New Beat
Spring 2011

FEATURING:
- New College Clubs
- Peer Mentorship
- Study Abroad and Exchange
- What’s next for LA&PS?
- And lots more to discover...
Dear New College Community,

Our term as co-editors started and ended with this very issue. We had a short time frame to put this magazine together. However, we were able to create, build and distribute this magazine just in time, thanks to our excellent New Beat Team and students for their contributions.

In this issue, we’ve tried to capture the past and familiarize rookies to the future. We have a wide range of articles in this issue, which are relevant to all students. If you missed any previous issues of the magazine, they can be found at http://www.yorku.ca/newcollege/beat

Our new magazine’s cover page reflects the beginning of new things. The stage curtain symbolizes an upcoming secret awaiting for New College students to explore. The spotlight directing at drums - New College’s theme - represents New College’s secret which will create opportunities for many students. In music, drums provide the rhythm that guides the rest of the band. We hope New Beat acts as the rhythm to guide and inspire you as New College students. You can create new types of beats from it or put your own touch on a classic beat. Drums = new beat = ways of perceiving things differently = new choices = new opportunities. It’s all about fresh ideas!

This time we would like you to think about today which is a gift and tomorrow which will bring a new ray of light that will shine gloriously to show new directions and new paths. Our goal through this issue and this magazine as a whole is to make our students’ voices heard and get as much information out, which often remains unspoken.

We would like to thank our contributing staff, Ivana Markotic and Brianna Lu, for their invaluable contribution to this magazine. It would not have been possible without their support and constant feedback.

In closing, we hope you enjoy reading this issue, because our team worked really hard to get this magazine published in a short span of time. We had a great time working on this issue, and we hope you do as well by reading it.

Sincerely,

Pritesh Patel
Mehwish Aslam
WHAT'S NEXT FOR LA&PS?  
Where Dean Martin Singer is taking us!  

STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE  
For LA&PS students  

PEER MENTORSHIP  
How to get rid of the dreaded first year syndrome  

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WAYS TO EXPAND YOUR NETWORK  
The secret to expanding your network  

NCC BLOG  
NCC’s greatest achievements of 2010-2011
Where is the Faculty of LA&PS going in the next few years?

By: Zemina Meghji - Interim Student Success Programs Assistant

Earlier this year, Dr. Martin Singer, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS), set out to increase the level of harmony within which the LA&PS faculty functioned in addition to increasing student engagement as well as faculty and staff recognition.

During this journey, Dr. Singer, along with his Working Group developed “29 principles and converted them into 142 actionable and practical recommendations.” Among these principles included:

- Student engagement
- Faculty renewal & engagement
- Programming
- Internationalization and community engagement
- Resources

Basically, this means things will be changing in LA&PS, but only for the better.

In a solid effort to improve the student experience, Dean Singer’s strategic plan calls upon the utilization of new and creative tools to which students are already familiar with and currently populate. Tools such as: Facebook, Twitter, Skype, and MSN will prove to play vital roles in being able to communicate with and reach out to students within the LA&PS faculty.

Furthermore, emphasis will be placed on recognizing and celebrating students based on their academic achievement in addition to taking the time to listen to the student voice in an effort to gain feedback and further strengthen the faculty.

Further ties to involve student councils and clubs with initiatives will continue to take place along with creating a more vigorous promotional plan to create awareness of club activities.

The Liberal Arts and Professional Studies faculty will be undergoing several changes in order to more effectively accommodate its growing student population and demand as well as increase in its overall competitiveness with surrounding Universities.

It is evident that Dean Singer has surely “rung the alarm” and has gotten all sectors and departments in the faculty to create processes that are efficient, provide students with a more positive University experience, and to take the time and effort to recognize faculty and staff for their contributions.

Watch out, New College—we’re about to go from good to awesome!
Study abroad and exchange programs have been in effect with universities across Canada for decades, allowing students to travel abroad to complete their degrees. Destinations include as close as the U.S.A and as far as Australia, but always add the same benefit of an internationalized degree.

As most York University students are commuters, studying abroad is an outlet that allows the students to develop independence, while enhancing their learning experience. York International has been a long-standing function of the university to help guide and provide information for students who are interested in participating in an exchange. However, many Atkinson (which is now New College) business students assumed that the faculty was not eligible for study abroad and exchange programs.

“I was the only Atkinson student to study abroad as far as I am aware,” explains Domenica Pansera about her study abroad experience in Bologna, Italy in 2010. As a business student, Pansera became interested in travelling to study abroad after a friend in the Faculty of Arts returned from her trip. Intrigued, she visited the York International office where she attended information sessions and was given packages to prepare her for her experience.

Two years ago, Atkinson and the Faculty of Arts merged to form the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. With the restructuring, new developments are being taken at York International to advertise to LA&PS students, including Business majors within the School of Administrative Studies (SAS), to participate in study abroad and exchange programs.

“Records on university-wide exchange programs have been kept since 1990,” says Coordinator, International Mobility at York, Beth Alaksa. “These programs have always been open to all students at York.” While Atkinson students were always eligible to apply to study abroad, few knew about the opportunity. The Schulich School of Business has a well-maintained exchange program for their students with over seventy business schools globally, including the Copenhagen School of Business. York International is taking initiatives in marketing the study abroad and exchange programs to all LA&PS students, with the first major agreement being established in 2010 with the internationally renowned Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

“This year we conducted a survey of all SAS faculty to determine their international backgrounds and interests (e.g., foreign languages, links with other schools),” adds School of Administrative Studies Professor, Mark Schwartz, “and approved a school-level exchange with the Forli Faculty of Economics, University of Bologna, in Italy.”

Furthermore, the new International Committee focused on not only facilitating exchange of students and professors with other schools abroad, but also increasing international exchange to the School of Administrative Studies and maintaining relationships with SAS alumni living abroad.

“There are two types of study abroad programs at York; exchange programs for the fall or winter or both terms in the 3rd year of a student’s degree, usually,” explains Alaksa. “Some York departments also have summer study abroad courses. They are York courses offered elsewhere.” The latter can be completed any time, as long as the student meets the prerequisites for the program. In order to be eligible for an exchange, students must maintain a GPA of 6.0 or greater in an honours program for their third year and speak the language the instruction is offered in. Countries for exchange include Austria, Germany, U.K., China, Mexico and recently added Portugal, to name a few.

Cost is a major factor for consideration when studying abroad. International student fees are avoided with an exchange and study abroad program as tuition is paid to York University. The cost of accommodation can be easily minimized with careful searching, as Pansera describes: “I managed to find rent for 280 Euros a month.” By the same token, York University offers scholarships for students seeking financial aid to study abroad. Firstly, exchange students are eligible for OSAP and Alaksa highlights that “Ontario government has an award, Ontario International Education Opportunity Scholarship (OIEOS), York receives about 140 each year to share across all Faculties. If a student does not get an OIEOS, they are eligible for a York International Mobility Award.” For study abroad applicants, they are eligible for the York International Mobility Award (YIMA) awards.

Of course, the benefits outweigh the costs with an exchange or study abroad experience. In addition to an international degree to enhance your diploma, the personal and cultural aspects are vast. “It’s good to have experience to be able to say you can understand a country better or the way things work abroad,” Pansera says, “but I benefited more on a personal level, becoming more independent and assertive.”

For more information visit http://www.international.yorku.ca.
First year syndrome. We have all had it. Some had it to higher degrees than others while some were scarcely affected. It’s a reality; it’s the truth. First year syndrome is what all first year students go through when transitioning from high school, college, or workplace to the scary world we have come to know as university.

The transition is a scary one. Students come to York and the first thing they notice is the size of the campus; it’s one of the largest in North America. From there, students go nuts trying to learn building acronyms, figure out how to navigate the York website, and how to enroll in courses. Then there are the other issues that unveil themselves such as: how do I buy my textbooks, where are the best places to eat on campus, how can I find a job, how can I get my ‘YU card’. If you are an international student, the transition becomes even scarier with questions regarding where can I get help for English, where can I find York International, and how do I apply for residence. All these questions and uncertainties lead students to fear the transition into University life. This is a clear sign that first year syndrome is in full effect and it limits students’ ability to appropriately respond to this transition. Many will go the first few weeks (or months) completely lost and confused. Others will find the stress of the transition too much to handle and drop out altogether. The reality is that many of us simply do not have access to resources to help us through the transition and therefore many of us feel helpless.

Spotted: A solution!

That’s right! New College introduced a solution to first year syndrome: The SHARE Peer Mentorship Program! This program is designed to help students have an easy and smooth transition into York.

The main focus of this program is matching all first year New College students with upper year students in the same program of study who have gone through the craziness of first year and have been in their shoes. Mentees, students who are in first year, are able to keep in contact with a Mentor, those students who are in the upper year, and get the answers to their questions.

Mentors are volunteers. They know what it’s like to go through first year syndrome and have gone through many of their own personal experiences while dealing with it. Needless to say, they have a vast amount of knowledge to bestow upon the first year students. Mentors keep in contact with their Mentees through their choice of communication. Email is preferred but phone, Facebook, and in person meeting are also an alternative. Mentors give their Mentees the opportunity to ask their questions and not be judged for asking them. Mentors lead students in the appropriate direction to be able to find answers to these questions that we all have asked at the beginning of our first year. If a Mentor does not know the answer to a Mentee’s question, they will find it. Many first year students are also able to gain the inside scoop about the university that they might not have received otherwise.

In a school such as York, such a program becomes somewhat of a necessity. The program’s significance has proved itself through the positive impact it has on new students. Not only does it allow new students to get answers to their questions, but it allows them to make friendships with an upper year student who they know they can always rely on. “You’ve got a friend in me” may be a song from the movie Toy Story, but it applies 100% to this program. Many first year students, especially those who are international, face an even greater problem with the transition to university and that is their circle of friends may have diminished. A Mentor becomes the first friend for these students and first year students soon come to realize that their Mentor is there to more importantly be a friend to them.

Now just like with coins, there are always two sides to every situation. The Mentees aren’t the only ones who are receiving benefits from this program. The Mentors are benefiting from this program immensely. Through this program Mentors have the ability to build employer sought skills, i.e. leadership, organization, and communication that they might not have had the opportunity to develop. The Mentors also receive a certificate to recognize their contribution to the program.

This program is a win-win for both Mentors and Mentees and it is important that all new students understand the importance of this program. Although some may not want a Mentor, it is necessary to make sure that they still understand the potential benefits this program has. At the end of the day it all comes down to making the transition into university life as easy as possible so that the first year syndrome can be eliminated for good.

Spotted: Confident and informed New College students ready to take on anything York throws at them.

By: Melissa Adinolfi
As an international student, there were many challenges I have had to overcome because of the difference in language and culture. Now, I have been here for more than one year and would like to impart some advice through my experience.

**Have a map.** To know Toronto, it is better to have a map when you first come here. A map will give you a clear overview of different regions of Toronto, which will be helpful in terms of locating yourself. If you do not want to purchase one, an alternative for a Toronto map is a TTC map. The TTC map shows TTC routes of buses, subways and even the RT. The map is free and available at every TTC ticket agent or online at [http://www3.ttc.ca/Routes/General_information?Maps/index.jsp](http://www3.ttc.ca/Routes/General_information?Maps/index.jsp).

**Know your transportation options.** After coming to Toronto, you should take a tour around the city. If you have a car, things will be easier. As long as you have a GPS, you can go wherever you want by following its directions. If you do not have a car, public transit will suffice. TTC, as I mentioned above, is a good choice when you want to visit anywhere within the city of Toronto. In addition to TTC, there are some other excellent public transits, including VIVA, YRT and the GO Transit system, which will take you around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

**Know where to shop, eat and entertain.** By asking the people around you or searching online, you will know where the locations of shopping malls are. To illustrate, the Eaton Centre is one of the biggest shopping malls in downtown Toronto. For entertainment, different people have different ideas on that. If they like sports, they may choose to ski in Blue Mountain or to watch baseball games at Rogers Centre; if they prefer arts, they may go to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Whatever suits your fancy - Toronto’s got it!

**Get to know people.** As international students, when we first come here, we do not know many people. Therefore, it is quite important for us to know people and make friends here. In every lecture we can get to know people and keep in touch with them for a long time. In that way, you can make friends, and some may eventually become your close friends. Moreover, you need to be talkative and not be shy about your accent. If you do not practice English, which is probably a second language for you, you will never learn how to speak fluent English. Simultaneously, you will gain confidence when you speak with people who are fluent in English. By just communicating, you can both make more friends and improve your English language skills.

**Improve your English.** In Canada, English is widely used. To have a more comfortable life, it is best to improve your English. If you do that, you will encounter fewer problems which can make for fewer misunderstandings. How do you improve English? Here are some suggestions:

1. Try your best to make as many “foreign friends” as you can. The reason is that when you talk to your friends with the same backgrounds, you will tend to use your mother tongue instead of English. However, if you talk to your “foreign friends”, you have to use and practise your English.

2. Different languages use different muscles of your tongue and mouth. Therefore, figuring out the difference between English and your native language can lead to a greater improvement on your pronunciation.

**Get involved.** Do not waste your spare time, fill your personal life by going to various workshops, joining clubs, and doing volunteer work! You can find more activities to do on the York University’s website.

Just for Fun

What does York University stands for?

Y earn for the incredible wealth of knowledge from your professors
O pen the door to opportunities through getting involved at York
R ealize your true potential through working hard
K ind, friendly and helpful friends are people who you will meet as you establish your networks at York

U niversity fairs, career fairs are only a few of the events hosted by York University
N ew college is the college to get updates on events and volunteer and employment opportunities
I nvolve your study space galore throughout the campus to make your studying more enjoyable
I nvolve your involvement opportunities are numerous throughout the year on campus
T ime management, note taking are a few of the skills you may develop throughout your studies
Y ork University is the place to enjoy and experience university life at its fullest

By: Fatima Siddiqua Panju

Choosing to Love

I don’t hate you
I hate what you did
I don’t reject you
I reject what you did

For in me is love
Love that is unblemished
Love that is unwavering
Love that is of God

I hate the sin and not the sinner
I hate the deed, but not the brother
For how can I hate you, whom I can see
And profess to love a God that is unseen

I judge the fruit, but not the heart
I judge the deed, but not the man
To deny you my love is to be a liar
It is to make null, my love for God

I choose to love you
It doesn’t matter what you did
I choose to forgive you
It’s all there is to do

By: Yolanda Robinson

Staff Contributor’s Corner

“A Bachelor’s Degree is the new high school diploma.” That’s the motto of most undergraduate students applying for their Masters degree. An undergraduate degree has become a dime a dozen, still leaving students with thousands of dollars in debt. Holding a university degree no longer guarantees you employment after graduation; instead, it’s a long line-up of internships, part-time jobs and settling on a full-time career that has no relation to your degree. This is the reality with degrees as I am preparing to graduate with my BAS in Marketing. Yet, I have no intention of applying for my Masters.

While a Masters degree is almost obligatory to climb the corporate ladder in business, I believe networking is also imperative. In the modern spectrum, more specifically, social networking is the new tool. Yes, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn can and will get you jobs if you utilize them to the best of your ability. I didn’t believe it myself until an E-Marketing course at York motivated me to link myself on LinkedIn and Twitter, allowing me to establish a whole new network of business contacts and writing opportunities. And unlike the Masters degree that puts people thousands of dollars in debt, social networking is free and reaches a global scale. If a Bachelor’s Degree is the new high school diploma, then social networking is the new way to master the corporate world.

By: Ivana Markotic

Things I Wish I Knew...

By: Brianna Lu

As a new student at York University, there are a few things that I wish I had known before I came.

Buy textbooks. To save, you can go to the “Discount Textbook” store near York University located on Keele Street, which sells both brand new and second-hand textbooks at a discounted price. On Facebook, if you search “second-hand textbook at York University”, you can also find some groups selling used books.

Study. Do not study alone. Studying in a group can benefit your learning because you can discuss the questions that you have with your classmates without having to wait for a response. If you need a quiet place to study, Scott and Steacie libraries are good choices. Other than libraries, there are also buildings with study areas such as the TEL building, and The Loft at New College located in room 107 Atkinson.

Gym. Get your exercise on! Tait McKenzie Centre is a good place to go. There, you can play squash, table tennis and many more activities... there is also a fitness centre.

Career Centre. Want to improve yourself and find more job opportunities? Check out the Career Centre’s website. There, you can find various workshops aimed at helping you build your career. Additionally, there are many job postings by York and other companies on the website. Take full advantage of them and start building that resume!

Volunteer. Find a way to volunteer on or off campus. It can both enrich your personal life and build up your resume. Your contribution will be valued regardless of whether you did it for personal interest or business reasons.

Clubs. Join a club that you are interested in. By joining a club, you get to know more people and make more friends. The most important thing is that you can enjoy your life here at York University.
The fashion world works on a calendar of its own, preparing well in advance for each season. Spring/Summer collections are previewed in October, in preparation for the following year, while Fall/Winter collections are shown in February and March.

Toronto is quickly rising up the fashion ladder, being lauded as one of the most stylish cities. LG Fashion Week wrapped up in Toronto on April 1st at Heritage Court, Exhibition Place and the following list will help you prepare a wardrobe for Fall/Winter 2011 before anyone else at York University!

**Velvet:** A thick and rich fabric - this was the material of choice for most designers preparing for Fall/Winter 2011. It was seen across the runway in the form of dresses, shirts and capes! The density of the fabric will definitely keep you warm and fashion forward at the same time.

**Fur Trim on Coats:** While fur coats have never gone out of style, fur is always styled in a different way. This season, fur trim around the collar, hoods and cuffs are both stylish and functional for keeping warm. Rudsak and Danier are your best bets for finding coats with a stylish fur trim, as Rudsak was one of the premier collections this season at Toronto Fashion Week.

**Textured Black:** Black is a shade that will never go away; however, if you go all black, make sure you use different textures. The biggest trend next season is taking leather pants and leggings from a night time trend and intertwining them with every-day items.

**Maxi Skirts:** Taking the biggest staple item for fashionistas from Spring/Summer into the next season, maxi skirts work well paired with high heels or boots. The floor length skirts work well on both tall and short people, elongating the legs and giving a playful silhouette. If you’re feeling particularly risqué, sheer maxi skirts are also popular and most ladies pair them with shorts underneath that are the same colour as the skirt. Sheer genius!

**Thick Knits:** Mimicking thick rope, the heavy knit sweaters were seen on every runway, including Paris and London. The oversized sweater is perfect for layering, but avoid colourful patterns as neutrals work best for this look.

Article & Photos By: Ivana Markotic
New College consists of six clubs that help define the college’s culture and students. The purpose each club serves, relates to employment, networking and, of course, having fun! Many students within the college are involved either through acting as executives of clubs or through membership registration. Nonetheless, it is important for everyone in the college to know what clubs are available to them and what resources each has to offer.

Here is a list and description of New College clubs:

1. The Atkinson Professional Accounting Association (APAA) is a student-run organization that serves to encourage leadership, excellence, and professionalism among the New College Accounting students of York University. With year-round events and a constant membership base of 300 + students, the main purpose of the APAA is to give students interested in a career in accounting, the opportunity to network with professionals. The association was founded in May 1998 by a group of graduating students for the purposes of promoting New College’s Bachelor of Administrative Studies; Accounting program, aiding students and soliciting support from University faculty and potential employers.

   **Benefits to new members include:**
   i. Access to networking events with recruiters from the big four Accounting firms and representatives from CGA and CMA Ontario.
   ii. Access to online and print resources for students, which has useful information such as how to improve your resume or how to prepare for the recruiting season.
   iii. Email notifications of upcoming events.
   iv. Opportunities to compete in external accounting competitions.

2. The Human Resources Student Association (HRSA) is a student-run organization that is continually striving to promote personal and professional development among all Human Resource Management and business students of York University. Its strategy is to develop, promote and help students to excel in the professional realm.

   **Benefits to new members include:**
   i. An organization that caters to HR majors or those who are interested in pursuing an HR related career.
   ii. Events with guest speakers who offer advice on a variety of subjects.
   iii. Gain information on how to best pursue CHRP certification.

3. The American Marketing Association (AMA) is the world’s largest and most comprehensive professional society of marketers. It’s the only organization that provides direct benefits to marketing professionals in both business education, and services all levels of marketing practitioners, educators and students.

   **Benefits to new members include:**
   i. Information sessions with speakers who provide expert insight into the field.
   ii. Access to exclusive events held by the AMA Toronto chapter.
   iii. Networking opportunities with executives from large companies.
   iv. Access to AMA’s bi-weekly magazine with the latest information from the marketing world.
   v. Volunteering opportunities that look great on a resume!
4. The Information Technology Student Association (ITSA) represents all students at York University that are interested in information technology. Our core members are students enrolled in the ITEC program within the School of IT. However, we are part of the greater York University community and as such, our members and executive team includes students from all disciplines at York University. Our mission is to bring together all students in the greater York University community that are interested in technology. ITSA is always thriving to provide students with the tools and resources needed for their success.

Benefits to new members include:
1. Assist students get jobs in the local information and communications technology industry.
2. Receive Professional and Personal Development opportunities.
3. Receive Leadership training and skill development.
4. Be exposed to opportunities in the local community by participating in our projects.

5. The National Finance Students Association (NFSA) is a non-profit, student-run initiative, that is currently partnered with all GTA universities, with plans to expand nation-wide in the years to come. Our goal is to provide our membership with the seminars, workshops, competitions and networking sessions they can use to develop their skills and character, two things that will provide our members with a distinct competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Benefits to new members include:
1. Free online subscription to the Arbitrage Magazine.
2. Invitations to finance related seminars, workshops, competitors, networking events and more!
3. Notices of employment and internship possibilities through our sponsors and affiliates.
4. Be Part of a national association and thus expand your contact list.
5. Gold members receive personalized NFSA Business Cards.

6. The Management and Consulting Association (MCA) is a new organization launched for students of any business background. The goal of the MCA is to bring students in contact with professionals and guide them with pursuing career opportunities. MCA aims to open doors for York students in many ways and invites you to take part in the effort. Stay tuned for upcoming events and activities.
American Marketing Association

Club Events

Atkinson Professional Accounting Association

National Finance Students Association
Everyone wants to have a strong network. In University, we are exposed to more professionals and have a greater chance to expand our networks and make them stronger.

On February 24, I attended Angus Duff’s public lecture, “What You Give Is What You Get”. Duff is the Human Resources and Leadership Expert, Employee Engagement Consultant, M & A Consultant, Executive Coach and Career Coach. He argued that the first thing you need to do is to overcome personal limitations, especially negative associations, procrastination and shyness. After that, you can be confident enough to create strong networks with people. In addition, Duff provided us with the following tips: (1) be active to know as many people as possible; (2) be genuine; (3) find a way to make a contribution-unconditional; (4) be humble and respect others. Using all four methods above, will help you improve your network.

In addition to Duff’s ideas, there are some other suggestions on improving one’s network. I believe the most important thing in networking is being friendly and warm. This will lead more people wanting to create an open dialogue. Moreover, when you meet the people you know, do not hesitate to greet them, regardless of how familiar or unfamiliar you are with them. If you continue to do that, your relation to that person will become closer.

Try your best to discover others’ merits and give them praise. When you praise others, remember to specify your reasons. By being specific, your praise will not be regarded as flattery.

**Be a listener.** When people are heard they feel that their perspectives and values are understood and respected. While you listen to somebody speak, make sure you listen carefully, earnestly, and respond timely. Avoid rambling on with your own speech, and allow for equal airtime.

**Let others feel comfortable.** In every conversation, be it on the phone or online, try your best to make others feel good. First make them feel good about themselves, reinforcing this by your behaviours. These steps will allow others to feel more comfortable around you.

**Do not put up a brick wall!** How can people have a good relationship with you without knowing who you are?

**Do not forget the people you meet and be sure to maintain a connection with them.** It is important to spend time and share your ideas with each other. Remember to always be genuine, all else is secondary.
This year marked the second year of operations for the New College Council (NCC). After coming off a strong inaugural year for the college, this year’s council was looking to thrive off of the success from last year. The year started off on a high note, as Pond Road Residence officially became affiliated with NCC. Soon after, the decision was made to collaborate on frosh week together to deliver a spectacular social orientation experience for first year incoming students. Frosh Week went extremely well, as New College’s frosh week was sold out with nearly two hundred froshies participating in a week long of awesome activities, including a hypnosis show, a trip to wonderland, and an unforgettable boat cruise.

In the fall, The NCC continued to deliver a solid lineup of events throughout the semester. In September, the Blacklight Pub Night at the Underground featuring DJ Baba Khan and DJ Knoxx brought out the New College community for an amazing party! Aside from holding a wide array of social events, the NCC focused on organizing professional development events. In the first semester, three workshops were held in partnership with the Career Centre at York to give students a chance to learn about careers in different areas. The workshops were: Discovering Careers in Human Resource Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship. Additionally, Networking 101 was hosted to teach students the importance of networking, which is a crucial skill to develop a business career.

In January, New College hosted its first ever social night at Pond Residence. There was karaoke, video games, and board games along with free pizza for all of those who came out and showed support.

In February, New College took to the slopes and went to Blue Mountain for a second year in a row for a day filled with skiing and snowboarding.

A major achievement for the council this year was its acquisition of room 107 Atkinson in order to provide a student lounge for New College students. On March 15, New College commemorated the grand opening of “The Loft”. In addition to having a free lunch and prizes for students who attended, Dean Singer and Vice President of Students, Robert Tiffin, made appearances and spoke with students.

On March 18, New College held its year-end formal – Viva Las Vegas. In this casino themed event, Z103.5 hosted the party and played music throughout the night. Prizes were given out, and there was even real poker, a blackjack table and dealer! On March 31, New College held its second annual Business Conference. The event started with an address from Bobby Umar, who spoke about the power of networking, through an interactive presentation which included group activities. The keynote address was followed by a panel discussion with invited professionals from accounting, human resources, management, entrepreneurship, and I.T. That was followed by a networking portion to give students the opportunity to meet the panelists and ask questions.

A step forward in the attempt to improve life at New College are the ongoing discussions between the NCC and Dean Singer. The NCC has been in talks with Dean Singer since January 2011 about a number of issues that New College students are facing. Those issues are: academic advising, grade distribution (bell curves), releasing past exams, changing the name of the BAs degree, and student space. The Dean has assured us that he is working on solving all of these issues and the council is meeting regularly with him to ensure that these issues do get resolved.

There are many achievements this year that the council is proud of. Student engagement and attendance at all major annual events this year increased by over 250%! The voter turnout for this year’s General Elections was significantly higher than last year, an indicator that more students are becoming interested in the council’s activities. Finally, New College students have a lounge to call their own. Students can come by The Loft (107 Atkinson) to watch movies, play video games, play table tennis, study, hang out, and meet the council.

The future is getting brighter for the New College Council. Going forward, the council looks to continue delivering successful events as well as find new ways to improve student life for all New College students. Remember, the NCC’s job is to make sure that you have a memorable college experience, so be sure to participate in the many activities the council organizes during the year!

Sincerely, New College Council, 2010 - 2011

The New College Council serves students who are enrolled in the BAS, HRM, and ITEC programs, or live in Pond Residence. The council organizes social and professional development events throughout the year, in addition to providing employment and volunteer opportunities for students.

To contact the council, you can email us at ncc@yorku.ca or visit our Facebook pages and website (www.yorku.ca/ncc). Our office is located in 140 Atkinson.
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