



First Term of 2011/12 completed!

From Oonagh Proudfoot, Manager, Student Support, Student Affairs

Can you believe that it is December?! For many of you, it is your son or daughter's first term and I am certain that they have had some highs and lows throughout their first few months here. For others of you, your son or daughter may be heading into their final term at Acadia and graduating in the Spring. Regardless of the circumstances, this time of year can bring with it a lot of questions. (Please note the article on page 2 for graduating students).

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, many students are questioning their choice of major. This may continue and may likely be triggered by their marks from this term. Changing majors is absolutely possible and may very well be the answer to your student being happier at University and achieving better grades.

If your student is content with their chosen area of study but is struggling, we have numerous resources available to assist them: the Writing Centre, the Math and Stats Help Centre, the Physics Help Centre, and tutoring—to name a few.

Some of your students will be receiving a letter from the President and Vice President Academic, congratulating them on an excellent first term. Other students (in upper years) will be receiving a letter congratulating them on improving their academic performance. A great term and congratulations to them!

Other students will be receiving a letter indicating that their grade point average is cause for concern and that they are at risk of being dismissed or placed on academic probation. This, of course, will trigger unease and uncertainty. I am here to help in this situation. This letter comes from me and I will happily meet with any student who receives this letter and discuss their options with them. It is NOT the end of their academic career. If a student wants to be here and wants to

be successful, a rough first term is not going to prevent them from doing this. I am living proof. It was twenty-two years ago this month that I got the same letter and now I sign and send these letters. Oh the irony of it!

Our students are looking forward to their break, many of whom will be travelling home for the Holiday Season. Many of our students, particularly the International Students, will be staying locally for the break. Either way, it is a welcome time for relaxation and a time to re-energize for the coming term. The winter term can often feel very long with its short days and cold weather and stress levels can often run high, particularly for those students making big changes and for those who are graduating. Please remember that support exists for all students—all they have to do is ask.

I do hope that you and your family had a wonderful term. Holiday Greetings from the Student Affairs and Services staff at Acadia University and all the best for 2012!



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

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. Please ensure that you include your e-mail address that the newsletter/e-mails are being sent to.

Convocation Information From Krista Friesen, 2012 Class President

Hello Parents of 2012 Graduates,

This is a very exciting year for those of you who have a son or daughter graduating and I know as a student I am not the best at relaying information about grad week back to my parents! The following is a list of important information pertaining to grad week:

Friday May 11, 2012

- Afternoon: BBQ/Picnic for the graduates and their family
- Evening: Parents night at the Axe

Saturday May 12, 2012

- Afternoon: Golf Tournament for grads and parents
- Evening: Kitchen Party for grads and parents

Sunday May 13, 2012

- Morning: Baccalaureate Service

- Afternoon: Convocation: Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Arts at 3:00 pm

Evening: Banquet for grads and parents

Monday May 14, 2012

- Morning: Convocation: Faculty of Pure and Applied Science 10:00 am
- Afternoon: Convocation: Faculty of Professional Studies 2:30 pm
- Evening: Formal for grads

All of the aforementioned events will be taking place on the Acadia campus. That being said, it is suggested if you are coming you look into accommodations very soon as not only will this be graduation weekend, but that weekend alumni will also be gathering in Wolfville for a reunion. There will also be the option to stay on campus.

Tickets for the grad week events will be

going on sale the first week of February. The students will be made very aware of this.

If you want grad photos, it is highly encouraged the students go to Light and Lens Photography in Wolfville, as they have all the caps and gowns there already.

This is the convocation website which will likely answer anymore of your questions in that regard <http://convocation.acadiau.ca/home.html>

If you have anymore questions please feel free to contact me at anytime at 2012classpres@acadiau.ca

Cheers,

Krista Friesen

2012 Acadia Grad Class President

An Integral Part of Our Campus— the Chapel

Greetings from the Manning Memorial Chapel, chapel of Acadia University. The fall term nears completion as the students are in the midst of exams. At this time I am able to reflect on the past few months and inform you of upcoming programs and events in the 2012 spring term. First, though, a brief history lesson is in order.

The Manning Memorial Chapel building was completed in 1963 after a number of years of fundraising and planning, something that was initiated by the student body in the late 1950s. A central spot for worship or quiet reflection was desired by those who, previously, had been attending regular services in the Convocation Hall of University Hall. The chapel has had a fulltime chaplain ever since the completion of the building. The chaplaincy at Acadia is committed to an ecumenical and inter-faith philosophy, embracing and supporting the freedom of all individuals in their expressions of spirituality. It is a chaplaincy which is proud of a rich Christian and Baptist heritage but one

that honours many different views of faith.

Today there are 5 daily services each week and 5 vesper services each week during term. On Sunday night there is an evening service which begins at 7:00pm. This past term we have been very fortunate to have enjoyed the musical gifts of many students in the worship service. The university and chapel organist, John Scott, provides able leadership in the music program of the chapel. Most of the Sunday night services include the presence of a guest speaker, individuals from the Acadia community as well as surrounding areas. One of the highlights of the fall term was the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols which was held in Convocation Hall.

Chaplaincy at Acadia does not stop with the services. Many organizations from on campus and off campus are able to use the chapel space for various events. These range from musical concerts to informal gatherings in the chapel hall to Muslim prayer observances to students studying hard in the chapel library. Along with the assistant chaplain, the Rev. Virginia

Cookman, I work throughout the week in areas of counseling, providing program leadership, visiting the different areas of campus and maintaining communications with students, staff and faculty. This means that much of the chaplaincy work is done outside the building and across the breadth of the campus.

The Manning Memorial Chapel is open each day from 6:00am until 10:00pm and invites anyone who wishes a quiet few moments in the midst of hectic days. It is a place of meditation and contemplation as well as a hive of activity from time to time.

This is but a quick snapshot of the chaplaincy at Acadia but one that hopefully will be inviting to any who wish to be involved in one way or another in this aspect of the Acadia community.

I send to all of you my very best wishes for this holiday season. In a period of reflection and perhaps rest for many, I hope we all will be refreshed and renewed as we enter into 2012. Peace.

The Rev. Timothy J. McFarland.

2011-2012 Academic Calendar Dates

2011

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)
January 9	Classes Begin –Winter Term
January 16	Last Day for Course Additions Last Day to drop full year courses without academic penalty
January 27	Final Exam Schedule Posted for April Examinations
February 20-24	Study Week

Important Notice!!!

Thank you to those undergraduate students who have applied to graduate in Spring 2012. If you missed the November 25 deadline, please contact the Registrar's Office immediately as we need to check your records and add you to the list of potential graduates.

Residence Update

RA Recruitment for 2012/2013

We have released the application packs for students wanting to apply to be a Resident Assistant (RA) for the 2012/2013 school year. Being an RA is one of the most demanding but rewarding positions available on campus. Application packs are available for students to pick up in our office or they can be downloaded from our website <http://residencelife.acadiu.ca>

Room Selection for 2012/2013

In the New Year we will send out information to all current residents about our room selection process for securing a room in residence for September 2012. Students will have three options:

- Keep the same room they are in (if in a single or both residents wish to stay in a double)
- Enter the room draw to stay in the same residence (in-house room draw)
- Enter the general room draw to move into a room in a different residence on campus

Students wanting to take a double room will need to select their own roommate. Students returning to residence have first choice of available rooms. Students wanting to return to residence (or upper year students entering residence for the first time) can apply online in February and should contact our office for details.

Residence Closing

As we close residences for the winter break we will again be taking part in a campus wide energy reduction program involving reducing power usage when buildings are empty. We are encouraging students to clean, defrost and unplug any fridges they may have as well as unplugging any cellphone chargers, TVs, computers or other appliances which drain power. Staff will also be turning off photocopiers, computers and other appliances in our offices as we leave for the break

Residences close on the 18th of December and will reopen for returning students on the 8th of January 2012.

Cutten House

There have been some delays in the refurbishment of Cutten House and unfortunately Cutten will not be available in January. We are looking forward to Cutten House being an available option for students in September 2012.

This term at the International Centre

Greetings from the Wong International Center!

The first semester has certainly flown by! International students had the opportunity to experience many new activities at the Wong International Center during the last four months. Here are some of the highlights:

September

New Student Orientation Leaders, WIC Staff and the Acadia Community gave a warm welcome to the new International students at the International Student Orientation. New students participated in sessions regarding Academic Expectations, Cultural Awareness and many other important topics

We learned to skate with WIC volunteers at the Acadia Arena. This was an exciting event as most students had never been on skates before! There were a few stumbles but lots of laughs as they skated the afternoon away.

We gave back to the Annapolis Valley community by picking apples for the Wolfville Food Bank. The weather was perfect as we spent time getting to know each other at Elderkin's U-Pick.

October

Canadian Study Abroad participants cooked a delicious and festive turkey dinner to enjoy with International Study Abroad participants at the Exchange Student Dinner. Students shared stories about their home countries, experiences studying abroad and travelling tips.

Students learned more about Nova Scotia as they travelled on a South Shore Tour. We enjoyed visiting animals at Ross Farm Museum, eating a picnic lunch at Second Peninsula Park, learning about the Bluenose at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic and taking photos with the scarecrows in Mahone Bay.

To further celebrate the Fall season in the valley, we visited Noggins Corn Maze. Everyone enjoyed getting lost in the corn maze and then spending time together at the bonfire.

To celebrate Hallowe'en, we carved pumpkins and attended a fun ice skate with the Acadia Synchronized Skating team. Students enjoyed dressing up in costumes, bobbing for apples and eating Hallowe'en treats.

The WIC partnered with the Kings Kikima Grannies for the Kikima jewelry sale event on October 28th. The Acadia community helped the Grannies raise \$1,174.73 for African children's school fees, improved water resources and micro-loans.

Immigration Canada visited us on October 28th to inform students about the Nova Scotia Nominee Program for students interested in immigrating to Canada after they graduate.

November

Students started preparing for the colder temperature at the Halifax winter clothing shopping trip on November 12th.

From November 14-18, we celebrated International Education Week with the Acadia community. We listened to students share their summer 2011 experiences with the Students for Development program at their information session on November 16th. We learned about the Acadia Study Abroad program on November 17th. All through the week we learned what was special about studying in Wales, Spain, France and Australia as Study Abroad participants shared their experiences at the Vaughan Memorial Library information kiosk.

December

We've begun to celebrate the holiday season with a festive tree decorating and holiday baking event. Students enjoyed sipping hot chocolate while hanging ornaments and baking cookies before they went outside to make a snowman family on the WIC lawn.

It has been an exciting and busy first semester. Please encourage students to attend International centre events as it is a great way to meet new friends! Also, as we enter 2012, please remind your sons and daughters to make sure their documents are in order for travelling in and out of Canada and to be sure to check the expiry date on all passports, visas and permits.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and a prosperous new year!

Off-Campus Meal Plan

So, your student has moved off campus? Concerned they aren't getting enough to eat?

We have the perfect gift for both of you!

An off-campus meal plan that will ensure your student can get a great meal anytime* or will have some available cash to spend at our retail outlets when they are on the run.

It's a win-win deal!

- 10 meals plus \$25 flex cash for \$144.50
- 35 meals plus \$100 flex cash for \$495.00
- 60 meals plus \$175 flex cash for \$784.50
- 80 meals plus \$250 flex cash for \$1,024.25

(all prices include tax)

*Wheelock Dining Hall is open 7 am to 9 pm Mon-Fri and 9 am to 9 pm Sat, Sun and Holidays

Visit us at www.dineoncampus.ca/acadiau to view menus and other great campus happenings

To purchase your meal plan go to

<http://www.dineoncampus.ca/acadiau/?cmd=communters>

OR https://go.acadiau.ca/axecash/axecash_entry.jsp

Or contact the Residence Life Office at 902-585-1417