

*Rec Connect: The Official Newsletter of the  
Society of Acadia University Recreation Graduates*

June 2013 Volume I Issue 3



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**Recreational Golf Anyone?**



Why not plan to attend **Homecoming weekend** and cap off the festivities with a round of golf with fellow Acadia Recreation Graduates. The match will take place Sunday October 20th, at Kenwo in New Minas. All levels of expertise welcome... this is recreation and just for fun!

- Open to Acadia Recreation Graduates and guests
- Sign up solo, as a pair, threesome or foursome
- First tee off at 11:00am
- Fees: \$55. SAURG members (\$70 with power cart)  
\$75. non SAURG member (\$90 with power cart)  
\$10. SAURG member/Kenwo member (\$25 with power cart)

**Register no later than noon Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> by contacting Karol Halliday at [saurg2012@gmail.com](mailto:saurg2012@gmail.com) or 542-4461.**

For full slate of Homecoming weekend activities, go to:  
<http://alumni.acadiau.ca/event-reader/events/homecoming-2013.html>

**TO JOIN SAURG**

SAURG presently has over 100 members, one of whom is you if you receive this newsletter from the SAURG Board. We are hoping to increase the membership, primarily so we can be in communication with as many graduates as possible. Membership fees are \$20, renewable in 2017! So any person who has graduated for the Acadia Recreation program may join the Society by forwarding the payment of the \$20 fee to Secretary Chad Haughn ([chaughn@chester.ca](mailto:chaughn@chester.ca)), Municipality of Chester PO Box 369, Chester NS B0J 1J0, 902 275-3490 with cheques payable to Society of Acadia University Recreation Graduates. Please pass this on to any fellow graduates with whom you are in contact.

SAURG website  
<http://www.saurg.com/>  
Webmaster: [andrew.waters@acadiau.ca](mailto:andrew.waters@acadiau.ca)

SAURG on Facebook  
Like REC Connect – SAURG  
Administrator: [karolhalliday@gmail.com](mailto:karolhalliday@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit down to write this message, I am amazed at how fast our summer has gone here in the Valley. We do hope that you all had a restful, productive summer no matter what your plans were and where you found yourself! Your Board of Directors is gearing up for a very busy year as we head into our first meeting of 2013/14 season on September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be developing a work plan to focus our efforts and activities for the next 12 months or so. We hope to complete the work on our data base of recreation graduates as well as begin the work on our 40 Year History of the Acadia Recreation Program project– which you will hear more about very soon. We are excited to focus time and talent on the Acadia 175 year Celebration. We want to do something special for this celebration in the form of a multi-media presentation around the history of play on campus throughout the past 175 years. If there are those among our general membership who are interested in getting involved in the history of the program or the Acadia 175 project, please send along an e-mail expression of interest to either myself or Brenda Robertson. We may also be in touch with you personally to seek your help! Electronic means to gather our membership together is an important part of our focus for this year as well. Even as a Board of Directors, we are located throughout North America!. We need to become technologically savvy to meet the Society's need going forward. We want to cement our communication as a Society by maintaining [www.saurg.com](http://www.saurg.com) and developing a facebook page to stay in touch along with the distribution of our newsletters to the general membership. Recruiting members for the Society is of importance to us and we look to our membership to help make those connections with other graduates who are not already a part of SAURG. As a Society, we want to be active during campus events and plan to gather recreation graduates at Homecoming for a round of golf and a social event. We also look to 2014 for a follow up event to the conference and reunion held in 2012. So stay tuned and let us know what you think about our plans for the upcoming year. We would love to hear from you. This newsletter is focused on the annual ritual of students returning to campus and the school year commencing. It is a time of year to reflect on what it was like for us as we arrived in Wolfville for Frosh Week and settled in or returned to the routine of university life. Thanks once again to Brenda Robertson, our Editor-in-Chief, for gathering contributions to the newsletter from our membership. If you would like to contribute in future newsletters just let Brenda know! ENJOY! Laurie (Dickson) Wanamaker ('86, '90)

### SAURG Board of Directors

- Past President: Carroll Randall, Bridgewater, N.S. (1976) dacara@eastlink.ca
- President: Laurie Wanamaker (Dickson), Kentville, N.S. (1986, 1990) wanamale@gov.ns.ca
- President Elect: Brenda Robertson, (1975, 1983) brenda.robertson@acadiau.ca
- Corporate Secretary: Chad Haughn, Chester, N.S. (2000) chaughn@chester.ca
- Treasurer: Karol Halliday, Wolfville, N.S. (2012) karolhalliday@hotmail.com
- Director at Large: Kate Friars, Victoria, B.C. (1980) kfriars@shaw.ca
- Director at Large: Laurie Miller Winder (1980) lewinder@telus.net
- 1970s Representative: Jude Hirsch (de Guerre), Milledgeville, Georgia (1977) jude.hirsch@gcsu.edu
- 1980's Representative: Robin Norrie, Truro, N.S. (1986) robin.norrie@gov.ns.ca
- 1990's Representative: Oonagh Proudfoot, Wolfville, N.S. (1993, 2006) oonagh.proudfoot@acadiau.ca
- 2000's Representative: Eric MacKenzie, Greenwood, N.S. (2006) ERIC.MACKENZIE@forces.gc.ca
- 2010's Representative: Andrew Waters, Kentville, N.S. (2010) andrew.waters@acadiau.ca

## Back to School



Early Fall is always an exciting time for academic institutions, for both students and faculty. A number of Acadia Recreation Graduates love that feeling so much that they went on to earn Masters and Doctoral degrees in order to pursue careers in academe. The following is a list of our Recreation alumni known to have earned PhDs at various universities and are working in universities through North America.

- ❖ Sheila Backman (Texas A&M) currently teaching at Clemson
- ❖ Jessica Barrie (U California) teaches at Albuquerque Academy
- ❖ Tom Delamere (U Alberta) Currently teaching at Vancouver Island University
- ❖ Wanda George (U Guelph) currently teaches at Mount Saint Vincent University
- ❖ Jude Hirsch (UBC) currently teaches at Georgia State College & University
- ❖ George Karlis (Michigan State University) currently teaches at U Ottawa
- ❖ Leah Levac (UNB) currently teaches at University of Guelph
- ❖ Kelly MacKay (U Illinois) currently teaching at Ryerson
- ❖ Ron McCarville (Texas A&M) currently teaching at U Waterloo
- ❖ Jackie Oncescu (U Ottawa) currently teaches at U Manitoba
- ❖ Brenda Robertson (U Oregon) currently retired
- ❖ Charlene Shannon (U Waterloo) currently teaching at UNB
- ❖ Aggie Weighill (U Alberta) teaches at Vancouver Island University

### Insights by Acadia Recreation Graduates Working at Acadia University

Acadia Recreation Graduates (and students) have long played important administrative roles in every aspect of university operations at Acadia ranging from recruitment of prospective students to planning reunions for the alumni, in addition to the provision of a myriad of services to current students. A number of the Recreation Graduates currently working on campus, were invited to comment on a question related to their respective positions.

**Nicole Weisner (Phipps) '08:** Coordinator, Events & Hospitality. Nicole has worked on campus since graduating. In her free time, she officiates basketball at all levels ranging from mini to varsity. *What is the nature of the special events hosted on campus involving the external community and in your opinion, of what value are such events to the Acadia Community?*

In my capacity as Event Coordinator I have the opportunity to work with many community groups on their events hosted here on campus. We see great value in our ability to host these events as it is our mandate to support the local community and we are very focused on our role as a community partner. These events also hold a great value to Acadia as an institution, but the direct value for the individual in the Acadia community is up for debate. We have a diverse group of clientele based in the community that we support on a yearly basis. There are corporate groups that use our spaces for meetings & workshops; local theatre groups that host their productions; businesses that host banquets; sport & music camps held throughout the summer; and promoters that bring concerts and headline performers to campus. Depending on which event you look at, the value to our community is as varied as the events themselves. The corporate meetings would hold little to no value to the individual Acadia community member, however many of our staff, faculty & students attend or participate in the theatre & performance events, so those hold great value to these individuals. The community involvement on our campus provides an opportunity for our faculty, staff & students to be exposed to events that may otherwise never come to the area. They also allow us the opportunity to showcase our campus to community members who may have no other connection to Acadia, and that has unlimited value.

**Mary Sweatman '03:** Lecturer. Upon graduating, Mary pursued a Masters of Recreation at Dalhousie and B.Ed at Trent. She has taught and worked internationally with children in Katmandu (Nepal), Florence (Italy), and Cuenca (Ecuador). Currently she is serving a term position as a lecturer, prior to which she taught at Concordia University. *What is it like to return to Acadia to teach students in the program that you took as a student?*

First off, thank you to my professors and administrators whilst I was here as a student. Holy jumping, there is a lot I did not notice going on behind the scenes to get me across the stage of Convocation Hall in 4 (um 5) years. In my new role, instead of listening from the sidelines (or should I say, the front row with my hand waving in the air), I now stand at the front with the power and privilege to lead. But it is a different era of learning, students have all the information they need at the finger tips. I am a facilitator of this shared knowledge. A facilitator of their growth as lifelong learners, who I hope will go on and make positive contributions in the communities where they live, work and play. No pressure, right? Speaking of no pressure, I have the privilege of being the next resident of Dr. Wendy Bedingfield's office (albeit half the original size), and I must say that even after a year of teaching, I still get giddy about sitting behind her desk, awaiting the array of questions and issues that float through my open door, but seriously, mostly my inbox. Technology has changed the game, but the relationship piece feels the same as when I was here as a student. Our students continue to be close with each other, and with us, their faculty and staff. I learned a lot this year; I am a lifelong learner after all, trying to make a positive contribution.

**James Sanford '87:** Senior Director, Student Affairs. James has worked with Student Affairs at Acadia for nearly 2 decades. *From your perspective, what unique challenges do first year students at Acadia face in 2013 that are different from previous generations.*

I have appreciated the unique opportunity to directly impact the initial post-secondary experience of first-year students at Acadia University for close to twenty years. This has provided an interesting and informative perspective on the question of challenges our students face as they embark on one of the most significant transitions in their lives. We are all well aware that technology has and continues to have significant impacts on our society and our first year students have been immersed in this ever-changing world. Most of them were born on the cusp of significant peer to peer developments (Napster in 1997 and Facebook in 2004) in the social networking world. Their world is one of instantaneous updates and real time response but is this actually good for anyone? Those of us fortunate enough to have studied the recreation discipline can relate to the sense that technology was going to give us immeasurable amounts of free time in which to appreciate our leisure zen. We remember discussing in our classes the importance of our profession in leading global citizens to appreciate and embrace their leisure time. There is, perhaps, a chilling reality that first year students face - that at a time in which our world is more closely connected than ever before, people may be more alone than ever. Our stories are largely PR exercises showing the best of ourselves and those connected to us. Privacy is a setting rather than an experience. Our friends and likes number in the hundreds but do we really know anything about our friends? Do we really care? And how much do they care about us? One in five students in post-secondary studies is managing a mental health issue. Anxiety and depression are common expressions of feeling when you ask someone how are you feeling today? Acadia students come to us from all over the world with stories as unique as they are. One of their main challenges is having the opportunity and confidence to share their story and hear many others - in person and in spoken word. There are many good things in our lives resulting from technology but what is the real cost?

**Andrew Waters '10:** Enrollment Officer. Andrew is a SAURG Board member and website webmaster. **What are the factors that are most important to high school students today as they contemplate whether to attend university and if so to what institution they will make apply?**

Today there are many factors that come into consideration when a student is exploring their post-secondary education options. Many of these factors may rather unimportant factors to adults, but in the grand scheme they often become the deciding factor. Peers play a very large role in whether a student is going to consider an institution over another. This can be present in both a positive and a negative way. A student may decide to go where his or her friends are attending or go elsewhere owing to past negative encounters with other students from high school who they know are planning to attend, even though the university may be a perfect fit for them. Guidance Counselors, can play a huge role in where a student may consider attending. In some cases, they are great at their jobs, in other cases they are not so. With nearly 100 universities in Canada to choose from, guidance counselors are expected to be well versed in most, if not all of these institutions, what they offer, the admissions process etc. Needless to say, the information they provide to students during initial meetings could be detrimental to an institutions chance at having that student look into the institution further. Location, program, class offerings and sizes, extracurricular activities, and varsity sports to name just a few are also very important to a student's decision making process. If an institution is not perceived to be in a suitable location, or does not meet the expectations of the student and parents, that affects the decision making process. A large portion of the process is going to be determining what program a student wants to enroll in, and with that, many institutions will immediately eliminated from the list. Parents play a huge role in the student's decision making process. Some parents are hands off and let the student make the decision they feel will best suit them, while others, informally known as "helicopter parents" are very much in the process and many times directing the student which way to go. Factors often considered by parents include their Alma mater, the perceived prestige of the institution, and proximity to home. In closing, the process of choosing involves a number of diverse factors. Whether it is the nature of academic programs or proximity to a major city, extracurricular activities, or simply where "my friends are going", undergraduate students make decisions depending upon which factors matter most to them at the time based upon the information they access.

**Rachel Houlton** is a senior student in the Recreation Management/Community Development and Environmental Sustainability program. She is the student Representative on the advisory committee for the Acadia University Community Farm. **What is the Acadia Farm and why is it important to the Acadia community?**

The Acadia Community Farm began in the Spring of 2008 with the vision of providing local, organic produce to the dining hall at Acadia University. Nothing compares to fresh food, straight from the garden. Spending time weeding, tilling the soil and watching the butterflies and bees, it is a chance to unplug from our busy, technology-filled world. My thoughts begin to turn inwards and I start to get a clearer idea of who I am and what life is all about. The Acadia Community Farm is much more than a garden to grow food. I joined the farm at the end of my first year of school. Rachel Eisener, a fellow Recreation student, was the farmer in residence and was a happy, motivated and passionate person, who spent a large percentage of her time at the farm. Through her efforts (along with the many other volunteers at the farm), Chartwells (dining hall) received a ton of fresh vegetables to use to feed the university students and others who visited Acadia throughout the summer. The food they received was organic and fresh, allowing more absorption of nutrients and the wonderful taste that comes from having the food so quickly from farm to table. The farm began as a student-initiated project. There was a fear that the farm project would be abandoned when the students who began it graduated. This may have happened, if it wasn't for the support from people like Jodie Noiles, the Sustainability Coordinator for Acadia University, and the rest of the Farm Management team. Thanks to this team of volunteers, the farm continues to grow food and support the community to this day. Learning to grow food and connecting with this process is so important for people to learn in today's age of processed, fast food and busy, stressful lifestyles. Gardening offers the chance to reconnect with our planet, to feel a sense of accomplishment at growing your own food, and to help connect with others within our community.

**Tom Dalmazzi '12:** Community Development Facilitator, ACSBE. Tom has worked with the Acadia Centre for Social & Business Entrepreneurship (ACSBE) for over a year, after completing his Professional placement with the organization during his final term in school. **What is ACSBE and why is it important to the Acadia Community?**

For more than 20 years the Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship has assisted groups and individuals to fulfill their entrepreneurial potential. Not-for-profits, business development professionals, career practitioners, municipal units, educators, researchers, administrators, older workers, students, youth, business owners, anyone considering starting a new business, and folks discovering their career path have all worked side-by-side with ACSBE's team of professionals and the resources of Acadia University. Business plans, market research, financial analysis, growth strategies, strategic planning, goal setting, specialized career development programs, and professional certification are just a few of the areas in which we provide training, guidance and expert advice. Our main office is located right on campus in Willett House, and we maintain a close affiliation with the university. We have two other offices which are located in Hubbards and Bridgewater, respectively. Many people know us for our counseling work with small businesses, like JustUs!, for example. The business counseling aspect to ACSBE is a big part of what we do, but by no means is it everything that we do. The value we bring to the community is our principal desire of helping individuals, businesses, non-profits and communities realize their potential and strive to achieve it. Whether we are in an Acadia classroom facilitating activities for struggling students in the Student Support Program, or across the province taking non-profits groups through a strategic planning process, coordinating unique projects for students on the south shore, or working one-on-one with individuals at a crossroads in their career path, we are always striving to bring the best out of people. We are an important contributor to the Acadia community, and even though we might not always be in the spotlight, you can bet that we are working behind the scenes to improve the local economy and quality of life for residents of Nova Scotia communities and beyond.

**Michael Chiasson '11:** Assistant coach for the Acadia men's hockey program. **What has it been like to return to Acadia in a coaching role after having done your degree here and played on the varsity team.**

After spending four years at Acadia University from 2007-2011, I recently found my way back to Wolfville, Nova Scotia in August to take on a new challenge, coaching. The last two years, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work for the Pittsburgh Penguins Organization in the youth hockey department. Pittsburgh was a great experience and started to feel like a place that I could see myself living for a while. The unexpected call came offering me a position back at Acadia University to take on the role as an assistant coach for the hockey team, it was something I was immediately interested in. My four years as a student athlete were such a great experience that Acadia and the town of Wolfville were places that I have always envisioned myself coming back to if the opportunity arose. The move back to Wolfville has been great and I have had nothing but a positive experience thus far with my new career choice. Things are certainly different being on the coaching side of things after being a student and a teammate here only two years ago. I am looking forward to making an impact on the hockey program to the best of my ability and helping the team reach its ultimate goal, another national championship. I am also looking forward to continuing my work in minor hockey and helping grow the game of hockey at all ages. I will certainly miss putting on the Acadia jersey as a player however, having the opportunity to work for such a great institution and stay involved