

***Fall 2006***

**Purpose of the CIG:**

***The Canada Interest Group provides a forum for Canadian academic advisors to network with their colleagues across our large country and to share concerns that have a uniquely Canadian focus. The Interest Group was created to ensure that Canadian issues and concerns are addressed within the NACADA organization. One of our goals is to increase communication among Canadian members and to liaise more frequently with provincial advising-related associations. Despite the fact that post-secondary educational systems vary from province to province, Canadian academic advisors share many common concerns. We welcome input from all Canadian student advisors and invite you to meet other Canadians and share your advising interests at our annual meeting at the national conference.***



Who invited the Canadian's? The 'Aloha Canada...' session in Honolulu at the Region 8 & 9 Conference. March 22-24 2006.

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I have started writing this blurb three times in the last three months, and each time I have had to change the headings and opening statements! The first draft was a wish to each of you for new energy and renewal as spring made its way across our country. Then I got overrun with last minute students planning their lives prior to leaving for the summer. Like all of you I was literally swimming in meetings with Faculty as all of our Academic staff were preparing to leave for the summer.

After the exodus of students and College employees for summer holidays I breathed a sigh of relief and sat down to continue this newsletter again. I made some really great progress this time! I was wishing you the creativity and energy needed to launch new projects but at the same time the wisdom to find time to enjoy lazy summer evenings with friends and family. This attempt was shattered like the shrill of an alarm clock dissolves a magical dream by my online calendar 'beeping' and 'dinging' alerts at me!

Apparently I had put off everything that I have ever wanted to complete professionally until the '*down time*' of summer. At the same time our offices had what felt like every single newly graduated high school student flocking to us. Oh yes; we also had orientation to help plan, No Crying in Advising sessions running, holiday time to juggle and a maternity leave to fill...this must sound familiar to every one of you! Needless to say this newsletter once again slipped to the backburner.

So now I begin the process again with the steely resolve to not only finish this project but to send it out as well! I want to congratulate all of you on making it through the most ridiculously busy time of year on any post secondary campus. I look to my colleagues with admiration and respect as I watch so many of you switch gears to face the fall chaos with strength, caring and perseverance, all the while ensuring that your students remain at the centre of all you do!

I hope that I will get the opportunity to meet some of you at the upcoming National conference in Indianapolis October 18-21. Our session will be held on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:15- 4:15 in the Congress room 1-2 of the Westin hotel. I will also be at the Fair on the Thursday morning from 7:30- 8:30. I hope to see some of you there, and perhaps we can get together for dinner that night!

Finally, I want to offer a message of support, which I know comes from all of us, to our colleagues at Dawson College. We all know that words alone can not rebuild confidence, create a sense of security or heal wounded spirits. Please know these words represent the heart break we all felt that day for you, your students and the rest of your campus community.

All the best in the 2006-2007 academic year,

*Natasha Buis*

Chair – Canada Interest Group



### **Odd Ducks!**

Advisors deal with all sorts of people, including the 'Odd Ducks' of the world! I had asked some of you to submit your funniest Advisee stories so we could all share a laugh. Enjoy!

... "During my first week here as the advisor in the Psychology Department at Brock, I had a phone call from a student who attended a private college in the area. She was about to defend her thesis the following day. I can't remember the exact topic now, but it was something about how the brain works when people learn to read. The request went something like this, "Hi, I'm calling because I'm defending my thesis tomorrow and I'd like to borrow a brain." I was thrown completely off-guard. It took me a few questions to find out that she wasn't even one of our students! Then, when I told her that it would be highly unlikely that any faculty members who had a model of the human brain would be willing to lend one out because the models are quite expensive, she said, "I can't remember - what's closer to a human brain, a pig or a cow?" When I asked her why she wanted to know that, she said, "Well, if I knew, I could go to the slaughterhouse this afternoon and pick one up." At that point, I terminated the call. I have no idea if she ended up taking a brain to her defense (her own or some poor creature's!), but I never did hear back from her!" - Jo Stewart, Brock University.

... "I was pretty new to advising, and didn't yet have my questioning skills refined when I encountered my dizziest student ever... still to this day. A lovely young lady came to my office to get more information about becoming a Zoologist. I went into details about the program options she had and the upgrading she would need to pursue Sciences. After quite a few minutes she looked at me with a deer in the headlights look and said "But I hate sciences! I only want to work at the Zoo!" It taught me an important lesson, early on, about clarification of goals!" - Sally Burgess, Mount Royal College.

... "I came in to the office, after having fought off the flu virus for a couple of days in bed. Still feeling a little bit like I had just finished riding a roller coaster, I started seeing students. A mother came in with 2 kids in tow and we talked about a lot of different things; upgrading, career potential, post-secondary programs and funding. After a lengthy session the daughter was asking the mother when they could leave as she wasn't feeling well. The mother then explained that she kept both kids home that day because they both complained that they weren't well enough to go to school. As we all stood up to leave and in one smooth motion the young girl stood up and threw up all over my office floor. Of course the mom was embarrassed and the daughter was mortified and they apologized profusely. Having just recovered from the flu myself, I am in the throws of 'sympathy sickness.' After the family was clear of my office, I bolted outside for a blast of cold, fresh air and that seemed to appease my stomach. After a few minutes and many deep breaths, I felt like I was ready to continue on with the day, but needed to find a new office to work from while the facilities staff cleaned up the mess. I had to go back in to retrieve some of my essential advising tools and when I opened that door, a wave of nausea hit me with full force and almost pushed me over the edge. My temperature must have gone up 2 degrees and my heart rate must have increased to about 130 beats per minute and as I collected my things and bolted from my office, I knew that there was no way I would be able to see anyone that morning, so I spent the rest of the morning returning phone calls from another office!" - Greg Wagner, Grant MacEwan College.

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**Professional Development Organizations & Opportunities**

NACADA:

<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/>

BCADA:

<http://www.bcada.ca/>

Academic Impressions:

<https://www.academicimpressions.com/index.htm>

Society for College and University Planning:

<http://www.scup.org/>

The Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education:

<http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/csshe/>

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education:

<http://www.podnetwork.org/>

Educause:

<http://www.educause.edu/pd>

Ontario Advising Association: Under development Contact Tom Fairbairn [tfairbairn@ocad.on.ca](mailto:tfairbairn@ocad.on.ca)

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada:

<http://www.aucc.ca/>

Noel Levitz:

<https://www.noellevitz.com/>

CACUSS:

<http://www.cacuss.ca/en/index.lasso>

Student Advisors Conference:

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/OmbudService/index.cfm>

Alberta Services for Students:

<http://access.ace.sait.ab.ca/Assc/>

## **Accolades and Updates!**

*Darren Francis* from the University College of the Fraser Valley published an article in the February 2006 issue of *Academic Advising Today* – “Advising Against Pop-culture”. Great work Darren! Lets all support each other in our efforts to break ground in our field.

The Canada Contact list continues to be update as new members submit their information to me. The next update will be sent out after the National Conference. If you have not received an email from me confirming that I have added you to the list, then please email me your information again. [natasha.buis@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca](mailto:natasha.buis@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca)

At a number of Professional Development events I have heard colleagues commiserate about how nice it would be to have a comprehensive list of high school courses and their equivalences in their offices. I have been unable to find one to this point so included in this newsletter is a first draft of one! The information has been compiled from a number of different resources and has not been vetted by other professionals to this point. Please take a look at it and send me any changes or corrections you find.

A number of professionals have been hard at work in Ontario to form a professional association for Academic Advisors. There was a meeting held at the CACUSS conference to determine if there is any interest. The group was informed that they could qualify for Special Status and a standing committee was formed. Bryan Butryn from Brock University stepped up to the plate to act as Chair. If you would like more information or wish to roll up your sleeves to help, please contact Bryan. [bbutryn@brocku.ca](mailto:bbutryn@brocku.ca)

If you have things that you would like announced please feel free to send me updates, accolades and general information for the next news letter!

	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>PEI</b>	<b>NF</b>
<b>English</b>	ELA10-1/10	ELA 10	ELA 10A/10B	ELA (20F)	ENG2D					
	ELA10-2/13	ELA 10	ELA 10A/10B		ENG2P					
	ELA20-1/20	English 11	ELA 20	2 of ELA (30S) Comp or Lit or Tran	ENG3U					
	ELA 20-2/23	Comm 11	Comm Studies 20	1 of ELA (30S) Comp or Lit or Tran, or English 30G	ENG3C					
	ELA 30-1/30	English 12	ELA A30/B30	2 Credits of ELA (40S) Comp or Lit or Tran or English 40S	ENG4U	English Lit 603 CGEP	English 121 or 122	English 12	English 611 or 621	English 3201
	ELA 30-2/33	Tech & Prof Comm 12 or Comm 12		1 of ELA (40S) Comp or Lit or Tran or English 40G	ENG4C					
<b>Math</b>	Pure Math 10/ 10	Principles of Math 10	Math 10	Pre-Calculus (20S)	MPM2D					
	Applied Math 10/13	Applications of Math 10	Math 10	Applied or Consumer (20S)	MFM2D					
	Pure Math20/ 20	Principles of Math 11	Math 20 (core)	Pre-Calculus (30S) or Math 30S	MCR3U					
	Applied Math 20/ 23	Applications of Math 11	Math 20 (core)	Applied or Consumer (30S) or Math 30G	MCM3M or MBF3C					
	Pure Math 30/30	Principles of Math 12	Math A30/B30 and C30	Pre-Calculus 40S or Math 40S	MCB4U, MGA4U or MDM4U			Pre-Calculus Math 12	Math 621	Math 3204 or 3205
	Applied Math 30/33	Applications of Math 12	Math A30 (core)	Applied or Consumer Math 40S or Math 40G	MAP4C or MCT4C					
	Math 31	Calculus 12	Calculus 30		MCB4U and MGA4U			Calculus 12	Math 611	
<b>Biology</b>	Biology 20	Biology 11	Biology 20 (core)	Biology 30S or 30G	SBI3U or SBI3C					
	Biology 30	Biology 12	Biology 30 (core)	Biology 40S	SBI4U	Biology 101 CGEP	Biology 121 or 122	Biology 12	Biology 621	Biology 3201
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemistry 20	Chemistry 11	Chemistry 20 (core)	Chemistry 30S	SCH3U					
	Chemistry 30	Chemistry 12	Chemistry 30 (core)	Chemistry 40S	SCH4U or SCH4C	Chemistry 202 CGEP	Chemistry 121 or 122	Chemistry 12	Chemistry 611 or 621	Chemistry 3202
<b>Physics</b>	Physics 20	Physics 11	Physics 20 (core)	Physics 30S	SPH3U					
	Physics 30	Physics 12	Physics 30 (core)	Physics 40S	SPH4U or SPH4C	Physics 203 CGEP	Physics 121 or 122	Physics 12	Physics 621	Physics 3204
<b>Science</b>	Science30				SNC4M					
<b>Social</b>	Social Studies 30	History 12	Social Studies 30 or History 30 or Native Studies 30	Western Civi 40S or History 40S	CHI4U or CHY4U	History 330 CGEP	History 121 or 122	History 12 or Global History 12	History 621	World History 3201

