"It was an initiation into the love of learning, of learning how to learn... as a matter of interdisciplinary cognition - that is, learning to know something by its relation to something else."

~ Leonard Bernstein

E-Portfolio PRO!

Congratulations to our very own ASCI student, EMILY VROOMAN for winning the e-portfolio contest and receiving an iPad!

As part of eP week, members of the University of Guelph community were invited to participate in the 2nd annual ePortfolio Contest.

The goal of this contest was to creatively use ePortfolio to document a "learning journey".

Submissions were judged according to the following criteria: Content & Reflections, Style & Organization, Creativity and Media Use.

Winners of the eP Contest 2012, Emily Vrooman & Christopher Dulhanty

Click HERE for the public link to Emily’s ePortfolio! Emily presents a thoughtful, comprehensive, and professional summary of her learning journey so far. She uses the ePortfolio skillfully to tour the viewer through her autobiography, co-curriculars, favorite papers, Arts and Sciences courses and courses in her minors, Biology and History.

(A highlight is the picture of Jerome and Emily’s tribute to Jerome who she credits with guiding her into the BAS after an indeterminate first-year in Science : )

And just like that...another academic year is drawing to a close. Is it me, or did that go by a little quickly? As always, during final exams (and for the rest of the summer semester actually) I will not have regular drop in hours. If you want to see me, you’re welcome to contact me to set up an appointment, or just try your luck and drop by. I’m usually in my office anyway, so if I’m not busy, I’d be happy to meet with you. You know you can always reach me by email at bas@uoguelph.ca too! Good luck on your finals all!
Graduate Opportunity!

I recently received an email from Chantal Barriault informing me that Rebecca Spring, a 2006 BAS graduate (Her minors were Ecology and English), has just been hired as the Manager of Sustainable Transportation with World Wildlife Fund Canada. This follows Rebecca’s time at Pollution Probe as a project manager which she landed during her internship for the Science Communication Graduate Diploma.

Chantal Barriault is the Co-Director of the Science Communication program which is offered jointly by Laurentian University and Science North, the only program of its kind in North America.

This program focuses on the theoretical and practical foundations of science communication as well as the development and practical application of communications to advance the public's understanding of science.

An eight-week internship and a major research paper round out this 10 month diploma. Rebecca found that this course fit nicely with her interdisciplinary background and provided her with new applicable skills that helped her land her current job as a Project Manager at Pollution Probe, a Canadian environmental organization.

Rebecca has suggested in the past that BAS students may be especially interested/suited for the Laurentian program. While her combination of English and Ecology obviously worked well, any students that have combined an art (be it fine art or social science) with a science may be interested in this program.

University of Guelph Bachelor of Arts and Science students are very welcome in their program. In fact, consider this a personal invitation from the program for you to apply! BAS students have writing and creative skills that they very much appreciate, along with the perspectives YOU bring to their courses and projects.

The best thing is that the SCOM program is still accepting applications for Fall 2012! I have been in touch with Chantal and she has said that she would be pleased to send you further information on the Science Communication diploma program.

Chantal Barriault can be reached at 705.522.3701 ext. 245 or you can email her at: barriault@sciencenorth.ca
The Bachelor of Arts & Science STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION!

Once again BASSA has worked hard all year to represent you across campus on numerous committees and meetings. Thank you to all the outgoing executive & board members...


You should definitely take a moment to send them an email of thanks at bassa@uoguelph.ca! Do it. Now.

Introducing the 2012/13 BASSA EXEC

President
Aleisha Korga

VP Academics
Veronika Kratz

VP Activities
Jessica Adams

VP Finances/Admin
Carolin Tarjan

CSAHS Rep
TBA

CASU Rep
TBA

CBS-SC
TBA

CPES
TBA

BAS Senator
Deanna Brockmann

Fourth Year Rep
Jake MacTavish

Third Year Rep
TBA

Second Year Rep
Naomi Mendes

First Year Rep
TBA

Cluster Rep
TBA

Have event ideas? Want to be involved? Email bas@uoguelph.ca

Become an ASCI SIB!

Would you like to make a difference in the BAS community next year? Would you like to help a first year student discover the BAS program? As the Winter 2012 semester is nearing its end, the ASCI Sibs program would like to recruit older sibs for the Fall semester! All are welcome, including former younger sibs, former older sibs, and those totally new to the program. The program is based on personal initiative, but responsibilities of being an older sib can include: helping your younger sib with course selection, showing your younger sib around campus and the city of Guelph, and making them feel involved and included in the BAS community. Everyone is accepted to be a sib and we will make matches on the basis of a questionnaire. If you are interested in signing up email ascisib@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can get started with matching!
Sometimes we take for granted how talented and generally terrific our fellow ASCI's are. For example, did you know that our very own Jay Reid is part of Lifestory: Monologue, a six person band, based out of Guelph? Yup, he’s on bass and vocals.

One review of the band says, “Honest, aggressive, and unrestrained, Lifestory’s music defies the boundaries of post-hardcore. Forget what you’ve heard about other “unique” bands. Their brand of gritty art-rock fuses spoken word with something like screamo in a complex mix that’s strange at first, but hard to ignore after.”

Check out their website, follow them on Twitter, take a listen, and enjoy!  
http://www.myspace.com/lifestorymonologue

Horoscopes

Aries – What is there to say? You’re amazing. Seriously. It has definitely been your time to shine lately. Some great opportunities have opened up for you. You’ve been doing some great networking and some terrific personal development. Good. Here’s the thing. You need to start thinking about the future. I’m seeing some change coming up for you. Some of it may be major…you’ll determine that with your decisions. One word of caution…there is someone close to you who is all about the drama. Try not to give this person too much of your time. Take care of it professionally and efficiently. Also…you should buy red shoes for the summer. Yup.

Taurus – So this past weekend I was singing in a choir concert. Specifically there was a small group of us doing the opening number. Unfortunately, the opening number happened to be “Le Chant Des Oiseaux” by Janequin (goulish it, it’s crazy), and up until the actual day of the concert, we had never successfully run through the whole song. At the rehearsal an hour before the concert, we finally did it. So listen…even when things seem like they’re hopeless and you have no idea what you’re doing, as long as you push through and end cleanly, the audience never has to know any better. Keep this in mind as you face your own angry birds in the next few weeks! Tweet!

Gemini – The other night I had some friends over for dinner. After dinner, we decided to watch a movie…but then realize it was too late for an actual movie, so we opted to watch random things on the internets. It ranged from fun and interesting to inappropriate and disturbing. We settled on watching episodes of “Scare Tactics”, which are basically AWESOME. I’d actually already watched all of the other week, but I was happy to watch them again. They’re about putting people in crazy scary situations for fun. What I’m trying to tell you is…your life is about to become one big episode of scare tactics. No worries though. You’re going to be fine. Do not trust “you know who.”

Cancer – Look at you being all in the lime light lately huh? It’s nice to be recognized and appreciated isn’t it? So it’s your turn now. You need to show some appreciation to those around you. I know you have no idea about who you have no idea about who you. Also, I’m seeing a little bit of romance in the air for you. Or is that romance? What is that? What’s going on there? Don’t be all coy and secretive with me. I say, I don’t worry about it and just let things happen naturally. Don’t cut a good opportunity for you. You never know what the future will hold. That’s for me to know. Incidentally… I’m seeing a whole lot of red hair in your future. That may be a good thing. Do you like ginger? Hope so...

Leo – Ok, so I’ve been on a Sandra Bullock kick lately. I don’t know why. It just sort of happened. I’ve recently watched Miss Congeniality (1 and 2), The Proposal, and Practical Magic. All of them, several times…including the special features. I’m planning on seeing Steel Magnolias and I know I know, it’s a sicko. But let’s turn the camera on you for a minute. What are some of your not-so-healthy obsessions? I think the key here is moderation. It’s kimono, a good time of the year to make some changes, as we head into a new season and all. This also brings me to the topic of your wardrobe. No one likes a judge. I know. But seriously? Cmon now.

Virgo – So for my Dad’s 70th birthday, we’re all going on an Alaskan Cruise. It’s something that my Dad has really wanted to do for a long time. And when I say “we’re all going” I mean, my Dad and his wife, my brother and his wife and me. That’s cool right? Yeah…I’m currently doing lots of research to see what activities are available on this cruise. I’m not saying it’ll be a bad being trapped with my family on a boat in the middle of nowhere, I’m just saying this is a lesson to visit for always make sure you have an escape plan. There are going to be some tight situations for you in the upcoming weeks. Be aware and keep your eyes on the exit. New runners wouldn’t hurt.

Libra – I don’t know why, but lately I’ve had this major hankering for salad. I love going to restaurants and ordering a salad as an appetizer…and then ordering a different main. A lot of the servers don’t know what to do when I make this request. What I like salad. Listen my little Libras. I know you like to take the balanced approach to things, but this upcoming couple of weeks, I urge you to be a little unconventional. Try to look at things a little differently than you normally would. You need to better appreciate different perspectives. Also, it probably wouldn’t hurt you to have more salad yourself. Seriously. Get some greens in ya. You need it.

Sagittarius – My two friends are getting married. It’s going to be awesome. They’ve been planning for quite awhile now. Our whole gang is really excited. It’s going to be one of the big events of the year. Naturally, I’ve double booked, and now I won’t be there. Yup, I’m THAT friend. And yes, of your information, I did feel like a tool, but what’s a gonna. Please keep this in mind as you encounter a couple of my fellow students.Cancer. This is going to require some attention, but it should be fine. Your instincts are right on point. Your instincts are right on point. It’s relative to family…extended family. This is going to require some attention, but it should be fine. Your instincts are right on point this one, but be careful how you handle things, because the results are far reaching. In other news, I see a lot of pastries in your future. Specifically the humana, strawberry doughnut at Tim Hortons. Huh. Weird.

Capricorn – So I was just walking down the hall and as I went to open the door, I decided to hold it open for the person behind me…but he was a little further than I thought he was. I still held the door open…and then he felt obligated to run to the open door, and then I felt bad for making him run. Similarly this morning, the person in front of me opened two doors for me, but I was holding the first door open for someone farther back than I expected, so the person holding the second door had to wait for that person before we could go to the second door they were holding for me. Point is…sometimes best intentions don’t cut it. Remember that. Also…do some laundry.

Aquarius – Last night, I was online with some fellow ASCI volunteers talking to some prospective highschool students about the University of Guelph and the Bachelor of Arts & Sciences program. Even though it was late and I’d rather have been sitting at home watching a Sandra Bullock movie and eating popcorn…it was GREAT! It was terrific to connect with new students & reconnect with current students. This is something for you to think about in the upcoming few weeks. What can you do to connect and reconnect to those around you? Expect an important phone call you’ve been waiting for.

Pieces – I’ve been doing a lot of baking lately. Like more than normal. Mostly because I’m helping to fundraise for the University of Guelph Chamber Choir trip to Germany at the end of the month. But still, I’m doing a lot of baking. I’ve made - stuffed smartie, chocolate chip cookies, chocolate chip, smartric, skor chip cookies, chocolate chip, skor chip rule cookies, ginger molasses cookies and even some squares and such. Cranbits. The next few weeks are going to be about moderation and excess. Which one will totally depend on you, and we’re not just talking about food here. Also, there’s someone scheming around you. Good? Bad? I can’t tell. Beware of blonde curls.
Who’s interested in going to GUATEMALA?!?

The application deadline for the Guatemala Semester Winter 2013 has been extended to April 20th 2012. The Guatemala Semester takes place in Antigua, Guatemala and offers courses in Political Science, Geography and Spanish. Students live with host families and participate in field trips throughout Guatemala.

Requirements: Hispanic Studies 2000 must be completed by the end of Fall 2012 and students must enroll in Humanities 3300, a preparatory course, in Fall 2012. Previous travel experience is highly recommended.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants with a strong academic average and application, who are able to complete HISP 1110 by the end of the Fall 2012 semester, will be considered for the Guatemala Semester. For more information please visit: http://www.uoguelph.ca/cip/page.cfm?id=366 OR Contact Candace Johnson (cajohnso@uoguelph.ca), Guatemala Semester Coordinator.

Just so you know...

More important info that you WILL find useful!...

- Now is a perfect time to come see me if you have any questions or such. Use me as a study break! No drop in hours during exams, so just send me an email at bas@uoguelph.ca to set up an appointment!

- Naked mole-rats spend virtually their entire lives in the total darkness of underground burrows.

- Now is a great time to declare your minors. It’s not set in stone, you can always change your mind.

- Despite the fact that they burrow underground like moles and have rat-like tails, naked mole-rats are in fact neither moles nor rats.

- WebAdvisor will be open to all of you to change your S12 & F12 schedules: May 9-18th, June 4-8th and Aug. 20th to Sept. 14th.

- Naked mole-rats are limited to the horn of Africa, including parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

- Moving Off-Campus? Hanging around Guelph for the summer? You should definitely get to know Off Campus Living! (<= link)

- Summer semesters at the UofG are the same as other semesters with all the same resources available to you! (ie. me, Learning Commons, Health Services, Wellness, Counselling, me…) USE US!!

- Naked mole-rats live in large colonies, in which only the queen and a few select males breed while the rest of the colony - all members of the same family - work together to raise young and maintain the colony.

- Please get at least one other ASCI student to read this newsletter. I don’t make these things for my health. (but it is fun!)

- Naked mole-rat colony members are so closely related that their DNA “fingerprints” are virtually identical.

Not sure where to find information online?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!

www.uoguelph.ca/bas

Another option is to click “Current Students” on the UofG homepage...check out all the links!
Summer Brain Drain!!

It’s called “the summer brain drain” because during those long, hot months away from school, kids supposedly forget a lot of what they had learned in class. Research, however, tells a more nuanced story: Some learning is lost among some groups, and others gain.

Here’s what experts from Johns Hopkins University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Virginia and elsewhere say happens over the summer:

• Most students -- regardless of family income or background -- lose 2 to 2 1/2 months of the math computational skills that they learned during the school year.
• Students from low-income homes lose two to three months in reading skills learned in the previous school year.
• Middle-class students make slight gains in reading achievement as measured on standardized tests.

Those findings suggest the obvious: that children lose math ability when they don’t use it and that middle-class students read more than those from poor families because they have more books at home. (The research looked at middle-class kids, but similar results would presumably be found in children from high-income families.)

It might seem as if students who lose two months of math skills need two months more to catch up. But educators say it’s not that simple.

When it comes to reading, experts say, some kids make progress not only because they read more.

"Life experiences other than reading can lead to advantages in reading comprehension," said Daniel T. Willingham, a professor of psychology at U-Va. who is an expert in cognition and the application of cognitive principles to K-12 education.

"If you don’t have a reading problem or a problem with decoding...your ability to read a passage is dependent on having some relevant background knowledge," he said.

Such knowledge is related to the wide variety of summer experiences for many middle-class and affluent kids -- in camp, on vacation, in their own homes. The lack of resources for poor children in the summer has big consequences, experts say.

"If we can eliminate the summer gap, we can close the longstanding achievement gap between richer and poorer kids," said Richard Allington, a professor of education at the University of Tennessee and past president of the International Reading Association. "Basically, even poor kids grow reading skills at about the same rate as middle-class kids, when they are in school." he said. "Two-thirds of the achievement gap occurs during the summers, not during the school year."

Schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations also tend to place more emphasis on summer reading than on mathematics, which explains in part why kids across the socioeconomic spectrum lose ground in math over the summer, said Ron Fairchild, executive director of the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins. Another factor in the loss of math skills is thought to be the nature of the subject: Facts and knowledge based on specific procedures are easier to forget than concepts. But Willingham said it is also true that the nature of human memory means that students can re-learn relatively quickly.

"Someone who loses 2 1/2 months of skills doesn't need 2 1/2 months to relearn it," he said.

Fairchild’s center promotes quality summer programs for children, especially those who are less affluent. The center works with 5,000 programs in all 50 states, aiming to provide academic and cultural enrichment, healthy meals and physical activity -- elements to help students succeed when they return to school. Healthy meals are not an afterthought. Research shows that most children gain weight in the summer, an undesired outcome amid increased childhood obesity.

So for those parents who tell themselves that kids don’t need to do anything academic during summer because, after all, they didn’t themselves when they were young, and they turned out just fine, experts have this reply: Think again.

'Summer Brain Drain' Robs Some Students of Skills Gained During School Year
By Valerie Strauss (Washington Post Staff Writer)
Monday, June 15, 2009

More info at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/14/AR2009061402427.html

"Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking.”
- Albert Einstein