

DEAN'S MESSAGE

OUR USUAL celebration of Spring is tempered by our recent experiences which have changed, both for ourselves and for our students, the shape of this semester. Even so, we are moving forward as befits the season with a great deal of energy to complete culminating projects and help students to move out into the world as graduates, to seek summer jobs, internships, work placements and for some, holidays.

My personal relief at seeing faculty return to their posts has underscored for me the importance of our community. We derive a great deal of benefit from our support for each other and our generous belief that art education matters both as a preparation for work and for life.

Spring is a time of hope. We all hope that our government will provide the funding necessary to support a successful outcome to the current mediated arbitration process. In the meantime, I look forward to graduate shows, theatre performances, gallery exhibits and renewed commitment on the part of all to the creative process in which we are engaged.

- Dr. Michael Collins

SCHOOL MEETING
Wednesday, April 26

NEWS & EVENTS



■ **Crafts & Design** students designed and fabricated a display (above) and mounted representative work from the program at the 2006 Interior Design Show, Feb 23-26.

The display will be featured in the May issue of *Azure* magazine.

■ Ten **Art & Art History** students participated in "Fantastic Shadows into Dusky Corners", an exhibition of 4th year photography at the VMAC Gallery in Toronto Mar 8-27.

Student exhibitions were also held at the U of T at Mississauga's Blackwood Gallery Mar 8-26 and Mar 29-Apr 16.

■ Second-year Textiles student **Amanda Ryan** has won first prize in the 2006 international student competition sponsored by SURTEX, North America's premier trade show for two-dimensional art and design.

The competition, with its 'Elegant Evening' theme, attracted 160 entries from 18 schools worldwide.

Amanda wins US\$500, a trip to SURTEX 2006 in New York May 21-23, including return airfare and accommodation, and a one-week design industry internship in NYC.

■ Ever the punster, **Jamie Owen** handed out cookies to striking teachers on the picket line last month. They featured an icing sugar inscription: "I Chew Sheridan".



The 2006 Sheridan Arts Festival takes place this month, with openings, performances, screenings and exhibitions celebrating student work from many programs in the School of Animation, Arts & Design.

■ An exhibition of student work from the York/Sheridan Honours **Bachelor of Design** program was displayed last month in the A-Wing.

■ **Gail Benick**, Sheridan's Communications, Culture and Information Technology (CCIT) Coordinator, presented a paper titled "Using Digital Stories to Enhance Intercultural Communication in Postsecondary Classrooms" at the Carleton University Conference on Teaching, Learning & Technology, Feb 21. Gail's presentation showcased digital stories created by CCIT students in her course on Intercultural Communication, co-instructed by Laura De Decker.

■ **Lisa Sutcliffe**, Coordinator of Academic Initiatives in the Centre for Curriculum and Faculty Development (CCFD), has been recognized with a national award for staff excellence by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). Lisa is a 20-year Sheridan veteran, working most recently with academic staff in the School of Animation, Arts and Design on new program development.

"Lisa's tireless commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence has had a tremendous impact on Sheridan over the course of her career," says President Dr. Robert Turner. "She's highly deserving of this prestigious national award."

■ The Society of Graphic Designers of Canada (GDC) celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Founded in Toronto as the Typographic Designers of Canada (TDC), the organization now has 9 chapters across the country with 850 members.

Brian Donnelly's history of the TDC/GDC was published in the Mar/Apr issue of *Communication Arts*. And **Michael Maynard**, who was elected a GDC Fellow in 1994, designed a commemorative poster for an invitational design exhibit comprising work by 24 GDC Fellows held in Vancouver last month.

■ The Vest Collective, a Toronto co-operative founded by Sheridan **Crafts & Design** graduates, was profiled by Bill Taylor in the *Toronto Star* on Mar 17. He likened their vision, as expressed in a recent exhibit at the Gladstone Hotel, to that of arts and crafts icons William Morris and Roger Fry.

■ In February **Rafael Goldchain** was invited to NSCAD University (Nova Scotia College of Art & Design) in Halifax to give a lecture on his work and participate in 2nd and 4th year critiques with students and faculty.

■ The 4th annual BMO Financial Group **1st Art Competition** is inviting entries from full-time college, art school and university students. A 6-member selection committee will choose 14 winners, one from every province and territory, and a national winner. Cash prizes total \$15,500. The contest deadline is May 15. For information and application forms go to www2.bmo.com.

■ Music Theatre-Performance graduate **Michael Therriault** starred in the critically acclaimed CBC production of "Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story" which aired on national television Mar 12-13. *Globe and Mail* critic Roy MacGregor proclaimed in his May 11 review that "Therriault is Tommy Douglas".

And on Mar 23 at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre, the \$28-million world premiere of "Lord of the Rings" opened - with Therriault playing the character Gollum.

In a feature article on Therriault in the Mar 22 edition of the *Globe and Mail*, Michael Posner was effusive in his praise: "It's clear that if the show has a star - over and above the sheer spectacle of its production - it's Gollum."

■ **Mark Melymick** plays the starring role in a television and print campaign for Primary Health Care, a new initiative involving a partnership of federal, provincial and territorial governments.

■ Crafts & Design coordinator **Heidi Overhill** and two students from the program attended Carleton University's annual Student Seminar Jan 13-14.

Carleton students and their professors were joined by local experts and program alumni to participate in round-table discussions of the topic "Space". In her closing remarks, Heidi contributed a summary of thoughts and discussions from the 2-day seminar.

■ **William Arthurs Heaslip**, whose generosity to Theatre Sheridan was recently honoured with the naming of Macdonald Heaslip Hall, died last month at the age of 78.

Heaslip was a co-founder of Grafton Group Ltd, one of Canada's largest retail clothing conglomerates. He retired as CEO and Chairman in 1992. A Member of the Order of Canada, Heaslip - together with his wife Nona Macdonald - was a long-time patron of the performing arts and Canadian higher education.

■ Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Town of Oakville have approved site plans for the new addition to **A-wing**. Construction is proceeding.

■ Sheridan has agreed to partner with the **World of Threads** Festival 2007. The biennial national fibre arts conference will include a juried exhibition, workshops and lectures. All events take place on campus Feb 19 - Mar 4, 2007. Textiles studio students are involved in planning the event, including a student exhibit.

■ In the CCIT course "Digital Innovation and Cultural Transformation", taught by **Michael Jones** and **Gail Benick**, over 140 students participated in a Wikispace project. Using Web 2.0 technologies, the students created almost 600 pages in a private Wikispace site over a 3-week period last February.

Wikispace rated the student project "Space of the Month", in part because the site registered 9,000 hits compared to an average monthly total of 1,000.

"As we progress further and further into an 'interconnected' environment, from WebCT to Wikispaces," commented one CCIT student, "there becomes more room for communication, expression and collaboration. Technology that may appear superfluous can actually bring people together to share, learn and grow. The possibilities of these types of applications in educational institutions are endless!"

ARTS CALENDAR

CAMPUS GALLERY

Apr 7 - 14

Ceramics Studio Show

BLACKWOOD GALLERY

Apr 19 - May 7

Art & Art History Exhibition 3

STEAM WHISTLE BREWERY

Apr 11, 6 pm

York/Sheridan BDes exhibit

hendersonbas AGENCY

Apr 25, 5 pm

New Media Design exhibit

THEATRE SHERIDAN

Apr 11-22, 8 pm

Catch a Rising Star

Apr 13-22, 7:30 pm

Falsettos

2006 ARTS OPEN HOUSE

Apr 28, 9 am - 2 pm

High school campus tours

Apr 29-30, 11 am - 4 pm

Facilities open to the public

TRAFALGAR CAMPUS

Apr 27, 1:30 pm

Computer Animation screenings