



## Acadia Welcomes You

### From Oonagh Proudfoot, Manager, Student Support, Student Affairs

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Academic Year. For many of you, this is the first newsletter from the Student Affairs Office, Parents Program. A warm Acadia Welcome to you. For those of you returning to the program, welcome back.

It has been an incredibly busy year thus far. Midterms are ongoing, final exams are just around the corner, our athletic teams are experiencing great successes, residence programming is at an all time high, and harvest time is producing a beautiful landscape in the Valley.

In addition to this being the time of year when midterms are being done and papers are due, many of our students are considering a change in major or, at the very least, a change in their second term courses. This is perfectly normal. Often times, it is just because they are feeling a little overwhelmed with their course load and figure that perhaps their chosen program is not for them. Please remember that introductory courses are just that – introductory. It is often difficult to really get into the course content when a theory is introduced and then they are on to the next topic. Having said that, in many instances,

the course experience so far is enough of a predictor for the student that they may not be in the right program. Additionally, they have been introduced to other disciplines (either through an elective that they are taking or by talking to others on campus who are in other programs) and they have decided that they would like to try something else. This is all possible!

Please encourage your student to speak to someone, either in their current department, the new department that they are interested in, or to someone like me.

This year, we are excited to introduce you to our new Residence Dons, both of whom live on campus and provide additional support and guidance to our on-campus students (see page 4). I hope you find value in this newsletter. Welcome to the Acadia Family.

Sincerely  
Oonagh

#### **Parents Program Contact Information:**

In case of an emergency:  
Safety and Security 24 hours a day  
**902-585-1103**  
Website Address:  
**<http://parents.acadiau.ca/>**  
Parent Email:  
**[parents@acadiau.ca](mailto:parents@acadiau.ca)**  
Phone Contact:  
Carol Fletcher—**902-585-1308**

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#### **Reminder**

If you wish to be removed from this e-mail list at any time, please contact [oonagh.proudfoot@acadiau.ca](mailto:oonagh.proudfoot@acadiau.ca). Please ensure that you include your e-mail address that the newsletter/e-mails are being sent to.

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## **A Word from Kevin Cleary—Director, Safety and Security**

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Welcome to a new year at Acadia University. My name is Kevin Cleary and I am the Director of Safety and Security. I met many of you during Welcome Week and look forward to seeing you on and around campus in the coming months and years.

The Department of Safety and Security reports that the students are making good use of the evening shuttle service throughout campus and the Town of Wolfville. The daytime shuttle service for those experiencing mobility challenges due to ill-

nesses or injuries has also been very busy having been used in excess of 1000 times since the start of classes. Please keep this in mind for your son or daughter should the need arise. The service is absolutely free for students.

In the near future students will be receiving an informative message in relation to campus closures due to weather related events. All students should expect this message from Safety and Security on their Acadia e-mail account.

Students and parents are also reminded of our Lost and Found which is open 24/7. Many valuable items are turned into us. Lost items should be reported if a suitable description can be provided as items are turned in daily and the rightful owners often found.

The Safety and Security Office at Acadia University is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the case of an emergency, please do not hesitate to contact us at 902-585-1103.

Thank you very much, Kevin

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## **Residence Life Updates— Matthew Guy, Manager, Residence Life**

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In Residence Life we are still working on finding permanent rooms for the last few students who were assigned to temporary spaces in residence. We peaked at over 80 students in temporary spaces and it has been challenging finding a place for everyone. We have really appreciated the cooperation of students and parents during such a busy period.

We are now making plans for Winter Break including residence and activities for the small number of students who stay on campus during this time. We work in partnership with the Wong International Centre to ensure that students staying over the break have an enjoyable festive season. For students leaving for winter break, a reminder that residences close on December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon and

reopen for returning residents on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be asking residents to help with an energy reduction program over the break – switching off and unplugging appliances before leaving campus. Over the last two years this has saved a significant amount of energy and, of course, greenhouse gases.

As we look forward to the new semester, the staff in Residence Life will be starting to plan for the 2012 academic year, sending out information about Residence Assistant (RA) recruitment for the next year, planning room selection for returning students and encouraging new students for 2012 to pay their deposits and apply for residence early. We will also be opening our Cutten House residence following a program of bathroom refurbishment. By fall of 2012, Cutten House will add over 200

rooms to our inventory which will certainly be a welcome addition after the increase in students requesting on-campus accommodations over the past two years.

Today I received an email from our RA team in Crowell Tower. They celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> program in that residence – in just under two months! With events ranging from Apple Picking to movies, home cooked meals and a visit to the corn maze, the RAs try to provide a range of activities to entertain, engage and educate residents. These activities are planned in all residences. Please encourage your sons and daughters to take full advantage of the activities available in residence – and talk to their RAs if they have any good ideas.

# 2011-2012 Academic Calendar Dates

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## 2011

October 28	Last day to drop 3h first term courses without academic penalty
November 11	Remembrance Day– no classes
November 25	Last day to apply for Spring Convocation 2012
December 2	Last day of classes before exams
December 3	Study Day
December 5	Examinations Begin—Fall Term
December 17	Last day of examinations—Fall Term
December 18	Residences Close at 12:00 noon



## 2012

January 8	Residences Open (All Returning Students)
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## Exam Kits

**Dear Parents/Guardians of Acadia Students,** Acadia Students' Union organizes many of the events in which your son or daughter takes part throughout the school year. We provide quality programming that helps ease the transition into university life.

The end of each term brings with it stress and tension for those writing exams. Acadia Students' Union would like to offer you an opportunity to show your son or daughter that you are thinking of them.

Our Exam Stress Relief Kit contains an assortment of goodies that can help a student through the stresses of exam time (food staples, toiletries, tasty treats, a SUBCard gift card, and many other snack food, health care, and study aid items).

Provide your son or daughter the Exam Stress Relief Kit, which you can order for both sets of exams (December and April). Proceeds from the sale of the kits will be directed towards the

SMILE program.

Please complete and mail in the order form located on the parents program website.

<http://parents.acadiau.ca/welcome.html>

Include a VISA or MasterCard number (with expiry date) or a cheque/money order, payable to: Acadia Students' Union.

To ensure time for processing, orders should be received by Monday November 14. Your son or daughter will be contacted to pick up their kit just prior to the commencement of the exam period.

Take this opportunity to show your support for your son or daughter and to show them that you are thinking about them during this stressful time.

Acadia Students' Union appreciates your assistance in making this project a success!

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jessome  
ASU President

## Meet Adam and Cecilia—Our new Residence Dons



My name is Adam Tucker. I originally came to Wolfville from Moncton, New Brunswick, after both of my older siblings had stayed close to home for their post-secondary education. When it came time for my choice of a university, I was immediately wowed by the experience that Acadia pro-

vided. I graduated from Acadia with a B. Sc with a double major in Biology and Political Science in 2010. I returned to Acadia in 2010 to receive an Honours Conversion in Biology after completing a work-term in a food microbiology lab at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station. During my time at Acadia, I was an instructor at the SMILE program for 4 years, which gave me the chance to meet many other strong leaders in the Acadia community.

During my 5 years at Acadia I was a New Student Orientation Leader for a year, a Residence Assistant for two years and an Assistant Residence Director in my final year. I lived in four very different residences, and I enjoyed each one for dozens of unique reasons. Our residences at Acadia, and the traditions they encompass, play such a large role in the development of students, both socially and academically, and I feel this drastically enhances the Acadia experience.

Acadia is where I have had the greatest experiences of my life and met some of my best friends, so I am extremely grateful and excited that I was given an opportunity to return to Acadia as part of the Residence Life staff team. I look forward to helping students in their transition to the university experience, and working as part of a team to advance Residence Life's mission at Acadia.

My name is Cecilia Jacobs and I am one of the Residence Dons for 2011-2012 year at Acadia University. I grew up in the beautiful Annapolis Valley just outside of Port Williams.

I graduated in May 2008 from Acadia University with a Bachelors of Arts, majoring in History and minoring in Classics. That summer I backpacked through Western Europe to travel and explore the unique culture of Europe.

I completed my Bachelors of Education in Secondary Education in October 2010. During my stay at Acadia University I have been involved in various activities throughout the campus. I have worked with the Acadia University Art Gallery, the Vaughan Memorial Library and I was also a Resident Assistant for three and a half years. I have lived in Dennis House, Chase Court and War Memorial.

I just spent the last year in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates teaching at a private international school. I had a great experience teaching and travelling and I have a much deeper understanding of the Middle-East than I had before.

Through all of my experiences it is wonderful to be back at Acadia University and to be part of the Residence Life Staff!



[residencelife@acadiau.ca](mailto:residencelife@acadiau.ca)

902-585-1417

## Some Changes on Campus

### From Vanessa Broome, Campus Visit Co-ordinator, Student Recruitment Advisor—Faculty of Arts, Enrolment Services

**Vanessa Broome**, previously the Parents Program Coordinator, is now the Campus Visit Co-ordinator (as well as remaining as the Student Recruitment Advisor for the Faculty of Arts).

What does this mean? Well, she is now the person to see if you or anyone you know would like to tour the campus, meet professors, see residences, and generally get to know what a great campus and community we have. She invites you to contact her with any questions regarding visiting the campus or recruitment in general. If a student is incoming in the Faculty of Arts, she is the contact person as well.

While excited to be taking on this new role on campus, Vanessa will miss her role as the Parents Program Coordinator, offering the following comment to parents, "Thank you for all of the support that you have shown towards me!"

[vanessa.broome@acadiau.ca](mailto:vanessa.broome@acadiau.ca) or call 902-585-1135