



# First Term of 2012/13 completed!

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

Can you believe that we are almost at the end of first term?! 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 could 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-three 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 2013!



## Inside this issue:

Convocation Information	2
Exam Stress Kits	2
2012-2013 Calendar Dates	3
Transportation Update	3
Residence Update	4

## Reminder

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

## Convocation Information From Becca Webster, 2013 Class President

It is a very exciting year for those of you who have a son or daughter graduating from Acadia. To help ensure that you are aware of important information pertaining to grad weekend, please take a look at the following **tentative** schedule:

### Friday May 11, 2012

- Evening: Parents Night at the Axe ft. Signal Hill

### Saturday May 12, 2012

- Afternoon: Golf Tournament for Grads and Parents
- Evening: BBQ/Dinner at the Axe

### Sunday May 13, 2012

- Morning: Baccalaureate Service
- Afternoon: Convocation - Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Arts
- Evening: Banquet for Grads and Par-

ents, Post-Banquet Reception at the Axe  
**Monday May 14, 2012**

- Morning: Convocation - Faculty of Pure and Applied Science
- Afternoon: Convocation - Faculty of Professional Studies
- Evening: Formal for Grads

All of the aforementioned events will be taking place on the Acadia campus with the exception of the Golf Tournament, which is planned to take place at the Ken-Wo Golf Club. With that being said, it is suggested that you look into accommodations very soon if you are planning on staying in Wolfville for the weekend as it will not only be graduation weekend, but alumni will also be gathering in Wolfville for a reunion. Keep in mind that 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 aware of the process and the exact date.

If you would like to order grad photos, it is highly encouraged that the students go to Light and Lens Photography in Wolfville, as money will go back to the Grad Class and they have all the caps and gowns there already.

Please keep the following link to the convocation website, which will be updated periodically as details are finalized: <http://convocation.acadiau.ca/home.html>. Hopefully it will answer any questions that you may have.

If you do have questions please feel free to contact me at anytime at 2013class-pres@acadiau.ca

Cheers,

Becca Webster

2013 Acadia Grad  
Class President



## Exam Stress Kits

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 SUB Card 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 attached to the same email as this newsletter. 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 **Friday November 16**. 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,

Matt Rios, ASU President



# 2011-2012 Academic Calendar Dates

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## 2012

November 12, 13	No Classes
November 30	Last Day for undergrads to apply for Spring Convocation
November 30	Last Day of Classes
December 1	Study Day
December 3	Examinations Begin—Fall Term
December 15	Last day of examinations—Fall Term
December 16	Residences Close at 12:00 noon

## 2013

January 3	Residences Open Winter Term New Students Only
January 6	Residences Open (All Returning Students)
January 7	Classes Begin –Winter Term/ Fee Deadline
January 14	Last Day for Course Additions and dropping Winter courses without a “W” Last Day to drop full year courses without a failing grade
January 25	Final Exam Schedule Posted for April Examinations
February 18-22	Study Week

## *Transportation Information*

As many of you know, Acadian Lines, our provincial bus service is closing its doors on November 30, 2012. I have been receiving many phone calls and emails from parents about transportation options, particularly to the airport from campus. When the news of the closure hit campus, the students, of course, began to get creative and in the day of social media, began a Facebook group called “Carpool Acadia”. I joined the group and can say that it is very active and popular. Basically, anyone travelling to the airport (or anywhere for that matter) will post when they are leaving, their destination, and how much room that they have. Then others in the group can speak for one of the spots. Similarly, those who are looking for a ride can post a request.

And that is not the only option available to students. I am happy to report, based on a news report from November 1, that there will be a new Maritime bus service called Tri-Maritime Bus Network. This service hopes to “replace the current Acadian Lines Service, but drop some routes and bring busing to other parts of the province in the future”. (please see <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2012/11/01/nb-maritime-bus-coach-atlantic-approved.html>) It appears that the start date for the service is to be December 1, 2012, although I have not read/found further information on this as of yet.

In addition, of course, are the local taxi companies who have been providing campus to airport service for our students for many years. While the cost is high, door-to-door, time specific service is guaranteed.

# Residence Life Update—Matthew Guy, Manager

## Cutten House

My name is Matthew Guy and I am grateful for this opportunity to give you a brief update on things happening in our residences. One of the most exciting developments for us over the past few years has been the reopening of Cutten House. Cutten was closed in 2007 (just as I started at Acadia) as we had a low demand for residence rooms and the building had problems with leaking pipework in bathrooms. Many of these leaks were inside the drywall in the building and sadly there were no quick fixes to the issue. Although a major problem the bathroom repairs also presented an opportunity to make significant improvements in facilities and comfort in Cutten House. When Cutten was built it was a women only residence, and communal bathrooms with shower stalls were the norm. With the refurbishment, we used the opportunity to create private bathroom spaces preferred by students. We also increased the number of washrooms within the building – again to meet expectations of students. Cutten welcomed new and returning students in September and has already established itself in our campus community, winning a number of House Cup events. We have a great RA and House Council team in the building who are creating a vibrant new community on our campus.

## Wireless

Another exciting development has been our work over the summer on increasing wireless access to the Acadia network in residence. With more devices only accessing the internet through wireless

(including cell phones and tablets), it has been fantastic to be able to roll out wireless throughout our entire residences. Previously wireless signals were concentrated around lounge areas with only limited coverage in rooms. Technology services continue to test for any gaps in coverage and are asking students to notify the helpdesk of any problems.

## Dons

We now have a third Don on our campus. Richelle Lubin is a very welcome addition to the team. Richelle joins existing Dons, Cecilia Jacobs and Adam Tucker providing support to students in all aspects of their residence experience. Our excellent team of Dons together with our nine Senior Resident Assistants and our 72 Resident Assistants are available to provide support directly to students as well as direct them to any further sources of help on campus or in the community. Having such an experienced and well trained staff team, I would ask you to please encourage students to make use of the resource should they require any help or guidance at any time.

This semester we have over 1500 students living in residence, the highest number in nine years. We had an amazing welcome week full of fantastic programs and events and our RAs and House Councils have kept up this momentum throughout the semester. I have been really pleased how the semester is going and feel we have a great base to build upon for the rest of the year.

Matthew Guy, Manager, Residence Life

## 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)

\*Whelock 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](http://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](https://go.acadiau.ca/axecash/axecash_entry.jsp)

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