program, already in its tenth year, under the direction and management of Alain Forget, Coordinator of the Modern Languages Program at Collège Ahuntsic.

Alain Forget accompanied the group of 11 students to Germany. First, the group stayed one week in Berlin where they explored the rich cultural program of the city, and where the group engaged in a German language course to ease the students into the linguistic immersion of German. The second week, the group traveled to Freiburg, in the Black Forest region of Southern Germany. Here the students were individually accommodated by the families of their exchange partners, students of the Rotteck Gymnasium in Freiburg. Vanier and Ahuntsic students were treated to first-hand insight into German family life and culture. (The German students will visit their exchange partners here in Montreal in October 2012.) The trip involved also visits to the school of the German exchange partners 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 students is immense and best described through their own words:

The Berlin-Freiburg 2012 exchange trip was a once in a life-time experience," says one of our Vanier travelers. "I am so happy I have had the chance to take part in it and I recommend it to anyone who is ready to discover new life-styles, explore new places, learn about a new language and culture, and make new friends. Not to mention celebrating *Fußball* victories with great German beer and delicious Swiss chocolate. I had so much fun and would go back any day."





Our second participating Vanier student recounts:

“Germany was to me as a whole new world. From Berlin to Freiburg, . . . any city possesses charming as well as distinctive traits. While Berlin is the lively and animated capital city of constant growth, Freiburg represents not only a university town par excellence, but also a sweet and heart-warming place that emanates a family like feeling. The German students were extremely friendly. Therefore, I did not feel homesick as I could easily blend into the environment and could live like a real German.

The public transportation system was a confusing maze –especially in Berlin. The local cuisine brought new flavours to my epicurean palate. The various grandiose museums are uncountable. Even though these things were rather strange to me – as a foreigner - they made my trip more exciting because I learned new things, became more open-minded, and embraced thoroughly each moment.

If I am given the opportunity to return to Germany, I will definitely take the chance.”

While the Berlin-Freiburg exchange trip not only allows the students a rich linguistic and cultural immersion into German culture, it is also very affordable thanks to the well organised nature of the program. The approximate price of the trip was \$ 1,900. In addition, in the past years, the participated students were generously funded by the Ministry of Sports, Leisure and Education of Quebec (MELS) and receive approximately half of their cost back in funding at a later point in the year. We hope that this year again, MELS will fund the program.

One of the exchange students is now back in my German course to continue with her language studies. She re-entered the classroom with a new maturity and confidence and improved language skills attesting of the tremendous value of this cultural immersion trip. We thank Alain Forget of Collège Ahuntsic for his efforts, and we are also looking forward to meeting the German exchange students in our classroom when they come to visit Montreal in October.

Gisela Mutter,
Modern Languages, German

FACULTY MOBILITY

PEER INSTRUCTION AND PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

TAMIL NADU, INDIA

As part of a collaborative project with John Abbott, Rhys Adams from our Physics Department traveled with Greg Mulcair and two other faculty members, Bruce Tracy and Sean Hughes, from John Abbott to the province of Tamil Nadu, India from January 3 to 14. They gave workshops on Peer Instruction (PI) and Problem-Based Learning (PBL) at P.A.C. Ramasamy Raja Polytechnic College in the town of Rajapalayam, from January 9 to 12. The workshops brought together 25 teachers from various Engineering Departments as well as from Chemistry, Mathematics and even a teacher from the English Department. Using a drop box I.T. system, Rhys and Greg were able to communicate and share Powerpoint presentations and Rubix (templates) not only with their colleagues, Bruce and Sean, in another location in Tamil Nadu, but also with the faculty present at the workshops. All participants greatly appreciated the tools and advice Rhys offered and were very eager to start implementing these new techniques in their classrooms. Rhys has mentioned how particularly impressed he was with the technological advancements used in classrooms at Ramasamy Raja. Since his return, Rhys has received many emails detailing how the Ramasamy Raja faculty has already begun using these methods in their classroom. On January 13, the entire Montreal delegation was able to meet with the Ministry of Education in Tamil Nadu.

Rhys Adams, Physics



SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS



QUFU, CHINA

During the March 2012 winter break, Shirley Zhu and Sanaa Rizk visited Qufu University to share teaching practices regarding second language training. This two-year training project between QUFU Normal University, Vanier College and John Abbott College encourages the development of best practices and the sharing of knowledge in second-language teaching and learning. The languages targeted by this project are 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. Our faculty member were very well received and our peers at Qufu were eager to learn more about student-centred learning and knowledge-based approaches by exchanging course materials and technological tools for the classroom. We hope to welcome a delegation of some of Qufu's faculty members in the fall, before embarking on the second phase of this project next March break.

In addition, as a result of this partnership, 5 Vanier students have received a full scholarship to study in China for a year. Amine Ashad, Lam Son Nguyen, Cedric-Rene Najjar, Bernard Wong, and Julie Martin will be attending Qufu Normal University for the 2012-2013 academic year. We look forward to further collaborating with our colleagues in Qufu.

Judy Macdonald,

Coordinator of Learning Enrichment & Support Services for Programs

RESEARCH AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

CONSTANTZA, ROMANIA

Thanks to funding for faculty mobility from CEGEP International, Gabriel Bulgarea visited a highly ranked Romanian school in Constantza, Romania, in May 2012. This school has been very successful in creating a Student Research Center, an innovation that could serve Vanier well. Their students constantly win international science contests, the latest one held by NASA. Working with Romanian teachers and students, Gabriel found that research and project-based learning is an excellent tool to increase student motivation, performance and interest for science and technology.

Hoping to build a partnership between Vanier and CNMB Constantza, Vanier College is excited to welcome a delegation from Romania in October 2012. We hope that our students can someday work together with Romanian students to share their knowledge and experiences.

Gabriel Bulgarea, Physics and Industrial Electronics



RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION AND NEW TEACHING TECHNIQUES

SAINT-PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

In May 2012, Dr. Natalia Pakhomova, Coordinator of the Slavic Studies Program, traveled to Saint-Petersburg, Russia to investigate different teaching models in Slavic studies with emphasis on information technology in the classroom.



Vanier College is the only CEGEP which offers this unique Slavic studies program and Saint-Petersburg state university, which was founded in 1819, is one of the oldest and most reputable higher learning institutions in Russia, making them an ideal partner. The Russian Language and Culture Institute, which is part of the Faculty of Philology and Arts, has been in operation for many decades and has developed an expertise in helping students to learn Russian

through intense cultural and linguistic immersion techniques. Natalia met with the administrators and language teachers as well as visit the facilities (i.e. language labs and resource centers) but more specifically the "lingophone center", which specializes in teaching simultaneous interpretation.

Jennifer Joseph,
International Projects Officer

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In June, 2012, the Language School welcomed a large group of fifteen to nineteen year old students from the Tec de Monterrey in Cuernavaca, Puebla and Queretaro, Mexico. Half of the students studied English and were placed in various levels of our regular full-time English for Academic Purposes and the other half studied in a custom-designed French program. The four Mexican teachers who accompanied the group studied alongside their students in the mornings and then taught Physics and Business courses of their own in the afternoons.

The students stayed in pairs in Homestay families arranged by a supplier that we have used for several years. The English students stayed in English speaking families and the French students stayed with French families – a service that is truly unique to Montreal! While they were here, the students traveled to Quebec City, Ottawa, Mont-Tremblant and even did an overnight trip to Niagara.

Student evaluations were excellent. Students loved their classes at Vanier and enjoyed their College atmosphere. Quebec City was their favorite trip and, despite the usual challenges of settling in to an entirely new family or, for many students, adjusting to being away from home for the first time, enjoyed their new homes in Montreal.

This is the second group of students that the Language School has received from this school. The partnership resulted from a meeting between Judy Macdonald and her counterpart at the Mexican school in at the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC) in Kansas City in 2010. Chris Hall followed up with a visit to Mexico City, Puebla, Queretaro and Cuernavaca in February, 2012 and was able to make a presentations to interested students and parents in an amazing outdoor amphitheater:

<http://www.itesm.edu/wps/wcm/connect/Campus/CVA/Cuernavaca/>
We are already working on hosting another group in 2013.



Chris Hall,
Language School Coordinator

DANISH HOMESTAY



The Language School hosted its fourth group of Danish – German students from the Deutschen Gymnasium für Nordschleswig in Denmark in April 2012. The students came to study English, French, and a special non-credit History of Canadian Music course.

One special aspect of this program is the connections we make between the students and the community. The foundation of this is our Danish-German Homestay. We made a call to the Vanier community at the end of 2011 and continued to promote the possibility to host a student in 2012. This year, our experience in managing Homestay, combined with a 33% increase in the fee we paid to Homestay families, contributed to a large number of applications. For the first time ever, we had more potential families than ever and we would like to say a big thank you to our Homestay families – including Vanier teachers and students!

We are very happy to be able to announce that we are expecting another group of students in April 2013 and would like to invite members of the community (students, staff, and teachers) to consider hosting a student for the month. Information packages are available in the International Education Office in B-228.

Chris Hall,
Language School Coordinator

CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA



Eric Lozowy, Dean of the Faculty of Science of General Studies at Vanier College, participated in an international seminar in Moscow, Russia, from November 30 to December 1, 2011. The seminar, entitled "On the Way to Quality Education for All: International Approaches and Specifics of Contemporary Practice," attracted scholars from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Ukraine, and various regions of Russia. It was organized by the Moscow Institute of Open Education and the Centre for Cross-cultural Education "Etnosfera", an organization affiliated to UNESCO. One of the objectives of the seminar was to provide an overview of international approaches to multicultural education. Dean Lozowy presented a paper entitled "From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism in Quebec Education: The Case of Vanier College." He explained the differences between multiculturalism and interculturalism as ideologies in the context of Canada and Quebec and argued that although Vanier College is a highly multicultural institution that is committed to foster and promote the diversity of its student population, the institution still needs to develop intercultural awareness in a more systematic manner.

Eric Lozowy,
Dean of Social Science

ACCC WORLD CONGRESS

Judy Macdonald spoke on empowering students through study abroad projects. She underlined that study abroad projects can be transformative and empowering for participants. All aspects of these projects need to be carefully planned including pre-departure workshops, on the ground experiences, and post-trip follow-up to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Judy Macdonald,

Coordinator of Learning Enrichment & Support Services for Programs



In late May I had the pleasure of speaking in Halifax at the World Congress of Colleges and Polytechnics hosted by ACCC and Nova Scotia Community College. The conference theme was "Driving the Global Economy" and focussed on how education has a profound influence on societies, economies and urban and rural communities. My presentation stressed the importance of student and faculty mobility and how this influences and stimulates growth within the department and the college as a whole. The Vanier nursing departments' Malawi Nursing Exchange, now in its third year, was highlighted. The event was well attended by close to 1,000 participants from around the world. I attended several sessions including inspirational speeches given by David Johnston, Roméo Dallaire, President Vincent Fox, Ann Bueller and our own Director General, Gilbert Herroux. The opportunity to network with faculty and administrators from colleges across Canada and internationally was really exciting. The warmth and hospitality of our Maritime hosts at Nova Scotia Community College was demonstrated by several evening events, my favorite being the "kitchen party" featuring live music and a seafood buffet like nothing I have ever seen.

Melodie Hicks, Nursing

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE



Indonesia is the country with the world's largest Muslim population, and it has recently emerged from authoritarianism into democracy. Indonesia has regions where the local majorities may be Christian, Hindu or Buddhist; and with democracy has come the strife of identity politics. In June, Nathan Loewen travelled to Yogyakarta and Bali as a fellow of the International Summer School on Religion and Public Life. Founded by Adam Seligman (Boston University), the yearly school situates itself in a religiously plural society in order to explore critical issues in the disciplines of religious studies and the social sciences. Nathan immersed himself in the experience: taking photos, travelling to villages, interviewing religious and political leaders and searching out knowledgeable locals. He hopes that his humanities and religious studies students will enjoy this additional knowledge of Asia. The other fellows came from 18 other countries. Now Nathan has strong friendships with scholars in Indonesia, the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and the countries of the Great Lakes region in Africa.

Nathan Lowen, Humanities

PRESENTATIONS OF TAMIL NADU EXPERIENCE

Our one-week student-centered workshop and experience in Tamil Nadu, India was presented to audiences several times during summer 2012. An overview of the partnership between the Canadian and Tamil Nadu governments and our teacher role in Tamil Nadu was presented at the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics World Congress, organized by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 28, 2012). A summary of student-centered approaches and our workshop materials, geared for colleges abroad, CEGEPs and local high schools was presented to a bilingual audience at the Colloque Annuel De L'Association Québécoise de Pédagogie Collégiale (AQPC, Gatineau, Québec, June 6, 2012). Last, a review of the 3 year project between John Abbott and Vanier Colleges and the Tamil Nadu polytechnic colleges, highlighting goals, outcomes and travels, was presented at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference (STLHE, Montreal, Québec, June 20, 2012).



Rhys Adams, Physics

INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (IDBE)

In March 2012, Richard Klopp from the Architectural Technology program defended his thesis at the University of Cambridge (UK), where he has been pursuing post-graduate research in the *Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment* (IDBE) program. The IDBE program has been set up to allow building professionals to produce practice-based research and to encourage more effective teamwork across disciplines engaged in the design and construction of our built environment. The ultimate aim of IDBE is to enable practitioners to better respond to the pressing need for higher performing, sustainable buildings.

Richard Klopp is a recognized leader in sustainable design, both as an advocate, practitioner and educator. He was the chief organizer and curator of the first public exhibition on green buildings in Quebec, entitled "How to Build post-Kyoto," which was an official parallel event to the Montreal Climate Change Conference in 2005. As a practicing architect, he has received a number of design awards for his projects in both Quebec and British Columbia. His first assignment at Vanier was to develop a new course on sustainable design called Innovative Technologies (221-630VA).



Two of his IDBE written works have recently been selected for presentation and publication at national and international conferences. One of the selected written works is a case study involving hands-on learning or "Live Projects" that engaged McGill Architecture students in schoolyard revitalization projects at local primary schools. These projects gave students the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and creativity as well as collaborate with mentor building professionals. Richard intends to present this work to the Vanier community and to set up similar projects for Vanier students in the coming year.

Richard Klopp
Architectural Technology

SILENT AUCTION

THANK YOU!

SILENT AUCTION

The International Education Department's Wine and Cheese Silent Auction was a huge success and we'd like to thank everyone who came out to support us on Thursday, March 29, 2012. Thanks to everyone's generous contributions, we've managed to raise over \$6000. These funds will help support future student mobility projects. For a full list of contributors, and for more photos of the event, check out:

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/international-education/activities/2012/silent-auction

Many thanks to Matt Goldberg, our hilarious MC for the night, who kept the ball rolling and to Patrick Blaizel, the auctioneer from the Montreal Auction House who helped us end the night on a high note.

We would like to thank the SAQ once again for their generosity in providing us with the wine for the event and specialty box sets to auction off. The bread, provided by Première Moisson, and the cheese, from Henry Laurier, were a perfect complement to the wine and we can't thank our liaison, Johanna Consentino, enough for all of her assistance.

Sonia Husseindjian, International Education Project





I hope you have enjoyed our 201 - 2012 *International Education at Vanier College* bulletin. The last academic year included many activities that helped internationalize our campus; these activities continued to help the College fulfill the goal of the Strategic Plan to establish an international presence at Vanier.

Various faculty, as you have read, have undertaken international professional development projects in the past academic year. Thanks to funding by Cégep international, Melodie Hicks, Shirley Zhu, Natalia Pakhomova, and Gabriel Bulgarea all travelled abroad. In addition, Vanier is increasingly invited to participate in international conferences: Rhys Adams, Melodie Hicks and Nathan Loewen were invited to speak either in Canada or abroad as were Eric Lozowy and myself. Shirley Zhu and Sanaa Ritzk had the opportunity to travel to China where they shared their expertise in second language teaching with Chinese colleagues.

At the same time, as you have seen, study abroad projects have provided opportunities for Vanier students to acquire intercultural skills and competencies. In 2011 – 2012, students participated in Business Administration stages in France, the Cultural Trip to China, the Malawi Nursing Exchange, the Nicaragua Study Project, and the Russian Language Exchange. Students also had opportunities to participate in projects in the United States as well as in Canada, namely through the Trip to Boston, the Habitat for Humanity trip, and to Peterborough, Ontario. Orientation workshops were held to maximize learning. Fundraising activities were supported by the faculty involved and by the International Education Office. On their return, students shared their new perspectives with their fellow students.

Community outreach is always important to International Education and we want to thank our many friends within the College for their support, especially the Director General, Gilbert Héroux and our Academic Dean, Martine Gauthier, and the faculty deans, Michael Sendbuehler, Odette Côté and Eric Lozowy. In addition, the Communications Department has been unfailingly helpful on countless occasions. The Pedagogical Development Office has also supported us in all our endeavours, which we greatly appreciate. We want to give thanks to the Vanier Foundation and specifically Silvana Cannatelli, as well as the VCSA, who has been a great supporter of our fundraising activities.

At the same time, we want to thank our many external partners, particularly the Ministère des Relations internationales, Cégep international and LOJIQ, for their assistance. Special thanks go to International Education's travel agent, Brenda Pinsky of Garth Allen Marksted Travel, whose comprehensive services help us ensure the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff who travel abroad.

We expect the international dimension of Vanier College to continue to grow in 2012-2013. The global classroom initiative of Nathan Loewen will bring international experts into Vanier for the benefit of our students. We are hoping to welcome various delegations from abroad and we are looking forward to working with new partners as well as continue to work with our established partners.

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